

Year 12 Parent and Carers University and Careers Information Evening

Tuesday 25th February 2025



This evening our aim is to...

*To support you in supporting your young person in
researching, making decisions about and
successfully applying for their post-18 destination.*



Post 18 Pathways

- University
- Apprenticeship
- Employment
- Gap Year
- Work experience





University

- 395 providers offering 50,000 courses!
- Anything from Accounting to Zoology
- Full-time, part-time distance learning





University

Level 5

- HND (Higher National Diploma)
- Foundation Degree

Level 6

- Bachelors Degree

Level 7

- Doctorate/PhD Degree





Apprenticeships

- An apprenticeship involves being employed to do a real job (80%) whilst studying for a formal qualification (20%).
- There are different levels of apprenticeship, dependent upon your current/predicted qualifications.



Apprenticeships

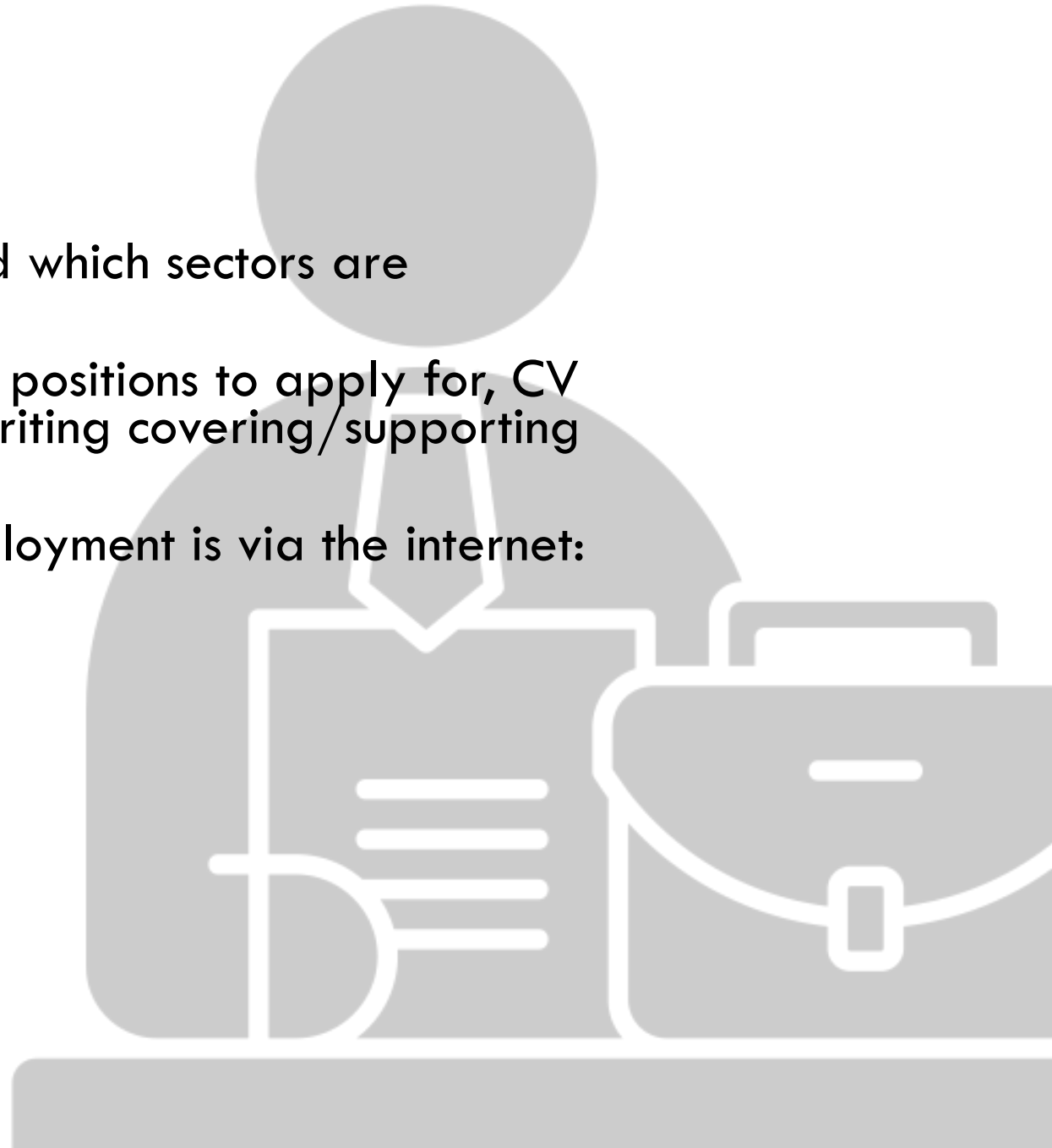
Type	Details
Intermediate (Level 2)	Equivalent to five good GCSE passes, typically last between 12-18 months.
Advanced (Level 3)	Equivalent to two A-levels, usually studied over 2 years.
Higher (Level 4/5)	Equivalent to the first stages of higher education, such as a foundation degree. Usually 1 year and can progress onto Degree Apprenticeship.
Degree (Level 6/7)	Comparable to a Bachelors or Masters degree. Usually 3 years, dependent upon the degree.



