## Preparing for Year 13

- Researching university routes
- Finding out about apprenticeships
- Alternatives

# Why its important to prepare now

#### University

- Admissions open from the 5th September (but you can start your application already)
- Early applications for certain degree subjects
- Early applications for certain universities
- Many open days are in the Summer term/early Autumn term
- There are 1000's of degrees to choose from

#### **Apprenticeships**

- Some apprenticeships open from September
- Gain an understanding of the different types of apprenticeships out there
- Know when and how to apply
- Prepare for applications and assessment days

# Universities – what you need to know

#### Be aware of deadlines

- Oxford and Cambridge universities have an early application of the 16<sup>th</sup> Oct – you can only apply for one and not both
- Veterinary Science & Medicine have an early deadline of the 16<sup>th</sup> Oct
- All other courses have a deadline of the 31st Jan BUT try and work towards Oct half term

#### Other things to consider

- Do you need to sit an entry test? Some universities require additional testing for their degree courses. UCAT and BMAT for medicine/vet science, Oxford and Cambridge tests such as MAT, ELAT or PAT
- Would you need to create a portfolio?
- Do you need to have an audition?

## Practicalities of University

#### Type of University

- How far away from home are you prepared to go?
- City based, vibrant campus vs seaside/countryside based
- Distance from home plane ride away (eg Scotland/Northern Ireland) or closer to home?

#### Type of Course

- Does your course offer work experience? Is there a year in industry (often called a sandwich degree)
- Are you able to study abroad for your course?
- Could you combine your degree with other subjects (often called Joint Honours Degrees)

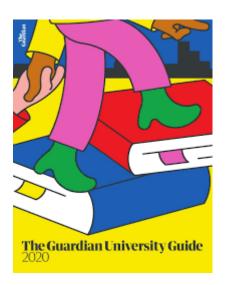
## What you can do now

- Research UCAS what do universities require of you?
- Make plans to visit <u>www.opendays.com</u> & virtual tours:
- https://www.ucas.com/un dergraduate/what-andwhere-study/open-daysand-events/virtual-tours
- Consider where students progress on to – are they in careers you are interested in?

- League tables which universities have the best reputation for your subject choice? Not always Russell Group or Oxbridge! Guardian League Table
- What do students think of their universities – www.thestudentroom.co.uk

Not sure what degree you could do?

www.informedchoices.ac. uk/subjects









opendays.com
university and college open days













### **Apprentices**hips

- Higher Level 4
   qualifications will
   need A levels or Level 3
   qualifications to apply
- Degree up to Level 6
   qualification again will
   need A levels of Level 3
   qualifications

Typical industries –
Engineering, Law, Finance,
Accountancy, Banking,
Social Media Marketing,
Nursing, HR – with more
being added!

#### Advantages:

- Employer pays for your training – this could be all the way up to degree level (no tuition fees!)
- You will get the opportunity to be mentored throughout your time in work
- You will be earning with a chance to progress in your industry

#### Level of apprenticeships



### Different levels of apprenticeships available

## Intermediate apprenticeship

- •Level 2
- •12-18 months
- •Equivalent to 5 GCSEs A\* - C

## Advanced apprenticeship

- •Level 3
- •18-48 months
- Equivalent to 2
   A-levels

## Higher & degree apprenticeships

- •Levels 4,5,6,7
- •24 months+
- •Equivalent to foundation degree level+



## What you can do now

- Start to explore some of the opportunities out there www.apprenticeship.gov.uk
- UCAS also has apprenticeship vacancies on its site
- www.ratemyapprenticeship. co.uk – excellent resource for apprenticeships
- Which companies would you like to work for?

- Also research 'early careers' and 'school leaving schemes'
- Think of the companies you would like to work for – do they offer apprenticeships?
- Sign up for job alerts and follow companies on social media
- Use your network –
   friends/family may well
   know of opportunities

## What's on offer – Higher Apprenticeships

































## What's on offer – Degree Apprenticeships





nationalgrid













J.P.Morgan









# WHEN DO EMPLOYERS RECRUIT APPRENTICES?



#### Source:



















## Alternatives – what if I don't feel ready?

Gap Year?

Doesn't have to be travelling!

Could be used to take time out to think about what you would like to do

You could consider gaining some work experience

Volunteering could be a good way to check out a particular career idea

You could undertake further study

Research!

www.ucas.com/alternatives/gap-year/gap-years-ideas-and-things-think-about

www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-workexperience/gap-year/gap-year-ideas – includes Conservation, Childcare, Social care, Animals, Teaching English, Summer Camps and Sport ideas!

