

Ridgewood
Sixth Form

RS

RIDGEWOOD SCHOOL

Preparing You For Life Beyond Sixth Form



Leger
Education Trust



A Student Guide

All students are expected to write an application for their Post18 progression. This will include a personal statement.

Your subject staff and tutors will contribute to writing references for each of you. This is to support any applications you make, as all jobs, apprenticeships, and universities will require a reference from your school.

In this guide, you will find videos and prompts to use when writing your application, along with timelines, deadlines, tips, tricks, and jargon busters around the language commonly used for Post 18 study.

‘Prepare for the road ahead’



Key Dates for 2026/2027

2026

28th April 2026

UCAS search displays courses for 2027 entry. Start your course/ university searches.

March 2026 (date TBC)

Y13 Mocks.

15th June 2026

Y13 Progression Exams Begin.

16th June 2026

UCAS Event at Leeds Beckett University, all Y12s attend for free.

6th July 2026

1st drafts of personal statements/ applications to be completed on Unifrog.

9th July 2026

Conservatoire* applications open for 2027 entry.

10th July 2026

All subject references to be completed by staff (FAO staff only).

1st September 2026

UCAS applications open.

9th October 2026

All form tutor reference to be finalised (FAO staff only).

1st October 2026

Conservatoire* application deadline for music applications.

15th October 2026

UCAS deadline for applications to medicine, veterinary, dentistry, Oxford and Cambridge.

11th December 2026

All other UCAS applications to be submitted.

2027

January 2027

Higher and Degree Apprenticeships * Vacancies are listed.

January 2027

Begin your searches for Apprenticeships – remember these often are advertised daily (unlike university courses).

13th January 2027

Deadline for university applications to receive equal consideration* for all university courses.

25th February 2027

UCAS Extra* opens (closes 1st July).

March 2027 (date TBC)

Student Finance* applications open.

31st March 2027

All universities must have sent decisions to applicants.

10th May 2027

Official exam season begins.

5th May 2027

Deadline for UCAS offers – you must choose your firm and insurance university offers by this date.

2nd July 2027

UCAS Clearing* opens.

19th August 2027

A Level Results Day/UCAS accept/ decline students based on conditional offers*.

** explained in the jargon buster (pg22)*

Levels of Study

In the UK, there are different levels of study: Entry Level and Level 1 through to Level 8.

You have all passed your Level 2 qualifications (GCSEs), and you are all currently studying for Level 3 qualifications in A Levels, BTECs or Diplomas.

There are different ways to gain the same level of qualification. For example, you can see from the table below that A Levels are a Level 3 qualification, as are Level 3 Apprenticeships, and a degree studied at university is a Level 6 qualification, which gains you the same qualification as a degree from an apprenticeship.



Level	QUALIFICATION		
	WORK-BASED	VOCATIONAL	ACADEMIC
8	Level 8 NVQ	Level 8 Award, Certificate, Diploma, Level 8 NVQ, Doctorate	Level 8 Award, Certificate, Diploma, Doctorate
7	Degree Apprenticeship Level 7 NVQ	Level 7 Award, Certificate, Diploma, Level 7 NVQ, Master's Degree, Postgraduate Certificate, Postgraduate Diploma	Level 7 Award, Certificate, Diploma, Master's Degree, Postgraduate Certificate, Postgraduate Diploma
6	Degree Apprenticeship Level 6 NVQ	Level 6 Award, Certificate, Diploma, Level 6 NVQ, Degree with honours, Graduate Certificate, Graduate Diploma	Level 6 Award, Certificate, Diploma, Degree with honours, Graduate Certificate, Graduate Diploma
5	Higher Apprenticeship Level 5 NVQ	Level 5 Award, Certificate, Diploma, Level 5 NVQ, Higher National Diploma (HND), Foundation Degree	Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE)
4	Higher Apprenticeship Level 4 NVQ	Level 4 Award, Certificate, Diploma, Level 4 NVQ, Higher National Certificate (HNC)	Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE)
3	Advanced Apprenticeship Level 3 NVQ	Level 3 Award, Certificate, Diploma, Level 3 National Certificate, National Diploma, Level 3 NVQ, Tech Level (T Level)	AS Level, A Level
2	Intermediate Apprenticeship Level 2 NVQ	Level 2 Award, Certificate, Diploma, Level 2 National Certificate, National Diploma, Level 2 NVQ	GCSE: grades 9-4, Level 2 Essential Skills, Level 2 Functional Skills
1	Traineeship Level 1 NVQ	Level 1 NVQ, Level 1 Award, Certificate, Diploma	GCSE: grades 1-3, Level 1 Essential Skills, Level 1 Functional Skills
Entry	Entry level Award, Certificate, Diploma Functional Skills Essential Skills Skills for Life		