Employment

- Be aware of the employment market and which sectors are expanding and will need employees.
- Students are supported with researching positions to apply for, CV writing, completing applications forms, writing covering/supporting letters and interviews/applicant days.
- Most common method of looking for employment is via the internet:
 - [gov.uk/find-a-job](https://www.gov.uk/find-a-job)
 - cheshireeast.gov.uk/jobs_and_careers/
 - totaljobs.com
 - uk.indeed.com
 - Reed.co.uk
 - fish4.co.uk/
 - jobs.theguardian.com

Linked in





Gap Year

- Opportunity to gain skills and experiences – providing time to reflect on the what to do next.
- If productive is valuable on a CV – providing evidence of time management, setting goals and going outside of their comfort zone.
- Volunteering ‘gives something back’
- Organisations:
 - yearoutgroup.org/
 - realgap.co.uk/
 - bunac.org/
 - volunteerics.org/



Year 12 Careers Programme 2023/24

Sept	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction to VESPA (Vision, Effort, Systems, Practice & Attitude)• Students begin to explore pathways.
Oct	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction to Unifrog (careers platform) and setting of initial Plan A & Plan B.• Student aspiration questionnaire completed to allow for planning of future activities.
Nov	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Medicine talk from Keele University (Medics, Dentists & Vets)
Dec	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unifrog – exploring pathways
Jan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Post 18 Pathways & Work Experience• Why Uni talk by Liverpool University• Barclays Degree Apprenticeship talk
Feb	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unifrog Preparation for HE Convention trip with tutors
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• HE/Apprenticeship Convention (UCAS Discovery) at Manchester Central (GMEX)• Review and Next Steps from HE/Apprenticeship Convention• Staffordshire University talk - intro to staffs
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• BT/EE Apprenticeships talk• UCAS Launch & Register
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Staffs Uni - personal statements talk• Personal statement/cover letter support• Work Experience Week
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Personal statement/cover letter support

	Year 13 Careers Programme
Sept	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UCAS/Unifrog Careers research • Targeted Employment Readiness Programme 1 (Intro to apprenticeships)
Oct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UCAS/Unifrog Careers research • UCAS/Targeted Employment Readiness Programme 2 (How to write a CV) • UCAS/Targeted Employment Readiness Programme 3 (employers assessing and feeding back on CV's – 1:1 meeting)
Nov	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UCAS/Unifrog Careers research • UCAS/Targeted Employment Readiness Programme 4 (interview prep) • Bangor University - Preparing for University Interview - OxBridge Students only
Dec	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UCAS/Unifrog Careers research
Jan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UCAS/Unifrog Careers research • Apprenticeship Workshops
Feb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apprenticeship Workshops & 1 to 1 guidance sessions
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apprenticeship Workshops & 1 to 1 guidance sessions
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apprenticeship Workshops & 1 to 1 guidance sessions
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apprenticeship Workshops & 1 to 1 guidance sessions
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apprenticeship Workshops & 1 to 1 guidance sessions

Introduction to the
process of applying
for University

UCAS





The Big Picture!

- University applications typically consist of up to 5 choices, specifically referencing:
 - Course (inc. form the course will take - **undergraduate**)
 - University
 - Campus





The Big Picture!

- Information provided to UCAS when applying:
 - Personal information
 - Grades for qualifications you currently hold e.g. GCSEs
 - A **'Personal Statement'**





The Big Picture!

- As a Sixth Form we provide:
 - An expected grade for each of your subjects.
 - A positive and accurate reference (written by student's tutor).





Year 12 Progression Exams

- Tuesday 22nd to Tuesday 29th April.
- Exams set in full invigilated exam conditions.
- Papers marked in line with exam board expectations and grade boundaries.
- Grades awarded factoring in coursework/NEA grades, where completed.
- These grades are used as the starting point for the grade provided to UCAS for student references.
- Students should be dedicating a significant amount of time to prepare for the exams, using 'difficult' revision techniques:
 - Easy – reading through notes/textbooks, making posters or mindmaps, etc.
 - Difficult – self-testing/quizzing, replicating mindmaps, exam questions and self-marking.



How can you help encourage independent learning at home?

