

Next Steps Parents and Carers' presentation

UCAS **unifrog**



What Next?

What are the options available?

UCAS



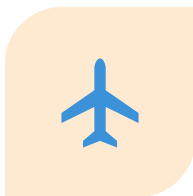
Choices available



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:

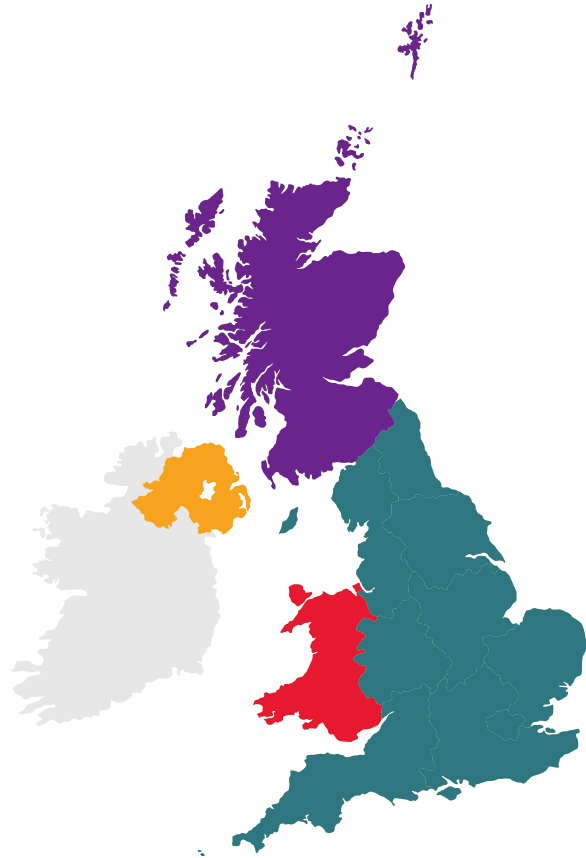
4 in Northern Ireland

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

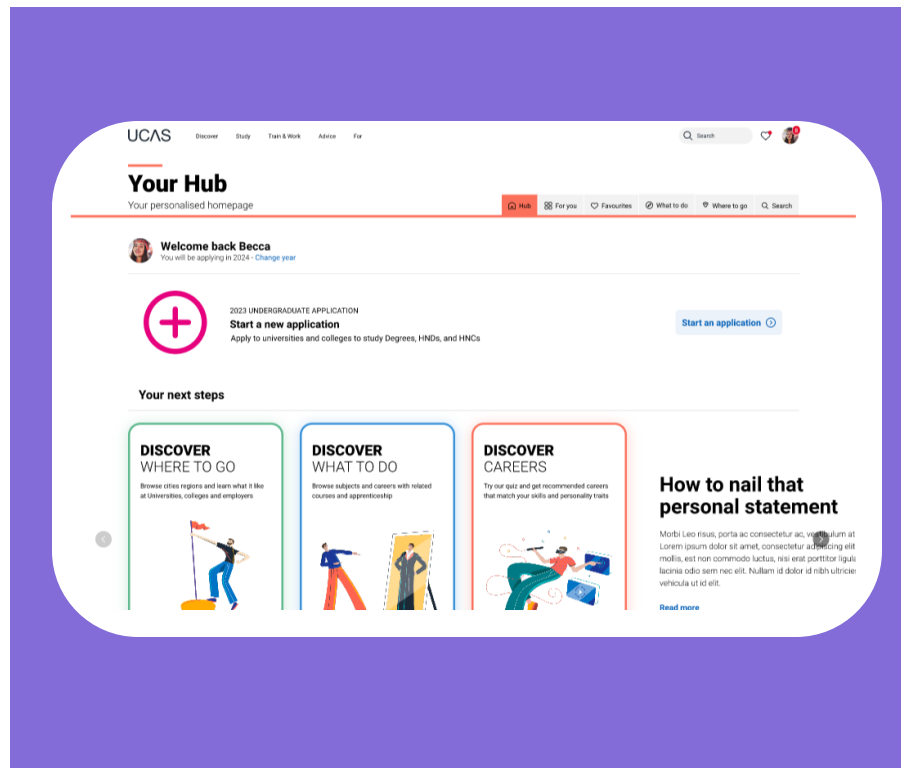
UCAS



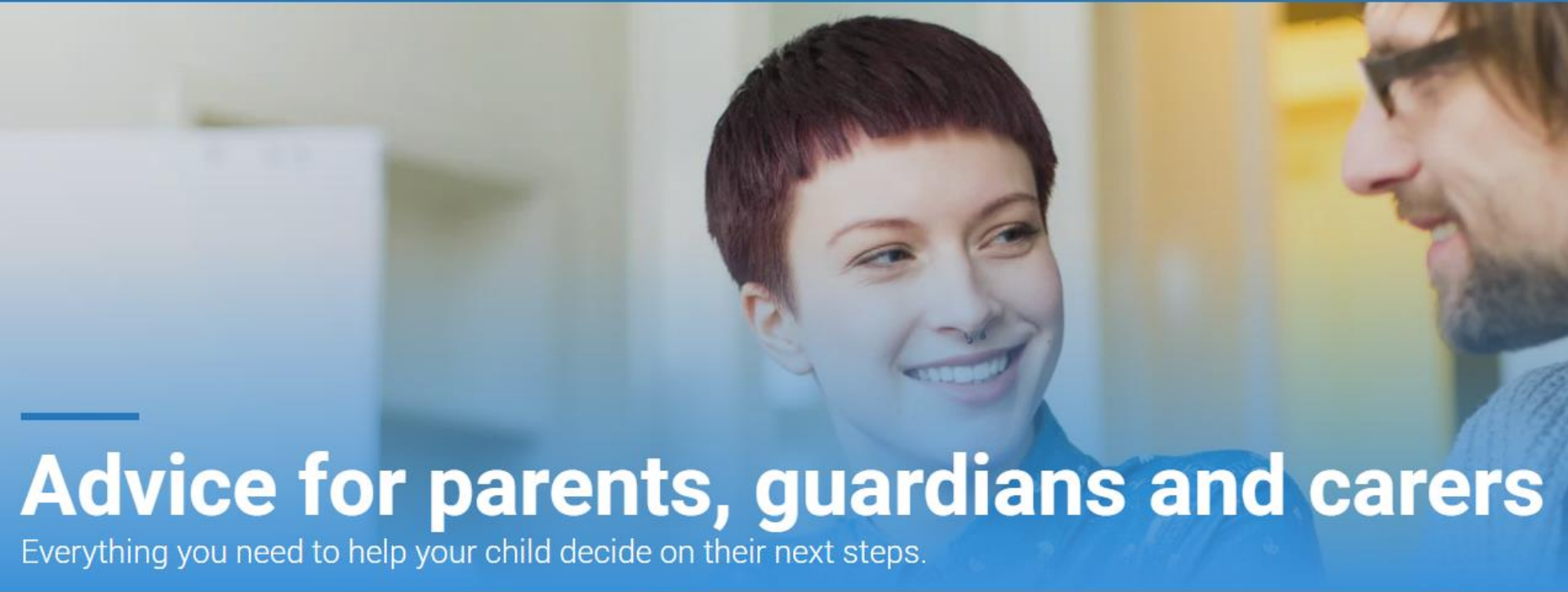
Starting your research

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



Clearing 2026



Advice for parents, guardians and carers

Everything you need to help your child decide on their next steps.

Tuition fees

For 2026 entry, your child will typically pay up to £9,535 per year in tuition fees as a UK student (£9,790 for 2027 entry), although for many courses it's less.

For courses starting after 1 January 2027 in England, applicants will use a new student finance system called the Lifelong Learning Entitlement (LLE). It replaces previous higher education funding and can be used for both courses and modules. [Find out more on GOV.UK website.](#)

- Fees don't need to be paid upfront.
- Students can apply for a **Tuition Fee Loan** to cover all or part of their fees.

Living costs

They can also apply for a **Maintenance Loan**, to help towards living expenses while at university, such as accommodation, food, and course materials.

The amount they can borrow depends on several factors, including where they will be living during term time and your household income. You'll need to give the Student Loans Company (SLC) permission to check your household income with HMRC so the student can apply for the maximum amount available.