University

vs

Application Process

Directly through UCAS website – there are processes and deadlines to adhere to (see the timeline on the previous page) and a small fee (currently £28.95 - this can be waived for students meeting a specific criterion).

Cost

£9,535-£9,790 tuition fees per year (England/Wales only) plus living expenses.
Ave. £50,000k debt on graduation (interest included).
Tuition and maintenance loans available.

Duration

Three years+.

Source of income

Part-time work on top of study to fund lifestyle.

Experience

Little or no work experience.
Academic skills and knowledge that are often hard to apply to a work environment.

Education level

Bachelor's degree or higher.

Networking

Social life, sports and activities and new connections.

If you're still unsure, remember that you're choosing between the two experiences, not whether to gain a degree. You'll still be able to achieve a university qualification with a degree apprenticeship.



VS Apprenticeships

Application Process

Direct to the employer, through company websites with varying application dates, deadlines, and start dates.

Cost

Free to you
Cost is funded by the employer and the government.

Duration

12 months – 8 years depending on the level of the apprenticeships.

Source of income

Earn while you learn – varying salaries.

Experience

On-the-job work experience: valuable practical and transferable skills. Usually, with study days to attend college or university.

Education level

Diploma, Bachelor's, or Master's degree options available.

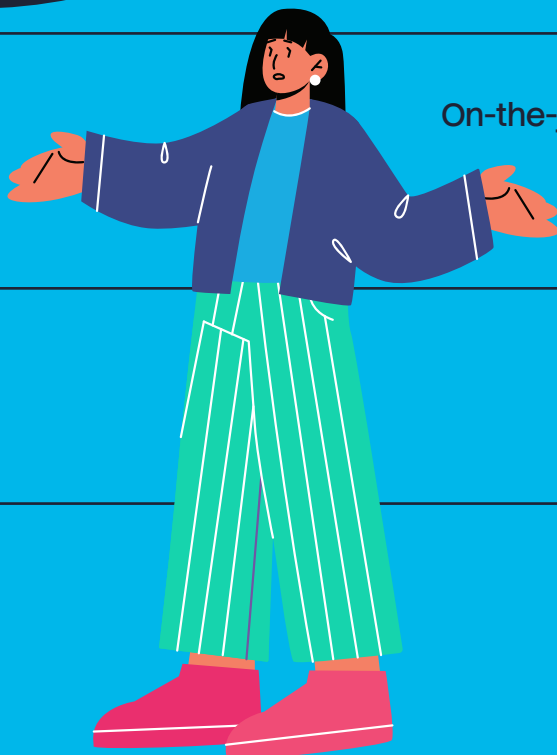
Networking

Start building your professional network.

84%

of apprentices were satisfied with their experience upon completion.

The Department for Education, 2024



Course/Industry Selection

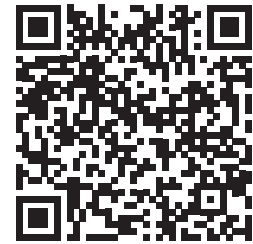
You can begin your course and industry searches on UCAS, government websites, Amazing Apprenticeships, company websites or on Unifrog.

Once you have an idea of the career, subject or industry you would like to enter, you can begin exploring your options, such as the different kinds of courses or routes into the field.

For example, if your interest is in sociology, you may be interested in social policy, international relations or social work, etc. If your interest is in engineering, this could be mechanical, electrical, chemical or civil, etc. If your interest is in computing, this could be cybersecurity, gaming or computer systems engineering, etc.

Add your searches and their details to the tables on the next two pages so that you can compare your options easily.

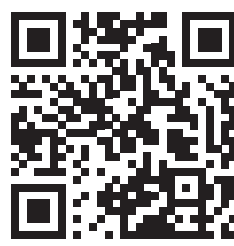
Use the QR codes to help your searches:



UCAS:
What are my
options?



