

Parents evening presentation 2023-24

The buzzword is `crieff24`

UCAS



Guidance Teachers:

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DHT Support and S6 Year Head – Morag Fotheringhame

UCAS



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

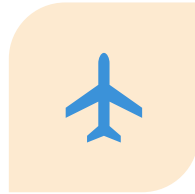
Choices available



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

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





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

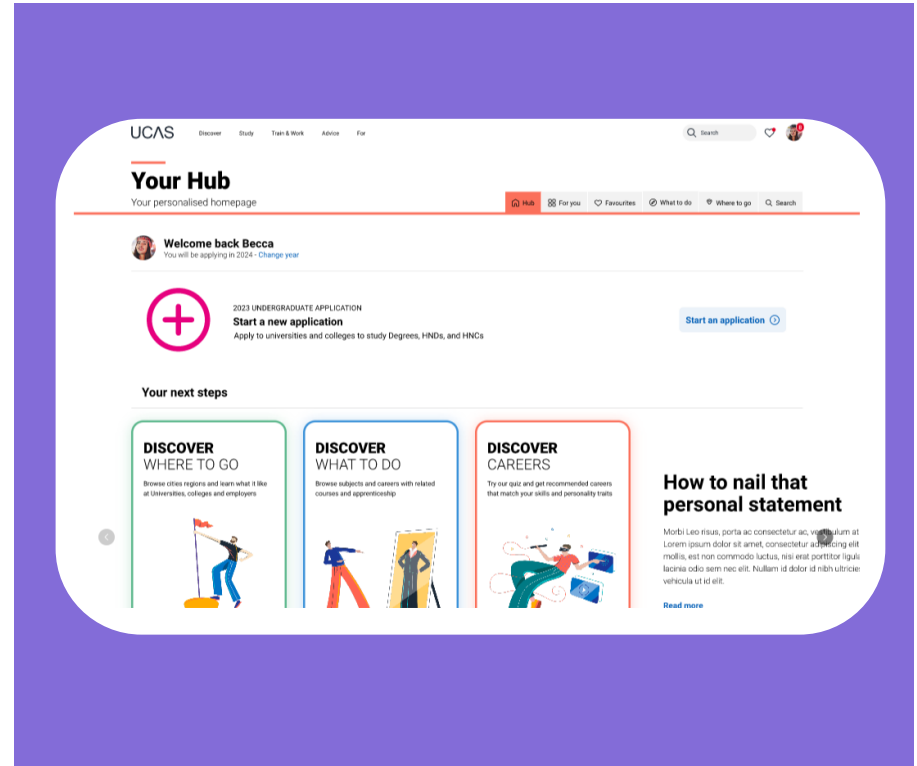
UCAS



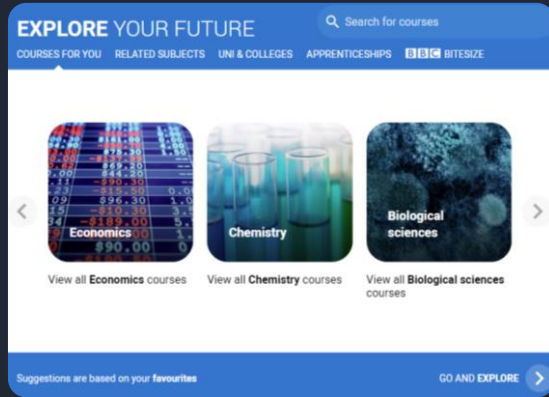
Starting your research

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



Personalised tools to help

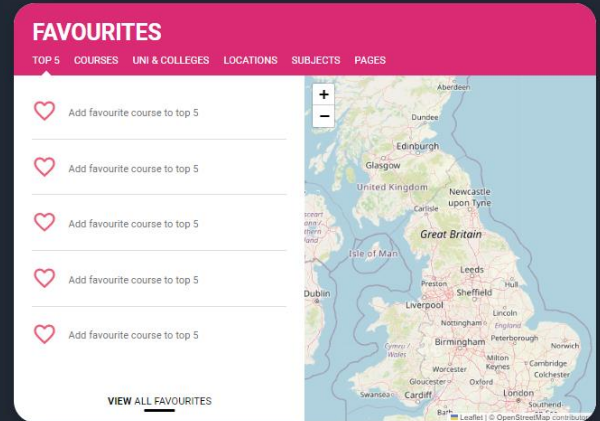


Explore your future

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.

