



Woodcote Sixth Form

Parents' UCAS Preparation Information
Evening

Ms Bird, Deputy Head of Sixth Form & Ms Case, Director of Sixth Form





Welcome

- Introduction
- What is UCAS
- Tariff Points
- UCAS Discovery – Trip
- UCAS – what the website can offer
- Apprenticeships - IAG
- Unifrog
- Student Finance
- Applying
- Key Dates



Introduction

Aim:

- To introduce UCAS, UCAS tariffs, Personal Statements, Unifrog.
- Give key dates and information.
- A more detailed copy of the PPT will be available as a PDF after the event.





What is UCAS?

UCAS is an **independent charity** providing information, advice and admissions services. They're there to help people **discover** what their next step might be.

UCAS **does**:

- Provide information, advice, and support
- Process applications
- Complete fraud and verification checks
- Take part in education sector engagement

UCAS **doesn't**:

- Make decisions or offers
- Set entry requirements
- Advise on finance
- Advise on immigration or visas



What are UCAS Tariff Points?

UCAS uses a system of applying points to a grade. Universities will make a mix of offers: Either specified grades, e.g. ABB or tariff points, e.g. ABB = 128 Pts; Universities may also specify a particular grade in a particular subject as part of that offer

A Level Grade	Tariff Points	BTEC/CTEC Grade	Tariff Points
A*	56	D*	56
A	48	D	48
B	40	M	32
C	32	P	16
D	24		
E	16		

UCAS Tariff Points/Entry Requirements

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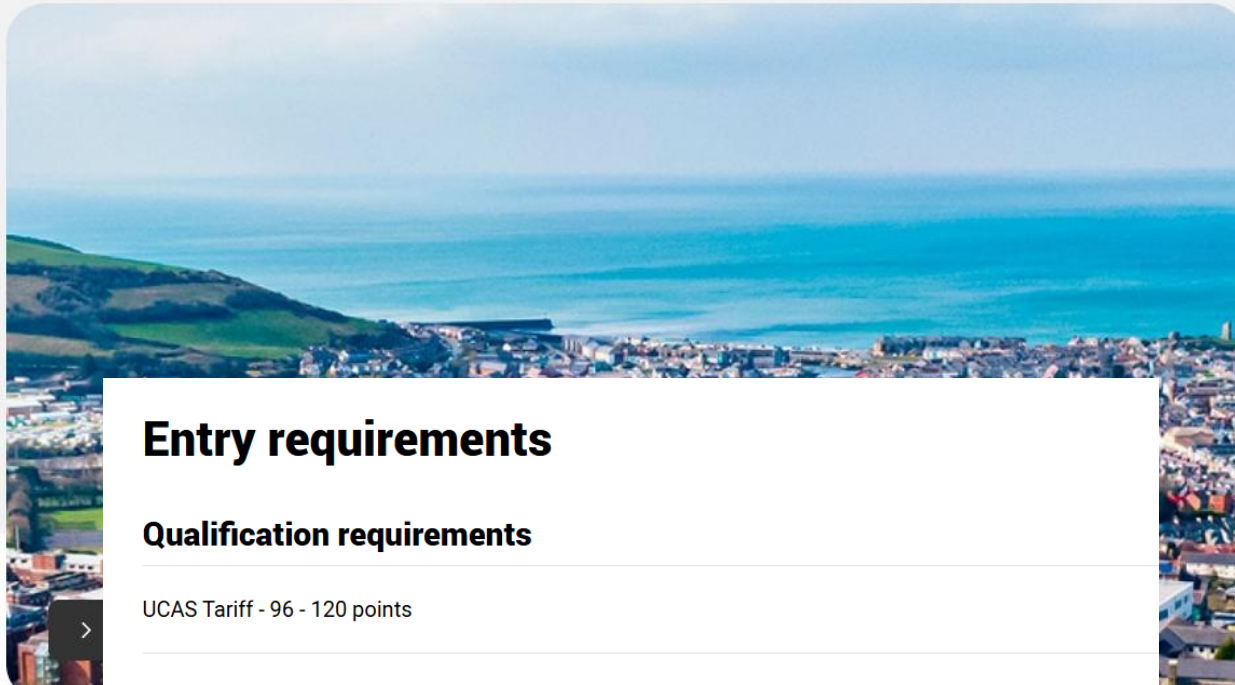