1. Prompt your child to write a checklist before they start, so they can think about what they want to get done.
2. Talk to them about what they'll do if they don't understand something: will they ask you, research it more online, refer to a textbook, or take a break and come back to it later?
3. Encourage them to work for 20 minutes and then reflect.
4. Support a healthy learning environment: no distractions, regular breaks and snacks.
5. Teach them time management techniques like the **pomodoro technique** (25 minutes working followed by a five-minute break).








Created by
A. Whitworth

Effective Learning Techniques

Dunlosky et al.

Rating Ten Learning Techniques

High	 Practice Testing Self-testing or taking practice tests over to-be-learned material.		 Distributed Practice Implementing a schedule of practice that spreads out study activities over time.	
	 Interleaving Implement a practice or study schedule that mixes different kinds of problems and material within a single study session.		 Elaborative Interrogation Generating an explanation for why an explicitly stated fact or concept is true.	
Moderate	 Self-Explanation Explaining how new information is related to known information or explaining steps taken during problem-solving.			
Low	Highlighting Marking potentially important portions of to-be-learned materials while reading.		Summarisation Writing summaries (of various lengths) of to-be-learned texts.	
	Keyword Mnemonic Using keywords and mental imagery to associate verbal materials.		Imagery Attempting to form mental images of text materials while reading or listening.	
			Rereading Restudying text material again after an initial reading.	

Practice Testing (Retrieval)

- Taking a test requires actively retrieving the information from memory, strengthening the memory trace and making it more durable.
- Taking a test provides immediate feedback on what has been learned and what still needs to be learned, allowing learners to focus their study efforts.

Distributed Practice

- Spacing helps keep the material in memory and less prone to decay. It also helps to make the material more easily accessible and retrievable in the long term.
- Spacing out study sessions over time allows more opportunities for the material to be retrieved from memory, strengthening the memory trace and the available cues.

Interleaving

- Interleaving promotes deeper processing: When learners are exposed to a variety of related material in a single study session, they are forced to think more deeply about the material and how it relates to other concepts.
- Interleaving can also help to organise knowledge in long-term memory by promoting the formation of connections between different pieces of information.

Elaborative Interrogation

- Elaborative Interrogation encourages students to generate explanations and connections between new information and their prior knowledge.
- Elaborative interrogation encourages students to actively process the information they are studying rather than passively reading or listening.

Self-Explanation

- Self-explanation can also help activate prior knowledge and integrate existing knowledge with new knowledge.
- When learners generate their own explanations for the material they are studying, they are forced to think more deeply about the material and how it relates to other concepts.



The Big Picture!

- The UCAS deadlines for submitting these are:
 - October 15th 2025: medicine, veterinary and Oxbridge (Oxford and Cambridge)
 - January 25th 2026: all other applications
 - Our **Alsager deadline** will be Friday 28th November.





University Application Roadmap

What you are interested in studying and which of the universities that offer the course is the right one for you? (**now**).
Tools: Unifrog (libraries), online tables e.g. What Uni?, Open days (in person or online events) UCAS Discovery, UCAS Hub.



