

# UCAS Information Event

**Stephen Leggott**  
Deputy Head of Sixth Form

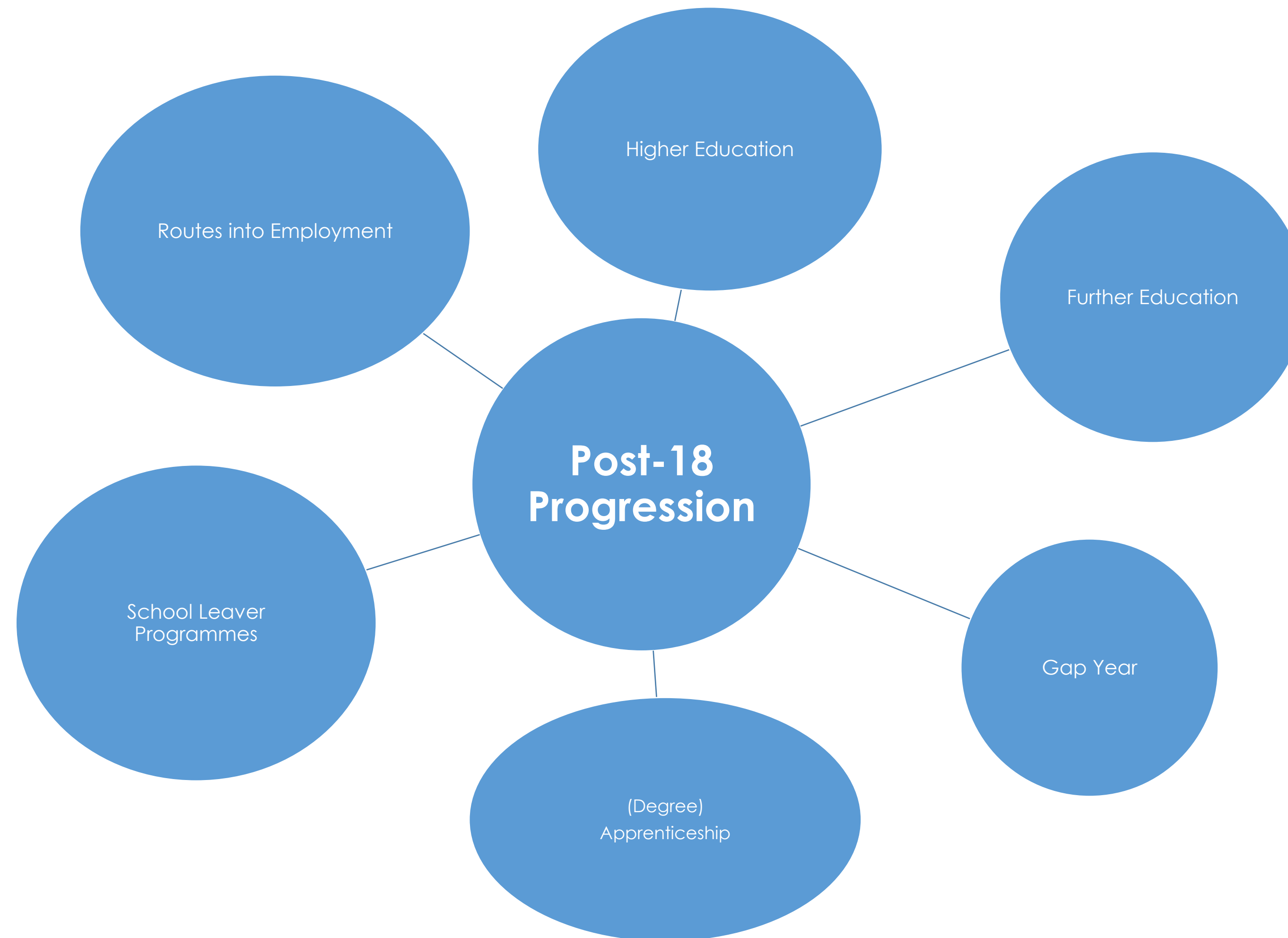
**June 2025**



# UCAS Information Event

- 1) **Stephen Leggott**: The UCAS process at CSF – timetable and overview
- 2) **Harry Ward**, Higher Education Adviser, University of East Anglia:
  - The universities' perspective on the process
  - Student finance

# Post-18 Progression





# IS UNIVERSITY THE RIGHT CHOICE FOR ME?





# Higher Education – Is it the right choice for me?



- Choice
- Money
- Skills
- Opportunities
- Enjoyment
- Independence
- Social life
- Well-being

# Higher Education – How do I know what to study?

- Do some proper research
  - [Unifrog](https://www.unifrog.com)
  - [www.ucas.com](https://www.ucas.com)
- Check requirements for particular careers
- Wrong choice of course is widely regarded as the biggest reason students drop out of university
- Choose a subject you love
- Read the actual prospectus
- Speak to students on the course (UniBuddy)
- Visit universities and talk to relevant departments



# Higher Education – How do I apply?

Through the UCAS website:

## Registration (June 2025)

### Profile

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

### Experience

- Education (GCSEs and Pending BTEC/A-level qualifications)
- Employment
- Extra activities

### Personal Statement\*

### Choices

**Reference** – completed by academic tutors

### Pay & Submit

# UCAS Support Timetable

## June/July 2025

- Official start of the UCAS process with **online registration** of all potential applicants
- Preparation events, such as the **UCAS Discovery Exhibition** at the University of Bedfordshire and Open Day visit to the **University of Nottingham**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> July: Planning and writing a **Personal Statement** – guidance session
- Further opportunities to work with tutors on Personal Statements during individual tutorials along with access to full complement of supporting resources in the CATalogue



# UCAS Support Timetable – Year 13

## September 2025

- Within first week of term: Opportunities for students applying for early entry courses or institutions to receive additional support with completion of Personal Statements
- Guidance sessions and Personal Statement planning continues for all students

## October 2025

- 15<sup>th</sup>: UCAS deadline for receipt of applications to Universities of Cambridge or Oxford and applications for medicine, dentistry and veterinary medicine/science
- 24<sup>th</sup>: Premium checking service deadline for students in main cycle

## October/November 2025

- 14<sup>th</sup> November: Basic checking service deadline for students in main cycle
- Offers begin
- Mock interviews and practice tests offered to all students for whom they are part of the process



# Advice For Parents And Guardians | UCAS | Parent Guide To University

UCAS

Discover

Applying

Money & student life

International



Sign in



/ Discover

/ Advice for parents, guardians and carers



## Advice for parents, guardians and carers

Everything you need to help your child decide on their next steps.

### APPLYING TO UNIVERSITY



#### How to fill in a UCAS application

If your child has decided university is the right path for them, here's what they'll need to know about making a UCAS application.



#### Help your child write a great personal statement

Taking a positive approach, and leaving enough time to do a good job, really can make your child's application stand out from the crowd.



#### What happens once UCAS gets an application?

Find out what we do with your child's application and the different decisions a uni or college can make.

