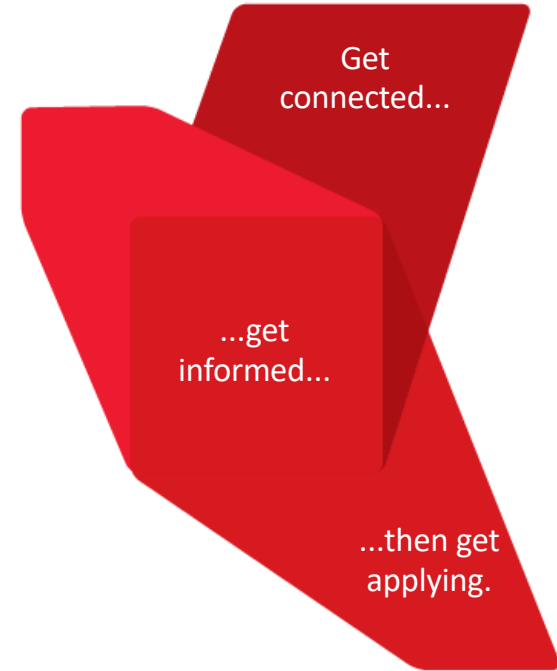


UCAS



A guide to the UCAS Process 2024-25

Benefits of going to University

Pros

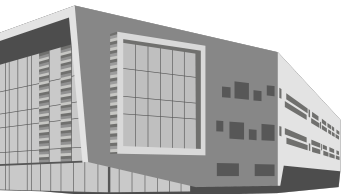
- ✓ Get to study your subject at the highest level
- ✓ Opens the door to a wide range of careers that you need a degree for
- ✓ Graduates get paid a lot more on average over their working life
- ✓ Great experience
- ✓ Get letters after your name

Cons

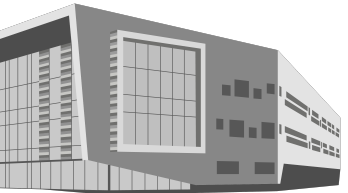
- £9000 tuition fees (given as a low interest loan), plus student loans- can mean debt of over £30,000 (but this is only payable when you are earning £21,000)
- 3 or 4 more years of academic studying
- First years after Uni are not always easy- good job will not necessarily be found immediately

When to apply- deadlines

30 April	UCAS search tool will display 2025 courses
14th May	Applicants can register and start to complete their application.
June, July, September, October	Prime time for University Open days
3 September	Students can start to submit completed applications to UCAS.
15 October	Deadline for medicine, dentistry, veterinary and Oxbridge
October- December	UCAS busy period- this is when the vast majority of applications get made
29 th January 2025	Equal Consideration Application deadline for University courses
June 2025	Firm Offers and insurance deadline
5 th July 2025	Clearing opens
14th August 2025	Results day

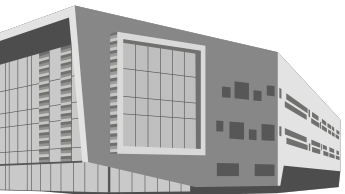


- [Applications for Parents](#)



The process at a glance

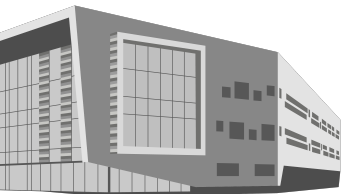
Now- May-	Researching courses, pursuing interests
May- July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Register with UCAS and fill in personal information • Book and start attending open days • Try to make a decision about which general subject to do • Begin writing personal statement and complete introduction and personal qualities sections
Sept	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give reference requests to teachers • Continue going on open days • Complete first draft of Personal statement • Complete all sections of the UCAS online application
October- December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If all of the above is done, students see their tutor for their main reference • See Mrs Farrington/Ms Jones to get the application sent off
November- May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offers will come in • Students have to decide which is their firm and reserve choice



What does the process look like?

RIGHT NOW:

- Start thinking about what you might like to study using Unifrog
- Start looking through prospectuses and online at different universities and cities where you might like to study
- Start discussing and comparing the cost (primarily living costs) of different places



What is Unifrog?