Research

UCAS
HUB
LINK



Start to
apply



Apply



Personal
Statement



Self-
development



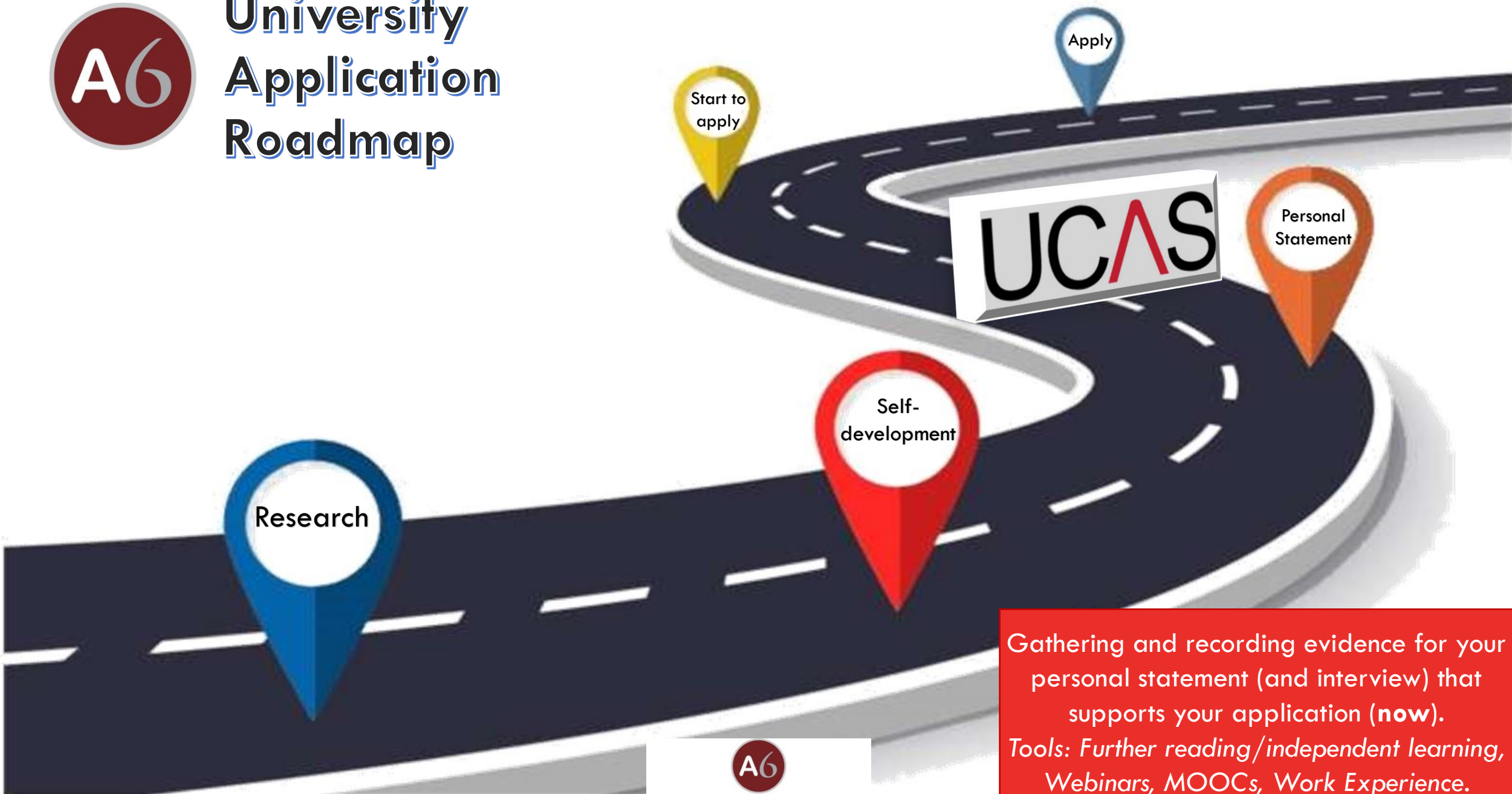
Research tools UCAS Hub



- Learning from others – [chat to](#) uni students [student videos](#) and [blogs](#).
- [Career options](#) – use the [job profiles](#) to explore different career roles and pathways.
- 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](#).



University Application Roadmap



Gathering and recording evidence for your personal statement (and interview) that supports your application (**now**).

Tools: Further reading/independent learning, Webinars, MOOCs, Work Experience.



The personal statement



The section they have full control over



Your only chance to market themselves individually



The same for all 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

Three questions:

1. **Why do you want to study this course or subject?**
2. **How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course?**
3. **What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences helpful?**

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



University Application Roadmap



Submit application.
(1st December)



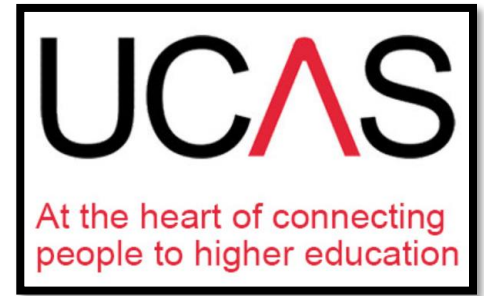
Complete Apply sections on UCAS Hub.
Drafting your personal statement and completing personal notes to help your tutor write your reference (July).
Tools: Enrichment workshop, Unifrog 'Know How' guides and personal statement tool, UCAS webinars.

Gathering and recording evidence for your personal statement (and interview) that supports your application (**now**).
Tools: Further reading/independent learning, Webinars, MOOCs, Work Experience.





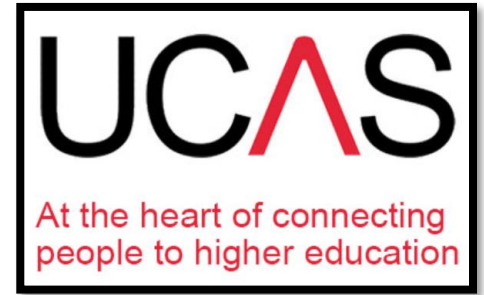
Student Finance



- Guidance:
 - UCAS: <https://www.gov.uk/support-child-or-partners-student-finance-application>
 - [Savethestudent.org](https://www.savethestudent.org) (look at **Plan 5** student loans)
 - Martin Lewis: Student Loans Decoded ([Link](#))
- What is the cost of going to university?
 - Based on earnings
 - Threshold = £25,000 per year
 - Repayment is 9% of what they earn **over the threshold**
 - Interest is accrued based on the RPI – retail price index
 - Any outstanding debt after 40 years is written off