If you're earning more than the threshold, the loan amount your child is eligible for will be lower, meaning they or you will need to make up any financial shortfall.

Extra support

Maintenance Grants are no longer available for new students in England, but there is extra support available in certain circumstances:

- **Scholarships, grants, and bursaries** – offered on the basis of academic ability, your income, or for other reasons (for example, if your child has a disability).
- **Fee waivers** – these reduce tuition fees, either on their own, or in a broader package of support with a bursary.
- **Hardship funds** – these can help if your child is struggling financially, either before or during uni.
- **Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA)** – if your child has a disability, including a long-term health condition, mental health condition, or specific learning difficulty, such as dyslexia they might be able to get funds to cover extra costs. Students can get up to £27,783 of support. There are exceptions for students who need more money for travel costs. This will apply for both new and continuing students. How much they get depends on their individual needs, not your household income. DSA can be applied for alongside the main student finance application and doesn't usually have to be paid back unless your child leaves their course early.

Student Loan Repayments...

If you started your course on or after 1 August 2023 you will be on a Plan 5 student loan.

You'll only repay when your income is over £480 a week, £2,083 a month or £25,000 a year.

Plan 5 loans are written off 40 years after the April you were first due to repay.

gov.uk

Plan 5 Interest Rates: For loans taken out in 2023 or later, the maximum interest rate is set to match RPI inflation, protecting new borrowers from above-inflation hikes.

Institute for Fiscal Studies

Post-18 Options

University degree

Apprenticeship

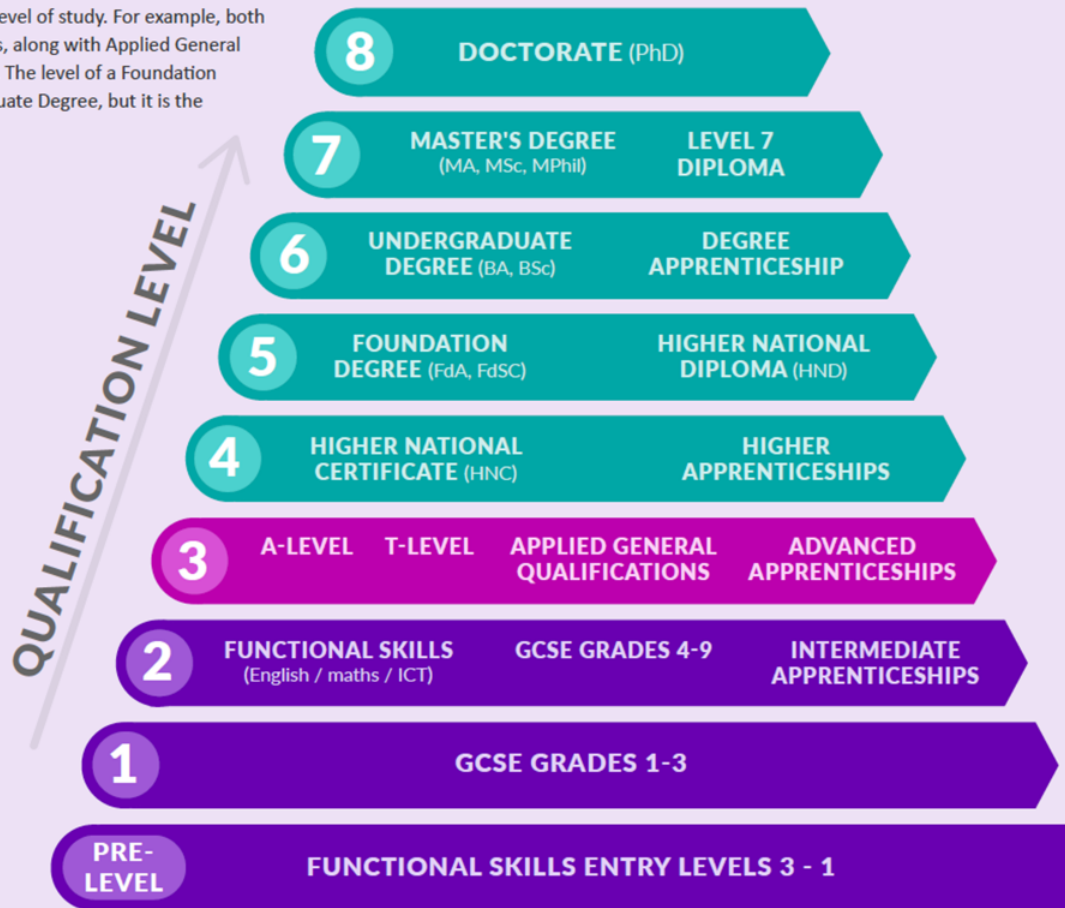
A job which offers training

A vocational course at a Further Education College

Take a year out (a gap year)

WHAT QUALIFICATIONS ARE THERE?