- Unifrog is our system for students to use at school or at home
- It allows them to input their predicted grades and subjects they are interested in
- It will then give them a range of courses related to their chosen subject

Any of these interest you?

Select up to 10 at a time by clicking on the subjects you like

Direct matches (1)

Biology

Subjects you might like
(41)

Animal Biology

Animal Ecology and Wildlife Biology

Applied Biology

Biochemistry and Molecular Cell Biology

Biology and Economics

Biology and Education

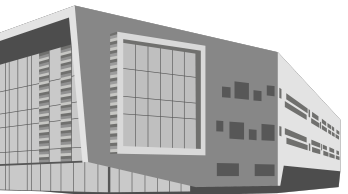
Biology and English

Biology and Geography

Biology and Geology

Biology and History

next: 1 subject ▶ or go back

















What is Unifrog?

- It then shows them courses that match their requirements













Aspirational (301)

Top of your range

 Applied Biosciences - 2FT HND  Chichester College A Level: A*A*-CC	❗
 Biomedical Sciences - 3FT BA (Hons)  University of Oxford RG A Level: A*AA	❗
 Biological Sciences - 3FT BA (Hons)  University of Oxford RG A Level: A*AA	❗
 Biological Sciences - 3FT BSc (Hons)  Imperial College London RG A Level: AAA	❗
 Biological Sciences (with year in industry/research) - 4FT BSc (Hons)  Imperial College London RG A Level: AAA	❗
 Biological Sciences - 4FT + Abroad BSc (Hons)  Imperial College London RG A Level: AAA	❗
 Biological Sciences (Environmental Biology) - 3FT BSc (Hons)  UCL (University College London)	❗








Solid (352)

In the middle

 Archaeology with Forensic Science - 3FT/3PT BSc (Hons)  University of Exeter RG A Level: BBB-AAB	
 Biomedical Science - 4FT BSc (Hons)  University of Strathclyde A Level: BBB-ABB	
 Environmental Science - 3FT/4PT BSc (Hons)  University of Nottingham RG A Level: BBB-ABB	
 Environmental Science - 4FT/6PT MSci (Hons)  University of Nottingham RG A Level: BBB-ABB	
 Environmental Biology - 3FT/PT BSc (Hons)  University of Nottingham RG A Level: BBB*-ABB	
 Biology - 3FT BSc (Hons)  Royal Holloway, University of London TT A Level: BBB-ABB	

Safe (344)

At the bottom

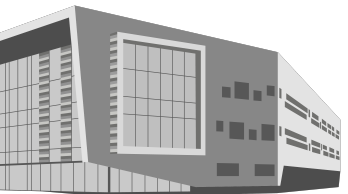
 Biosciences - 4FT BSc (Hons)  University of Sussex TT A Level: CCC	
 Human Biology - 3FT BSc (Hons)  University of Worcester Extended Project (stand alone): 96-104	
 Forensic Sciences - 4FT BSc (Hons)  Abertay University A Level: CCC	
 Crime Scene Science - 3FT/6PT BSc (Hons)  Teesside University Extended Project (stand alone): 96-112	
 Wildlife and Practical Conservation - 3FT/6PT BSc (Hons)  University of Salford Extended Project (stand alone): 96-112	
 Biology - 3FT/6PT BSc (Hons)  University of Salford Extended Project (stand alone): 96-112	

next ▶

or go back

June/ July

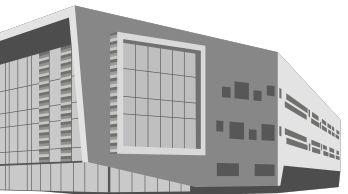
- Decisions- they need an idea, not necessarily a definite
- Students will register with UCAS and link their application to our school so we can see it
- Begin filling in the personal information on the application
- Students will be given training by ourselves and University of Nottingham on how to write a personal statement
- Begin drafting the personal statement
- Go out on open days



Open days



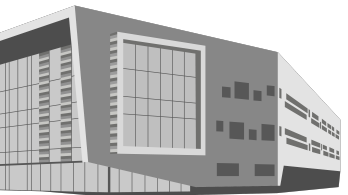
- Really valuable and important to get a feel for the University and the City
- Opportunity to talk to admissions tutors about what they are looking for
- Many are at the weekend
- NUAST will authorise up to three during school time