## Where to get help

- Mrs K Taylor (Careers Adviser) – T6 in school Tues and Weds
- Whilst not in school please feel free to email:

### ktaylor@bwsgirls.org

Email for an appt or speak to 6<sup>th</sup> form team

- Look out for events in year 12 and 13 on 6<sup>th</sup> form VLE – Career insights from employers, apprenticeship workshops, university summer schools
- Consider work experience (could be virtual)

www.springpod.co.uk/virtual-workexperience-programmes/

www.ucas.com/ucas/events/find/type/exhibition



# GENERAL GUIDE TO UNIVERSITY



Stand for ambition **Kent.ac.uk** 

## INTRODUCTION

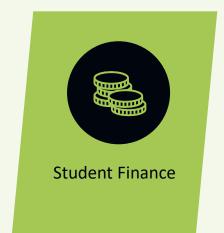


#### **CONTENTS:**









## Benefits of university



#### ACADEMIC

- In-depth study of topics
- Greater flexibility and choice
- Study with experts in their field
- Access to fantastic learning resources
- "Year in" study
- Opportunities to go abroad or get work experience
- Meet peers who share your interest

#### SOCIAL

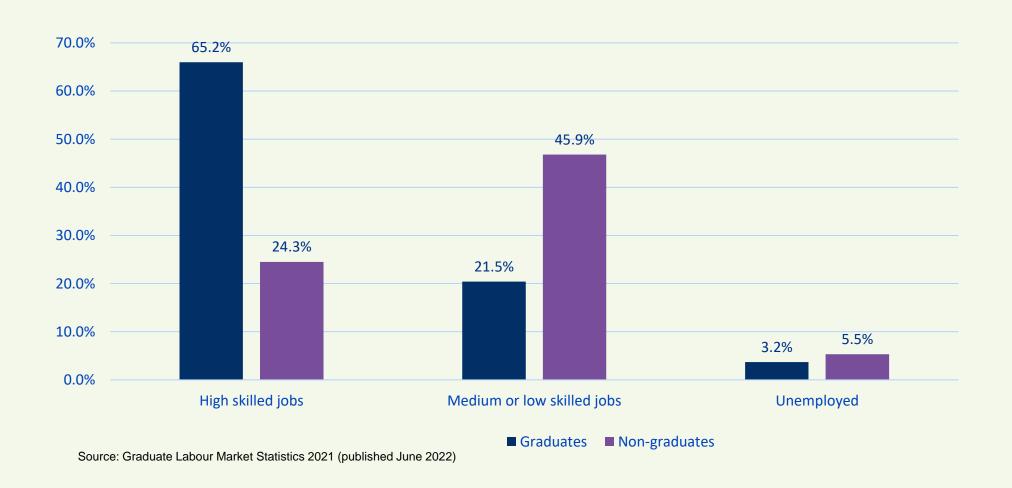
- New experiences
- Opportunity to meet new people
- Opportunity to discover campus life
- Clubs and societies
- Independence and freedom

#### CAREER

- All degrees are attractive to employers
- Graduate schemes offer progression in a company
- Potential to earn more money with a degree
- Different initiatives available to help develop skills eg Kent's Employability Scheme



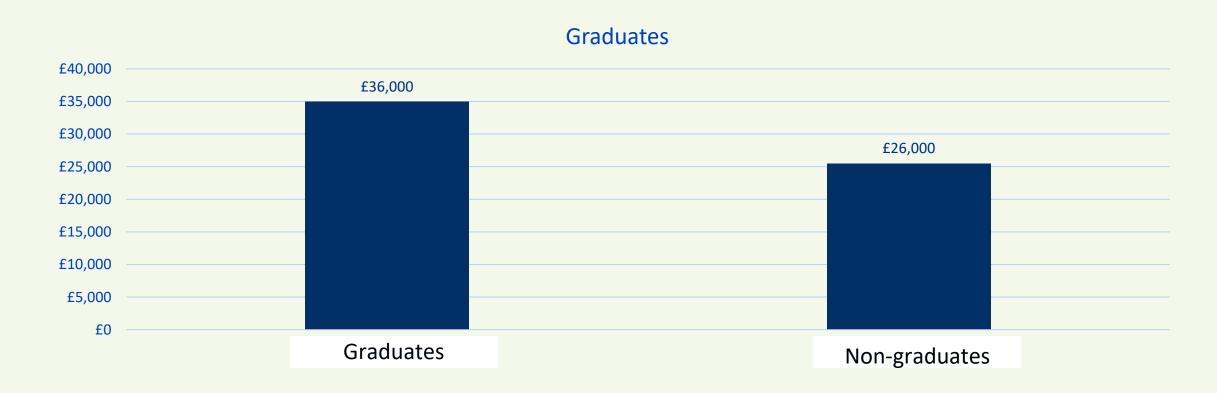
## The national employment picture





## Do graduates earn more money?

A graduate earns an average salary of £36,000 compared to an average of £26,000 for non-graduates.





According to a report by the Institute of Fiscal Studies in 2020 'Going to university is a very good investment for most students'

Over their working lives, graduates will be £100,000 - £130,000 better off on average by going to university, even after taking taxes, student loan repayments and foregone earnings into account.

In percentage terms, this represents a gain in average net lifetime earnings of around 20% for both men and women.

