

Guide to UCAS



The role of UCAS

UCAS processes applications for full-time courses at higher education providers in the UK.

They guide students through the whole process, providing information and supporting services for applicants and their parents.



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

What is UCAS?

350+ universities and colleges:

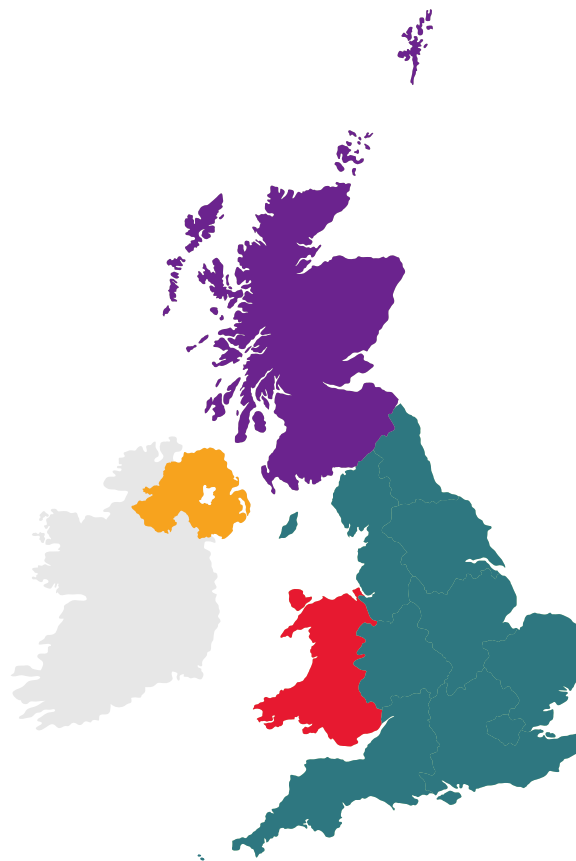
4 in Northern Ireland

15 in Wales

18 in Scotland

316 in England

35,000+ courses available



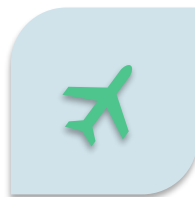
Choices available



Higher
education



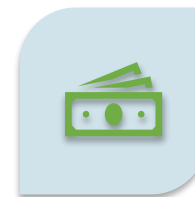
Apprenticeships/
traineeships



Studying
abroad



Gap year



Getting a job

Find out more: ucas.com

Apprenticeship advice

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

Head to:

ucas.com/apprenticeships

EMS Apprenticeship & UCAS information

UCAS

There's lots of information and resources available to students within two channels in Teams, particularly in the two wiki's

Some resources can be found on our website:

