

# UCAS Parents Evening

Entry September 2026



# What is UCAS?

UCAS is the platform for applying to universities in the UK

**350+** universities and colleges:

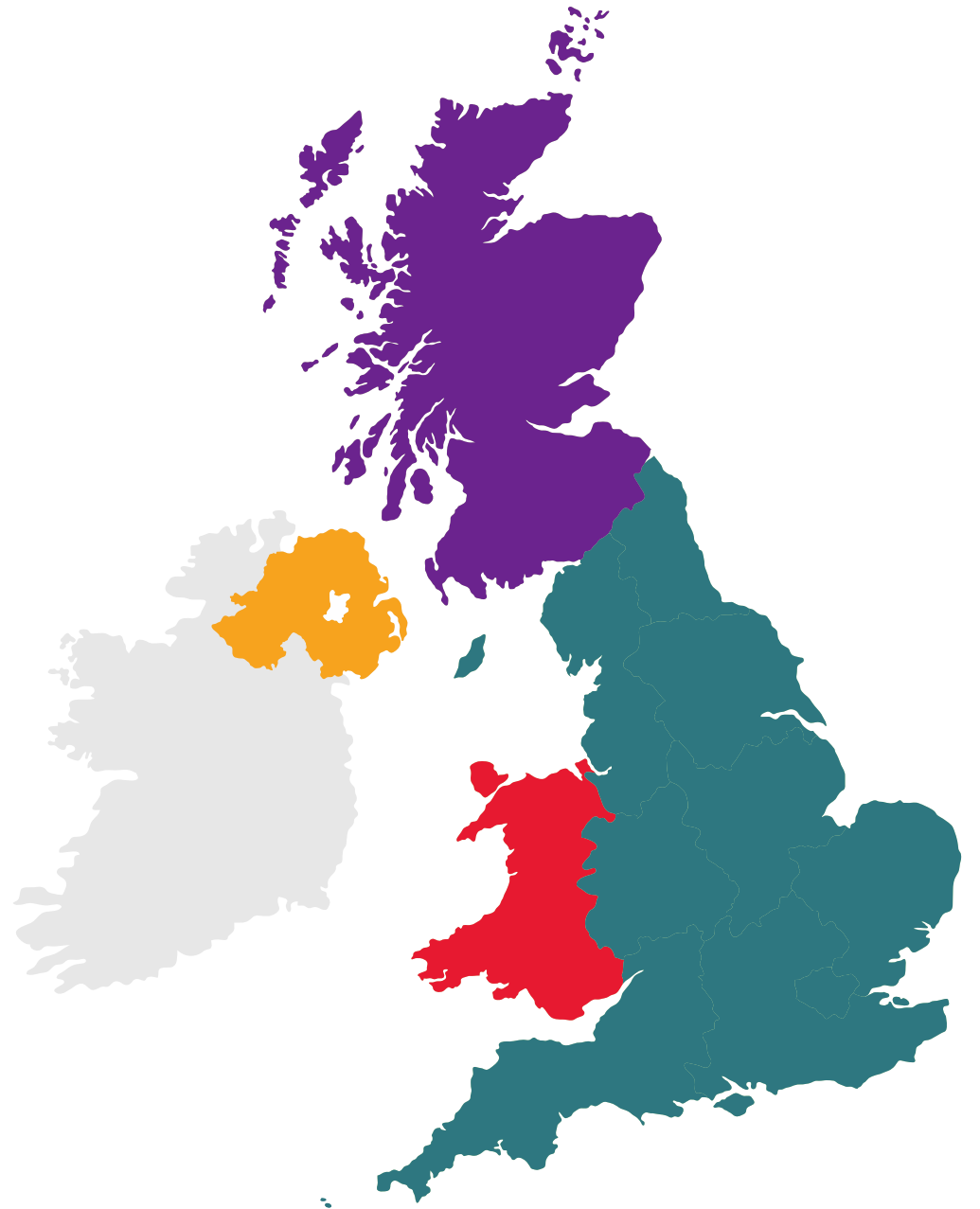
**4** in **Northern Ireland**

**15** in **Wales**

**18** in **Scotland**

**316** in **England**

**35,000+** courses available



# Choices available



Higher  
education



Apprenticeship



Studying  
abroad



Gap year



Getting a job

Find out more: [ucas.com](https://ucas.com)