Psychology

Aberystwyth University

🎓 BSc (Hons) · 3 Years · Full-time · 21/09/2026 · Undergraduate 📍 Main Site (Aberystwyth)

Awarded by: Aberystwyth University (Prifysgol Aberystwyth)



Entry requirements

Qualification requirements

UCAS Tariff - 96 - 120 points

A level - BBB - CCC

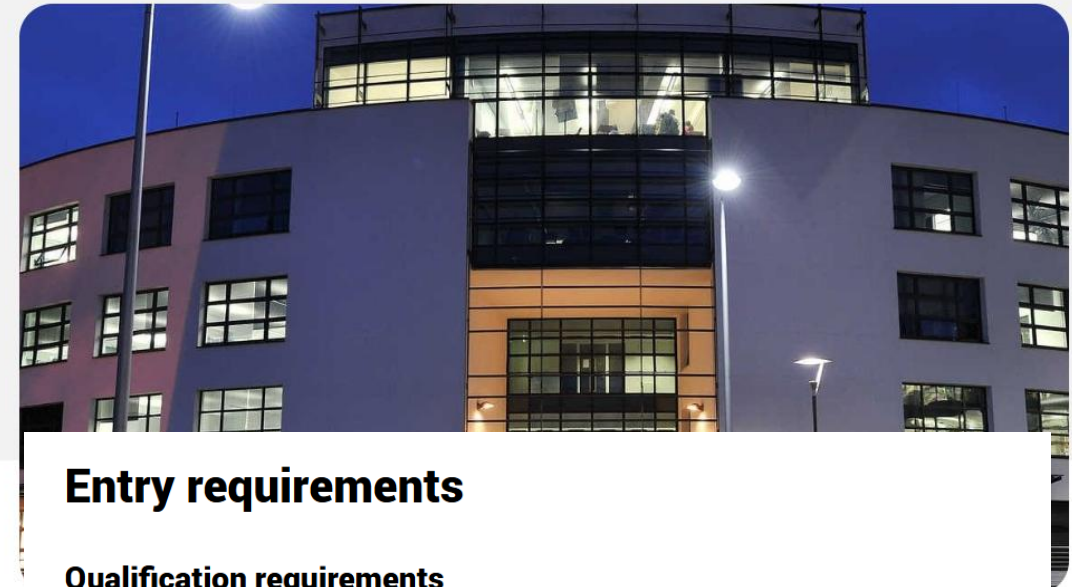
Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma (first teaching from September 2016) - DDM - MMM



Psychology

Brunel University of London

🎓 BSc (Hons) · 3 Years · Full-time · 09/2026 · Undergraduate 📍 Main Site



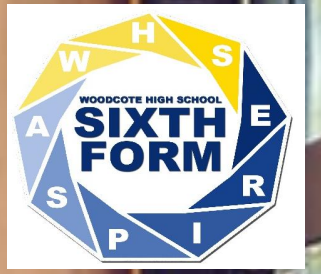
Entry requirements

Qualification requirements

UCAS Tariff - Not accepted

A level - ABB - BBB

Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma (first teaching from September 2016) - DDM - DMM



UCAS Discovery

Our Event:

Farnborough Exhibition Centre,
Wednesday 22nd April 2022

UCAS





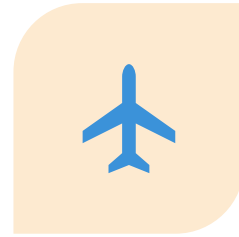
What is the **Discovery** Event?



HIGHER
EDUCATION



APPRENTICESHIPS



STUDYING
ABROAD



GAP YEAR



GETTING A JOB

An opportunity for students to visit university representatives and ask questions about the course, university and apprenticeships. There is also information & talks on a range of subjects.



