

# Parents' evening presentation



A background image showing a group of students in a classroom or computer lab. They are gathered around a computer monitor, looking at the screen with interest. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent red filter. The students are diverse in age and appearance, suggesting a higher education setting.

# The role of UCAS

UCAS processes applications for full-time courses at higher education providers in the UK.

We guide students through the whole process, providing valuable information and supporting services for applicants and their parents.

# Choices available

- Higher education.
- Apprenticeships and traineeships.
- Studying abroad.
- Gap year.
- Getting a job.

Understand the options available at [www.ucas.com/alternatives](http://www.ucas.com/alternatives)

# Apprenticeships advice

UCAS has launched [apprenticeships advice](#) to help students make informed decisions about their post-16 and post-18 opportunities.

Find out about:

- the different types of apprenticeships
- how to find and apply for apprenticeships
- preparing for the application and interview process

With the predicted growth of higher and degree Apprenticeships you'll also find a dedicated [degree and professional apprenticeships section](#) on [ucas.com](#) which profiles current programmes in more detail.

# Why higher education?

## Opportunities while studying:

- chance to study a subject they are passionate about
- achieve a qualification that could lead to their chosen career
- gain confidence, independence, and important life skills that will widen their prospects
- make lifelong friends

## With a degree:

- the opportunity to follow their career path
- better job prospects
- many employers target graduates
- higher earning potential

# How do I choose a course?



There is no easy answer – it's about you choosing what you would like to study and 5 places you would like to live to study

# What would I like to study?

- What do you want to be / do? – is there a specific subject (s) to study to get to that career.
- What subjects do you enjoy at A level (or GCSE that you miss)
  - There should be some agreement between what you like and what you want to study or do as a career!
- A degree is largely academic, so you need to be interested in the subject, you will be spending several hours every day reading, writing, experimenting in this field.

# Researching courses

Your son or daughter can use the UCAS search tool  
[search.ucas.com](https://search.ucas.com)



**UCAS** Search tool

### Search courses

Where do you normally live?:

Search courses available in\*:  2015  2016

\*This helps us to show courses that are available to you. [Click here for more info](#)

Search by **any** or **all** of the following


Course:

Provider:

Location:

### Don't know what to study?

Need help finding courses? Browse subjects and find out what's available.




### UCAS Search tool

Use our new search to find undergraduate courses and courses at conservatoires.

We'll be adding all our other courses soon – until then, click the links below.

- [Postgraduate courses](#)
- [Postgraduate teacher training courses](#)
- [Foundation degrees](#)





