



# Higher Education

Information for Parents & Carers  
8<sup>th</sup> June 2023

UCAS



# Why higher education?

## Opportunities while studying:

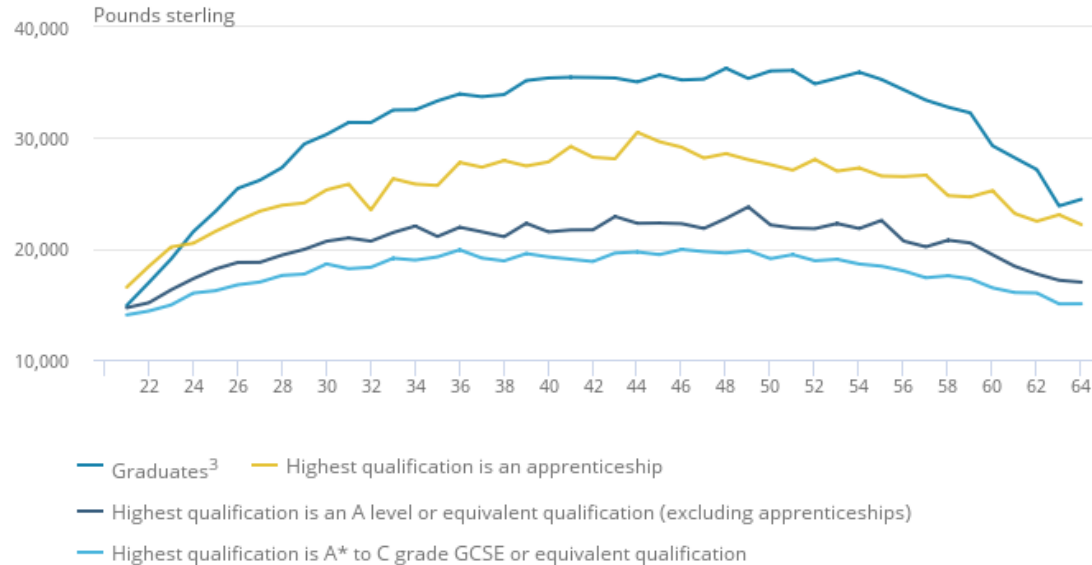
- Chance to study a subject they are passionate about.
- Achieve a qualification that could lead to their chosen career.
- Grow in confidence, make lifelong friends, and gain independence and important life skills that will widen their prospects.

## With a degree, they'll have:

- the opportunity to follow their career path
- better job prospects, as many employers target graduates
- higher earning potential

Figure 9: Average annual gross wage ^1,2^ by age and highest qualification

July to September 2017, UK



Source: Labour Force Survey Datasets

# Student Finance

- <https://www.gov.uk/student-finance>
- Student Finance England (linked with UCAS) service provide by Student Loans Company
- Tuition fees- £9 250 pa. Remember, this is a loan which is repayable only when earning over a certain level
- Means-tested maintenance loan (up to £9,706 in 2022 but means-tested on household income: loan likely to be £4.5K if above £63K)
- Bursaries/ scholarships- greater opportunities here with the change in fees
- Disabled Students Allowance worth researching and applying for too



# Maintenance Loans

SLC Maintenance loan figures 2022-23

Household income	Maintenance loan <i>Not living with parents</i>	Maintenance loan <i>Living with parents</i>
£0 to £25,000	£9,706	£8,170
£30,000	£9,011	£7,483
£35,000	£8,316	£6,794
£40,000	£7,621	£6,106
£45,000	£6,926	£5,417
£50,000	£6,232	£4,729
£55,000	£5,536	£4,040
£60,000	£4,841	£3,596
£63,000+ (and non-means tested)	£4,523	£4,523



# Student Loan Repayments

You'll repay 9% of your income over the repayment threshold, which is currently £27,295 a year, £2,274 a month or £524 a week in the UK. If your income changes, either rising or falling, your repayment amounts will automatically change to reflect this.