This graphic shows each qualification and its level of study. For example, both T Levels and A Levels are Level 3 qualifications, along with Applied General Qualifications and Advanced Apprenticeships. The level of a Foundation Degree is not as high as that of an Undergraduate Degree, but it is the same as a Level 5 Diploma





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

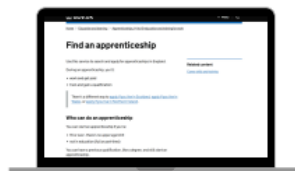
HOW DO YOU FIND A DEGREE APPRENTICESHIP?

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 & DEGREE APPRENTICESHIPS VACANCY LISTING

JANUARY 2025

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.

Now:

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

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

- 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)

HTQ providers

Which training providers offer HTQs?

HTQs are delivered by universities, FE Colleges, Independent Training Providers and Institutes of Technology across England.

You can view a spreadsheet of HTQ providers on GOV.UK:

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

You can find a list of HTQ courses here:

amazingapprenticeships.com/resources/htq-course-listing/



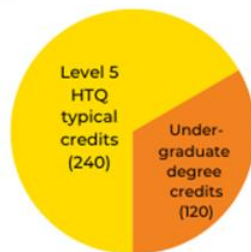
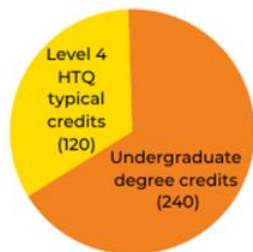
Progression after an HTQ

Employment after HTQs

Although there are tuition fee costs to undertake HTQs, they could lead into paid employment more quickly than doing a longer, full degree would, for a fraction of the cost.

Further study after HTQs

After completing an HTQ, you could go straight into employment or use credits gained through your HTQ to progress onto further study, for example a degree, or an apprenticeship. You can top up your HTQ credits and turn it into a full undergraduate honours degree or use those credits to undertake an accelerated apprenticeship.



HTQs and UCAS tariff points

An HTQ at either Level 4 or 5 would earn credits (a level 4 Certificate in Education that is an approved HTQ typically attracts 120 credits, for example). Students could make an application to a university to 'top up' to a degree (in a similar subject area) on the basis of these credits. Universities would consider each application on its merits. Typically, 360 credits are needed in total to complete an undergraduate degree.

Useful resources and links

About HTQs

Skills for Careers HTQ information:

skillsforcareers.education.gov.uk/pages/training-choice/htq-higher-technical-qualification



National Careers Service Find a course - HTQs:

tinyurl.com/43ff35y6



Find Amazing Apprenticeships' HTQ resources here:

amazingapprenticeships.com/htqs/



UCAS HTQs information:

ucas.com/undergraduate/what-and-where-study/choosing-course/higher-technical-qualifications

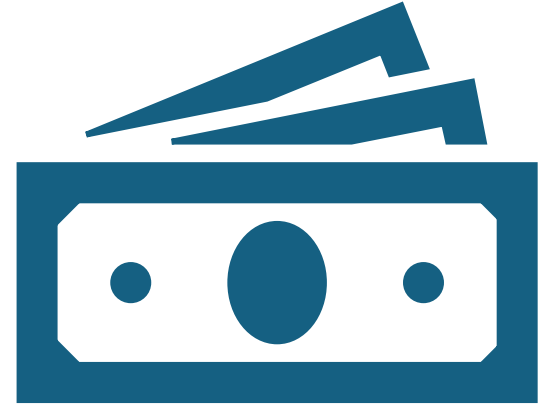


UCAS HTQ search:

