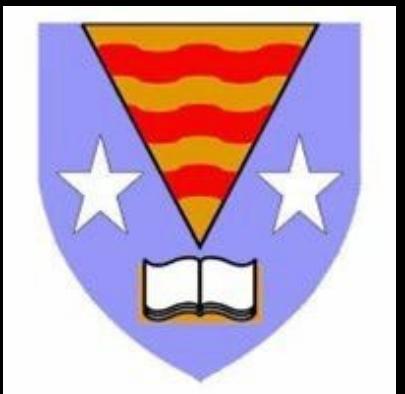


UCAS Information Evening 2021



UCAS

Security marking: PUBLIC

The role of UCAS

- Central organisation through which applications are processed for entry to full-time higher education (HE) courses in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland
- It operates on behalf of all full-time courses at member institutions



UCAS

Course providers



350+ universities and colleges:

- **4** in **Northern Ireland**
 - **15** in **Wales**
 - **19** in **Scotland**
 - **324** in **England**
 - **one** in mainland **Europe**
- at the time of checking

- **35,000+** courses available

UCAS



Abertay University, Dundee
Edinburgh Napier University
Glasgow Caledonian University
Glasgow School of Art
Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh
Open University in Scotland
Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh
Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen
Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, Glasgow
SRUC (formerly Scottish Agricultural College)
University of Aberdeen
University of Dundee
University of Edinburgh
University of Glasgow
University of St Andrews
University of Stirling
University of Strathclyde
University of the Highlands and Islands
University of the West of Scotland

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

The applicant journey



Research – it's free!



- [Register in the UCAS Hub to explore options](#) – find favourite courses and search for virtual events
- UCAS Higher Education Exhibition and Scottish Education Exhibition
- University prospectus and website
- Learning from others – speak to current students, student videos, blogs and case studies
- The UCAS career finder tool is ideal for considering options after education

Free tools to help...



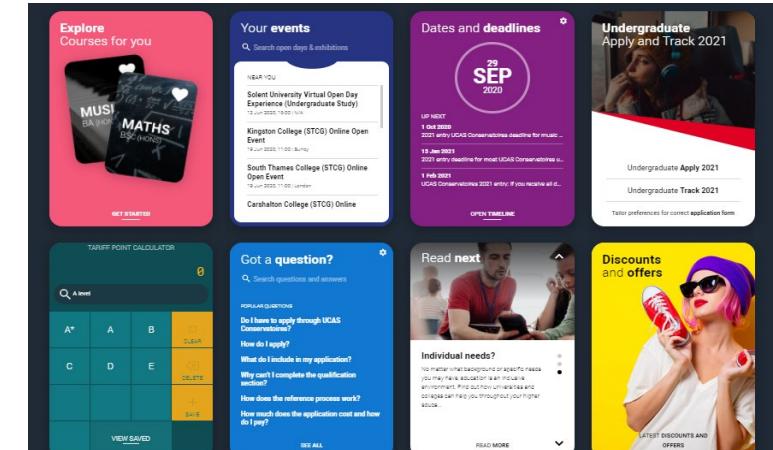
[Discovery Days](#) - at UCAS/Discovery you can explore all kinds of possibilities. Talk to subject and admissions experts, discover apprenticeships, get advice on personal statements, applying through UCAS, and more. Get stuck in and open your mind to a world of opportunities.



[Join our UCAS Hub lives and Facebook lives](#) -each live session is hosted by an expert panel to give you what you need to make an informed decision.



[Accommodation Search](#)- accommodation is high on the list when considering where you want to study, but it's not always easy to compare what's on offer. Understand what options there are using our new Accommodation search.



UCAS

Find your new halls of residence

Search for a university, college, campus or location. What year are you going into?

