

A young man with brown hair, wearing a tan hooded jacket and a black backpack, is looking down at a smartphone held by another person. The background is a blurred outdoor setting. A yellow rectangular overlay covers the left side of the image, containing the text 'Parents' evening presentation' and a small white horizontal line above it.

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Parents' evening presentation

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:

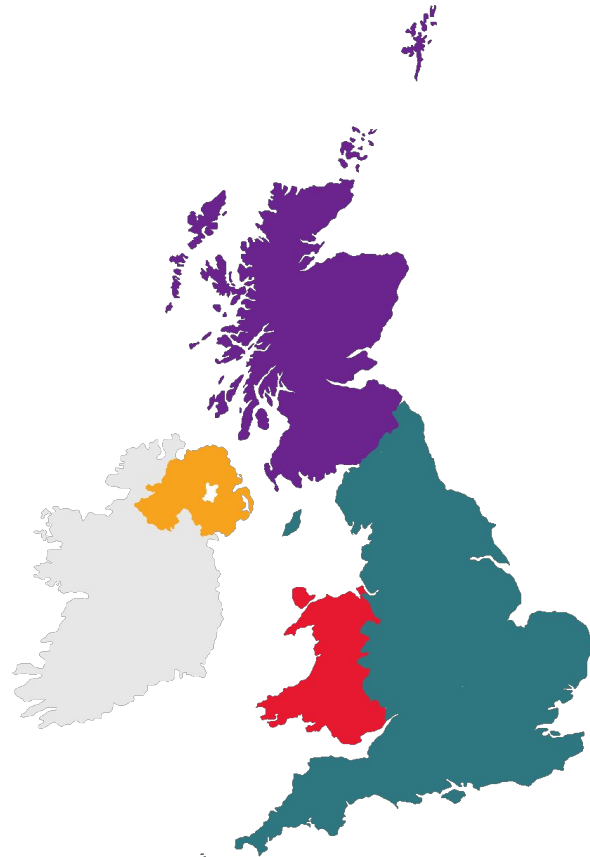
4 in Northern Ireland

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?

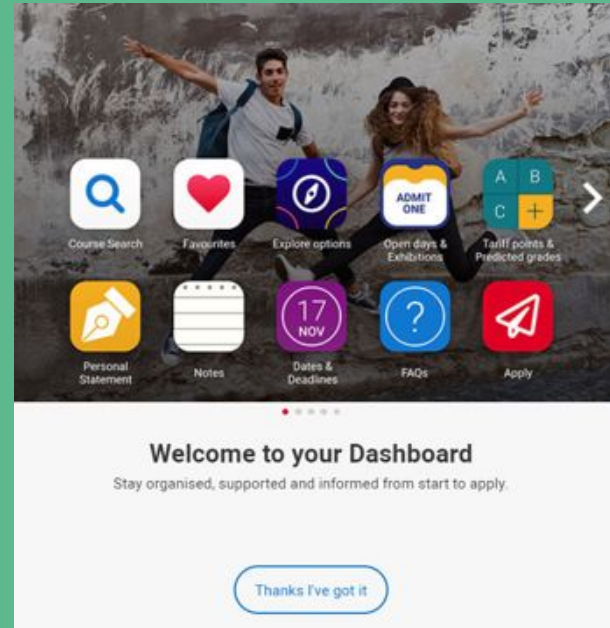
Research resources



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:

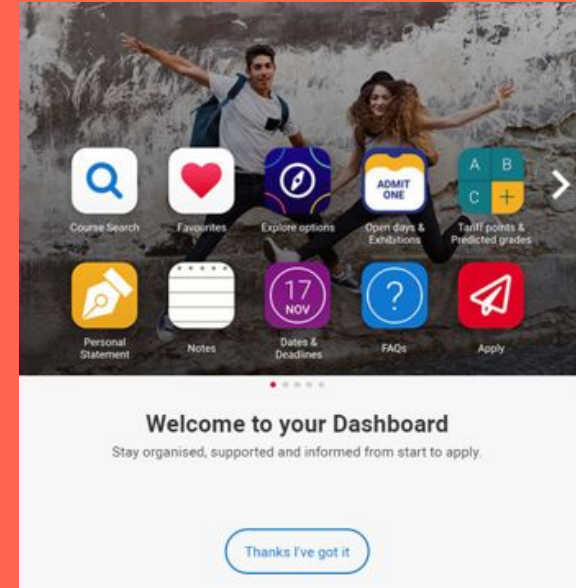
Distance from home, teaching satisfaction, work experience options, job outcomes...