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

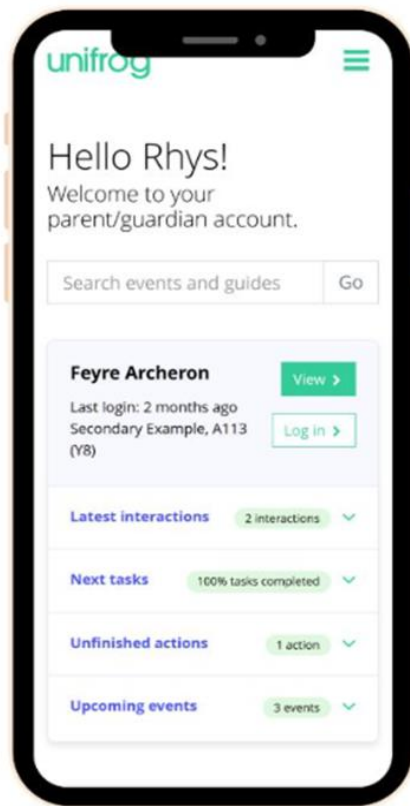


- Students can enter subject of interest and projected grades to see all relevant university courses available in the UK
- Rank and filter opportunities by factors like hours of lectures, price of accommodation and graduate job rates
- Get direct links to university information pages, with impartial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

Parents and caregivers: get signed up!

Why should students have all the fun?! You can create your own account to see key details about your child's Unifrog journey, and to access the tools in the same way students do!

Scan this QR code or go to www.unifrog.org/parent and create an account using your email address or Google single-sign on.

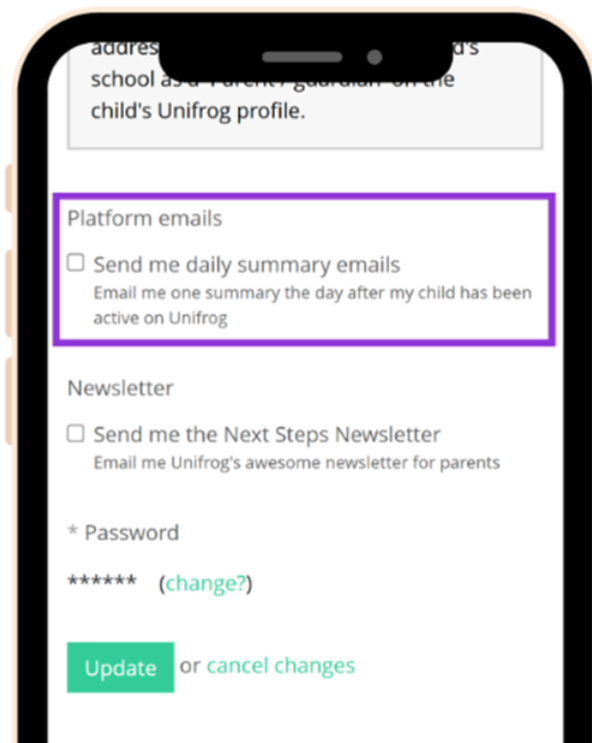


Weekly summary emails

Sign up to receive weekly summary emails of your child's progress on Unifrog.

You'll find out about any shortlists they've made and any interactions logged against them (i.e. upcoming careers fairs, one-to-ones, and so on).

You can sign up when you first create your account or at any time on the Settings menu.



One last thing...

You can keep up to date with the latest news and opportunities, along with Unifrog content just for parents, by signing up to the Next Steps Newsletter!

Once you create an account, you'll be asked to fill in your information and you'll have the chance to sign up by ticking the box next to 'Send me the Next Steps Newsletter'. You can also sign up anytime from your settings page.

address [blurred] d's
school as a parent/guardian on the
child's Unifrog profile.

Platform emails

☐ Send me daily summary emails
Email me one summary the day after my child has been active on Unifrog

Newsletter

☐ Send me the Next Steps Newsletter
Email me Unifrog's awesome newsletter for parents

* Password
***** (change?)

Update or cancel changes

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.