## What can I study?

There are over 350 institutions and over 35,000 courses to choose from on UCAS

This includes a huge variety of courses, from the very common to the very unusual

Kent alone has over 200 courses to choose from

People will choose courses based on lots of different criteria, for example:

- Careers prospects
- Personal interest
- University reputation
- Course content
- Entry requirements

















## **Course Content**

University courses will work very differently to A Level or GCSE courses

Studying a particular course vary greatly between institutions, with different topics covered or levels of choice available.

Some courses also offer you the chance to choose which topics you study within the course

Other courses might be more restrictive, requiring you to cover specific content in order to qualify e.g. Medicine, Social Work

#### **Birmingham**



BA History 1st Year

#### **Compulsory Modules:**

- Practising History (A): Skills in History
- Practising History (B): Skills in History
- Discovering the Middle Ages
- The Making of the Contemporary Modern World: Modern History c.1800 to the Present
- The History or Africa and its Diaspora
- The Making of the Modern World 1500-1800

#### **Optional Modules:**

- People and Places A and B
- Or an approved foreign language module

#### Kent



BA History 1st Year

#### Optional Modules may include:

- Monarchy and Aristocracy in England 1460-1640
- Introduction to the History of Medicine
- The Emergence of America:
   From European Settlement to 1880
- The Rise of the United States Since 1880
- Early Medieval Europe
- Later Medieval Europe
- · Victorian Britain: Politics, Society and Culture
- Revolutionary Europe 1700-1850
- The British Army and Society since 1660
- War and Society in Europe c.1779-1990
- Renaissance and Reformation 1450-1750
- A Global History of Empires: 1500-1850
- War and Diplomacy in Europe c.1850-2000
- Introduction to Military History (Part 1)
- Introduction to Military History (Part 2)

Make sure you look at the course content in detail- don't assume based on the title!





#### **YEAR IN COURSES**

- Add an inter-disciplinary year
- Engage with multiple subjects
- Broaden your career prospects

Learn how to code and create computer systems that people want to



Learn a new language and unlock a wide range of global career



Get the skills and knowledge you need to create and interpret data in the real

Study the essentials of reporting.



#### **STUDY ABROAD**

- Spend time studying overseas
- Experience other cultures
- Develop your skills and character



#### **PLACEMENT YEARS**

- Undertake a year of work experience
- Network with employers
- Broaden your skillset







## **Entry Requirements**

Each university will have different grade or subject requirements for a place on their courses

This can be for various reasons, such as the university's reputation or course content.

Make sure to check around for the right entry requirements to fit your expected grades.

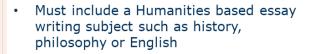
Universities set their entry requirements based on how demanding they feel the course is. Choosing a course with appropriate entry requirements is your interest as well.

University of **Kent** 

#### Comparison for BA History

#### **Kent**

· A Levels: BBB



#### **Birmingham**

· A Levels: AAB



 Must include A Level History, Medieval History or Ancient History Grade A



## Student Life

University offers many students the chance to move away from home for the first time

This can be a fantastic experience and has plenty of advantages

- Live close to your classes and university facilities
- Learn how to take care of yourself and live independently- develop everyday life skills
- Move into a supported environment where help is available from the university
- Live alongside students your own age and meet new people













## Clubs & Societies

- Societies and student groups are a huge part of university life, with potentially hundreds to choose from at each university
- Includes academic societies, hobby groups and social activism, among many others- there are no limits placed on what you can do
- Meet people with similar interests to you, take on roles of responsibility and develop additional skills
- In some cases, extra-curricular activities are just as important as your course itself



















## Sport



- Universities typically offer a wide range of sporting activities
- Sports can be represented at a range of levels, from recreational to national competition.
- Experience is definitely not necessary!
- Sport scholarship schemes









## Student Support

University offers a supportive environment with teams of professionals to help with everything from personal and mental wellbeing to practical, everyday issues.

Going to university doesn't mean to have to figure everything out by yourself, there is lots of help available

- Support with sensory impairments, specific learning difficulties, mobility difficulties, social/communication difficulties
- Support for students
   experiencing distress arising
   from psychological, emotional
   or mental health issues

- Residential Life Assistants
- Peer support groups
- Life skills workshops
- Therapy Dogs
- Stress management
- Financial Advice
- Counselling services
- Autism support













## A week in the life

10 contact hours a week...no problem!

	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	SUN
9am			LECTURE				
10am	LECTURE						
11am							
12pm			SEMINAR				
1pm		SEMINAR					
2pm	LECTURE				SEMINAR		
3pm					SEMINAR		
4pm							
5pm	SEMINAR						

## A week in the life



But now take everything else into account...