# Apprenticeship advice

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

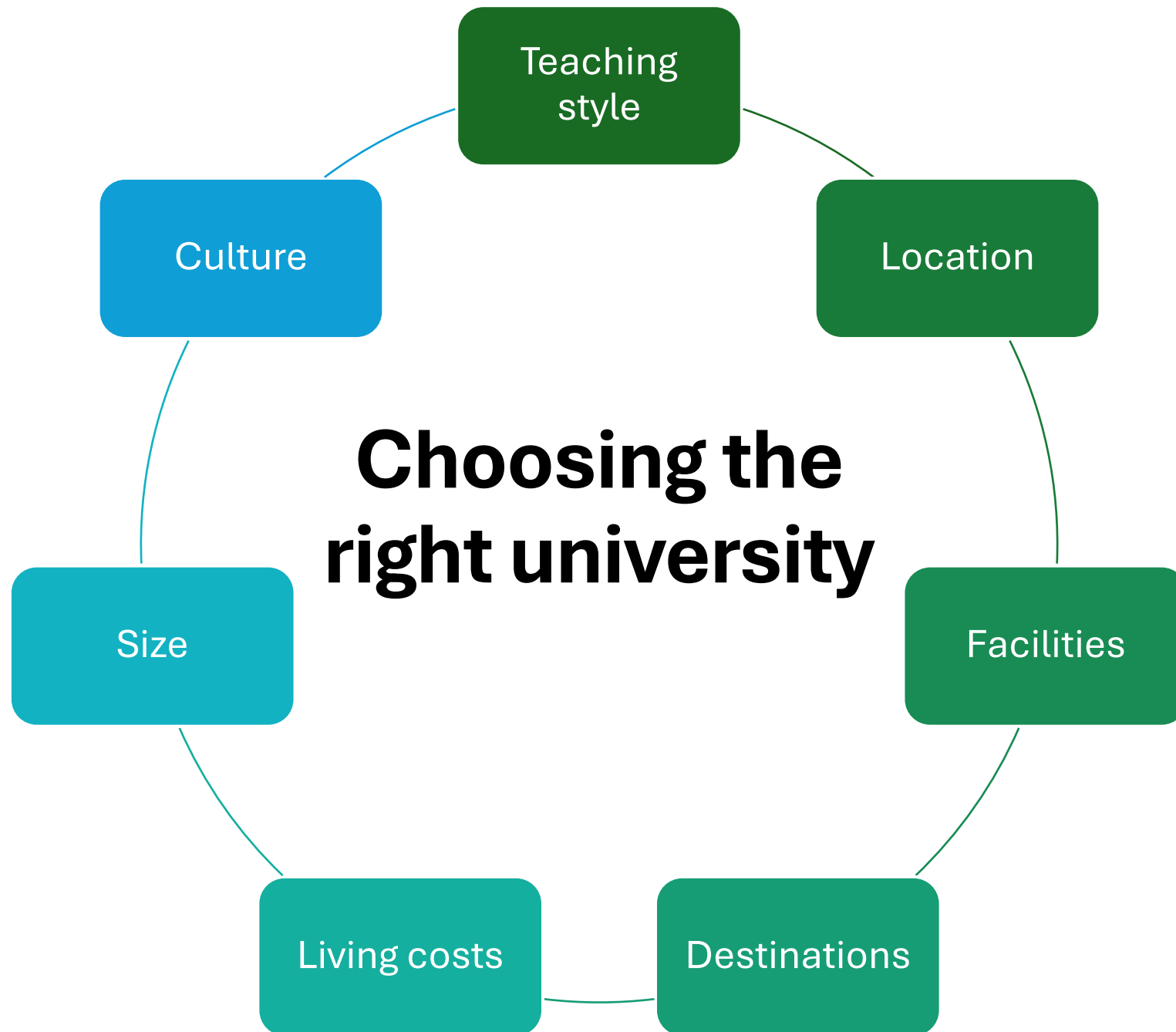
Find out about:

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



**Head to:**

[ucas.com/apprenticeships](https://ucas.com/apprenticeships)