<https://exetermathematicsschool.ac.uk/careers/>

Page 1 - Welcome

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Page 7 - Explore Careers

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UCAS

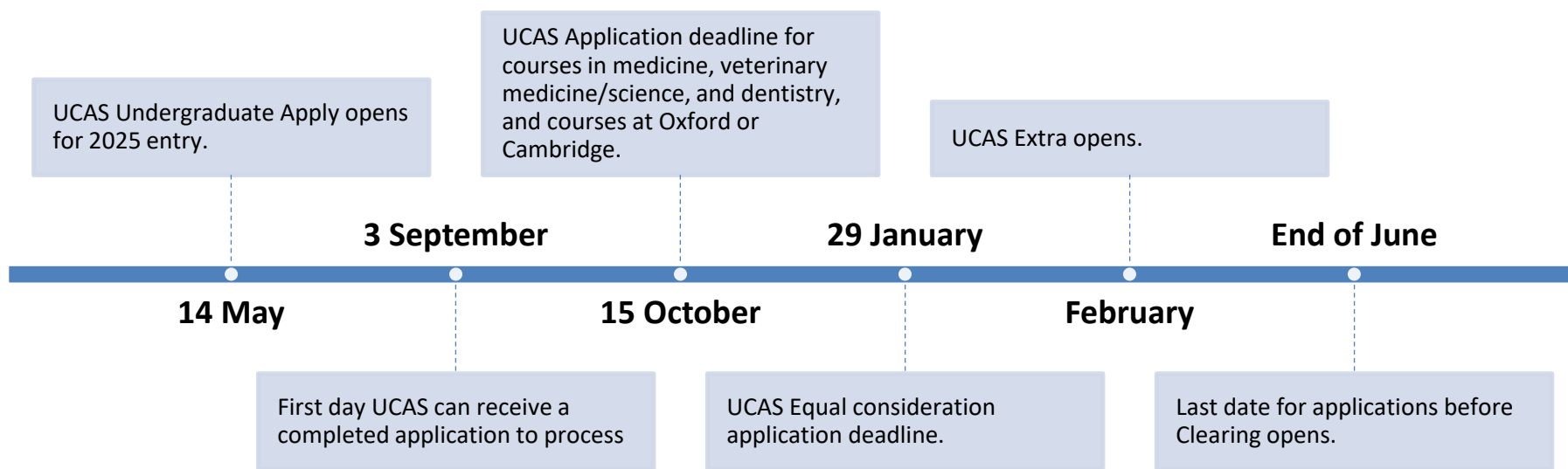
Choosing the right university

- **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 course providers. Check if there are any 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 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?

When to apply for 2025 entry



EMS Predicted Grades

- We will primarily look at students attainment in the end of year assessment, along with historic EMS students progress, and teachers experience to make predictions. In some cases we might look back at their February assessment.
- The next assessment is in November, please note that this is after the Oxbridge deadline.
- The November assessment is the next and final opportunity to increase your UCAS predicted grade.
- Once submitted to UCAS your predicted grades cannot be changed.

UCAS Application timeline

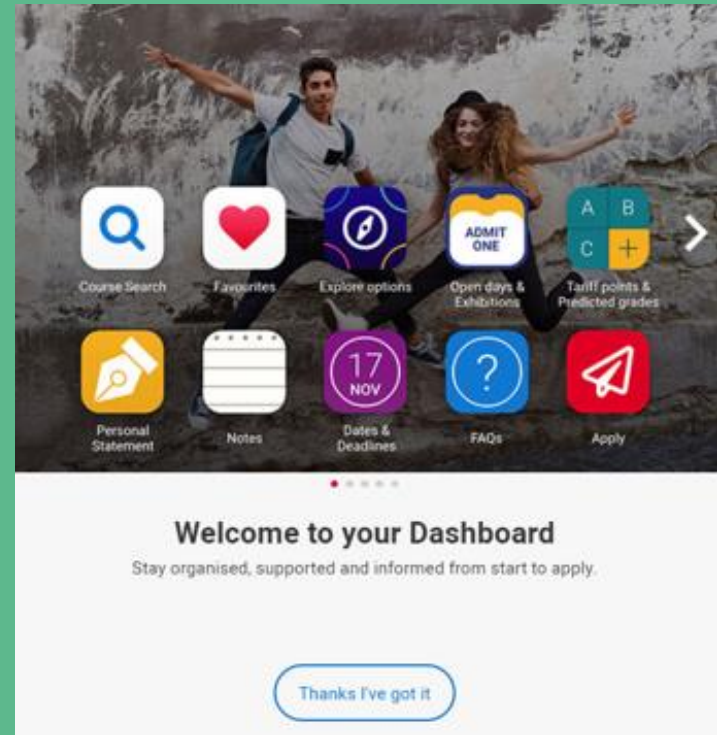
<https://exetermathematicsschool.ac.uk/tutorial-programme/#1677767372034-bf383688-6280>

