

UCAS Parents evening

15 May 2025

For applications for 2026 entry.

UCAS



In this presentation

1. Why higher education and the UCAS application
2. Support from the school
3. Choices: universities and courses
4. Personal statements (*inc. changes for 2026 entry)
5. What should students be doing now?
6. Key dates and timeline
7. Q&A

Options after sixth form:



**HIGHER
EDUCATION**



**APPRENTICE-
SHIPS**



**STUDYING
ABROAD**



GAP YEAR



**GETTING A
JOB**



Why continue into higher education?

- Essential for some career paths.
- Develop new transferable skills and subject knowledge.
- Increase confidence and independence.
- Meet new people.
- Investment in the future.
- Increased job prospects.
- Higher earning potential.



UCAS application: the key aspects

The UCAS application collects information on the following key components:

1. Personal information
2. Screening information
3. Education (exam results)
4. School reference (**completed by the school**)
5. Choices
6. Personal statement



What support has this cohort received for their UCAS applications so far?

Students have received so far:

- A trip to Ashton gate for a **university and apprenticeship fair**
- A lecture on and access to **UNIFROG** (a university research tool)
- **Lectures from UWE** on: “building a skill set,” “Apprenticeships, “Pathways at 18” and on “Student finance”
- **A lecture from the university of Bath** on: “How to stand out from competitive universities”
- Weekly **mentoring meetings** with their tutors on Wednesdays.
- Access to a **career's advisor**
- Access to a dedicated **academic advisors**
- Access to support from tutors, Deputy Director of Sixth Form and the Directors of Sixth Form.



What support will this cohort receive for their UCAS applications?

Students will receive/continue to receive:

- **A personalised academic reference:** contributed to by subject teachers and collated and written by tutors.
- **A personal statement workshop** delivered by St Bede's.
- **A personal statement workshop** delivered by the University of Bath.
- **A personal statement workshop** delivered by the Oxford Brookes university
- A trip to Ashton gate for an **apprenticeship fair** (apprenticeship students only)
- **Fortnightly PSHCE lessons** with their tutors dedicated towards writing their UCAS applications, discussing their options and completing personal statements.
- **Weekly mentoring meetings** with their tutors on Wednesdays.
- **A lecture on interview techniques**
- **A workshop on interview techniques**
- A **mock interview** (for students who are interviewed and on request)
- Access to a **career's advisor**
- Access to **UNIFROG**
- Access to a **dedicated academic advisors** for help with personal statements
- **Further lectures** on various topics from **UWE, University of Cardiff** and **University of Bath**
- **Support** from tutors, Deputy Director of Sixth Form and the Directors of Sixth Form.
- **A review meeting:** review the entire application line by line with an academic advisor or the deputy director of sixth form (for students who meet the internal deadline only)



UCAS application: the key aspects

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Choices:

things to consider when choosing a degree course and university

There are a number of things to consider with your next step:

- **Is it something you enjoy?** Will you invest the time and effort?
- Whether it's right for your **career path** – check with employers and professional organisations
- **The location** – city or rural, transport links...
- A **study and assessment style** that suits you.
- The **overall university environment** - extracurricular, clubs, and societies.
- Your **finances**.



Choices: 5 tools or criteria to use to help refine your search.

1. **Graduate recruitment patterns.** *What are the employment prospects?*

Table 4.6 Universities Targeted by Largest Number of Top Employers in 2022-2023

	<i>Ranking in 'Good University Guide' *</i>		<i>Ranking in 'Good University Guide' *</i>
1. Manchester	24	11. Oxford	1
2. Nottingham	30	12. London King's College	26
3. Birmingham	20	13. Exeter	13
4. Bristol	15	14. London School of Economics	4
5. Warwick	9	15. Edinburgh	10
6. Leeds	23	16. Bath	8
7. London University College	7	17. London Imperial College	5
8. Cambridge	3	18. London Queen Mary	36
9. Durham	6	19. Sheffield	21
10. Southampton	16	20. Glasgow	14

Source - The Graduate Market in 2023

* The Times & Sunday Times Good University Guide 2023



Choices:

5 tools or criteria to use to help refine your search.