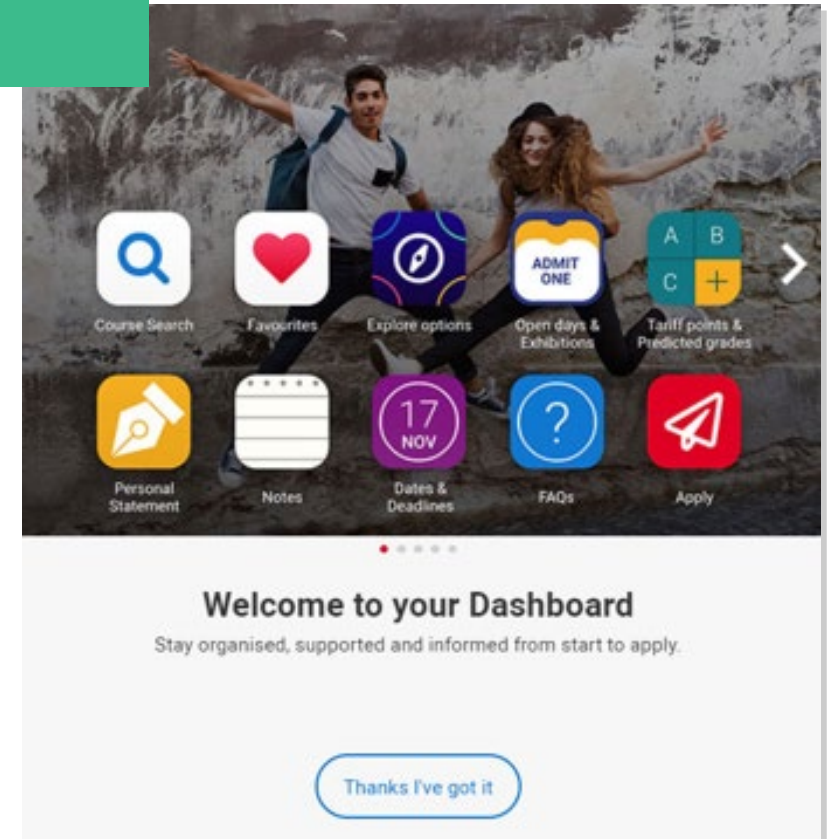
# Choosing the right course

- 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?

# 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



# Free tools to help...



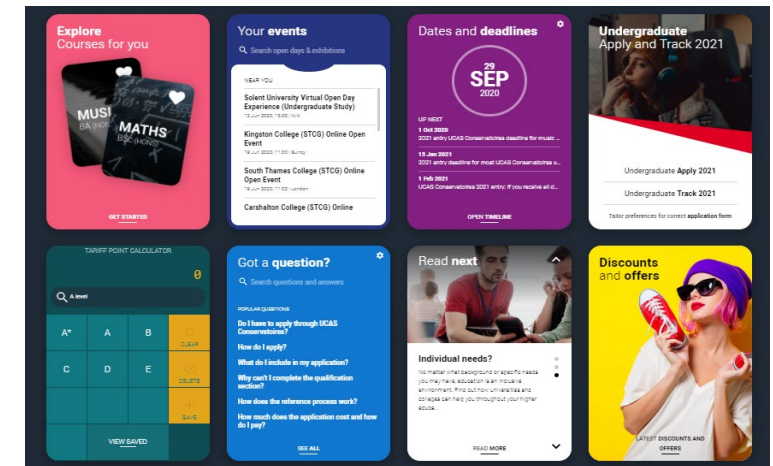
**Discovery Days** - the whole cohort went on a trip to MotorPoint Arena in July last academic year



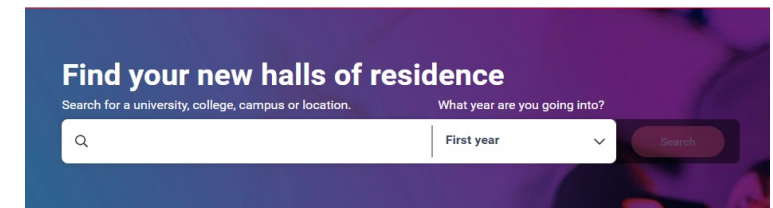
**Join our UCAS Hub lives and Facebook lives** -each live session is hosted by an expert panel to give you what you need to make an informed decision.



**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.



UCAS



## How to find the right student accommodation for you

This is it. Life is good. You're going to uni. It is 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](#)

**OCT  
02**

## **(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**

The reference must be completed before the application can be sent to us.

**JAN  
14**

## **(18:00 UK time) Equal consideration date for applications for most undergraduate courses**

- The reference must be completed before the application can be sent to us.
- Deadline for most conservatoire undergraduate dance, drama or musical theatre courses. Check on the specific course to be sure.