UCAS:
Choosing a course



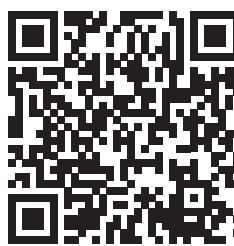
The Uni Guide



UCAS
careers quiz



Russel Group
Universities*



UCAS: Oxford
and Cambridge
applications tips



Unifrog
(you all have your
logs ins for this)

Universities

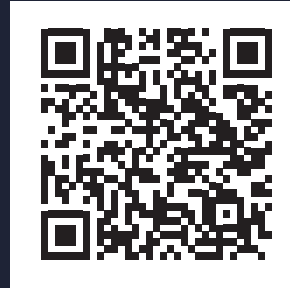
Apprenticeships



South Yorkshire
Apprenticeships



Government
Apprenticeship
search



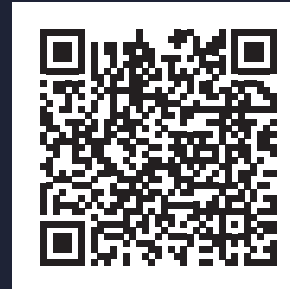
UCAS
Apprenticeship
search



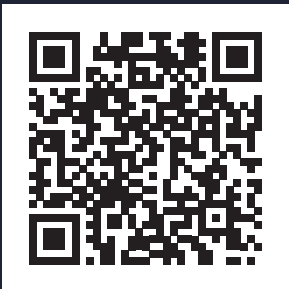
Amazing
Apprenticeships



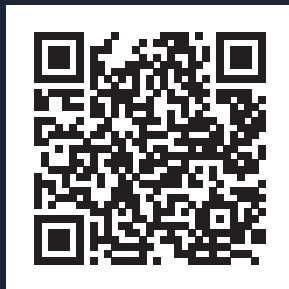
Apprenticeships:
Look on specific
company websites
E.g. The Army



Apprenticeships:
Look on specific
company websites
E.g. The Royal Navy



Apprenticeships:
Look on specific
company websites
E.g. The Royal Air Force



Apprenticeships:
Look on specific
company websites
E.g. Amazon



Apprenticeships:
Look on specific
company websites
E.g. Rolls Royce

Course details. E.g. name, duration, modules, university, company, apprenticeship/ qualification type	Entry requirements. E.g. grades/UCAS points	Type of learning. E.g. on the job, online, lectures, seminars.	How will I be assessed?	Options of year abroad/ placement year	Distance from home	Societies that interest me	Open days/visits to companies research	My ranking 1-5

Course details. E.g. name, duration, modules, university, company, apprenticeship/ qualification type	
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How will I be assessed?	
Options of year abroad/ placement year	
Distance from home	
Societies that interest me	
Open days/visits to companies research	
My ranking 1-5	

Applying to University

Applications Open: 1st September 2026 via UCAS

Applications Close: 15th October 2026 for early entry students

All Other Applications: Close on 13th January 2027 for equal consideration

Important Application Information

- University applications are **submitted via the UCAS website only.**
- You can begin filling in your application from 1st September.
- You can upload **only one application and one personal statement.** This is drafted and redrafted on Unifrog, and then uploaded onto the UCAS website with the help of Miss Armstrong, your personal UCAS adviser.
- You can choose up to five universities to send your application to. We advise you use all five, with a variety of entrance requirements to keep your options open.
- Miss Armstrong will upload your references from your teachers for you. You can see these before they are sent.
- There is a one-off small fee, currently £28.95, to send the application. Bursary students and others meeting a specific criteria could have this fee paid by the school.