First year

Search



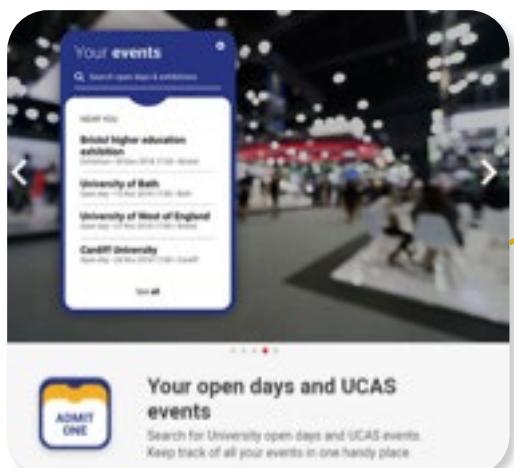
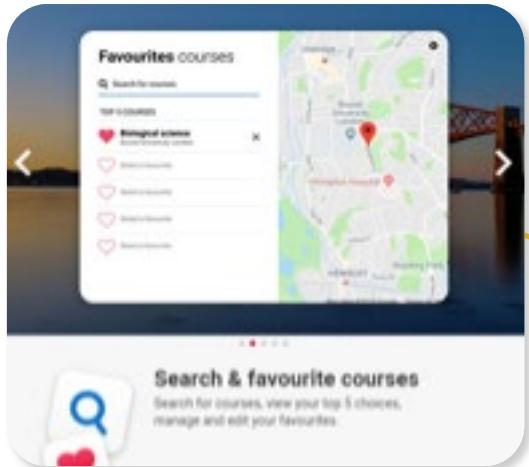
How to find the right student accommodation for you

This is it. Life is good. You're going to uni. Is it going to be the party paradise of on-campus halls, or a flat-share right in the middle of town? Maybe the cost of rent will decide, what supports on hand, or whether there's a bus stop...

[read more](#)

The UCAS Hub

UCAS



Choosing the right course for you

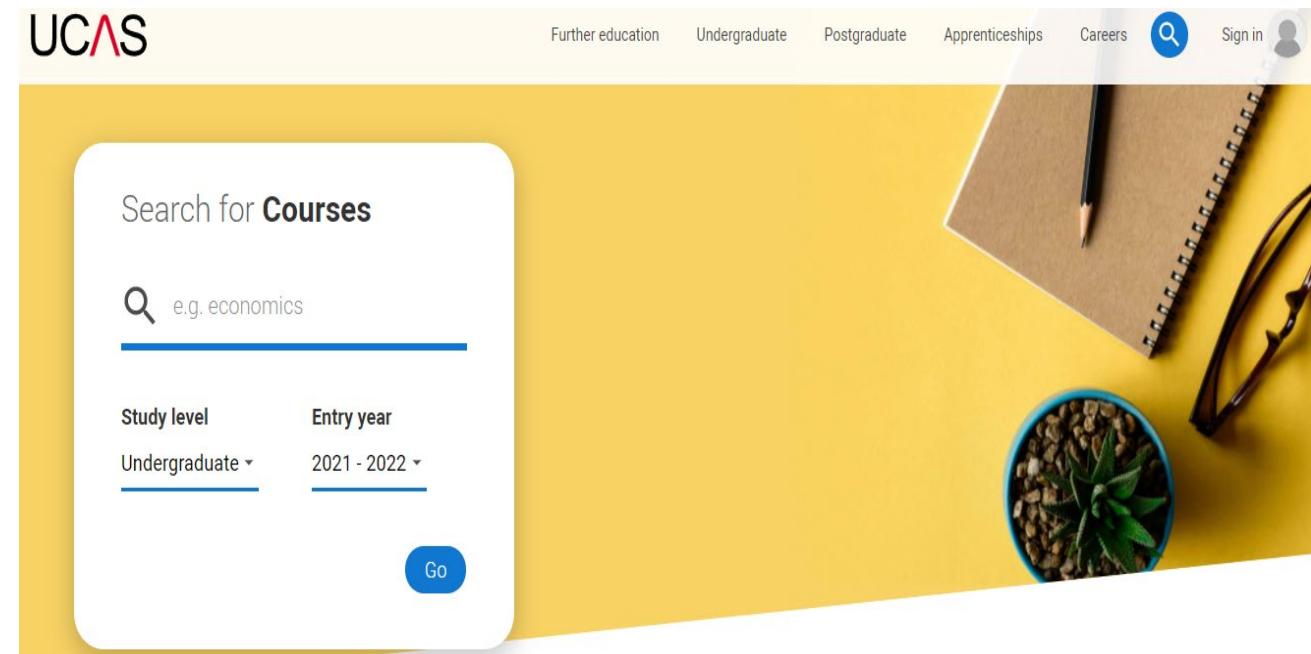
- What does the course cover?
- Courses with the same title may be very different.
- Look carefully at the core course content, and the range of optional studies/modules available.
- Which modules are the most interesting and relevant to career aspirations?
- See if the course or university/college offers 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?

Researching Courses

Your son or daughter can use the UCAS search tool at search.ucas.com

Key features include:

- mobile-friendly design
- advanced filtering and sorting options
- ability to shortlist and save searches
- free text search



Choosing the right university for you

- **Style** – from 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. This can have a major influence on the environment and lifestyle on offer.
- **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** – vary between course providers. Check if there are any scholarships/bursaries available.
- **Living costs** – accommodation, transport, and food can vary enormously.