# 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 but they can apply for different (but similar) courses at the same university.
- Applying **costs** £28.50 for 5 choices
- Any student who has ever had Free School Meals can send an application without any charge
- Apply by the **equal consideration date**
- Providers **can't see** other choices when you apply

# 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
- Finance and funding
- Diversity and inclusion (for students with a UK home address)

The screenshot displays the UCAS Application 2020 Undergraduate application dashboard. At the top, the UCAS logo is on the left, and navigation links for Further education, Undergraduate, Postgraduate, Alternatives, Careers, and Account are on the right. The main heading is "UCAS APPLICATION" with the subtitle "2020 Undergraduate application". Below this, the user's personal ID is shown as 1391001863. A progress indicator shows 33% completion. The dashboard is divided into two main sections: "My profile" and "Application questions".

**My profile**

- Profile overview**: Includes links for "Before starting your application" (completing your application, applying through a school/college/organisation, applying as an individual, deadlines for submitting your application) and "Centre information" (link to a school, college, or centre).
- Personal details**: Name, age, title and gender. Status: Section complete.
- Contact and residency details**: Address, email, telephone and where you live. Status: Section complete.
- Work experience**: Employment, paid, unpaid, or volunteer work. Status: Section in progress.
- Education**: Qualifications and periods of study. Status: Start this section.
- Nationality details**: Birthplace and nationalities. Status: Start this section.
- Supporting information**: So that providers know how 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 or your application is archived. Status: Start this section.

**Application questions**

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

# Completing the UCAS application



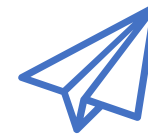
Students register for a UCAS Hub account



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

| Grades                                                                                                                                                                                                     | UCAS Tariff Points                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Some universities will ask for grades on their entry requirements pages.</p> <p>This can include A Level and BTEC grades.</p> <p>Some courses will ask for specific grades and/or specific subjects</p> | <p>Other establishments ask for UCAS Tariff Points. This is where grades are equated to a number value which is added together.</p> <p>This can allow for some flexibility with grades, especially if grades in some subjects are higher than others.</p> |

## A level offer – A\*A\*A

including A\*A\* in Mathematics and Further Mathematics or A\*AA including A\*A in Mathematics and Further Mathematics and a suitable performance in an accepted mathematics test.

AAB

## Required subjects

### A levels

AAB / A\*AC / A\*BB. A levels must include biology or physical education, or an acceptable biological science (for example human biology).

A pass is required in science practical tests, where these are assessed separately.

### GCSEs

Five GCSEs at grade 9-5 (A\*-B), which include maths, English and biology or double science (or equivalent level 2 qualification). We do not accept Functional Skills English and Functional Skills Maths.

We will consider applicants who may have achieved a grade 4 in one of the listed GCSE subjects but have a total of five GCSEs at grade 5 or above.

Please note: GCSE resits are accepted. You must have achieved the GCSEs at the point of application and not at the point of entry.

## UK students

**Standard offer:** 120 UCAS Tariff points from up to four qualifications (two of which must be A-level equivalent)

**Contextual offer:** 112 UCAS Tariff points from up to four qualifications (two of which must be A-level equivalent)

To find out what qualifications have tariff points, please use [our tariff calculator](#).

Additional requirements





### A-Levels and Highers: Ucas Points

|    | A-levels | AS levels | Scottish<br>Highers | Advanced<br>Highers |
|----|----------|-----------|---------------------|---------------------|
| A* | 56       |           |                     |                     |
| A  | 48       | 20        | 33                  | 56                  |
| B  | 40       | 16        | 27                  | 48                  |
| C  | 32       | 12        | 21                  | 40                  |
| D  | 24       | 10        | 15                  | 32                  |
| E  | 16       | 6         |                     |                     |

### BTEC Nationals: (first taught September 2016) Ucas Points



| National<br>Extended<br>Certificate |    | National<br>Diploma |     | National<br>Extended<br>Diploma |     |
|-------------------------------------|----|---------------------|-----|---------------------------------|-----|
| D*                                  | 56 | D*D*                | 112 | D*D*D*                          | 168 |
| D                                   | 48 | D*D                 | 104 | D*D*D                           | 160 |
| M                                   | 32 | DD                  | 96  | D*DD                            | 152 |
| P                                   | 16 | DM                  | 80  | DDD                             | 144 |
|                                     |    | MM                  | 64  | DDM                             | 128 |
|                                     |    | MP                  | 48  | DMM                             | 112 |
|                                     |    | PP                  | 32  | MMM                             | 96  |
|                                     |    |                     |     | MMP                             | 80  |
|                                     |    |                     |     | MPP                             | 64  |
|                                     |    |                     |     | PPP                             | 48  |