- 1. Graduate recruitment patterns.** *What are the employment prospects?*
- 2. University league tables.** *A few league tables are listed below*
 - <https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/>
 - <https://www.theguardian.com/education/universityguide>
 - <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/>
- 3. Standard offers/tariff profiles:** *we recommend the following tools*
 - **UCAS:** use the search tools provided
 - **UNIFROG:** use the search tools
 - **Direct from University:** find out the entry requirements directly from the university



Choices: course search engines

3. Standard offers/tariff profiles: we recommend the following tools

- **UCAS:** use the search tools provided
- UCAS Hub is an online service with search engine tools, careers quizzes and personality quizzes

UCAS Discover Study Train & Work Advice For

Search

Your Hub

Your personalised homepage

Hub For you Favourites What to do Where to go Search

Welcome back Becca
You will be applying in 2024 - [Change year](#)

+ 2023 UNDERGRADUATE APPLICATION
Start a new application
Apply to universities and colleges to study Degrees, HNDs, and HNCs

[Start an application](#)

Your next steps

DISCOVER WHERE TO GO
Browse cities regions and learn what it like at Universities, colleges and employers

DISCOVER WHAT TO DO
Browse subjects and careers with related courses and apprenticeship

DISCOVER CAREERS
Try our quiz and get recommended careers that match your skills and personality traits

How to nail that personal statement
Morbi Leo risus, porta ac consectetur ac, vestibulum at Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit mollis, est non commodo luctus, nisi erat porttitor ligula lacinia odio sem nec elit. Nullam id dolor id nibh ultricies vehicula ut id elit.

[Read more](#)

YOUR CAREERS QUIZ

[View my matches](#)

[BROWSE CAREERS](#)



Choices: course search engines

3. Standard offers/tariff profiles: we recommend the following tools

- **UNIFROG:** use the search tools
- Unifrog is a careers and destinations platform that we as a college subscribe to. All students in the sixth form have a unique username and password to access their account.

The most helpful sections for reaching courses and universities are:

- Subjects Library
- Careers Library
- Universities (UK, US, Europe)
- Oxbridge
- Read, Watch, Listen (for wider reading)

Hello Nick, here's a summary of your progress so far...

5% complete

88th in year group

Want to move things forward? We recommend you...

Favourite a profile on the **Subjects library** 3.9%

See all your tasks >

ACCESS ALL THE TOOLS BELOW
Exploring pathways

Interests profile
✓ Quiz last taken 9 Apr 20: R and I and C
Start >

Personality profile
✗ Quiz not taken
Start >

Work environments profile
✗ Quiz not taken
Start >

Careers library Subjects library Know-how library

UNIFROG Parent login details

Code: **BESUfamily**

The code is live for 90 days and can be used at www.unifrog.org/code. It is only required once, for account creation.

Choices:

5 tools or criteria to use to help refine your search.

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 - **UCAS:** use the search tools provided
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 - **Direct from University:** find out the entry requirements directly from the university
- 4. Open days and visit days:** *When you visited, could you see yourself there?*
- 5. Personal factors:** *close to friends and family? Distance and transport? City, small town or campus? Living arrangements: colleges, halls or flats?*



Choices:

things to consider when choosing a degree course and university

- Choose 5 courses (or 4 for medics/dentists/vets) wisely.
- Have a range of choices.
- Eventually select only 2 (firm and insurance) but not until later.
- Make sure there's a "safety net" even if 4 A* are "inevitable", choose at least one safe option.

We recommend:

- 1-2 aspirational
- 2 achievable
- 1-2 "safety nets"



Choices: there are over 35,000 courses at over 400 universities.

Can you pick out the real degree courses from the fake?

<p>Contemporary Circus with Physical Theatre</p> <p>BA – Bath Spa University</p>	<p>Harry Potter studies</p> <p><i>Module in Education studies – Durham</i></p>	<p>Viking and Old Norse Studies</p> <p>BA – University College London</p>
<p>Pizza and food production</p> <p><i>Degree apprenticeship in management with Manchester Metropolitan</i></p>	<p>Brewing and Distilling</p> <p>BSc – Heriot-Watt university</p>	<p>Baking Science and Technology</p> <p>BSc – London Southbank university</p>

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What is the personal statement?