Feedback



# Useful Links

- [UCAS](#)
- [UCAS Parent, Guardian and Carer Guide 2024](#)
- [Discover Uni](#) (Formerly Unistats)
- [Work Experience | Medical Schools Council \(medschools.ac.uk\)](#)
- [RateMyApprenticeship](#)
- [UCAS Apprenticeship Finder](#)
- [Gap Year Advice](#)
- [CSF CATalogue Resources](#)

## References:

- [Labour market value of higher and further education qualifications: a summary report - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
- [The impact of undergraduate degrees on lifetime earnings | Institute for Fiscal Studies \(ifs.org.uk\)](#)
- [New analysis shows students who choose to learn more, earn more – with extra boost for students from poorer backgrounds \(universitiesuk.ac.uk\)](#)

# The UCAS Process – Ask for help

**Stephen Leggott** (main cycle) and **Laura Peacey** (early entry)  
Deputy Heads of Sixth Form

**Carli Callander**  
UCAS Administration

**Your subject teachers**  
Ask them what you might expect from a particular subject

**Your academic tutor**  
Discuss with them what your interests are and your hopes for the future

**The wider Sixth Form team**  
There are lots of people here with a wealth of expertise – use them!

Non-university Pathways and Careers: **Mrs Fay Lawson**



# Next...

**Harry Ward**

Higher Education Adviser, University of East Anglia





# Applying to university – the UCAS journey

Harry Ward

Higher Education Adviser





# Agenda for today

- What is UCAS?
- The application process through UCAS
- 2025 entry UCAS timeline
- Student Finance



# 21<sup>st</sup> in the UK

The Complete Uni Guide 2025



Dedicated learning,  
disability, wellbeing and  
student life support services



200+ study  
abroad partners

96.3  
employability

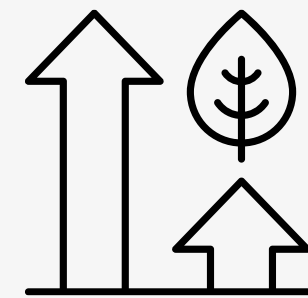
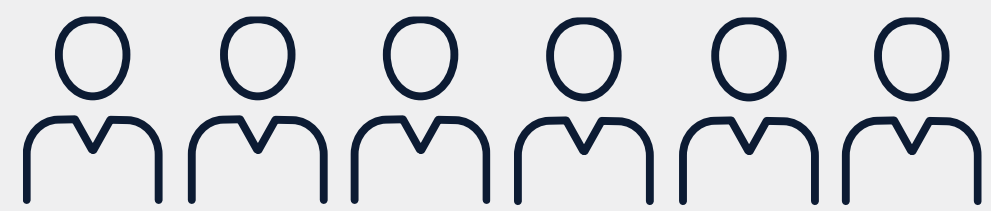
Norwich:  
one of the  
best places  
to live in  
the UK

Sunday Times 2024



# 250+

clubs and  
societies,  
something  
for everyone



Pioneers in  
climate  
awareness &  
sustainability

3,500+  
international  
students from  
over 100  
countries



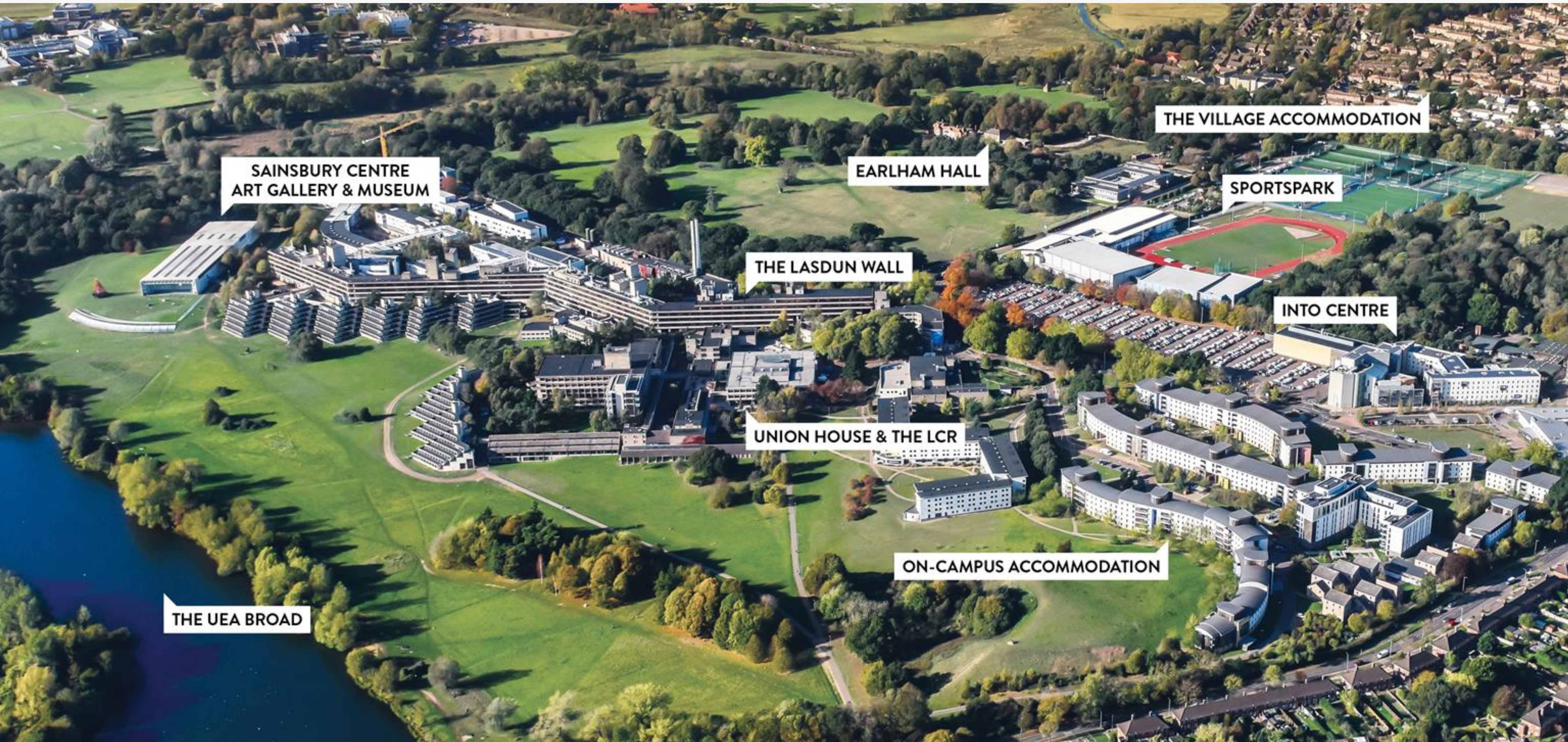
Safe, supportive  
campus & culture



Guaranteed accommodation  
(for firm choice)



## Our iconic campus





# What is UCAS?



# UCAS

**UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES  
ADMISSIONS SERVICES**

# The Application Process

1	Choose a subject
2	Use UCAS to search courses
3	Attend open days
4	Pick 5 university choices
5	Complete UCAS application
6	Apply for student finance
7	Wait for offers and A Level/ BTEC results