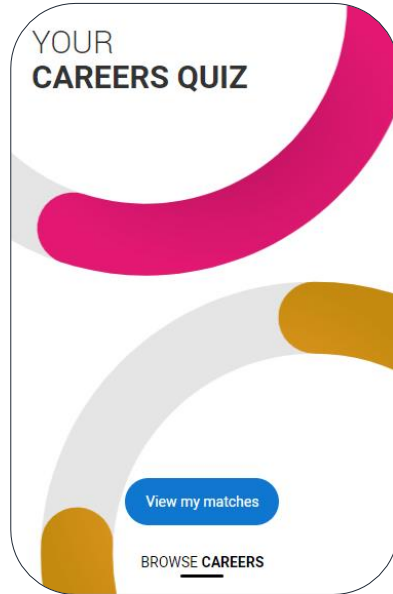


Personalised tools to help

UCAS Quiz

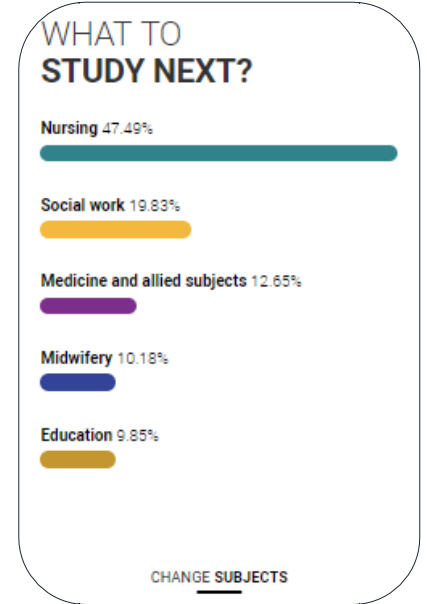
Find job and career ideas matched to your personality.

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.

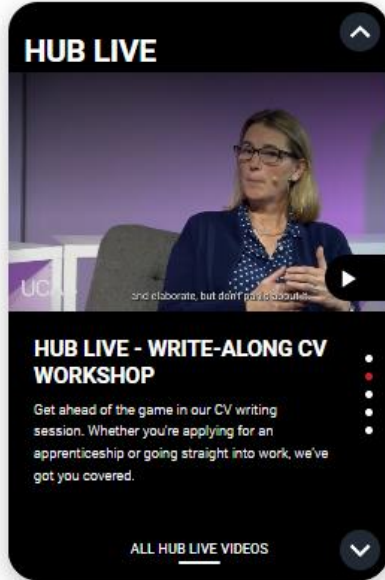


Our advice and events

UCAS Hub lives

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

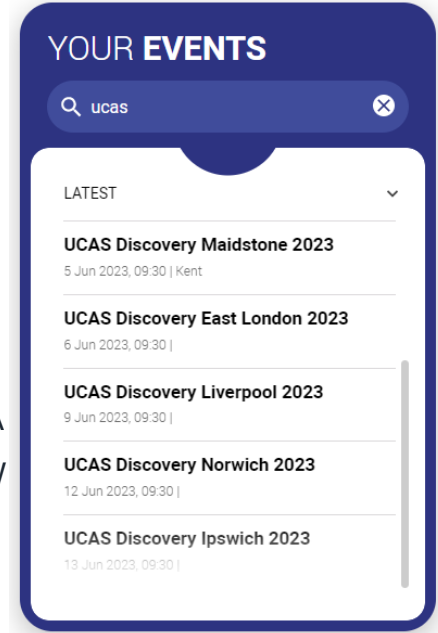
Ask questions to help you make an informed decision about the right path for you. University, apprenticeships or the world of work.



UCAS Discovery

Events and open days are presented based on your preferences.

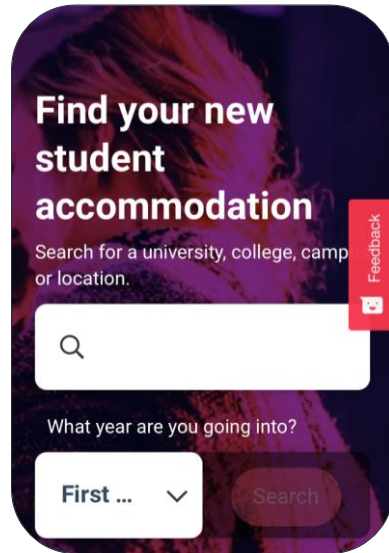
Register straight from the Hub for our UCAS Discovery 'The Big Q&A Tour', with exciting new zones covering all pathways.



