A photograph of several young people sitting on a concrete bench outdoors. In the foreground, a young woman with long pink hair is smiling and looking towards a young man with a beard and a denim jacket. They are both holding books. Other students are partially visible in the background.

# Parents evening presentation

Last updated April 2024

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

# What Next?

Discovery with UCAS

UCAS



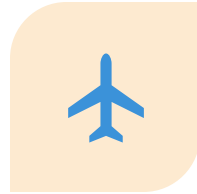
# Discover options



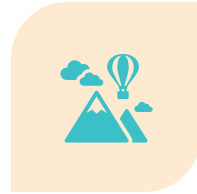
HIGHER  
EDUCATION



APPRENTICESHIPS



STUDYING  
ABROAD



GAP YEAR



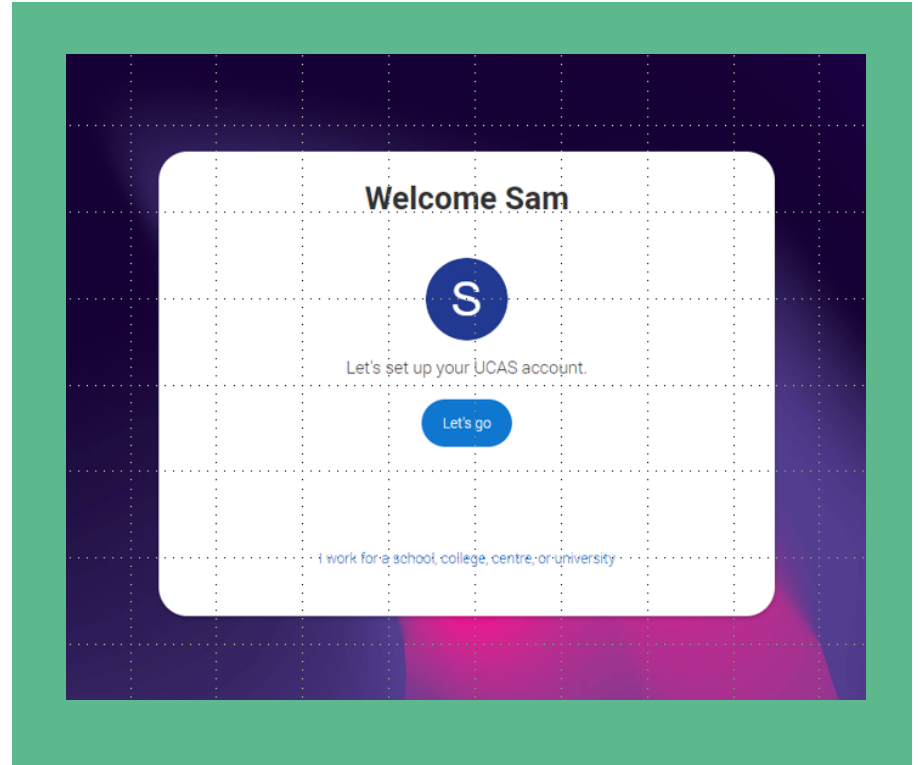
GETTING A JOB

Register for the UCAS Hub to understand all your options and make the right choices for you: [ucas.com/hub](https://ucas.com/hub)

# Discover options

Register with the UCAS Hub to:

- explore careers, subjects, places, and apprenticeships in one place
- 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](#)
- try before you apply with [Subject Spotlights](#) from Springpod.
- take the [UCAS Quiz](#) to find career matches
- start your application



## DISCOVER WHAT TO DO

Browse subjects and careers with related courses and apprenticeships.

[Discover more](#)



### FAQS

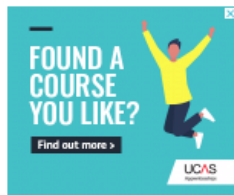
## What subject should I take?

Read our subject guides to see what might be right for you.

### HOW TO

## How to apply

All you need to know about applying to university, college or an apprenticeship.



## DISCOVER CAREERS

Try our quiz and get recommended careers that match your skills and personality traits.

[Take the quiz](#)



### FAQS

## Key application dates

Find out what you need to do and when.

### HOW TO

## How to nail that personal statement

Writing a personal statement can be daunting. Follow our tips and advice to help make it easier.

## DISCOVER WHERE TO GO

Browse universities, colleges and employers and learn more about cities and regions in the UK.

[Find out more](#)



## What's happening

### Replying to your offers - your questions answered

Getting ready to reply to your offers? We've got all your questions answered.

