



ASHTON
SIXTH FORM COLLEGE



Support for University Applications

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How can you help?

- Talk & Support
- Get Online & Informed
 - UCAS search tool <https://digital.ucas.com/search>
 - Encourage Independent Research
 - University Open Days
 - Know the College & UCAS Deadlines
 - Encourage Aspirational, Solid & Safe UCAS choices
 - Make the most of the support from college





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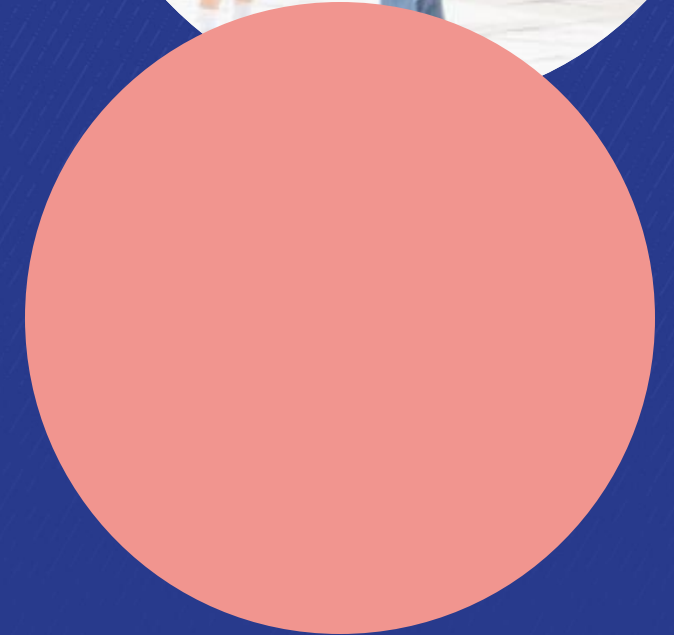
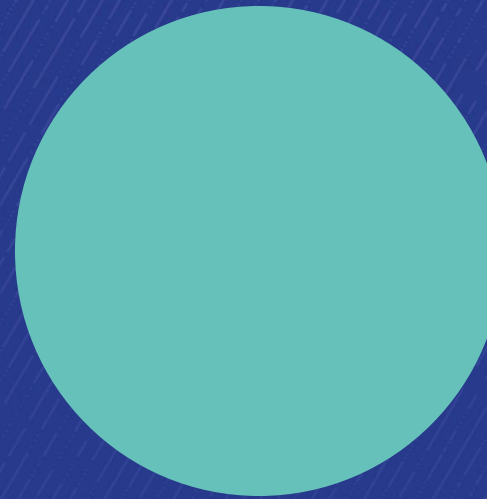
Choosing the right degree

- Undergraduate Bachelor's degree
- Foundation Year
- Vocational degree?
- New subject or old?
- Variation on a theme...
- Single or Joint/Combined
- What do graduates do?



Choosing the right degree

- What does the course cover?
- Courses with the same title may be very different.
- Look carefully at the core course content, and the range of optional modules available.
- Which modules are the most interesting and relevant to your career aspirations?
- Internship, placement, sandwich or study abroad opportunities.
- How is the course taught & assessed?
- **Entry requirements?**





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Choosing the right university

- **Style** - traditional research intensive; modern with a focus on vocational courses; specialist
- **Location** - home or away? large city, small town, by the coast, in the countryside, campus?
- **Size** - larger universities can have more than 20,000 students, whereas some of the smallest have only a few thousand.
- **Student Wellbeing & Support** – what support do the universities provide?
- **Culture and facilities** - influenced by a range of factors, including the diversity of students.
- **What graduates do?** - find out what career, jobs or further study students go on to.
- **Costs** – university scholarships & bursaries, accommodation, transport can vary enormously.

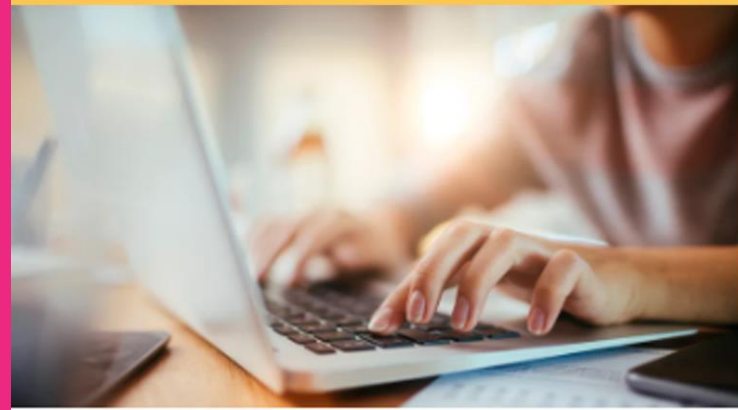


www.ucas.com/parents

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.



