

Parents evening presentation

Last updated April 2022

UCAS



What is UCAS?

UCAS is an independent charity providing information, advice and admissions services. We're there to help people figure out what the next step in education might be.

UCAS does:

- provide information, advice, and support
- process applications
- complete fraud and verification checks
- take part in education sector engagement

UCAS doesn't:

- make decisions or offers
- set entry requirements
- advise on finance
- advise on immigration or visas for individuals

Information and advice on



Higher
education



Apprenticeships/
traineeships



Studying
abroad



Gap year



Getting a job

Find out more: ucas.com

Why higher education?

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



Choosing the right place

- **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

- 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?

Articulation

- <https://www.pathways.ac.uk/>



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Pathways website. At the top, there is a teal header with the Pathways logo (a white location pin icon) and the word "PATHWAYS" in white. To the right of the logo are four navigation links: "Search colleges courses", "Search university courses", "FAQs", and "Support". Below the header is a dark blue section with the main heading "Find your route to university" in white. Underneath this heading is a paragraph of text explaining the website's purpose: "This website is here to help you search agreed pathways that can take you from college to degree level study in the regions of Stirling, Clackmannanshire, Fife, Falkirk, West Lothian, City of Edinburgh, Midlothian, East Lothian, and the Scottish Borders." Below this paragraph is another line of text: "For help navigating this website review our [demonstration video](#) or visit our dedicated page [about the website](#) to find out more." To the right of the text is a map of Scotland with several regions highlighted in different colors (green, blue, purple, brown, grey, dark blue).

LEAPS

www.leapsonline.org



We support students who have the potential to achieve a minimum of 3 Highers by the time they finish school and match one or more of the following LEAPS eligibility criteria:

- student who is first generation in family to apply to higher education or whose parents do not already have a degree. This includes students whose parents may have briefly participated in higher education but did not achieve a degree. (Please note that a student whose parent/guardian/carer has achieved any degree – irrespective of mode of study, type of institution, location of study – would not be LEAPS eligible under this criterion.)
- student from a low income background. (For instance where a student is entitled to EMA, free meals in school, or where the family is entitled to a benefit such as Universal Credit).
- student who is care experienced. (By this we mean where a student has been, or is currently, in care. For instance, this may have been in a formal setting such as looked after at home, adoption or foster care, or it may have been in an informal setting such as kinship care and living with a relative who is not their mum or dad.)
- student who is estranged. (By this we mean a young person who currently has little or no contact with either of their parents and/or their legal guardian. They may not have been formally supported with this by the care system or a social worker etc., particularly if the estrangement happened after the age of 16 and they were unable to access social services due to their age.)
- student who is a young carer. (By this we mean a young person who cares, unpaid, for a friend or family member who due to illness, frailty, disability, a mental health problem or an addiction cannot cope without their support.)
- student who lives in one of Scotland’s 20% most disadvantaged communities as defined by the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD20). Please check your postcode

Reach

- Reach is a national Widening Participation (WP) project, funded by the Scottish Funding Council (SFC).
- The project aims to support eligible S4-S6 pupils in local state secondary schools who are considering pursuing degrees or careers in law, medicine or veterinary medicine.
- Law, medicine and veterinary medicine are very popular and competitive programmes, which require more than just good school exam results. To be successful in your application, you will also benefit from extensive research into the programmes themselves and possible career pathways.
- This will help to demonstrate that you have a realistic idea of the life, skills and qualities required of a lawyer, doctor, or vet.

- Access to Creative Education in Scotland (ACES) is a national Widening Participation (WP) project, funded by the Scottish Funding Council (SFC). The project aims to support eligible S4-S6 pupils in local Scottish state secondary schools who are considering pursuing degrees or careers in art, design or architecture.
- These visual creative degrees require more than just good exam results from school.
- ACES is a multi-exit programme. We will work with you to support your creative development, explore your future options, and help you create a competitive application.
- We will also support you with impartial advice and guidance in choosing and applying for a visual creative degree that is right for you.