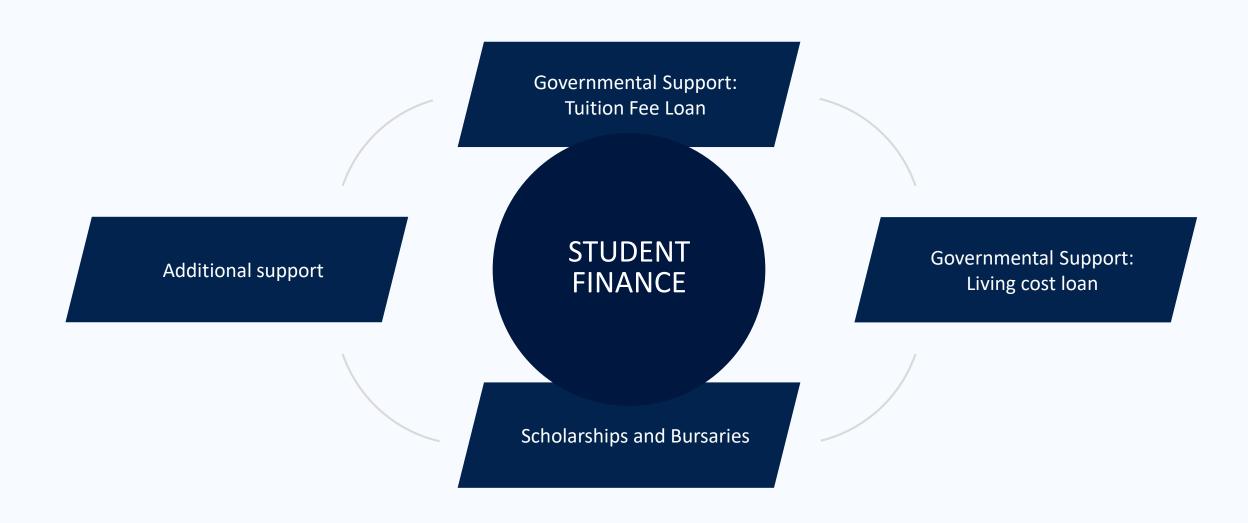
	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	SUN
9am			LECTURE	ESSAY PREPARATION/RESEAR	SEMINAR		
10am	LECTURE	SEMINAR PREPARATION	ESSAY PREPARATION/RESEAR CH	CH	PREPARATION		
11am	LECTURE	FREFARATION	SEMINAR PREPARATION	LUNCH	SOCIETY MEETING	WORKING	
12pm	PREPARATION	LUNCH	SEMINAR				LUNCH
1pm	LUNCH	SEMINAR	LUNCH	LIBRARY VISIT	LUNCH		WORKING
2pm	LECTURE		SPORTS PRACTICE		SEMINAR		
Зрт	SEMINAR PREPARATION	LECTURE PREPARATION (FOR WED MORN)		ESSAY PREPARATION/RESEAR CH	SEMINAR	LECTURE PREPARATION (FOR MONDAY)	
4pm				SEMINAR PREPARATION	GROUP WORK FOR PRESENTATION		
5pm	SEMINAR	SEMINAR PREPARATION					



## **Student Finance**



## What makes up your student finance?



## **Tuition Fee loan**



Available from the UK government to cover the cost of fees

Not means tested- maximum amount is always available

The loan is paid directly to the university, not to you (Student)

### Maximum UK Tuition Fee

£9,250

For full-time UK undergraduate students

## Living cost loan

Household income

Available from the UK government to cover cost of living

Means tested based on 2 criteria:

- Household income
- Residence while studying

Paid directly to the student in termly instalments



#### What counts as household income?

Your household income includes any of the following that apply:

- Your parents'/guardians' income, if you're under 25 and live with them or depend on them financially.
- The combined income of one of your parents/ guardians and their partner, if you're under 25 and live with them or depend on them financially.
- Your partner's income, if you're over 25 and live with them (even if they spend most of their time abroad).
- Income you get from your own savings, investments or property, for example dividends on rent.

Income assessment is based on the previous full tax year- i.e. 2022/23 if applying for the 2024/25 academic year

## Living cost loan

Maximum amounts for 2023-24



£

Parent/guardian home

Live at home while you study

UP TO £8,400

£

Elsewhere

Live away from home and study outside London

UP TO **£9,978** 

£

London

Live away from home and study in London

UP TO **£13,022** 

# Living cost loan

Household income for 2023-24



HOUSEHOLD INCOME	LIVING AWAY FROM HOME	LIVING AT HOME	STUDYING IN LONDON AND LIVING AWAY FROM HOME
£0 - £25,000	£9,978	£8,400	£13,002
£30,000	£9,265	£7,694	£12.277
£35,000	£8,552	£6,988	£11,551
£40,000	£7,839	£6,282	£10,825
£42,875	£7,429	£5,876	£10,408
£45,000	£7,125	£5,576	£10,100
£50,000	£6,412	£4,869	£9,374
£55,000	£5,699	£4,163	£8,648
£58,200	£5,242	£3,711	£8,184
£60,000	£4,986	£3,698	£7,923
£62,286	£4,660	£3,698	£7,591
£65,000	£4,651	£3,698	£7,197
£70,000	£4,651	£3,698	£6,485

Please note: students who qualify for benefits, or who are aged 60 or over on the first day of the first academic year of their programme, may qualify for different amounts

## Living cost loan

Parent/guardian contribution

- The amount you receive for your Living Cost Loan is directly connected to your **household income** unless you hold Independent Student Status.
- Student Loan Contribution Tool: <u>www.moneysavingexpert.com/students/student-loan-parental-contribution-tool</u>





"Depending on their income, parents may have to contribute towards your living costs while you're studying."

