

Next Steps Parents and Carers' presentation

UCAS **unifrog**



What Next?

What are the options available?

UCAS



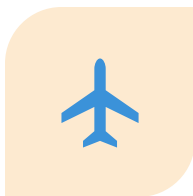
Choices available



HIGHER
EDUCATION



APPRENTICESHIPS



STUDYING
ABROAD



GAP YEAR



GETTING A JOB

Register for the UCAS Hub to understand the options available and make choices that are right for you: ucas.com/hub

What is UCAS?

UCAS is an independent charity providing information, advice and admissions services. We're there to help people discover what their next step might be.

UCAS does:

- provide information, advice, and support
- process applications
- complete fraud and verification checks
- take part in education sector engagement

UCAS doesn't:

- make decisions or offers
- set entry requirements
- advise on finance
- advise on immigration or visas for individuals

Why continue in education?

- Essential for some career paths.
- Develop new transferable skills and subject knowledge.
- Increase confidence and independence.
- Broaden experiences.
- Meet new people.
- Investment in the future.
- Increased job prospects.
- Higher earning potential.



What are the options?

- **Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE) and Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE):** first and second year of a degree course.
- **Higher National Certificate (HNC) and Higher National Diploma (HND):** HNC is a one-year industry specific course, and the HND is a two-year industry specific course.
- **Higher apprenticeships:** provide an opportunity to gain Level 4 qualifications or above, e.g. HND, or foundation degree while you work. Can take from one to five years to complete, depending on the course level.
- **Foundation degree:** flexible vocational qualification, combining both academic study and workplace learning. It usually takes two years to complete.
- **Bachelor's or undergraduate degree:** a three to four-year course which can also be available as a part-time option, allowing you to study and work.
- **Degree apprenticeships:** enable you to gain a full undergraduate or master's degree while you work. Degree apprenticeships take three to six years to complete, depending on the course.

What's right?

There are a number of things to consider with your next step :

- something you enjoy – you are investing time and effort
- whether it's right for your career path – check with employers and professional organisations
- location – city or rural, transport links
- a study and assessment style that suits you
- environment including extracurricular, clubs, and societies
- finances



What is UCAS?

350+ universities and colleges:

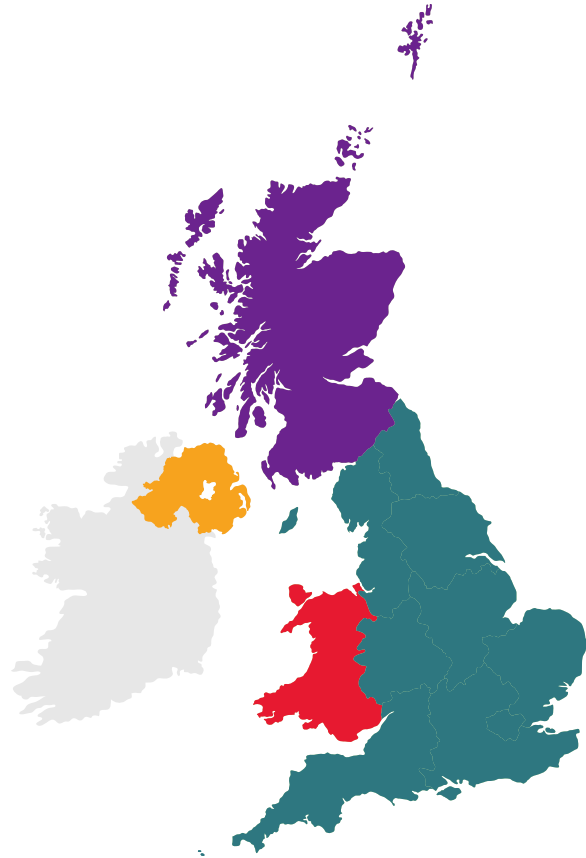
4 in Northern Ireland

15 in Wales

19 in Scotland

324 in England

35,000+ courses available





University

What's right for you?