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.

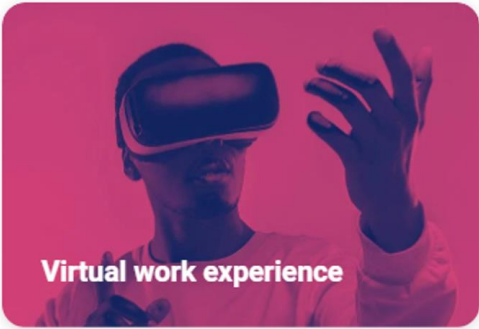
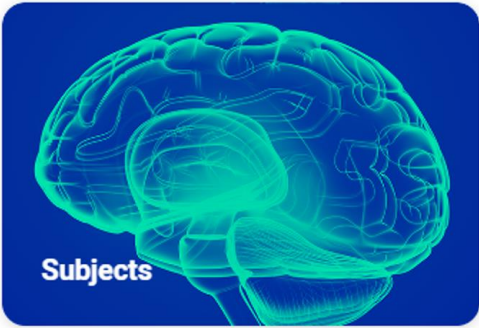
[Find out more](#)



Search

Courses, apprenticeships, information guides and more

Search for items




SUBJECT SPOTLIGHTS

All filters

Subject

University or College


★ Promoted



Teaching:
a profession and a passion

with Damien Maguire from Liverpool Hope Un


★ Promoted



CANCER, BRAIN TUMOURS
& ROGUE CELLS:
THE SCIENCE BEHIND THE KILLER DISEASE

with Dr Shafiq Ahmed from University of Sunderland


★ Promoted



And
breathe
the respiratory system explained

with Charlotte Anderson from the University of Sunderland


★ Promoted



COMPUTER SCIENCE:
SPACE EXPLORATION,
AI AND BEYOND

with Dr Paul Sant from The University of Law


★ Promoted



BIOTECHNOLOGY
THE RISE OF RADICAL HEALTHCARE

with Prof. M. Safwan Akram from Teesside University

★ Promoted



COVID
THE LAW
AND YOU

with Mike Meehan from University of Law

☐ Anglia Ruskin University (20)

☐ Canterbury Christ Church University (4)

☐ City St George's, University of London (3)

☐ Coventry University (4)

☐ Coventry University London (2)

☐ Durham University (1)

☐ Leeds Arts University (3)

☐ Leeds Beckett University (4)

☐ Liverpool Hope University (3)

☐ Manchester Metropolitan University (3)

☐ Middlesex University London (1)

☐ Queen's University Belfast (1)

☐ Teesside University (5)

☐ The University of Law (8)

☐ UCL (4)

Show more

Understanding

ter Metropolitan

Computer Science: Is Generative AI The Problem Or The Solution?

with Dr Aminu Usman from the University of Sunderland

Reset filters POWERED BY Springpod UCAS Media Service

VIRTUAL WORK EXPERIENCE

All filters Sector Organisation



AtkinsRéalis programme

Engineering

This programme will explore an array of career opportunities available at AtkinsRéalis
Available 11/11/2024 - 30/06/2025

[Start now](#)

- ☐ Accounting, banking & finance (9)
- ☐ Agricultural & environmental (1)
- ☐ Business, administration & consulting (3)
- ☐ Construction & trades (2)
- ☐ Digital, it and computing (2)
- ☐ Energy & utilities (6)
- ☐ Engineering (7)
- ☐ Government & politics (1)
- ☐ Healthcare & medicine (12)
- ☐ Hospitality, catering & events (2)
- ☐ Law & legal services (1)
- ☐ Property & surveying (1)
- ☐ Publishing & journalism (1)
- ☐ Retail (1)
- ☐ Science & research (4)

[Show more](#)



mydentist Work Experience with mydentist

Healthcare & Medicine

This programme will explore an array of career opportunities available at mydentist
Available 11/11/2024 - 30/06/2025

[Start now](#)



HR Career Insights: Virtual Work Experience with CIPD and Springpod

Business, Administration & Consulting

This programme will explore an array of career opportunities available at Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development
Available 13/11/2023 - 31/10/2025

[Start now](#)



Skills for Success: Forvis Mazars Work Experience

Accounting, Banking & Finance

This programme will explore an array of career opportunities available at Forvis Mazars
Available 28/10/2024 - 15/06/2025

[Start now](#)



