

Parents evening presentation

UCAS



SACRED HEART



Personal Development

UCAS

- The Ask Programme- Apprenticeship Input
- DWP Employer Expectations and CV Writing
- Sunderland First Choice
- Jesus College Cambridge- Considering Oxbridge?
- Ernst and Young Degree Apprenticeships
- Future Me: Choosing the Right Course
- Competitive Applications and Russell Group Universities
- ESH and Employability Skills
- Dr Joel Butler Oxbridge Admissions: Aspiring Higher
- Medical Admissions
- Applying to Medical Courses with Newcastle
- Getting Finance Ready
- Newcastle University Visit
- Northumbria- Stress Management at University
- Newcastle Partners Programme

What Next?

What are the options available?

UCAS



Choices available



HIGHER
EDUCATION



APPRENTICESHIPS



GAP YEAR



GETTING A JOB

Your Hub

Your personalised homepage and discovery hub

Start your journey →



Hub



For you



Favourites



What to do



Where to go



Search



Welcome Sam

You're applying for Undergraduate courses in 2026 - [Change year](#)

[+ Start application](#)

2026 Application

[Start application](#)



Start an application

Apply to universities and colleges to study degrees, HNDs, and HNCs and dance, drama and music at conservatoires.

Your next steps | [Open legacy to do list](#)

DISCOVER WHAT TO DO

Browse subjects and careers with related courses and apprenticeships.

[Discover more](#)



What subject should I take?

Read our subject guides to see what might be right for you.



How to apply

All you need to know about applying to university, college or an apprenticeship.



DISCOVER CAREERS

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

[Take the quiz](#)



Key application dates

Find out what you need to do and when.



How to nail that personal statement

Writing a personal statement can be daunting. Follow our tips and advice to help make it easier.

DISCOVER WHERE TO GO

Browse universities, colleges and employers and learn more about cities and regions in the UK.

[Find out more](#)



A background photograph of three students sitting on a concrete ledge outdoors. On the right, a young man with a beard, wearing a light blue denim jacket over a grey shirt and blue jeans, is smiling and looking towards the left. He has a black backpack and is holding a blue book. In the center, a young woman with long pink hair, wearing a white sweater and blue jeans, is also smiling and looking towards the left. She is holding a black book. On the far left, the back of a student's head wearing a black beanie is visible. The background is a blurred urban setting.

University

What's right for you?

UCAS

What is UCAS?

UCAS is an independent charity providing information, advice and admissions services. They are there to help people discover what their next step 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

What are the options?

- **Foundation degree:** flexible vocational qualification, combining both academic study and workplace learning. It usually takes two years to complete.
- **Foundation Year:** A foundation year is a programme that students can complete before starting their undergraduate degree, which allows them to gain extra skills and prepare for university study
- **Undergraduate degree:** a three to four-year course which can also be available as a part-time option, allowing you to study and work.
- **Degree apprenticeships:** enable you to gain a full undergraduate or master's degree while you work. Degree apprenticeships take three to six years to complete, depending on the course.

Choosing the university

- **Type** – 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.
- **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 from one university to the next.
- 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?

Student finance

- Don't start to repay the loan until you earn over £25,000
- You'll repay 9% of your income over the £25,000
- Monthly repayments are based on what you earn, not what you owe
- You'll be charged 3.2% interest
- The loan is cancelled after 40 years
- Tuition fees £10,050
- Maintenance loan – means tested
- Grants/scholarship/bursaries
- Please see the Student Finance England website for all Student Finance information

UCAS Applications

How to apply

UCAS



KEY DATES AT A GLANCE

2026

- ▶ **28 April:** Courses starting in 2027 are available in the UCAS search tool.
- ▶ **12 May:** UCAS application live for registrations for 2027 entry courses. Your child can start their application but cannot submit it to UCAS until September.
- ▶ **9 July:** Conservatoire applications open for 2027 entry. From this date, applicants can register, pay, and send their applications.
- ▶ **1 September:** Completed UCAS applications can be paid for and sent to UCAS. Applications can't be sent until all sections are complete, the reference is added, and the application fee has been paid.
- ▶ **1 October (18:00 UK time):** Application deadline for conservatoire music applications. Applications for dance, drama, and musical theatre courses may have a different deadline – check conservatoires' websites for information.