Student Finance



- Tuition Fees Loan:
 - Typical tuitions fees = £9,250 per year
 - Fees are not paid up front. Students can apply for a tuition fee to cover all or part of fees
- Maintenance Loan:
 - Help towards living expenses, such as accommodation, food and course materials
 - Amount is dependent on student circumstances (location and household income)
 - E.g. student studying outside of London whose household earns less than £25,000 per year or less = £8,700
 - <https://www.gov.uk/student-finance-calculator>

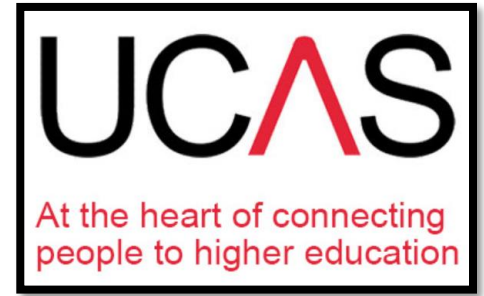
Maintenance Loans in England

For courses starting in September 2023 (Plan 5)*

Household Income	Living at home	Away from home (outside London)	Away from home (London)
£25,000 or less	£8,400	£9,978	£13,022
£30,000	£7,694	£9,265	£12,297
£35,000	£6,988	£8,552	£11,571
£40,000	£6,282	£7,839	£10,845
£45,000	£5,576	£7,125	£10,100
£50,000	£4,869	£6,412	£9,374
£55,000	£4,163	£5,699	£8,648
£58,291	£3,698	£5,228	£8,169
£60,000	£3,698	£4,986	£7,923
£62,343	£3,698	£4,651	£7,582
£65,000	£3,698	£4,651	£7,197
£69,903+	£3,698	£4,651	£6,485



Student Finance



- A sensible step would be to look at the full loan and compare what the amount is that students will receive.
- An important conversation is where the gap will come from.
- The system implies that the state expects parents to contribute.
- This might not be possible and other methods should be considered:
 - Part-time work
 - Scholarships
 - Grants

After you apply



Track, a student can hold up to two offers:

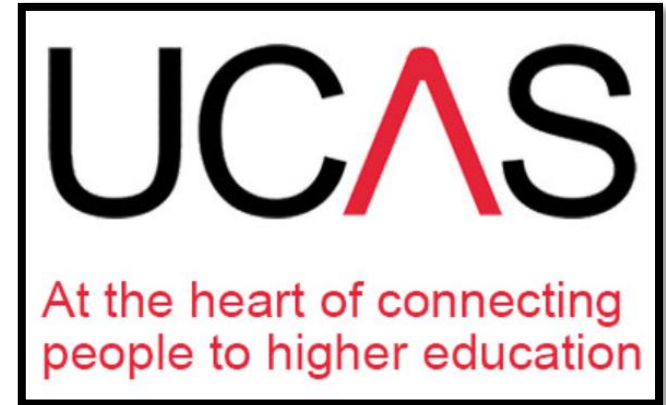
- **firm** – if they meet the conditions of the offer they will be placed here
- **insurance** –if they are not placed with their firm choice, they may be placed with their insurance choice.
- May/June latest



After you apply

Other considerations:

- Accommodation
- Student finance applications (window usually opens around April)
- Results day – decisions from universities and support here if you need it.





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.

UCAS Discovery Exhibition

- Manchester Central Convention Complex
- Tuesday 4th March
- Representatives from around 300 universities, employers, colleges and related organisations
- The event plays a vital part in helping students decide what and where to study within higher education.
- There will also be support for students interested in sponsored degrees, apprenticeships, the Armed Services and volunteering.



UCAS Discovery Exhibition

- Parent/Carer/Guardian consent is required – please help us with completing this on ParentPay.
- Coaches will leave after break and return in time for the school buses.
- Students do not need to follow dress code but are asked to dress sensibly.
- Food and drink available at the venue but students can bring their own lunch/snacks/drinks.





Work Experience 23rd to 27th June

- Highly valuable, enhancing employability skills and supporting the process of future applications.
- Work experience runs independently of the sixth form and students are required to find their own placement for this week.
- Tutors have been supporting students to:
 - Identify local businesses
 - Review their own contacts (friends/family)
 - Write an email to enquire/request a placement

unifrog

Introduction to Unifrog



What is Unifrog?