(D) distinction (M) merit (P) pass

# The Personal Statement

4000 Characters including spaces or 47 lines.

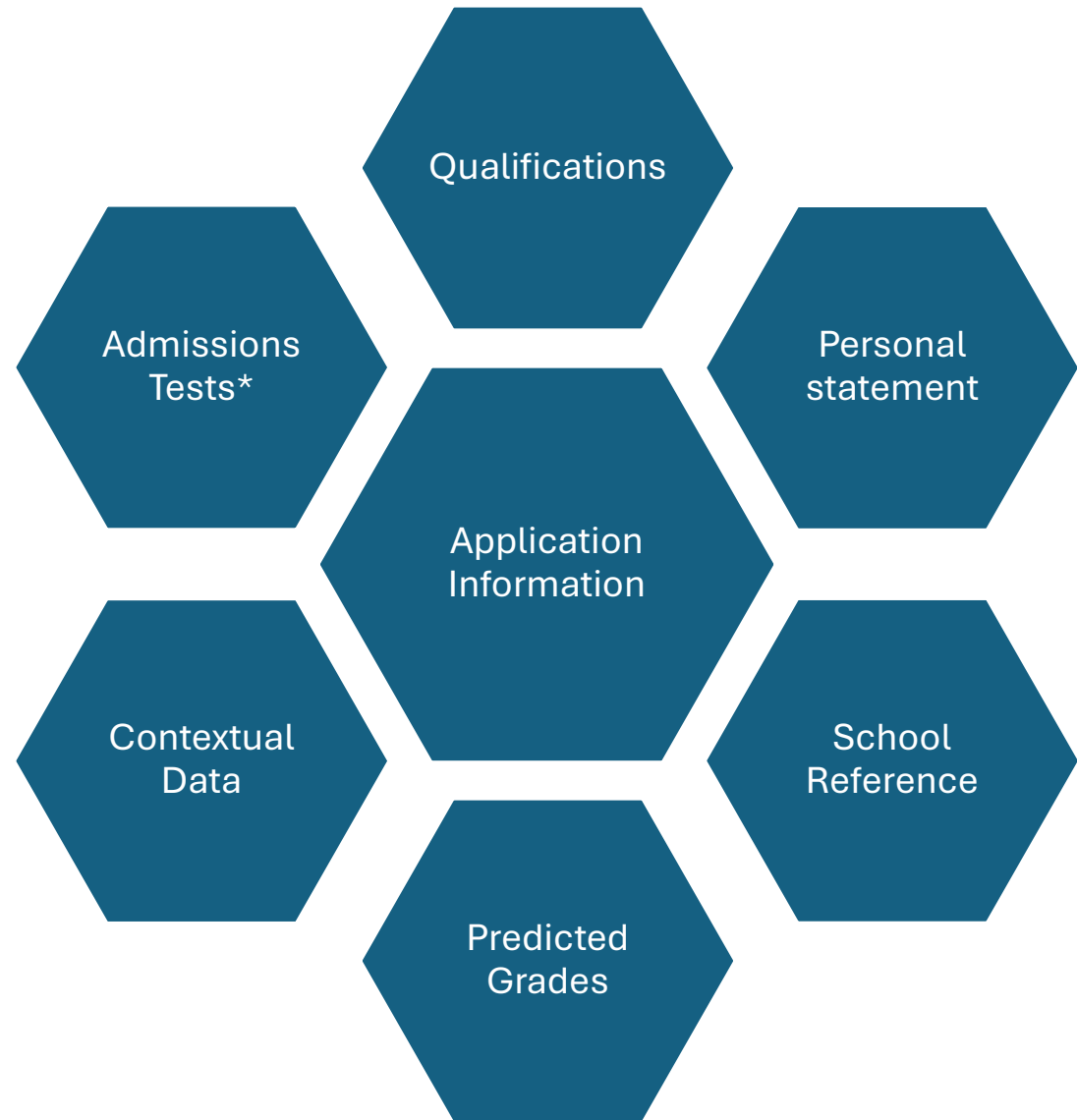
One personal statement for all courses applied for.

New style for 2026 entry.

Three Questions.

Allows for greater focus for students

Better and more consistent comparison for universities making decisions.



