

**Applying to
universities**



3 stage process

1. Research stage

March Year 12 – Oct Year 13

2. Application stage

Sept Year 13 – Nov Year 13

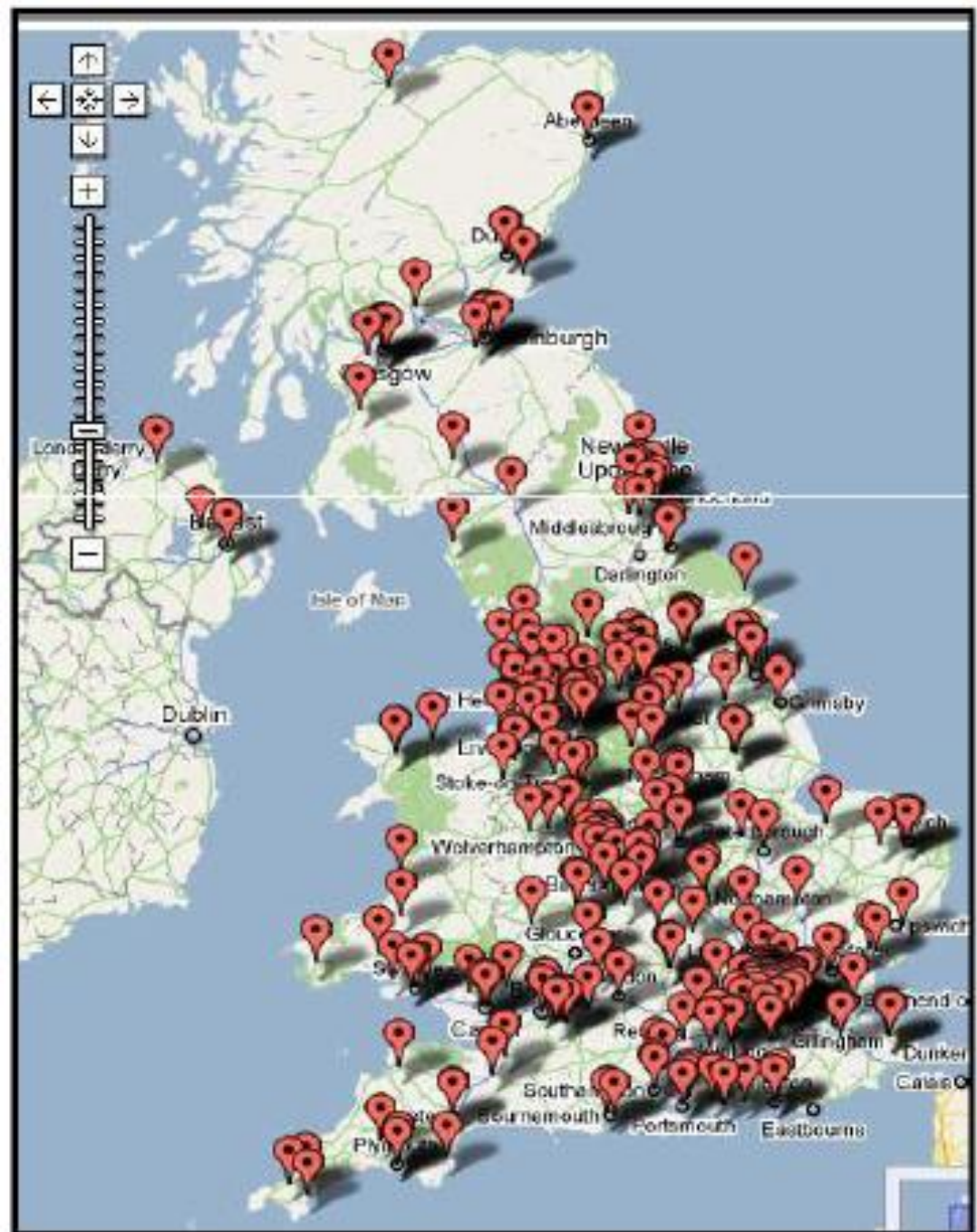
3. Responding to offers

Dec Year 13 – May Year 13

Research stage

March – Oct

Research stage



Research stage

What types of course exist?

- Honours degree
- Foundation degree
- Single honours / Joint honours
- Sandwich degrees
(with year abroad or year in industry)

**Research
stage**

Aiming high

“Top third” university?

“Russell Group” university?

Birmingham Bristol Cambridge
Cardiff Durham Edinburgh Exeter Glasgow
Imperial Kings College Leeds
Liverpool LSE Manchester Newcastle
Nottingham Oxford Queen Mary
Queen’s Belfast Sheffield Southampton
UCL Warwick York

Research
stage

Aiming high

Some Russell Group universities try harder than others to attract strong state school students

Eg. Contextual offers made to students who meet specific criteria (eg neighbourhoods with low university uptake)

Eg. Newcastle runs the “Newcastle Partners Programme”, making offers up to 3 grades lower for eligible students who complete a summer programme with them after A Levels

**Research
stage**

Predicted Grades

Predicted grades for use in applications are made in July, using all available information.