Using UCAS Hub

You can use the UCAS Hub for a wide range of information, advice and guidance (IAG):

UCAS

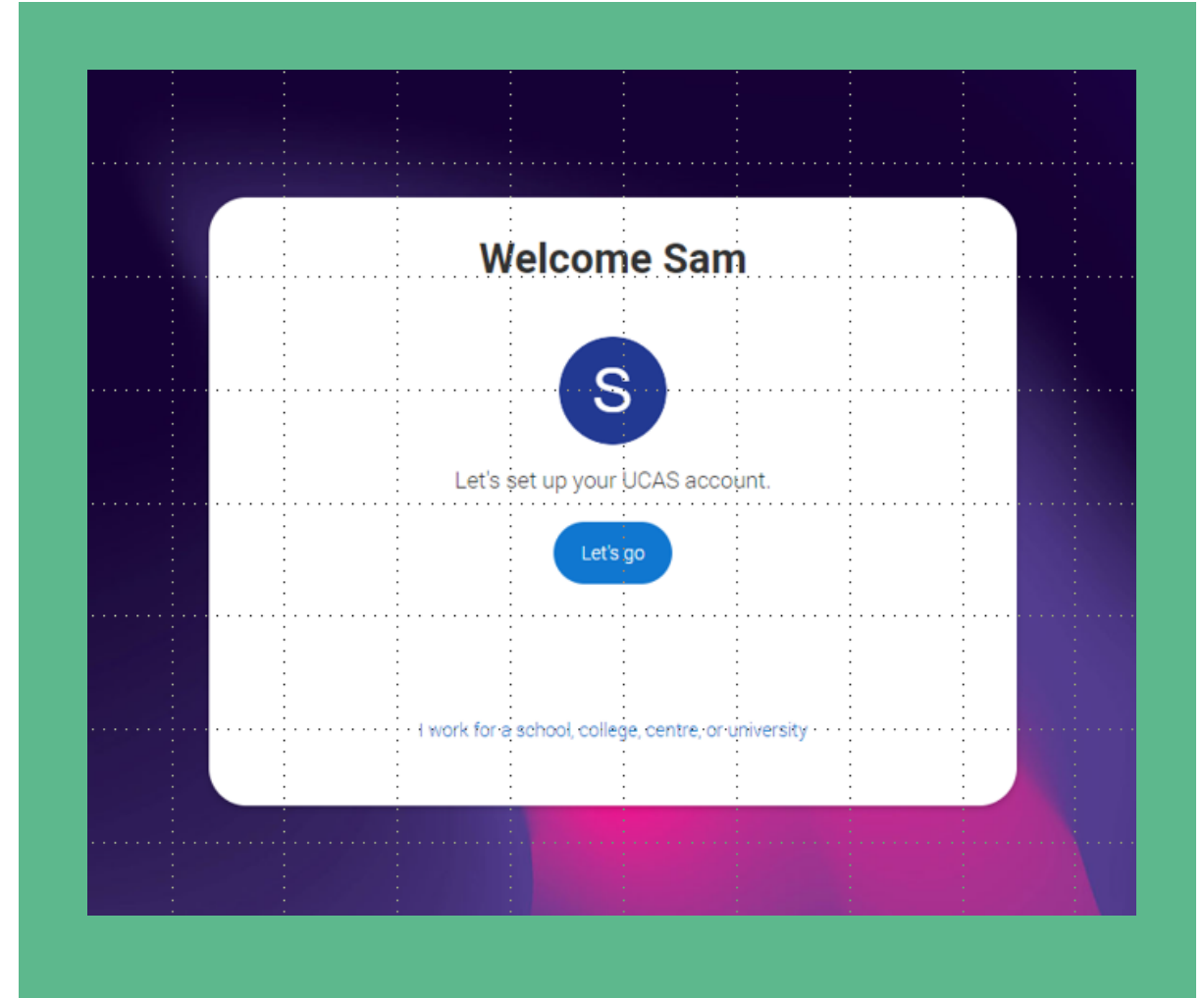




Using the UCAS Hub

Students will need to register (use personal email **not** school email) with the UCAS Hub where they can:

- 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 career matches
- start their application



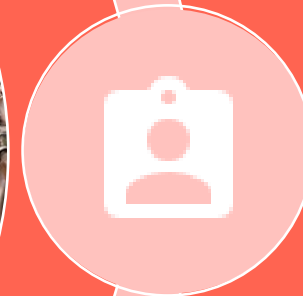
Apprenticeships

What are apprenticeships?