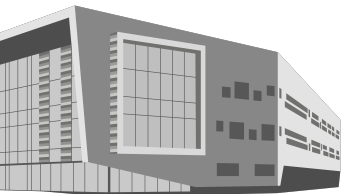
UCAS points

Every A level grade has a UCAS points value

Grade	UCAS Points
A*	56
A	48
B	40
C	32
D	24
E	16



Points	Grades
168	A*A*A*
160	A*A*A
152	A*AA
144	AAA
136	AAB
128	ABB
120	BBB
112	BBC
104	BCC
96	CCC
88	CCD
80	CDD
72	DDD

















Points tariffs

- Some courses will ask for three specific grades (E.G. ABB) and some will ask for points (e.g. 112 points)













Aspirational (301)

Top of your range

 Applied Biosciences - 2FT HND  Chichester College A Level: A*A*-CC	❗
 Biomedical Sciences - 3FT BA (Hons)  University of Oxford RG A Level: A*AA	❗
 Biological Sciences - 3FT BA (Hons)  University of Oxford RG A Level: A*AA	❗
 Biological Sciences - 3FT BSc (Hons)  Imperial College London RG A Level: AAA	❗
 Biological Sciences (with year in industry/research) - 4FT BSc (Hons)  Imperial College London RG A Level: AAA	❗
 Biological Sciences - 4FT + Abroad BSc (Hons)  Imperial College London RG A Level: AAA	❗
 Biological Sciences (Environmental Biology) - 3FT BSc (Hons)  UCL (University College London)	❗













Solid (352)

In the middle

 Archaeology with Forensic Science - 3FT/3PT BSc (Hons)  University of Exeter RG A Level: BBB-AAB	
 Biomedical Science - 4FT BSc (Hons)  University of Strathclyde A Level: BBB-ABB	
 Environmental Science - 3FT/4PT BSc (Hons)  University of Nottingham RG A Level: BBB-ABB	
 Environmental Science - 4FT/6PT MSci (Hons)  University of Nottingham RG A Level: BBB-ABB	
 Environmental Biology - 3FT/PT BSc (Hons)  University of Nottingham RG A Level: BBB*-ABB	
 Biology - 3FT BSc (Hons)  Royal Holloway, University of London TT A Level: BBB-ABB	

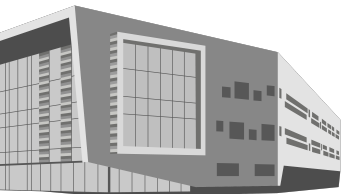
Safe (344)

At the bottom

 Biosciences - 4FT BSc (Hons)  University of Sussex TT A Level: CCC	
 Human Biology - 3FT BSc (Hons)  University of Worcester Extended Project (stand alone): 96-104	
 Forensic Sciences - 4FT BSc (Hons)  Abertay University A Level: CCC	
 Crime Scene Science - 3FT/6PT BSc (Hons)  Teesside University Extended Project (stand alone): 96-112	
 Wildlife and Practical Conservation - 3FT/6PT BSc (Hons)  University of Salford Extended Project (stand alone): 96-112	
 Biology - 3FT/6PT BSc (Hons)  University of Salford Extended Project (stand alone): 96-112	

What do students choose?

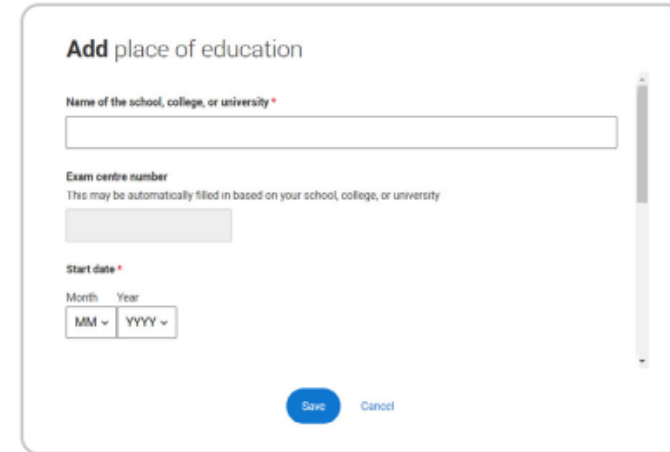
- Students can choose **FIVE** courses on their UCAS application
- ✓ At least one should be fairly **aspirational-** something achievable at a stretch
- ✓ Two or more should be **challenging** but **achievable**
- ✓ At least one should be a **safe choice-** a course you will get the grades for even if you have a bad day



