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# Applying to university through UCAS



# Content

By the end of this presentation, you will:

- identify what resources are available to support you
- understand' how to apply to a UK university or college
- know the deadline of when you need to send your application
- understand how to track your application and reply to offers



# Choosing the right university for you

- **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 universities and colleges. Check if there are any scholarships or bursaries available.
- **Living costs** – accommodation, transport, and food can vary enormously.

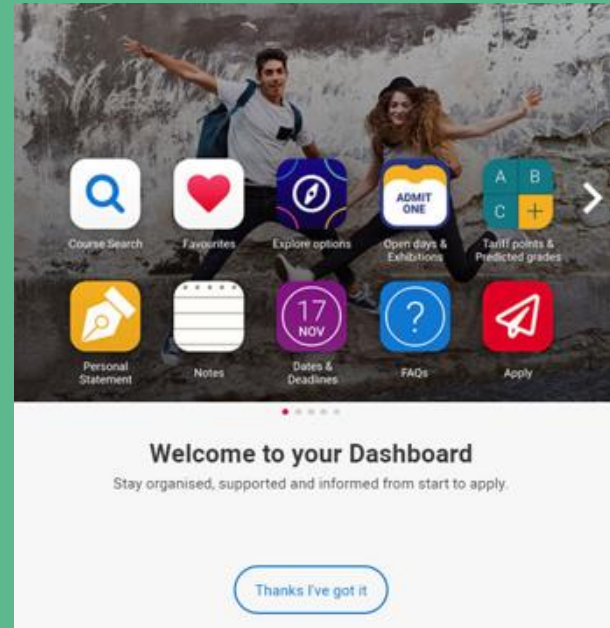
# Choosing the right course for you

- 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?

# Starting your research

Register in UCAS Hub to:

- explore careers, subjects, universities and apprenticeships
- find and favourite over 35,000 courses
- search for virtual tours and online events
- turn predicted grades into Tariff points
- speak to those in the know using [Unibuddy](#)
- speak to career, higher education, and application specialists by attending the [Hub lives](#).
- explore [job profiles](#) to discover different career roles and pathways.
- Start an application for 2022 entry (from May 2021)



# Organise everything in one place...

## Get organised:

Tools to search, favourite, shortlist, reflect, diary, and build application.

## Define what's important:

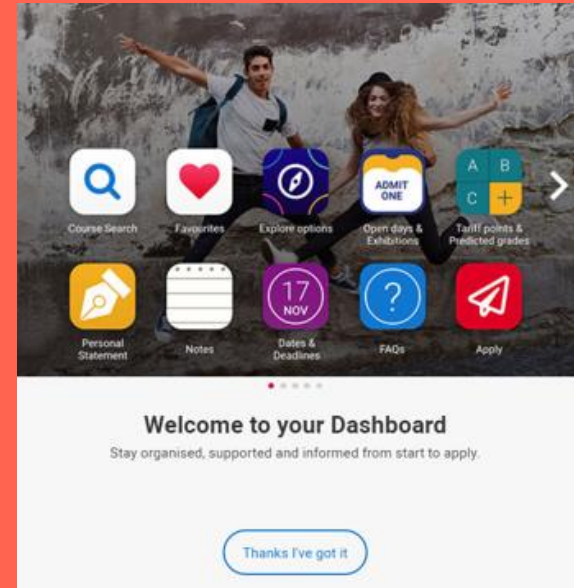
Distance from home, teaching satisfaction, work experience options, job outcomes...

## Make it yours:

Organise tools, remove the ones they don't need, and tick off their to do list. It's their space, and their future.

## You might not have thought of...

Expand horizons by pushing options they might not have considered.