Allied Health : Virtual Work Experience with Health Education England

Healthcare & Medicine

This programme will explore an array of career opportunities available at Health Education England
Available 16/09/2024 - 25/03/2025

[Start now](#)



Severn Trent Sustainability: Water Industry Virtual Work Experience

Energy & Utilities

This programme will explore an array of career opportunities available at Severn Trent
Available 09/09/2024 - 29/04/2025

[Start now](#)



Engineering a Sustainable World - Work Experience with IChemE

Engineering

This programme will explore an array of career opportunities available at Institution of Chemical Engineers
Available 30/09/2024 - 30/04/2026

[Start now](#)



Legal Realities Unveiled: Virtual Law Careers with TLT and Springpod

Law & Legal Services

This programme will explore an array of career opportunities available at TLT LLP
Available 01/09/2024 - 31/08/2025

[Start now](#)

Reset filters POWERED BY Springpod UCAS Media Service

CHAT TO STUDENTS

All filters

University or College

Subject

Country of origin

Reset filters

POWERED BY UNIBUDDY UCAS Media Service

Search for filters

☐ Abertay University (10)

☐ Bangor University (7)

☐ Bournemouth University (37)

☐ Brunel University of London (45)

☐ Buckinghamshire New University (8)

☐ City, University of London (26)

☐ Coventry University (38)

☐ Durham University (7)

☐ Lancaster University (75)

☐ Leeds Beckett University (1)

☐ Leeds Trinity University (22)

☐ Liverpool John Moores University (15)

☐ Northeastern University London (7)

☐ Rose Bruford College (6)

☐ Southampton Solent University (21)

Show more



Hi, I'm Aaliya
Games Art st

Chat with Aaliya



Aayan
City, University of London
Actuarial Science BSc (Hons)

I did my Foundation year from
O City, University of London....

Chat with Aayan



Abbey
Leeds Trinity University
Criminology with Police Studies
BA Combined (Hons)

I am looking at going into the
police after university and doing...

Chat with Abbey



Abbie
University of Strathclyde
MPhys Physics

I would love to develop a career in
research. I enjoy sharing my...

Chat with Abbie



Hi I'm Abbie
education st

Chat with Abbie



Abby
Swansea University
Sport and Exercise Science, BSc
(Hons)

I'm a keen swimmer and am part
of the University Swim team and...

Chat with Abby



abdeldjouad
University of Westminster
Finance and Business
Management BA Honours

Hi everyone! my name is
Abdeldjouad, I'm an international...

Chat with abdeldjouad



Abdul
University of Lincoln
Architecture - BA (Hons)

"Hi! Feel free to ask me any
questions about the courses here...

Chat with Abdul

Activities within the A1 tutorial curriculum to support university applications...

A1 tutorial curriculum	How students and parents can help
Introduction and registration with Unifrog (Jan 2025)	Familiarise yourself with the various tools and functions of the Unifrog platform
Introduction to simple careers searches, i.e. the UCAS Career Quiz/ Unifrog Profile Quizzes to assist those students who are as yet, unsure about their career intentions (Jan- Feb 2025)	Complete tests and research potential careers/job role suggestions as a result of the simple careers searches
Independent Unifrog research task set to all students to create shortlists for both university courses and apprenticeships (Jan -Feb 2025)	Revisit the shortlists and familiarise yourself with key information (for example, entry requirements, salaries, student satisfaction, modules)
UCAS Discovery Manchester event (March 2025)	To attend and conduct face to face research during further university events
Signposted online events to all A1 students (for example, National Apprenticeship Week (w/b 10 Feb), National Careers Week (w/b 3 March)	To attend relevant online events and engage with online talks and workshops, etc.
Student Life/Finance Talks delivered by a variety of universities (March 2025)	Students to discuss key information with parents/guardians

More recently and still to come...

A1 Tutorial curriculum	How students and parents can help
Introduction/ preparation to writing Personal Statements – 3 questions (May 2025). Utilisation of UCAS Hub resources, including 2026 Personal Statement Guides (by subject), Subject Tasters/ Spotlights and Virtual Work Experience.	Students are asked to complete 1st draft using resources provided/UCAS Hub by the end of the summer term and upload to Cedar. Students should continue to work on and refine their Personal Statement throughout the summer.
Researching options utilising the UCAS Hub and understanding entry requirements and contextual offers (June 2025).	Students to explore potential university course choices/ key information and discuss with parents/guardians
Spotlight on Making the Most of Open Days and communication of university open days and careers events (May 2025)	Students and/or parents/guardians to attend university open days and/or careers events
Registration for and completion of the online UCAS application – Profile section (June 2025)	Students to complete UCAS application
1 to 1 meetings with Senior Tutors and/or Careers to discuss future career plans after college (May/June 2025)	Students to prepare for the meetings with ideas they may wish to discuss and book Careers appointments for guidance (where appropriate)

