

**JONATHAN**

It could be surprising how often a hesitant first step gives way to a confident stride. We

**HUGHES:**

designed this badged open course so that you will be in a better position to make informed decisions about whether going to university is for you, and if so, what sorts of subjects would suit you best. To do that, we divided the course up so that you'll spend two weeks looking at arts and humanities subjects, two weeks looking at social science subjects, and two weeks looking at science, technology, and maths.

So over the next eight weeks, you'll have plenty of opportunity to think about your own learning and whether these first steps can transform your life. But most of all, we hope that your first steps will be enjoyable steps.

**LAURA HILLS:**

The first week of this course has been about thinking about those first steps into higher education. Then the middle weeks of this course are about thinking about what direction you'd like to go in. You'll have the opportunity to study some of the main ideas and skills associated with arts and humanities, social sciences, and science, technology, and maths. You all have an opinion on art and poetry, what our jobs or even our agenda say about our lives, and the impact of humanity on the environment. By looking at these same ideas and issues from an academic perspective however, you'll have the opportunity to really understand what higher education study is like.

**JOHN BUTCHER:**

So this is where we hope you'll get to if you can sustain your studies on our course for just 24 hours of your life. As Jonathan has already suggested, taking that first step can be the hardest, but we think it will open up lots of learning opportunities for you and get you in a position to really think about whether higher education is right for you and can transform your life. Getting to this point, reaching the end of the course, getting to the summit as we've tried to picture it can be really important in decisions you make about your future studies. This will have enabled you to really think about the subjects you might wish to study and whether higher education is right for you at the moment. And the course offers a brilliant opportunity to think about whether access is the right next step for you in your higher education journey.