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Study



Job



Wage*



The A – Z of apprenticeships

There are **over 600** possible apprenticeship 'standards' (training programmes) which exist. It's probably easier to name an industry that doesn't have an apprenticeship than to list all that do. Here are just a few

- Accounting and Taxation
- Architect
- Boat Builder
- Building Surveyors
- Civil Engineer
- Cyber Security Technician
- Data Analyst
- Doctor (from 2023)
- Early Years
- Ecologist
- Farrier
- Food Technologist
- Game Programmer
- Geospatial mapping
- Harbour Master
- Historic Environment Adviser
- Internal audit professional
- Intelligence analyst
- Journalist
- Junior 2D artist (visual effects)
- Knitted product manufacturing
- Laboratory scientist
- Licensed conveyor
- Midwife
- Marketing Manager
- Nuclear Scientist and Engineer
- Nursing
- Operational firefighter
- Orthodontic therapist
- Paralegal
- Physiotherapist
- Quality practitioner
- Rail engineer
- Research scientist
- Social worker
- Software Developer
- Teacher
- Town planning assistant
- Utilities engineering
- Veterinary nurse
- Vehicle damage assessor
- Water process technician
- Workplace pensions consultant
- Youth worker

www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/#



What am I doing now?

For example, in England, Northern Ireland and Wales:



GCSE grade 9-4 is a Level 2 qualification



A level or T level is a Level 3 qualification

Did you know?

An apprenticeship offering a degree may also be called a Level 6 or Higher Apprenticeship

Apprenticeships work in levels too!

In England:

Level 2	Level 3	Level 4-7
Intermediate Apprenticeship	Advanced Apprenticeship	Higher Apprenticeship

In Wales:

Level 2	Level 3	Levels 4-7
Foundation Apprenticeship	Apprenticeship	Higher Apprenticeship

In Northern Ireland:

Level 2	Level 3	Level 4-7
Level 2 Apprenticeship	Level 3 Apprenticeship	Higher Apprenticeship

Who can start an Apprenticeship?



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- Anyone 16 and over
- Anyone not in full time education*
- Apprenticeships in Scotland, Wales or England require you to be living in the same country as the apprenticeship
- Apprenticeships in Northern Ireland require you:
 - be employed or be about to take up paid employment in Northern Ireland
 - be working a minimum of 21 hours per week on a permanent contract


* a foundation apprenticeship in Scotland is typically taken alongside Scottish Higher and National 5s



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Your pathways Side by side

When you register on ucas.com, you can sign up to be linked to relevant apprenticeship opportunities that match your profile.



Looking for Apprenticeships?