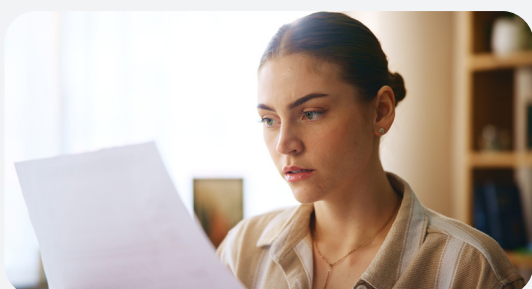


The university will then look at your personal statement, predicted grades and references and may respond in the following ways:

- They may invite you for an **interview**, ask for a **portfolio** or **recording of performance** (course depending)
- Give you an **unconditional offer***
- Give you a **conditional offer***
- Offer an **alternative course**
- **Decline** your application

When you have heard back from all your choices – no later than 31st March – you then have until 5th May 2027 to:

- Select your firm choice (your favourite university/course, often the highest offer)
- Select your insurance choice (your back up university/course, often a lower offer than your firm choice)
- If all your offers are declined, UCAS Extra* is another option which can be discussed



You will then:

- Sit your exams
- Wait for your results on 19th August 2027
- Secure your university place

Keeping your options open

- You can **apply for university AND also apply for an apprenticeship** to keep your options open
- Your personal statement may also act as an application to apprenticeships or employment opportunities
- You can apply in 2026 for September 2027 and then defer* your place until September 2028 which will be held for you by the university

UCAS Personal Statement

Your personal statement is a chance to get noticed for the unique talents and experiences you have. It's an important part of the application process as it's an opportunity to talk about yourself, your passions, and your commitments.

You will be guided to answer three questions (see below). Each answer will have a minimum character count of 350, which is clearly labelled on the question boxes along with an overall character counter so you can keep track. There is a 4000 overall character limit (including spaces).

It's important to make the most of the 4000 characters and write a personal statement that stands out. Use the QR codes below for UCAS tips on your personal statement.

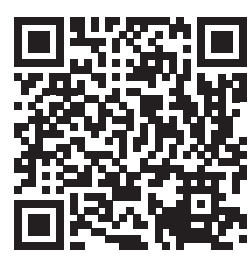
Use the QR Codes for UCAS tips on your personal statement:



UCAS: How to write your personal statement



UCAS: Official video how to write your personal statement



UCAS: Guides per subject areas for personal statement

The Three Questions/Sections You will be Expected to Answer

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. Outside of education, what else have you done to prepare, and why are these experiences useful?

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

Showcase your passion and knowledge.

Demonstrate why the course is a good fit for you and your future ambitions.

Your Initial Ideas (E.g. bullet points, thoughts, key words, achievements, and things to remember).

Suggestions

Your motivations for studying this course(s)

Have you been inspired by a key role model or moment in your life? What is driving you, and how has this led you to this course/industry?

Your knowledge of this subject area and interests

Is there a particular subject area you've researched and can't wait to learn more about, or a book or subject expert doing great things that have sparked your interest? Universities and colleges want to see that you have done your research so they can be confident that this is something you will enjoy and excel in. Could be the place to highlight super-curricular activities as evidence of curiosity and interest in the subject outside of the classroom.

Your future plans and why this is a good fit for you

If you already have a particular profession in mind you could talk about how you'll use this to launch your career. If you don't, think about what's important to you and your future, and how the knowledge gained from your chosen course(s) will help you achieve this.

Evidence

Show, don't tell, how you think these experiences have been helpful to you and the course you are about to undertake.

2. How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?

This is your chance to shout about the relevant or transferable skills you've gained from your formal education, and highlight your understanding of how they will help you succeed in this subject area.

Your Initial Ideas (E.g. bullet points, thoughts, key words, achievements, and things to remember).

Suggestions

How your studies or training relate to your chosen course(s) or subject area

This could be current or previous studies within a school, college, training provider, or a short online university course – any form of formal education. The main thing here is to focus on what's most recent and relevant to your chosen course(s).

What relevant or transferable skills you have that make you a great candidate

Maybe there are a couple of subjects that have helped you develop a core set of skills required for your chosen course(s), or a particular module that helped you understand where your interests and strengths lie, completing the EPQ or NEA/coursework, which sparked your interest.

Any relevant educational achievements

Universities and colleges will see your grades elsewhere on your application, so don't waste time talking about these. Consider accomplishments like entering and/or winning a school or national competition, serving as a student ambassador or team captain, landing the lead role in a play, or working with students in the lower school.

Evidence

Show, don't tell, how you think these experiences have been helpful to you and the course you are about to undertake.

3. Outside of education, what else have you done to prepare, and why are these experiences useful?

This is your chance to talk about any other activities you have undertaken outside of your formal education which further demonstrate your suitability for the course. This section is likely to be highly personal to you, and anything you include should reflect on why you're including it/why it is relevant.