Preparation in A1 for A2

- ✓ Registered/completed **UCAS application** (not including choices) or completed **CV**
- ✓ Record of skills, work experience, activities, etc. in your **ILP (Cedar)**
- ✓ A UK universities shortlist and/or an apprenticeship shortlist using **UCAS Hub** and/or **Unifrog**
- ✓ Attendance to **Open Days** and/or **Careers Events** e.g. **Festival of Apprenticeships**
- ✓ A **draft personal statement** of at least **3000 characters** and uploaded to your ILP (Personal Statement section) Cedar.



What does the UCAS Application look like?

• Profile:

- Personal details
- Nationality details
- Where you live
- Contact details
- Supporting information
- Finance & funding
- Diversity & inclusion
- More about you

Experiences:

- Education
- Employment
- Extra activities
- Personal statement
- Add Choices*
- Reference

***Students can apply for up to 5 choices. Applying costs £28.95**

The image shows a dark-themed mockup of the UCAS application form. It is organized into several sections, each with a grid of cards representing different parts of the application. The 'Profile' section at the top includes cards for 'Personal details', 'Nationality details', 'Where you live', 'Contact details', 'Supporting information', and 'Finance & funding'. The 'Experience' section below it includes 'Diversity & inclusion', 'More about you', 'Education', 'Employment', and 'Extra activities'. The 'Personal Statement' section at the bottom has a single card for the 'Personal statement'. Progress indicators are shown at the bottom of each card: 'Start this section' (grey), 'Section in progress' (blue with an 'i' icon), and 'Section complete' (green with a checkmark icon). The 'Where you live', 'Diversity & inclusion', 'Employment', and 'Education' cards are marked as 'Section complete'. The 'Where you live' card also has a blue bar at the bottom with the text 'Section in progress'.

Profile

Personal details
Name, age, title and gender
Start this section

Nationality details
Birthplace and nationalities
Start this section

Where you live
Tell us about your address history
Section in progress

Contact details
Address, email, and telephone
Section in progress

Supporting information
So that providers know how to support you during your studies
Start this section

Finance & funding
Tell us how you'll fund your study
Start this section

Experience

Diversity & inclusion
Additional equality information
Start this section

More about you
Tell us about any circumstances that you might need support for during your studies
Start this section

Education
Qualifications and periods of study
Section complete

Employment
Paid employment
Section complete

Extra activities
Taken part in any activities to prepare you for higher education?
Start this section

Personal Statement

Personal statement
Why do you want to study this subject?
Start this section

THE PERSONAL STATEMENT

WHAT ARE THE QUESTIONS?



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?



Your chance to show your passion, curiosity, interest.



Three separate sections with question prompts.



A maximum of 4,000 characters, minimum of 350 characters per section.



The same for all your choices.



There isn't a spelling or grammar check.



No formatting allowed.



Every personal statement is run through similarity detection software.

PERSONAL STATEMENT SUPPORT

PERSONAL STATEMENT BUILDER

4000 characters of 4000 remaining



[View personal statement guides](#)

CONTINUE WRITING



What to include in your architecture, planning or building personal statement



What to include in your animal science personal statement



What to include in your art and design personal statement



What to include in your biology personal statement



What to include in your business management personal statement



What to include in your chemistry personal statement



What to include in your computer science personal statement



What to include in your dance personal statement



What to include in your dentistry personal statement



What to include in your drama personal statement



What to include in your economics personal statement



What to include in your engineering personal statement



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Key Dates

Preparation in A1 for A2 checklist tasks (inc. a draft personal statement of at least 3000 characters) to be completed before the summer break.

UCAS applications can't be sent off until **2 September 2025 at the earliest**

College internal UCAS deadlines:

Early Applicants **30 September 2025**

Other Applicants **1 November 2025**

UCAS deadlines

Early Applicants **15 October 2025**

Other Applicants **14 January 2026**

Apply for Student Finance via .gov.uk around **March 2026**. Deadline **May 2026**

Student Finance for University

- Separate application to UCAS application
- Tuition fees (studying in England - up to £9,535)
- Maintenance loans (depends upon household income, where you study, where you live and how long for)
- Other support (Disabled Students' Allowance, scholarships, bursaries and grants)
- **Please refer to the following...**
 - <https://www.ucas.com/money>
 - <https://www.gov.uk/student-finance>
 - <https://www.moneysavingexpert.com/students/>



Thank you for listening.

**If you have any questions, please
feel free to ask.**