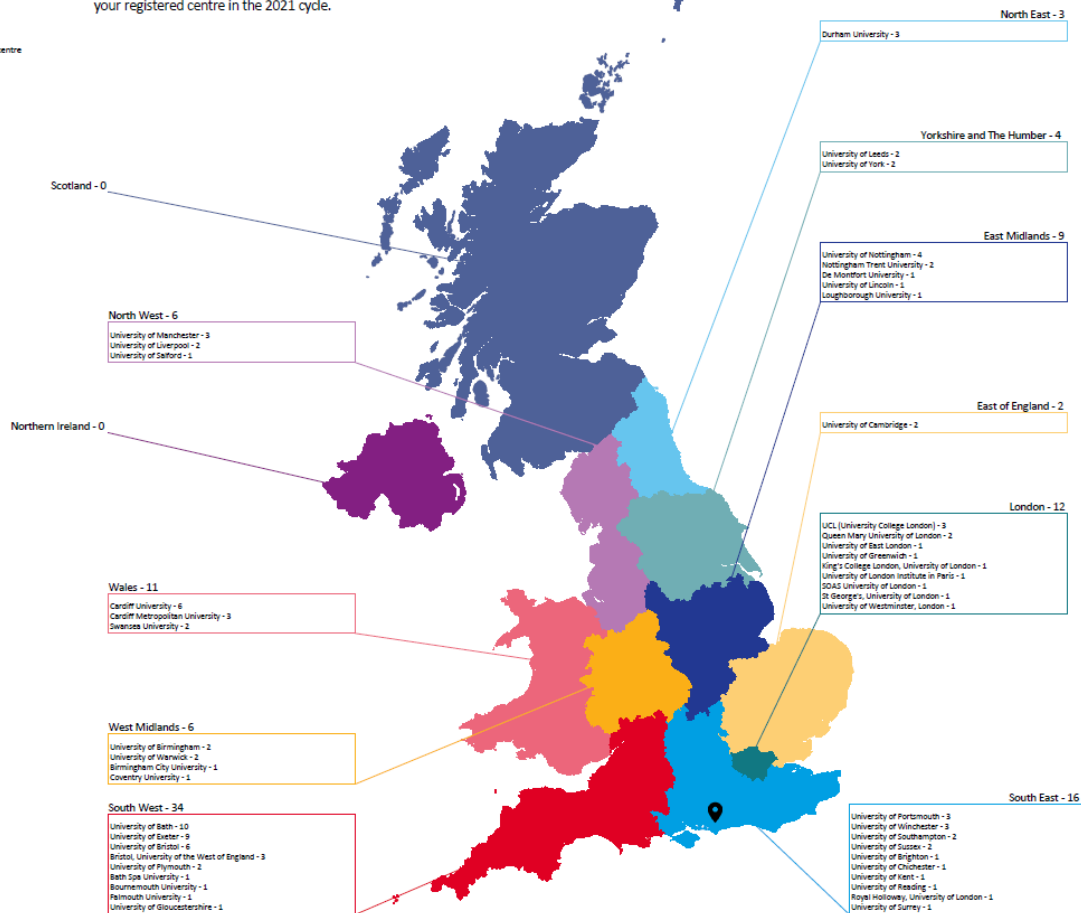
Income each year before tax	Monthly income before tax	Approximate monthly repayment
£27,295	£2,274	£0
£28,000	£2,333	£5
£29,500	£2,458	£16
£31,000	£2,583	£27
£33,000	£2,750	£42

# Choosing the right university

- **Style** – from the traditional, with a focus on subject-based courses and research, to modern universities, with a greater focus on vocational courses.
- **Location** – some are based in large cities, others in smaller towns - 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 interesting to find out the types of jobs or further study students go on to.
- **Tuition fees** – can vary between course providers. Check if there are any scholarships or bursaries available.
- **Living costs** – accommodation, transport, and food can vary enormously.

This map shows the number of students accepted to UK universities and colleges from your registered centre in the 2021 cycle.

