

Parents' evening presentation



UCAS

1. Apprenticeships

2. UCAS

3. Why choose University?

4. Finance

5. Which University? Which Course?

6. How to find out more

1. Apprenticeships

Choices available



**Higher
education**



**Apprenticeship
s/traineeships**



**Studying
abroad**



Gap year



Getting a job

Understand the options available: ucas.com



These combine practical training in a job, with study.

You get to:

- Gain job specific skills
- Earn a wage (AND get holiday pay!) - Minimum wage for an apprentice is £8 for the first year, and national minimum wage after £10.85.
- The average salary for a higher level Apprentice is £24,000 per year in the United Kingdom
- Have time given for study related to your role (usually 1 day a week)
- They last between 1 – 5 years depending on the level you choose

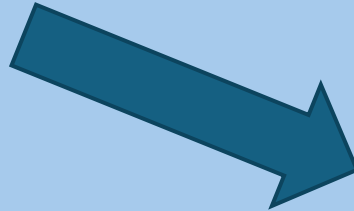




Choose the level of apprenticeship which is right for you.

Level 6 and 7 apprenticeships are equivalent to a university degree.

They take 3 – 6 years to complete.



Name	Level	Equivalent educational level
Intermediate	2	5 GCSE passes (grade A*-C or 9-4)
Advanced	3	2 A-level passes/ Level 3 Diploma/ International Baccalaureate
Higher	4, 5, 6 and 7	Foundation, Bachelor's or Master's degree
Degree	6 and 7	Bachelor's or master's degree

Degree Apprenticeships

Typically these involve:

- Working for an employer 4 days a week
- Spending one day a week at college/university to study for your degree.
- The company would pay you a salary AND pay all your tuition fees
- You study part time for a degree from an affiliated university
- And gain valuable industry experience



These are just a few of the big companies offering exciting apprenticeships

Go Further



BAE SYSTEMS
INSPIRED WORK



Headlines facts on Higher and Degree Apprenticeships

2018:

59,080 new starts

2020/21:

98,000 new starts

2021/22:

106,360 new starts

2022/23:

112,930 new starts

2024/25

118,356 new starts

In 2024/25

Higher apprenticeships starts increased by 8.7%

With a 12.5% increase at level 6&7 apprenticeships

New data shows that up to 40% of all UCAS applicants consider an apprenticeship as the top reason for delaying or turning down university offers.

Where to research them:

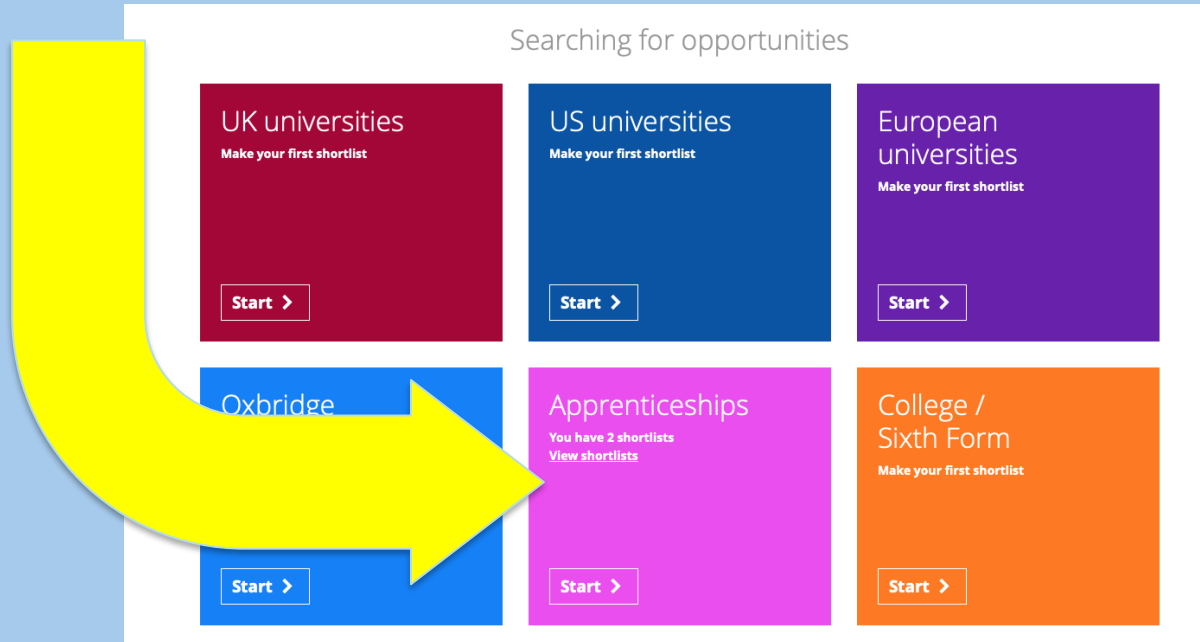
1. Gov.uk/apply – apprenticeships

<https://www.gov.uk/apprenticeships-guide>

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>

Where to research them:

2. Unifrog



Searching for opportunities

<p>UK universities</p> <p>Make your first shortlist</p> <p>Start ></p>	<p>US universities</p> <p>Make your first shortlist</p> <p>Start ></p>	<p>European universities</p> <p>Make your first shortlist</p> <p>Start ></p>
<p>Oxbridge</p> <p>Start ></p>	<p>Apprenticeships</p> <p>You have 2 shortlists</p> <p>View shortlists</p> <p>Start ></p>	<p>College / Sixth Form</p> <p>Make your first shortlist</p> <p>Start ></p>

A large yellow arrow points from the left side of the screen towards the 'Oxbridge' and 'Apprenticeships' cards.

3.

<https://www.ratemyapprenticeship.co.uk/>

The screenshot shows the homepage of RateMyApprenticeship.co.uk. The header features the logo '★ RATEMY APPRENTICESHIP' and navigation links: 'Find Jobs', 'Reviews', 'Employers', 'Career Options', 'Advice Hub', 'Industry Guides', a notification bell, and buttons for 'LOG IN' and 'SIGN UP'. The main banner is orange with the text 'Apprenticeships, Jobs, Reviews & Careers Advice For School & College Leavers'. Below this, a sub-header states: 'RateMyApprenticeship.co.uk is the UK's leading job resource for young people seeking apprenticeships.' Three statistics are displayed in white rounded rectangles: '343 Live jobs available', 'Top Employers Based on reviews from students', and '38,685 Reviews to help you decide'. A featured job advertisement for BAE SYSTEMS is shown, featuring a woman in a blue uniform working on a red aircraft component. The ad text reads: 'Grow your career with confidence with BAE Systems. Our range of apprenticeship schemes are now open and include engineering, project management, logistics and many more. Switch on your career. APPLY NOW'. On the right side, there is a 'Career Advice' section with a list of links: 'Find Jobs', 'Browse Reviews', 'Search Employers', 'Top Employers', 'Career Options', and 'Industry Guides'. At the bottom right, there is a green button that says 'Advertise with us' with a right-pointing arrow and the text 'Find out how we can help you' below it.

★ RATEMY APPRENTICESHIP

Find Jobs Reviews Employers Career Options Advice Hub Industry Guides LOG IN SIGN UP

Apprenticeships, Jobs, Reviews & Careers Advice For School & College Leavers

RateMyApprenticeship.co.uk is the UK's leading job resource for young people seeking apprenticeships.

343 Live jobs available

Top Employers Based on reviews from students

38,685 Reviews to help you decide

BAE SYSTEMS

Grow your career with confidence with BAE Systems. Our range of apprenticeship schemes are now open and include engineering, project management, logistics and many more.

Switch on your career.

APPLY NOW

Career Advice

- Find Jobs
- Browse Reviews
- Search Employers
- Top Employers
- Career Options
- Industry Guides

Advertise with us >

Find out how we can help you

4. Apprenticeship advice from UCAS

UCAS has [apprenticeship advice](#) to help students make informed decisions about their post-16 and post-18 opportunities.

Find out about:

- the different types of apprenticeships
- how to find and apply for apprenticeships
- preparing for the application and interview process

Go to ucas.com/understanding-apprenticeships.