What else do you need?

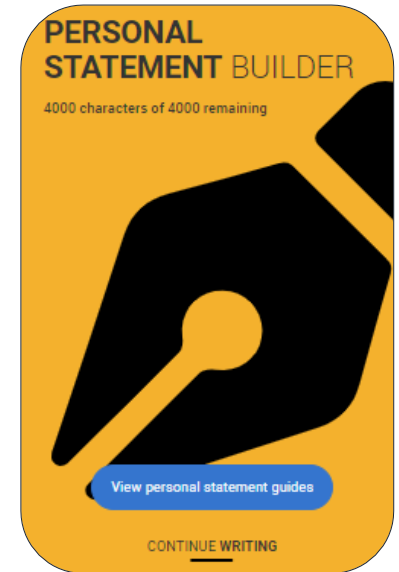
Accommodation

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](#).



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.



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.

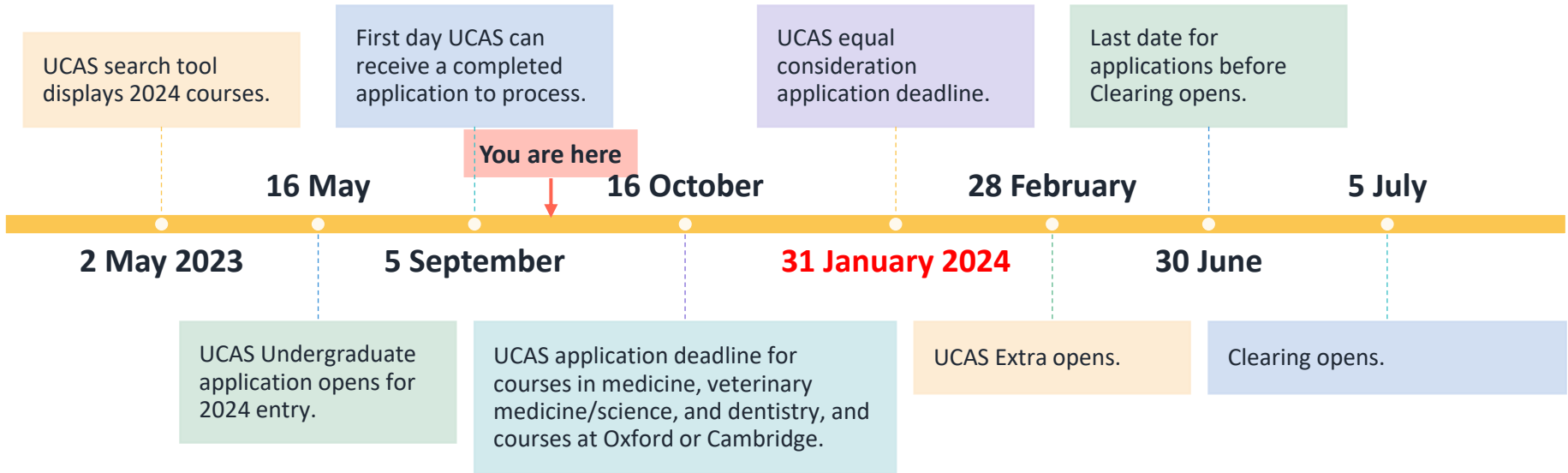


Applications are sent to UCAS by the school or college on behalf of the student.



Universities and colleges make their decisions on the application.

When to apply for 2024 entry



School Deadlines

- Now** Register online. The buzzword is crieff24. Working on Personal Statement.
- Oct 2nd** Conservatoire (Music) applications completed and sent off.
- Oct 6th** First draft of personal statement due and **Oxbridge, Medicine, Dentistry applications completed and sent off.**
- Nov 3rd** Final draft of personal statement and information for references forwarded to Guidance Teacher.
- Nov 24th** **UCAS application completed and paid online.** Guidance Teacher can now add reference.
- Dec 15th** All references approved and applications sent to UCAS.

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.



