

# Parents evening presentation 2022-23

The buzzword is **crieff23**

UCAS



## **Guidance Teachers:**

**Barvick - Alison Walker**  
**Turret – Andrea Douglas**  
**Kelty – Greg Duncan**

DHT Support – Morag Fotheringhame

**UCAS**



# What is UCAS?

UCAS is an independent charity providing information, advice and admissions services. We're there to help people figure out what the next step in education 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

# Information and advice on



Higher  
education



Apprenticeships/  
traineeships



Studying  
abroad



Gap year



Getting a job

Find out more: [ucas.com](https://ucas.com)

# Why higher 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.



# The applicant journey



# Choosing the right place

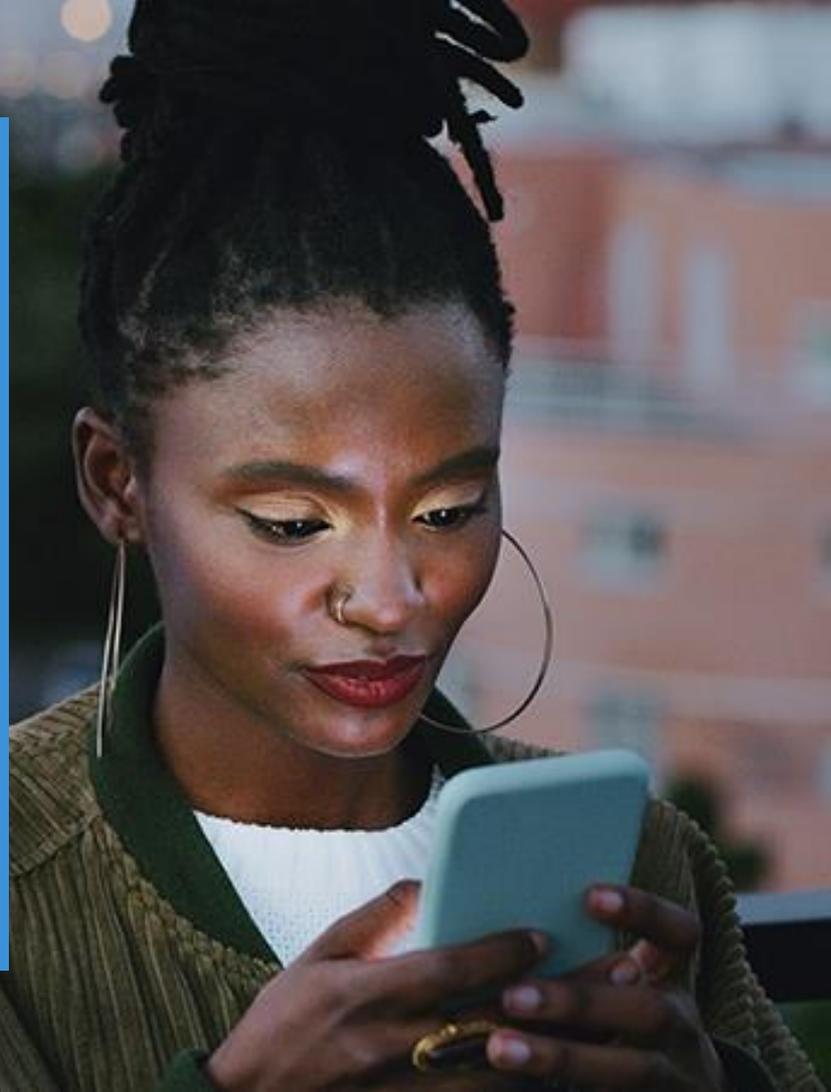
- **Style** – from traditional, with a focus on subject-based courses and research, to modern universities/colleges, with a greater focus on vocational courses.
- **Location** – some are in large cities, others in small towns, by the coast or in the countryside – it's all a major influence on the environment 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