- 30 April 2024: UCAS' search tool will display 2025 courses.
- 7 May 2024: Adviser (teachers) portal opens for 2025 entry.
- 14 May 2024: UCAS undergraduate application 2025 cycle opens.
- Summer Term: Register application with UCAS and complete admin section of the application (Personal Details & Education)
Research location, courses and Universities
- 19-28 June: End of Year assessments
- 9-10 July: Parent meetings with tutors
- June, July and September: University open days
- 10 July 2024: UCAS Conservatoires 2025 application open.
- 3 Sept 2024: Completed Undergraduate applications can be submitted to UCAS.
- 2 October 2024: Deadline for most Conservatoires music courses.
- November: Assessments & opportunity to increase UCAS predictors
- ~~15/10/24~~ **EMS deadline 2/10/24**: Medicine, veterinary, dentistry, Oxford xor Cambridge **deadline**
- ~~29/01/25~~ **EMS deadline TBC**: Most courses **deadline**

Starting research

Students should 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:

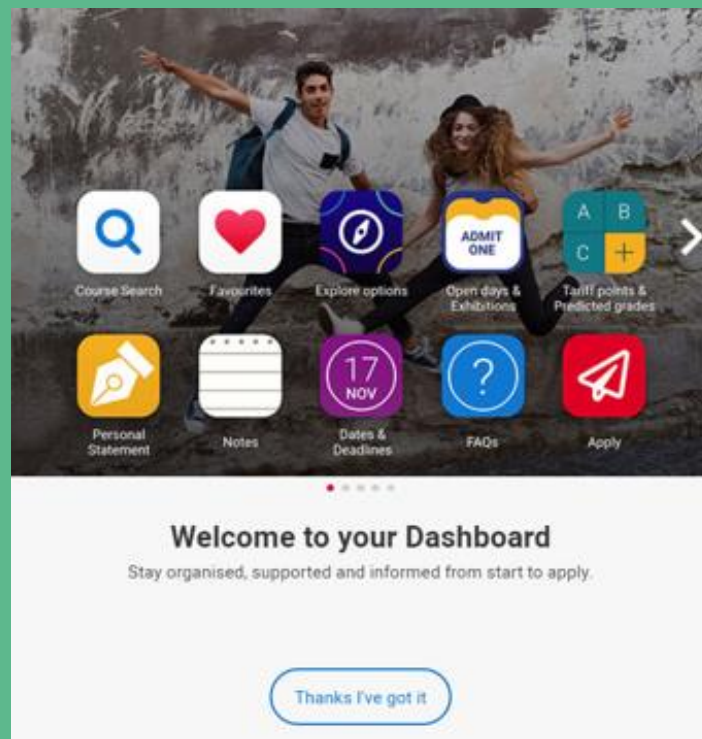
Distance from home, teaching satisfaction, work experience options, job outcomes...

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.

Expanding horizons...

...by pushing options they might not have considered.



Free tools to help...



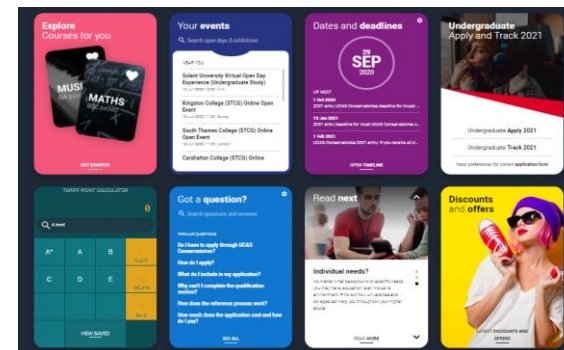
Discovery Days - at UCAS/Discovery you can explore all kinds of possibilities. Talk to subject and admissions experts, discover apprenticeships, get advice on personal statements, applying through UCAS, and more. Get stuck in and open your mind to a world of opportunities.



