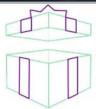
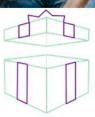


# St. Crispin's Sixth Form UCAS Information and Guidance





Becoming the Whole Package 'Tying it all together'







# **UCAS Support and Guidance Booklet**

Please click on a link below to take you directly to the page of information you require. We highly recommend you read the entire booklet to gain an overview of the UCAS process.

- > St. Crispin's UCAS Timeline
- How to Register with UCAS
- Completing Your Application
- Writing UCAS Personal Statement
  - Examples of Skills to Evidence in your UCAS Personal Statement Based on Course Subject
- Recording Personal Statements On Unifrog
- Preparing for University Interviews
- Tracking your Application and Accepting Your Offers
- UCAS Extra
- Guide to Clearing
- Student Finance





# St. Crispin's Sixth Form: UCAS Timeline

Filter through courses and universities using www.unifrog.org

Speak to subject teachers, tutor and Sixth Form Leadership Team.

**Attend Future Focus** Day to learn more UCAS and hear from the University of Surrey.

Visit universities on their open days (up to 3 visits permitted during school time).

# Register with UCAS Hub

(https://www.ucas.com/dashboard#)

- explore careers, courses, subjects & universities
- search for virtual tours and online events
- speak to career, higher education, and application specialists by attending the Hub lives.

#### **Approaching Your Personal Statement**

- 1. Plan
- 2. Draft
- 3. Share draft with relevant subject teacher
- 4. Redraft
- 5. Share draft with tutor
- 6. Complete final edit
- + Use tutor sessions
- + Refer to this booklet
- + Attend workshops & enrichment days

# **Complete your application:**

- My Profile
- Choices
- Personal Statement
- Buzzword: crispins24

# Submit your application and inform tutor. SIXTH FORM DEADLINES

- Music Conservatoire Candidates: <u>25<sup>th</sup> September 2023</u>
- Oxbridge/ Medicine/ Veterinary medicine/science/
- Dentistry Candidates: 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023 All Other Candidates: 30th October 2023

Tutors use your personal statement and subject teacher references to complete references and so they have until 10th November 2023 to write them. The application is then sent to the Sixth Form Leadership Team who will check your application and your references. It will then be sent to UCAS

#### Attend any interviews you are invited to. Receive offers and accept or decline them.

If all university decisions received by 1st May, accept or decline by 29<sup>th</sup> May 2024. It is your responsibility to use UCAS Track to see your personal deadline to respond. Remember, your offers are held until your personal deadline. However, you might want to consider your options and respond asap in order to: firstly, make a decision and then divert your attention to achieving the qualifications you need; and secondly, allow you a greater chance of securing your preferred choice of student accommodation.



Following publication of your results in August:

- if you achieved your entry requirements, check your university place is confirmed;
- if you exceed your entry requirements and wish to change your course, look for an alternative using adjustment;
  - or if you did not meet the entry requirements, use Clearing to apply for more courses.





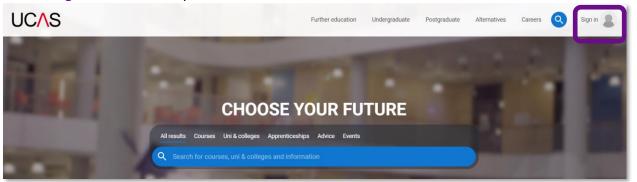
# **Register with UCAS**

# Registering with UCAS will allow you to:

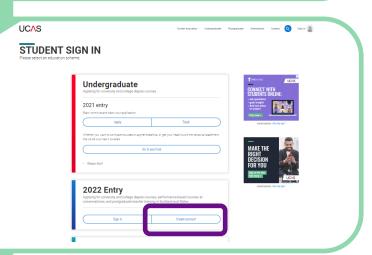
- Explore careers, subjects, universities and apprenticeships
- Find and favourite over 35,000 courses
- Search for virtual tours and online events
- > Turn predicted grades into Tariff points
- Speak to those in the know using Unibuddy
- Speak to career, higher education, and application specialists by attending the <u>Hub lives</u>.
- Explore job profiles to discover different career roles and pathways.
- Start an application for 2024 entry (from May 2024)

# **How to Register:**

- Head to ucas.com
- Select Sign in from the drop-down menu.



Select students and 'Create account' within the 2024-entry option



Complete the short form.

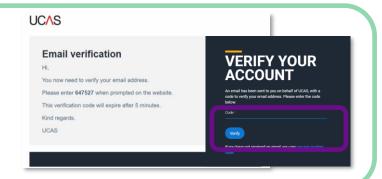
- Make sure the password is memorable.
- Please use your personal email accounts as UCAS may need to contact you once your school email account has been closed when you finish Year 13.



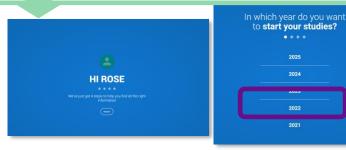




They will email you a code to verify your email address.



- Once you have registered, they will ask you a few questions like when you want to start studying, where you live and what you are interested in so they can tailor the information you see.
- Make sure you choose the correct study year (2024 if you want to start next year).



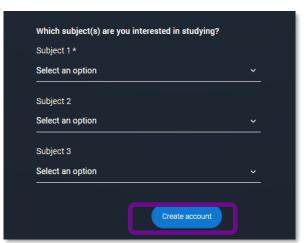
- Choose the correct level of study: Undergraduate
- You can choose to get information on apprenticeships and conservatoires here too.
- You can tell UCAS where you live so they can direct you to the right information.





- Choose if you want to get tailored information about university, college and apprenticeship options.
- Select the subjects that you are interested in you can change these at any point in your preferences.
- Then scroll right to the bottom to create account.









# **Completing Your UCAS Application**

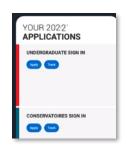
To start your UCAS application click on the Your application tile.



# Make sure you have the correct year

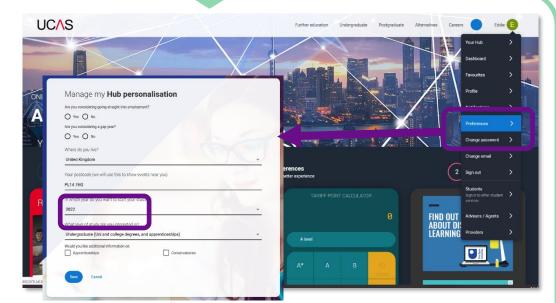
- If you already have a Hub account and have said you are interested in courses for the 2024 cycle, you'll see this card.
- To start your 2024 UCAS application click on the Your application tile with the red circle





If you don't have the correct year -**Update** your **Preferences** 

If you need to change the application cycle to show the Your application tile for 2024, click on Preferences from the main menu.