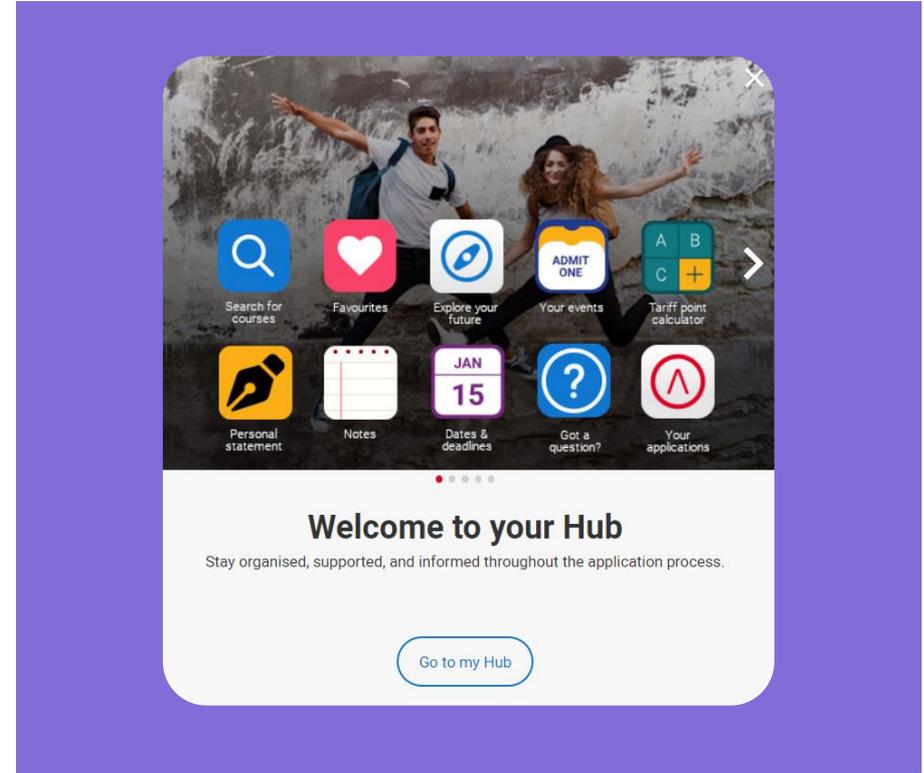
UCAS



# Starting your research

Register with the UCAS Hub to:

- explore careers, subjects, places, and apprenticeships
- find and favourite from over 35,000 courses
- search for open days, online 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 the [Hub lives](#)
- take the [UCAS Quiz](#) to find your career matches
- start an application for 2023 entry (from May 2022)



# Tools to help

**FAVOURITES**

TOP 5 COURSES UNI & COLLEGES LOCATIONS SUBJECTS PAGES

Industrial Design & Technology  
Brunel University London

View all favourites

GO AND EXPLORE

**Search and favourite courses**

Search for courses, view your top five choices, and manage and edit your favourites.

[Go to my Hub](#)

**EXPLORE YOUR FUTURE**

COURSES FOR YOU RELATED SUBJECTS UNI & COLLEGES APPRENTICESHIPS

Chemistry  
View 8 courses at your favourite uni & colleges

Agriculture and related sciences  
View 27 courses at your favourite uni & colleges

Education  
View 23 courses at your favourite uni & colleges

Suggestions are based on your favourites

GO AND EXPLORE

**Explore and favourite options**

Explore and favourite subjects, locations, uni and colleges, and courses.

[Go to my Hub](#)

# Tools to help

## UCAS Hub lives

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

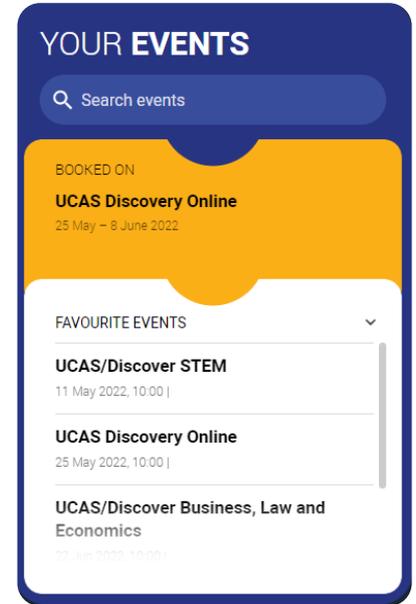
Ask questions to help you make an informed decision.



## UCAS Discovery

Talk to subject and admissions experts, discover apprenticeships, find advice on applying, and more!

[Discover](#) a world of opportunities.