Sutton Trust Summer School

- Experience Edinburgh as a real student: living, studying and socialising in the heart of Scotland's vibrant capital city. Explore subjects you're interested in, take part in exciting social activities, receive expert support on your journey to university, and stay in real halls of residence.
- You can apply to join the University of Edinburgh's Sutton Trust Summer School if you are in S5 (Scotland), Year 12 (England & Wales), or Year 13 (Northern Ireland), and have always attended a state-funded school or college.
- You are more likely to secure a place if:
 - You have achieved at least five GCSEs at grades 9 – 6 (A*-B) (minimum of two of these qualifications at grades 9 – 7), or five A or B grades at National 5 (including one A). Including English and Maths. Where applicable, have taken subjects relevant to the subject stream applied for.
 - Your parents have not been to university.
 - You have been in receipt of Free School Meals or EMA whilst at secondary school.
 - You attend a school or college with a below-average A-level or Higher point score and/or a low rate of progression to higher education.
 - You live in a neighbourhood with a low rate of progression to higher education and/or a high level of socio-economic deprivation.
 - Priority will be given to applicants who have been looked after, accommodated or in care, and refugees.
 - The more criteria you meet, the more likely you are to secure a place. Not meeting all of these will not disqualify you.

Science Insights

- Science Insights is an exciting summer work experience programme designed to give school pupils a real insight into the work and life of research scientists across different areas of biological, biomedical and animal sciences.
- The non-residential, week-long programme takes place in late July. It includes presentations and discussions on a range of topics, such as:
 - ethics in research
 - the use of animals in research
 - various careers paths
 - a skills session to help with future university applications
- The programme involves all six research institutes in the University of Edinburgh College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine, providing access to its cutting-edge facilities and inspiring researchers across the University campus.
- Science Insights is for pupils who attend school in Scotland and are interested in studying biological, biomedical or animal sciences at university.
- The programme is for S5 pupils who will typically be moving into S6 just after Science Insights has taken place.
- The Widening Participation team works closely with the Science Insights team to ensure that pupils from a range of different backgrounds take part.

UCAS Hub

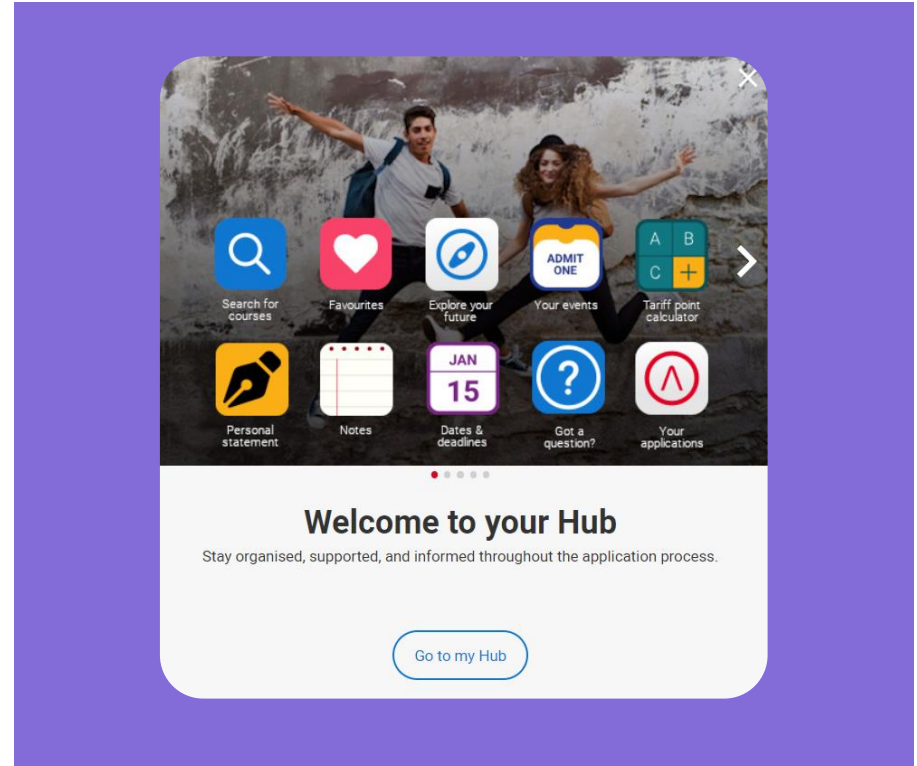
UCAS



Starting your research

Register with the UCAS Hub to:

- explore careers, subjects, places, and apprenticeships
- find and favourite from over 35,000 courses
- search for open days, online 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 the [Hub lives](#)
- take the [UCAS Quiz](#) to find your career matches
- start an application for 2023 entry (from May 2022)



Completing the UCAS application



Student registers for a UCAS Hub account to carry out research and start application.



Student completes all sections of the application and sends it to their school/college.



Teacher or adviser reviews the application and adds reference and predicted grades.

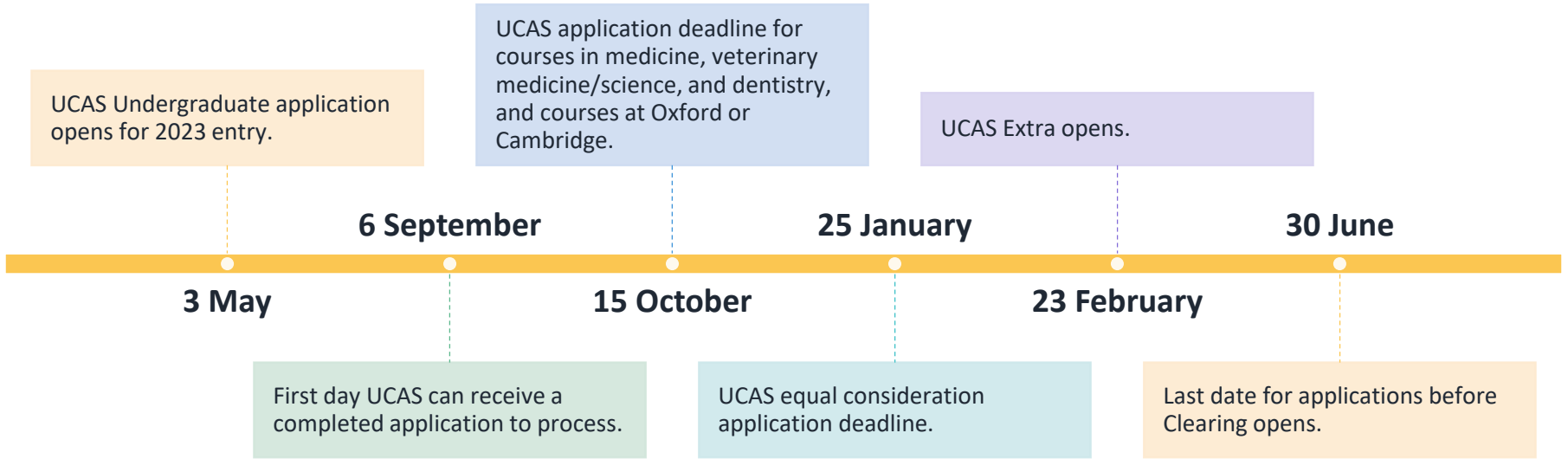


Applications are sent to UCAS by the school or college on behalf of the student.