Contact the University

Phone or email the admissions office for up to date information.



Apply key facts...



It's an online application.



Maximum of five choices.



Choice restrictions:

- medicine, veterinary
medicine/science, dentistry
(maximum of four)
- Oxford or Cambridge



Simple application cost:

- one choice – £22
- two to five choices – £26.50

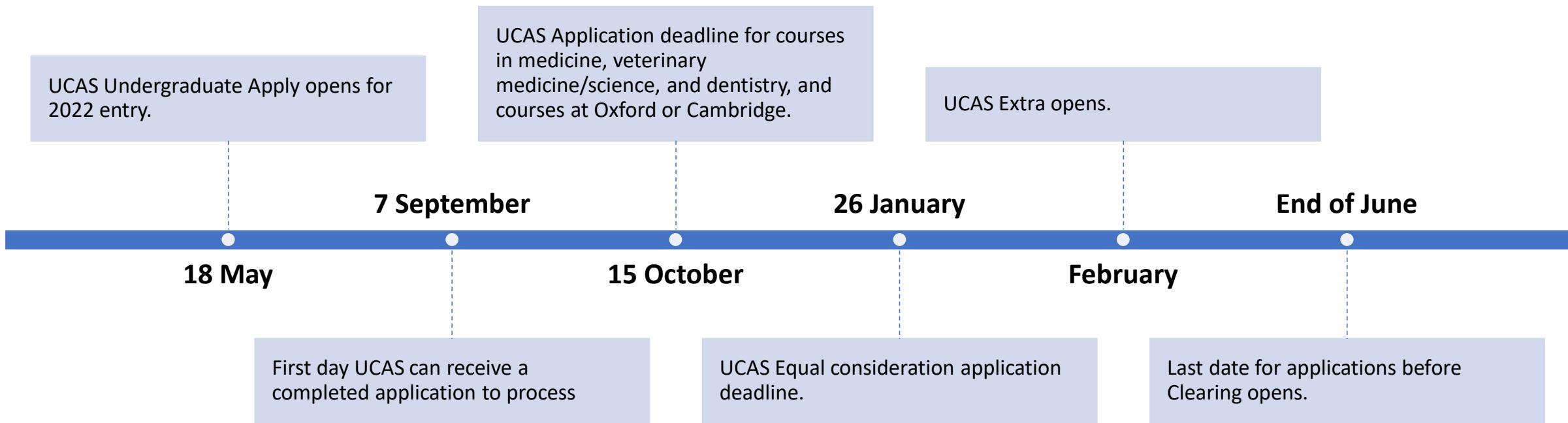


Equal consideration.



'Invisibility'.

When to apply for 2022 entry



School Deadlines

June

Register online. The buzzword is **Crieff22**

Oct 8th

First draft of personal statement due and Oxbridge, Conservatoire, Medicine, Dentistry applications completed and sent off

Nov 5th

Final draft of personal statement and information for references forwarded to Guidance Teacher