# Free tools to help...



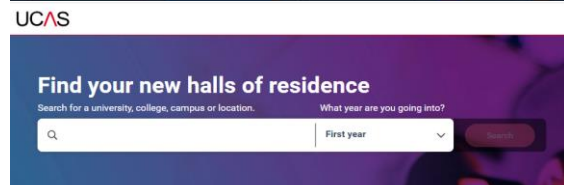
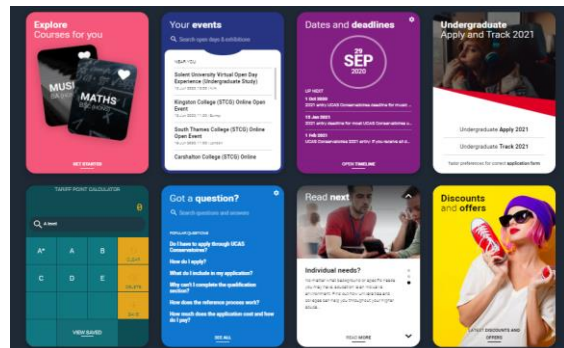
[Discovery Days](#) - at UCAS/Discovery you can explore all kinds of possibilities. Talk to subject and admissions experts, discover apprenticeships, get advice on personal statements, applying through UCAS, and more. Get stuck in and open your mind to a world of opportunities.



[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.



## 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](#)



# IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR YOUR UCAS APPLICATION 2023

**15 OCTOBER 2022**

**Deadline for applications to Oxford, Cambridge and most courses in medicine, dentistry, and veterinary medicine/science**

Applications should arrive at UCAS by 18:00.

**25 JANUARY 2023**

**Deadline for the majority of undergraduate courses**

Applications should arrive at UCAS by 18:00.

**23 FEBRUARY 2023**

**Extra opens**

If you've used all five choices and you're not holding any offers you might be able to add another choice.

**18 MAY 2023**

**Uni/college decisions due on applications submitted by 25 January**

If you applied by 25 January and you're still waiting, uni/colleges will decide whether they're making an offer by today.

**8 JUNE 2023**

**If you receive all decisions by 18 May, reply by 8 June**

If you receive all your uni/college decisions by 18 May you must reply to any offers by today (except if you are using Extra to find a place) or they'll be declined.

**30 JUNE 2023**

**Applications received after 30 June are entered into Clearing**

If you send your application by 18:00, UCAS will send it to your chosen uni and colleges; after this date you enter Clearing.

**4 JULY 2023**

**Last date to apply in Extra**

Last date to add an Extra choice in Track.

**5 JULY 2023**

**International Baccalaureate results published**

International Baccalaureate (IB) results day.

**5 JULY 2023**

**Clearing opens**

Clearing vacancies will be displayed in the UCAS search tool.

**12 JULY 2023**

**Uni/college decisions due on applications submitted by 30 June**

If you applied by 30 June and are waiting for decisions, uni and colleges will decide whether or not they'll make you an offer by now.

**17 JULY 2023**

**If you receive all decisions by 12 July, reply by 17 July**

If you receive all uni/college decisions by 12 July – including Extra choices – you must reply to any offers by today.

**8 AUGUST 2023**

**SQA results day**

Publication of SQA examination results.

**17 AUGUST 2023**

**A level results day**

A level, GCE, and Advanced Diploma results day.

**31 AUGUST 2023**

**Remaining offer conditions must be met**

The deadline for any remaining conditions to be met – otherwise the uni or college might not accept you.

**21 SEPTEMBER 2023**

**Final deadline for 2023 entry applications**

The last date you can submit applications to 2023 entry courses. Applications must arrive at UCAS by 18:00. Applications after this deadline will go into Clearing.

**17 OCTOBER 2023**

**Last date to add Clearing choices and for uni/colleges to make decisions**

The deadline for adding Clearing choices, and for uni and colleges to accept Clearing applicants.



