

# Applying through **UCAS**

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UCAS

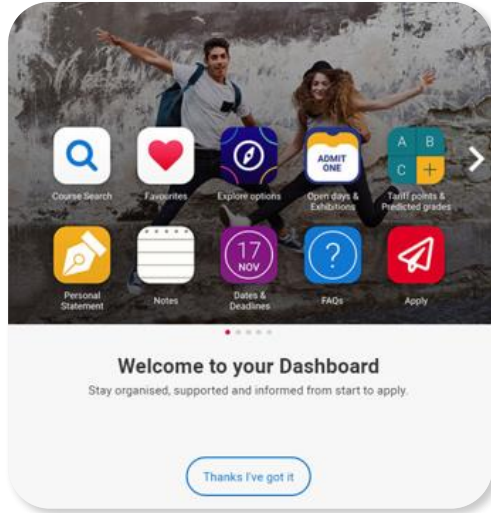
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# Contents

By the end of this presentation, you will:

- know what resources are available to support you
- understand how to apply
- know when you need to submit your application
- understand how to track your application and reply to offers

# Before you apply...



Register in the UCAS Hub to explore your options, such as:

- find and favourite over 35,000 courses
- search for virtual tours and online events
- turn predicted grades into Tariff points

Go to: [ucas.com/hub](https://ucas.com/hub)

# Research – it's free!



- Learning from others – [student videos](#) and [blogs](#).
- [Career options](#) – use the [job profiles](#) to explore different career roles and pathways, or take the [Buzz quiz](#) to find out more about individual strengths, and what roles may suit you.
- The [Career Finder tool](#) is ideal for considering options after education, including searching for [apprenticeships](#).

# Choosing the right university for you

- **Style** – from the traditional, with a focus on subject-based courses and research, to modern universities, with a greater focus on vocational courses.
- **Location** – some are based in large cities, others in smaller towns. This can have a major influence on the environment and lifestyle on offer.
- **Size** – larger universities can have more than 20,000 students, whereas some of the smallest have only a few thousand.
- **Culture and facilities** – influenced by a range of factors, including the diversity of students who attend.
- **What graduates do** – all universities collect destination statistics. It can be interesting to find out the types of jobs or further study students go on to.
- **Tuition fees** – can vary between course providers. Check if there are any scholarships or bursaries available.
- **Living costs** – accommodation, transport, and food can vary enormously.

# Choosing the right course for you

- What does the course cover?
- Courses with the same title may be very different.
- Look carefully at the core course content, and the range of optional studies/modules available.
- Which modules are the most interesting and relevant to your career aspirations?
- See if the course or university/college offers any internship, placement, or study abroad opportunities.
- How is the course taught – structured teaching, or more independent research? How many lectures are there, and how much group work will be done in seminars?
- How is the course assessed?

# Apply key facts...



It's an online application.



Maximum of five choices.



Choice restrictions:

- medicine, veterinary, medicine/science, dentistry (maximum of four)
- Oxford or Cambridge



Simple application cost:

- one choice – £20
- two to five choices – £26



Equal consideration.



'Invisibility'.

# When to apply for 2021 entry

- |                    |                                                                                                                               |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>19 May</b>      | UCAS Undergraduate Apply opens for 2021 entry.                                                                                |
| <b>8 September</b> | First day for receipt of completed applications.                                                                              |
| <b>15 October*</b> | Application deadline for courses in medicine, veterinary medicine/science, and dentistry, and courses at Oxford or Cambridge. |
| <b>15 January*</b> | Equal consideration application deadline.                                                                                     |
| <b>25 February</b> | Extra opens.                                                                                                                  |
| <b>30 June*</b>    | Last date for applications before Clearing.                                                                                   |

**\* All 18:00 (UK time)**



# Making a UCAS application

Begin at [ucas.com/apply](https://ucas.com/apply).

Sections to be completed:

- Personal details
- Choices – make up to five
- Education
- Employment
- Personal statement
- Reference



# The personal statement

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



The only section you have full control over



Your only chance to market themselves individually



The same for all of your choices



A maximum of 4,000 characters, or 47 lines



A minimum of 1,000 characters



There isn't a spelling or grammar check



No formatting is allowed

# Start early

Include:

- academic achievements, past and present
- why you're interested in the subject area
- your knowledge of the subject area
- your enthusiasm to go beyond the syllabus
- what you enjoy about studying
- details of your independent study skills

# Consider...

Universities and colleges will ask:

- Have you chosen the right subject for the right reasons?
- Can you survive in an intense and pressured atmosphere?
- 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 possess good numeracy and literacy skills?

# Decision-making

After receiving your application, a university or college will make one of three decisions:

- **unconditional** offer
- **conditional** offer
- **unsuccessful**

Or, they can offer a place on an alternative course.

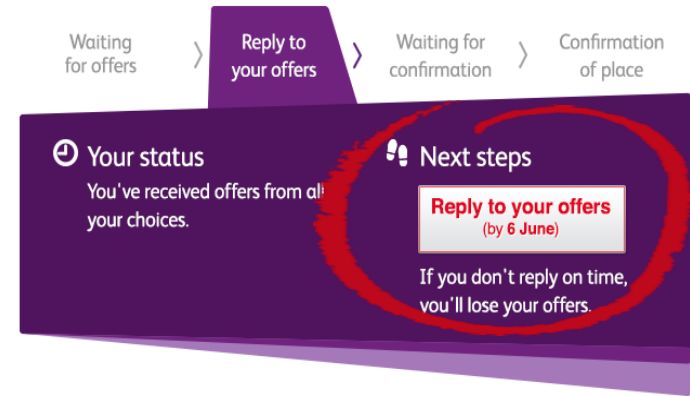
Universities and colleges can also:

- request an interview
- ask to see your portfolio
- ask you to take an admissions test

# Tracking applications

Track allows applicants to:

- follow the progress of their application 24/7
- see their choices and personal information
- view their offers
- reply to offers online



In Track, a student can hold up to two offers:

- **firm** – if they meet the conditions of the offer they will be placed here
- **insurance** –if they are not placed with their firm choice, they may be placed with their insurance choice

# Replies to offers

Once you have decisions on all your choices, you can hold a maximum of two offers:

- 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

You must then decline any remaining offers.

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. See [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com) for more information.

# Other options



## **Extra** (25 Feb – 4 Jul)

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

## **Clearing** (5 Jul – 19 Oct)

- Apply after 30 June, receive no offers, decline all offers, not met conditions.
- Find vacancies from July, and add one choice in Track.

## **Adjustment** (up to five days in Aug)

- Placed with firm choice, and did better than expected.
- Register in Track, then find another university or college. The new university or college adjusts the record.



# Additional help

**UCAS Customer Experience Centre**

0371 468 0 468

**From outside the UK:**

+44 330 3330 230

Monday to Friday, 08:30 – 18:00 (UK time)

**Find us online at:**

[facebook.com/ucasonline](https://facebook.com/ucasonline)

[twitter.com/UCAS\\_online](https://twitter.com/UCAS_online)



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**Thank you**

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