[More info](#)



### Chat to students

Chat with UK and international students who are already studying the courses you've applied for at universities and colleges across the UK, on Limbuddy.

[More info](#)



### University course tasters

Experience what a university course would be like with Springpod's Subject Spotlights. These interactive, virtual university course tasters feature real-life lectures, seminars, and academics.

[More info](#)



### Live now: Studying in the UK

There's a lot to consider when moving to a new country. We explore accommodation, visas, scholarships and everything in between.

[More info](#)



# Discover pathways

- **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.

# Discover pathways Side by side

You can see apprenticeship opportunities alongside undergraduate courses.

The UCAS Hub enables you to explore all your options and build your profile in one place.



## Dental Nurse Apprentice

MR DEVANAND ISUKAPATLA

📍 South Shields

Apprenticeship level	Industry
England - Advanced Apprenticeship - Level 3	Medicine, dentistry and nursing
Start date	Duration
30/10/2023	18 Months
Date posted	Closing date
06/03/2023	29/10/2023
Salary	
£10,982.40	



## AAT Apprenticeship - Audit, Accounts and Tax (March 2024)

MOORE KINGSTON SMITH GROUP SERVICES LIMITED

📍 LONDON

Apprenticeship level	Industry
England - Higher Apprenticeship - Level 4	Accounting and Finance
Start date	Duration
04/03/2024	2 Years
Date posted	Closing date
05/07/2023	30/10/2023
Salary	
£25,000.00	



# Is it **right** for you?

There's things to consider with your next step

- something you enjoy – you're 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

# Build your profile. Favourite as you go.

Browse by

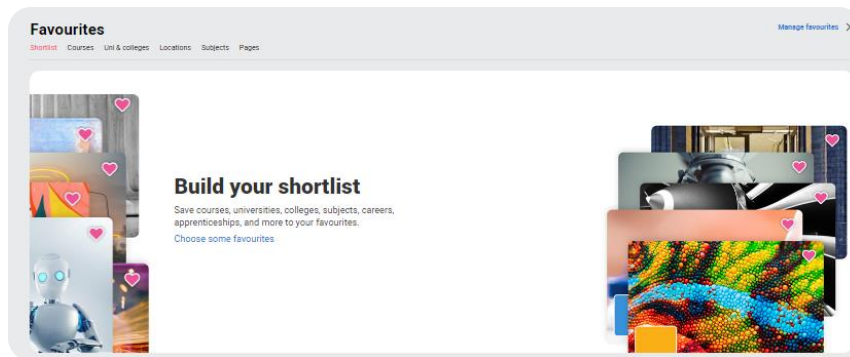


## Explore your future

What to do? Where to go? **Discover** all the options with our subject, industry, and career guides. **Explore** city, employer and accommodation information. **Compare** apprenticeships and course opportunities for you.

## Build your shortlist

Save for courses, universities, colleges, subjects, apprenticeships and more! Use to shortlist your top 5 choices, manage, keep those favourite information pages to hand.



# Subject Spotlights

Learn from some of the UK's finest academics as they give you a genuine, insightful, and engaging experience of studying their courses at their universities.

- On-demand interactive video **experiences**
- Have a go at **interactive quizzes** and **activities**
- Get **feedback** on how you've done.
- **Try** university degrees before you apply.
- **Certificate** of completion

Explore more Springpod [Subject Spotlights](#).

## University course tasters

Experience what a university course would be like with Springpod's Subject Spotlights. These interactive, virtual university course tasters feature real-life lectures, seminars, and academics.

[More info](#)



# Chat to students



A peer-to-peer chat facility hosted on [ucas.com](https://ucas.com) powered by Unibuddy.



An opportunity to connect with current students, ask questions and learn about their experiences



Over 4,900 active ambassadors, with unlimited chats available

## Chat to students

Chat with UK and international students who are already studying the courses you've applied for at universities and colleges across the UK, on Unibuddy

[More info](#)