UCAS

Choosing the right place

- **Style** – from traditional, with a focus on subject-based courses and research, to modern universities/colleges, with a greater focus on vocational courses.
- **Location** – some are in large cities, others in small towns, by the coast or in the countryside – it's all a major influence on the environment and lifestyle.
- **Size** – larger universities can have more than 20,000 students, whereas some of the smallest have only a few thousand.
- **Culture and facilities** – influenced by a range of factors, including the diversity of students who attend.
- **What graduates do** – all universities collect destination statistics; it can be useful to find out what jobs or further study students go on to.
- **Tuition fees** – can vary between universities and colleges; check if there are scholarships or bursaries available.
- **Living costs** – accommodation, transport, and food can vary enormously.

Choosing the right course

- What does the course cover?
- Courses with the same title may be very different.
- Look carefully at the core course content, and the range of optional studies/modules available.
- Which modules are the most interesting and relevant to your career aspirations?
- See if the course or university/college offers any internship, placement, or study abroad opportunities.
- How is the course taught – structured teaching, or more independent research? How many lectures are there, and how much group work will be done in seminars?
- How is the course assessed?

UCAS Hub

Your discovery tool

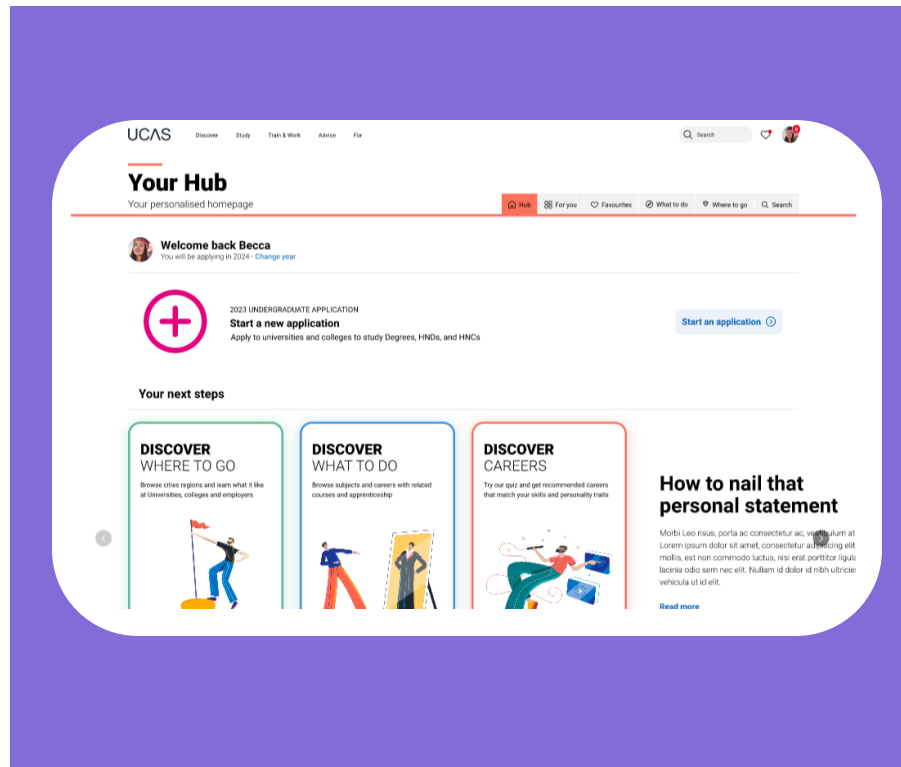
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Starting your research

Register with the UCAS Hub to:

- explore careers, subjects, places, and apprenticeships
- find and favourite over 35,000 courses
- search for open days, events and virtual tours
- turn predicted grades into UCAS Tariff points
- speak to those in the know using [Unibuddy](#)
- speak to career, higher education, and application specialists by attending [Hub lives](#)
- take the [UCAS Quiz](#) to find your career matches
- start your application



Post-18 Options

University degree

Apprenticeship

A job which offers training

A vocational course at a Further Education College

Take a year out (a gap year)