# 1. Choosing your subject

**What do you  
enjoy?**

**What are you  
good at?**

**What are you  
doing now?**

# Courses at UEA

## Arts and Humanities

- American Studies
- Archaeology, Anthropology & History of Art
- Drama
- English Literature & Creative Writing
- Film, Television & Media
- History
- International Studies
- Language & Communication
- Liberal Arts
- Philosophy
- Politics

## Medicine and Health

- Medicine
- Midwifery
- Nursing
- Occupational Therapy
- Paramedic Science
- Physiotherapy
- Speech & Language Therapy

## Science

- Actuarial Sciences
- Biological Sciences
- Chemistry
- Computing Science
- Engineering
- Environmental Science
- Geography
- Mathematics
- Pharmacy
- Physics

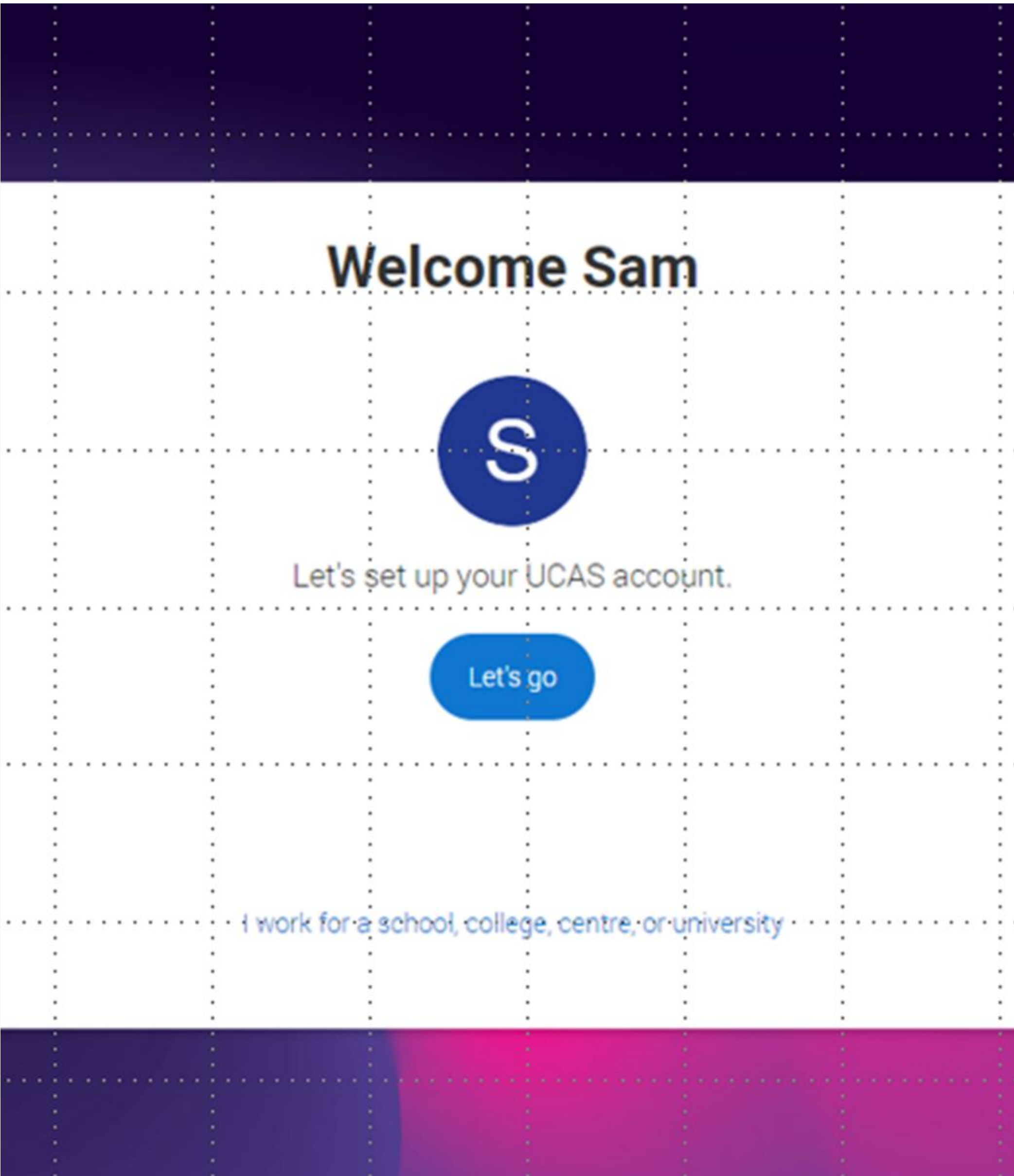
## Social Sciences

- Accounting & Finance
- Business
- Criminology
- Economics
- Education
- Global Development
- Law
- Marketing & Management
- Physical Education
- Psychology
- Sports Development
- Social Work
- Sociology

# The Application Process

1	Choose a subject
2	Use UCAS to search courses
3	Attend open days
4	Pick 5 university choices
5	Complete UCAS application
6	Apply for student finance
7	Wait for offers and A Level/ BTEC results

## 2. Use UCAS to search courses



### Register with UCAS to:

- explore careers, subjects, places, and apprenticeships in one place
- find and favourite over 35,000 courses
- search for open days, events and virtual tours
- turn predicted grades into UCAS Tariff points
- speak to those in the know using [Unibuddy](#)
- try before you apply with [Subject Spotlights](#) from Springpod.
- take the [UCAS Quiz](#) to find your career matches
- start your application




## 2. Use UCAS to search courses

DISCOVER WHAT TO DO

Browse subjects and careers with related courses and apprenticeships.

Discover more



FAQS

What subject should I take?

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

HOW TO

How to apply

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

FOUND A COURSE YOU LIKE?

Find out more >

UCAS

FIND AN APPRENTICESHIP


Learn more >

UCAS

DISCOVER CAREERS

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

Take the quiz



FAQS

Key application dates

Find out what you need to do and when.

HOW TO


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




### What's happening

Replying to your offers - your questions answered

Getting ready to reply to your offers? We've got all your questions answered

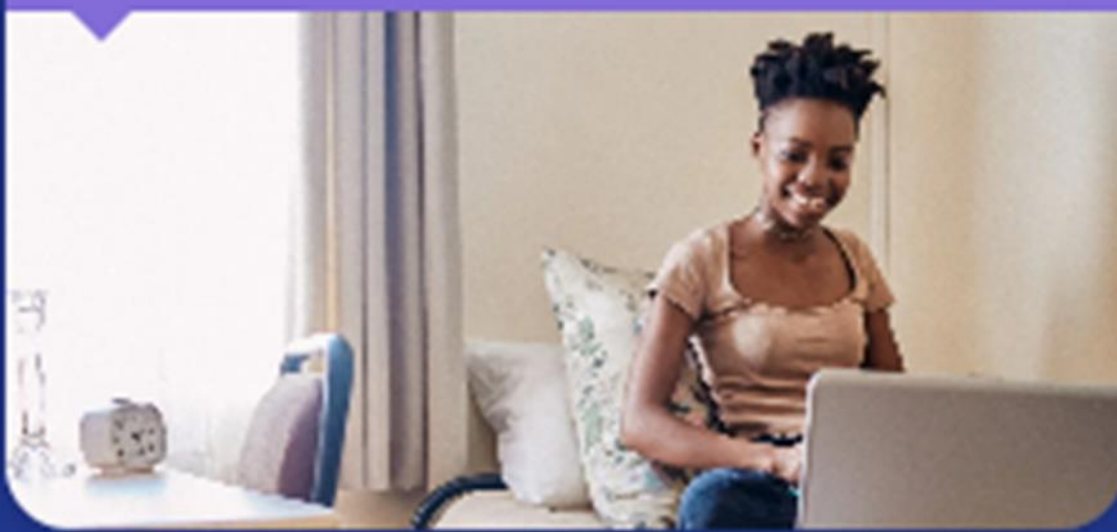
More Info



Chat to students

Chat with UK and international students who are already studying the courses you've applied for at universities and colleges across the UK, on Unibuddy


More Info



University course tasters

Experience what a university course would be like with Springpod's Subject Spotlights. These interactive, virtual university course tasters feature real-life lectures, seminars, and academics.