2. UCAS

3. Why choose University?

4. Finance

5. Which University? Which Course?

6. How to find out more

4. UCAS – an independent charity

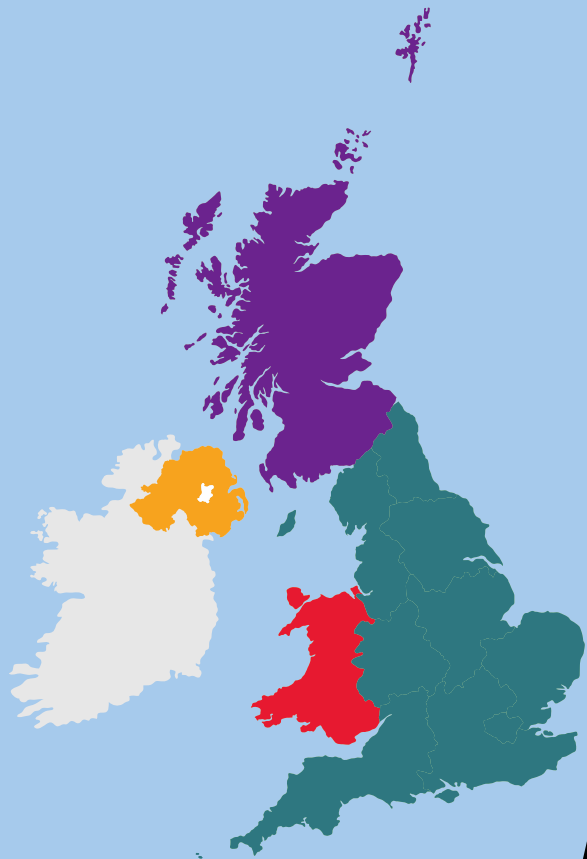
UCAS does:

- ✓ process applications
- ✓ provide information, advice, and training
- ✓ have a Fraud and Verification Team
- ✓ take part in education sector engagement

UCAS doesn't:

- ✗ suggest courses or universities
- ✗ make decisions or offers
- ✗ advise on finance, immigration, or visas for individuals

Course providers



Over 400

Universities and Colleges across Great Britain.

Offering over 50,000

different undergraduate courses

UCAS

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

What will it cost?

Tuition fee (£9.790 per year- Sept 2026 costs):

- Covers all essential course costs

Maintenance loan

- Accommodation
- Study materials
- Food and drink
- Social activities

Full-time undergraduate students not eligible for benefits

The table gives maximum and minimum rates of loans for living costs, in the 2025 to 2026 academic year, for full-time undergraduate students who are not eligible for benefits.

Rate of loan for students	Maximum loan	Minimum loan
Living at home	£8,877	£3,907
Living away from home and studying in London	£13,762	£6,853
Living away from home and studying outside London	£10,544	£4,915
Studying overseas as part of a UK course	£12,076	£5,838

Support from the government - Student Finance

Tuition fee loans

- You won't pay anything upfront
- Not based on your household income

The government will always cover the full cost of your tuition fee each year.

So if the fee rises once you have started your course, the loan will rise to match this.

Maintenance loans

To cover maintenance costs:

- Accommodation
- Utility bills
- Food

- Based on your **household income**.
- Different based on **location** (London)
- Different based on whether you live at home (with parents/guardians), or elsewhere (at university)

Student loan repayments

Tuition fee loan

+

Maintenance loan

= **Student loan**

Repayments start:

- the April after you leave university
- when you are earning **over** £25,000 a year
- Interest will be generated on a student loan when the first instalment is paid.

Anything unpaid after 40 years is written off.*

Interest

- The interest rate is linked to the rate of inflation as measured by the **Retail Price Index (RPI)**.
- It is set at the start of each academic year based on the RPI from the previous March.
- The interest rate on your loan will never be higher than the interest that is added to commercial loans, such as a credit card or a personal loan that someone might use to buy a car.


Previous interest rates

The rates in the table apply to Plan 5 only.

Date	Interest rate
1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025	4.3%
1 August 2024 to 31 August 2024	8%
1 June 2024 to 31 July 2024	7.9%
1 April 2024 to 31 May 2024	7.8%
1 March 2024 to 31 March 2024	7.7%
1 January 2024 to 29 February 2024	7.6%
1 December 2023 to 31 December 2023	7.5%
1 September 2023 to 30 November 2023	7.3%

Repayments

Yearly income before tax	Monthly repayment
£25,000	£0
£30,000	£38
£40,000	£113
£50,000	£188
£60,000	£263

UK Home Nation 	Repayment Plan	Income Threshold (2026/27)	Repayment Rate	When It's Written Off
England & Wales	Plan 5	£25,000 a year	9% of income over threshold	40 years after graduation

Repayments are calculated as **9%** of anything earned **above £25,000**.

Repayments are always based on **what you earn** – not what you owe.

Most people will **never pay it all back**.

Type of University?:

- Campus or City University?
- Red Brick University?
- Collegiate University?