		LEVEL				
UNIVERSITY	8	Doctorate PhD				
	7	Master's Degree MA, MSc,MPhil			Higher Apprenticeships	Degree Apprenticeships
	6	Undergraduate Degree BA, BSc				
	5		Foundation degree FdA, FdSc	Higher National Diploma HND		
	4			Higher National Certificate HNC		
COLLEGE	3	AS / A2 / A level T Level	BTEC Nationals		Advanced Apprenticeships	
SCHOOL	2	GCSE Grades 9–4	BTEC Firsts		Intermediate Apprenticeships	
	1	GCSE Grades 3–1				



1,342,470+

**HAVE STARTED AN
APPRENTICESHIP SINCE 2020**



1,500+

**APPRENTICESHIP JOB ROLES
AVAILABLE**



700+

**APPRENTICESHIP
STANDARDS**



93%

**OF APPRENTICES REMAIN
EMPLOYED ON COMPLETION**

Amazing Apprenticeships

Apprenticeship levels

Type of apprenticeship	Level	Equivalent education level
Intermediate	2	5 GCSE passes at grades A* to C
Advanced	3	A-level pass
Higher	4,5,6,7	Foundation degree and above
Degree	6,7	Bachelor's or master's degree

Degree Apprenticeships



LEVEL 6 AND 7
QUALIFICATIONS



OFFERED BY UNIVERSITIES
AND OTHER HIGHER
EDUCATION PROVIDERS



A DEGREE-LEVEL
QUALIFICATION

Higher Apprenticeships

- **Higher apprenticeships (Level 4 and 5)**
- Higher apprenticeships are available in England at levels 4 and 5.
- Level 4 apprenticeships are equivalent to the first year of an undergraduate degree, or a Higher National Certificate (HNC).
- Level 5 apprenticeships are equivalent to a foundation degree, or a Higher National Diploma (HND).
- If you want to gain further qualifications, you can go on to complete a **degree apprenticeship** – the equivalent to an undergraduate or master's degree.

What options are available?



There are currently 38 level 5 apprenticeships approved for delivery
Here are a few examples:

- Air traffic controller
- Bespoke cutter and tailor
- Embalmer
- Golf course manager
- Journalist
- Marine pilot
- Outdoor learning specialist
- Vet technician
- Youth justice practitioner



There are currently 108 level 4 apprenticeships approved for delivery
Here are a few examples:

- Animal training instructor
- Brewer
- Construction, design and build technician
- Data Analyst
- Photographer
- Space engineering technician
- Sports coach
- Town planning assistant
- Visual effects artist

Advanced apprenticeships



SAME LEVEL AS A-LEVELS, T-LEVELS AND OTHER LEVEL 3 QUALIFICATIONS



USEFUL TO GAIN RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE AND KNOWLEDGE

The Recruitment Process



CV



Covering
letter



Video
assessment



Online
interview



Application
form



Online
assessment



Assessment
day



In-person
interview

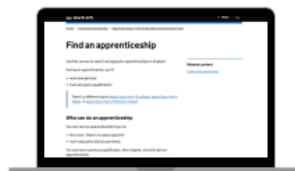
HOW DO YOU FIND A DEGREE APPRENTICESHIP?

1

Find an apprenticeship

[gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship](https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship)

This is the Government website where you can set up an account to search, apply and receive alerts for different vacancies.



2

Higher & Degree apprenticeship listing

[amazingapprenticeships.com/higher-degree-listing](https://www.amazingapprenticeships.com/higher-degree-listing)

Twice a year (Autumn & Spring) a listing of higher and degree apprenticeship vacancies is published by Amazing Apprenticeships, containing a wide selection of opportunities and links to apply.



3

Meet The Employer

[amazingapprenticeships.com/meet-the-employer](https://www.amazingapprenticeships.com/meet-the-employer)

Visit the Meet The Employer platform to discover employers advertising their positions, the locations and what to expect from the recruitment process.



4

Other websites

There are many other job sites that you may find useful for locating degree apprenticeships, including:

- Get My First Job
- Not Going To Uni
- UCAS Career Finder



If you have a particular employer in mind, you can also search directly on employer websites and through their social media.