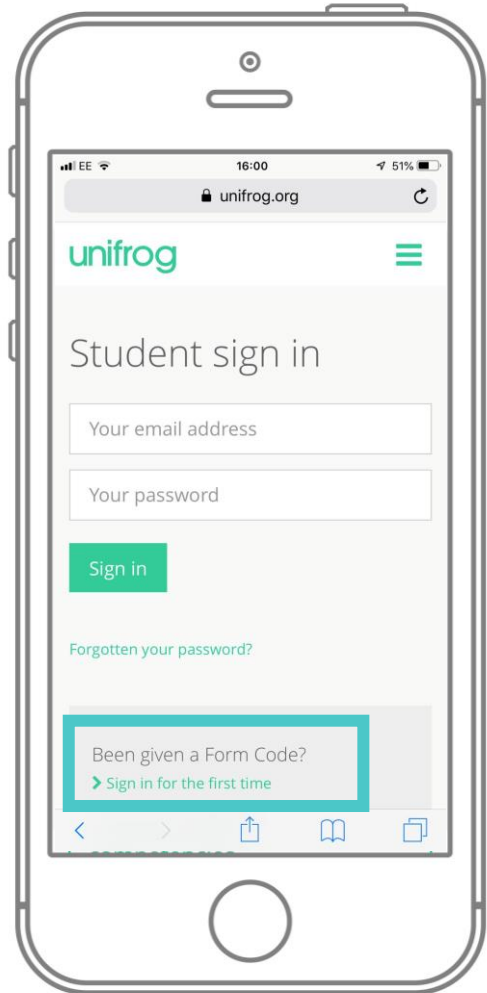
- Unifrog believe that destinations - where students end up after school - is even more important than their academic performance. They partner with schools to support students to progress into the best opportunity for them.
- Unifrog do this by providing a one-stop-shop where students can explore their interests, then find and successfully apply for their best next-step after school.

The Unifrog tools

Access all tools on Unifrog to learn what options are available, access good quality information, and search for opportunities to support your child.

Quizzes	Exploring pathways	Recording what you've done	Searching for opportunities	Drafting application materials	Making applications
Interests profile	Careers library	Activities	UK universities	UK Personal Statement	Post 18 Intentions
Personality profile	Subjects library	Skills	US universities	Classes	Locker
Work environments profile	Know-how library	Interactions	European universities	Subject References	Applications list
Skills profile	MOOC		Oxbridge	CV / Resumé	
	Webinars		Canadian universities	Writing tool	
	Read, Watch, Listen		Asian universities	Common App Essay	
			Australasian universities	US recommenders	
			MidEast and Africa unis	Notes for Reference writers	
			Irish universities		
			Special Opportunities		
			Events		

Parents & guardians, get signed up!



Scan this QR code or go to

www.unifrog.org/student and click 'Sign in for the first time'

You'll be asked for some details and a Sign up Code. This is what you need:

ALRSParents

After signing up, log into Unifrog using your email address and password via the student sign-in page!

Careers library

- Over 1000 career profiles
- Presents information from a range of sources, including local and national LMI
- Includes qualifications and skills needed, interviews with industry professionals and labour market information
- Explores progression opportunities and what a working week really looks like

Architect

Architects design new buildings and the spaces around them, and work on the restoration and conservation of existing buildings.



UK Universities

Geography - 3FT BSc (Hons)
UCL (University College London)
London, England

[Website](#) [Open Day](#) [Course page](#) [Finance page](#) [Disabilities](#)
[Contextual offers](#) [Scholarships](#)

Main Contact: study@ucl.ac.uk ☎ +44 (0)20 3370 1214
Undergraduate Admissions Office: ☎ +44 (0)20 8059 0939
📍 Main Site, Admissions, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT

Course facts

2024 course description
This is an integrated geography programme which combines physical and human geography as well as offering opportunities for specialisation. Those choosing the BSc will usually have studied some science at A level or equivalent, but it is possible to transfer to the BA if your interests develop differently.

UCAS course code
F800

Uni sessions per week Social studies: 12 hours	Independent study per week Social studies: 20 hours	Placements / field trips etc per week Social studies: 0 hours	Graduate jobs 92% after 15 months
2024 years of study 3 years full-time	2024 annual fees £9,250		

Getting in

2024 A Level entry requirements
AAA
Full-time 3 Years: No specific subjects.
Contextual Offers: please visit the course webpage for further details about our Access UCL scheme.

Last year's successful applicants for physical geographical sciences
The average UCAS tariff for last year's successful applicants was 169, and you fall in the 0-10th percentile. This means that 0-10% of the students who were on this course last year achieved lower grades at school than the ones you entered.