- The personal statement is the only place on the UCAS application to highlight your relevant skills, achievements, and work experience.
- It is your chance to **demonstrate very specifically** how your experiences and your qualifications are *relevant* to your choice of study.
- A maximum 4000 characters, or around 47 lines.
- ***NEW THIS YEAR:** The maximum is spread across three questions:
 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 useful?*



Why is the personal statement important?

- Very competitive courses may use them in their selection process.
- More commonly, most personal statements are just “screened” or “scanned through” or “skimmed”
 - *Admissions tutors will do a quick read to make sure you've got some of the correct skills and have chosen the correct course.*
- Sometimes personal statements are used as a basis for an interview.
- Personal statements can become important for ‘near miss’ applications

It is also a good exercise for you to do, for you to reflect!

- *The process of writing a personal statement should also highlight to yourself if the course you have chosen is right for you!*
- *If you don't have relevant experiences or don't like using the skills required for the course – then maybe the course isn't right for you.*
- *...or maybe you just need to do some work experience or more research to justify the choice to yourself.*

What personal statement support is there?

- **A personal statement workshop** delivered by St Bede's.
- **A personal statement workshop** delivered by the University of Bath.
- **A personal statement workshop** delivered by the Oxford Brookes university.
- **Fortnightly PSHCE lessons** with their tutors dedicated towards writing their UCAS applications, discussing their options and completing personal statements.
- Access to **UNIFROG** and **UCAS** personal statement builder tools
- Access to a **dedicated academic advisors** for help with personal statements
- Support from their **tutors**
- **A review meeting:** review the entire application line by line with an academic advisor or the deputy director of sixth form (for students who meet the internal deadline only)
- **Friends and family:**
- There is a wide amount of **online literature** you can read to know the kinds of things statements typically include.

If in doubt: the major bullet to assert is **why you want to study the subject** and **what makes you the right person** for the course.

A reader needs to come away feeling like the student is passionate, has the right skills for the course, that they know the course they are applying for and where it can take them.

This is why you must decide on a course first – your personal statement must be subject specific.

What now?

What should the students be doing over the next few months?

- **Research their options:** consider which course; consider the type of university (campus vs city)
- **Acquire wider experiences:** work experience, volunteering, extra curriculars...
- **Go beyond the specification for chosen course:** attend webinars, complete 'MOOCs,' wider reading of books or magazines
- **Write a first draft personal statement:** once a course has been decided on; write a first draft personal statement over the summer holidays.
- *If applicable* - **Prepare for any entrance exams:** prepare for any entrance exams if the university or subject requires it.



Admissions examinations

Early course research is key. Some courses and institutions will require an admissions examination. The most common are:

- UCAT (Medicine)
- LNAT (Law)
- Oxford and Cambridge assessments (Subject specific)

Registration for exams, such as UCAT is now open. However, we advise all students to select a later date to allow time to prepare. These examinations can only be sat once in the academic year and will be a determining factor regarding invitation for interview.

What now?

What should the parents/carers be doing over the next few months?

- **Encourage them:** find a balance between encouraging them but not smothering them; nagging them but leaving them alone; being positive but a realist
- **Challenge them:** question their motives, challenge them with alternatives and observe their reactions. Make sure their choice is well thought through.
- **Help them experience it:** help them attend open days or visit the cities or campuses.
- **Help them with the application:** read over their applications/their personal statements.
- **Support them:** be aware of pinch points in the year and have crucial deadlines in the family calendar.



Trip to Cardiff University

10 July (during enrichment week)

University open day experience at **Cardiff University**.

The day will include a campus tour, a lecture on a University topics and a panel with current students.

10 July (during enrichment/work experience week).

Coaches have been booked to return to St Bede's in time for buses.

Deadline for slips and payments to be made for **6 June** (Friday of the first week back after half term).