15 October (18:00 UK time):

Deadline for applications to the universities of Oxford and Cambridge, and for most courses in medicine, dentistry, and veterinary medicine/science. An application can still be sent after this date, but the universities and colleges concerned cannot guarantee they'll give it equal consideration. Choices with a different deadline can be added later, but you can only have five choices in total.

TIP

Encourage your child to leave contingency time before the UCAS deadline in case something goes wrong, for example, loss of internet access, card payment failure, or if the reference isn't added in time. If they're applying through their school or college, it will be a member of staff who sends their application to us, so make sure you know what their deadlines are.

2027

- ▶ **13 January (18:00 UK time):** Deadline for most undergraduate courses and most conservatoire undergraduate dance, drama, or musical theatre courses. An application can still be sent after this date, but the providers concerned cannot guarantee they'll give it equal consideration.
- ▶ **25 February:** Extra opens. If your child has used all five choices and is not holding an offer, they can add another choice using Extra.
- ▶ **30 June (18:00 UK time):** Last date for receipt of applications with choices. Applications received after this deadline are automatically entered into Clearing.
- ▶ **1 July:** Extra closes.
- ▶ **2 July:** Clearing opens, and vacancies are shown in the UCAS search tool.

Further dates are available at: ucas.com/key-dates

Completing the UCAS Application



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

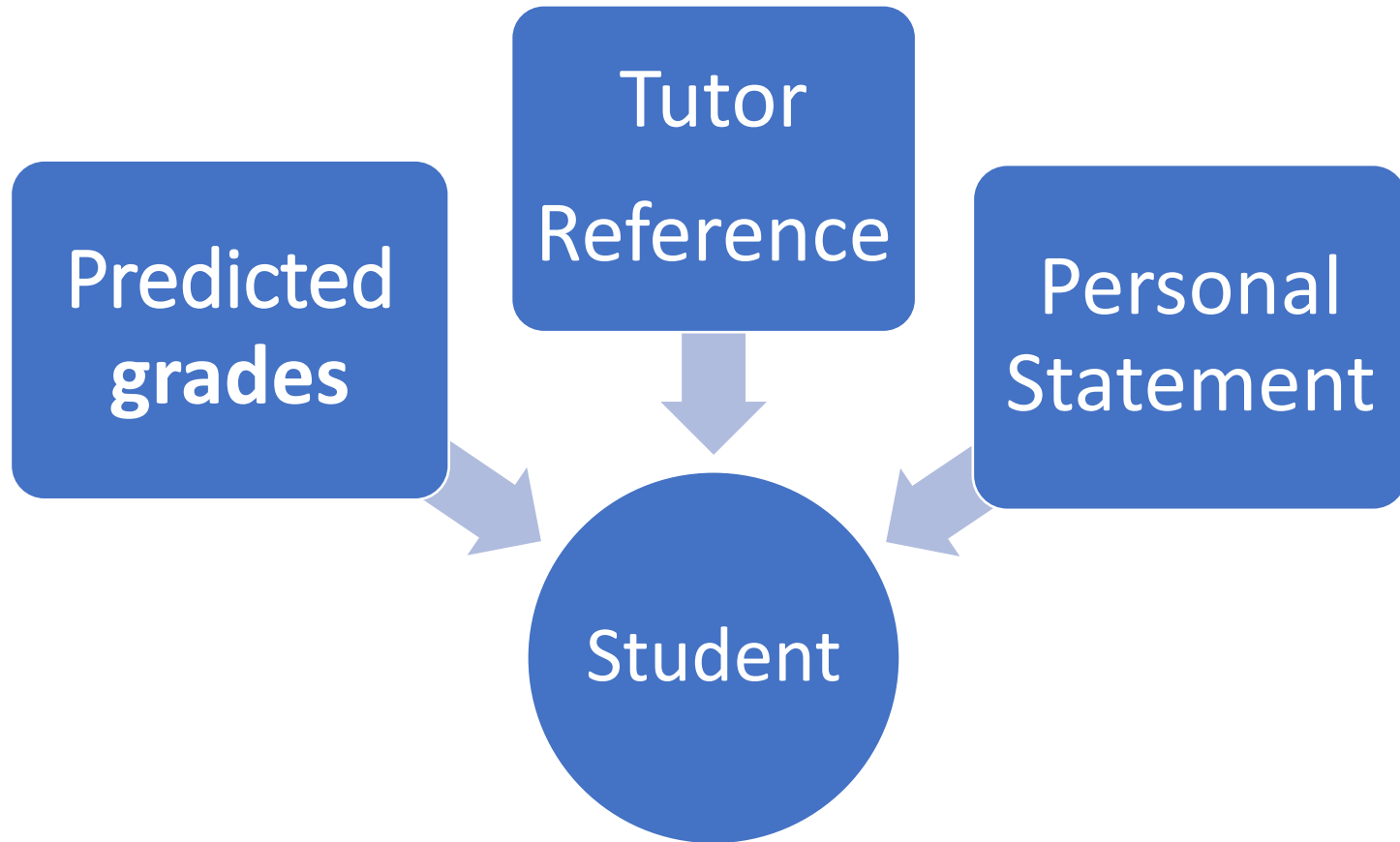


Applications are sent to UCAS by the school or college on behalf of the student.



Universities and colleges make their decisions on the application.

UCAS Stages



The personal statement



3 Question format in individual sections



A maximum of 4,000 characters, or 47 lines



A minimum of 350 characters per section



Students' only chance to market themselves as an individual



No grammar or spelling checks

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

The personal statement

Why do you want to study this course or subject?

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

What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?

Question 1:

What could students include in this section?

- Motivations for studying this course(s)
- Knowledge of the subject area and interests
- Future plans and why this course/subject is a good fit
- Personal experiences