THE UCAS APPLICATION

Education

- You have to put the school where you did your GCSEs
- Then put NUAST (if you did GCSEs elsewhere)
- Your current qualifications go down as an end date August 2025 and the result as “Pending”



Add place of education

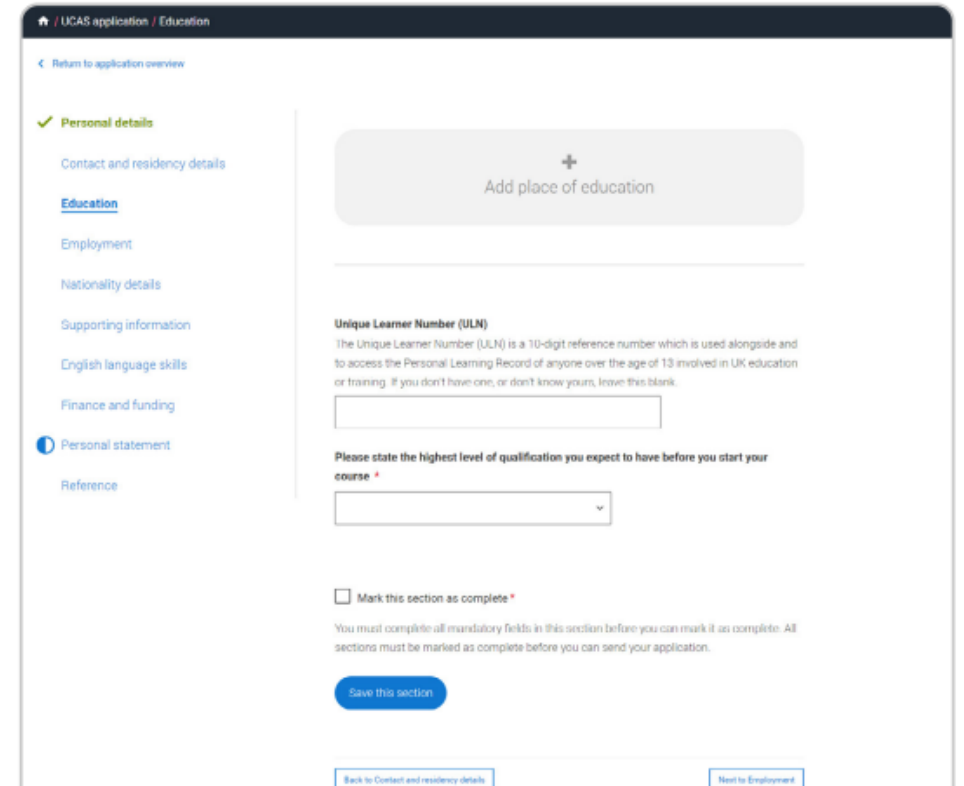
Name of the school, college, or university *

Exam centre number
This may be automatically filled in based on your school, college, or university

Start date *

Month Year
MM - YYYY

Save Cancel



UCAS application / Education

[Return to application overview](#)

- ✓ Personal details
- Contact and residency details
- Education**
- Employment
- Nationality details
- Supporting information
- English language skills
- Finance and funding
- Personal statement
- Reference

Add place of education

Unique Learner Number (ULN)
The Unique Learner Number (ULN) is a 10-digit reference number which is used alongside and to access the Personal Learning Record of anyone over the age of 13 involved in UK education or training. If you don't have one, or don't know yours, leave this blank.

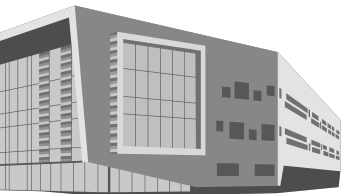
Please state the highest level of qualification you expect to have before you start your course *

Mark this section as complete *

You must complete all mandatory fields in this section before you can mark it as complete. All sections must be marked as complete before you can send your application.

