Exploring the origins, concept, and the idea and ideal of the university and college, Universities and Colleges: A Very Short Introduction discusses one of the world’s oldest, most resilient and adaptable institutions. Considering links between universities and colleges and the economy, and the role of the former within society, it asks how the university and college can be politically accountable for their taxpayer funding, if they need autonomy to be effective, and what the impact will be of digital and distance learning. With rising tuition fees, what is the relationship between the teaching professors and the increasing expectations of student customers? And what does ‘academic freedom’ for their faculties really entail?