Key dates

- **UCAS launch:**
 - Applications open: 13th May 2025
 - UCAS parents evening: 15th May 2025
 - UCAS launched with students: 19th May 2025
- **Early application UCAS deadline:** *Oxbridge/Medicine/Arête group*
 - A complete personal statement first draft: **1st September 2025**
 - Internal deadline: **26th September 2025**
 - UCAS deadline: **15th October 2025**
- **UCAS application deadline:**
 - Internal deadline: **14th November 2025**
 - UCAS deadline: **14th January 2026**



Timeline of key dates

UCAS Launch

13 May - applications open
15 May UCAS parents evening
19 May UCAS launch with students

May 2025

Term 5:

22 Apr -23 May

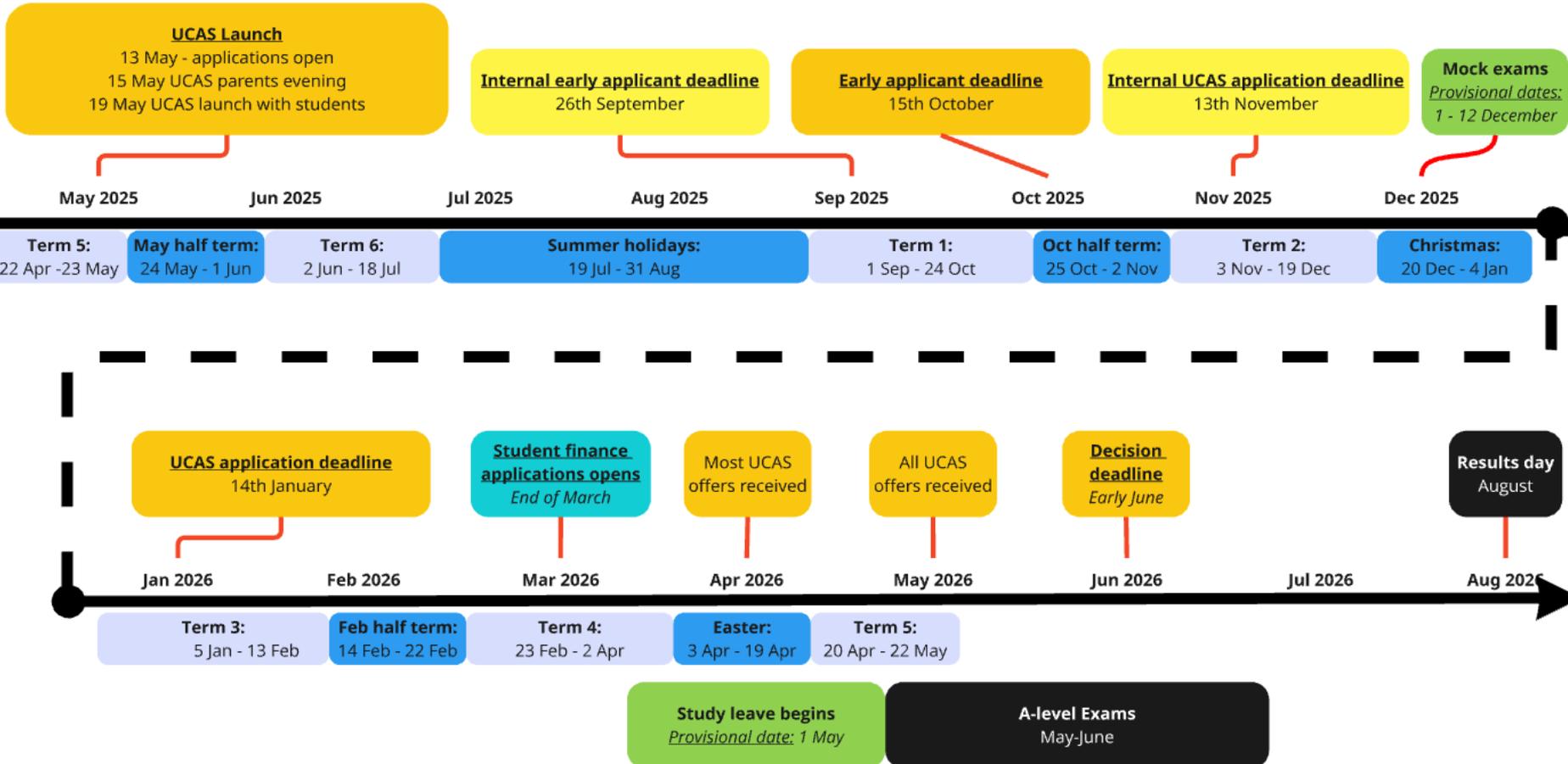


Timeline

why is the internal deadline in late November?