From 'Student finance: how you're assessed and paid 2023 to 2024' www.gov.uk/studentfinance

## Eligibility



### **Tuition Fee Loan**

Full-time and some Part-time students

You are one of the following:

UK or Irish citizen

Pre-settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme and you're an EU national or the family of an EU national

Have lived in the UK, EU, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway or Switzerland for 3 years prior to the start of your course.

### **Living Cost Loan**

Full-time and some Part-time students

Have indefinite leave to remain in UK as:

- UK or Irish citizen
- Settled under the EU Settlement Scheme
- Granted indefinite leave to remain for other reasons

UK resident for **three continuous years** prior to the start of the course

## Other Governmental Support



Disabled Students' Allowance

**Childcare Grant** 

Parents' Learning Allowance

Adult Dependants' Grant



### Kent's Financial Support Package 2022



- The University offers a generous financial support package for the duration of your degree.
- Kent has a minimum £3,500 financial support package for 2022 across three stages of full-time study, or more for course over 3 years.

#### Who is eligible?

- Those whose household incomes fall below £30,000 per year and who satisfy other socioeconomic criteria (e.g state educated, care leavers, DSA recipients).
- Full information on the 2022 package is published on our website: <a href="https://www.kent.ac.uk/guides/kfsp">https://www.kent.ac.uk/guides/kfsp</a>



# Repaying loans



Tuition fee loan + Living cost loan = Student loan

9% of anything OVER a set earnings threshold (£25,000)

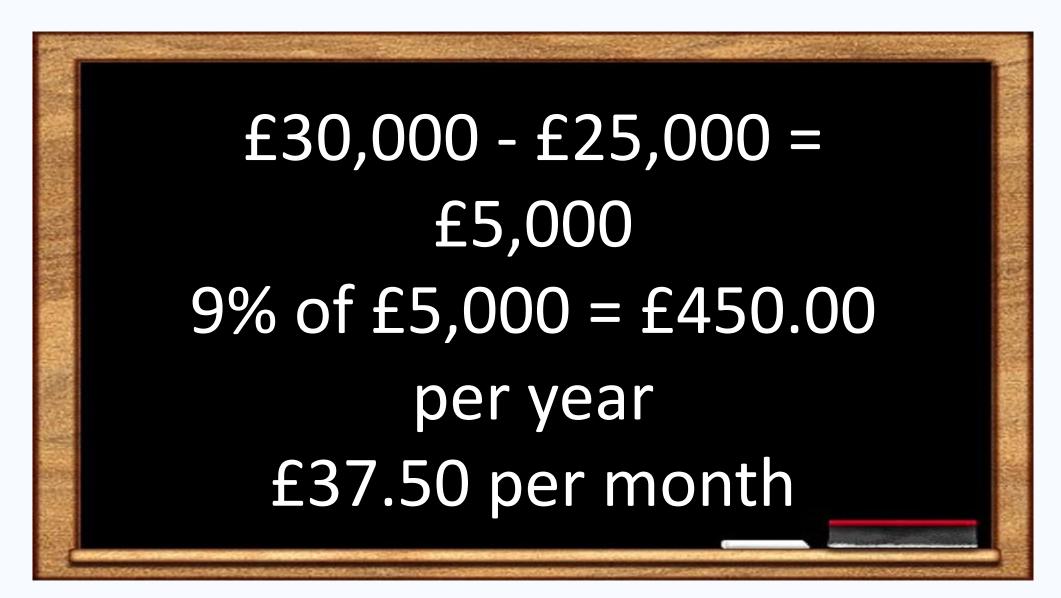
No payments until the April after you graduate

Scholarships and bursaries do not need to be repaid

Written off after 40 years

### Monthly repayments – 2023 Starter





### Monthly repayments: 2023 starters



### Monthly repayments based on salary

### Repaying loans: Interest rates for 2023 starters



In the new system, interest is fixed at RPI + 0%

This is intended to ensure that amounts repayed over the life of the loan are equal to the original amount borrowed in real terms

## Investment into your future







### University is a long-term investment into your future

- Greater salary potential
- Wider range of career opportunities
- Faster progression
- Social benefits

Remember the cost is in the repayment, not the fees or the total amount borrowed. Whether you borrow £50,000 or £500,000, your repayments are based on earnings

The problem for most students is not being able to borrow enough- can you cover the cost of living at university if your Living Cost Loan is below the expect cost?