- Understanding of the area and qualities you might need to succeed in it

**Why do you want
to study this
course or subject?**

Question 2:

What could you include in this section?

- How your studies or training relate to your chosen course(s) or subject area
- A discussion of one or two topics **in detail**
- What relevant or transferable skills you have that make you a great candidate

Any relevant educational achievements

- An EPQ
- School, local or national competitions e.g. Olympiad
- Tutoring or mentoring
- Online courses – Super Curricular

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

|Question 3:

What could you include In this section?

- Work experience, employment, or volunteering
- Personal life experiences or responsibilities
- Hobbies and any extracurricular or outreach activities
- Achievements outside of school or college

What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?

Start early

Include:

- academic achievements, past and present
- interest in the course area
- knowledge of the subject area
- enthusiasm to go beyond the syllabus
- details of independent study skills



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 skills?



Tutor Reference

Section 1: School Context

Section 2: Extenuating Circumstances

Section 3: Any other information (academic plus personal development)

It's important you let us know of any extenuating circumstances that may have had an impact on GCSE grades or on predicted grades for A levels.

Please email Mrs Burgess if you feel there something we should know.

UCAS Predicted Grades

- Aspirational and realistic
- Summer grade card
- Sept/Oct

Decisions

Universities and colleges will review the:



personal statement



qualifications



reference

They may also ask for:



admissions test



interview



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 (25 Feb – 1 Jul)

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

Clearing (2 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.





Apprenticeships

What you need to know

www.ucas.com/apprenticeships

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Apprenticeships

What are
apprenticeships?

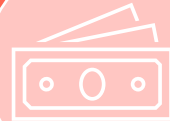
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Study



Job



Wage*

HOW DOES IT **WORK?**

- It's a real job where you **learn, gain experience, study for a qualification and get paid.**
- An apprentice is an employee, **with a contract of employment and holiday leave.**
- Over **600 different apprenticeships** available, from Nuclear Engineer to Architect to Digital Marketer.