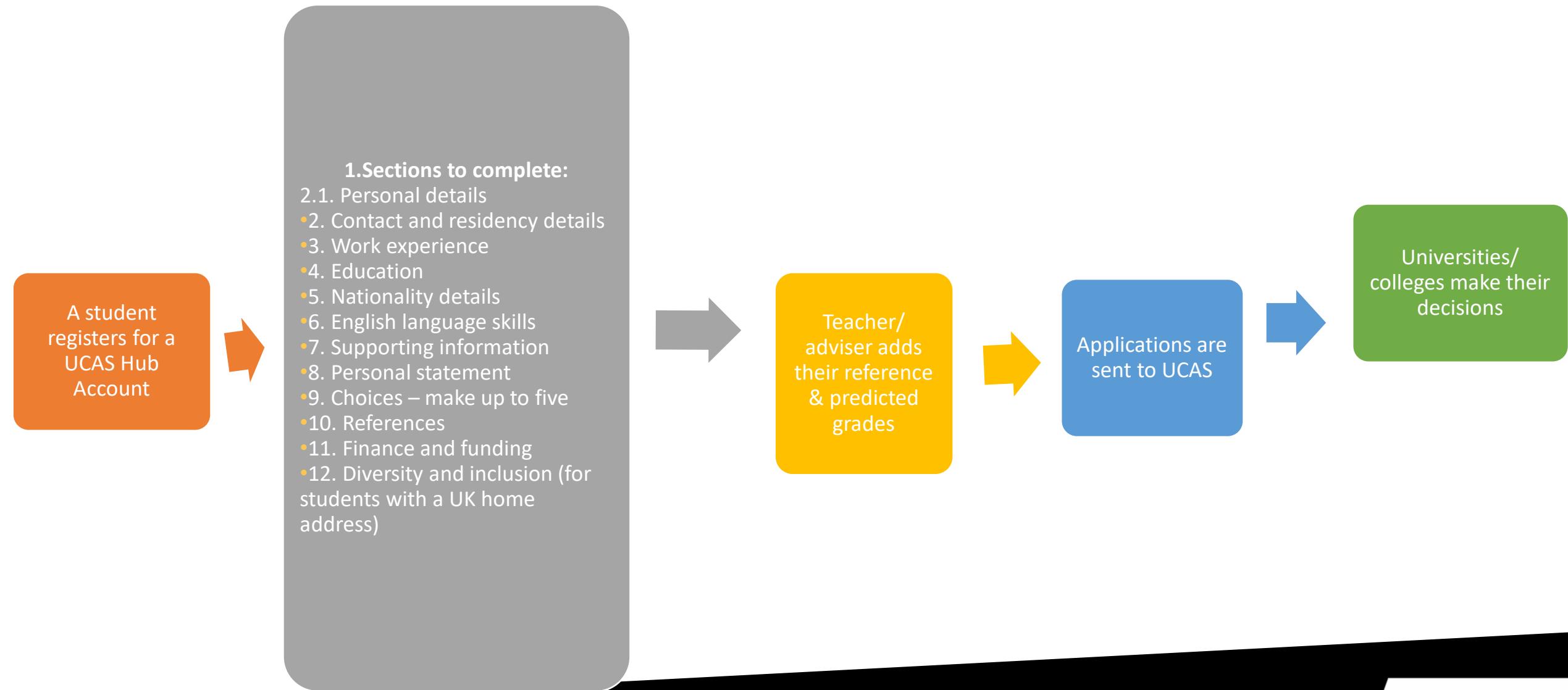
Nov 26th

UCAS application completed and paid online. Guidance Teacher can now add reference

Dec 17th

All references approved and applications sent to UCAS

Completing the UCAS application



The personal statement



The only section the applicant has full control over.



Their only chance to market themselves individually.



One personal statement for all choices.



Maximum of 4,000 characters, or 47 lines.



Minimum of 1,000 characters.



No spelling/grammar check.



No formatting.

Need to write your personal statement?