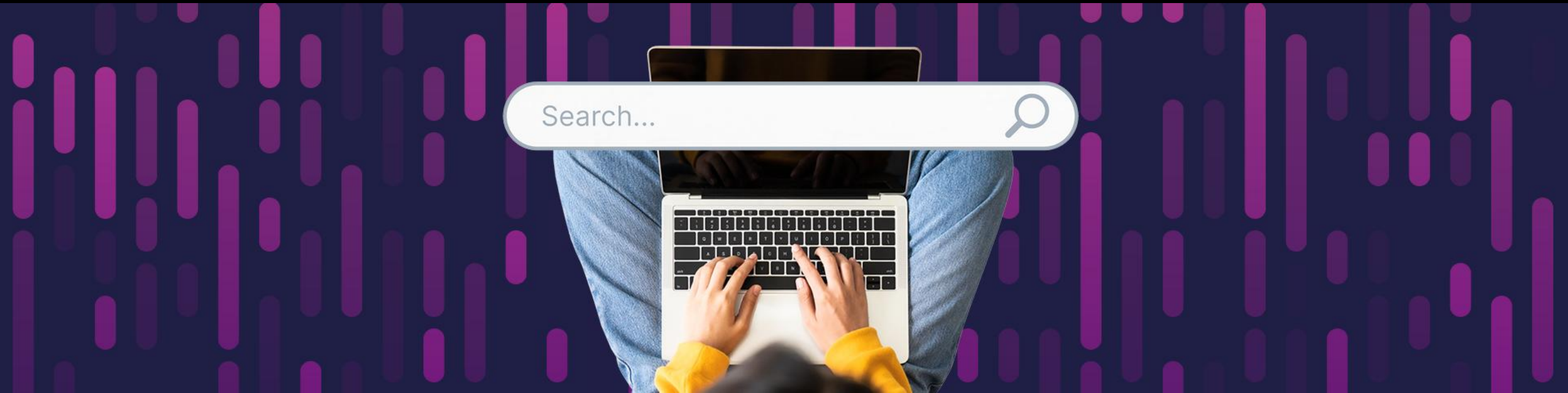
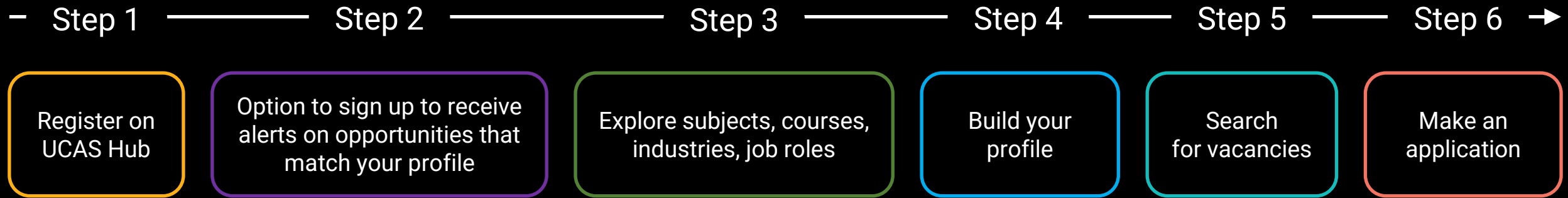
We can match you to potential employers! Sign up for Smart Alerts to receive apprenticeship opportunities directly in your inbox.

[Go to Smart Alerts](#)

6 steps to follow



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How can I apply?

- Apprenticeship applications are made directly through the company or the education provider – not using UCAS (this is different to applying to universities).
- There is no limit on the number of applications you can make.
- The application process might vary across vacancies, you could be asked for:
 - CV and Covering Letter
 - Application Form
 - In App/Site application
- You can apply for universities and apprenticeships at the same time!



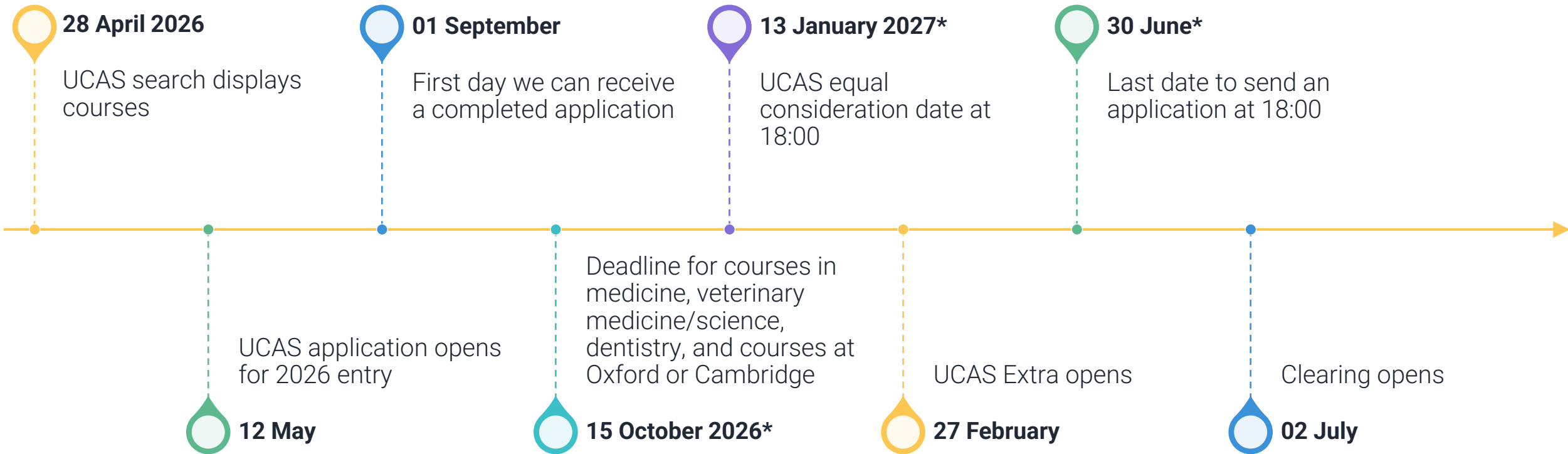
UCAS Applications

How to apply

UCAS



When to apply **2025** entry



* 18.00 UK time



Key facts



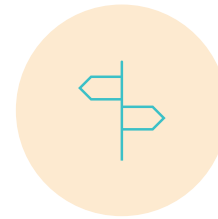
Start your application from 12 May 2027



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



Apply by the **equal consideration date**.