Then select 2024 in answer to the question "In which year do you want to start your studies?"



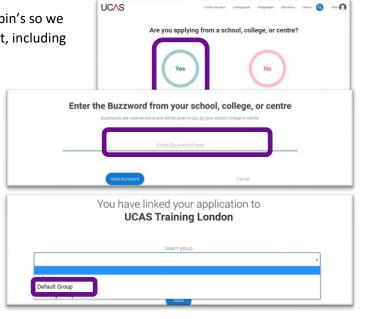


Link Your Application to St. Crispin's
You need to link your application to St. Crispin's so we
can track your progress and provide support, including
adding your reference.

Click Yes, Then Continue

Enter our buzzword crispins24

Once your application has been linked,
 you may then be asked to select a group
 choose default group.



# **Application Overview**

Your homepage is where you will see your application status and the sections that need completing.

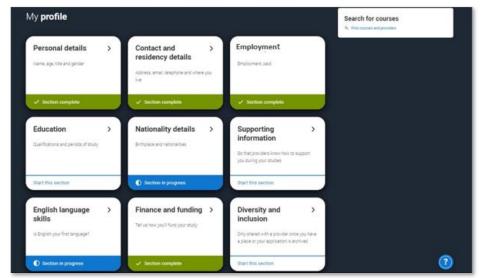
You don't need to complete the application at once, you can log in and out at any time until you're finished.

As you add information to each tile, the percentage complete dial should increase each time you mark a section as complete.

The second section is your **profile** - information about you.

- The tiles will give you an overview; if a section is complete, in progress, or you need to start it.
- All sections must be marked as complete to send to UCAS.
- You must complete all mandatory questions to mark a section as complete (they have a \*).



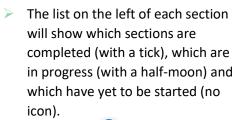




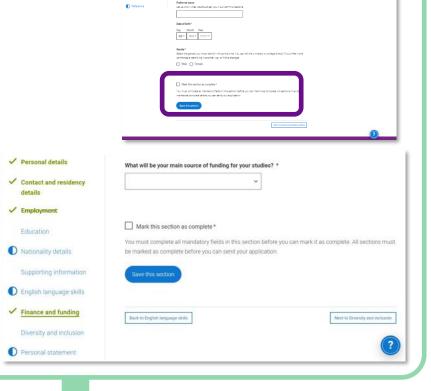


# **Entering Your Personal Details**

- Personal details: your name should already be visible, but you will need to add your title and complete the other mandatory fields (marked with a \*).
- Once you have completed a section you must remember to mark the section as complete at the bottom of each page.



Click on the 12 throughout for help to provide advice about what to put.

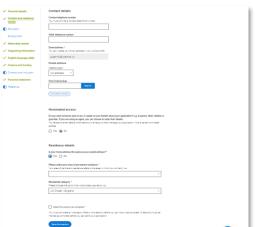


UC∧S

PERSONAL DETAILS

# **Contact and Residency Details**

- You should provide either a landline or a mobile number in this section.
- You will only see the fields to add the nominated contact details if you answer Yes to the question.
- This means someone else can speak to UCAS about your application.
- We would strongly encourage you to add a nominated contact. Most students tend to enter their parents' details.



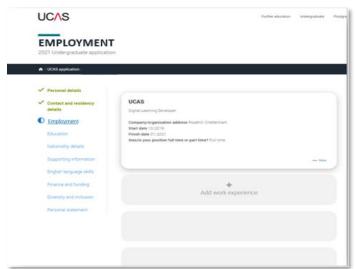
Nominat	ed access
	someone else to act, or speak on your behalf, about your application? e.g. A parent, other relative or you are using an agent, you can choose to enter their details.
You're able to access.	o enter details of someone you're happy to help manage your application - this is called nominated
Yes	) No
Full name of The first and	nominee + last name of your nominee. They will be asked this information when speaking to UCAS on your behalf.
The first and	last name of your nominee. They will be asked this information when speaking to UCAS on your behalf.
The first and	last name of your nominee. They will be asked this information when speaking to UCAS on your behalf.

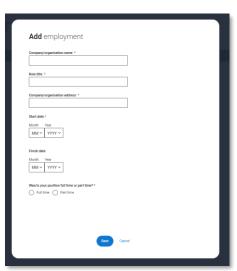




#### **Employment Details**

- > If you add more than one employment it will appear in chronological order with the most recent at the top.
- Not everyone will have something to enter here. It is up to you whether you create an employment record here or not - but remember to mark the section as complete!





#### **Education Details**

- Add details of all qualifications you have already achieved and those you are currently working towards.
- First you need to add details of where you have studied, or are studying, then add qualifications.
- Enter your GCSEs first then the subjects you are studying at Sixth Form.
- Start by clicking Add place of education.
- You will be asked for a Unique Learner Number this is shown on your Insight Tracking Reports.
- Type the name of where you studied your GCCE's. Once you find your centre, click on the name and the Exam centre number will automatically populate.
- If you studied in another country and the school doesn't automatically appear, click the 'add manually button' to type in your school name.
- Add when you started and finished attending the school. For St. Crispin's, select August 2024 as your end date.

EDUCATION 2022 Undergreduate application		Year Personal ID number 1576002467
*/ UCAS application / Education     *C Ensure to application overview		
✓ Personal details ✓ Contact and residency details  ① <u>Education</u>	Add place of education	
Employment  Nationality details  Supporting information  English language skills  Finance and funding	Bigg Leann Nucleo (ISS)  The local above former (LEE) is folgo therein made with a said stopp during state to heave for heavy found agree on the span <sup>®</sup> of model of the dubble or heavy if you derive one as derived you as the final state of the span of the sp	
Directly and inclusion     Personal statement     Reference	Please shife the highest loop of openfunders you report to been lefter you client your course "    Monthly western on complete"	
	To the contract in investing from this accordate you cannot be consisted. A extract much investigation and the contract and investigation and you exposed.  (See Tourish Contract Contr	

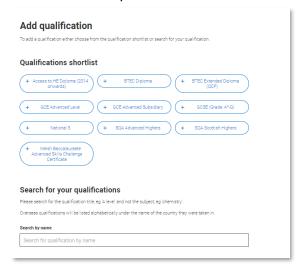
Name of the school, co	flege, or university *
Exam centre number	
This may be automatical	ally filled in based on your school, college, or university
Start date *	
Month Year	
MM ~ YYYY ~	
End date*	
Month Year	
MM ~ YYYY ~	
Type of study *	
Pull time ( ) Pu	arttime ( ) Sandwich
0 14 14 0 11	
Do you, or will you, have	e any qualifications from this centre? *
If you received any qual	lifications at this school, college or centre, or if you have any qualifications pending at this
school, click yes.	
	be entered, even if you received an unsuccessful grade, if you are still waiting to take the e waiting for the results.
	affication you need to enter it twice; once as a completed qualification with the grade





#### **Education Details**

- Once you've added where you studied you can enter the qualifications. If you studied your GCSE's at another school you will need to add two schools to this section and list the qualifications studied under each school.
- Click the Add qualification button
- Search for your qualification.
- A Levels are GCE Advanced Level. AS Levels are GCE Advanced Subsidiary.
- The A Levels, BTECS and CTEC offered at St. Crispin's will be listed for you to choose from.
- If you studied in another country and your qualifications to not automatically appear click the 'add manually button'.