* Foundation apprenticeships in Scotland are unpaid

The A – Z of apprenticeships

There are **over 600** possible apprenticeship 'standards' (training programmes) which exist. It's probably easier to name an industry that doesn't have an apprenticeship than to list all that do. Here are just a few

- Accounting and Taxation
- Architect
- Boat Builder
- Building Surveyors
- Civil Engineer
- Cyber Security Technician
- Data Analyst
- Doctor (from 2023)
- Early Years
- Ecologist
- Farrier
- Food Technologist
- Game Programmer
- Geospatial mapping
- Harbour Master
- Historic Environment Adviser
- Internal audit professional
- Intelligence analyst
- Journalist
- Junior 2D artist (visual effects)
- Knitted product manufacturing
- Laboratory scientist
- Licensed conveyor
- Midwife
- Marketing Manager
- Nuclear Scientist and Engineer
- Nursing
- Operational firefighter
- Orthodontic therapist
- Paralegal
- Physiotherapist
- Quality practitioner
- Rail engineer
- Research scientist
- Social worker
- Software Developer
- Teacher
- Town planning assistant
- Utilities engineering
- Veterinary nurse
- Vehicle damage assessor
- Water process technician
- Workplace pensions consultant
- Youth worker

www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/#

What am I doing now?

For example in England, Northern Ireland and Wales:



GCSE grade 9-4 is a
Level 2 qualification



A level or T level is a
Level 3 qualification

Did you know?

An apprenticeship offering a degree may also be called a Level 6 or Higher Apprenticeship

Apprenticeships work in levels too!

In England:

Level 2	Level 3	Level 4-7
Intermediate Apprenticeship	Advanced Apprenticeship	Higher Apprenticeship

In Wales:

Level 2	Level 3	Levels 4-7
Foundation Apprenticeship	Apprenticeship	Higher Apprenticeship

In Northern Ireland:

Level 2	Level 3	Level 4-7
Level 2 Apprenticeship	Level 3 Apprenticeship	Higher Apprenticeship

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

UCAS



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 Exploring Apprenticeships

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

Set alerts to stay up to date.

APPRENTICESHIP OPPORTUNITIES

[Search for apprenticeships](#)

Software Developer Degree Apprentice, Ware UK, 2023

Ware, Hertfordshire

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

[Apply for this job](#)

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

Stevenage, Hertfordshire

A competitive starting base salary of £18,000 per

[FIND MORE](#)

Found 504 jobs

Browse Search

Keywords
Keyword

Location
Location

Within 5 miles

☐ Nationwide
☐ Homeworking

► Specialism

► Sector

▼ Role Type 2 selected

☒ Apprenticeship
☐ Other work and training

► Start Date

Get new jobs for this search by email

[Create alert](#)

TOP JOB

Radio Access Optimisation Apprentice (Virgin Media)

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

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

[View details](#)

10 days ago [Save](#)

Software Developer Degree Apprentice, Ware UK, 2023

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

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

[View details](#)

4 days ago [Save](#)

Side by side

You can see apprenticeship opportunities alongside undergraduate courses.

The UCAS Hub enables you to explore all your options and build your profile in one place.



Dental Nurse Apprentice

MR DEVANAND ISUKAPATLA

📍 South Shields

Apprenticeship level	Industry
England - Advanced	Medicine, dentistry and nursing
Apprenticeship - Level 3	
Start date	Duration
30/10/2023	18 Months
Date posted	Closing date
06/03/2023	29/10/2023
Salary	
£10,982.40	



AAT Apprenticeship - Audit, Accounts and Tax (March 2024)

MOORE KINGSTON SMITH GROUP SERVICES LIMITED

📍 LONDON

Apprenticeship level	Industry
England - Higher	Accounting and Finance
Apprenticeship - Level 4	
Start date	Duration
04/03/2024	2 Years
Date posted	Closing date
05/07/2023	30/10/2023
Salary	
£25,000.00	

How can **ucas** help?

Apprenticeship **Application Guides**

- Get to grips with what to expect when applying for specific industries.