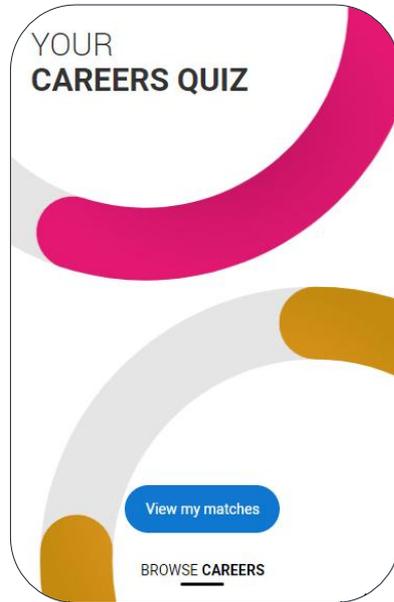


# Tools to help

## UCAS Quiz

Find job and career ideas matched to your personality.

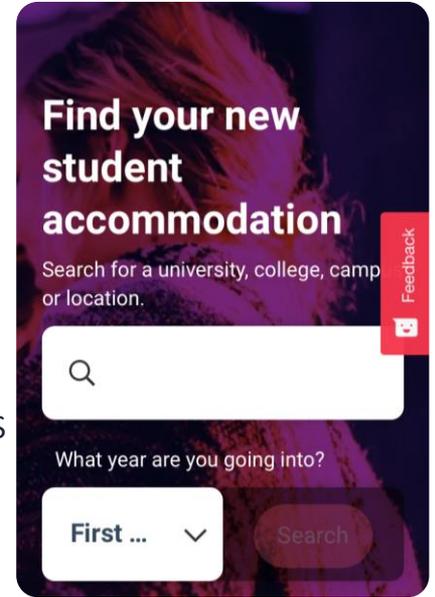
Plus a list of courses previous students studied in order to get there.



## 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](#).



# 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.

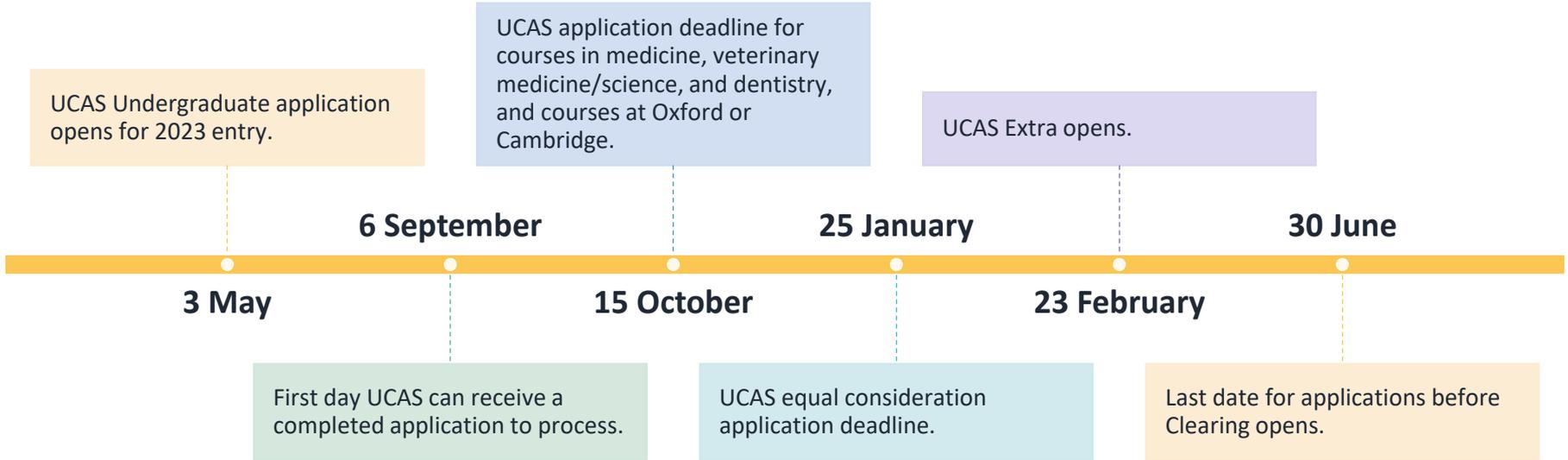


Applications are sent to UCAS by the school or college on behalf of the student.



Universities and colleges make their decisions on the application.