- Russell group?
- Oxbridge?
- New University?

- Selective?
- Recruiting?



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.

Choosing the right course for you – think about...

- What does the course cover?
- Courses with the same title may be very different – make sure to 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? Some may be majority essays, some are all exams
- Is the course well regarded? - some universities are very strong in some subjects

Overall rankings

2024 ✓	2023 ✓	Institution ✓	Guardian score/100 ✓
1	1	St Andrews	100
2	2	Oxford	96.5
3	3	Cambridge	94.8
4	4	London School of Economics	89.7
5	5	Imperial College	82.2
6	7	Bath	81.4
7	6	Durham	81.2
8	9	UCL	77.4
9	8	Warwick	76.7
10	10	Loughborough	75.6

Overall Score

But some universities have strengths in different subjects

Pick a subject area

Children's nursing



s

Pick a subject area

Classics and ancient history



2024 Institution

Guardian
score/100

1	Oxford Brookes	100
2	Cardiff	90.2
3	Northumbria	86.5
4	Staffordshire	80.5
5	York	78.3
6	Kingston	77.4
7	Bradford	76.6
8	Hertfordshire	75.3
9	Manchester	74.8
10	Southampton	74.2

2024 Institution

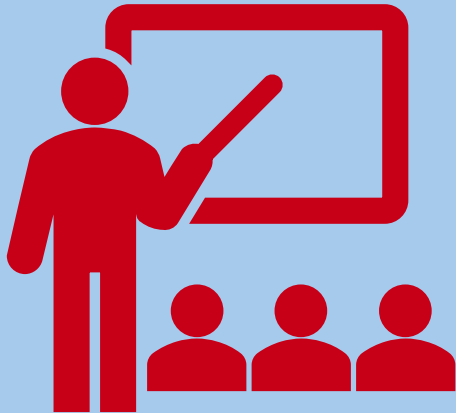
Guardian
score/100

1	Oxford	100
2	Roehampton	99.3
3	Cambridge	97.8
4	St Andrews	89.8
5	Durham	86.1
6	Royal Holloway	80.5
7	UCL	76.1
8	Leeds	74.4
9	Warwick	73.3
10	King's College London	66.1

Research resources



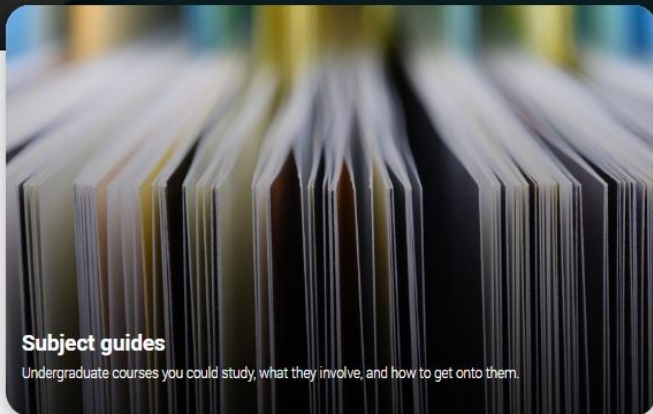
Research – it's free!



- [Register in the UCAS Hub to explore options](#) – find and favourite courses and search for virtual events - all in one handy place!
- Learning from others – [student videos](#) and [blogs](#).
- [Career options](#) – use the [job profiles](#) to explore different career roles and pathways, or take the [Buzz quiz](#) to find out more about individual strengths, and what roles may suit.
- The [Career Finder tool](#) is ideal for considering options after education, including searching for [apprenticeships](#).

What and where to study

View published



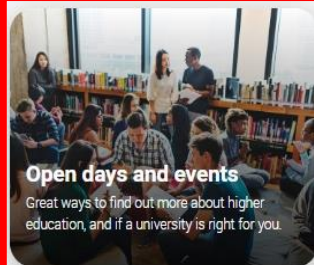
Subject guides

Undergraduate courses you could study, what they involve, and how to get onto them.



Choosing a course

Tips and advice to help you decide what subject, course type, and provider is right for you.



Open days and events

Great ways to find out more about higher education, and if a university is right for you.



Advertisement. Why the ads?



Advertisement. Why the ads?



Entry requirements

Unis have different requirements for their courses – usually a mix of qualifications, subjects, or exam grades.



Apprenticeships

Everything you need to know about UK apprenticeships.



Advertisement. Why the ads?