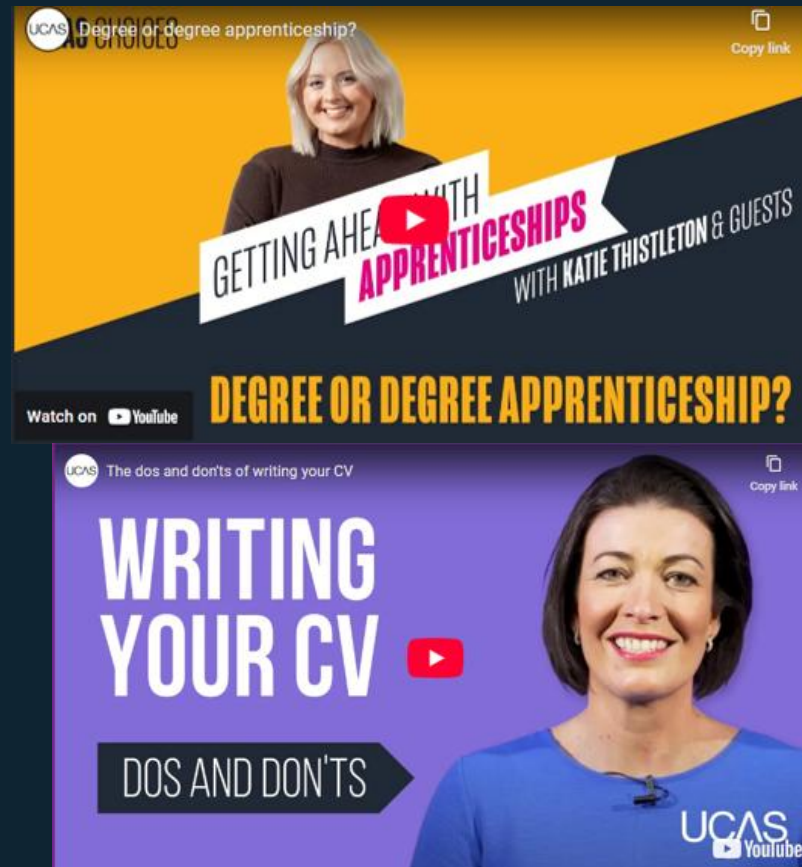
Live studio apprenticeship **podcast**

- Radio 1's Katie Thistleton chats to apprentices and experts about what you need to know.

UCAS **CV builder**

- Create a professional CV in minutes.

Find it all and more ucas.com/apprenticeships



Gap Year

UCAS



Gap Year. What can you do?



Volunteering



Travel



Paid employment



Work experience



Part-time courses

UCAS Hub

Your discovery tool

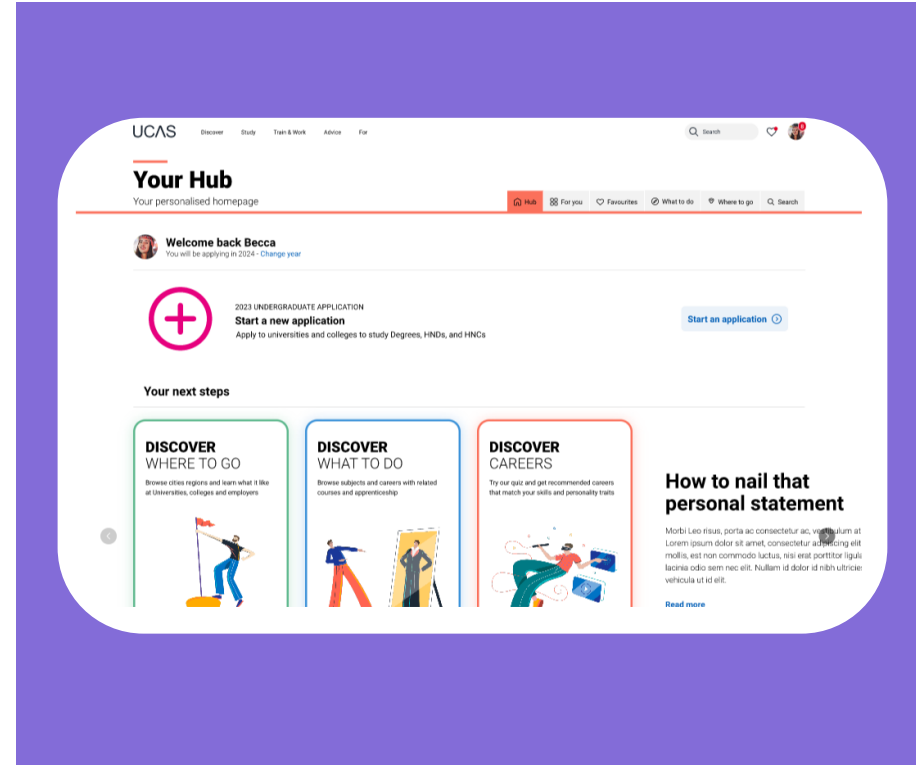
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Research