# When to apply for 2023 entry



# School Deadlines

- Now** Register online. The buzzword is crieff23
- Oct 7<sup>th</sup>** First draft of personal statement due and **Oxbridge, Conservatoire, Medicine, Dentistry applications completed and sent off.**
- Nov 4<sup>th</sup>** Final draft of personal statement and information for references forwarded to Guidance Teacher.
- Nov 25<sup>th</sup>** **UCAS application completed and paid online.** Guidance Teacher can now add reference.
- Dec 16<sup>th</sup>** All references approved and applications sent to UCAS

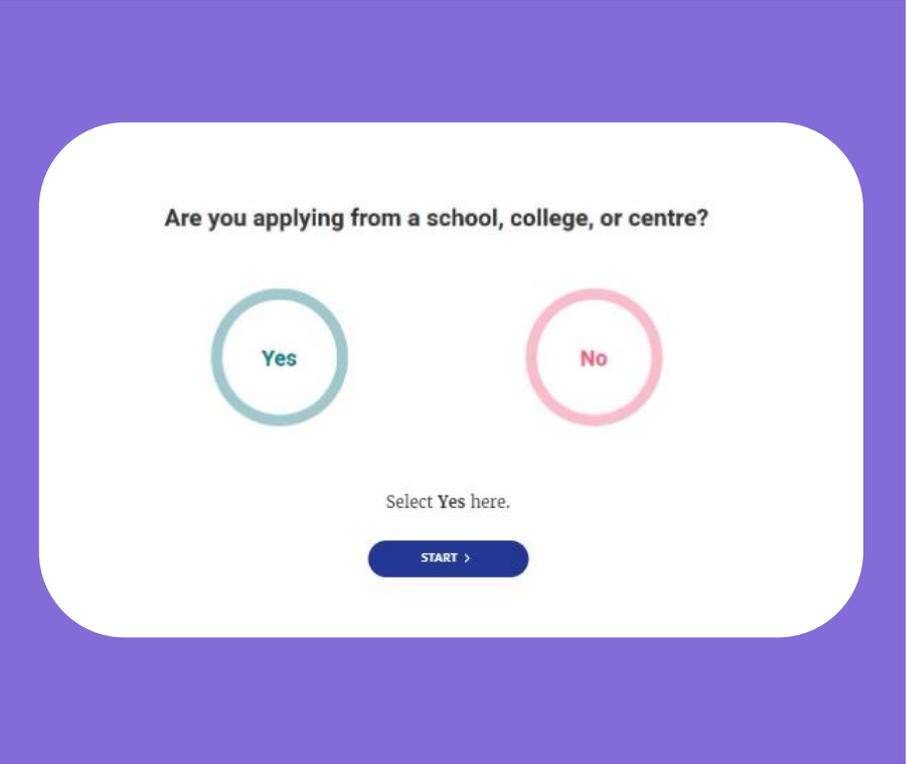
# Key facts

- To start an application you need a **UCAS Hub account**.
- Register for UCAS Hub at any time.
- From **3 May 2022** you'll be able to 'Start' your application in your UCAS Hub.
- 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** £22.50 for 1 choice, or £27 for multiple choices.
- Apply by the **equal consideration date**.
- Universities and colleges **can't see** your other choices when you apply.



# 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. **The buzzword is crieff23**
- 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.



Are you applying from a school, college, or centre?

Yes No

Select Yes here.

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 a 'Profile' section with the following layout:

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

# 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)

Security marking: **PUBLIC**

The screenshot displays a dark blue application interface on a yellow background. It is divided into two main sections: 'Experience' and 'Personal Statement'.

**Experience Section:**

- Education >**: Your qualifications and periods of study. Status: Section in progress (blue bar with a play icon).
- Employment >**: Employment, paid or unpaid, or volunteer work. Status: Section complete (green bar with a checkmark icon).
- Extra activities >**: Activities you have attended in preparation for higher education. Status: Start this section (blue bar with a play icon).

**Personal Statement Section:**

- Personal statement >**: Why do you want to study this subject? Status: Start this section (blue bar with a play icon).