**UCAS APPLICATIONS**



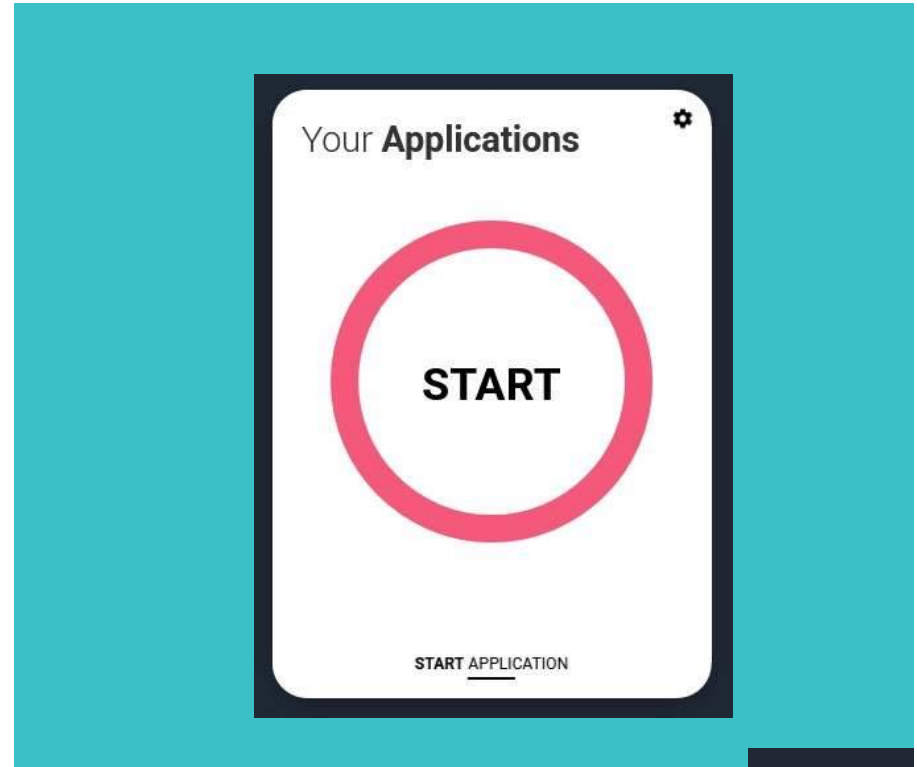


# Applying - key facts

- Register with UCAS via the Hub
- Use your username and password to apply online
- Students can add up to 5 choices, unless they're applying to study medicine, veterinary, medicine/science, dentistry – then it's 4 choices
- Students can't apply to BOTH Oxford and Cambridge
- Applying costs £22 for 1 choice, or £26.50 for 5 choices
- Apply by the equal consideration date
- Providers can't see other choices when you apply

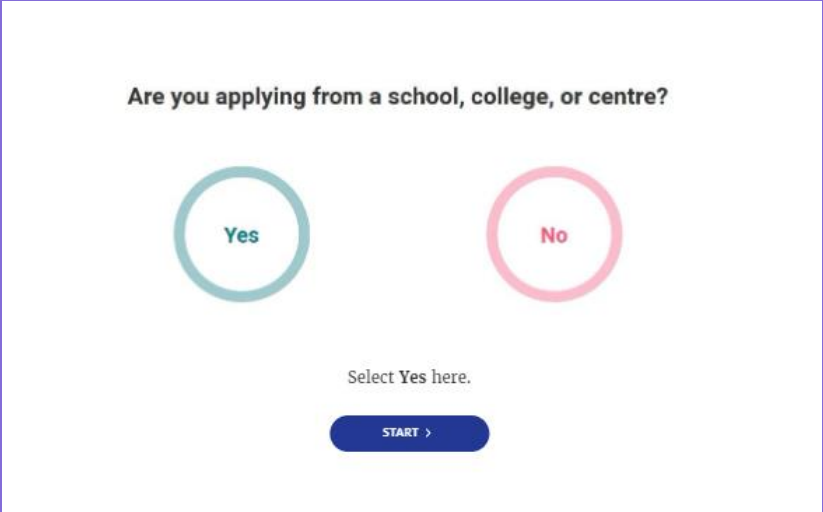
# Registering

- To start an application you need a UCAS Hub account.
- Register for a UCAS Hub account at any time
- From 18 May 2021 you'll see a new 'Your applications' tile in your UCAS Hub
- Click 'Start application' to get started...



# 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.



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

Yes No

Select Yes here.

START >

# Making an application

Sections to be completed:

- Personal details
- Contact and residency details
- Work experience
- Education
- Nationality details
- English language skills
- Supporting information
- Personal statement
- Choices – make up to five
- References (not visible for students linked to centres)
- Finance and funding
- Diversity & inclusion (for students with a UK home address)

UCAS

Further education Undergraduate Postgraduate International Courses Account

## UCAS APPLICATION

2020 Undergraduate application

Your personal ID is 1234567890

33% [Submit](#)

### My profile

#### Profile overview

Before starting your application:

- complete your application
- apply via your school, college or organisation
- apply as an individual
- complete for supporting your application

[Centre information](#)

You are not linked to a centre. Use the link below to link your application to your centre.