- The qualification dates you can select are based on those you entered when you set up the centre.
- If you haven't finished the qualification or had your final exam result, then you must choose Pending for the Grade (do not enter your predicted grade for your A Levels/BTEC/CTEC).
- If you have completed an EPQ remember to add this as a qualification.
- > Press Save and Add Another until all your qualifications have been entered.



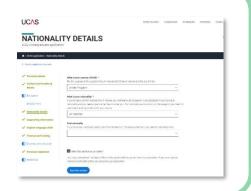
<b>~</b>	Personal details	Add qualification
•	Contact and residency details	GCE Advanced Level
0	Education	If you don't find a match you can manually add one
	Employment	«P>Entering unit details for A levels is optional«P> <p>If you have completed Cambridge International qualifications please choose CIE as your Awarding organisation, if you are currently taking Cambridge International qualifications choose CAIE«P&gt;</p>
<b>~</b>	Nationality details	Subject*
<b>~</b>	Supporting information	Type and select the subject you studied
<b>~</b>	English language skills	
~	Finance and funding	Qualification date*  Month Year
0	Diversity and inclusion	MM VYYY V
~	Personal statement	
0	Reference	Awarding organisation *
		Grade *
		Add the modules for this qualification. You may add up to 6
		Module / Unit 1
		Title Type and select the subject you studied
		Grade
		Add another module
		Save qualifications are and add another Cancel





# **Nationality Details**

- If you are a British National you will see this screen, complete the fields.
- If you were born in the UK but have a different nationality, you will be asked additional questions.
- The information you provide will help universities and colleges in determining your eligibility and allow them to assist you with the visa application process, if required.



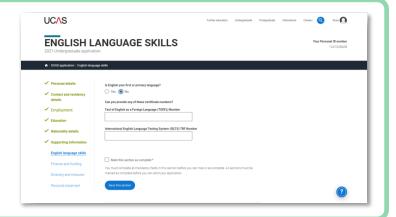
# **Supporting Information**

- All questions are mandatory (\*), but you have the option of 'I don't know' and 'Prefer not to say' for the first two.
- You don't have to declare a disability if you don't want to, you can select No disability.
- Information completed here is not used to make a decision on your application. It's only shared with those involved in supporting you, or making the arrangements for support.



# **English Language Skills**

If English isn't your first or primary language, they will ask for your TOEFL or IELTS registration numbers, you only need to enter reference numbers if you've been assigned one and you know it.



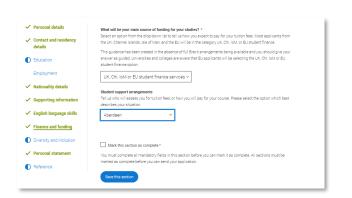




#### **Finance and Funding**

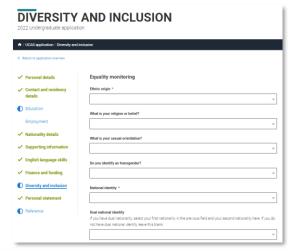
- You will be asked further questions in finance and funding if you select UK, ChI, IoM or EU Student Finance Services (which means you plan to apply for a student loan – the vast majority of students do this).
- Selecting 'Private' indicates that you/your parents are going to pay all tuition fees – around £9000 + rent + general living and study costs up front.
- Under 'Student support arrangements' select Wokingham.

For more information head to: ucas.com/finance



#### **Diversity and Inclusion**

- You will only see these questions if you have a UK home or postal address.
- There are two mandatory fields(\*), but you have the option to respond with 'I prefer not to say'.
- This information is only shared with universities or colleges once you have secured a place, it does not influence any decision making. It's used to ensure applications are treated fairly.
- Activities in preparation for higher education include summer schools, Saturday university, campus days, summer academies, taster courses and booster courses. If you have not taken any such course, please leave this section blank.
- You can select I prefer not to say for the parental education question.
- For the occupational background, you must type at least 3 letters into the response field, and then select an option from the menu that appears below it.



Do any of your parents, step-parents or guardians have any higher education or certificate of higher education?	on qualification, such as a degree, diploma,
	·
tecupational background * lease give the job title of your parent, step-parent, or guardian who eams stricted or unemployed, give their most recent job title. If you are 21 or over,	
children	please give your own job title.
	please give your own job line.
children	prease give your own you tille.
children  Base Room Manager (Children's Nursery)	prease give your own job title.
children  Base Room Manager (Children's Nursery)  Care Assistant (Children's Nursery)	prease give your own you tile.

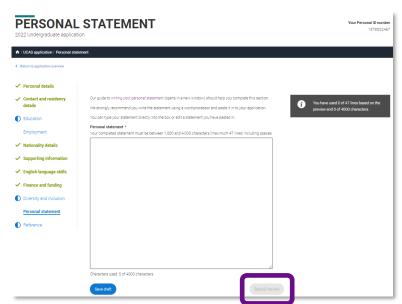




#### **Personal Statement**

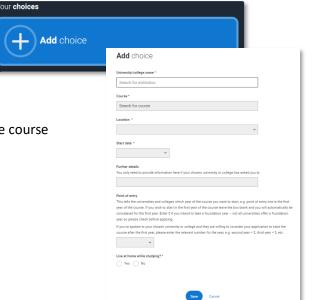
Please refer to the section on how to write your personal statement within this booklet before using the instructions below to add your statement to your application. You must share your personal statement with your tutor before uploading your final draft.

- You can save and edit this section as many times as you need to.
- If you try to navigate away without saving your work you'll be reminded with a pop-up warning.
- When you are ready to mark this section as complete you will need to click Save and Preview to access the "Mark as Complete" tick box.



# **Entering Your Choice of Courses**

- To add your choices, click the Choices section.
- Start typing the name of the university or college into the institution field and select from the options displayed.
- Do the same for the course you have selected.
- Locations and start dates are displayed according to the course details.