Timeline of key dates



Thank you for listening

Q&A

Contact details: sixth form team

- Miss Kirkbright
kirkbrightl@stbcc.org
 - Director of sixth form
- Mr Sutton
suttonn@stbcc.org
 - Director of sixth form
 - Head of Arete group (Oxbridge, Medicine, early applicants).
- Mr Brookin
brookinp@stbcc.org
 - Deputy director of sixth form
 - Head of UCAS process
- Dr Bailey baileyl@stbcc.org
 - Academic/UCAS advisor
 - HE+ co-ordinator
- Mrs Brennan
brennand@stbcc.org
 - Attendance officer
- Mrs Barton bartonl@stbcc.org
 - Safeguarding lead



Contact details: tutor team

- Mr Toffolo (6BJT)
 - toffoloj@stbcc.org
- Mrs Owen (6BSO)
 - owens@stbcc.org
- Mrs Hathaway/Mrs Coleborne (6BMHA)
 - hathawaym@stbcc.org
 - colebourne@stbcc.org
- Mr Hirani (6DMH)
 - hiranim@stbcc.org
- Mrs Dehondt/Mrs Tufon (6DLDH)
 - dehondt@stbcc.org
 - tufona@stbcc.org
- Mrs Liew (6PCL)
 - liewc@stbcc.org
- Mr Rutherford (6DSAR)
 - rutherfords@stbcc.org
- Mrs Priest (6PTHP)
 - priestt@stbcc.org
- Mrs Harman (6PJH)
 - harmanj@stbcc.org
- Miss Davies (6SBD)
 - daviesb@stbcc.org
- Mr Lyons-White (6SPLW)
 - lyons-whitep@stbcc.org
- Mrs Prewett/Mrs Button (6SSP)
 - prewetts@stbcc.org
 - buttond@stbcc.org



Frequently asked questions

What if the student misses the internal deadline?

- Due to the high volume of applications, we cannot guarantee these students a review meeting. We will do our best to accommodate applications made beyond this point, but applications may be processed and sent to UCAS without a full review meeting.

How can I help with a personal statement?

- Personal statements can take many different formats and there is a wide amount of literature you can read online to know the kinds of things statements typically include. However, a personal statement needs to simply communicate the suitability of the student for that course. The reader needs to come away feeling like the student is passionate, has the right skills for the course, that they know the course they are applying for and where it can take them. If their statement communicates this, then the student is on the right track.

What if the student is unsure about going to university or on what course to apply for?

- Some students may need more time to decide what they want to do after A-levels. We strongly advise students make a considered application rather than one to meet a deadline. Encourage these students to use the services available at school: speak with their tutors, academic advisors, careers advisors, sixth form leaders.

Why is the internal deadline earlier than the external deadline?

- With a high volume of applicants this year, the internal deadline is set so the school has enough time to properly process and check through applications. It is also set so that students can be more focused for their mocks exams.

Additional slides from
UCAS for extra support

Making the right choices

UCAS



What are the options?

- **Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE) and Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE):** first and second year of a degree course.
- **Higher National Certificate (HNC) and Higher National Diploma (HND):** HNC is a one-year industry specific course, and the HND is a two-year industry specific course.
- **Higher apprenticeships:** provide an opportunity to gain Level 4 qualifications or above, e.g. HND, or foundation degree while you work. Can take from one to five years to complete, depending on the course level.
- **Foundation degree:** flexible vocational qualification, combining both academic study and workplace learning. It usually takes two years to complete.
- **Bachelor's or undergraduate degree:** a three to four-year course which can also be available as a part-time option, allowing you to study and work.
- **Degree apprenticeships:** enable you to gain a full undergraduate or master's degree while you work. Degree apprenticeships take three to six years to complete, depending on the course.

