

A large yellow rectangular area on the left side of the image contains the text 'UCAS Parents' Evening'. Above the text is a short white horizontal line. The background of the entire image shows two young men looking at a smartphone together, with one holding it and the other pointing at the screen.

UCAS Parents' Evening

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:

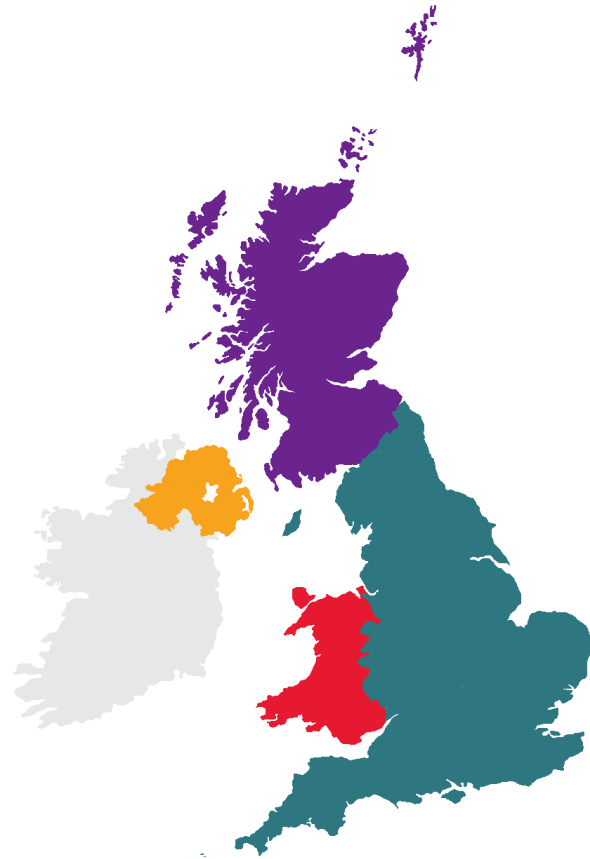
4 in Northern Ireland

15 in Wales

19 in Scotland

324 in England

35,000+ courses available



Choices available



Higher
education



Apprenticeships/
traineeships



Studying
abroad



Gap year



Getting a job

Understand the options available: 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

Go to ucas.com/understanding-apprenticeships.



25%

of applicants declining all offers in 2018 told UCAS they had chosen an **apprenticeship** instead.

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**

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 course providers. 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?

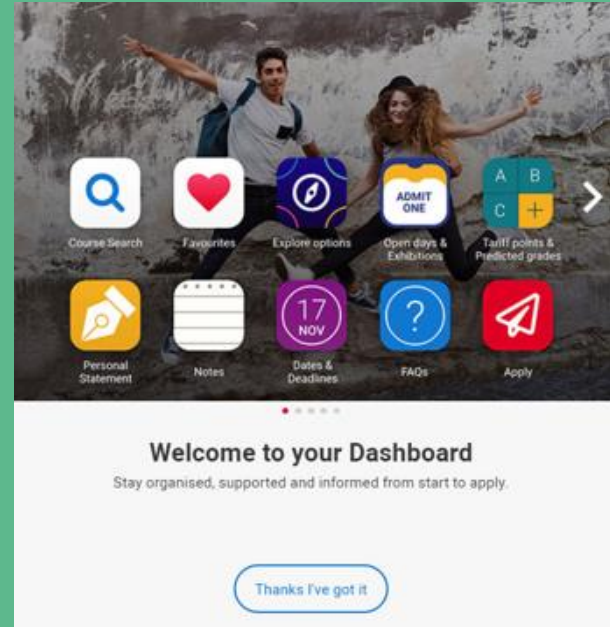
Research resources



Before you apply...

Register in the UCAS Hub to explore your options, such as:

- 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](#)



‘I’m overwhelmed by all the choice...’

Get organised:

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

Define what’s important:

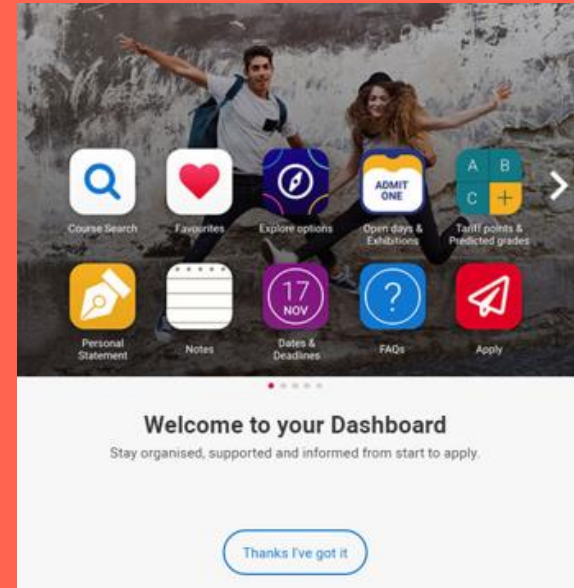
Distance from home, teaching satisfaction, work experience options, job outcomes...