Your initial ideas – bullet points, brain dumps, key words, achievements, things to remember etc

Suggestions

Work experience, employment, or volunteering

Whether in-person or virtual work experience or volunteering in the community; the key thing here is for you to reflect on your experiences and the skills gained relevant to your chosen course.

Personal life experiences or responsibilities

Is there a situation you've personally overcome that has influenced your decision? E.g. caring for a family member that has helped you develop essential qualities for the course like resilience and empathy?

Hobbies, extracurricular, super curricular or outreach activities

Think sports, reading, researching, community work, summer schools or fundraising – any activities outside of your studies that help further showcase why you'd make a great student.

Achievements outside of school or college

This could be a position of responsibility such as captain for your local club, a musical achievement, competition you won, or a qualification you've attained outside of the classroom.

Evidence

Show, don't tell, how you think these experiences have been helpful to you and the course you are about to undertake.

Examples by NetSixthForm



Section 1 - Medicine

My decision to study medicine originates from a desire, not only to develop an understanding of the complexities of the human body, but for a hands-on career in which I could apply this knowledge to improve the quality of life of others. The medical field is constantly evolving, and the prospect of the varied, stimulating and challenging career that it provides appeals to me.



Section 1 - Chemistry

The relationship between chemistry research and its role in solving real world problems drives my interest. I believe that, by studying chemistry, I will be able to better understand many of the major problems currently facing the world and contribute to solving some of them. In addition, the opportunity to study chemistry, with its many applications and capacity for new ideas, is appealing as it means there will always be the possibility of discovery and learning.



Section 2 - Geography

Throughout my study of geography I have been fascinated by the differences and inequalities visible in issues such as the development gap and fuel politics. In studying these and other phenomena in a geography degree, I hope to develop a greater understanding of the human condition and its repercussions upon society and the environment. My interest in difference and inequality originated when studying development; specifically, the geography of shanty towns where poverty and luxury coexist within metres of each other. At university I want to investigate how political and economic theories generate such contrast in space and human experience.



Section 2 - History

Studying Economics alongside History has given me an insight into another side to historical analysis, discovering the inevitability of some forces of change. This spurred me on to explore what happens when people challenge these forces. I attended the Radio 3 discussion 'Were the Luddites Right?' that demonstrated to me the importance of nostalgia in moments of change. I discovered this relationship between radicalism and nostalgia again at a recent Sutton Trust summer school, where I worked with academics on the issue of National Identity in the Interregnum.



Section 3 - Law

By taking part in the Amnesty International group at school I have become more interested in both international and human rights law. I want to have a better understanding as to how international organisations, like the UN, approach conflict resolution and human rights violations across the world.

I find the continuous legal debate regarding our security and liberty, which I frequently read about in broadsheet newspapers, intriguing. As a result, I have led a debate on the issue under the title of 'if you have nothing to hide, you have nothing to fear' at my school's debating society.



Section 3 - Engineering

Some of the 50-year-old machines I've worked on would have seemed modern at the time of manufacture but have been superseded in almost all areas. Certain design aspects, such as their serviceability and versatility, seem to have been lost, which makes me realise how fast engineering is developing. I enjoy the practical side of engineering but also appreciate its crucial dependence upon theory and design and the way my maths and physics skills can be applied.

I took part in a Low Carbon Energy course with the Smallpiece Trust focusing on marine engineering. We designed, tested, made and presented a tidal turbine, as a real engineering project. Working in a multidisciplinary team with state-of-the-art equipment has motivated me to take this subject further.