📍 Location of your registered centre

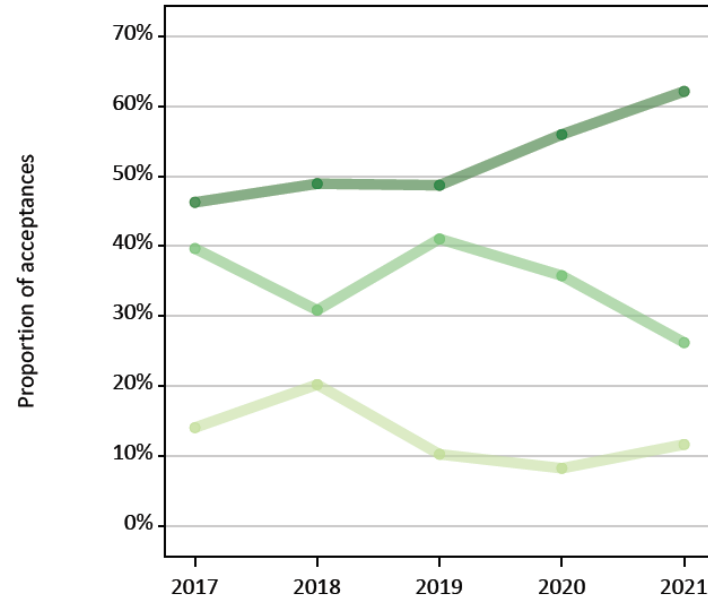




## 5. Acceptances and offers by provider tariff group

### 5.1 Proportion of acceptances by provider tariff group

Higher tariff  
Medium tariff  
Lower tariff



### 5.2 Acceptances by provider tariff group

Provider tariff group	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Lower tariff	17	19	12	9	12
Medium tariff	48	29	48	39	27
Higher tariff	56	46	57	61	64
All	121	94	117	109	103

# Tariff Points

Grade	A-level points	AS-level points	Extended Project Qualification points
A*	56	N/A	28
A	48	20	24
B	40	16	20
C	32	12	16
D	24	10	12
E	16	6	8

# Realistic Choice

- Selective or recruiting university?
- GCSE results- their significance for some universities
- Mock results/predicted grades
- Typical university offer- 3 A-levels (e.g. AAB). Most ask for specific grades, some ask for points (which can include Core Maths and the EPQ)
- Need for an insurance offer/choice