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](#)

<http://university.which.co.uk/subjects/maths>

<http://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/>

<http://www.mathscareers.org.uk/article/universities-currently-offering-maths-degrees/>



Applying (after 14/5/24) - 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** £28.50 for 5 choices
- Apply by the **equal consideration date**
- Providers **can't see** other choices when you apply

Overview of MAT, PAT, STEP TMUA etc

Some universities **require** that you sit a separate test either as part of the application process, or as part of your grade offer.

Some universities **recommend** that you sit an extra test and will make a reduced offer if you do well

The tests are generally demanding and only students who prepare thoroughly for them succeed.

MAT = Maths Admissions Test

<https://www.maths.ox.ac.uk/study-here/undergraduate-study/maths-admissions-test>

What is it?

A 2 ½ hour non calculator paper. Combination of multiple choice and written questions
Set and administered by Oxford University.

The maths content is mostly year 12 Maths A level but the questions are more demanding than standard A level problems. All the questions are Pure Maths.

Who sits it?

Compulsory for all applicants to Oxford for courses involving Maths or Computer Science.
Compulsory for all applicants to Imperial for courses involving Maths.
Recommended for applicants to Warwick for Maths.

When is it?

The test is sat at the end of October in Year 13.

Results come out in early December and help determine whether your university application is successful.

PAT = Physics Admissions Test

<https://www2.physics.ox.ac.uk/study-here/undergraduates/applications/physics-aptitude-test-pat>

What is it?

A 2 hour calculator paper. Combination of multiple choice and written questions
Maths and Physics problems.
Set and administered by Oxford University.

Who sits it?

Compulsory for all applicants to Oxford for Physics & Engineering courses.

When is it?

The test is sat at the end of October in Year 13.
Results come out in early December and help determine whether your university application is successful.

STEP = Sixth Term Examination Paper

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/students/step-mathematics/> (new exam board from 2024)

Who? Applicants for maths courses

Almost always required as part of an offer to Cambridge and Warwick

Can be required, if your MAT score is borderline, for Imperial

Can result in a lower offer from many other universities, including UCL, Bath, Southampton, Bristol etc..

See course pages for universities for more detail

When?

At the same time as your exams in Year 13 (towards the end of the exam period)

What is it?

Two separate non calculator papers, STEP II and STEP III.

Each paper is 3 hours long and you have to answer 6 questions from a choice of 11 or 12 questions.

Cambridge and Warwick normally require STEP II or STEP III

STEP II is based on A level Maths and AS Further Maths, including Mechanics and Statistics

STEP III is based on A level Maths and Further Maths, including Mechanics and Statistics

From 2021, **STEP 1** will no longer exist and only STEP 2 and STEP 3 will remain.

TMUA = Test of Mathematics for University Admission

<https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/apply/how/maths-admission-test>

(new exam board from 2024)

Who? Applicants for maths based courses at Bath, Cardiff, Durham, Lancaster, LSE, Nottingham, Southampton, Sheffield, Warwick.

This test is not compulsory for any university.

You decide whether to share the results with universities after you receive them. A good result may result in a reduced offer for maths based courses to these universities

When?

Late October in Year 13.

What is it?

Two 75 minute papers sat one after the other. No calculators.

The content is based on year 12 Maths, including some Statistics, but no Mechanics.

Reasoning and problem solving is emphasised in this test

EMS Students – Number of applications by university 2021/22

University of Bath	27	University of Birmingham	6	Oxford Brookes University	2
University of Exeter	23	University of Surrey	6	Royal Holloway	2
University of Warwick	22	University of Nottingham	6	Solent University (Southampton)	2
Cardiff University	21	University of St Andrews	5	Keele University	2
University of Southampton	19	University of Plymouth	5	Cardiff Metropolitan University	2
Imperial College London	19	Loughborough University	5	University of Liverpool	1
University of Bristol	19	Lancaster University	3	Aberystwyth University	1
University of Oxford	18	University of Reading	3	City, University of London	1
UCL	13	King's College London	3	Bath Spa University	1
University of Leeds	10	Coventry University	3	University of Leicester	1
Bristol, UWE	8	University of Sussex	3	Northumbria University, Newcastle	1
Swansea University	8	University of York	3	Aston University, Birmingham	1
Durham University	8	University of Brighton	2	University of Portsmouth	1
University of Manchester	8	Falmouth University	2	University of Glasgow	1
University of Cambridge	7	Queen Mary	2	University of Dundee	1
University of Sheffield	7	Sheffield Hallam University	2	Newcastle University	1
The University of Edinburgh	7	LSE	2	Heriot-Watt University	1