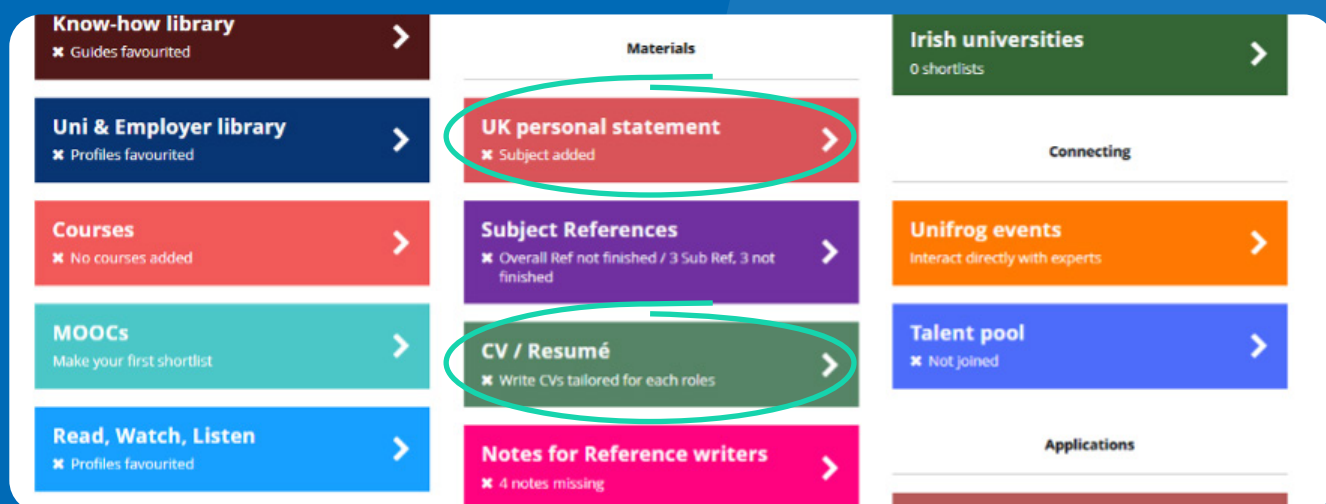
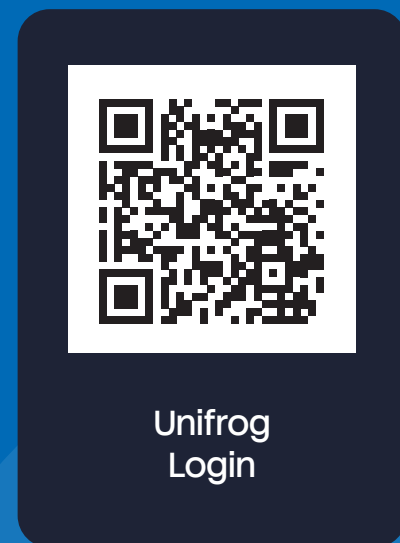
Using Unifrog to Draft and Redraft Your Personal Statements/CVs

At Ridgewood, we use Unifrog to draft, receive feedback, and redraft your personal statements, CVs and applications.

The three questions you will be asked when finally uploading to UCAS are here for you with further prompts and ideas for you to consider, as well as a structured approach to CVs.

Your first draft should be written and sent to your tutors via Unifrog by 3pm on Monday, 6th July.

To find the right section, scroll down on your home page to the UK Personal statement and/or CV boxes highlighted below.



FAQs

Can I use AI to help me?

No! This is about you, your interests, your knowledge, your experience, and what makes you stand out. If AI is suspected to have been used, your application will not be considered.

I don't want to go to university, should I still write a personal statement?

Yes, the process of applying for an apprenticeship is very similar, so having the personal statement ready for your area of interest in industry, with the help and guidance of your teachers, will be advantageous to you.

Can I apply to university after 13th January 2027 (equal consideration deadline)? Yes, but you will not be given 'equal consideration', unlike your peers who met this deadline.

Can universities offer places as soon as I have applied? Yes, some make offers within days of receiving an application, others take longer.

Can I apply for 2027 and go in 2028 instead? Yes, the university can hold your place for one year. This is called a deferred entry.

Can I apply to university without using UCAS? No, all UK universities use the UCAS platform.

Is there a fee for applying to a university? Yes, a fee of £28.95 is currently charged to apply. However, if this is the reason you feel unable to apply, please speak to a member of staff. All bursary students will have this fee paid by the school.

Can I apply for university and an apprenticeship? Yes, you can apply for both to keep your options open.

Can I get financial help?

Yes, the student loans company is specifically set up to help students pay for tuition and everyday living costs. There are also a variety of schemes which may be available due to your circumstances and/or your academic excellence.

What if I don't get the grades needed to get into my firm or insurance choice university? There is an option on results day to go through clearing. This is where universities advertise courses they haven't yet filled. If you meet their entry requirements you may be accepted onto their course.