# 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 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

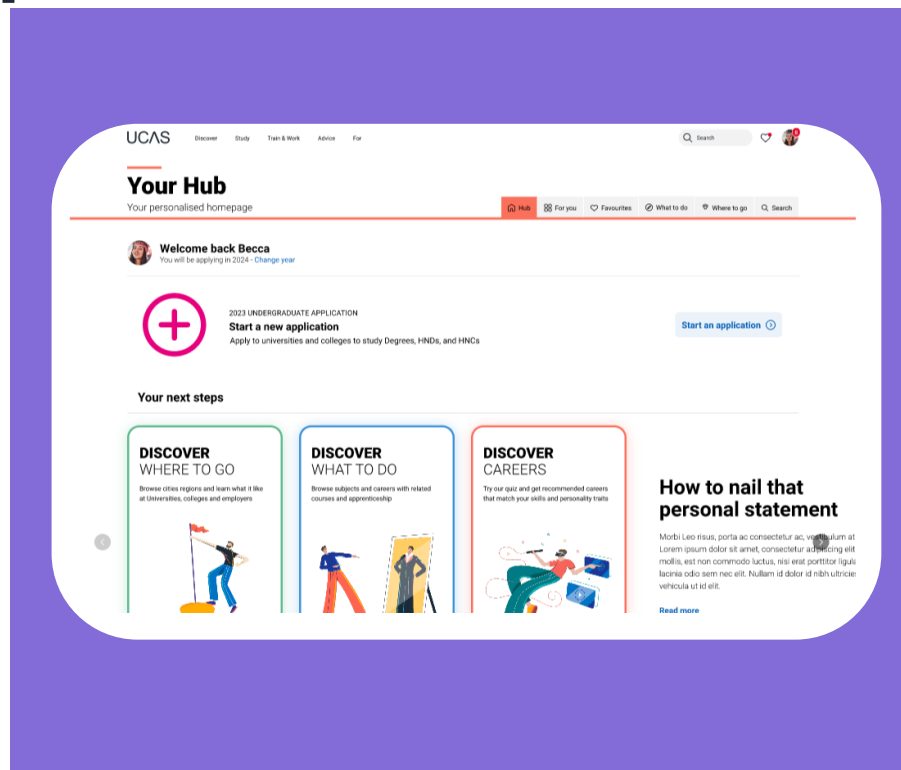
UCAS



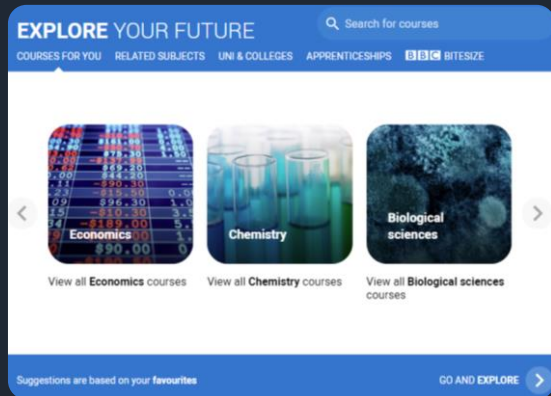
# Starting your research

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



# Personalised tools to help

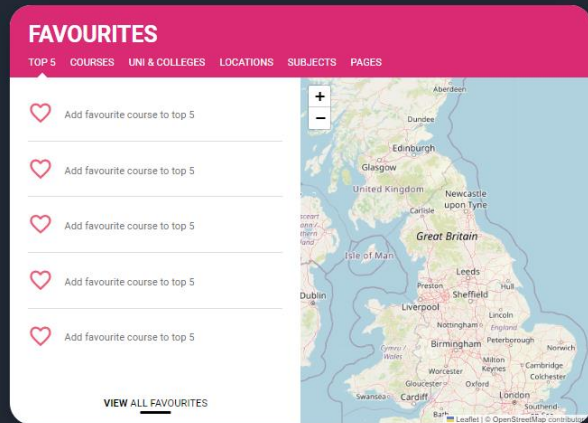


## Explore your future

Discover what to do with subject, industry, and career guides; discover where to go with city, employer and accommodation information. Explore apprenticeships and course opportunities for you. Favourite as you go.

## Your favourites

Search for courses, use to decide your top 5 choices, manage, keep those favourite information pages to hand. Manage and edit at any time.

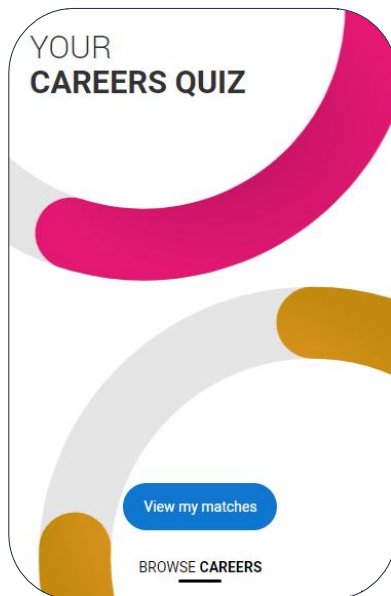


# Personalised tools to help

## UCAS Quiz

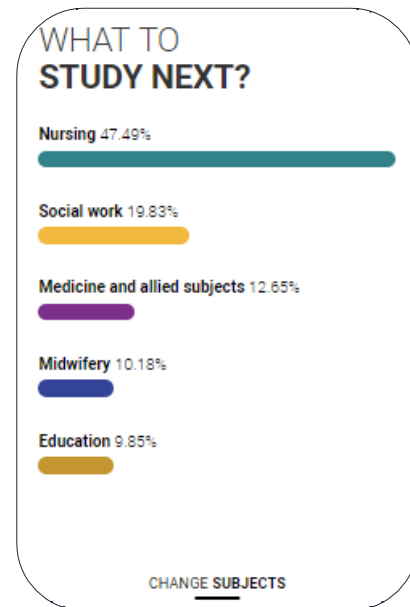
Find job and career ideas matched to your personality.

Plus a list of courses previous students studied in order to get there.



## What to study next?

Broaden your horizons by exploring another subject area, that student's who did your qualification went on to study.





# Our advice and events

## UCAS Hub lives

Join our [live sessions](#) hosted by expert panels.