More Info



Live now: Studying in the UK


There's a lot to consider when moving to a new country. We explore accommodation, visas, scholarships and everything in between.

More Info



Page 24

Applying to university – the UCAS journey

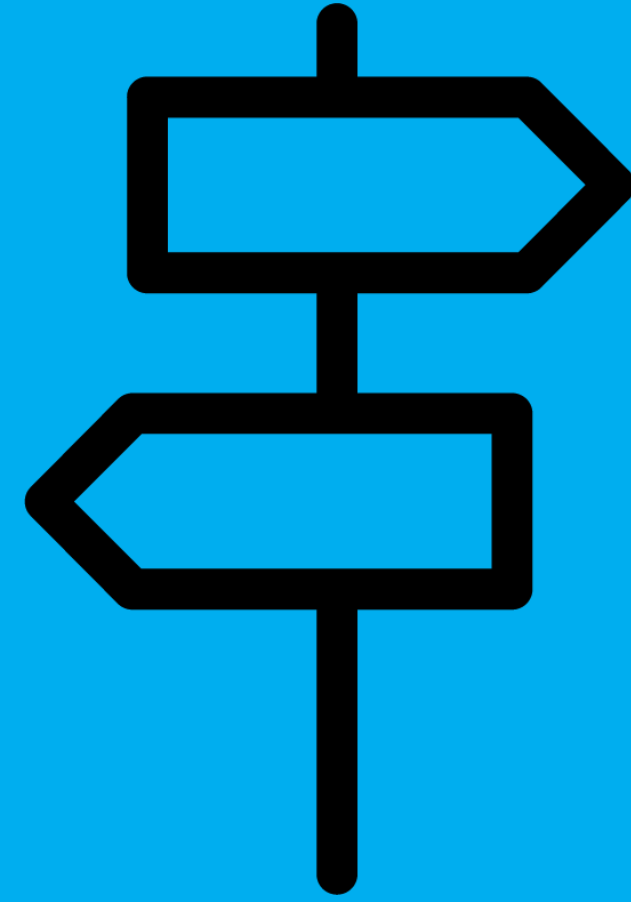






**34,500+**

**UNDERGRADUATE COURSES TO  
CHOOSE FROM**



## 5 CHOICES

**EXCEPT FOR MEDICINE, DENTISTRY  
AND VETERINARY SCIENCE**





**1,784**

**PSYCHOLOGY COURSES FROM 192 UK  
HIGHER EDUCATION PROVIDERS**

Source: UCAS 2024

# Choosing the right course

Single Subject	Combined Subject	Year Abroad or Placement Year	Integrated Masters	Foundation Year
<p>E.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BSc (Hons) Chemistry</li> <li>LLB (Hons) Law</li> <li>BSc (Hons) Paramedic Science</li> <li>BA (Hons) Business Management</li> </ul>	<p>E.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BA (Hons) Philosophy, Politics and Economics</li> <li>BA (Hons) Drama and Creative Writing</li> </ul>	<p>E.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BA (Hons) Translation, Media and Modern Language (with a year abroad)</li> <li>BSc (Hons) Computing Science with a Year in Industry</li> </ul>	<p>E.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MSci Geology with Geography</li> <li>MEng Mechanical Engineering</li> </ul>	<p>E.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BSc (Hons) Physics with a Foundation Year</li> <li>BA (Hons) American Studies (with a Foundation Year)</li> </ul>

# Choosing the right course

Traditional modules
BA History
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early modern history</li> <li>• Medieval history</li> <li>• Modern history</li> </ul>
BA English Literature
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shakespeare</li> <li>• Gothic</li> <li>• Feminist Writing</li> </ul>
BSc Psychology
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social and Developmental Psychology</li> <li>• Differential and Clinical Psychology</li> <li>• Cognitive and Biological Psychology</li> </ul>

Non-traditional modules
BA History
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Love, Desire and Sexuality in History</li> <li>• Communism and Nationalism in Yugoslavia</li> <li>• The Rise and Stall of Post War Japan: 1945-2020</li> </ul>
BA English Literature
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Art of Murder</li> <li>• The Business of Books</li> <li>• Imaginary Endings: British Fiction and the Apocalypse</li> </ul>
BSc Psychology
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Magical Visual World</li> <li>• Psychology of Risk</li> <li>• Forensic Psychology</li> </ul>



# Choosing the right course - learning and assessing

At university you will learn in new and different ways than you have before, for example:

- Lectures – large classes with experts presenting
- Seminars – small sessions with your peers
- Practical – putting theory into practice
- Independent study – master your own schedule and study time

You will also be assessed in ways you may not have been before, for example:

dissertations, essays, portfolios, presentations, observations, exams, demonstrations, projects, coursework, case studies, participation, placements, research reports or proposals...





## 2. Use UCAS to search courses



- 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?

# The Application Process

1	Choose a subject
2	Use UCAS to search courses
3	Attend open days
4	Pick 5 university choices
5	Complete UCAS application
6	Apply for student finance
7	Wait for offers and A Level/ BTEC results



# UEA Open Days



**2025**

SAT 5 JULY

SAT 6 SEPT

SAT 25 OCT

SAT 29 NOV



**Come and  
meet us!**





### 3. Attend open days

#### Benefits of attending open days:

- Get a feel for the university
- Meet academic staff to ask them questions about the course
- See the teaching facilities
- Check out accommodation options
- Understand the length and ease of the journey from home to university
- Speak to current students at the university and hear about their experiences
- Meet other potential students
- Experience the facilities a university has to offer for extra-curricular – e.g. sports, music...
- Receive advice about your application





# The Application Process

1	Choose a subject
2	Use UCAS to search courses
3	Attend open days
4	Pick 5 university choices
5	Complete UCAS application
6	Apply for student finance
7	Wait for offers and A Level/ BTEC results



## 4. Pick 5 university choices

You can add a maximum of 5 university choices on your UCAS application.

It is important to choose the university and courses you will be applying for before you write your personal statement.

This means you will be able to do your research into the course and make sure that your application is well suited to it.

You do not have to put 5 choices into your application all at once. If you are unsure or want to wait to see what offers you receive, you can add courses later to your application.