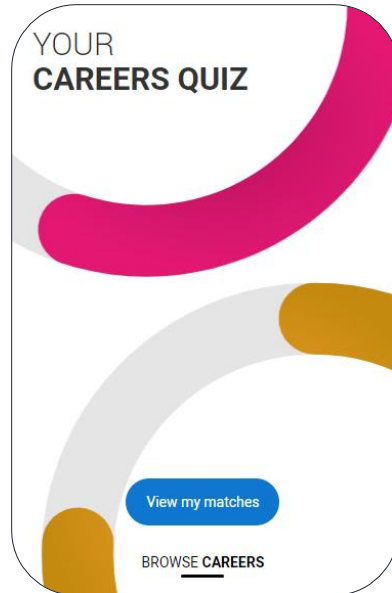


# Personalised tools to help

## UCAS Quiz

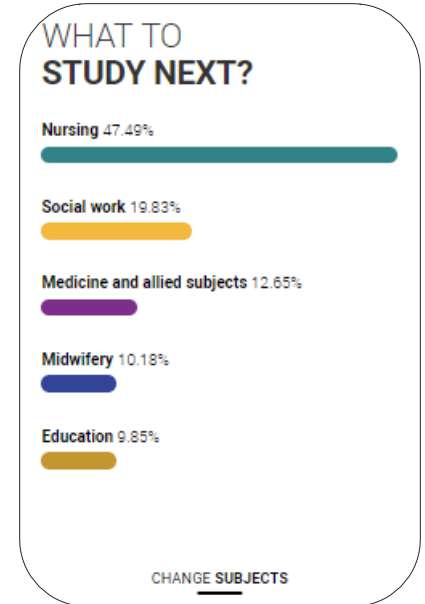
Find job and career ideas matched to your personality.

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.

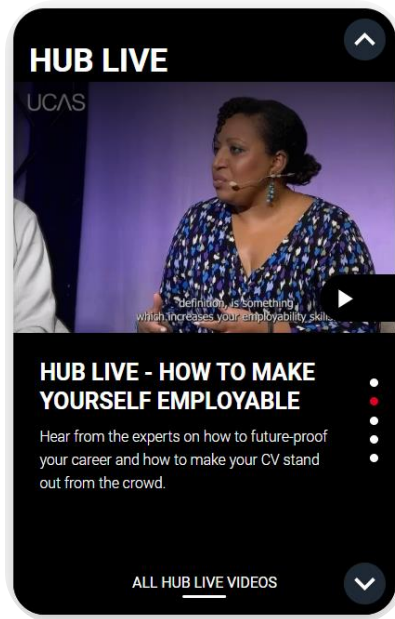


# Advice and events

## Hub lives

Watch expert interviews [on demand](#).

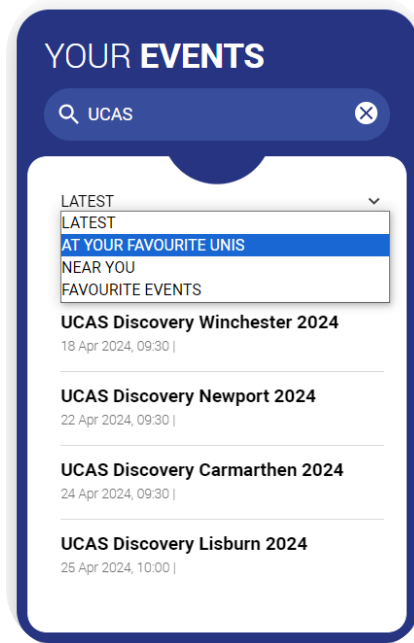
Make an informed decision about the right path for you. University, apprenticeships or the world of work.



## Your events

Filter to explore events, open days and tours to suit your needs.

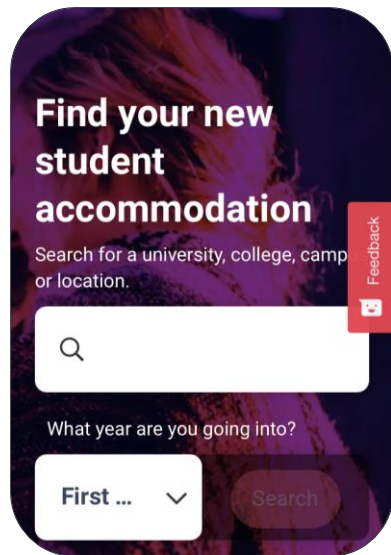
Register straight from the Hub for our UCAS Discovery events, with exciting new zones covering all pathways.