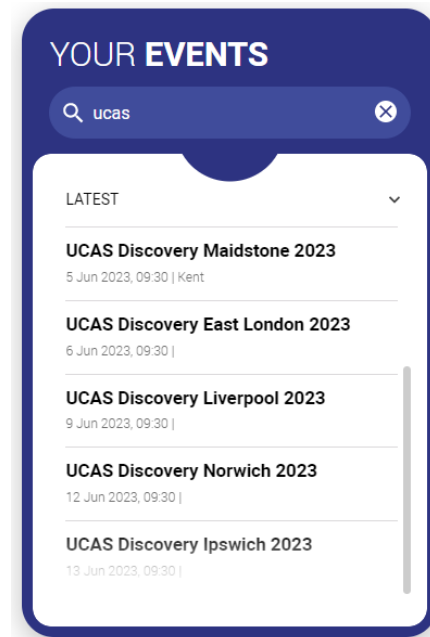
Ask questions to help you make an informed decision about the right path for you. University, apprenticeships or the world of work.



## UCAS Discovery

Events and open days are presented based on your preferences.

Register straight from the Hub for our UCAS Discovery 'The Big Q&A Tour', with exciting new zones covering all pathways.




# UCAS Exploring Apprenticeships

From UCAS Hub you can easily explore apprenticeships; learn more information and see a live selection of apprenticeship vacancies.

Set alerts to stay up to date.


## APPRENTICESHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Search for apprenticeships

**Software Developer Degree Apprentice, Ware UK, 2023**

Ware, Hertfordshire  
A competitive starting base salary of £18,000 per year, which increases after year 1

Apply for this job

**R&D Laboratory IT (Digital & Tech) Degree Apprentice, Stevenage, 2023**

Stevenage, Hertfordshire  
A competitive starting base salary of £18,000 per

FIND MORE

Found 504 jobs

Browse

Search

Keywords  
Keyword

Location  
Location

Within 5 miles

☐ Nationwide  
☐ Homeworking

Specialism

Sector

Role Type  
2 selected


☒ Apprenticeship  
☐ Other work and training

Start Date

Get new jobs for this search by email

Create alert

**TOP JOB**


**Radio Access Optimisation Apprentice (Virgin Media)**

- Leeds, Hammersmith, Runcorn, Wythenshawe
- £23,000
- Estio Training

Level 3 Radio Network Technician About the company: We're Virgin Media O2 and we're here to upgrade the UK. Virgin Media O2 combine...

View details

10 days ago | Save

**Software Developer Degree Apprentice, Ware UK, 2023**

- Ware, Hertfordshire
- A competitive starting base salary of £18,000 per year, which increases after year 1
- GSK

Join GSK's R&D (Research and Development) Apprentice Programme – Ware UK, 2023: Help us get ahead of disease together

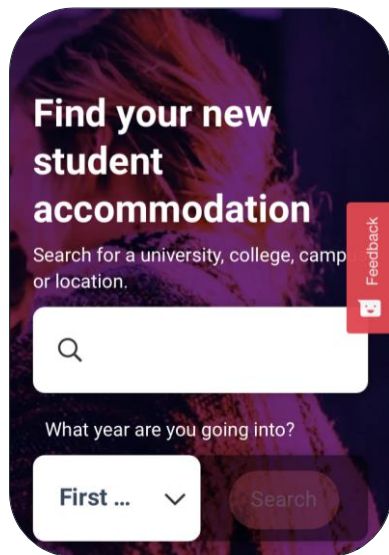
View details

4 days ago | Save

# What else do you need?

## Accommodation

High on the list when considering where to study, but it's not always easy to compare what's on offer. Understand what options there are using our [accommodation search](#).



The screenshot shows a mobile app interface for finding student accommodation. It features a purple background with a person's face. The text 'Find your new student accommodation' is prominent. Below it, a search bar is labeled 'Search for a university, college, camp or location.' and contains a magnifying glass icon. To the right of the search bar is a red 'Feedback' button. Below the search bar is a dropdown menu labeled 'What year are you going into?' with 'First ...' and a downward arrow. At the bottom right is a 'Search' button.

## Personal Statement Builder

Designed to help you think about what to include, and how to lay it all out. It counts how many characters you've used, so it's easy to see when you're close to the 4,000 character limit.



The screenshot shows the UCAS Personal Statement Builder interface. It has a yellow background with a large black pen nib icon. The text 'PERSONAL STATEMENT BUILDER' is at the top, followed by '4000 characters of 4000 remaining'. At the bottom, there is a blue button that says 'View personal statement guides' and the text 'CONTINUE WRITING'.