EMS – Number of applications by course 2021/22

Mathematics 103

Mathematics	75
Discrete Mathematics	3
Financial Mathematics	3
Mathematics with a Year in Industry	3
Mathematics (3 years)	3
Mathematics with a Year Abroad	2
Mathematics with Professional Placement	2
Mathematics with a Professional Placement Year	1
Mathematics with Placement Year	1
Mathematics (with Study Year Abroad)	1
Mathematics, Operational Research, Statistics, Economics (MORSE)	1
Mathematics with Statistics for Finance	1
Mathematics (4 years)	1
Mathematics and Statistics	1
Mathematics with Study Abroad in a Modern Language	1
Mathematics and Statistics with Placement Year	1
Pure Mathematics with a Year Abroad	1
Mathematics Operational Research & Stats	1
Mathematics with a Placement Year	1

Physics 26

Physics	15
Astrophysics	2
Physics with Astronomy (with Professional Placement)	2
Geophysics	1
Physics with Professional Placement	1
Physics with Philosophy	1
Geophysics & Geology	1
Physics with Theoretical Physics	1
Physics with Astrophysics	1
Physics with Astrophysics with Professional and Research Placements	1

Engineering 70

Mechanical Engineering	25
Aerospace Engineering	5
Engineering	3
Chemical Engineering (Industrial Experience) (5 years)	2
Chemical Engineering with a Year in Industry	2
Chemical Engineering (wth placement)	2
Aeronautics and Astronautics with Industrial Placement Year	2
Aerospace Engineering (with placement).	2
Chemical Engineering	2
Aerospace Engineering with a Year in Industry	2
Mechanical Engineering with Year in Industry	2
Mechanical Engineering with a Year in Industry	1
Automotive Engineering	1
Integrated Mechanical and Electrical Engineering	1
Aeronautics and Astronautics / Aerodynamics with Industrial Placement Year	1
Mechanical Engineering (Year in Industry)	1
Mechanical Engineering with Study Abroad in a Modern Language	1
General Engineering	1
Mechatronic and Robotic Engineering	1
Mechanical and Electrical Engineering	1
Robotics Engineering	1
Mechanical Engineering (Automotive)	1
Electronic and Computer Systems Engineering	1
Mechanical Engineering with a Foundation Year	1
Aerospace Engineering (with a Year in Industry)	1
Chemical Engineering including an Industrial Year	1
Engineering (Aeronautical)	1
Chemical Engineering with Industrial Placement Year	1
Motorsport Engineering	1
Design Engineering	1
Aeronautical and Aerospace Engineering	1
Electrical and Electronic Engineering	1

Computer Science 47

Computer Science	25
Computer Systems Engineering	3
Games Technology	2
Computing (Software Engineering)	1
Cyber Security and Digital Forensics (with Foundation Year)	1
Computing Foundation	1
Computer Science with a Year Abroad	1
Game Development: Programming	1
Computer Science with Industrial Experience (4 years)	1
Computing and Software Development	1
Computer Science with Study Year Abroad	1
Cyber Security	1
Computer Games Technology	1
Cyber Security Management	1
Games Development Technologies	1
Computer Science (3 Years or 4 Years including Foundation)	1
Software Engineering	1
Computing (Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning)	1
Applied Software Engineering	1
Computing (International Programme of Study)	1