Virtual tour search

Home / Undergraduate / What and where to study / Open days and events /

Virtual tours

Explore this section

View published

Here's a list of virtual tours and videos from universities and colleges, so you can see what it's like on campus and what facilities are available.

If the uni/college you're interested in isn't listed, take a look at their website or YouTube channel instead.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P
Q R S T U V W X Y Z

A

- [University of Aberdeen](#)
- [Abertay University](#)
- [Aberystwyth University](#)
- [Academy of Contemporary Music](#)
- [Arden University \(Tower Hill Campus\)](#)

Open Days

- We highly encourage students to book on open days for universities they are interested in.
- We authorise absence for these visits – we just need parents/carers to inform the attendance team of where they are going and the dates.

UCAS application key facts...



It's an online application.



Simple application cost:

- Up to five choices – £34.50



Maximum of five choices.



Equal consideration.



Choice restrictions:

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



'Invisibility' – universities can't see who else you are applying to.

2026

APR
28

UCAS' search tool displays 2027 courses

MAY
12

Undergraduate applications open for 2027 entry

Students can start their applications, but they cannot be submitted to UCAS until 1 September 2026.

JUL
09

Conservatoire applications open for 2027 entry

Applicants can register, pay, and send their applications.

SEP
01

Completed undergraduate applications can be submitted to UCAS

All sections must be complete, the reference added, and the application fee paid.

OCT
01

(18:00 UK time) Application deadline for conservatoire music applications

Applications for dance, drama, and musical theatre courses may have a different deadline – check conservatoires' websites for information.

OCT
15

(18:00 UK time) Deadline for applications to the universities of Oxford and Cambridge, and for most courses in medicine, dentistry, and veterinary medicine/science

Applications can be sent after this, but universities and colleges cannot guarantee they'll give it equal consideration.

2027

JAN
13

(18:00 UK time) Equal consideration date for applications for most undergraduate courses and most conservatoire undergraduate dance, drama, or musical theatre courses.

Applications can be sent after this, but providers cannot guarantee they'll give it equal consideration.

FEB
25

Extra opens

If your child has used all five choices and is not holding an offer, they can add another choice using **Extra**.

JUN
30

(18:00 UK time) Last date for receipt of applications with choices

Applications received after this deadline are automatically entered into **Clearing**.

JUL
01

Extra closes

JUL
02

Clearing opens

Vacancies are shown in the **UCAS search tool**.

SEP
23

(18:00 UK time) Final date for 2027 entry applications

OCT
18

Last date to add 2027 entry Clearing choice

School Deadlines

- Deadline for completion and submission of UCAS forms **END OF OCTOBER**
- N.B. School deadline for Oxbridge, veterinary science, Dentistry and Medicine is **END OF SEPTEMBER** prior to the 15th October UCAS deadline

Then we will:

- Check your application,
- Put together a reference
- Input your predicted grades, meet with each student to discuss
- Send it to UCAS before 13th January 2027

Personal statements

Personal statements are changing from one longer piece of text to three scaffolded questions to help shape the focus for students' answers. Each question has a minimum character count of 350 characters

1. Why do you want to study this course or subject?
2. How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?
3. What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences helpful?

Personal statement guides



Business

- Accounting and finance
- Business and management studies
- Economics
- Events management
- Hospitality, leisure, and tourism
- Marketing
- PR and communications



Engineering and architecture

- Aeronautical and aerospace engineering
- Architecture and planning
- Building and construction
- Chemical engineering
- Civil engineering
- Electrical and electronic engineering
- Engineering and technology
- Manufacturing engineering
- Materials science and engineering
- Mechanical engineering



Healthcare

- Biomedical sciences
- Counselling, psychotherapy, and occupational therapy
- Dentistry
- Health
- Optometry
- Paramedic science
- Pharmacy, pharmacology, and toxicology
- Physiotherapy, physiology, and pathology
- Radiography and medical technology
- Social work, childhood, and youth studies
- Veterinary science



Humanities



Law and public services



Maths and computing

AI

Is using AI to help with my personal statement 'cheating'?

As you can imagine, we have had a lot of questions from people applying for university or college about whether using tools like ChatGPT to help with your UCAS personal statement is considered 'cheating'.

Generating (and then copying, pasting and submitting) all or a large part of your personal statement from an AI tool such as ChatGPT, and presenting it as your own words, **could be considered cheating by universities and colleges** and could affect your chances of an offer.