# What else do you need?

## Accommodation

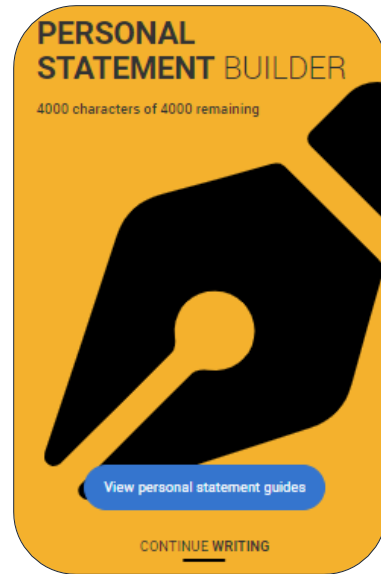
High on the list when considering where to study, but it's not always easy to compare what's on offer. Understand what options there are using our [accommodation search](#).



The screenshot shows a mobile app interface for finding student accommodation. The title is "Find your new student accommodation". Below the title is a search prompt: "Search for a university, college, camp or location." There is a search input field with a magnifying glass icon. Below the input field is a dropdown menu labeled "What year are you going into?" with "First ..." and a downward arrow. To the right of the dropdown is a "Search" button. A red "Feedback" button is visible on the right side of the interface.

## 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.



# Apprenticeships

What are  
apprenticeships?

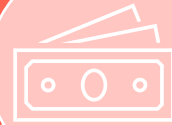
UCAS



Study



Job



Wage\*



# The A – Z of apprenticeships

There are **over 600** possible apprenticeship 'standards' (training programmes) which exist. It's probably easier to name an industry that doesn't have an apprenticeship than to list all that do. Here are just a few ...

- Accounting and Taxation
- Architect
- Boat Builder
- Building Surveyors
- Civil Engineer
- Cyber Security Technician
- Data Analyst
- Doctor (from 2023)
- Early Years
- Ecologist
- Farrier
- Food Technologist
- Game Programmer
- Geospatial mapping
- Harbour Master
- Historic Environment Adviser
- Internal audit professional
- Intelligence analyst
- Journalist
- Junior 2D artist (visual effects)
- Knitted product manufacturing
- Laboratory scientist
- Licensed conveyor
- Midwife
- Marketing Manager
- Nuclear Scientist and Engineer
- Nursing
- Operational firefighter
- Orthodontic therapist
- Paralegal
- Physiotherapist
- Quality practitioner
- Rail engineer
- Research scientist
- Social worker
- Software Developer
- Teacher
- Town planning assistant
- Utilities engineering
- Veterinary nurse
- Vehicle damage assessor
- Water process technician
- Workplace pensions consultant
- Youth worker

[www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/#](http://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/#)

# What am I doing now?

For example, in England, Northern Ireland and Wales:



GCSE grade 9-4 is a Level 2 qualification



A level or T level is a Level 3 qualification

## Did you know?

An apprenticeship offering a degree may also be called a Level 6 or Higher Apprenticeship

## Apprenticeships work in levels too!

In England:

<b>Level 2</b>	<b>Level 3</b>	<b>Level 4-7</b>
Intermediate Apprenticeship	Advanced Apprenticeship	Higher Apprenticeship

In Wales:

<b>Level 2</b>	<b>Level 3</b>	<b>Levels 4-7</b>
Foundation Apprenticeship	Apprenticeship	Higher Apprenticeship

In Northern Ireland:

<b>Level 2</b>	<b>Level 3</b>	<b>Level 4-7</b>
Level 2 Apprenticeship	Level 3 Apprenticeship	Higher Apprenticeship

# What am I doing now?

Apprenticeships work in levels in Scotland too

For example, in Scotland:



Scottish National Level 5 is a SCQF Level 5 qualification



Scottish Higher is a SCQF Level 6 qualification

**SCQF Level 4-6**

Foundation  
Apprenticeship

**SCQF Levels 5+**

Modern  
Apprenticeship

**SCQF Level 8-11**

Graduate  
Apprenticeship

# Who can start an Apprenticeship?



UCAS

- Anyone 16 and over
  - Anyone not in full time education\*
  - Apprenticeships in Scotland, Wales or England require you to be living in the same country as the apprenticeship
  - Apprenticeships in Northern Ireland require you:
    - be employed or be about to take up paid employment in Northern Ireland
    - be working a minimum of 21 hours per week on a permanent contract
- \* a foundation apprenticeship in Scotland is typically taken alongside Scottish Higher and National 5s

# When can I apply?

- Not one deadline
- Advertised throughout the year
- Larger organisations with multiple application processes may recruit earlier than smaller local organisations
- Higher apprenticeships with a Sep/Oct start tend to recruit in the previous academic year


[www.ucas.com/apprenticeships](http://www.ucas.com/apprenticeships)

UCAS



# Your pathways Side by side

When you register on [ucas.com](https://ucas.com), you can sign up to be linked to relevant apprenticeship opportunities that match your profile.