[Link to a school, college or centre](#)

#### Personal details

Name, age, title and gender

✓ Section complete

#### Contact and residency details

Address, email, telephone and other you like

✓ Section complete

#### Work experience

Employment past, unpaid or volunteer work

⚙ Section in progress

#### Education

Qualifications and periods of study

[Start this section](#)

#### Nationality details

Employment and nationalities

[Start this section](#)

#### Supporting information

Do that provides links how to support you during your study

[Start this section](#)

#### English language skills

Is English your first language?

[Start this section](#)

#### Finance and funding

Tell us how you'll fund your study

✓ Section complete

#### Diversity and inclusion

Only shared with a centre that you have chosen your application is shared

[Start this section](#)

### Application questions

#### Personal statement

Why do you want to study this subject?

⚙ Section in progress

#### Choices

Choose details

✓ Section complete

#### Reference

Provide details of your referees

[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
- why you're interested in the subject area
- your knowledge of the subject area
- your enthusiasm to go beyond the syllabus
- what you enjoy about studying
- details of your independent study skills





# Consider...

Universities and colleges will consider:

- Have you chosen the right subject for the right reasons?
- Can you survive in an intense and pressured atmosphere?
- 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 possess good numeracy and literacy skills?



The Russell Group's 24 members are world-class, research-intensive universities. They are unique institutions, each with their own history and ethos, but they share some distinguishing characteristics.

Our universities believe people and ideas are the key to meeting global challenges. Through world-class research and education they are helping to create a dynamic economy, stronger communities and a better future for the UK. They maintain the very best research, an outstanding teaching and learning experience and unrivalled links with local and national business and the public sector.

Russell Group universities have huge social, economic and cultural impacts locally, across the UK and around the globe:

- They produce more than two-thirds of the world-leading research produced in UK universities and support more than 260,000 jobs across the country.
- They inject nearly £87 billion into the national economy every year.
- In 2018-19, 446,450 undergraduates and 155,655 postgraduates were studying at a Russell Group university.

Our members attract students and staff from around the world and work with major multinational businesses and international organisations:

- 32% of students are of non-UK nationality, attracted to our universities by the quality, relevance and reputation of research.

Russell Group members also have a strong role and influence within their regional and local communities, collaborate with businesses on joint research projects and supply highly-qualified and highly-motivated graduates to the local workforce.

## Our universities ▲

### RUSSELL

[University of Birmingham >](#)

[University of Bristol >](#)

[University of Cambridge >](#)

[Cardiff University >](#)

[Durham University >](#)

[University of Edinburgh >](#)

[University of Exeter >](#)

[University of Glasgow >](#)

[Imperial College London >](#)

[King's College London >](#)

[University of Leeds >](#)

[University of Liverpool >](#)

[London School of  
Economics and Political  
Science >](#)

[University of Manchester >](#)

[Newcastle University >](#)

[University of Nottingham >](#)

[University of Oxford >](#)

[Queen Mary University of  
London >](#)

[Queen's University  
Belfast >](#)

[University of Sheffield >](#)

UCAS

# Decisions

Universities and colleges will review the:



**personal statement**



**qualifications**



**reference**

They may also ask for:



**admissions test**



**interview**



**portfolio/audition**

- <https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/writing-personal-statement/personal-statement-the-killer-opening>
- <https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/writing-your-personal-statement/how-start-personal-statement-attention-grabber>
- <https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/writing-personal-statement/how-write-personal-statement#preparing-to-write-your-personal-statement>

- 'Don't waste time trying to think of a catchy opening; it's often a complete turn-off.'
- 'Your interest in the course is the biggest thing. Start with why you chose it.'
- 'The best personal statements get to the point quickly.'
- 'Start with a short sentence that captures the reason why you are interested in studying the area you are applying for and that communicates your enthusiasm for it.'
- 'Go straight in. Why are you excited about studying this course?'
- 'The opening is your chance to introduce yourself, to explain your motivation for studying the course and to demonstrate your understanding of it.'
- 'It's your enthusiasm for the course we want to know about. Start with that.'
- 'Write what comes naturally.'
- 'What you want to study and why should be in the first two sentences. What excites you about the course and why do you want to learn about it more?'
- 'Be specific from line one.'
- 'Talk about you and your enthusiasm for the subject from the very start.'
- 'In your opening paragraph you need to show that you know what you are applying for. Don't waffle or say you want to study something just because it's interesting. Explain what you find interesting about it.'
- 'It's much better to engage us with something interesting, relevant, specific and current in your opening line, not 'from a young age' or 'I have always wanted to'. Start with what's inspiring you now, not what inspired you when you were six.'