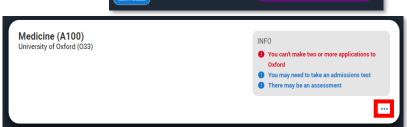


#### **Entering Your Choice of Courses (continued)**

There is a maximum of 5 choices and choice restrictions still apply (a maximum of four courses in any one of medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine or veterinary science).

Once all choices are added select confirm choices to mark the section as complete.

- Some courses have extra admissions tests and assessments.
- These will be shown in blue text on the choice card. This should not be a surprise to you, as you should have seen details of this when researching the course.
- Clicking the 3 dots in the bottom right of a card enables you to see it as a summary.



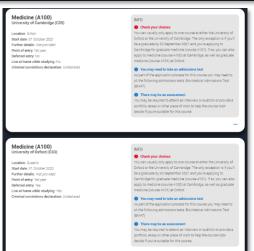
Your choices

Medicine (A100)

Add choice

- Any choice combinations that are not permitted will be flagged with red text on the right of each relevant card.
- For example these screens show error messages for students trying to apply to University of Cambridge and University of Oxford.



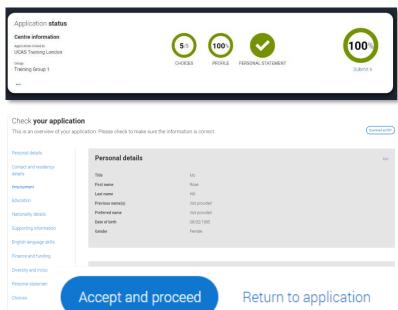






# **Submitting and Paying For Your Application**

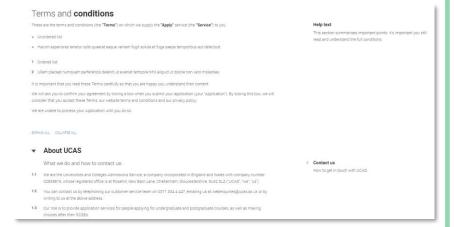
- There are 4 steps to the submission process.
- The application must be complete (showing 100%) before pressing submit.
- This shows the full application and you can download it as a pdf (in the top right) to help you check it.
- At the bottom of the application, click Accept and proceed (or return to application if you want to make more changes).
- You will then be asked to update your marketing preferences.

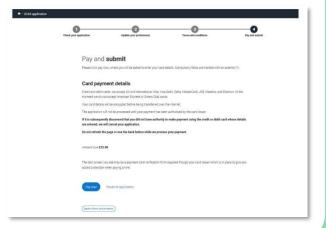


You must tick the box at the bottom of the page to confirm you have read and understood the terms and conditions.

- You can collapse these by clicking the .
- Then click Accept and proceed, or you can Return to application, or Return to marketing preferences.

You will then see this screen, click Pay now and you will be asked to enter your card details.

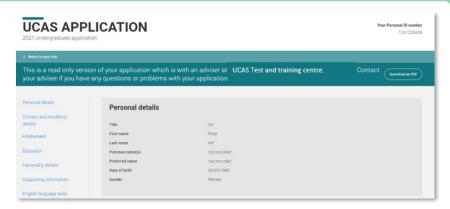








- When you have paid and submitted your application, it will be sent to St. Crispin's Sixth Form to check.
- We will then add your reference and predicted grades and submit the application to UCAS.
- If you log in you will see a read only version.



# After we have submitted your application

Once we have submitted your application, it is a case of waiting to receive feedback from each course you have applied to. Please be aware that different institutions do this in their own timeframes so do not be disheartened if you hear back from some more quickly than others or if your friends receive feedback before you do. Now is the time to crack on with working hard to achieve the qualifications you need to take this next step!







# **Writing UCAS Personal Statements**

# What?

The personal statement is your chance to explain who the person is behind the grades and what else you have done in addition to your qualifications. Understanding your achievements, experiences and personality can be vital to ensuring you are offered a place on the course which is right for you.

# The Basics

Maximum: 4000 characters (47 lines when in size 12 Times New Roman font)

Minimum: 1000 characters

Check: Spelling, punctuation and grammar

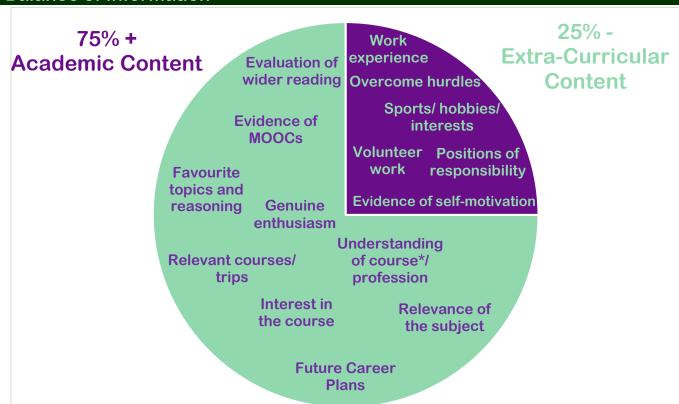
Use: Paragraphs

# **What Admissions Tutors Look For: Skills**

- ➤ Are you suited to the course?
- Are you hardworking and independent?
- Can you cope under pressure?
- ➤ Are you suited to the university environment?
- > Do you have good communication skills?
- Are you genuinely interested in the course and subject?



# **Balance of Information**



\*An accredited course is one that has been approved by a professional body. For example, an accountancy degree may be accredited by the Institute of Chartered Accountants or Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA). For more information visit the Which website





# **How to Start**

List all skills vital to success in higher education and your chosen course For each skill, note what evidence you have to demonstrate your proficiency

Write everything up in full before working out the most logical structure

# Show, Don't Tell

**DO NOT** simply **LIST** everything you have ever done in the final statement.

**DO** explain **HOW** you **THINK** about what you have done: what skills/ knowledge did you acquire? **Example:** 

What have I done?

Y7 Reading Mentor

What did it teach me? Effective Communication

Can I provide an example of what it taught me?

I had to ensure a person from a different peer group understood me so I could support and motivate them

How can I relate it to University?

I am confident to share ideas and work with others to achive a shared goal during group tasks/seminars

# Do Not...

- © Go crazy with the thesaurus (do write formally but be honest and true to yourself)
- (aroused' or 'love')
- Begin with overused sentences: 'From a young age...' 'For as long as 'I am currently studying...' 'x is a challengi

'For as long as I can remember...'
'x is a challenging career...'

# **Need More Help?**

Ask: The Sixth Form Team Visit:



Access the <u>UCAS Personal Statement Tool</u> for a wealth of knowledge and worksheets to help with your personal statement.