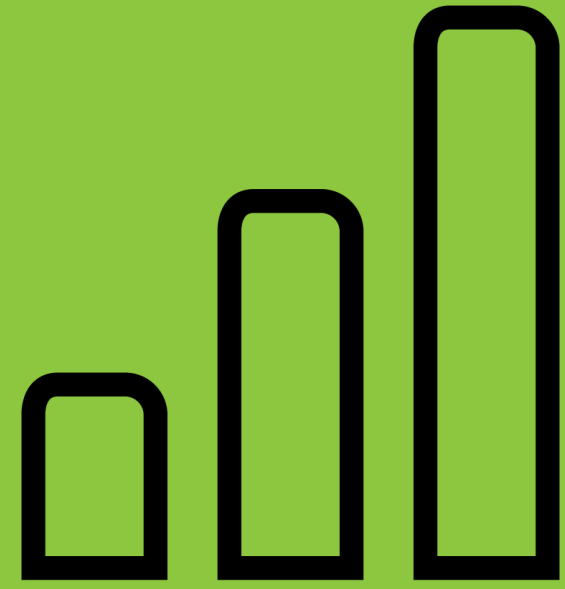


**300+**

**HIGHER EDUCATION PROVIDERS**



# Choosing your university



## Rankings

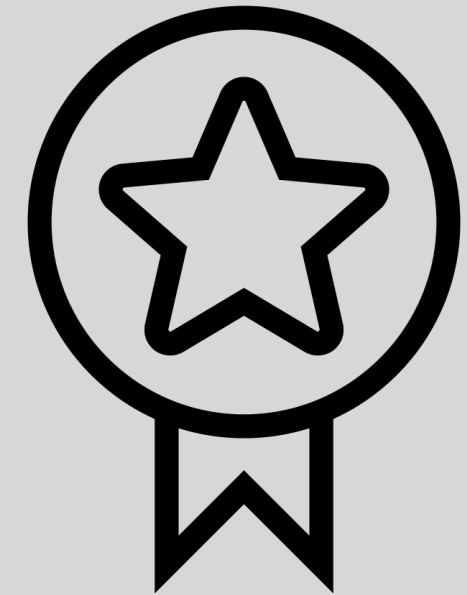
Does the university have a good reputation for your course?



## Location

Where is the university based?

Do you feel like you would belong there?



## Opportunities

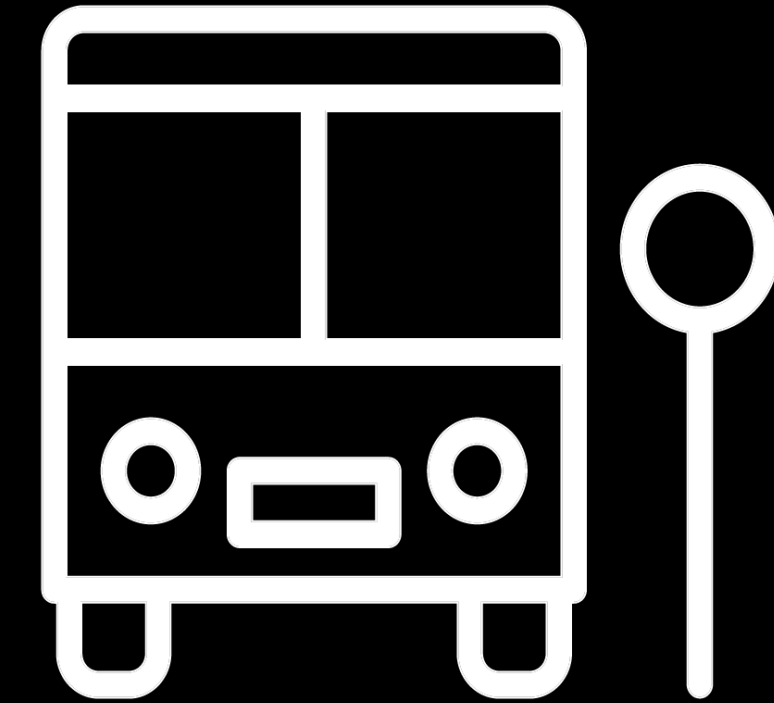
Are there opportunities to choose modules from other subjects?

Can you do Study Abroad/  
Placement Year?



## Campus University

- Facilities all in one place
- Community feel
- Excellent transport links
- 24/7 security



## City University

- Hustle & bustle atmosphere
- Part of a larger community
- Commute to facilities
- Bars, shops & restaurants



# Key considerations when choosing a course and university

Interest	Modules	Career	Opportunities	Research
What do you enjoy day to day?	Which course has modules that pique your interest?  How are those modules taught and assessed?	Think about your goals and the qualifications required to meet them.  Research graduate employability at the university.	Year abroad? Year in industry? Sports facilities? Societies? Scholarships?	League tables UCAS REF Complete Uni Guide The Student Room



# Finding out about university

## Find out more:

- UCAS
- The Student Room
- The Uni Guide
- The Complete University Guide
- Careers Advisers
- University prospectuses
- University websites
- Taster sessions & webinars
- Open Days





# The Application Process

1	Choose a subject
2	Use UCAS to search courses
3	Attend open days
4	Pick 5 university choices
5	Complete UCAS application
6	Apply for student finance
7	Wait for offers and A Level/ BTEC results

# What do I need to know to apply?

There are various sections to a UCAS application, including:

**Registration**

**Course &  
Institutions**

**Personal  
Details**

**Residency  
Details**

**Education &  
Qualifications**

**Employment**

**Nationality  
Details**

**Supporting  
Information**

**English  
Language Skills**

**Finance &  
Funding**

**Personal  
Statement**

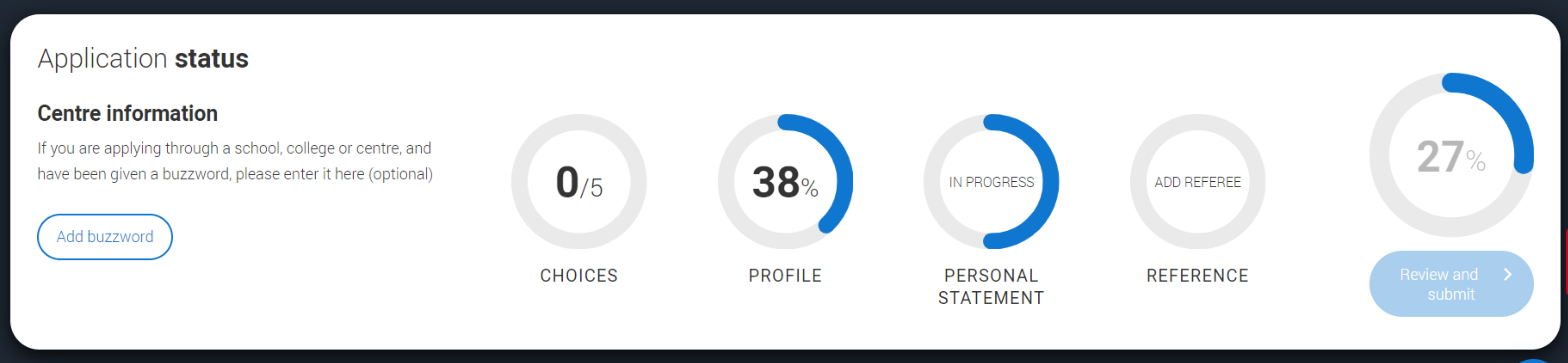
**School/College  
Reference**

**More about you**

**Submit & Pay**



# Application process 2026



## Application Overview

Your ‘**Application status**’ helps you keep track of your progress.