### Conclusion

- University is an investment in your future- it costs time, effort and money, but it has considerable long-term benefits
- There is a huge array for courses and the experience can be tailored to your needs
- Don't just think about the academic perspective, consider the whole student experience
- The financial costs look imposing, but the true cost depends on your earnings and is spread over a long time



### **VISIT OUR CAMPUS**



#### **CAMPUS TOURS**

Medway
Tuesdays
Canterbury
Tuesdays and Thursday

#### **OPEN DAYS**

Canterbury
Saturday 1 July 2023
Medway
Saturday 24 June 2023



#### **FIND OUT MORE:**

www.kent.ac.uk

## Choosing the right place for you

- Style from traditional, with a focus on subject-based courses and research, to modern universities/colleges, with a greater focus on vocational courses.
- Location some are in large cities, others in small towns, by the coast or in the countryside
   it's all 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 useful to find out what jobs or further study students go on to.
- Tuition fees can vary between universities and colleges; check if there are scholarships or bursaries available.
- Living costs accommodation, transport, and food can vary enormously.

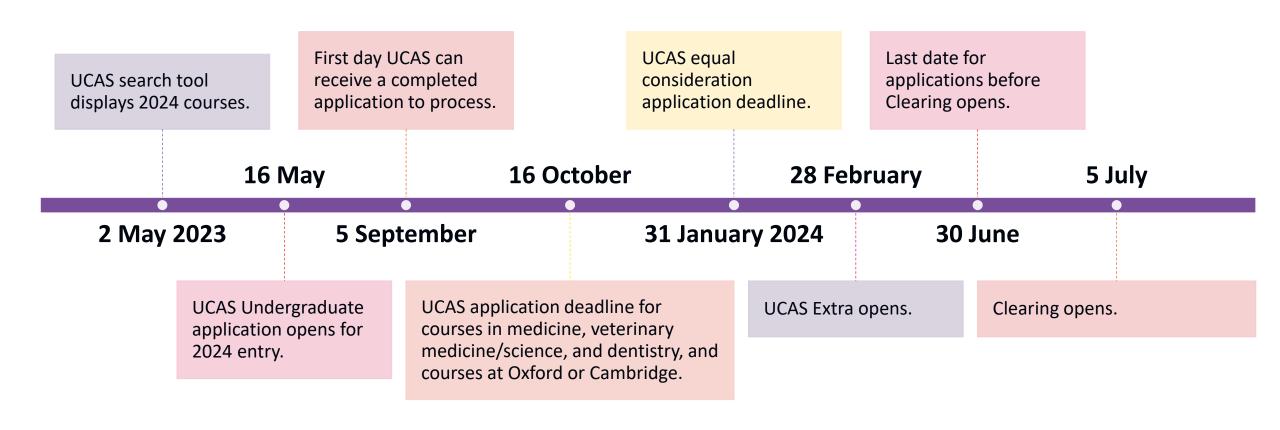
## Choosing the right course for you

- 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?





### When to apply for 2024 entry



# Key facts

- To start an application you need to register with ucas.com, you can register at any time.
- From 16 May 2023 you'll be able to start an application.
- Universities and colleges can't see your other choices when you apply.
- Apply by the equal consideration date.
- You have up to five choices, unless applying to study medicine, veterinary, medicine/science, dentistry – then it's four choices.
- You can't apply to BOTH Oxford and Cambridge.
- Applying costs £27.50.



2024 UNDERGRADUATE APPLICATION

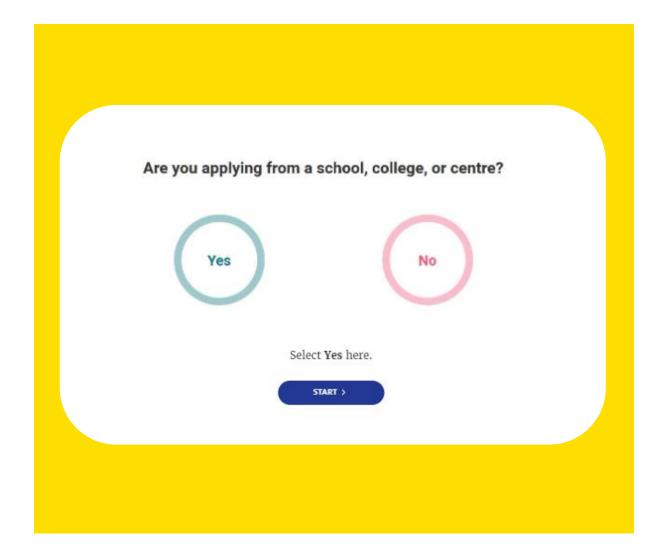
#### Start an application

Apply to universities and colleges to study Degrees, HNDs, and HNCs



## Linking to a school

- If you're applying with the help of a school, college or centre you should enter their 'buzzword' to link your application to them.
- The buzzword is a unique code set by your school, college or centre.
- By linking your application you're giving your school, college or centre permission to view and track your application.
- It also means they'll provide you with a reference, and send your application to UCAS on your behalf.