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***



Completing the UCAS application



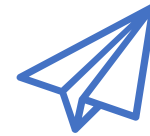
Student registers for a UCAS Hub account to carry out research and start application.



Student completes all sections of the application and sends it to their school/college.



Teacher or adviser reviews the application and adds reference and predicted grades.



Applications are sent to UCAS by the school or college on behalf of the student.

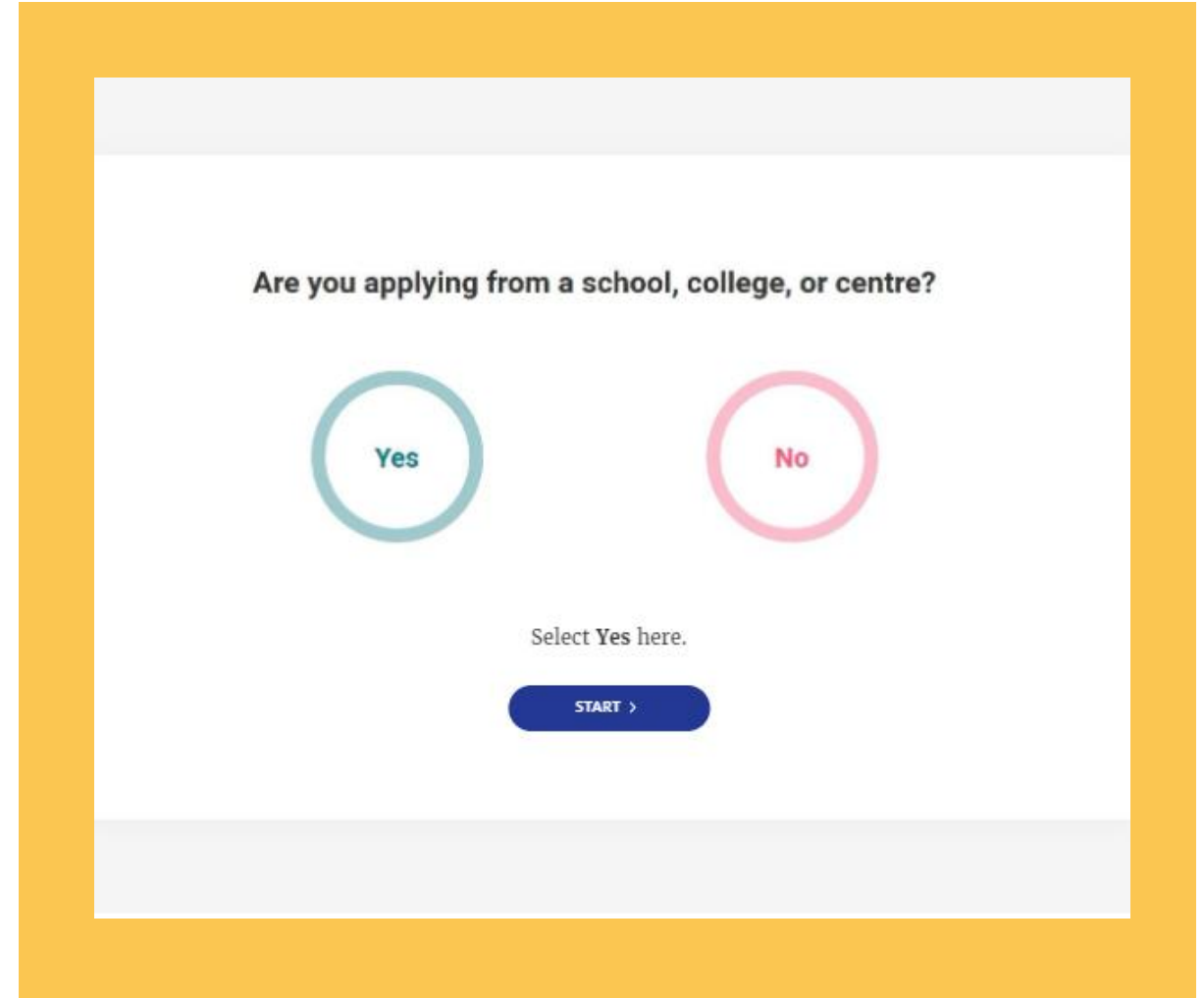


Universities and colleges make their decisions on the application.




Linking to a centre

- If they're applying with the help of a school, college or centre they should enter their 'buzzword' to link their application to them.
- The buzzword is a unique code set by the school.
- By linking their application they're giving their school, college or centre permission to view and track your application.
- It also means they'll provide them with a reference and send their application to UCAS on their behalf.








The Personal Statement (PS)

 The **only** section they have full control over


 Your **only** chance to market themselves as an individual

 The **same** for all of their 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 allowed

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

There are 3 Questions to be answered in the Personal Statement:

1. Why do you want to study this course?
2. How have your qualifications/studies prepared you?
3. What else have you done to prepare outside of education?

Your PS is specific to the course you are applying for. All courses should be similar, e.g. Psychology or Psychology & Criminology. A PS cannot be written for a student applying for Psychology at one university & Criminology at another.

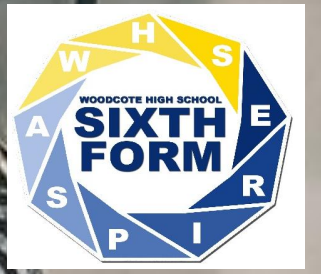
Personal Statement Support



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- UCAS Hub has a range of information to help and guide students.
- **Unifrog:** a platform designed to help students explore interests, search for opportunities and submit applications – all in one place.
 - All Year 12s should have registered with Unifrog & should have completed Unifrog 101:16+
 - It has a wide range of support and it's the platform we will be using for students to write their personal statements (PS).
 - Using this platform will allow students to get support from their form tutor when writing their PS.
- Form tutors, subject teachers & Sixth Form Team will also be providing support for Year 12s.