Make it yours:

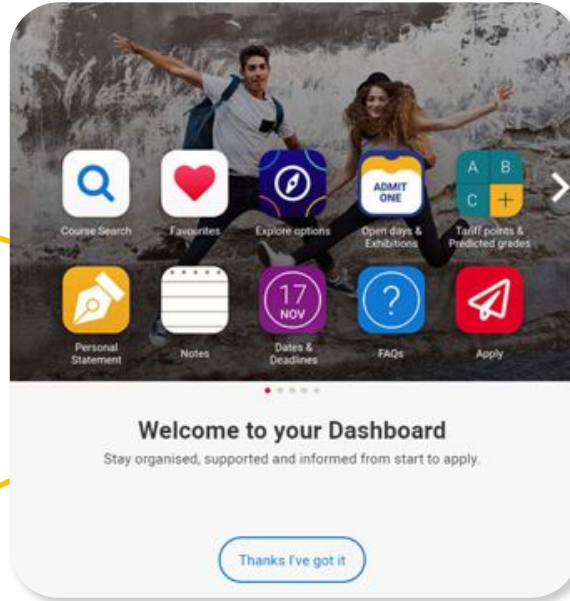
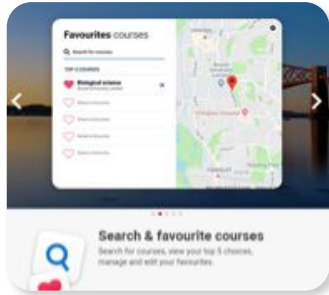
Organise tools, remove the ones they don’t need, and tick off their to do list. It’s their space, and their future.

You might not have thought of...

Expand horizons by pushing options they might not have considered.



UCAS Hub



Research – it's free!



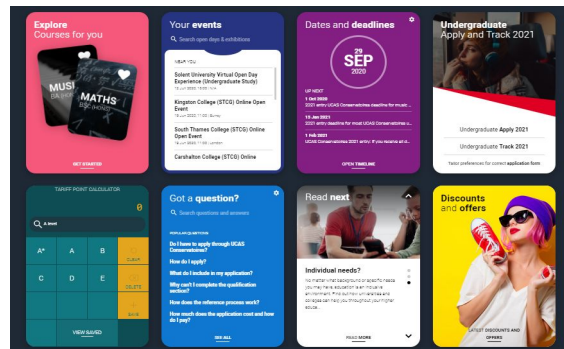
[New - Accommodation Search](#) - accommodation is high on the list when considering where you want to study, but it's not always easy to compare what's on offer. Understand what options there are using our new Accommodation search.



[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

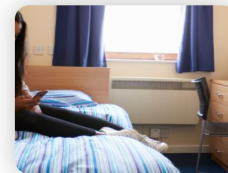
Find your new halls of residence

Search for a university, college, campus or location.

What year are you going into?



First year



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:

- one choice – £20
- two to five choices – £26



Equal consideration.



'Invisibility'.

When to apply for 2023 entry

- **19 May** UCAS Undergraduate Apply opens for 2021 entry.
- **8 September** First day for receipt of completed applications.
- **15 October*** Application deadline for courses in medicine, veterinary medicine/science, and dentistry, and courses at Oxford or Cambridge.
- **15 January*** Equal consideration application deadline.
- **25 February** Extra opens.
- **30 June*** 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:



Additional offer



Conditional offer



Portfolio/Audition

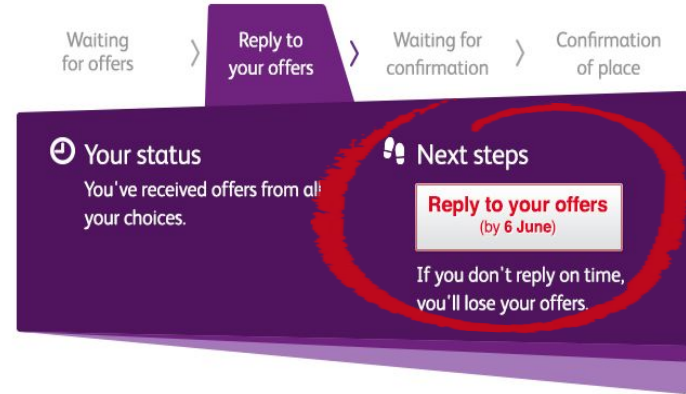
Tracking applications

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 (25 Feb – 4 Jul)

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

Clearing (5 Jul – 19 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!

A short, thick white horizontal bar is positioned above the 'Thank you' text.

Thank you