Save this section

[Back to Contact and residency details](#) [Next to Employment](#)



Choices

Add choice

University/college name *

Course *

Location *

Start date *

Application status

Centre information
You are not linked to a centre. Use the link below to link your application to your centre.
[Link to a school, college, or centre](#)

0/5
CHOICES

13%
PROFILE

NOT STARTED
PERSONAL STATEMENT

NOT STARTED
REFERENCE

9%
LINKING YOUR CENTRE

Your choices

+ Add choice

You can add up to 3 choices to your application. You can change your choices until you send your application to us. All sections must be finished as complete before you can send your application to us.

Find courses and providers

Your profile

Personal details >

Name, age, sex and gender

✔ Section complete

[Start this section](#)

Contact and residency details >

Address, email, telephone and where you live

[Start this section](#)

Education >

Qualifications and periods of study

[Start this section](#)

Employment >

Find employment

[Start this section](#)

Nationality details >

Birthplace and nationalities

✔ Section in progress

Supporting information >

So that providers know how to support you during your studies

[Start this section](#)

English language skills >

Is English your first language?

[Start this section](#)

Finance and funding >

Tell us how you'll fund your study

[Start this section](#)

Your personal statement and references

Personal statement >

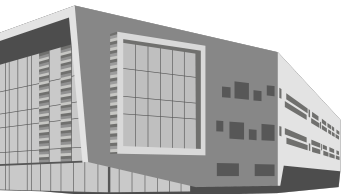
Why do you want to study this subject?

[Start this section](#)

Reference >

Provide details of your referees

[Start this section](#)



The UCAS Application

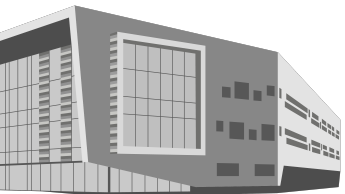
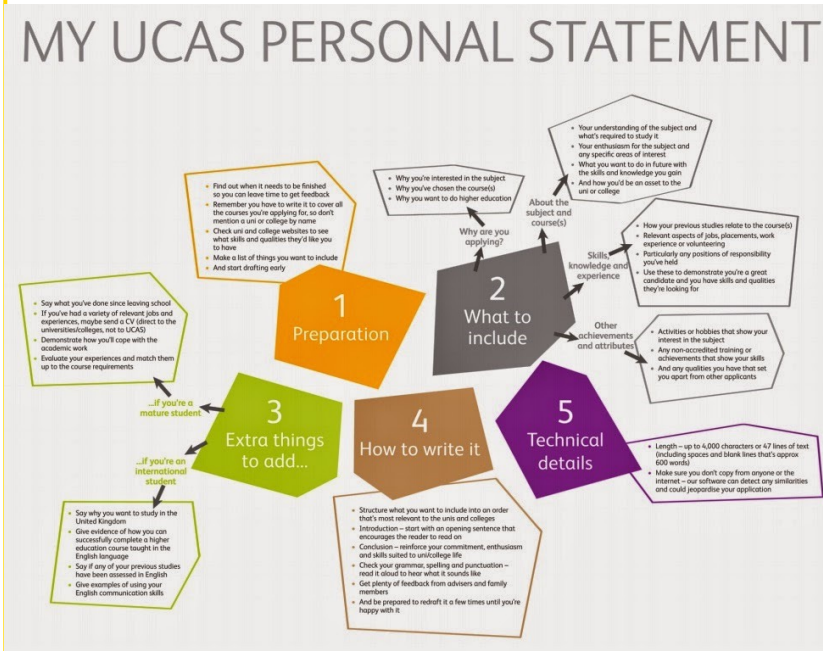
6 sections:

- Personal details
- Choices (5 university choices)
- Student finance (appears after other sections are complete)
- Education- GCSEs and A level courses
- Employment
- Statement- your personal statement
- Reference- completed by tutor along with predicted grades



The personal statement

- Read by admissions tutors to get a feel for applicants
- Allows you to tell them about your skills and experiences
- Allows you to demonstrate your suitability for the course
- 4000 characters long over 47 lines- UCAS application cuts anything over this

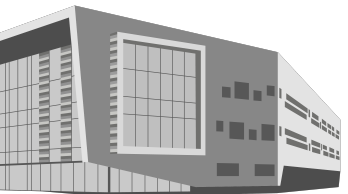


Personal Statement

Motivation for course: Why do you want to study these courses?