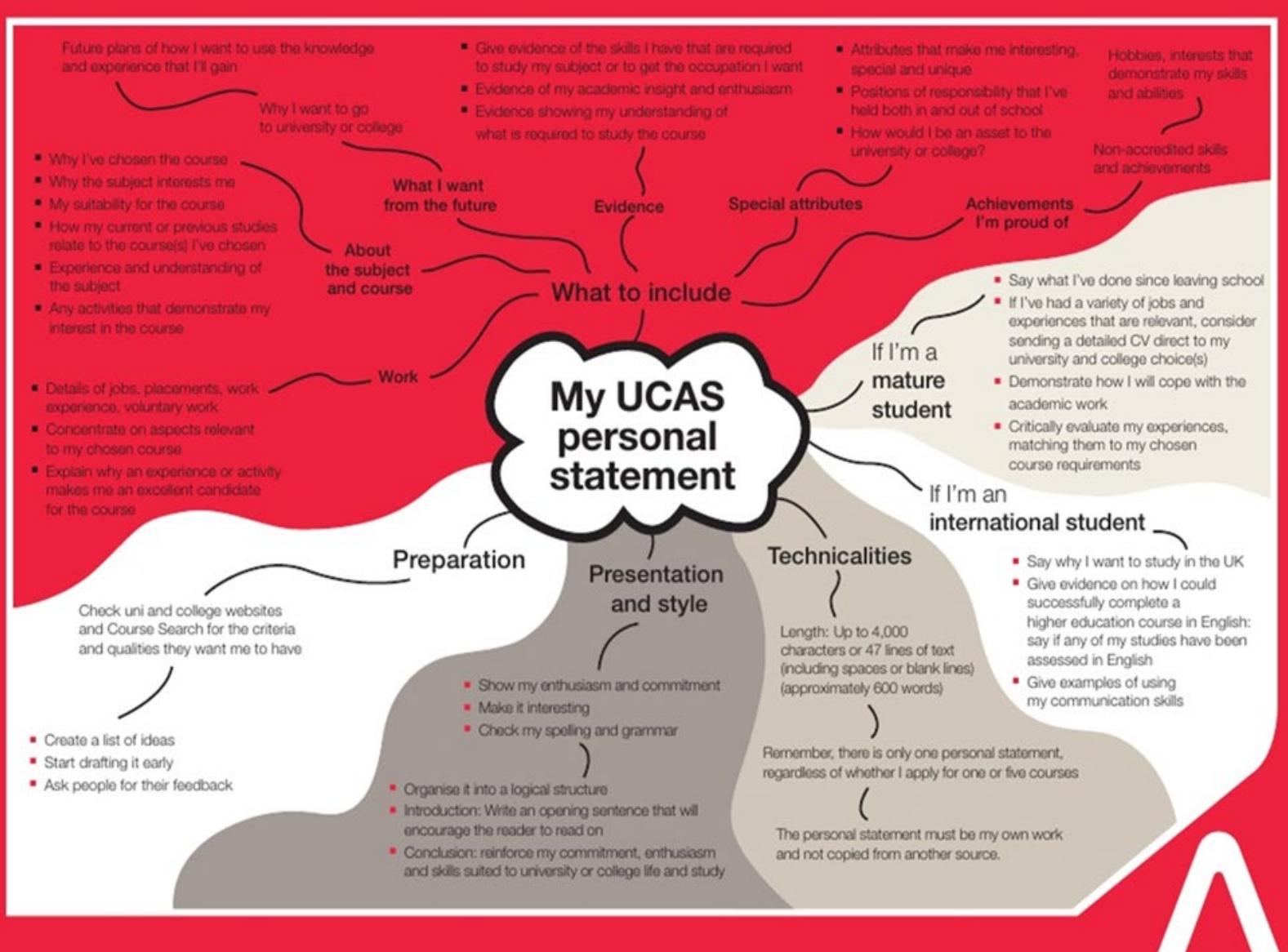
Not sure where to start?

Your personal statement is your chance to describe the ambitions, skills and experience that will make you right for your choices. We've developed this tool to get you thinking about what to include.

Get started ➤

Please view this web app in either Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, Safari or Internet Explorer 10 and above.





- PSE LESSONS
- University Speakers
- Guidance Teachers
- REACH/ACES

Personal statement top tips...

- 1: **use evidence** – show you'd be a great student by linking experience from your studies and other activities to the course.
- 2: **be honest** – don't be tempted to exaggerate. Admissions tutors often refer to personal statements during interviews.
- 3: **start early** – you'll probably redraft it several times before you're happy with it, so allow yourself plenty of time.
- 4: **let friends and family read it** – they may have suggestions you haven't considered and can tell you whether it makes sense.
- 5: **proofread it several times** – reading it out loud will help you to spot bad punctuation and messy wording.

There's more advice on personal statements at www.ucas.com/personalstatement.

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The personal statement

The ABC method

Activity: What have you done?

Benefit: What skills have you gained?

Course: How will this prepare you for the course?

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Decisions

Universities and colleges will review the:



personal statement



qualifications



reference

They make one of three decisions:



Admissions offer



Interview offer



Postoffer audition

Tracking applications

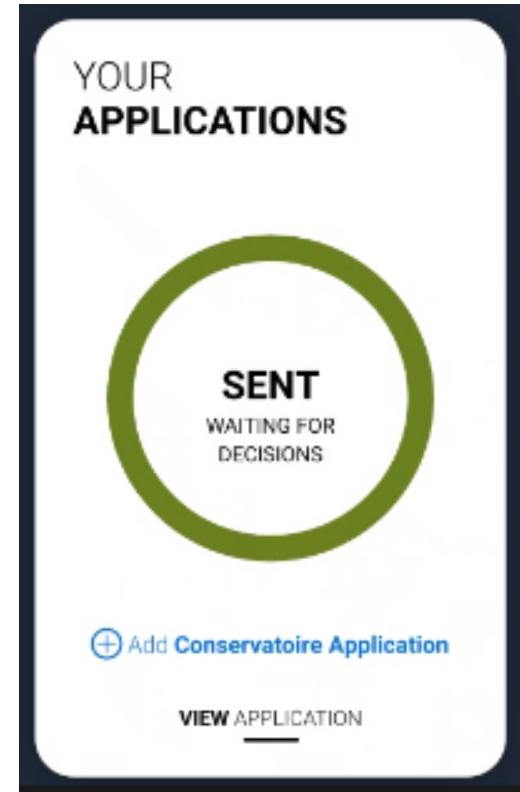
Students should head to ucas.com to track their application.