UCAS Hub

Your discovery tool

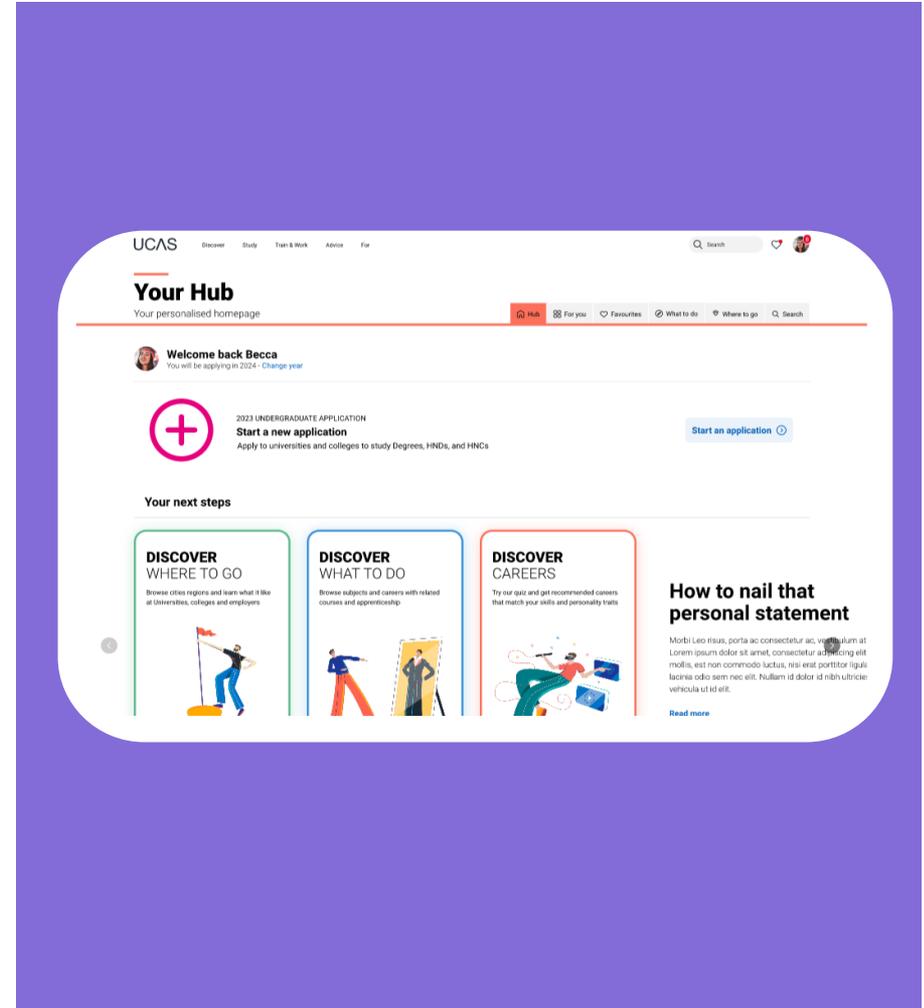
UCAS



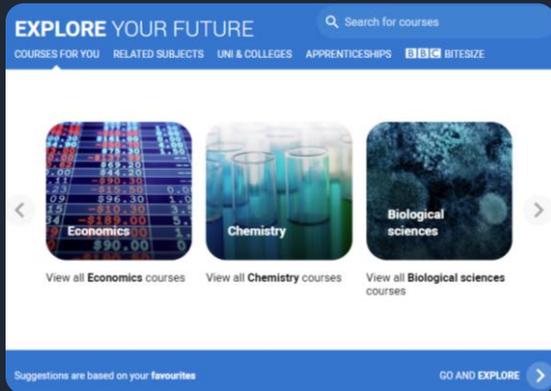
Starting your research

Register with the UCAS Hub to:

- explore careers, subjects, places, and apprenticeships
- find and favourite over 35,000 courses
- search for open days, events and virtual tours
- turn predicted grades into UCAS Tariff points
- speak to those in the know using [Unibuddy](#)
- speak to career, higher education, and application specialists by attending [Hub lives](#)
- take the [UCAS Quiz](#) to find your career matches
- start your application



Personalised tools to help

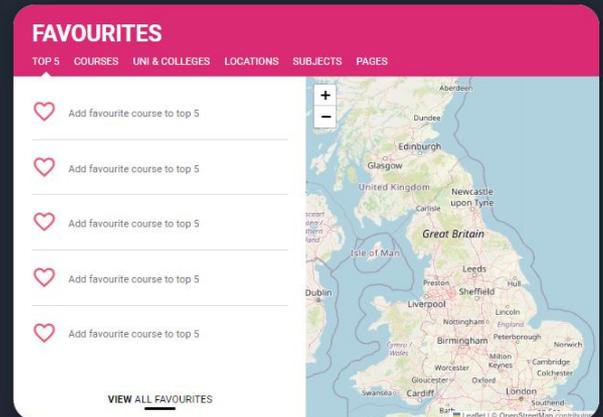


Explore your future

Discover what to do with subject, industry, and career guides; discover where to go with city, employer and accommodation information. Explore apprenticeships and course opportunities for you. Favourite as you go.

Your favourites

Search for courses, use to decide your top 5 choices, manage, keep those favourite information pages to hand. Manage and edit at any time.

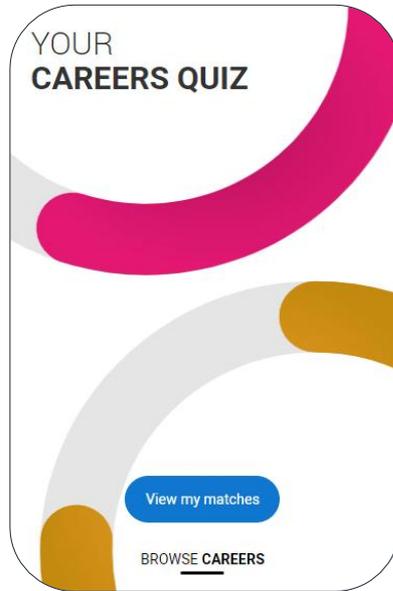


Personalised tools to help

UCAS Quiz

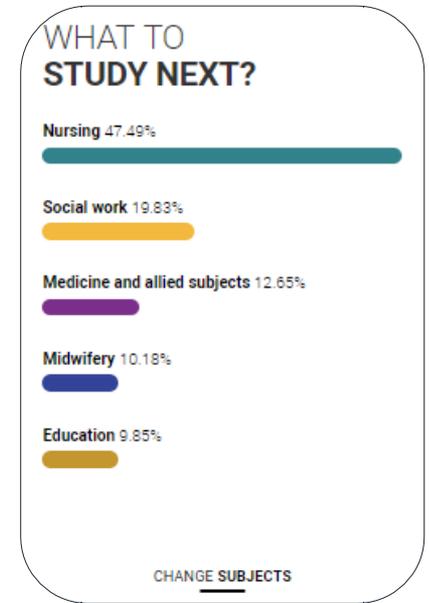
Find job and career ideas matched to your personality.

Plus a list of courses previous students studied in order to get there.



What to study next?

Broaden your horizons by exploring another subject area, that student's who did your qualification went on to study.

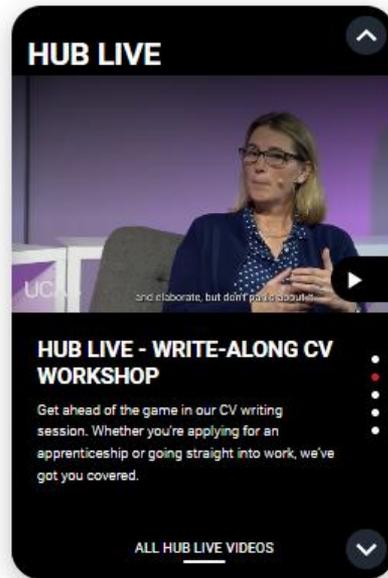


Our advice and events

UCAS Hub lives

Join our [live sessions](#) hosted by expert panels.