Higher Technical Qualifications

Find out more about these
exciting qualifications



What are HTQs?

HTQs are level 4 and 5 qualifications like HNDs, HNCs and Foundation Degrees.

The HTQ quality mark shows that the higher education course has been approved as meeting standards set by industry. HTQs are a great way to get the skills employers want - a route to well-paid, secure and sustainable jobs. They can be studied full or part time, depending on the course.



Where do HTQs fit with other qualifications?

Level 7

Level 6

Level 5

Level 4

Level 3

Level 2

Level 3 qualifications

A levels, T Level, BTEC, Diploma

GCSEs

Level 4 HTQs

Approved vocational qualifications.
Includes HNCs, Cert HE and others.

Level 5 HTQs

Approved vocational qualifications.
Includes HNDs, Foundation Degrees and others.

Undergraduate degree

Three-year programme of academic study

Top up degree

Further study could turn a level 5 HTQ into a full degree

Apprenticeship

A real job with paid time to study towards a qualification.

Available in Level 2-7.

Which HTQs are available?



Now:

- Business & Administration
- Construction & the Built Environment
- Digital
- Education & Early Years
- Engineering & Manufacturing
- Health & Science
- Legal, Finance & Accounting

From September 2025:

- Agriculture, Environment & Animal Care
- Care Services
- Catering & Hospitality
- Creative & Design
- Protective Services
- Sales, Marketing & Procurement



Do you have to pay tuition fees?



Fees apply

If you study an HTQ, tuition fees will apply. These will vary depending on the course.



Cost

Fees are likely to be £6,000 - £9,250 for a one or two-year course.



Support

You could be eligible for student support to cover tuition fees and maintenance loans.



Find out more

Visit:
[gov.uk/student-finance](https://www.gov.uk/student-finance)

How do you find HTQs?



Find providers

Visit:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/list-of-higher-technical-qualifications



Contact providers

Contact or visit the websites of local FE colleges, Universities, Independent Training Providers and Institutes of Technology.



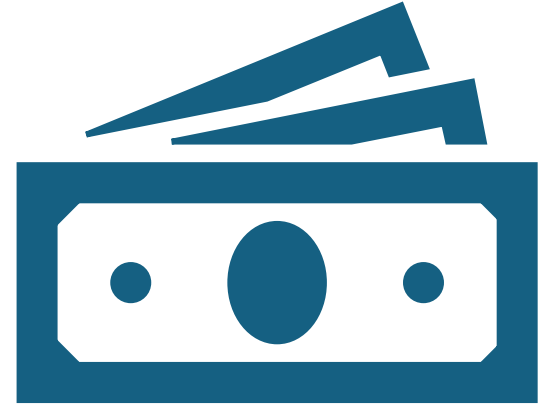
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Search on UCAS (this link will take you to a pre-filtered list of HTQs:

tinyurl.com/2s44vaby

Gap Year Information

- Not going to Uni
- GAP Year: Advice and Companies
- <https://www.gapyear.com/>
- <http://www.statravel.co.uk/gap-year-travel.htm>
- <http://www.realgap.co.uk/>
- <http://www.oysterworldwide.com/>



unifrog

Introduction to Unifrog: Parents Evening



What is Unifrog?

- Unifrog believe that destinations - where students end up after school - is even more important than their academic performance. They partner with schools to support students to progress into the best opportunity for them.
- Unifrog do this by providing a one-stop-shop where students can explore their interests, then find and successfully apply for their best next-step after school.

The Unifrog tools

Access all tools on Unifrog to learn what options are available, access good quality information, and search for opportunities to support your child.