**Looking for Apprenticeships?**

We can match you to potential employers! Sign up for Smart Alerts to receive apprenticeship opportunities directly in your inbox.

[Go to Smart Alerts](#)

# 6 steps to follow

UCAS

— Step 1 ————— Step 2 ————— Step 3 ————— Step 4 ————— Step 5 ————— Step 6 →

Register on  
UCAS Hub

Option to sign up to receive  
alerts on opportunities that  
match your profile

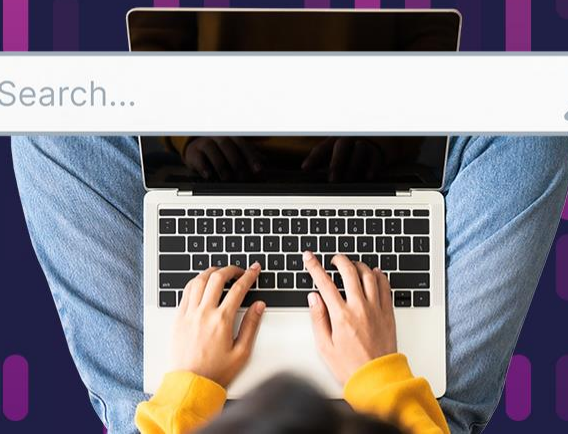
Explore subjects, courses,  
industries, job roles

Build your  
profile

Search  
for vacancies

Make an  
application

Search...



# How can I apply?

- Applications are made directly through the company or the education provider.
- There is no limit on the number of applications you can make.
- The application process might vary across vacancies, you could be asked for:
  - CV and Covering Letter
  - Application Form
  - In App/Site application
- You can apply for universities and apprenticeships at the same time!





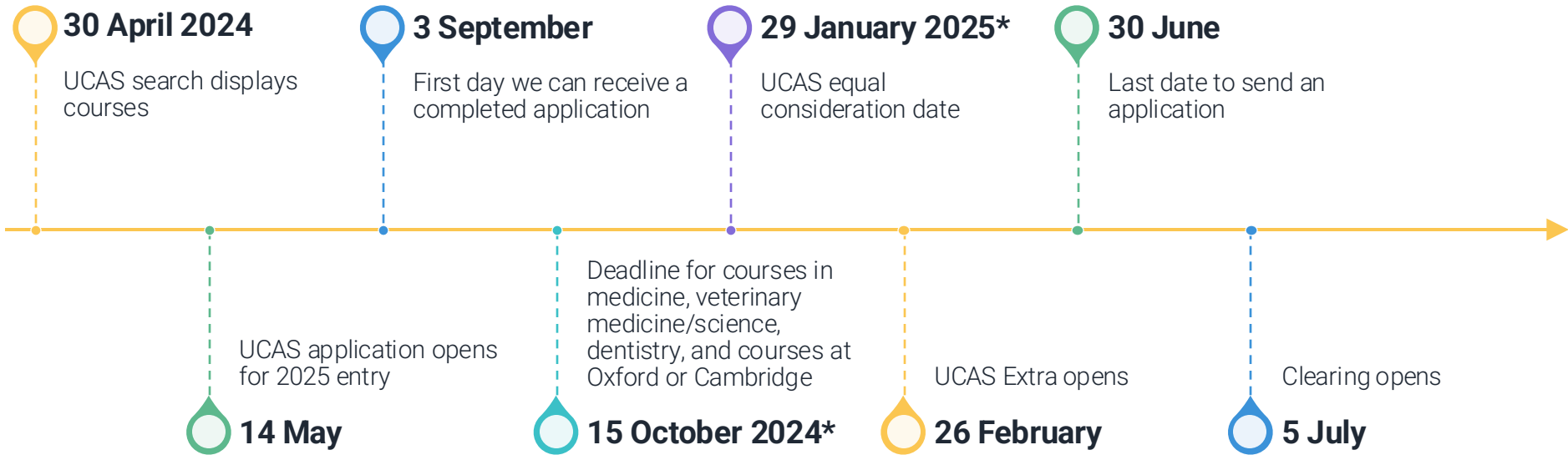
# UCAS Applications

How to apply

UCAS



# When to apply **2025** entry



\* 18.00 UK time

# Key facts



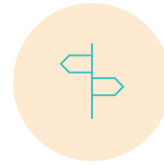
Start your application from  
**14 May 2024**



Universities and colleges **can't see** your other choices when you apply.