# In school support

- Year 12 IAG Google Classroom
- Prospectuses in Sixth Form Library
- Posters in Sixth Form Centre
- University talks in PSHE (How to Apply/Student Life/Finance etc.)
- Workshops (Personal Statement, Oxbridge, Medics etc.)
- Tutor sessions



# 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.

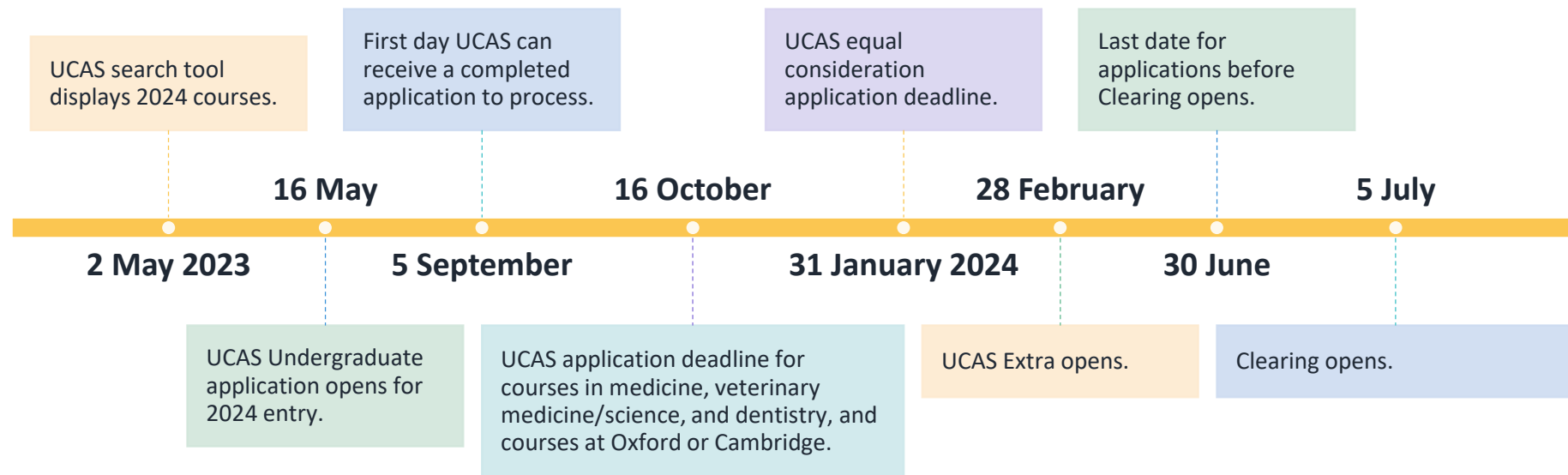


Applications are sent to UCAS by the school or college on behalf of the student.



Universities and colleges make their decisions on the application.

# When to apply for 2024 entry



# Summer Term



- Research
- University Open days
- Register with UCAS and begin completing application form (House Drama/Enterprise Day: 26<sup>th</sup> June)
- Begin personal statement- if possible, 1st draft shown to tutor before work experience
- Any specialist tests? Register in September (test usually at end of October/start of November)



# Autumn Term

- Continue research
- Predicted grades and subject references written by end of September
- Complete UCAS application by the end of first half term
- PSHE sessions
- Any specialist tests? Sit them.
- Prepare for interviews- mock interviews with subject staff/ HofSixth



# Spring Term



- Possible interviews (depending on course/university)
- Decisions received from 5 choices: conditional offer (3 grades or Tariff points), unconditional offer, unsuccessful
- If no offers received then use UCAS Extra (February onwards)

# Summer Term

- Reply to offers (usually by 8<sup>th</sup> June): firm acceptance + insurance acceptance + decline (all can be declined and UCAS Extra and/or Clearing used)
- Late applications possible (until 30<sup>th</sup> June)
- Head of Sixth Form to contact Admissions Tutor(s) if special circumstances
- Organise student finance (by end of May) and reserve accommodation



# Results/Confirmation Day

- August 2024: make sure available (update contact details) have everything ready
- Results sent to UCAS by exam boards (decision from UCAS before results available at school)
- If conditions of firm and insurance choices not met then Clearing possible (until October). Consider emergency remark (5 day turnaround)
- Head of Sixth Form available for contacting Admissions Tutors etc.
- Retakes possible in Summer 2025 (and (re)application through school in Autumn 2024). Gap year or Y14?