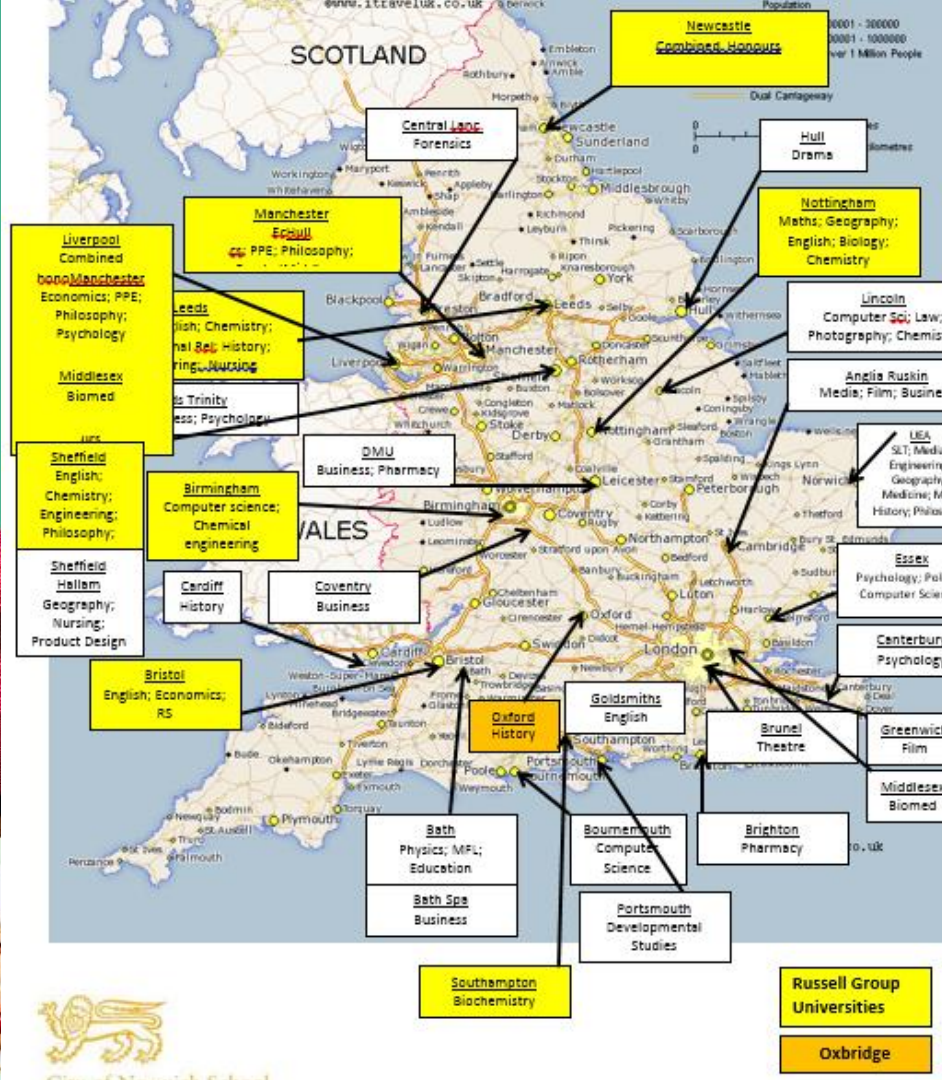
# Research – it's free

- Search tool – to look for providers, courses, and minimum entry requirements.
- Open days and virtual tours – a great way to explore campuses and facilities.
- UCAS higher education exhibitions – useful to see different universities and colleges, and explore options.
- Learn from others – student videos, blogs, and case studies.
- Career options – our career finder tool is ideal for considering the options after education.

# Other things to consider

- Finance – course fees, grants, travel and living costs
- Location and travel – to and from home
- Accommodation – uni halls or private residences?
  - Some universities have accommodation offers all through your course, some years 1 and 3, some year 1 only.
  - It can vary depending on the course within the same uni
- Extra curricular activities
  - Sports facilities
  - Popular culture
  - High culture events and galleries
- Will I get the grades?

**ONCE YOU HAVE A SHORT-LIST OF UNIVERSITIES, ASK FOR THEIR PROSPECTUSES AND THE ALTERNATIVE PROSPECTUS**



**YOU MUST KNOW  
WHERE IT IS AND  
HOW YOU WILL GET  
THERE!**



Choose ambitiously but realistically:

For example, CCC is a perfectly respectable set of grades, but they won't get you in to an AAB course

Extended Project Qualification	AS level	A level	New Tariff points
		A*	56
		A	48
		B	40
		C	32
A*			28
A		D	24
B	A		20
C	B	E	16
D	C		12
	D		10
E			8
	E		6

Example: Brad wants to do history.

He's been getting B grades in history and C grades in geography and English.

- Likely outcome is BCC
- Optimistic: BBC
- Choices:
  - Manchester Met. BBC
  - Nottingham Trent: BBC
  
  - De Montford: BCC
  - Lincoln: BCC
  
  - Leeds Trinity CCC






# Example: Brad wants to do history.

He's been getting B grades in history and C grades in geography

- Likely outcome is BCC and English.

- Optimistic: BBC

- Choices:

- Manchester Met. BBC  Rejected ☹️
- Nottingham Trent: BBC  Year 13 going well – firm choice
- De Montford: BCC  Year 13 not so well well – firm choice
- Lincoln: BCC  Rejected ☹️
- Leeds Trinity CCC  Insurance choice1

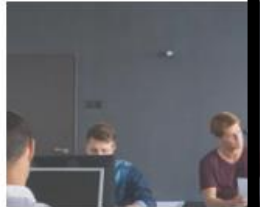
# How do I choose a course?

- <https://www.ucas.com/connect/videos/ucas#js=on&v=/choosing-courses-how>

# Open days and virtual tours



Managing money



Employment

## Exhibitions and open days

Find out more about universities and courses at UCAS exhibitions and university open days.

Come and speak to universities, colleges, UCAS, and many other interesting organisations at our exhibitions. They're big events and we hold over 50 all over the UK. They're a great chance to help you figure out what to study, or to find student deals and careers info. Attend university open days to really get a feel for where you could be living and studying, and get answers to any questions you may have.

### Related reading

- [Exploring university](#)
- [Events and open days](#)
- [Exhibitions](#)
- [Visit conservatoires](#)

### You may like to visit

- [Search for uni open days](#)

[Find out more about university open days near you](#)



### UCAS blogs

Students share their higher education experiences with you.



After your GCSEs



# Open days search tool

## Current search

Search found 308 items

Open day ×

[Reset](#)

## Filter by event type:

Open day

## Distance

100 miles ▾ from

i.e. Town or postcode

## Filter by related scheme:

## Find open days

Displaying 1 - 50 of 308. Page 1 of 7.