Search the Unifrog Know How Library for a range of great resources to help support your personal statement writing including: Sample personal statements for different subjects, top tips and use the Unifrog competency tool to gather ideas and evidence.



Visit the Which website for more ideas and inspiration





# **Examples of Skills to Evidence in your UCAS Personal Statement Based on Course Subject**

PiXL<sub>6</sub>

**Chemist**: A keen scientist, i.e. wanting to understand the world and how it came about, a good analyst, taking nothing for granted, keen to test things out and do research and be patient, determined, even painstaking when doing it. Having good practical skills, an eye for detail. Good at working in a team.

**Dentist:** Similar to a medic (below) along with good practical and business skills. Even more important to inspire other peoples' trust and confidence, especially children's, as so many are scared of dentists.

**Economist:** Analytical, logical and intuitive. An avid reader but with good mathematical ability and keen on statistics. Having good debating and communication skills, sceptical and questioning, can write well with a strong sense of wanting to get to the bottom of why things happen as they do.

**Engineer:** A keen problem solver, with strong mathematical ability, analytical powers and the capacity to see the full picture and finished products. Fine eye for detail, meticulous, patient, determined, a good communicator and team worker and able to work under pressure.

**English specialist:** A good analyst, who is keen on language, its structure and uses. A keen communicator and avid reader, keen to explore and understand the context in which things are written. Empathetic, open-minded, sceptical - to a certain extent, not blindly accepting traditional interpretations but an independent thinker, coming to independent conclusions. Objective. Articulate and can write clearly and concisely.

**Historian:** Sceptical, doesn't take anything for granted or simply accept 'received wisdom' or 'accepted interpretations' without questioning them. Curious, wants to know why and how something happened. Objective, open-minded. An avid reader, patient, persistent, have an eye for detail (as you need when doing research). Have empathy for the culture, climate and context in which things happened, were written etc. Be articulate, a good analyst and debater (as some history teachers have said, they want every parent's nightmare), people who are awkward, argumentative. Preferably can write well too.

**Lawyer:** Logical mind, analytical, with a capacity for hard work, eye for detail and ability to cut through to essential points in arguments. Articulate, well-read, empathetic, ideally having a strong moral sense, well organised, self-confident.

**Mathematician:** Very logical and rational, enjoys the challenge of problem-solving, doesn't like to be beaten by things and certainly not the same type of problem twice. Very determined and patient, prefers an elegant solution not just something that is right. Intrigued by patterns in the world around them and wants to understand them.

**Medic:** The capacity to get top academic results, a keen scientist and problem solver, keen to take on life-long learning and with a capacity for hard work and coping with stress. Empathetic, optimistic, dedicated, able to inspire other peoples' trust and confidence, a good communicator and team worker, able to shoulder responsibility, caring and having a strong sense for moral integrity.

**Philosopher:** A keen sense of language and meaning matched with a strong desire to understand things. Capacity for logical thought, well read, open-minded, with good communication skills and with natural empathy for historical and social context.

**Physicist**: A keen scientist, i.e. wanting to understand the world and how it came about, a good analyst, taking nothing for granted, very logical, a good mathematician. Open-minded enough to embrace new theories and evidence. Patient, with an eye for detail when conducting experiments and research.

For a range of subject specific personal statement guides please visit: <a href="https://web.ucas.com/personal-statement-guides">https://web.ucas.com/personal-statement-guides</a>





# **Recording Personal Statements on Unifrog**

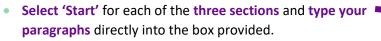
Follow these instructions to work on your personal statement and keep it saved to Unifrog.

- Scroll down to the 'Application section.
- Select 'UK Personal Statement'.

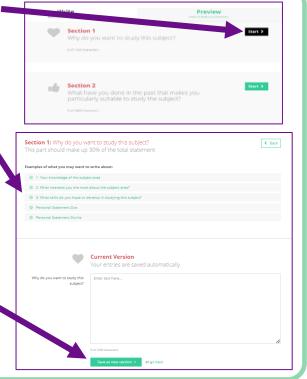


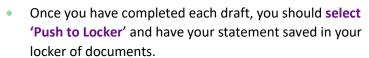




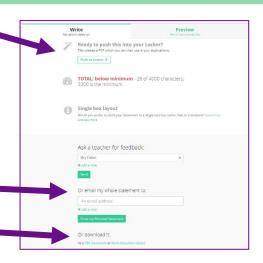


- Alternatively, select 'Convert to one box' under the 'Single Box' layout header under each sections. This allows you to type your whole PS directly into one box.
- Take the time to read through the prompts provided in each section which list the skills, experiences and qualities you should write about, as well as providing examples of how this might look.
- Under each box, you can see how many characters you have used/ have remaining.
- Your work will automatically save.





- When meeting with staff, they can access your Personal Statement in your locker and offer feedback.
- You can also copy your final version straight from your locker and into your UCAS application form when ready to do so.
- You have the option to email your statement to staff/ family. <u>Please only do this having already agreed a request</u> for feedback via email.
- You have the option to download your document to print.







# **Preparing for University Interviews**

Remember that receiving an interview invite means that admissions tutors are impressed with your application so far and you're in the running for receiving an offer. This is good news! While it's natural to be nervous, having an idea of what to expect can help you to shine on the day.

Here are some university interview tips to get you ready, including what you should wear, questions to prep for and how to perfect your interviewing technique.

# What are university interviews actually like?

Interviews can range from an 'exam out loud' (it's safe to expect this from an Oxbridge interview) to an informal chat designed to encourage you to choose that course. They can last anything from ten minutes to an hour and are usually, though not always, conducted by one interviewer.

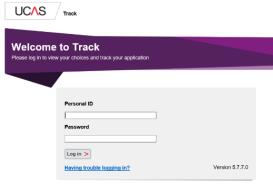
They can also vary depending on the subject you're applying to study – for example, English students may have to discuss a poem with their interviewer, while Maths applicants might be asked to solve an equation.

# How it works

- If a university does send you an invitation, it could either be sent to you directly, or in UCAS Track. It's best to contact the university or college to find out how and where you will receive information about your interview.
- Universities and colleges say it can be difficult to change the times and dates of interviews, so if possible, try to go at the suggested time.
- If you can't attend at the allotted time, you need to let the university or college know as soon as possible. If you received your interview decision in Track, the option to request a different time will be available. If you received the interview decision in another way, get in touch with the uni/college. When you've agreed a new date, they'll either update the invitation in Track or contact you directly to let you know.
- Then after you've attended, the university will tell UCAS when they've made a decision and UCAS will let you know in Track. Once all decisions are in, you can reply to your offers.