Make it yours:

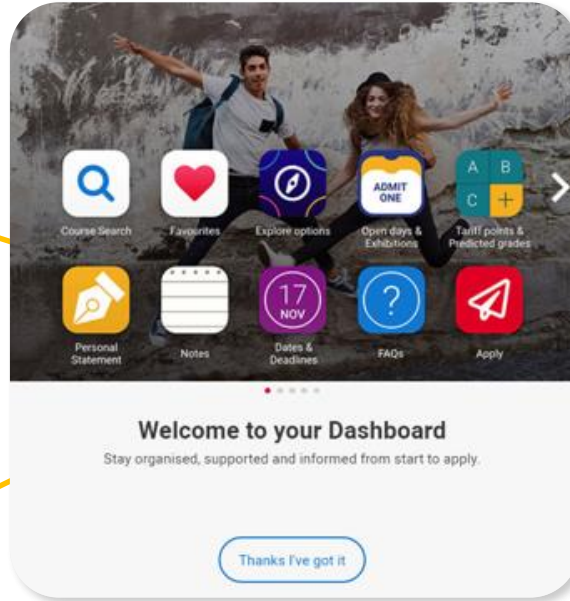
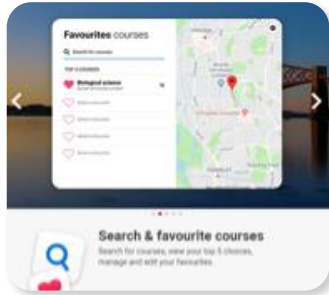
Organise tools, remove the ones they don’t need, and tick off their to do list. It’s their space, and their future.

You might not have thought of...

Expand horizons by pushing options they might not have considered.



UCAS Hub



Research – it's free!



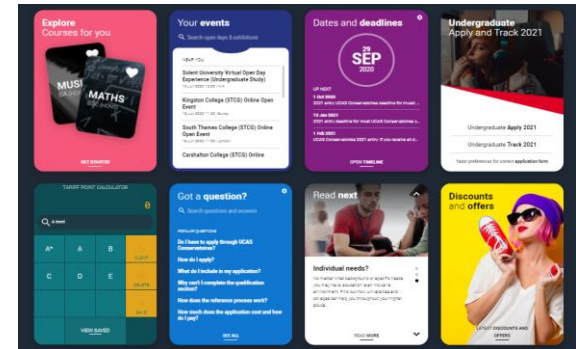
[New - Accommodation Search](#) - accommodation is high on the list when considering where you want to study, but it's not always easy to compare what's on offer. Understand what options there are using our new Accommodation search.



[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.



[UCAS Futures](#) - a chance to explore courses you're interested in and speak to universities and colleges from around the UK. You can talk to subject and admissions experts, discover apprenticeships, get advice on personal statements, applying through UCAS, and more.



UCAS



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](#)

Research – it's free!



- Learning from others – [chat to](#) uni students [student videos](#) and [blogs](#).
- [Career options](#) – use the [job profiles](#) to explore different career roles and pathways.
- Take the [Buzz quiz](#) to find out more about individual strengths, and what roles may suit you.
- The [Career Finder tool](#) is ideal for considering options after education, including searching for [apprenticeships](#).

Apply key facts



It's an online application



Maximum of five choices.



Choice restrictions:

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



Simple application cost:

- up to five choices – £27.50



Equal consideration.



'Invisibility'.

When to apply for 2024 entry

- **9 May 23** UCAS Undergraduate Apply opens for 2024 entry.
- **5 September 23** First day for receipt of completed applications.
- **2 October 23** Music conservatoire application deadline
- **16 October 23** Application deadline for courses in medicine, veterinary medicine/science, and dentistry, and courses at Oxford or Cambridge. (18:00)
- **31 January 24** Equal consideration application deadline. (18:00)
- **28 February 24** Extra opens.
- **30 June 24** Last date for applications before Clearing.

Making a UCAS application

Begin at ucas.com/apply.

Sections to be completed:

- Personal details
- Choices – make up to five
- Education
- Employment
- Personal statement
- Reference



Completing the UCAS application

A student registers at:
ucas.com/apply

- Sections to complete:
1. Personal details
 2. Additional information
 3. Student finance
 4. Choices
 5. Education
 6. Employment
 7. Personal statement
 8. Referee details

Teacher/
adviser adds
their
reference

Applications
are sent to
UCAS

Universities/
colleges make
their decisions

The personal statement



The only section you have full control over



Your only chance to market themselves individually



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 is allowed

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

Decisions

Universities and colleges will review the:



personal statement



qualifications



reference

They may also ask for:



Admissions test



Interview



Portfolio/audition

And make one of three decisions:

Unconditional offer

Conditional offer

Unsuccessful

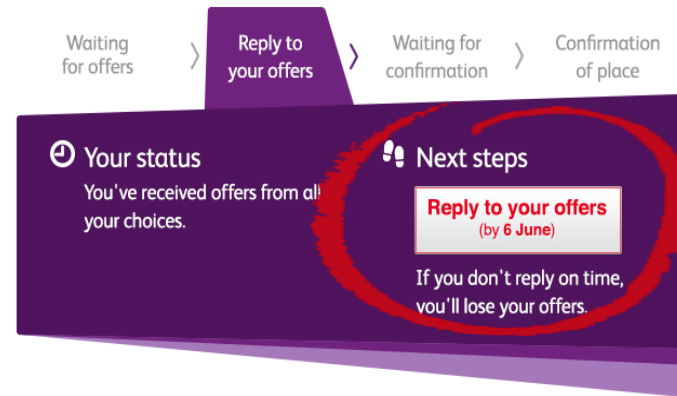
Tracking applications

Track allows applicants 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.





Other options



Extra (28 Feb – 30 Jun)

- Used all five choices and had no offers.
- Add Extra choices for consideration one at a time in Track.

Clearing (5 Jul – 17 Oct)

- Apply after 30 June, receive no offers, decline all offers, not met conditions.
- Find vacancies from July, and add one choice in Track.
- **Adjustment** (up to five days in Aug)
- Placed with firm choice, and did better than expected.
- Register in Track, then find another university or college. The new university or college adjusts the record.

What should your child be doing now?

- research
- extracurricular activities
- work experience
- 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 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!

Personal statements

- Extenuating circumstances
- Work experience
- Extra curricular activities

References - changes to 2024 applications

Section 1

Section 2

Section 3

UCAS Predicted Grades

Typically, we will predict you one grade above your Internal Exam Grade.

However there are some exceptions:

- A's to A*'s - A* are rare and rely on you performing well on every paper, so we cannot allocate everyone on an A grades A*s.
- If you have performed significantly better in your Internal Exams than other assessments.

Worked examples:

Fred

Internal (end-of-year): A3

Mock: A2

Mini-mock: B1

Not likely to get an A*



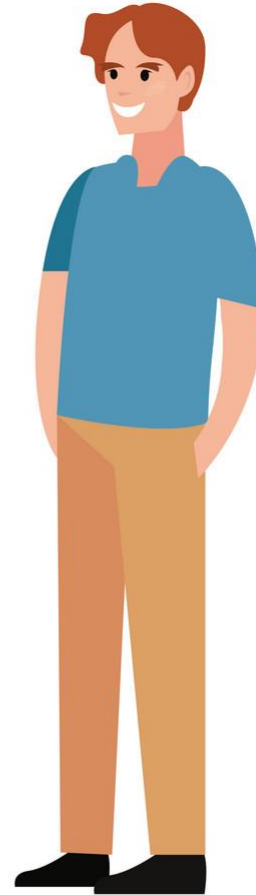
Ben

Internal (end-of-year): A1

Mock: A1

Mini-mock: A3

More likely to get an A*



Worked examples:

Claire

Internal (end-of year): B3

Mock: D1

Mini Mock: C3

Not likely to get an A



Maria

Internal (end-of-year): B1

Mock: B3

Mini Mock: C1

More likely to get an A



UCAS Rules

Predicted grades should be:

- **entered for all pending qualifications**, unless the assessment method or structure of the qualification makes this inappropriate – failure to do so can lead to complications or, in some cases, the rejection of an application
- in the **best interests of applicants** – fulfilment and success at college or university is the end goal
- **aspirational but achievable** – stretching predicted grades can be motivational for students
- determined by **professional judgement** – your expertise and experience are vital in informing predictions
- **data-driven** – while each school will have its own process, you should look at past **Level 2 and Level 3 performance, and/or internal examinations to inform your predictions**
- finalised by the point of submitting an application – universities and colleges are only likely to consider the predicted grades received as part of the UCAS application. While they will make every effort to accommodate genuine errors in data entry, this may not always be possible for highly selective courses

UCAS Rules

Predicted grades must **not** be:

- **affected by student, parental, guardian, or carer pressure** – there are risks associated with inflating and suppressing predicted grades
- **influenced by university or college entry requirements or behaviours** – predicted grades should be set in isolation of an applicant's university or college choice(s)
- affected by student behaviour or background – predicted grades should be made objectively and disregard external factors. Be careful to reflect on any preconceptions to mitigate against unconscious bias, particularly for **protected characteristics** (including sex, race, religion/belief, disability, sexual orientation, or gender reassignment)

First task: personal statement

- To be sent to their tutor by Friday 26 May
- A key part to the application. They only write one.
- 47 lines/4000 characters (inc. spaces) Approximately 500 words
- Show your strengths, why you're passionate about the subject, work experience relevant to your application and ambitions

Thank you