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APR

### Edge Hotel School - open day event

<https://www.ucas.com/events/edge-hotel-school-open-day-event-292216>

Edge Hotel School Open Event

Open day • Colchester • 10 April 2017 •

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### The University of Buckingham - open day event

<https://www.ucas.com/events/university-buckingham-open-day-event-292221>

Psychology Taster Tutorial

Open day • Buckingham • 11 April 2017 •

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APR

### University of Brighton - open day event

<https://www.ucas.com/events/university-brighton-open-day-event-292226>

Sport, Journalism and Service Management Applicant Day

Open day • Eastbourne • 12 April 2017 •

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APR

### Bournemouth University - open day event

<https://www.ucas.com/events/bournemouth-university-open-day-event-292231>

Offer Holder Open Day

Open day • Poole • 12 April 2017 •

# Virtual tours

## Virtual tours








Here's a list of virtual tours and videos from universities and colleges, so you can see what it's like on campus and what facilities are available.

Relevant to **Undergraduate**





If the uni/college you're interested in isn't listed, take a look at their website or YouTube channel instead.

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#)  
[U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

### A

- [University of Aberdeen](#) 
- [Abertay University](#) 
- [Aberystwyth University](#) 
- [Academy of Contemporary Music](#) 
- [Anglia Ruskin University](#) 
- [Arts University Bournemouth \(formerly University College\)](#) 
- [Aston University, Birmingham](#) 

### B

- [Bangor University](#) 
- [Birmingham City University](#) 
- [University College Birmingham](#) 
- [University of Birmingham](#) 

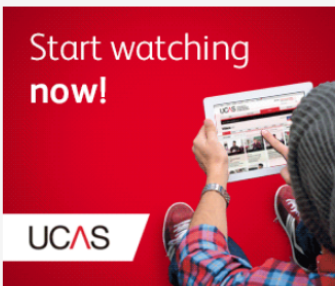
### You may also like to read

- [Events and open days](#)
- [Learn about uni on a taster course](#)
- [UCAS Undergraduate entry requirements](#)
- [UCAS Undergraduate: international and EU students](#)
- [Mature undergraduate students](#)

### Related topics

- After applying
- Applying
- Finance and funding
- Getting started
- Student support
- The application process

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# Apply key facts

- Application is entirely online.
- Maximum of five choices.
- Some choice restrictions:
  - for medicine, veterinary science/medicine and dentistry there is a maximum of four choices
  - can only apply for either Oxford or Cambridge
- Simple application cost:
  - one choice – £13
  - two to five choices – £24
- Equal consideration if deadlines are met.
- Invisibility – universities cannot see where else someone has applied.

# When to apply

6 September – completed applications can be submitted to UCAS.

15 October (18:00 UK time) – deadline for Oxford or Cambridge, and most courses in medicine, dentistry, or veterinary medicine/science.

15 January (18:00 UK time) – deadline for the majority of undergraduate courses.

24 March (18:00 UK time) – deadline for some art and design courses.

30 June (18:00 UK time) – last date to submit an application before Clearing.

# The personal statement

- The only section your son or daughter has control over.
- Their only chance to market themselves individually.
- One personal statement for **all** choices.
- Max. 4,000 characters, 47 lines.
- Min. 1,000 characters.
- No spelling/grammar check.
- No formatting.

# Apprenticeship advice service

- Think about what makes them stand out in an exciting and positive way.
- Show enthusiasm for the course they are applying for and list supporting evidence to back this up.
- Extracurricular activities and relevant work experience.
- Skills they can use on the course – leadership, communication, teamwork for example.
- Encourage them to ask you for more ideas.
- Allow plenty of time.

# Tracking applications

Track will allow your son or daughter to:

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

# Decisions and replies

## Provider decisions:

- unsuccessful
- unconditional offer
- conditional offer – qualifications and achievements and/or UCAS Tariff points

Once all decisions are received, they can hold up to two offers:

- one as their **firm** choice
- one as their **insurance** choice (if they want to)
- all other offers are declined

Track will show their **reply date**.



# Other options

## **Extra** (24 Feb – 4 July)

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

## **Clearing** (from early July)

If there are no offers, or have applied after 30 June 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.

# What should your son/daughter should be doing now?

- Research
- Extracurricular activities
- Work experience
- Go beyond the syllabus
- Focus on this year's studies

# How can you support them?

- Use the parents/guardians' section of the UCAS website – [www.ucas.com/parents](http://www.ucas.com/parents) – and sign up for the newsletter.
- Use our [parent information tool](#) for advice, hints, and tips to help someone you care for through the application process.
- 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.

UCAS Customer Experience Centre

0371 468 0468

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



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