# Structuring the personal statement

## 1. Why do you want to study this course or subject?

**1. Show passion and motivation:** They should explain what excites and interests them about the subject.

**2. Relate to career goals:** Link their interest to long-term goals.

# Structuring the personal statement

## 2. How have your qualifications and studies helped you prepare for this course?

1. **Highlight achievements:** Help them pick academic accomplishments relevant to the course.
2. **Link skills:** They should demonstrate how their studies have given them skills for success.
3. **Any wider reading** that is relevant for the course
4. **Evidence based**

# Structuring the personal statement

## 3. What else have you done to prepare, and why are these experiences useful?

- 1. Include extra-curriculars:** Volunteering, internships, or personal projects can be great examples. D of E / Part-time work / mentoring / Sports are great examples too
- 2. Make it personal:** Encourage your child to select experiences that show commitment. This is where your child can include any challenges they've overcome and how these experiences prepared them for university.

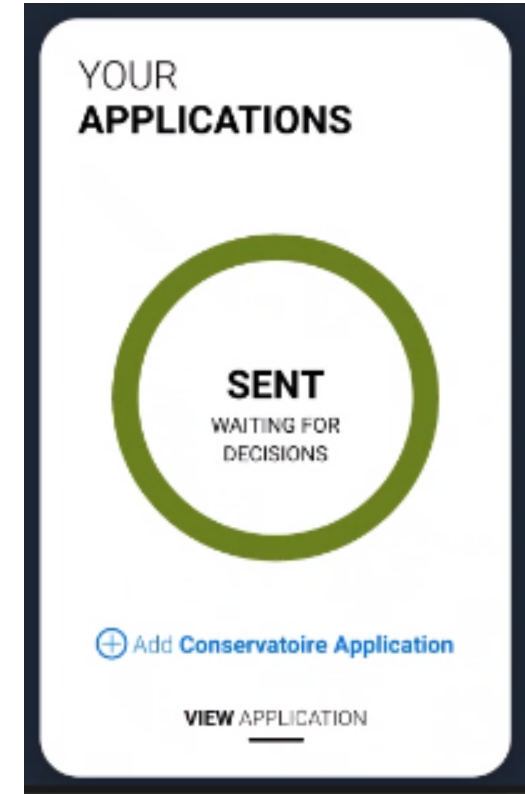
# Tracking applications

Students should head to [ucas.com](https://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.



# References and Predicted Grades

Universities and colleges will receive the reference under the following section headings:

1. Establishment details
- 2. Extenuating circumstances**
3. Other supportive information

## Extenuating Circumstances

It is likely many students will not have extenuating circumstances.

**Applicants will not be disadvantaged if there is no information to share. As has always been the case, information about personal circumstances is only ever used to help universities and colleges better understand an individual's contexts and support needs – it is never used to decide whether to make the student an offer.**

If there are complex or sensitive circumstances (particularly if this relates to safeguarding considerations), it may be appropriate to highlight there are extenuating circumstances in this section without providing detailed specifics.

Information can only go here if the applicant consents.

## References and Predicted Grades

Universities and colleges will receive the reference under the following section headings:

1. Establishment details
2. Extenuating circumstances
3. **Other supportive information**

Decisions made by the sixth form team on which subject leads each students' application.

Supporting statements given by other subjects.

Any other academic or extra-curricular activities recorded

Predicted grades are based on all evidence from subject teachers plus projection of possible progress under very best circumstances.

“Their very best day”

# Decisions

Universities and colleges will review the:



**personal statement**



**qualifications**



**reference**

They may also ask for:



**admissions test**



**interview**



**portfolio/audition**

# Replies to offers

Once students have decisions from all their choices, they can hold a maximum of two offers:

- one as a '**firm**' acceptance – **their first choice**
- the other as an '**insurance**' acceptance. This acts as a **back-up** if they don't get into their 'firm' choice

They must then **decline** any remaining offers.

Once all decisions and replies have been made, if students **aren't holding an offer**, they may be able to use **Extra or Clearing** to find available places.



# How can you support them?

Research

Use the parents/guardians' section of the UCAS website at [www.ucas.com/parents](http://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!

# 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 their application.

# Helpful Links

[UCAS Terms And Abbreviations Explained | UCAS](#)

[Advice for parents, guardians and carers | UCAS](#)

<https://www.ucas.com/discover/advice-for-parents-guardians-and-carers/how-to-fill-in-the-ucas-application>

[Helping your child write a great personal statement | UCAS](#)

[Sign up for our parent newsletter | UCAS](#)