# Key facts

- To start an application you need to register with **ucas.com**, you can register at any time.
- From **16 May 2023** 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** £27.50.



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.
- 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, which is organized into a grid of sections. Each section has a title, a brief description, and a status indicator at the bottom. 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 image shows a screenshot of the UCAS application progress interface. It features a dark blue rounded rectangle on a yellow background. The 'Experience' section is at the top, containing three white boxes: 'Education >' (with a blue progress bar and 'Section in progress'), 'Employment >' (with a green progress bar and 'Section complete'), and 'Extra activities >' (with a blue progress bar and 'Start this section'). Below this is the 'Personal Statement' section, which contains one white box 'Personal statement >' (with a blue progress bar and 'Start this section').

**Experience**

**Education >**  
Your qualifications and periods of study  
Section in progress

**Employment >**  
Employment, paid or unpaid, or volunteer work  
Section complete

**Extra activities >**  
Activities you have attended in preparation for higher education  
Start this section

**Personal Statement**

**Personal statement >**  
Why do you want to study this subject?  
Start this section



# 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.

# 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?





PERSONAL STATEMENT BUILDER

4000 characters of 4000 remaining

✓ Writing about the course  
 Why are you applying for your chosen course(s)?

Write your text here...

Why does the subject interest you?

Write your text here...

Why do you think you're suitable for the course(s)?

Write your text here...

Do your current or previous studies relate to the course(s) that you have chosen?

Write your text here...

> Skills and achievements  
 > Work experience and future plans

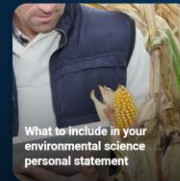
Preview

Save & close

## PERSONAL STATEMENT GUIDES

Help write your personal statement with a guide tailored to the subject you wish to study.

[Explore](#)
[Uni & colleges](#)
[For you](#)
[Favourites](#)
[Search](#)



# 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.



# Other options

## Extra (28 Feb – 4 Jul)

- Used all five choices and had no offers.
- Add Extra choices for consideration one at a time.

## Clearing (5 Jul – Oct)

- Apply after 30 June, receive no offers, decline all offers, not met conditions.
- Find vacancies from 5 July and add a Clearing choice to your application.





# Next steps

UCAS



# 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



# How can you support them?

Research

Use the parents/guardians' section of the UCAS website at [www.ucas.com/parents](http://www.ucas.com/parents).

Sign up

Sign up for parent updates from UCAS and get everything you need to know about the application process direct to your inbox.

Open days

Attend virtual events and open days – you may have a different perspective.

Be proactive

Make sure they read everything carefully that is sent to them and don't book holidays at key times!

# Keeping you informed



[www.ucas.com/parents](https://www.ucas.com/parents)



[Sign up](#) for our parents  
newsletter



Read our [guides](#) just for you.

# Useful links

[www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)- a one-stop shop for HE!

<https://www.whatuni.com/> (free and student-led)

[www.gov.uk/browse/education](http://www.gov.uk/browse/education) (government info.)

[www.erasmusplus.org.uk](http://www.erasmusplus.org.uk) (studying in Europe)

[www.hesa.ac.uk](http://www.hesa.ac.uk) (statistics agency)

[www.opendays.com](http://www.opendays.com) (open day finder)

<http://unistats.direct.gov.uk> (official statistics)

[www.disabilityrightsuk.org](http://www.disabilityrightsuk.org) (specialist support and guidance)

[www.gapyear.com](http://www.gapyear.com) (gap years)

<http://www.fullbright.org.uk> (studying in USA)

[www.acu.ac.uk](http://www.acu.ac.uk) (studying in the Commonwealth)

<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/ucas-undergraduate-advice-parents-and-guardians> (UCAS Parent guide)

# Contacts

- Mr Saunders (Head of Sixth Form)

[saundersj@bishopluffa.org.uk](mailto:saundersj@bishopluffa.org.uk)

- Mrs Hopp (Careers Co-ordinator)

[hoppa@bishopluffa.org.uk](mailto:hoppa@bishopluffa.org.uk)

- Tutor team

[6thFormtutors@bishopluffa.org.uk](mailto:6thFormtutors@bishopluffa.org.uk)





# Thank you