As you add information to each tile, the **percentage complete** updates each time you mark a section as complete.

You don’t need to complete the application straight away; you can log in and out at any time until you're finished.

# 2026 Personal Statement

## 3 sections with question prompts:

### 1. Why do you want to study this course or subject?

*This is your opportunity to showcase your passion and knowledge of your chosen subject area and to demonstrate to universities and colleges why they are a good fit for you and your future ambitions.*

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

*This is your chance to shout about the relevant or transferable skills you've gained from your education and highlight your understanding of how they will help you succeed in this subject area.*

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

*This is your chance to reflect on any other activities you have undertaken outside of your education, or personal experiences which further demonstrate your suitability for the course. This section is likely to be deeply personal to you, so anything you include should be meaningful and relevant to you.*



# Personal statement for 2026 entry – structure and format

🏠 / UCAS application / Personal statement

[Return to application overview](#)

Personal details

Nationality details

Where you live

Contact details

Supporting information

Finance and funding

Education

Employment

**Personal statement**

Reference

Our guide to [writing your personal statement](#) (opens in a new window) should help you complete this section. You have up to 4,000 characters (including spaces) to use across these three sections.

**Make sure your personal statement is your own work.** UCAS will carry out checks to verify that what you submit is original.

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

This is your opportunity to showcase your passion and knowledge of your chosen subject area and to demonstrate to universities and colleges why they are a good fit for you and your future ambitions.

Please use a minimum of 350 characters in this section (350 needed)

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

This is your chance to shout about the relevant or transferable skills you've gained from your education and highlight your understanding of how they will help you succeed in this subject area.

Please use a minimum of 350 characters in this section (350 needed)

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

This is your chance to reflect on any other activities you have undertaken outside of your education, or personal experiences which further demonstrate your suitability for the course. This section is likely to be deeply personal to you, so anything you include should be meaningful and relevant to you.

Overall character count  
0 / 4000

Here, you can navigate to different parts of your application

Instead of one longer piece of text, the new structure is split into three sections

Each section has a specific question and a prompt

4000-character limit across the 3 sections

Minimum of 350 characters per section

Don't repeat information across sections – the statement will be viewed as a whole

# Dos and Don'ts with your UCAS Personal Statement

Do	Don't
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Be reflective</li><li>- Talk about current and past education</li><li>- Show mature academic motivation</li><li>- Mention specific aspects of interest</li><li>- Write clearly – PEEL</li><li>- Write several drafts</li><li>- Read through with teachers/ advisers</li><li>- Check spelling and grammar</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Mention a specific institution</li><li>- Talk about the content of your A level courses in detail</li><li>- Write a long list of your studies or extra-curricular activities</li><li>- Plagiarise or use AI– UCAS will know!</li><li>- Lie or exaggerate</li><li>- Get someone to write it for you</li></ul>



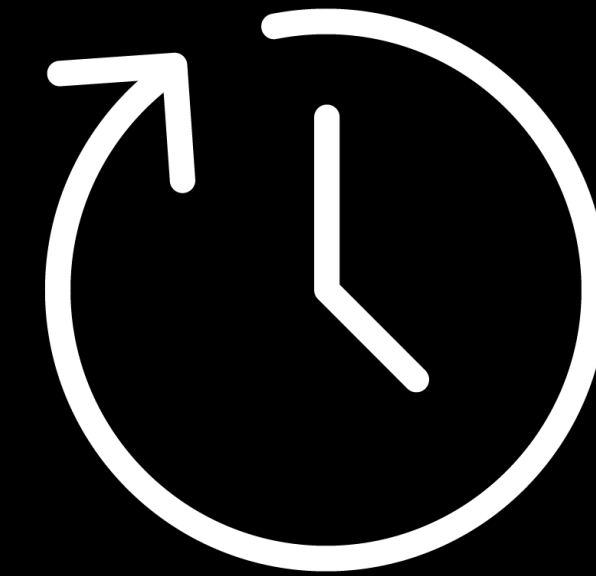
# UCAS Deadlines for 2026 entry

**15th October 2025**



Oxford  
Cambridge  
Medicine  
Dentistry  
Veterinary Science

**14th January 2026**



Most other courses

**Be sure to check when your school/  
college deadline is!**

# The Application Process

1	Choose a subject
2	Use UCAS to search courses
3	Attend open days
4	Pick 5 university choices
5	Complete UCAS application
6	Apply for student finance
7	Wait for offers and A Level/ BTEC results



## 6. Apply for student finance

**Whether you qualify for student finance depends on:**

- your university or college
- your course
- if you've studied a higher education course before
- your age
- your nationality or residency status

**[www.gov.uk/student-finance/who-qualifies](http://www.gov.uk/student-finance/who-qualifies)**





# What loans are available?

## Tuition Fee Loan



## Maintenance Loan





# What loans are available?

## Tuition Fee Loan



The tuition fee loan (currently 9,535 per year) covers the cost of your course and is paid directly to the university you end up going to. It isn't paid to you – you won't see this money until you have graduated and are potentially paying it back.

## Maintenance Loan



The maintenance loan is the money you get to **help** you with your living costs. Unlike the tuition fee loan, every student will get a different amount of maintenance loan, as the amount you get will depend on your household income, as well as where you live and study while you're a student.