Click the application to:

- follow the progress of their application 24/7
- see their choices and personal information
- view their offers
- reply to offers online

In Track, a student can hold up to two offers:

- **firm** – if they meet the conditions of the offer they will be placed here
- **insurance** – if they are not placed with their firm choice, they may be placed with their insurance choice.



Replies to offers

Once students have decisions from all their choices, they can hold a maximum of two offers:

- one as a ‘firm’ acceptance – their first choice
- the other as an ‘insurance’ acceptance. This acts as a back-up if they don’t get into their ‘firm’ choice

They must then decline any remaining offers.

Once all decisions and replies have been made, if students aren’t holding an offer, they may be able to use Extra or Clearing to find available places.



Other options



Extra (Feb – Jul)

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

Clearing (Jul – Oct)

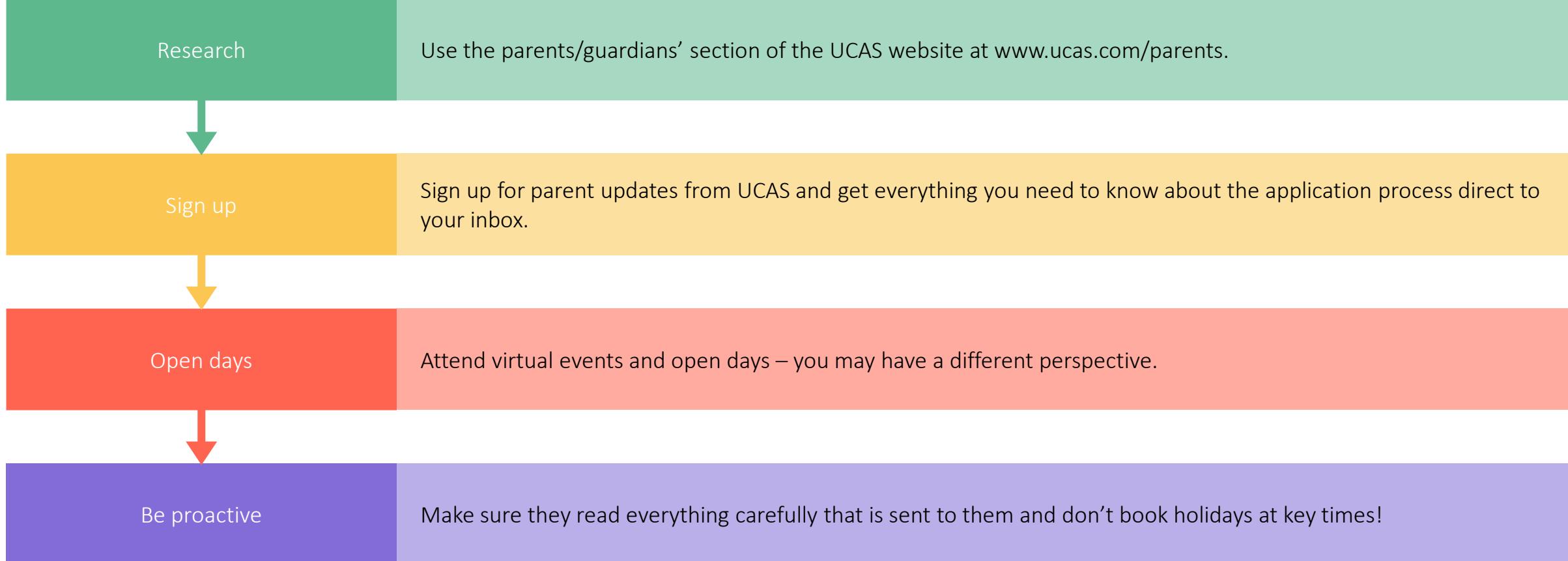
- Apply after 30 June, receive no offers, decline all offers, not met conditions.
- Find vacancies from early July, and add a Clearing choice to their application.

What should students be doing now?

- research
- extracurricular activities
- work experience
- go beyond the syllabus
- focus on this year's studies



How can you support them?





Funding your future

Fee Code – UK applicants are 02

UCAS

Barwick – Miss Johnstone

Kelty – Mr Duncan

Turret – Mrs Mearns



UCAS

Security marking: PUBLIC