Exploring pathways	Recording what you've done	Searching for opportunities	Drafting application materials	Making applications
Careers library	Activities	UK universities	UK Personal Statement	Post 18 Intentions
Subjects library	Competencies	US universities	Classes	Locker
Know-how library	Interactions	European universities	Subject References	Applications list
MOOC		Oxbridge	CV / Resumé	
Personality profile		Canadian universities	Writing tool	
Interests profile		Asian universities	Common App Essay	
Read, Watch, Listen		Australasian universities	US recommenders	
Webinars		ME and African universities	Notes for Reference writers	
		Irish universities		
		Special Opportunities		
		Events		

Careers Library


- Over 1000 career profiles
- Presents information from a range of sources, including local and national LMI
- Includes qualifications and skills needed, interviews with industry professionals and labour market information
- Explores progression opportunities and what a working week really looks like


Architect


Architects design new buildings and the spaces around them, and work on the restoration and conservation of existing buildings.




UK Universities

 English Literature - 3FT/6PT BA (Hons)

 Oxford Brookes University

 Safe - YEP Silver



English Literature offers the opportunity to study an exciting range of modules, blending the study of classic texts and literary traditions with current theoretical models for understanding literature as a dynamic, global phenomenon. Our course is renowned for its inspirational teaching and research excellence. In the 2013 National Student Survey (Source: Unistats), 93 per cent of students agreed that staff had made the subject interesting.

Full-time undergrads at the uni: 13905 Domestic / Int'l undergrads at the uni: 84% / 16%

[Website](#) [Open Day](#) [Course page](#) [Finance page](#) [Unistats](#)

Getting in

Overall Application success rate
21%

UK Application success rate
22%

Entry requirements A Level
Full-time 3 Years: Grade B in A-level English Literature or English Language required.

Entry requirements UCAS points
112 points

IMPORTANT: check the [course page](#) to see if your qualifications are accepted.


Additional requirements
GCSE: GCSE English - Grade 5.2 x further GCSE - Grade 4, normally to include Maths.

Last year's successful applicants
89.8% of successful applicants did the same qualification types as you, and of these a typical result was:
A Level: C

Unofficial overview

"Oxford Brookes is spread across three suburban campuses in Oxford and the small university city has a friendly feel. Oxford Brookes pioneered the modular system of study and the academic year is split into two semesters rather than three terms. The university has a strong reputation for sport, and there are also strong links with industry. Despite the fact that the city is tiny, nightlife is lively and students enjoy studying here."

Campus or City: CAMPUS



- Students can enter subject of interest and projected grades to see all relevant university courses available in the UK
- Rank and filter opportunities by factors like hours of lectures, price of accommodation and graduate job rates
- Get direct links to university information pages, with impartial information on courses and institutions
- Save unlimited shortlists to refer back to later

UCAS Applications

How to apply

UCAS



Completing the UCAS application



Student registers for a UCAS Hub account to carry out research and start application.



Student completes all sections of the application and sends it to their school/college.



Teacher or adviser reviews the application and adds reference and predicted grades.