Joint Honours 50

Natural Sciences	9
Mathematics and Computer Science	8
Computer Science and Mathematics	7
Mathematics with Finance	6
Physics and Philosophy	3
Mathematics and Physics	2
Biochemistry	2
Biochemistry (4 years) [MSci]	1
Philosophy and Physics	1
Mathematics, Statistics, and Business	1
Computer Science and Physics	1
Computer Games Design and Development	1
Biochemistry (Molecular and Cellular)	1
Mathematics, Operational Research, Statistics and Economics	1
Economics and Management with Study Abroad	1
Computer Science and Mathematics (with placement year)	1
Economics and Mathematics	1
Computer Science and Mathematics with Placement	1
Business Management and Economics	1
Computer Science/Mathematics (Equal)	1

Other 31

Chemistry	5
Psychology	4
Geology	3
Economics	2
Economics with Placement Year	1
Accounting and Finance with Year Abroad	1
Forensic Accounting	1
Biological Sciences	1
Microbiology	1
Biological Sciences (Biochemistry)	1
Finance	1
Accounting and Finance (with professional placement)	1
Foundation Year in Life Sciences	1
Molecular Biology	1
Management Science	1
Accounting and Finance with a Professional Placement Year	1
Accounting with Industrial/Professional Experience	1
Accounting and Finance	1
Psychology with Education Studies	1
Economics with a Professional Placement Year	1
Economics with a Year Abroad	1

(Virtual) Visit, visit, visit ...

<https://www.ucas.com/ucas/events/find/type/open-day>

UCAS At the heart of connecting people to higher education

 
Sign in Register

Events and key dates Open days Find open days 🔍

Current search
Search found 462 items

Open day ✕

[Reset](#)

Filter by event type:

Open day

Distance

from

Find open days

Displaying 1 - 50 of 462. Page 1 of 10.

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APR

Aberystwyth University - Online Open Day

<https://www.ucas.com/events/aberystwyth-university-online-open-day-332771>

Undergraduate and Postgraduate Online Open Day

Open day • Aberystwyth • 26 April 2018 • Undergraduate Postgraduate

28
APR

University of Plymouth - Undergraduate open day event

<https://www.ucas.com/events/university-plymouth-undergraduate-open-day-event-326746>

Undergraduate Open Day

Open day • Plymouth • 28 April 2018 • Undergraduate

28
APR

Cardiff Metropolitan University - Cyncoed Campus Open Day

<https://www.ucas.com/events/cardiff-metropolitan-university-cyncoed-campus-open-day-328191>

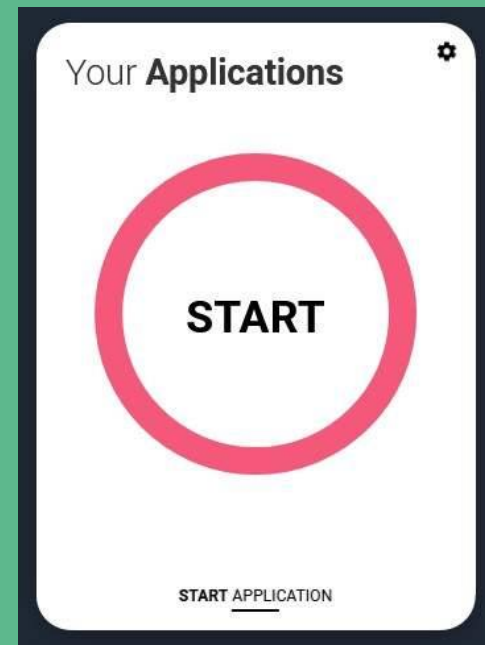
This Open Day is for anyone interested in studying one of our undergraduate degree courses located at our Cyncoed Campus.