# The personal statement



The only section students have full control over



Students only chance to market themselves individually



The same for all 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 is allowed

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

## 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](http://www.ucas.com/personalstatement).

# 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?

# Decisions

Universities and colleges will review the:



**personal statement**



**qualifications**



**reference**

They may also ask for:



**admissions test**

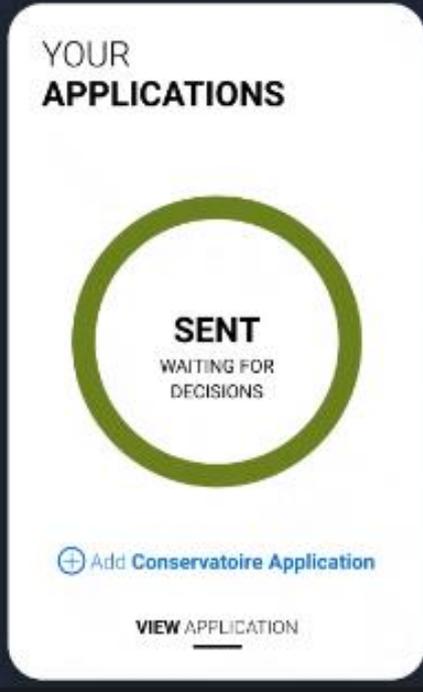


**interview**



**portfolio/audition**

# Tracking applications



Head to UCAS Hub to:

- follow its progress 24/7
- see choices and personal information
- view offers
- reply to offers online

One of three decisions will be made:

- unconditional offer
- conditional offer
- unsuccessful

# Replies to offers

Once decisions have been made on all choices, two can be chosen:

- one as a 'firm' acceptance – 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 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 (23 Feb – 4 Jul)

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

## Clearing (5 Jul – 17 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.



# What can students be doing?

- research, research, research
- attend open days and events – including online
- extracurricular and supercurricular 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 carefully read everything that is sent to them and don't book holidays at key times!



[Student Awards Agency Scotland - SAAS - Funding Your Future](#)

[www.saas.gov.uk](http://www.saas.gov.uk)

Fee Code – UK applicants are 02



## HOW TO PAY FOR UNI

One of the biggest concerns for students and their parents is the cost of university. Here's a breakdown of what you need to know about fees, finance, and repayment.

This information has been provided in association with Student Loans Company.

### Tuition fees

Your child will typically pay up to £9,250 per year in tuition fees as a UK student, though for many courses it's less.

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

Because of the way the system works (see the 'Repayment' section), taking out a loan, such as a bank loan, yourself to cover the cost of fees and avoid your child getting into debt will almost always work out more expensive in the long run, so it's not advisable.

### Living costs

The second loan they can apply for is the Maintenance Loan, to help towards living expenses while at university, such as accommodation, food, and course materials.

The amount they're eligible to borrow depends on several factors, including where they will be living during term time and your household income. You'll need to declare this information to receive the maximum amount available.

For example, if they'll be living away from home (outside of London), a Maintenance Loan of up to £9,488 per year could be available per year depending on your household income. 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.

Calculate how much it will cost your child to live at university by going to [ucas.com/budget-calculator](https://ucas.com/budget-calculator)

### Extra support

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

- ▶ **Scholarships 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 £25,000 of support for 2022 to 2023. 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 don't usually have to be paid back unless your child leaves their course early.

### Applying

There's no need for your child to wait to receive offers back from universities to apply for student finance – they can usually do this from February with the student funding body for where they currently live (see 'Location matters').

Student loans are only repayable after graduation, once your child is earning over a certain salary.

To make sure they receive their loans on time, remind them to provide their supporting evidence as soon as possible!

# Top ten tips

- 1 [Start research early](#) – there are a lot of higher education options to choose from!
- 2 Register in the UCAS Hub and [browse through courses](#) – so they can work out what they would enjoy or be interested in.
- 3 [Know the deadlines](#) – for some courses, the application deadline is almost a year in advance of when the course starts.
- 4 [Go to UCAS events and course provider open days](#) – speak to us and higher education staff to get answers to their questions.
- 5 [Check entry requirements](#) – make sure they can get the grades they need to get a place on a course.
- 6 [Redraft their personal statement](#) – get plenty of feedback and refine it until they're happy.
- 7 [Understand student finance](#) – so they can make the best arrangements to fund their studies.
- 8 [Be prepared for results day](#) – make sure they're prepared for all the possible outcomes.
- 9 Understand how [Extra](#) and [Clearing](#) work – different ways to apply for more courses.
- 10 Visit our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) regularly to get advice and ask questions.

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# Additional help

UCAS Customer Experience Centre:

0371 468 0 468

From outside the UK:

+44 330 3330 230

Monday to Friday, 08:30 – 18:00 (UK time)

Stay up to date online at:

[facebook.com/ucasonline](https://facebook.com/ucasonline)

[twitter.com/UCAS\\_online](https://twitter.com/UCAS_online)



# Thank you

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