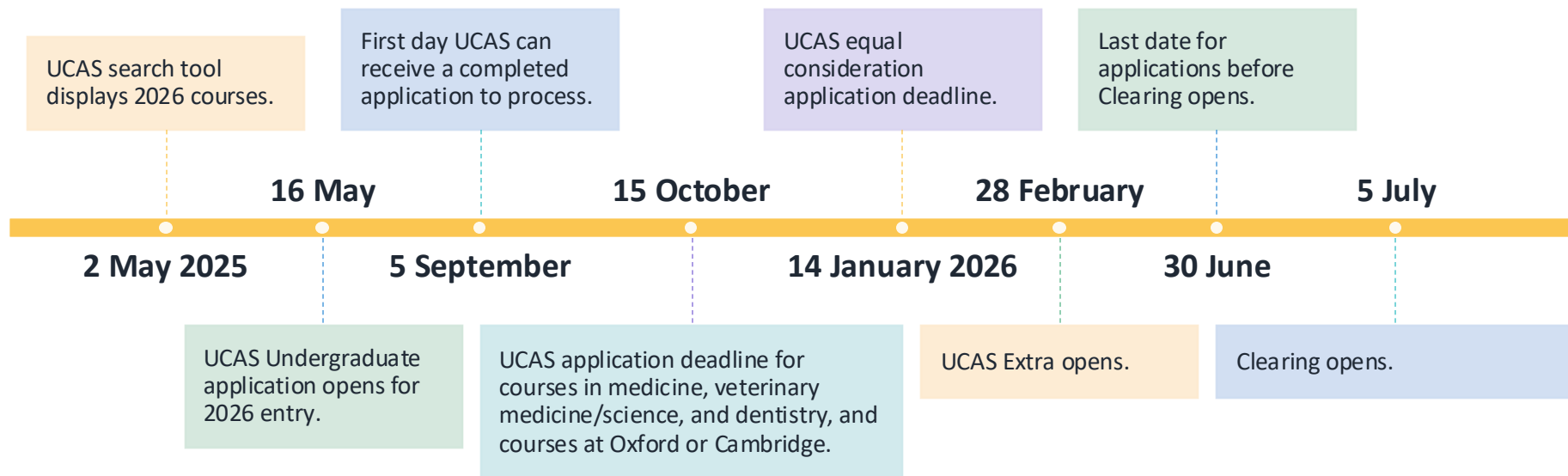


Applications are sent to UCAS by the school or college on behalf of the student.



Universities and colleges make their decisions on the application.

When to apply for 2026 entry



Key facts

- To start an application you need to register with ucas.com, you can register at any time.
- From **16 May 2025** you'll be able to start an application.
- Universities and colleges **can't see** your other choices when you apply.
- Apply by the **equal consideration date**.
- You have up to **five choices**, unless applying to study medicine, veterinary, medicine/science, dentistry – then it's **four choices**.
- You **can't apply to BOTH** Oxford and Cambridge.
- Applying **costs** £28.50.



2024 UNDERGRADUATE APPLICATION

Start an application

Apply to universities and colleges to study Degrees, HNDs, and HNCs

Linking to a school

- If you're applying with the help of a school, college or centre you should enter their 'buzzword' to link your application to them.
- The buzzword is a unique code set by your school, college or centre: **GMS2026**
- By linking your application you're giving your school, college or centre permission to view and track your application.
- It also means they'll provide you with a reference, and send your application to UCAS on your behalf.

The image shows a digital interface for linking an application to a school. It features a purple background with a white rounded rectangle in the center. Inside the rectangle, the text 'Are you applying from a school, college, or centre?' is displayed. Below this text are two circular buttons: a teal one labeled 'Yes' and a pink one labeled 'No'. Below these buttons, the text 'Select Yes here.' is shown, followed by a dark blue button with the text 'START >'.

Application

Profile:

- Personal details
- Contact and residency details
- Nationality details
- Supporting information
- English language skills
- Finance and funding
- Diversity and inclusion*
- More about you

* (for students with a UK home address)

The screenshot displays the UCAS application profile interface, which is organized into a grid of sections. The sections are as follows:

- Personal details >**
Name, age, title, and gender
Status: **Section complete** (indicated by a green bar and a checkmark icon)
- Contact & residency details >**
Address, email, telephone, and where you live
Status: **Start this section** (indicated by a blue bar and a circular arrow icon)
- Nationality details >**
Country and nationality details
Status: **Start this section** (indicated by a blue bar and a circular arrow icon)
- Supporting information >**
Status: **Section in progress** (indicated by a blue bar and a circular arrow icon)
- English language skills >**
Is English your first language?
Status: **Start this section** (indicated by a blue bar and a circular arrow icon)
- Finance & funding >**
Tell us how you'll fund your study
Status: **Section in progress** (indicated by a blue bar and a circular arrow icon)
- Diversity & inclusion >**
Only shared with a provider once you have a place or your application is archived
Status: **Start this section** (indicated by a blue bar and a circular arrow icon)
- More about you >**
Tell us about any circumstances that you might need support for during your studies
Status: **Start this section** (indicated by a blue bar and a circular arrow icon)

Application

Experiences:

- Education
 - Employment
 - Extra activities*
-
- Personal statement
 - Reference**
 - Add choices – up to five

*(for students with a UK home address)