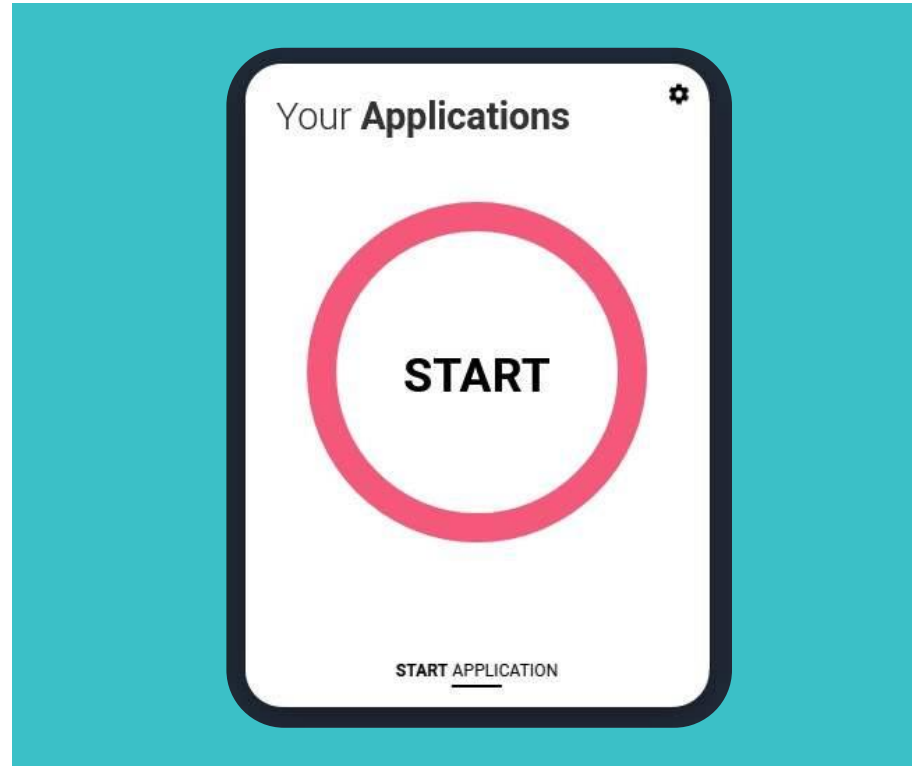
Universities and colleges make their decisions on the application.

When to apply for 2023 entry



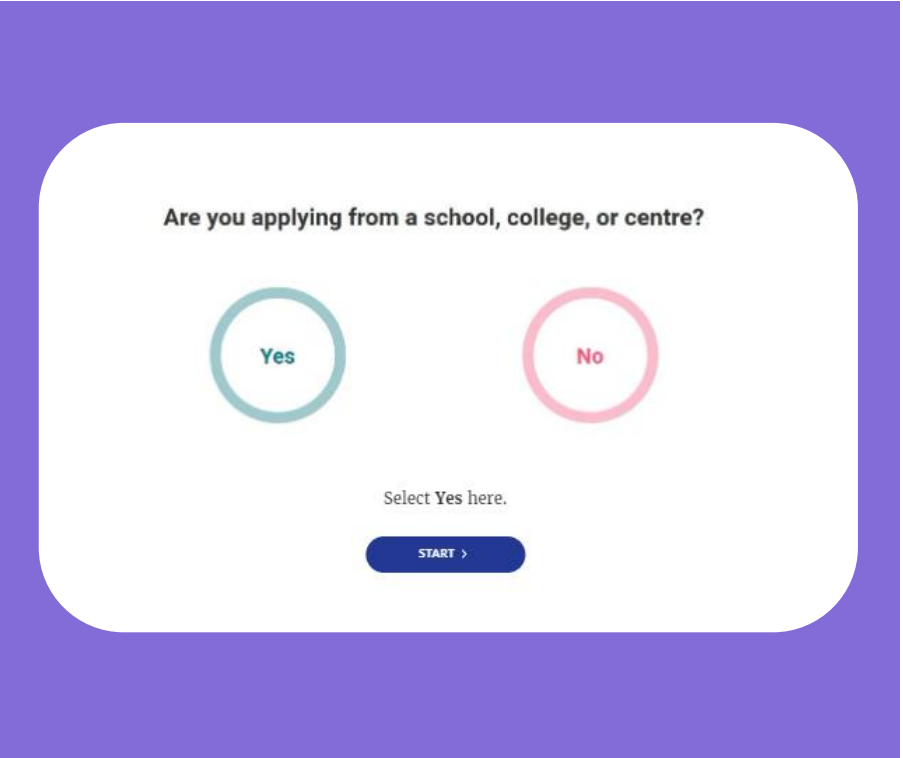
Key facts

- To start an application you need a **UCAS Hub account**.
- Register for UCAS Hub at any time.
- From **3 May 2022** you'll be able to 'Start' your application in your UCAS Hub.
- 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** £22.50 for 1 choice, or £27 for multiple choices.
- Apply by the **equal consideration date**.
- Universities and colleges **can't see** your other choices when you apply.