- And don't rely on someone else's words – ditch the opening quotes
- Quotations are top of the list of admissions tutors' pet hates. They particularly dislike it if you put a quotation in right at the start – and it's even worse if you don't actually explain why it's there.
- It's your statement, after all. They don't want to know what Nelson Mandela thought – they want to know what you think!



# Tracking your application

Head to your UCAS Hub to track your application. Click your application to:

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

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 hold a maximum of two offers:

- 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

You must then decline any remaining offers.

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 (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 your application.

# Apprenticeships

- To search for an apprenticeship use one of the links below:
- <https://careerfinderucas.com/jobs/apprenticeship/>
- <https://www.gov.uk/topic/further-education-skills/apprenticeships>
- <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/explore-careers>
- For more information <https://www.ucas.com/apprenticeships/get-latest-apprenticeship-opportunities>

| Level  | Entry requirements  |
|--|---|
| <b>Intermediate (Level 2)</b> – generally considered to be equivalent to five GCSE passes.   | Applicants need to be over 16 years old, and show they can complete the programme.  |
| <b>Advanced (Level 3)</b> – generally considered to be equivalent to two A level passes.   | Some industries want apprentices who have three or more GCSEs, but other employers don't specify any formal qualifications. Some may ask for previous experience in the industry.   |
| <b>Higher (Level 4 and above)</b><br><br><b>Level 4</b> – equivalent to an HNC, a foundation degree, or the first year of an undergraduate degree.<br><br><b>Levels 5 and above</b> – equivalent to a full degree.   | Entry requirements can include at least five GCSEs grades A – C (9 – 4 on the new grading system), and Level 3 qualifications, including A levels, NVQ/SVQ Level 3, or a BTEC National. Some will expect or require applicants to have subjects related to the apprenticeship.  |
| <b>Degree (Levels 5 to 7)</b> – these are new and enable apprentices to achieve a foundation degree or more as part of their apprenticeship.<br><br><b>Level 6</b> – equivalent to a full degree.<br><br><b>Level 7</b> – equivalent to a master's degree. | Entry requirements can include at least five GCSEs grades A – C (9 – 4 on the new grading system), and Level 3 qualifications, including A levels, NVQ/SVQ Level 3, or a BTEC National. Some employers have specific entry requirements. For example, recent IT degree apprenticeship adverts have required an A level (or equivalent) grade range of ABB to CCC.<br><br>Many employers will expect or require applicants to have qualifications in subjects related to the apprenticeship. |

# 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)



**To be considered for an apprenticeship programme in England, you need to be:**  
**aged 16 or over**  
**living in England**  
**not in full-time education**



- Clearing – after 30 June
- Clearing Plus – unplaced people after 30<sup>th</sup> June – ‘My matches’ button – can be sign posted to universities where entry requirements match.
- Decline my place – they can release themselves from their confirmed place and go through clearing.
- Don’t decline until you have done your research. Have you been accepted elsewhere.
- Declining means all arrangements with universities will cease.
- Results embargo – 1/8/-9/8 – universities cannot discuss anything.
- 12/8-18/8 – there will be a second results embargo when universities cannot update/discuss applications.
- 18<sup>th</sup> August – UCAS Hub opens -

# Clearing 2023

- There may be over-subscription on courses – Clearing may be more competitive.
- 08.15am A Level results
- JCQ – 8.00am time for release of exam results.
- Students will log in and will be able to see the outcome of their application.

A young man with brown hair, wearing a tan jacket and a black backpack, is looking down at a smartphone held by another person. The background is a blurred outdoor setting.

# Thank you