77.8% of successful applicants did the same qualification types as you, and of these a typical result was:
A Level: A*AA

Overall acceptance rate for geography, earth and environmental studies
24%

UK acceptance rate for geography, earth and environmental studies
21%


University facts


Guardian overall rank 8th	Complete University overall rank 9th
QS world rank 9th	
THE Impact rank -	People and Planet rank 7th
Guardian subject rank Geography: 7th	Student welfare rank 102nd
Full-time undergrads 23,020	International undergrads 53%
Difficulty Aspirational - Out of your predicted range	UCAS uni code U80
Avg starting salary £31,228	


- Students can enter subject of interest and projected grades to see all relevant university courses available in the UK
- Rank and filter opportunities by factors like hours of lectures, price of accommodation and graduate job rates
- Get direct links to university information pages, with impartial information on courses and institutions
- Save unlimited shortlists to refer back to later

Apprenticeships

- Students can find live apprenticeship vacancies
- Vacancies are updated daily
- Rank and filter opportunities by factors like distance from home, weekly wage and application deadlines
- Direct link to the 'apply' page
- Each apprenticeship vacancy includes practical information about the opportunity, employer and training
- Save unlimited shortlists to refer back to later

 Social Care Worker Apprenticeship - Intermediate

 Employer: Choice Care Group - Haronsmeade - Old Windsor

 Training Provider: LIFETIME TRAINING GROUP LIMITED

[+ Apply](#)

📍 88-90 Straight Road SL4 2RX

Do you enjoy helping people and making a positive impact in their lives? Are you caring, reliable and passionate? If you feel you have these unique qualities, we would love you to join our team. You will deliver high quality personal care following the care plan and individual resident wishes to ensure the comfort and dignity of each resident.

At Choice Care Group, you will be working towards an Adult Care Worker Level 2 Apprenticeship standard over the course of 15 months!

An apprenticeship with Choice Care Group will be not only a meaningful, active and rewarding job, but a possible new career as well and the opportunity to work with a fun, dedicated team.

Choice Care Group is looking to appoint a Health and Social Care Apprentice to work in one of our homes. The successful candidate will work towards achieving a Level 2 Adult Care Worker Apprenticeship Applicants should be at least 16 years old and not in full time education.

By the end of your Apprenticeship you'll have gained new skills and experience. If you're new to adult social care, then an Apprenticeship is one of the best ways to get into the sector and start your career.

You'll work alongside experienced staff and learn the skills and knowledge required for you to be a skilled and confident worker.

As an Apprentice you will be supporting adults with learning disabilities, mental health disorders and complex needs in a residential care environment, providing a high standard of care and support.

Key Responsibilities


- Deliver high quality personal care following the care plan and individual resident wishes to ensure the comfort and dignity of each resident
- Delivery of care that it is of high quality and maintains the dignity and well-being of residents
- Understand the importance of privacy, dignity, choice and consent and uphold these basic rights at all times
- Contribute to the individualised person centered care planning process of each resident and recording appropriate interactions and observations
- Complete all regulatory and statutory training requirements and comply with all company policy and procedures whilst at work
- Carry out responsibilities for residents ensuring that residents receive one-to-one quality time when on duty

Apprenticeship facts

Deadline	Applications open
24 October 2023	July
Start date	Weekly wage
30 October 2023	£296
Hours per week	Duration
40	15 Months
Number of vacancies	Distance from home
1	19 miles

Employer & Training facts

Employer description
We provide specialist care and support for people with learning disabilities, autism, mental health conditions and associated complex needs. Our purpose is to help everyone in our care to live safe, happy, meaningful and fulfilled lives, regardless of their challenges, where they're valued, respected, listened to and supported, living as independently as possible.

Training provider Ofsted rating
Requires improvement
[Read report](#) 


































Special Opportunities

- Includes £5 million-worth of grants, bursaries, scholarships, contextual offers and extracurricular activities
- These can be filtered by circumstances or characteristics, depending on the access requirements of the opportunity
- Includes direct links for applying
- Unlimited shortlists can be created and referred back to

Select special opportunities below

Pick the best opportunities for you by ranking, filtering and searching. Click next when you're done.
Stuck on a strange term? Check out the [glossary](#) ✓