# Maximum Maintenance loan



LIVING AT HOME

£8,877

LIVING AWAY  
FROM HOME

£10,544

LIVING AWAY  
FROM HOME  
IN LONDON

£13,762

*2025 entry*



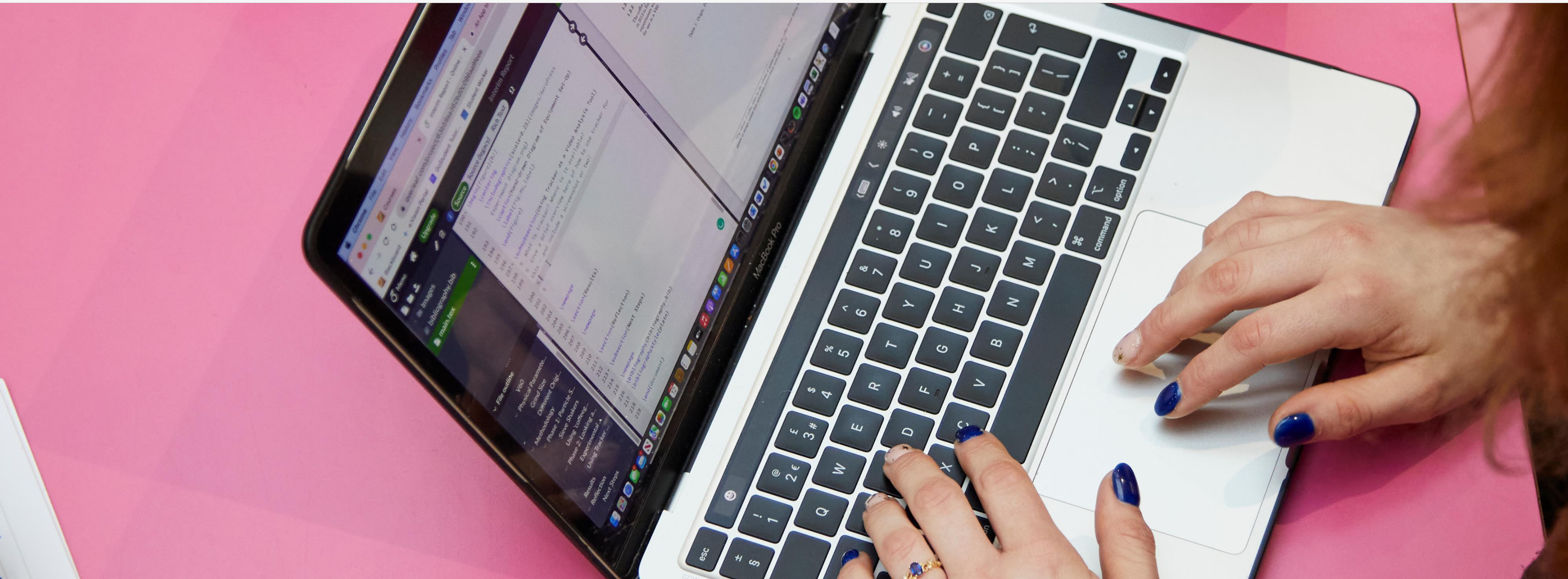
# How MUCH?

FULL TIME STUDENTS	MAXIMUM LOAN	EVERYONE IS ENTITLED TO THIS	TOP-UP BASED ON HOUSEHOLD INCOME
PARENTAL HOME	£8,877	£3,907	£4,970
AWAY FROM HOME	£10,544	£4,915	£5,629
LONDON	£13,762	£6,853	£6,909

2025 entry



# Student Finance Calculator



[www.gov.uk/student-finance-calculator](https://www.gov.uk/student-finance-calculator)

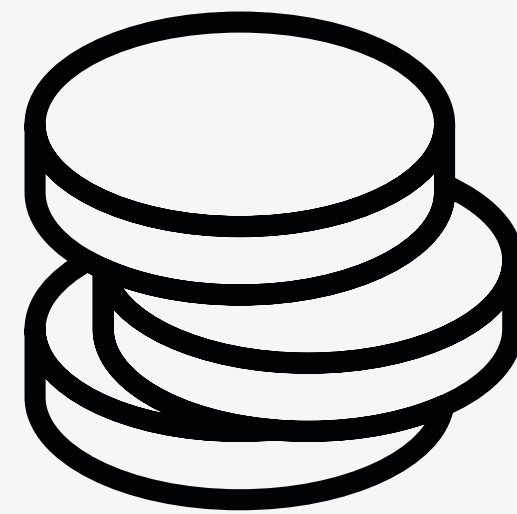


# 9% ON EARNINGS OVER £25,000

**“Ignore newspaper headlines about students leaving university with £50,000 of debt. That's mostly a meaningless figure. What counts is how much you'll repay.” Martin Lewis, 2022**

*2023 entry*

# Repayments



**£30K**

~£38 per  
month

**£35K**

~£75 per  
month

**£40K**

~£112 per  
month



# Interest rates

4.3%

RPI ONLY



# Applying for Student Finance



**Apply online:**  
**[www.gov.uk/student-finance](https://www.gov.uk/student-finance)**

You will need to know:

Your course

Bank Details

Household Income

National Insurance Number





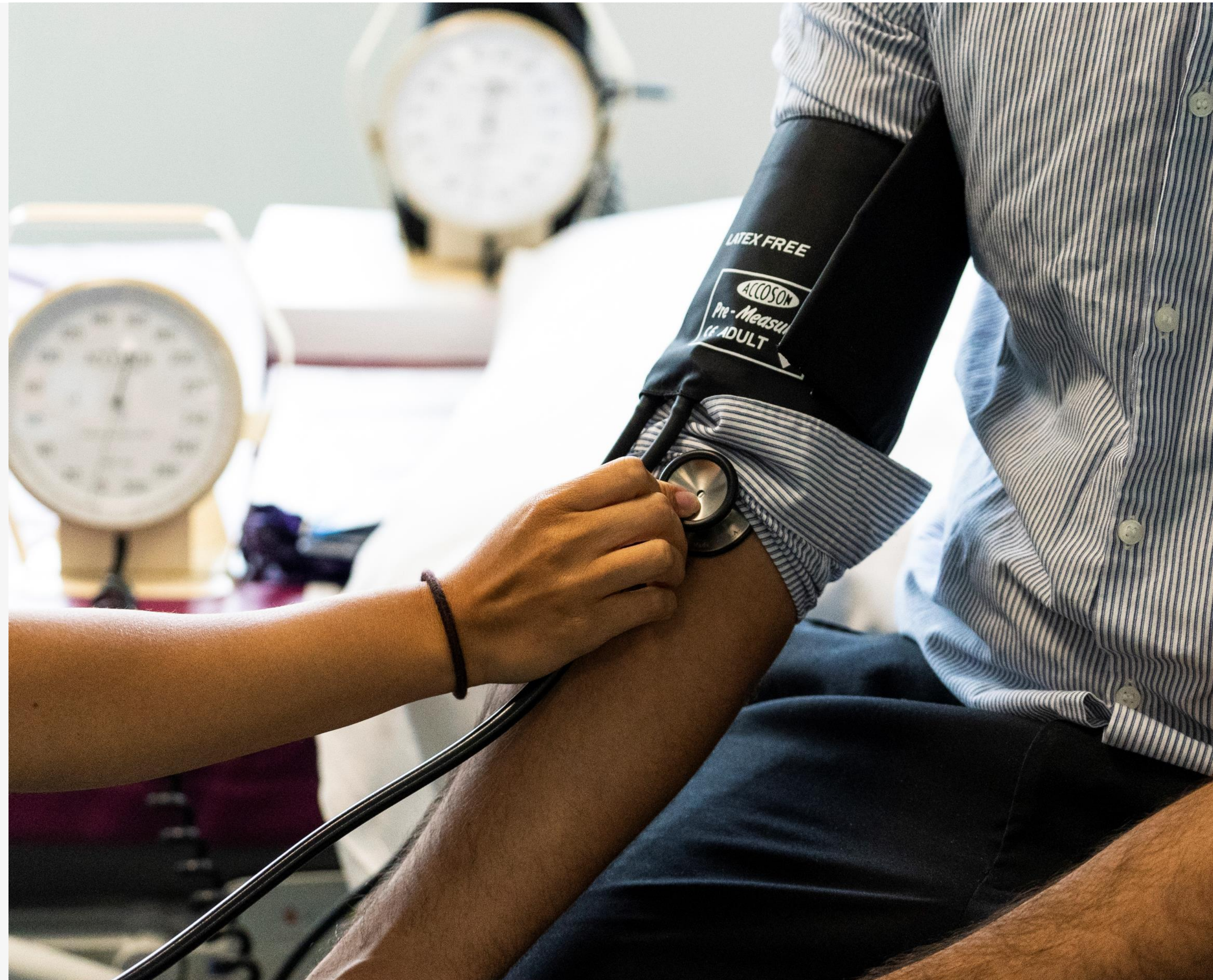


# Non-repayable financial support

## Additional Support:

- Travel Grant
- Disabled Students Allowance (DSA)
- Dependants
- Childcare
- University bursaries and scholarships
- NHS Learning Support Fund:  
Including the £5,000 NHS Training Grant