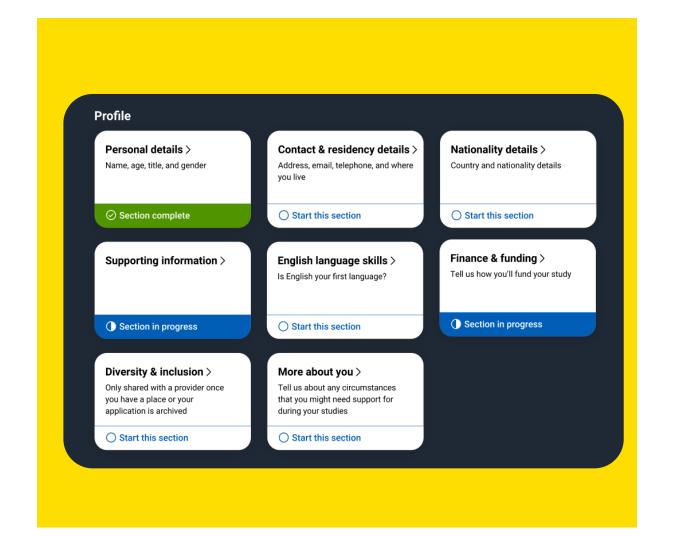




# Application

#### **Profile:**

- Personal details
- Contact and residency details
- Nationality details
- Supporting information
- English language skills
- Finance and funding
- Diversity and inclusion\*
- More about you



<sup>\* (</sup>for students with a UK home address)

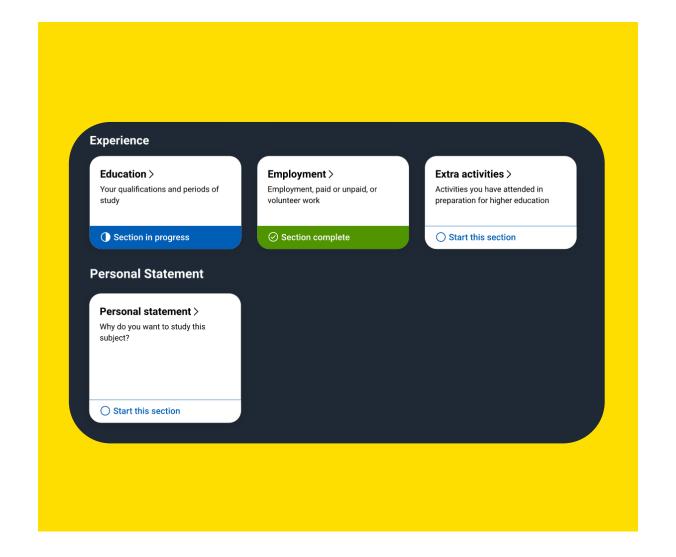
#### **UCAS**

# Application

#### **Experiences:**

- Education
- Employment
- Extra activities\*
- Personal statement
- Reference\*\*
- Add choices up to five

\*\*(not visible for students linked to their school/college)



<sup>\*(</sup>for students with a UK home address)



## The personal statement



The only section you have full control over



Your only chance to market yourself as an individual



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 allowed

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

plagiarism.



# Start early

#### Include:

- academic achievements, past and present
- why you're interested in the subject area
- your knowledge of the course area
- your enthusiasm to go beyond the syllabus
- what you enjoy about studying
- details of your independent study skills



### UCAS

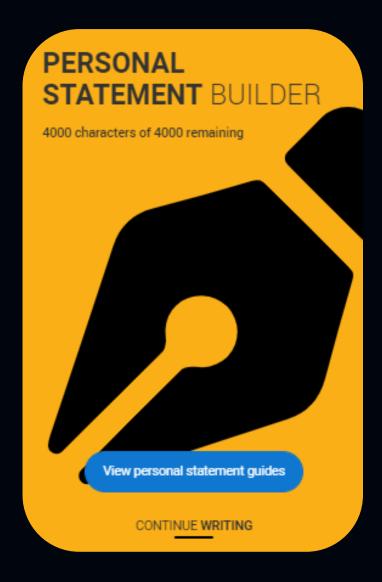
## Consider...

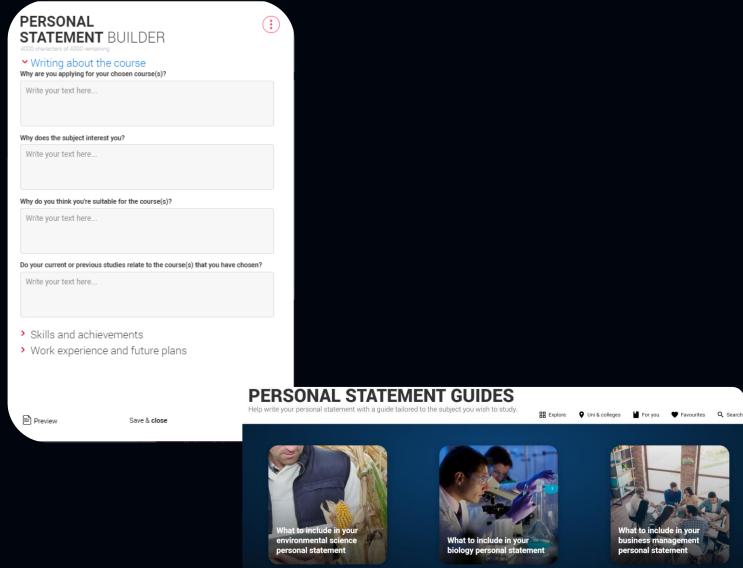
#### Universities and colleges will consider:

- Have you chosen the course for the right reasons?
- Can you achieve in a new learning environment?
- Do you have a range of interests and aptitudes?
- Do you have a depth of interest in the subject?
- Have you studied independently?
- Do you appear motivated and committed?
- Do you have good numeracy and literacy









#### UCAS

### **Decisions**

Universities and colleges will review the:

They may also ask for:



personal statement



admissions test



qualifications



interview



reference

III

portfolio/audition



# Tracking your application



2023 UNDERGRADUATE APPLICATION

#### Waiting for decisions

Universities or colleges are considering your application.