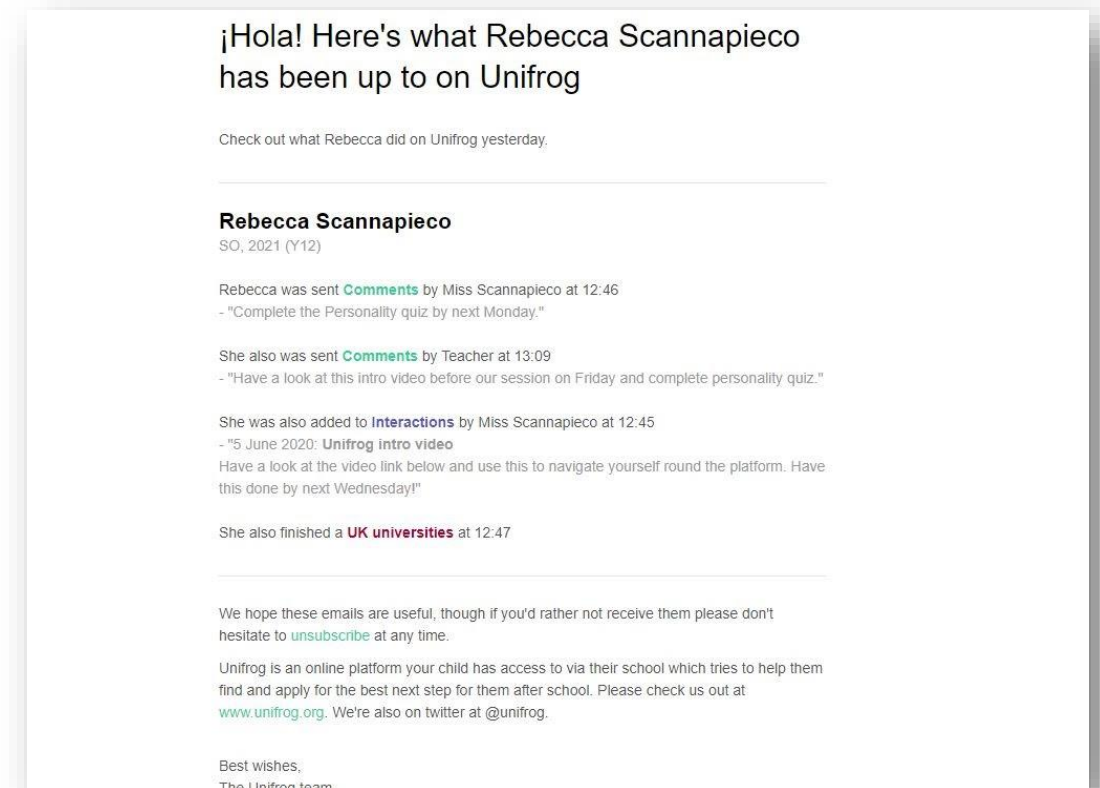
Rank ▼ Filter ▼

Activities (130) Virtual work experience, contextual offers, gap years...	One-off scholarships (215) Money all in one go	Renewable scholarships (427) Money every year
 Aberystwyth University Contextual Offers  Aberystwyth University Aberystwyth University Contextual Offers	 The Bruce Watt Memorial Scholarship  No specific university Up to £10,000	 Ugla Family Scholarship  London School of Economics and Political Science, University of London £21,200 a year
 Access Sheffield  University of Sheffield Access Sheffield Contextual offers	 Mature Student Scholarship  Goldsmiths, University of London £3,000 a year	 Stormzy Scholarship for Black UK Students  University of Cambridge £20,000 a year
 Access to Bath  University of Bath University of Bath Widening Participation	 International Scholarship  University of Gloucestershire Up to £7,350 fee reduction	 Sanctuary Scholarship  University of Sheffield Full tuition fees plus £9840 a year
 Access to Harper  Harper Adams University Access to Harper contextualised offer scheme	 BeArt Presets Scholarship  No specific university \$5,000	 Brian Cooper Scholarship  Durham University £13,000 a year
 Access to Leeds  University of Leeds University of Leeds Contextual Offers	 Charles Beeson Scholarship  Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, University of London £5,000	 Access Opportunity Scholarship  UCL (University College London) Tuition fees plus £12,000 a year
	 Gotranscript Scholarship  No specific university £5,000	 Sanctuary Scholarship and Friendly Fund Bursary

[next ▶](#) [or go back](#)

Weekly summary emails

- Parents can sign up to receive weekly summary emails
- This summary will show you any shortlists your child may have made on the Unifrog platform
- It will also detail any interactions logged against your child, such as Careers Fairs taking place or careers interviews coming up



GDPR

GDPR is a regulation in EU law on data protection and privacy for everyone within the European Union and the European Economic Area.

Unifrog takes data security very seriously, and as such, has several features in place to protect school and student data.

We only use EU data centres, have multiple firewalls, layered-access security and more. Information on this can be found at unifrog.org/about#security

Other cool stuff

The Unifrog platform contains so much more than what we can show you today, that was just four of their many tools.

So why not see for yourself? Sign up as a student and access the tools in exactly the same way that the students do.

You never know, there might be a new career just around the corner!