[NHS Learning Support Fund \(LSF\) | NHSBSA](#)





# The Application Process

1	Choose a subject
2	Use UCAS to search courses
3	Attend open days
4	Pick 5 university choices
5	Complete UCAS application
6	Apply for student finance
7	Wait for offers and A Level/ BTEC results



## 7. Wait for offers and A Level/ BTEC results



### After Submission:

If you have submitted all of your choices by the equal consideration date, you will hear back from all universities by 13<sup>th</sup> May 2026.

You may hear back before then.

Your responses will be one of the following:

- Offer (conditional or unconditional)
- Interview
- Reject



## 7. Wait for offers and A Level/ BTEC results



### **Applicant Days:**

- Applicant days are opportunities for students to go and visit the university again once they have received an offer.
- They tend to be more bespoke than open days and give you the chance to take part in subject specific activities or chat to academics/students from your department.





# Firm



# Insurance



## 7. Wait for offers and A Level/ BTEC results



### On results day:

One of the following is likely to happen:

- Accepted Firm
- Accepted Insurance
- Exceed firm
- Miss both



## 7. Wait for offers and A Level/ BTEC results

### Other options:

#### Extra (26 Feb – 4 Jul)

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

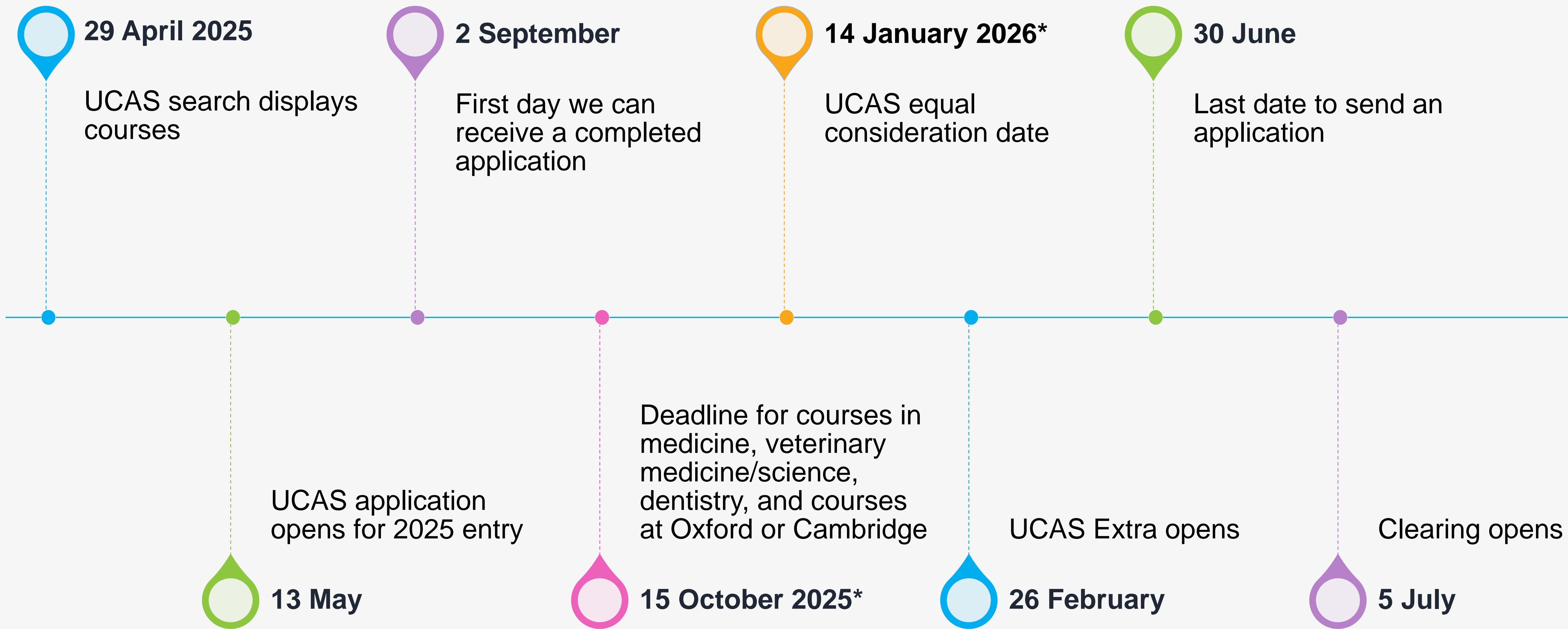
#### Clearing (5 Jul – Oct)

- Apply after 30 June, receive no offers, decline all offers, not met conditions.
- Find vacancies from 5 July and add a Clearing choice to your application.





# UCAS application process timeline – 2026 entry



\* 18.00 UK time



# Key facts for your application



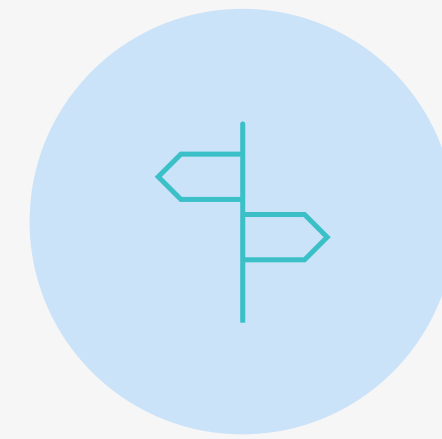
Start your application from  
**13 May 2025**



Universities and colleges **can't see** your other choices when you apply.



Apply by the **equal consideration date.**  
**(14 Jan 2026)**



**Five choices**, unless applying to study medicine, veterinary, medicine/science, dentistry – then it's **four choices**.



You **can't apply to both** Oxford and Cambridge.



Applying costs **£28.50.**





# Any questions?

Harry Ward

**Higher Education Adviser**



# Further Information

## Ask us

[uea.ac.uk/ask-us](https://uea.ac.uk/ask-us)

## Open days and visits

[uea.ac.uk/visit](https://uea.ac.uk/visit)

[virtualopenday.uea.ac.uk](https://virtualopenday.uea.ac.uk)

## Tasters and webinars

[uea.ac.uk/study/tasters](https://uea.ac.uk/study/tasters)



@uniofeastanglia

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





# Trips...

**UCAS Discovery Day:** Monday 16<sup>th</sup> June

**University of Nottingham Open Day:** Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June

The ParentPay window for payment for these trips will remain open until Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> June.  
Places are limited so please act fast!



Thank you...