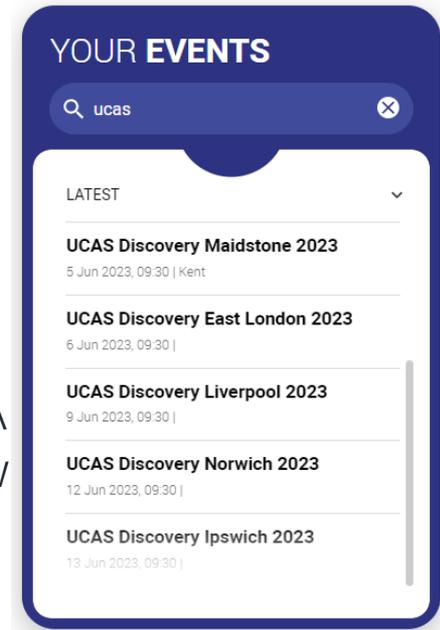
Ask questions to help you make an informed decision about the right path for you. University, apprenticeships or the world of work.



UCAS Discovery

Events and open days are presented based on your preferences.

Register straight from the Hub for our UCAS Discovery 'The Big Q&A Tour', with exciting new zones covering all pathways.



UCAS Exploring Apprenticeships

From UCAS Hub you can easily explore apprenticeships; learn more information and see a live selection of apprenticeship vacancies.

Set alerts to stay up to date.

APPRENTICESHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Software Developer Degree Apprentice, Ware UK, 2023 

Ware, Hertfordshire
A competitive starting base salary of £18,000 per year, which increases after year 1

[Apply for this job](#)

R&D Laboratory IT (Digital & Tech) Degree Apprentice, Stevenage, 2023 

Stevenage, Hertfordshire
A competitive starting base salary of £18,000 per

[FIND MORE](#)

Found 504 jobs

[Browse](#) [Search](#)

Keywords

Location

Within 5 miles

Nationwide
 Homeworking

► Specialism

► Sector

▼ Role Type 2 selected

Apprenticeship
 Other work and training

► Start Date

Get new jobs for this search by email

[Create alert](#)

TOP JOB

Radio Access Optimisation Apprentice (Virgin Media) 

- Leeds, Hammersmith , Runcorn , Wythenshawe
- £23,000
- Estio Training

Level 3 Radio Network Technician About the company: We're Virgin Media O2 and we're here to upgrade the UK. Virgin Media O2 combine...

[View details](#) 10 days ago | [Save](#)

Software Developer Degree Apprentice, Ware UK, 2023 

- Ware, Hertfordshire
- A competitive starting base salary of £18,000 per year, which increases after year 1
- GSK

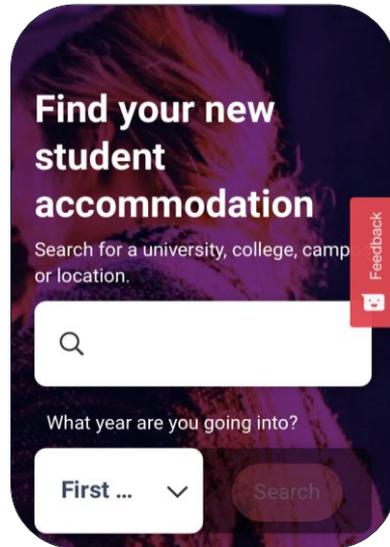
Join GSK's R&D (Research and Development) Apprentic Programme – Ware UK, 2023. Help us get ahead of disease together

[View details](#) 4 days ago | [Save](#)

What else do you need?

Accommodation

High on the list when considering where to study, but it's not always easy to compare what's on offer. Understand what options there are using our [accommodation search](#).



Personal Statement Builder

Designed to help you think about what to include, and how to lay it all out. It counts how many characters you've used, so it's easy to see when you're close to the 4,000 character limit.