Providers have until dd-mm-yyyy to respond to your choices.



2023 UNDERGRADUATE APPLICATION

#### All decisions received

You've received a decision from all of your choices. You can now reply to your offers at any time.

Reply by dd-mm-yyyy



2023 UNDERGRADUATE APPLICATION

#### Waiting for confirmation

You're waiting for confirmation of your choices. If you meet the offer conditions, the university/college will confirm your place. Send them your results if requested.

Follow your application 24/7:

- see your choices
- keep personal information up to date
- view and reply to your offers

You'll receive one of three decisions from your choices:

- unconditional offer
- conditional offer
- unsuccessful



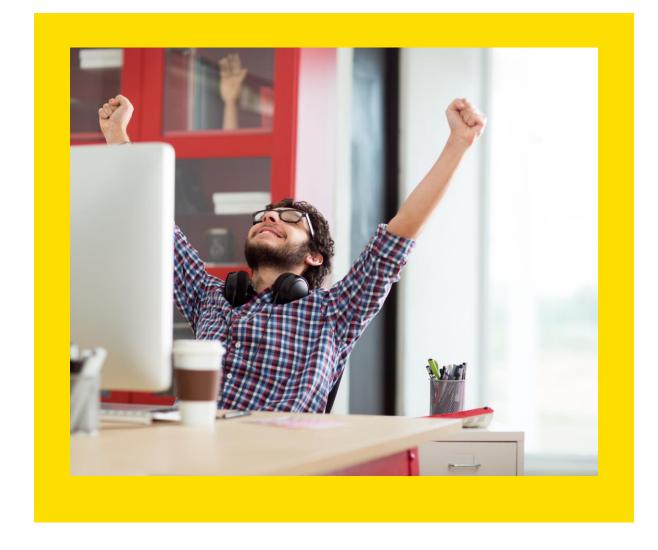
# Replies to offers

Once you have decisions on all your choices, you can choose two:

- One as a 'firm' acceptance your first choice.
- The other as an 'insurance' acceptance. This acts as a back-up if you do not get into your 'firm' choice.

Any remaining offers must be declined.

Once all your decisions and replies have been made, if you are not holding an offer, you may be able to use Extra or Clearing to find available places.





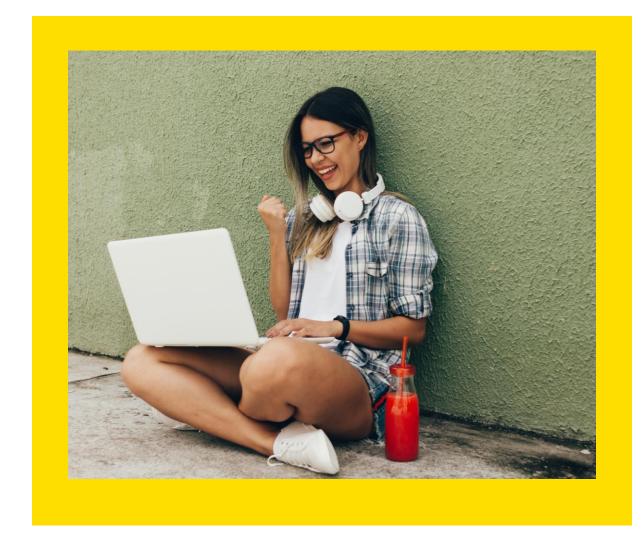
# Other options

#### **Extra** (28 Feb – 4 Jul)

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

#### Clearing (5 Jul – Oct)

- Apply after 30 June, receive no offers, decline all offers, not met conditions.
- Find vacancies from 5 July and add a Clearing choice to your application.





# When can I apply?

- Not one deadline
- Advertised throughout the year
- Larger organisations with multiple application processes may recruit earlier than smaller local organisations
- Higher apprenticeships with a Sep/Oct start tend to recruit in the previous academic year

www.ucas.com/apprenticeships





## How can I apply?

- Applications are made directly through the company or the education provider.
- There is no limit on the number of applications you can make.
- The application process might vary across vacancies, you could be asked for:
  - CV and Covering Letter
  - Application Form
  - In App/Site application
- You can apply for universities and apprenticeships at the same time!

### UCAS

## Our support

## UCAS Customer Experience Centre:

0371 468 0 468

#### From outside the UK:

+44 330 3330 230

Monday to Friday 08:30 – 18:00 (UK time)



@ucas\_online



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