What if I get higher grades than needed to get into my firm or insurance choice university and want to consider a more prestigious university? There is an option on results day to go through clearing. This is where universities advertise courses they haven't yet filled. If you meet their entry requirements you may be accepted onto their course.

What are UCAS points and how do I calculate them? See the information table under Jargon Buster (along with many frequently used terms) that follows, which clearly sets out all UCAS tariffs.

Understanding the Jargon Surrounding Post 18 Study in the UK

During preparation, it's essential to become familiar with the terminology and shorthand commonly used in the UK education system. This jargon buster will help to navigate the application process, understand different types of courses, and comprehend finance options.

Levels of study

The UK educational qualification system ranges from level 1 to 8. Students at 6th Form are studying Level 3 qualifications (e.g. A Levels, BTECs, and Diplomas). Degree-level courses start at level 4. Undergraduate degrees are typically at level 6, while postgraduate degrees begin at level 7, and doctorates are at level 8.

Level 3 course grades

Although GCSE students are graded from 1-9 (9 being the highest achievable grade), A Level students are graded from E-A* (A* being the highest achievable grade), and in BTEC courses are graded Pass, Merit, Distinction or Distinction*(Distinction* being the highest achievable grade).

UCAS

The Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) is the organisation that manages applications to higher education courses in the UK. When applying to university, you will use the UCAS system to submit your application, which includes your personal statement and details of your qualifications. There is a small administration fee to apply.

UCAS points

Each grade you receive in your level 3 courses equates to UCAS points. When you receive an offer from a university, they may ask that you gain 'x' number of UCAS points from your subjects. Alternatively, they may stipulate specific grades you need to achieve. UCAS points are calculated as below.

A' Levels		BTEC Subsidiary Diploma		BTEC National Diploma		BTEC National Extended Diploma	
A*	= 56pts	D*	= 56pts	D*D*D*	= 112pts	D*D*D*	= 168pts
A	= 48pts	D	= 48pts	D*D	= 104pts	D*D*D	= 160pts
B	= 40pts	M	= 32pts	DD	= 96pts	D*DD	= 152pts
C	= 32pts	P	= 16pts	DM	= 80pts	DDD	= 144pts
D	= 24pts			MM	= 64pts	DDM	= 128pts
E	= 16pts			MP	= 48pts	DMM	= 112pts
				PP	= 32pts	MMM	= 96pts
						MMP	= 80pts

Degree

A degree is an academic qualification awarded by a university upon completion of a program of study. Common types of degrees include Bachelor's, Master's, and Doctoral degrees. In the UK, there are several types of degrees across different educational levels.

Foundation Course

A foundation course is a program designed to help students bridge the gap between school and university. These courses often focus on enhancing skills in specific subjects and preparing students for undergraduate study. They are typically 1 year in length.

Undergraduate

An undergraduate is a student who is pursuing a bachelor's degree. This is the first level of higher education, typically lasting three to four years. E.g. Bachelor of Arts (BA), Bachelor of Science (BSc), Bachelor of Education (BEd), Bachelor of Engineering (BEng), Bachelor of Laws (LLB), Bachelor of Medicine, or Bachelor of Surgery (MB ChB), etc.

Postgraduate

A postgraduate student is someone who has already completed a Bachelor's degree and is now pursuing advanced study.

Master's degree

Including Master of Arts (MA), Master of Science (MSc), Master of Research (MRes), Master of Philosophy (MPhil), Master of Business Administration (MBA), Master of Laws (LLM).

PhD

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) is the highest academic degree one can achieve. A PhD involves conducting original research and contributing new knowledge to a specific field.

Conservatoire

A conservatoire is a specialised higher education institution focused on music and the performing arts. Students receive training in their chosen artistic discipline.

Russell Group Universities

The Russell Group's 24 members are world-class, research-intensive universities. They are unique institutions, each with its own history and ethos. Oxford and Cambridge are part of this, as well as other universities, for example, the University of Sheffield, University of York, University of Southampton, and Durham University, etc. These are the most prestigious universities in the UK and therefore the most competitive.

Oxbridge

The term used for Oxford and Cambridge universities together. These institutions often require students to take specific entry tests and achieve the highest grades possible.

Early Entry Students

Students wishing to apply for Oxford and Cambridge, or students applying for Medicine, Dentistry or Veterinary courses, will apply earlier than other students in the cohort, with the deadline in October of Year 13.