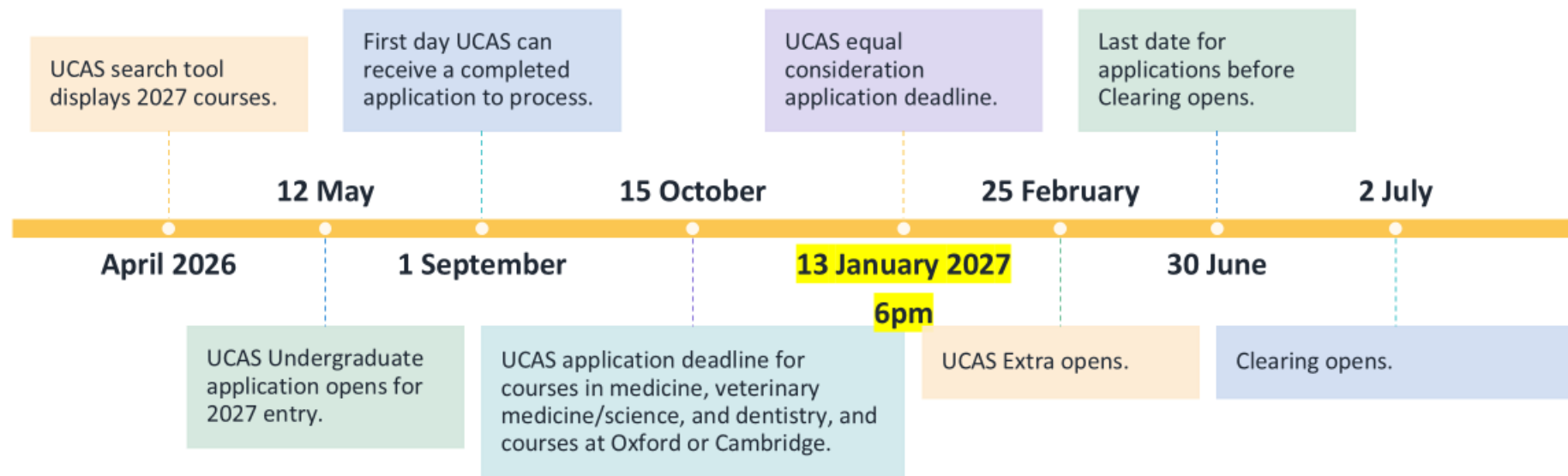


Applications are sent to UCAS by the school or college on behalf of the student.



Universities and colleges make their decisions on the application.

When to apply for 2027 entry



Key facts

- To start an application you need to register with ucas.com, you can register at any time.
- From **12 May 2026** 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** £34.50.



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: **GMS2027**
- 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 the 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 on a yellow background. The profile is organized into a grid of sections, each with a title, a brief description, and a completion status indicator.

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

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. It features a dark blue rounded rectangle containing two main sections: 'Experience' and 'Personal Statement'. The 'Experience' section has three white cards: '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). The 'Personal Statement' section has one white card: 'Personal statement >' (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?

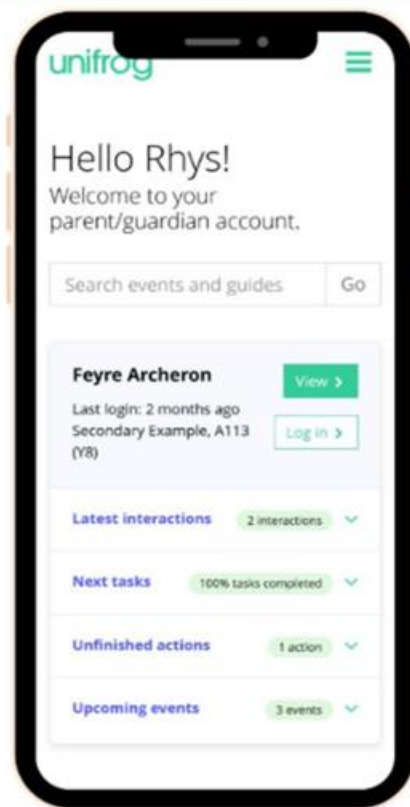
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Parents and caregivers: get signed up!

Why should students have all the fun?! You can create your own account to see key details about your child's Unifrog journey, and to access the tools in the same way students do!

Scan this QR code or go to www.unifrog.org/parent and create an account using your email address or Google single-sign on.



Thank you

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