

Welcome to the University of Liverpool

Andrew Derrington

Executive Pro Vice Chancellor: Humanities and Social Sciences

June 21, 2012



Overview

Anything I can do, you can do better.

What is special about research intensive Universities?

Is University study different from School study?

Choices you should think about



Anything I can do, you can do better.

Career and choices of an Executive Pro Vice Chancellor.

- ▶ School - primary school, state grammar school
- ▶ 1971:- Oxford University, studying medicine.
- ▶ 1973: Changed to BA Psychology and Physiology
- ▶ 1975: Cambridge PhD (Brain development)
- ▶ 1986: Lecturer in Physiology (Newcastle),
- ▶ 1993 Professor of Psychology (Nottingham)
- ▶ 2004 Head of Psychology (Newcastle)
- ▶ 2010, PVC Humanities and Social Sciences (Liverpool)
 - ▶ Manager of 350 lecturers and professors.

What is special about research intensive Universities?

- ▶ The people who teach are the people who create the subject by their research.
- ▶ The students learn (by doing) how knowledge is created.
- ▶ Research findings change the world and how we understand it.
- ▶ Our graduates change the world because of what they can do.

Is University study different from School study?

- ▶ Learning is independent and active.
 - ▶ You learn by doing things.
 - ▶ The test of a degree course is what its graduates can do.
1. Independent discovery of knowledge: find out and be able to explain what we know about the subject.
 2. Understand research approaches and evidence: understand and be able to explain the basis of knowledge
 3. Test knowledge, understand and explain the relationships between different domains of knowledge
 4. Understand, explain and solve complex problems
 5. Create and test new knowledge



UNIVERSITY OF
LIVERPOOL

Choices you should think about

Which University? Why wouldn't you go for the best?

Which degree subject? Pick something you will really enjoy but that will stretch you.

Which A-levels? Keep your options open with traditional subjects:

- ▶ Maths,
- ▶ Sciences
- ▶ Languages
- ▶ English
- ▶ History

General Rule: If you want to develop, choose options that will stretch you.