When you complete your application, you now have to declare that your personal statement hasn't been copied or provided from another source, including artificial intelligence software.

As part of our responsibility to applicants and universities and colleges, the UCAS Verification Team run checks to detect fraudulent applications and patterns of similarity in personal statements. Read our [guide to fraud and verification and similarity](#).

If UCAS software detects elements of a personal statement that are similar to others, the universities or colleges it is intended for may be notified.

In addition to reviewing personal statements, providers and UCAS may take the necessary steps to check that the information in your application is accurate and complete, from qualifications to your work experience or educational history. That's why it's important all the information you provide on your application, not just your personal statement, is true and accurate to the best of your knowledge.

Do your research

We'd advise researching what individual universities and colleges recommend you include in your personal statement, and whether they have specific guidance around using AI tools like ChatGPT.



Using AI tools can harm your chances of receiving an offer

Take care to weigh up how much you are relying on AI tools to generate your personal statement. Anything not in your words could get flagged as fraud by UCAS, and could in turn mean you don't receive any offers or have offers withdrawn.



Be honest and consider your future options

If you need to rely on AI tools to write your personal statement for you, take some time to consider if the course is right for you. You should be truthful in your personal statement; any information you mention may need to be discussed or evidenced.

Personal statement Video

[How to write your personal statement](#)

Entrance exams

Sat at Test centers not at school.

Students to book them independently

*If applying for an early entry course, you must have sat by the/in the October window

LNAT (National Admissions test for Law)- Law From Sept 2026*	UCAT (Universal Clinical Aptitude Test) – medicine and dental July- Sept 2026	ESAT – Engineering and Science Admissions Test – Engineering and Science Oct 26-Jan 27*	TMUA – Test of Mathematics- Maths, economics and computer science Oct 26-Jan 27*	TARA* (The Test of Academic Reasoning for Admissions)	Oxbridge (Must take the October sitting for relevant test*)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University of Bristol • University of Cambridge • Durham University • University of Glasgow • Kings College London • London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) • University of Oxford • SOAS University of London • UCL 	<p>Most universities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Imperial College London • University of Cambridge • UCL 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Imperial College London • University of Cambridge • London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) • University of Warwick • Durham University • UCL 	<p>new for 2026 applicants to UCL or a number of courses at Oxford</p>	<p>Most courses will require either one of the previous listed, or the universities own specific tests</p>

UCAS Discovery Convention

- Wed 17th June Leeds Becketts University

A letter will be sent with more details in the coming weeks.



Gap Year

- Apply as an independent applicant in 2028 and link the application to the school for a reference
- Apply in the 2027 UCAS round as a deferred entry
- Apply in the 2027 UCAS round and then defer on results day

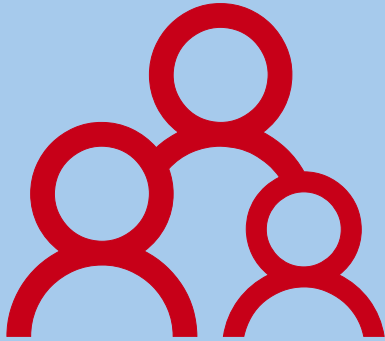
Thinking of a gap year?



- Gain invaluable experience
- Help further shape their future
- Find out exactly what they want to do

- That doesn't mean do nothing!

What should your child be doing now?



- research
- extracurricular activities
- work experience
- go beyond the syllabus
- focus on this year's studies
- Find out if courses need entrance exams
- Keeping a log of things to put in their personal statement (we will be giving support and direction for this, but it must be the students own work – no AI!)

Advice for parents, guardians and carers

Everything you need to help your child decide on their next steps.

APPLYING TO UNIVERSITY



How to fill in a UCAS application

If your child has decided university is the right path for them, here's what they'll need to know about making a UCAS application.



Help your child write a great personal statement

Taking a positive approach, and leaving enough time to do a good job, really can make your child's application stand out from the crowd.



What happens once UCAS gets an application?

Find out what we do with your child's application and the different decisions a uni or college can make.



Sign up for our parent newsletter

Whether your child is set on going to uni, or still looking into their options – including apprenticeships, gap years, or conservatoire courses – we can help. Sign up and we'll send you everything you need to help them make an informed decision.

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 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 read everything carefully that is sent to them and don't book family holidays at key times!

Thank you!



UCAS

Security marking: PUBLIC