# **Interview tips**

Interviews aren't everyone's favourite thing, but with a bit of preparation you can do well. They'll be looking for enthusiastic students with lots to offer – someone who can work independently and consider new ideas; someone who will thrive, enjoying a varied academic life alongside outside interest.





# St. Crispin's

#### 1. Plan ahead

- Check where and when sort out any travel and accommodation you need check their website for maps and directions.
- Be ready for questions some about your application, as well as your chance to ask about the course and the uni/college.
- Know your stuff show you know the latest in your subject area, and keep up to date with the news – they might ask to hear your views. Re-read your personal statement
- Practice have mock interviews with a teacher or adviser cover why you chose that course and what you enjoy most about your current studies.
- Sleep well!

# 2. The interview

- Dress smartly you might not need a suit, but smart trousers/skirt and a shirt/blouse will show you're taking it seriously.
- Get there early have their phone number handy so you can let them know just in case you're delayed.
- Remember to bring any additional documents. You might be asked to bring a portfolio of your work if you are applying for a creative arts course.
- Good body language don't slouch, yawn or fold your arms stay calm and alert, sit up straight, make eye contact, look (and sound) interested. Engage with the interviewer right from the start.
- Take their lead let your interviewer take the lead when it comes to handshakes, sitting down, starting to talk and so on.
- Don't worry if you don't understand —listen carefully to questions, ask them to repeat or rephrase the question, make a good guess, or relate it to something you know better. Don't be afraid to take time to think about your answer – you won't be penalised.
- Expect the unexpected they might do a surprise test to see how you react under pressure just do your
- Ask them questions too this shows enthusiasm and gives you chance to get answers you haven't found yet. Interviewing is a two-way process so make the most of it by finding out as much as you can about the course (including teaching

#### 3. Afterwards

- Make notes if you have more interviews coming up, it might be handy preparation to write down the questions and answers you've already had.
- Reflect on how you did decide what worked well and think of new answers for areas you want to improve in.
- Then sit back and wait once we've heard from the university or college, UCAS will let you know in Track if they're making you an offer.



# Questions you might be asked in a university interview

These are hard to predict, so here are some pointers on what questions you may face in a University interview and how to prepare:

- Revisit the university prospectus and course details, thinking about how you'd answer questions such as 'why this course?' and 'why this university?'.
- Re-familiarise yourself with your personal statement and be prepared to elaborate on anything you've said.
- Get someone (who hopefully knows a bit about your subject) to give you a mock interview. Having some interview practice beforehand will help to boost your confidence and expose areas you need to work on.











- Make sure you're aware of the latest issues in current affairs relevant to your subject tutors may bring these into the discussion.
- Prepare some questions to ask tutors just make sure that they haven't already been answered in information you've been sent by the university.

#### **Useful Sources of Information**

- UCAS Video: <a href="https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/after-you-apply/undergraduate-interview-invitations">https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/after-you-apply/undergraduate-interview-invitations</a>
- Unifrog: <a href="https://www.unifrog.org/student/know-how/keywords/how-to-survive-online-university-interviews">https://www.unifrog.org/student/know-how/keywords/how-to-survive-online-university-interviews</a>
- Inside a university interview a student's perspective <a href="https://www.unifrog.org/student/know-how/keywords/how-to-survive-online-university-interviews">https://www.unifrog.org/student/know-how/keywords/how-to-survive-online-university-interviews</a>
- Subject specific interview tips: <a href="https://university.which.co.uk/advice/ucas-application/university-interviews-as-told-by-students">https://university.which.co.uk/advice/ucas-application/university-interviews-as-told-by-students</a>
- 10 Cheeky tips: 10 weird ways to beat interview nerves <a href="https://www.theguardian.com/careers/careers-blog/10-quirky-tips-beating-interview-nerves-job">https://www.theguardian.com/careers/careers-blog/10-quirky-tips-beating-interview-nerves-job</a>

<sup>\*</sup>Sources of information for this document: UCAS.co.uk and Which.co.uk







# **Tracking Your Application**

#### **Tracking Your Application**

Depending on the status of your application you'll see one of the following tiles on your UCAS Hub homepage. Click on the tile it to go to your application.



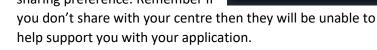




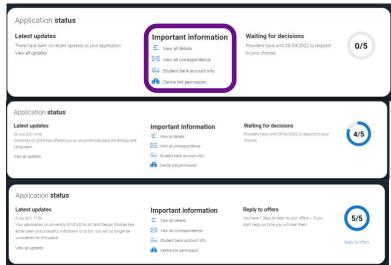


Your application status will update to reflect your application status and clearly state any actions you need to take. It will tell you when you need to reply to offers.

- **Latest updates** displays offer and decision notifications, click view all updates for full history.
- Student bank account info you'll need this to open a student bank account (when eligible).
- View all correspondence all correspondence is grouped by choice.
- Centre link permission if you are linked to a centre this enables you to update your sharing preference. Remember if



- The details of your offers will be shown including any conditions.
- The full text of the offer can be seen by clicking 'View full offer'.
- Your inactive choices (withdrawn, declined, unsuccessful) are in a drop down section below the active choices.



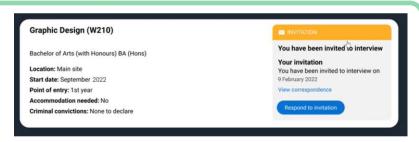






#### Invitations to Interview

If a university or college has notified UCAS of an interview, the invitation details will be shown alongside a button for you to respond.



There are three options you can select from to respond to the invitation.



#### Decisions universities and colleges can make

A conditional or unconditional offer is good news.

- A conditional offer means you still need to meet the requirements usually exam results.
  - These show the conditions you have to meet to get your place confirmed.
  - For most people, this means waiting for results day in the summer to see if your exam results meet the conditions.
  - They could be a combination of grades, scores or subjects as explained in the entry requirements and Tariff info. A conditional offer might look something like this:
    - A levels grade AAB with A in chemistry and at least two other sciences or mathematics
    - You may also get a conditional offer that will change to unconditional if you firmly accept it.
- An unconditional offer means you've got a place, although there might still be a few things to arrange. These mean you've already met the entry requirements, so the place is yours if you want it. But first check the offer to see if there's anything else you need to do.
  - Check the offer carefully. Even if you've already got your qualifications and have met the academic requirements, you might still need to get a DBS or PVG check, provide proof of your results, or meet some financial/medical requirements. If it's not clear, contact the university or college.
  - Remember; by accepting an unconditional offer, you are committing to go to that university or college, so you can't make an insurance choice.
  - If you change your mind, you can decline your place and apply using Clearing.
  - If you're taking exams but have been made an unconditional offer, your results won't affect whether or not you get accepted. Please be aware that there has been a sharp rise in the amount of unconditional offers given by universities in recent years. Receiving an unconditional offer can feel really great and provide a boost of confidence and this is great but we must remain realistic when reviewing this increase and recognise that many universities are playing a game to ensure that students (and the large amount of money that comes with you) choose them. Please remember that first and foremost, each university course requires a base level of knowledge and skills. Therefore, if you give up and do not meet the grade requirements which they set out in their requirements, you will struggle to pick up the





pace on the course and potentially ruin your chance of achieving a decent degree – the very reason you are there!