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.
- **Buzzword – KelsoHigh2023**



Are you applying from a school, college, or centre?

Yes No

Select Yes here.

START >

Application

Profile:

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

* (for students with a UK home address)

The screenshot displays a 'Profile' dashboard with the following sections and their completion status:

- Personal details >** (Name, age, title, and gender): Section complete (indicated by a green bar and a checkmark icon).
- Contact & residency details >** (Address, email, telephone, and where you live): Start this section (indicated by a blue bar and a circle icon).
- Nationality details >** (Country and nationality details): Start this section (indicated by a blue bar and a circle icon).
- Supporting information >**: Section in progress (indicated by a blue bar and a circle icon).
- English language skills >** (Is English your first language?): Start this section (indicated by a blue bar and a circle icon).
- Finance & funding >** (Tell us how you'll fund your study): Section in progress (indicated by a blue bar and a circle icon).
- Diversity & inclusion >** (Only shared with a provider once you have a place or your application is archived): Start this section (indicated by a blue bar and a circle icon).
- More about you >** (Tell us about any circumstances that you might need support for during your studies): Start this section (indicated by a blue bar and a circle icon).

Contextualised Admissions - Flags

- Care Experienced
- Estranged
- SIMD 20/40 postcode
- Military or Ex Military
- Engagement with Widening Participation
- Asylum Seeker/Refugee
- Health Issues (Physical/Mental)
- Young Carer
- Low Income
- Disability
- School attended
- 1st generation in family to go to Uni

Application

Experiences:

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

* (for students with a UK home address)

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

Security marking: **PUBLIC**

The screenshot displays a dark blue application interface on a yellow background. It is divided into two main sections: 'Experience' and 'Personal Statement'.


Experience Section:


- Education >**: Your qualifications and periods of study. Status: Section in progress (blue bar with a play icon).
- Employment >**: Employment, paid or unpaid, or volunteer work. Status: Section complete (green bar with a checkmark icon).
- Extra activities >**: Activities you have attended in preparation for higher education. Status: Start this section (blue bar with a play icon).


Personal Statement Section:


- Personal statement >**: Why do you want to study this subject? Status: Start this section (blue bar with a play icon).


The personal statement


 The only section students have full control over


 Students only chance to market themselves individually

 The same for all 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

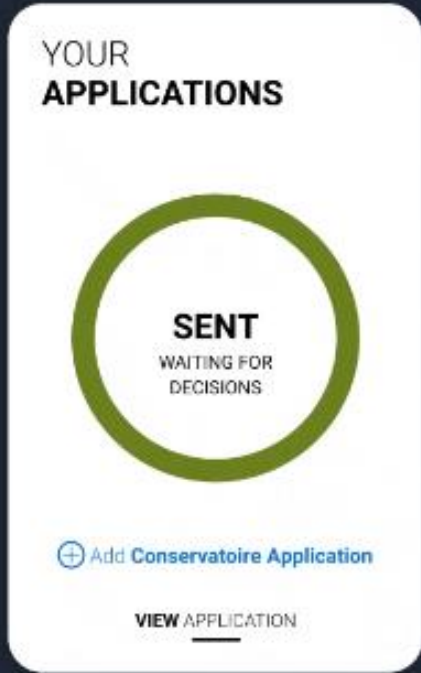


interview



portfolio/audition

Tracking applications



Head to UCAS Hub to:

- follow its progress 24/7
- see choices and personal information
- view offers
- reply to offers online

One of three decisions will be made:

- unconditional offer
- conditional offer
- unsuccessful

Replies to offers

Once decisions have been made on all choices, two can be chosen:

- one as a 'firm' acceptance – 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 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 (23 Feb – 4 Jul)

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

Clearing (5 Jul – 17 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.



What can students be doing?

- research, research, research
- attend open days and events – including online
- extracurricular and supercurricular activities
- work experience
- volunteering
- independent learning outside the curriculum
- 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 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 carefully read everything that is sent to them and don't book holidays at key times!