** (not visible for students linked to their school/college)

The screenshot displays the UCAS application interface on a yellow background. A dark blue rounded rectangle contains the application sections. Under the 'Experience' heading, there are three white boxes: 'Education >' (described as 'Your qualifications and periods of study' with a 'Section in progress' status), 'Employment >' (described as 'Employment, paid or unpaid, or volunteer work' with a 'Section complete' status), and 'Extra activities >' (described as 'Activities you have attended in preparation for higher education' with a 'Start this section' button). Below these is the 'Personal Statement' section, which includes a 'Personal statement >' box (described as 'Why do you want to study this subject?' with a 'Start this section' button).

The personal statement



The only section you have full control over



Your only chance to market yourself as an individual



The same for all of your choices



A maximum of 4,000 characters, or 47 lines



A minimum of 1,000 characters



There isn't a spelling or grammar check



No formatting allowed

UCAS' similarity detection service:
every personal statement is run
through software to check for
plagiarism.

The new personal statement questions

- Question 1: Why do you want to study this course or subject?
- Question 2: How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?
- Question 3: What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?

Start early

Include:

- academic achievements, past and present
- interest in the course area
- knowledge of the subject area
- enthusiasm to go beyond the syllabus
- details of independent study skills



Consider...

Universities and colleges will consider:

- Have you chosen the course for the right reasons?
- Can you achieve in a new learning environment?
- Do you have a range of interests and aptitudes?
- Do you have a depth of interest in the subject?
- Have you studied independently?
- Do you appear motivated and committed?
- Do you have good numeracy and literacy skills?



Decisions

Universities and colleges will review the:



personal statement



qualifications



reference

They may also ask for:



admissions test



interview



portfolio/audition

Tracking your application



2023 UNDERGRADUATE APPLICATION

Waiting for decisions

Universities or colleges are considering your application.

Providers have until dd-mm-yyyy to respond to your choices.



2023 UNDERGRADUATE APPLICATION

All decisions received

You've received a decision from all of your choices. You can now reply to your offers at any time.

Reply by dd-mm-yyyy



2023 UNDERGRADUATE APPLICATION

Waiting for confirmation

You're waiting for confirmation of your choices. If you meet the offer conditions, the university/ college will confirm your place. Send them your results if requested.

Follow your application 24/7:

- see your choices
- keep personal information up to date
- view and reply to your offers

You'll receive one of three decisions from your choices:

- unconditional offer
- conditional offer
- unsuccessful

Replies to offers

Once you have decisions on all your choices, you can choose two:

- One as a 'firm' acceptance – your first choice.
- The other as an 'insurance' acceptance. This acts as a back-up if you do not get into your 'firm' choice.

Any remaining offers must be declined.

Once all your decisions and replies have been made, if you are not holding an offer, you may be able to use Extra or Clearing to find available places.



What can students be doing?

- research, research, research
- attend open days and events
- extracurricular and super curricular activities
- work experience
- volunteering
- independent learning outside the curriculum
- focus on this year's studies



FAQs

- How do I arrange Student Finance?
- When can I pick my university accommodation?
- Can I get to university with BTECs?
- What are the university tariffs?
- What if I don't get the grades or points that I need?
- I did badly in my mocks, will I get a low predicted grade for UCAS?
- What if I want to study Art?
- Any questions?

UCAS



How much do I repay?

The important thing to remember is that the amount you'll repay will be based on how much you earn, not how much you borrow.

Once you leave your course, you'll only repay when your income is above the repayment threshold. The threshold you're on depends on which repayment plan you are on.

If your income changes, the amount you repay will change too. But don't worry – this happens automatically.

If you stop working, or start to earn below the repayment threshold, your repayments will stop until you earn over the threshold.

You'll make a repayment if you go over the weekly or monthly threshold at any point during the year, for example, if you get a bonus or work overtime. You can request a refund at the end of the tax year if your total income was below the annual repayment threshold.

For examples on how much you'll repay, visit www.gov.uk/repaying-your-student-loan/what-you-pay.

Thank you

UCAS