- Although your place won't be dependent on your grades, taking your exams is really important to prepare you for university or college and could impact your future employment.
- Some graduate employers take A levels and other qualifications into account when reviewing job applications, so it's important you take this into consideration when preparing for your exams.
- An unsuccessful or withdrawn choice removes that option, but you could add more.
  - A withdrawn application means a course choice has been withdrawn by either you or the university/college. The reason will show up in on your application maybe you didn't respond to emails/letters they sent, or missed an interview.
  - An unsuccessful application means they've decided not to offer you a place on the course. Sometimes they'll give a reason, (either with their decision or at a later date). If not, you can contact them to ask if they'll discuss the reason with you.

Don't worry if you don't get any offers – you might be able to add extra choices now, or look for course availability later on.

#### **Accepting Your Offers**

Before you decide which offers to accept read this article from UCAS: Making the right decision

We advise you do not respond to offers until you have heard back from all of your course choices. The table below informs you of the dates by which you need to respond to offers – this will be different for different students.

Attend any interviews you are invited to. Receive offers and accept or decline them.

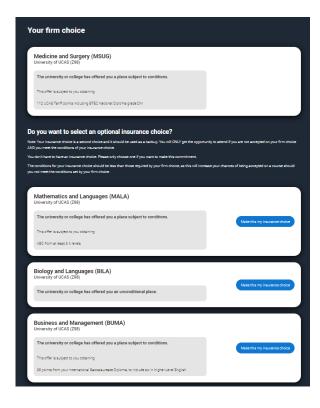
- If all university decisions received by 31st March, accept or decline by 5th May 2024.
- ➤ If all university decisions received by 6<sup>th</sup> May, accept or decline by 3rd<sup>h</sup> June 2024.
- If all university decisions received by 3rd June, accept or decline by 17<sup>th</sup> June 2024.
- ▶ If all university decisions received by 13<sup>th</sup> July, accept or decline by 14<sup>th</sup> July 2024.
- Remember Making these selections does not mean you are automatically in you need to achieve the entry requirements in the summer to secure your place.
- We recommend ensuring your **insurance choice has a lower entry requirement than your firm choice**. This means if you do not achieve the grades in the summer to be accepted by your firm choice, you should achieve the grades to be accepted by your insurance choice.

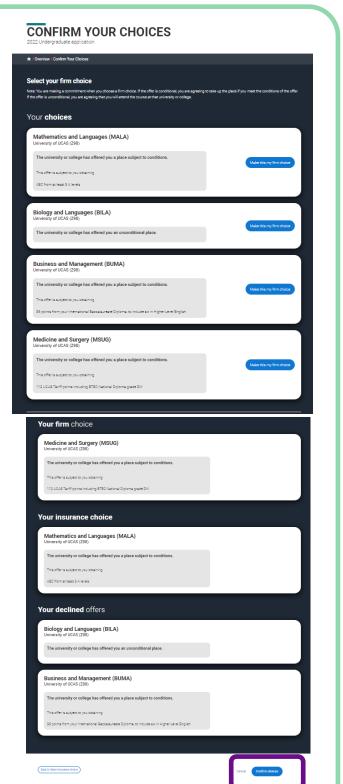




# **Confirming your choices on UCAS**

- Once all decisions have been received, you will make your reply and confirm your choices.
- Select your firm choice:
  - If you choose a conditional offer as your firm choice, you have the option to add an optional insurance choice – screen shot below.
  - If you choose an unconditional offer as your firm choice, you cannot have an insurance choice.
- All other offers will show as declined offers, underneath the Firm choice.
- You must click the blue 'Confirm choice' button at the bottom of the page to submit your decisions.



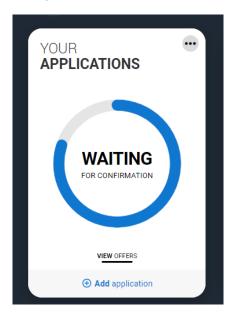


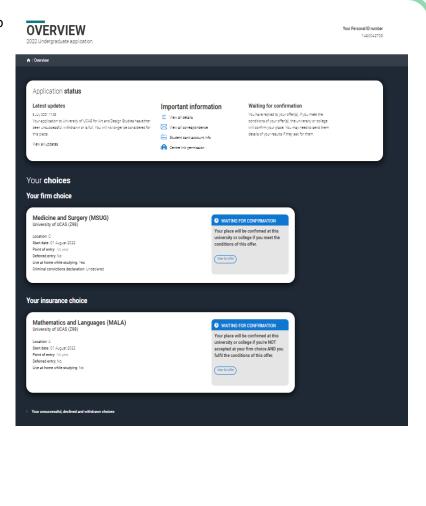






- Your application status will update to show you have replied to your offer(s) and that you are waiting for the university or college to confirm your place when your results are available.
- You are able to view the full text at any time by clicking 'View full offer'.
- Your application tile on the Hub will also update.





# Withdrawing Your Application

- If at any point you wish to withdraw your application please email the Head of Sixth Form to arrange a time to discuss this.
- If you withdraw, you will not be able to apply again during the academic year, and you will not be eligible for Clearing.
- Please **do not use** the Withdraw Your Whole Application link on the UCAS website unless you have spoken to the Head of Sixth Form.





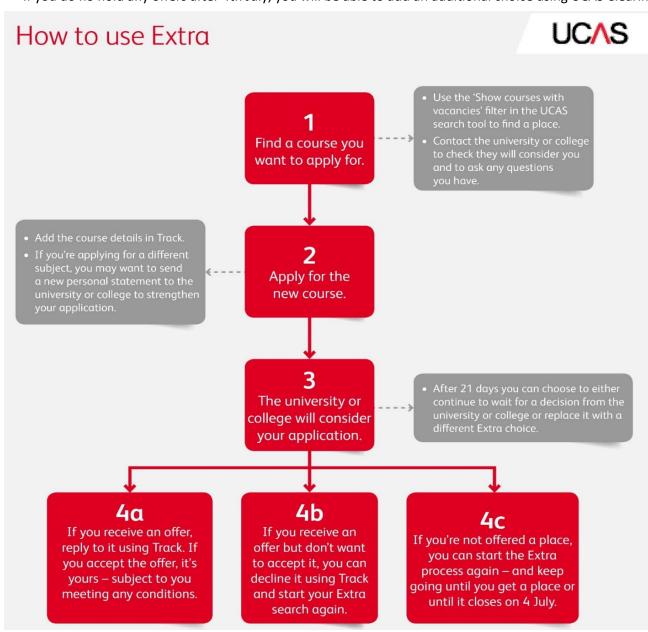
# **UCAS** Extra

# What is UCAS Extra?

Extra is another chance for you to gain a place at university or college, between 25th February and 4<sup>th</sup> July.