Open day • Cardiff • 28 April 2018 • Undergraduate

www.Opendays.com

Linking to a school

- If they're applying with the help of a school, college or centre they should enter their 'buzzword' to link their application.
- The buzzword is a unique code for our centre.
- By linking their application students are giving us permission to view and track their application.
- It also means we can provide a reference.



Making an application

Sections to be completed:

- Personal details
- Nationality details
- Where you live
- Contact details
- Supporting information
- Finance & funding
- Diversity & inclusion
- More about you
- Education
- Employment
- Extra activities
- Personal statement
- Choices – make up to five
- References (not visible for students linked to centres)


The screenshot displays the UCAS Application 2020 Undergraduate application portal. The user's profile is shown with a progress indicator of 33%. The 'My profile' section includes the following sub-sections:


- Profile overview:** Before starting your application, including links for supporting your application, applying through a school/college or organisation, and applying as an individual.
- Personal details:** Name, age, title and gender. Status: Section complete.
- Contact and residency details:** Address, email, telephone and other contacts. Status: Section complete.
- Work experience:** Employment, part, unpaid or volunteer work. Status: Section in progress.
- Education:** Qualifications and periods of study. Status: Start this section.
- Nationality details:** Citizenship and nationalities. Status: Start this section.
- Supporting information:** Information that provides extra help to support you during your studies. Status: Start this section.
- English language skills:** Is English your first language? Status: Start this section.
- Finance and funding:** Tell us how you'll fund your study. Status: Section complete.
- Diversity and inclusion:** Only shared with a provider once you have a place on your application as a student. Status: Start this section.

Below the profile section, the 'Application questions' section includes:


- Personal statement:** Why do you want to study this subject? Status: Section in progress.
- Choices:** Choose up to five. Status: Section complete.
- Reference:** Provide details of your referees. Status: Start this section.


The personal statement

 The only section students have full control over


 Students only chance to market themselves individually

 The same for all choices

 A maximum of 4,000 characters, or 47 lines

 A minimum of 1,000 characters

 There isn't a spelling or grammar check

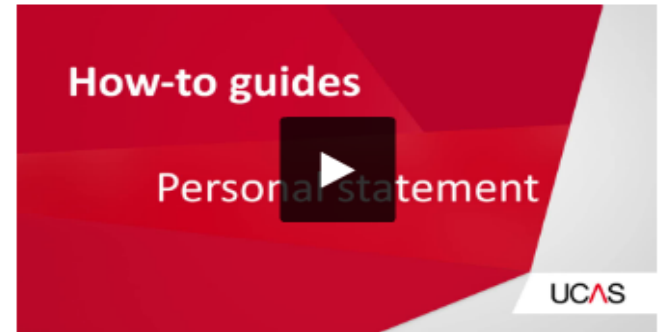
 No formatting is allowed

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

Personal statement resources

www.ucas.com/personalstatement

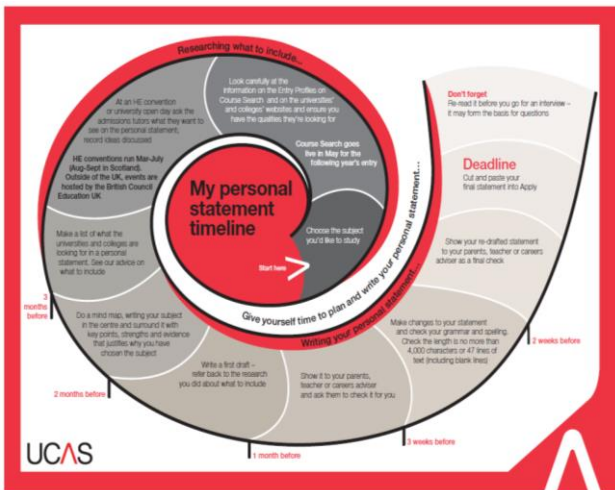
<https://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/university/personal-statements/personal-statements-by-subject>



How to write your personal statement

This video looks at how to get started, as well as common fears and concerns.