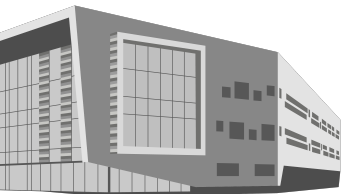
Preparedness for course: How has your learning so far helped you to be ready to succeed on these courses

Preparation through other experiences: What else have you done to help you prepare, and why are these experiences useful?



Sending the application

- Once a student has completed all parts, it goes to their tutor to write a 4000 character reference and enter predicted grades
- When this is done, the application comes back to the student to pay
- The fee is £28.50 and must be paid on card
- When this is done, it comes through to Mrs Farrington/Ms Jones for final checking and to send to UCAS (usually with the student)



THEN WHAT?

Waiting for offers

- Universities will then start making you offers
- These will be by Email or through UCAS Track
- They might invite you to interview to help them decide
- Most offers will be **conditional**
- Some universities might make **unconditional offers**

university / college	course	starting	decision	your reply	updated
The University of Sheffield campus: entry point: 1	Q3Q1	01-Oct-2008	Unconditional	Firm	12-Aug-2008
The University of York campus: entry point: 1	Q302	01-Oct-2008	Unconditional	Insurance	12-Aug-2008
Newcastle University campus: entry point: 1	Q302	01-Sep-2008	Conditional	Declined	13-Mar-2008
University of Leeds campus: entry point: 1	Q310	24-Sep-2008	Conditional	Declined	13-Mar-2008
University of Sussex campus: entry point: 1	QQ31	01-Oct-2008	Conditional	Declined	13-Mar-2008

Add choice

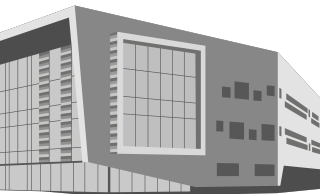
Reply to offers

Payment

application processed by UCAS : 19-Oct-2007


last log in : 16-Oct-2008

ard, be kind



Making your two choices

Your choices


 **Your firm choice**

Swansea University ^{S93}
Aerospace Engineering (with a Year in Industry) ^{H402}
Start date: 26 Sep 2016
Start from: Year One

Your place will be confirmed at this university or college if you meet the conditions of this offer.
(Conditional offer (firmly accepted))

Last updated
14 Jan 2016

[View](#) >

 **Your insurance choice**

University of Wales Trinity Saint David (UWTSD Swansea) ^{S98}
Energy and Environmental Engineering (4 year programme) ^{48C3}
Start date: 19 Sep 2016
Start from: Year One

Your place is confirmed at this university or college if you're NOT accepted at your firm choice
(Unconditional offer (held as insurance))

Last updated
14 Jan 2016

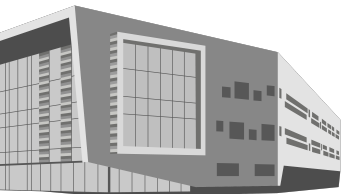
[View](#) >

- When all offers are in, students have to choose **two** courses
- **A firm choice-** this is your first choice, the place you want to go
- **A reserve choice-** this is a backup, with lower grade requirements that you will go to if you don't quite get the grades for your firm choice



Deadline- First week in June 2025

- This is something to think about very carefully
- Don't pick a firm choice with grades you know you will get
- Don't pick a reserve that is as hard to get as your firm



Other options

Extra Feb-July

If all five choices have been used and they have no offers/rejected all offers

Clearing from mid-July

If there are no offers, or have applied after deadline



Adjustment

(from A level results day)

If they've gained better results than the conditional offer they hold, they could apply for a different course or university

How can you support the application process?

- Use the Parents/Guardian section of the UCAS website/Parent Guide publication – www.ucas.com/parents and sign up for the newsletter.
- Offer to attend open days, you may have a different perspective.
- Don't book family holidays at key times.
- Make sure they read everything carefully that is sent to them.
- Support your son/daughter's management of their application.