Admissions Tests

For some courses and universities you are required to pass an Admissions Test. Commonly, UK University Tests are for students who are looking to study medicine, dentistry, veterinary or entry to Oxford and Cambridge. These include UCAT, LNAT, ESAT, MAT, BMAT, PAT. Please ask a member of staff for further information.

Student Finance

Student finance refers to the financial support available to help students cover the cost of their higher education. This includes tuition fees and living expenses.

Loan Tuition

Loan tuition refers to the amount of money borrowed to pay for university tuition fees. Students typically repay this loan after they graduate and start earning above a certain income threshold.

Maintenance Loans

A maintenance loan is a type of financial aid that helps cover living costs while studying. The amount you can borrow depends on your household income and where you study.

Scholarships and Bursaries

Scholarships are financial awards given to students based on academic achievement, talent, or other criteria.

Bursaries are grants offered to students based on financial need to help cover tuition or living expenses. These are not loans and are therefore non-repayable.

Halls of Residence

Halls of residence are accommodations provided by universities for students. Living in halls can offer a supportive community and is often a great way to meet new people.

Campus

A campus is the physical area where a university is located, including buildings, facilities, and outdoor spaces. It is the hub of university life.

Deferring

A deferred entry means applying for a course and then taking a year out before starting it. After you successfully accept your offer, the university will hold the place for you for a year.

Placement Years

A placement year is an opportunity for students to gain practical experience in their field of study, included in some degree programs. This year typically takes place between the second and final years of study.

Sandwich Years

Sandwich years are similar to placement years but involve alternating periods of study and work experience, giving students more exposure to their field.

Joint Honours

Joint honours degrees allow students to study two subjects simultaneously, providing a broader educational experience and skill set.

Open Days

Open days are events hosted by universities to allow prospective students to explore the campus, meet the faculty, and learn more about their programs. These can sometimes take place virtually if required.

Conditional Offers

A conditional offer is an invitation to study at a university, contingent upon meeting specific requirements, such as achieving a certain grade in your exams.

Unconditional Offers

An unconditional offer means you have been accepted to a university without any conditions; you have met or exceeded the entry requirements.

Contextual Offers

Contextual offers consider the applicant's background and circumstances, allowing for a more flexible approach to meeting entry requirements.

Firm Choice

From the universities/colleges that have offered you a place, you will have to decide which is your preferred place and identify this as your 'firm choice'.

Insurance Choice

From the universities/colleges that have offered you a place, you will have to decide which is your second choice. This is usually a lower offer, allowing you some security in case you don't meet the requirements of your firm choice.

Clearing

Clearing is a process that helps students find available university places if they did not secure a spot during the main application cycle, if they did not meet the requirements of their offers, or if they exceeded their expectations and wish to apply for a more prestigious university. This typically occurs after A Level results are released, and only where places are still available on specific courses.

UCAS Extra

If you have not received an offer from any of your five university placements, UCAS extra allows you to add an extra sixth choice to your UCAS application.

CV or Curriculum Vitae is a summary of your skills, achievements and experience that you use to apply for jobs. Much like a personal statement for university.

Outreach Programmes

Outreach programmes are initiatives aimed at encouraging and supporting students from underrepresented backgrounds to consider higher education. These typically include students from low-income families, who are care-experienced, have a physical or learning disability, are from an ethnic minority background or meet other criteria chosen by the individual university.

Freshers Week

This is a welcoming week or orientation week at university, usually at the end of September. It is a period at the start of the academic year where new students are welcomed to university life with a variety of events, parties, and networking opportunities. It's designed to help students settle into their new environment, meet classmates, and explore the university and city before their lectures begin.

Higher Apprenticeships

Higher apprenticeships combine work and study, allowing students to earn a salary while gaining practical experience and working towards a higher education qualification.

Degree Apprenticeships

A degree apprenticeship is a particular type of job which combines work with higher-level learning, and which leads to an undergraduate or postgraduate degree. Apprentices spend most of their week at work, but they also spend at least 20 per cent of their time in off-the-job study or training. A university will support the degree, but the employer will pay for the full cost of the degree course.

Cover Letter

Often this accompanies a CV. It states your interest in the position advertised, why you see this as the right position/company for you, why you are right for the position, and where it might fit into your future.

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