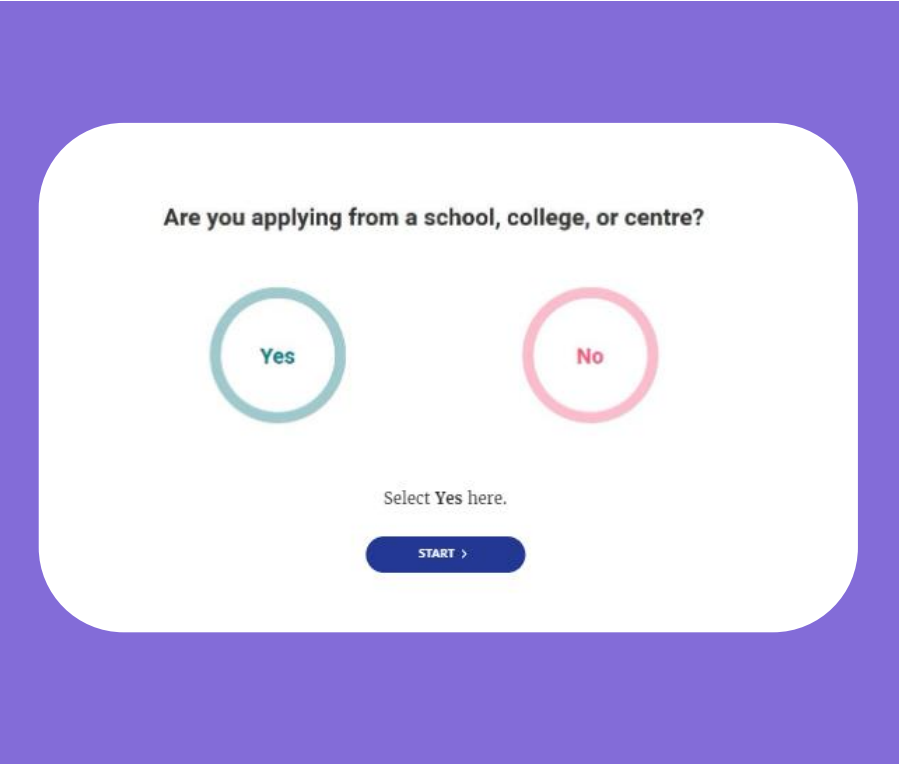
2024 UNDERGRADUATE APPLICATION

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. **The buzzword is crieff24**
- 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 details:

- 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)

The screenshot displays a dark blue rounded rectangle on a yellow background. It is divided into two main sections: 'Experience' and 'Personal Statement'. The 'Experience' section contains three white cards: 'Education >' (with a blue progress bar and 'Section in progress' text), 'Employment >' (with a green progress bar and 'Section complete' text), and 'Extra activities >' (with a blue progress bar and 'Start this section' text). The 'Personal Statement' section contains one white card: 'Personal statement >' (with a blue progress bar and 'Start this section' text).

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



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.

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?

PERSONAL STATEMENT BUILDER

4000 characters of 4000 remaining



[View personal statement guides](#)

CONTINUE WRITING

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](#)



What to include in your environmental science personal statement



What to include in your biology personal statement



What to include in your business management personal statement

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

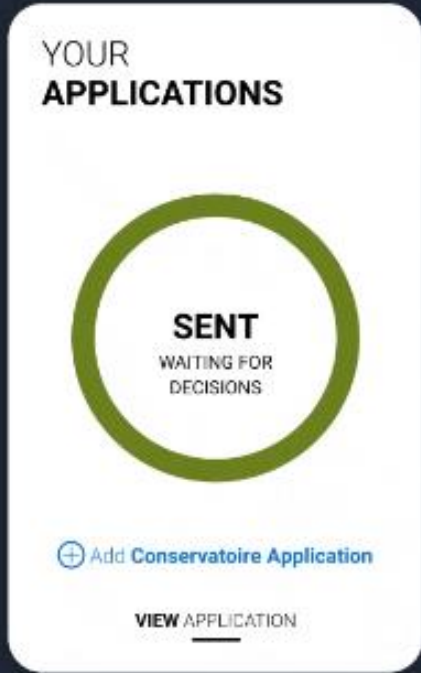


interview



portfolio/audition

Tracking 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 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

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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



* Super-curricular activities:

- Read widely beyond the A-level syllabus.
- Start a blog about your subject.
- Tweet about your subject, and follow others who do the same.
- Listen to subject-related podcasts.
- Join a society or club dedicated to your subject.



How can you support them?

Research

Use the parents/guardians' section of the UCAS website at 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!

Keeping you informed



www.ucas.com/parents



[Sign up](#) for the parents
newsletter



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



Student Awards Agency Scotland - SAAS - Funding Your Future

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 the 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 £9,978 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.

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 £26,291 of support for 2023 to 2024. 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!

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)



@ucas_online



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Thank you

Any Questions?

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