[Watch more video guides](#)



MY UCAS PERSONAL STATEMENT



Completing the UCAS application



Students register for a UCAS Hub account



Student complete their application – working their way through all sections and send it to their school / college



Teachers/advisers review the application and add reference and predicted grades



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



Universities/ colleges make their decisions

Tracking applications

Students should head to ucas.com to track their application.

Click your application to:

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

In Track, a student can hold up to two offers:

- **firm** – if they meet the conditions of the offer they will be placed here
- **insurance** –if they are not placed with their firm choice, they may be placed with their insurance choice.



Decisions

Universities and colleges will review the:



personal statement



qualifications



reference

They may also ask for:



admissions test



interview



portfolio/audition

Other options

Extra Feb – July

If all five choices have been used and you have no offers/rejected all offers.

Clearing from early-July

If you have no offers, or have applied after 30 June deadline.



~~Adjustment~~ Now part of Clearing

(from A level results day)

If you've gained better results than the conditional offer you hold, you could apply for a different course or university.

What should you be doing now?

- Research
- Extra curricular
- (Work experience)
- (Open days)
- Go beyond the syllabus
- Focus on this year's studies



How can you support them?

Research

Use the parents/guardians' section of the UCAS website at www.ucas.com/parents.

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

Videos for parents

UCAS Undergraduate: advice for parents and guardians

We've got lots of resources and information dedicated to helping parents and guardians support students apply to uni.

Relevant to **Undergraduate**

UCAS for parents – open days

UCAS for parents – funding and finance

UCAS for parents – applying

UCAS for parents – Clearing

How the application works

BSL Parent Guide



UCAS for parents in under 90 seconds

Helen, a UCAS adviser whose son is making his application to university this year, explains how to find out what it's going to cost.

[View more videos](#)

Other Universities and study abroad....

Why Study in Europe?

Europe is increasingly popular as a study destination for UK students who want something a little different.

- English medium tuition helps to overcome the challenge of language at an increasing number of leading European universities
- Grab the opportunity to improve your skills in another language.
- Travel between the UK and Europe is quick and easy.
- Studying in mainland Europe gives you the opportunity to experience the many different European countries and cultures.
- The European Higher Education Area (EHEA) is encouraging greater compatibility between universities and higher education systems across the 47 member countries across Europe.



<http://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/international/europe/>

North America

- The USA is the most popular destination for international students from all over the world.

The country holds the top two rankings in the QS World University Rankings 2013–14 ([Massachusetts Institute of Technology \(MIT\)](#) and [Harvard University](#)), with a total of 30 higher education institutions in the top 100.

- Canada, the world's second largest country by area, with a very different culture to its US neighbour, welcomes many UK students and has five universities in the QS top 100













Parents and Carers: Information to help support young people to explore and plan future study and work

Careerpilot **Parent Zone** [Back to main Careerpilot website](#)

Search the Parent Zone

What do you want to know?

Information to help parents and carers support young people in making the right decision about study and work

 > Choices at 14	 > Choices at 16	 > Choices at 18	 > Further Education College
 > Apprenticeships and Traineeships	 > Higher Education	 > Funding and support	 > All questions

Access Careerpivot Parent Zone for free.

Find the answers to some frequently asked questions you may have about:

- choices at 14, 16 and 18
- further education college
- apprenticeships and traineeships
- higher education (including HE provided at local colleges)
- job sectors and growth
- funding and support

www.careerpilot.org.uk/parent-zone

Apprenticeships

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

<https://www.ucas.com/apprenticeships-in-the-uk>

For some students, apprenticeships are a preferred option:

- Learning skills that are immediately applicable in the workplace, often alongside rigorous academic work
- Progression opportunities can be rapid
- Earning a wage immediately
- A different experience to university

UCAS Application timeline

<https://exetermathematicsschool.ac.uk/tutorial-programme/#1677767372034-bf383688-6280>

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