Student Finance

Not going to go into detail, but point out a couple of key points

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Two types of loan

Tuition fee loan: up to £9,790

- This covers the cost of tuition fees (attending the university)
- You will never see this money. It goes straight to the university.

Maintenance loan:

Can be up to **£14k a year**.

- This is used for everything else. This is the money you will use for rent, food, books etc
- The amount you can borrow depends on your household income

Investigate scholarships & bursaries at the universities you are applying to – all universities have different ones available.




When do I have to pay it back?



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[Student Loan Repayment - Everything you need to know \(ucas.com\)](https://www.ucas.com)

Annual Income 	Monthly Income	Monthly Repayment (9%)
£25,000	£2,083	£0
£28,000	£2,333	£22
£30,000	£2,500	£37.50
£35,000	£2,916	£75
£40,000	£3,333	£112.50

- 9% of your income over the threshold



Next steps

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What can students be doing?

- research, research, research!
- attend open days and events - all university visits will be authorised, just email us and let us know the visit is happening
- all students should be visiting **2** universities whilst attending Sixth Form – please inform the form tutor when the visit takes place
- extracurricular and super curricular activities
- work experience
- volunteering
- independent learning outside the curriculum
- focus on this year's studies



Extra Curricular vs. Super Curricular



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- Extra curricular –
 - Activities such as playing sports, music or volunteering
- Super curricular –
 - Academic based, such as academic reading around a subject, attending lectures or summer schools, entering subject related competitions – all things that extend classroom learning & show passion for a specific university subject.
 - MOOCs – Massive Open Online Course is a free web-based educational program, often featuring courses from top universities. A good place to gain super curricular opportunities.





Keeping you informed



www.ucas.com/parents



[Sign up](#) for UCAS parents' newsletter



Read UCAS [guides](#) just for parents and carers



Go to unifrog.com and sign up for parent guides and information



Thank you

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