Register with the UCAS Hub to:

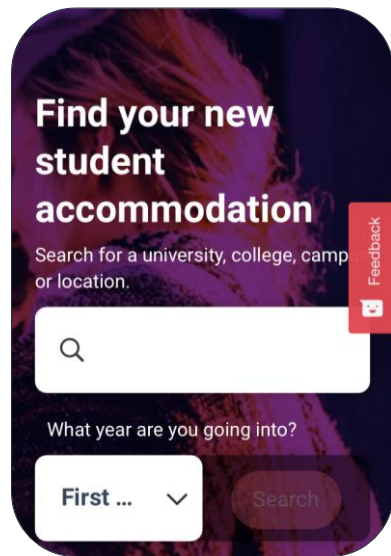
- explore careers, subjects, places, and apprenticeships
- find and favourite over 35,000 courses
- search for open days, events and virtual tours
- turn predicted grades into UCAS Tariff points
- speak to those in the know using [Unibuddy](#)
- speak to career, higher education, and application specialists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



What else do you need?

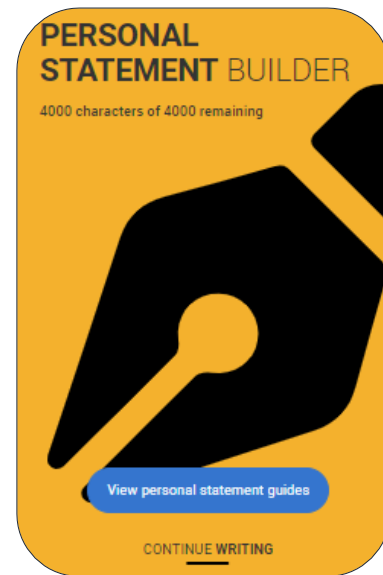
Accommodation

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

A screenshot of a mobile app interface for finding student accommodation. The background is a dark, abstract image. The text 'Find your new student accommodation' is prominently displayed in white. Below it, a smaller line of text says 'Search for a university, college, camp or location.' There is a white search bar with a magnifying glass icon. Below the search bar, the text 'What year are you going into?' is followed by a dropdown menu showing 'First ...' and a 'Search' button. A red 'Feedback' button is visible on the right side.

Personal Statement Builder

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

A screenshot of a mobile app interface for the Personal Statement Builder. The background is a solid yellow color. The text 'PERSONAL STATEMENT BUILDER' is at the top in black. Below it, a smaller line of text says '4000 characters of 4000 remaining'. There is a large black pen nib icon. Below the icon, there is a blue button that says 'View personal statement guides'. At the bottom, the text 'CONTINUE WRITING' is displayed.

Next steps

UCAS



How can you support your daughter?

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!

WWW.UCAS.COM/PARENTS

Parent, Guardian and Carer Guide

Download our free guide, containing everything you need to support a young person with their options and decision-making, and help them through the UCAS application process.

Parent, Guardian and Carer Guide



Sign up for our parent newsletter

Whether your child is set on going to uni, or still looking into their options – including apprenticeships, gap years, or conservatoire courses – we can help. Sign up and we'll send you everything you need to help them make an informed decision.



What can students be doing?

- research, research, research
- attend open days and events
- extracurricular and super curricular activities
- work experience
- volunteering
- independent learning outside the curriculum
- focus on this year's studies