Apply by the **equal consideration date**.



**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 **£28.50**.

# Choosing the right **place** for you

- **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** 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 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?

# 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.



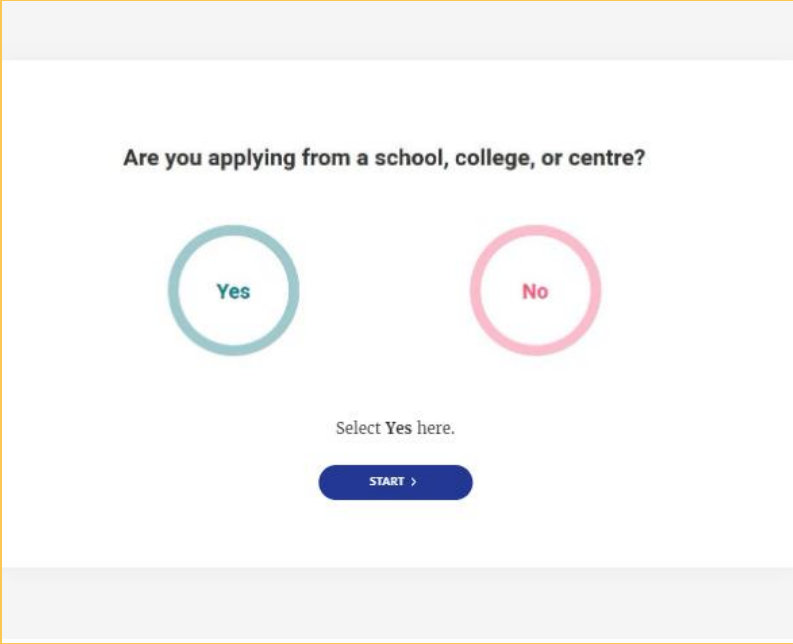
Applications are sent to UCAS by the school or college on behalf of the student.



Universities and colleges make their decisions on the application.

# Linking to a centre

- 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.



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

Yes No

Select Yes here.

START >

# Application profile

- Personal details
- Nationality details
- Where you live
- Contact details
- Supporting information
- Finance and funding
- Diversity and inclusion\*
- More about you

\* (for students with a UK home address)

<b>Personal details</b> Name, age, title and gender  Start this section	<b>Nationality details</b> Birthplace and nationalities  Start this section	<b>Where you live</b> Tell us about your address history  Section in progress
<b>Contact details</b> Address, email, and telephone  Section in progress	<b>Supporting information</b> So that providers know how to support you during your studies  Start this section	<b>Finance &amp; funding</b> Tell us how you'll fund your study  Start this section
<b>Diversity &amp; inclusion</b> Additional equality information  Start this section	<b>More about you</b> Tell us about any circumstances that you might need support for during your studies.  Start this section	



# Your experiences

- Education
- Employment
- Extra activities\*
- Personal statement
- Reference\*\*

\*(for students with a UK home address)

\*\* (not visible if linked to your school/college)

## Experience

<b>Education</b> Qualifications and periods of study 🕒 Section in progress	<b>Employment</b> Paid employment ✓ Section complete	<b>Extra activities</b> Taken part in any activities to prepare you for higher education? Start this section
--	--	--

## Your personal statement

<b>Personal statement</b> 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 **support**

**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




**What to include in your architecture, planning or building personal statement**




**What to include in your animal science personal statement**




**What to include in your art and design personal statement**




**What to include in your biology personal statement**




**What to include in your business management personal statement**



**What to include in your chemistry personal statement**



**What to include in your computer science personal statement**



**What to include in your dance personal statement**

# Decisions

Universities and colleges will review the:



personal statement



qualifications



reference

They may also ask for:



admissions test



interview



portfolio/audition

# Tracking your application



## Waiting for decisions

Universities or colleges are considering your application.

**Providers have until dd-mm-yyyy to respond to your choices.**



## 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**



## 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 contact 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 (26 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



# Keeping you informed



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



[Sign up](#) for UCAS  
parents newsletter



Read UCAS [guides](#) just for  
parents and carers

# Our support

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



@ucas\_online



@ucas\_online



@ucas



@UCASonline



**Thank you**

UCAS