#### Who can use UCAS Extra?

- If you use all five of your choices on your original application and you do not receive any offers or you decline all offers, you will be eligible to add another choice using Extra.
- If you did not use all your choices in your initial application, you can just add another choice in UCAS Track as long as it's before 30th June, and you've not accepted or declined any offers. Remember, if you originally only applied to one choice and want to add more, you'll be asked to pay the extra £4.50 application fee.
- If you do no hold any offers after 4th July, you will be able to add an additional choice using UCAS Clearing.



More information and video guide available here





# **Guide to Clearing**

Haven't achieved the exam results you needed to secure your university place or your grades were better than expected and you wish to change institution? Don't panic - UCAS can help you find a course that's still right for you.

# Is Clearing For Me?

Clearing is the process by which universities with available course places are matched with students seeking a place. You're eligible to enter Clearing if your UCAS Track status says 'You are in Clearing' or 'Clearing has started'. Go to the UCAS website for details of the latest university course vacancies – you'll need to call them up to secure a place. Last year, more than 64,900 students found a course through Clearing – so you're not on your own. In fact, you'll need to move fast to snap up available courses.

# Top Tip

Clearing actually opens several weeks before A-level results day, so you can get a head start if you're not holding any offers or are a Highers, BTEC or IB student with results.

# **Research Courses and Universities**

Be quick, but don't madly rush to accept the first course you find. Research vacancies thoroughly to draw up a shortlist of universities to call — it's worth dedicating time to this process before hitting the phones on results day. Once you've found a potential course, make use of all available resources to build up a proper picture of what the course is like to study and what current students think about it — university websites and Which? University's course finder (www.which.co.uk/university) will help.

# **Top Tip**

A good place to start devising your Plan B is by thinking back to your original UCAS choices – not only to get yourself back into a researching mind set but also as a ready- made shortlist of universities and courses you've previously thought seriously about

# Preparing For The Call ...

Gather together the things you might need when speaking to universities.

- Your UCAS Clearing number, so tutors can view your original application.
- The course code, name and details of the course content you're enquiring about.
- Your personal statement re-read this, in case you're asked questions. Think about the key points you want to make. Note down why that specific course appeals to you highlighting something specific about it that you uncovered during your research, why you should get the place and questions to ask them.

(continues on next page)

# **Top Tip**

You may be asked why you didn't achieve your grades, so think honestly about what factors played a part here. Think about positive points to share, too - a really good unit mark, or experience relevant to the course that's not listed on your UCAS form.







# **Phoning Universities**

The conversation might simply involve a confirmation of your grades and that there's a place available with your name on it. On the other hand, you may find yourself on the receiving end of some tricky questions designed to test out your suitability for the course. Take down contact details in case you need to get back in touch or get cut off. It might be that you get a straight 'yes' or 'no' over the phone, or that they'll follow up to confirm with you later.

# Top Tip

# Confirming Your Place – The Admin Bit!

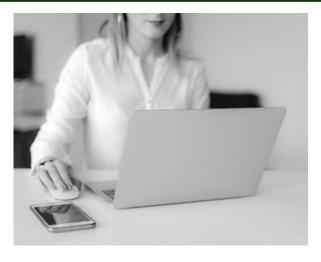
Think over the pros and cons of the offer(s). This is where you'll need family, friends or a teacher on hand. If you're happy, go to Track, click 'Add Clearing Choice' and enter the course code and details requested. Once the university confirms this via UCAS you will receive a confirmation letter and your Track status will change. You're in!

# Time for a quick celebration but do:

- Change your university details on

# **Alternatives to Clearing**

- You could reapply next year for slightly different courses or universities with your existing grades. Then plan your gap year to get the most out of it.
- Consider alternatives such as a Higher Apprenticeship, explore opportunities for employment and training in areas such as finance, retail, IT and childcare.
- Apply for a job. Brush up your CV, check out job ads or go to recruitment agencies to find either short-(to fund a gap year) or long-term roles.
- Study abroad. Some European universities offering English speaking courses may have vacancies for the upcoming year. There are lots issues to consider, so think through carefully.



# **Useful Resources**

- Live vacancies: **UCAS** and The Telegraph
- UCAS Helpline: 0371 468 0468
- Exam Results Helpline: 0808 100 8000
- Which? University Clearing special:
- **UCAS Clearing Video**



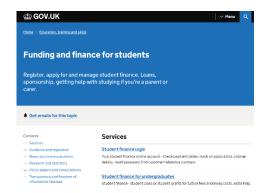


# **Student Finance**

 Visit the <u>UCAS page on student finance</u> to learn more about fees, grants and funding.



- Visit the <u>dedicated government website</u> to learn more about student finance or read their handy How To Guide.
- It's quick and easy to apply for a student loan, it should take less than 30 minutes.
- To make sure you get your funding in place for the start of your course new students should apply by 18 May 2024. Apply before Leavers Day!



There's different funding if you're studying to be a doctor or dentist or social worker

# **Finance Option Definitions:**

- **Privately financed:** With this option yourself or your family pay for your tuition fees and living costs without any student loans from the government.
- Tuition loan: Your university or college sets your tuition fee. You should check with them how much you'll be charged for your course, so you can apply for the right amount of Tuition Fee Loan. The Tuition Fee Loan needs to be paid back, but not until you've finished or left your course, and your income is over the repayment threshold. You could get a Tuition Fee Loan of up to £9,250 if you're studying at an eligible uni or college. If you're studying an accelerated degree course, you could get up to £11,100. If you're not sure if a course qualifies for student finance, check with the uni or college.
- Maintenance loan: A Maintenance Loan can help pay for things such as rent, food, books, travel, and other expenses. Any loan you borrow needs to be paid back, but not until you've finished or left your course, and your income is over the repayment threshold. Everyone who is eligible for student finance can get at least some Maintenance Loan, but you can apply for more that's based on your household income. Students are who are eligible to receive State Benefits, who are entitled to receive the means-tested element of funding, may be eligible for an increased amount of maintenance loan. If eligible, their maintenance loan will be made up of the Maintenance element and the Special Support (SSL) element.