Trial Exams for Year 12: June 15 - 19
2 exam papers per subject

Research stage

Don't be put off by the costs

Costs involved in going to university:

Tuition fees

Living costs

Research stage

Tuition Fees

- Mostly £9790 per year
- No money needed upfront
- Tuition fees loan available to all, paid directly to the university
- £25,000 repayment threshold

Research stage

An example:

A student finishes their degree in July 2030 and gets a job with a salary of **£30,000**.

Their salary is **£5000** over the **£25,000** repayment threshold, so they pay **9%** of £5000 that year.

= **£37.50 per month**

Research stage

Living Costs

- **Maintenance loan**
 - Around 50% available to all: rest is means-tested

Maintenance Loan entitlement by household income (2025/26)

Household Income	Home	Elsewhere	London
£25,000 & under	£8,876	£10,544	£13,761
£30,000	£8,131	£9,791	£12,996
£35,000	£7,385	£9,037	£12,230
£40,000	£6,639	£8,284	£11,464
£45,000	£5,893	£7,530	£10,657
£50,000	£5,147	£6,776	£9,932
£55,000	£4,401	£6,023	£9,166
£60,000	£3,907	£5,269	£8,400
£65,000	£3,907	£4,914	£7,634
£70,000 & over	£3,907	£4,914	£6,853

Research stage

Living Costs

- **Maintenance loan**
 - Around 50% available to all: rest is means-tested
- **Extra support:** (money that isn't paid back)
 - **University scholarships**
 - **University bursaries**
 - **Government allowances** (eg Disabled students' allowance)

Research stage

In a UCAS application you
can apply to up to 5 courses



Over 32,000 degree courses to choose from!

Research stage

Variations on studying “Biology”

Biological Sciences, **Biology**, Forensic Psychobiology, **Biochemistry**, Animal Behaviour, **Biomedical Science**, Biological Chemistry, **Applied Marine Biology**, Molecular and Cellular Biology, **Biology and Business Management**, Biology and Creative Writing, **Structural Molecular Biology**, **Applied Biology**, **Animal Biology and Conservation**, Sports Biomedicine, **Natural Sciences**, **Applied Marine Zoology**, **Aquaculture and Fisheries**, Biological and Chemical Science, **Genetics**, **Pharmacology**, **Cell and Molecular Biology**, **Zoological Management**, **Wildlife and Plant Biology**, **Human Biology**, **Anatomy Development and Human Biology**, **Exercise Health and Wellbeing**, **Biology and Dance**, **Food Science**, **Plant Production**, **Nutrition and Health**, **Anthropology**, **Cell Biology**, **Aquatic Science**, **Biochemistry and Immunology**, **Biotechnology**, **Bioarchaeology**

Research stage

Try before you buy

UCAS Subject Spotlights

[Search | Subject Spotlights | UCAS](#)

Short (approx 40 minute) online taster lectures
in a massive range of degree subjects

Research stage

www.unifrog.org



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FURTHER EDUCATION



APPRENTICESHIPS



UNIVERSITY

Research stage

Using league tables to compare courses



League tables

Home / Rankings / Food Science

<https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/league-tables/rankings>

Food Science

QUICK VIEW

FULL TABLE

University ranking	University name	Overall score	Entry standards	Student satisfaction	Research quality	Research intensity	Graduate prospects
1 ▲ 4	University of Glasgow VIEW COURSES →	100%	100%	82%	84%	69%	n/a
2 ▲ 5	King's College London, University o... VIEW COURSES →	94%	80%	74%	83%	59%	100%
3 ▲ 9	University of Plymouth VIEW COURSES →	93%	85%	81%	65%	66%	90%
4	University of Surrey						

Research stage

<https://www.opendays.com/calendar>

Open day calendar

Browse the Opendays.com calendar of university and college open days

Select a month: [Jan](#) [Feb](#) [Mar](#) [Apr](#) [May](#) [Jun](#) [Jul](#) [Aug](#) [Sep](#) [Oct](#) [Nov](#) [Dec](#)

June 2026

← May

July →

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	1	2	3	4	5

Peak
season for
uni open
days is
April-June.

**Research
stage**

UCAS Exhibition: June 10



**Research
stage**

Ex-student advisors
July 7th



Research stage

How should I decide on the range of grade offers to aim for?

- In July, students will receive predicted grades to use in the UCAS applications
- We advise students to look for courses asking for grades ranging from 1 grade above these predicted grades to 2 grades below them

Eg. Predicted grades = BBC

Courses to aim for = BBB to CCC

Research stage

Universities use two types of
entry requirement

Geography

University of Birmingham

Entry requirements

Qualification requirements

UCAS Tariff Not accepted

A level AAB

Grades-based
offer

Geography

University of Lincoln

Entry requirements

Qualification requirements

UCAS Tariff 112 points

Points-based
offer

Research stage

How many UCAS points are your qualifications worth?

A-level	AS level	EPQ	Cam Tech in Sport	Cam Tech in Business or Health & Social Care	UCAS points
			Distinction *		84
			Distinction		72
A*				Distinction *	56
A			Merit	Distinction	48
B					40
C				Merit	32
		A*			28
D		A	Pass		24
	A	B			20
E	B	C		Pass	16
	C	D			12
	D				10
		E			8
	E				6

Research stage

Example: University of the West of England asks for **120 points** for entry on to Geography degree

This could come just from three courses' grades:

Geography	(A)	= 48
English	(B)	= 40
Business C Tec	(Merit)	= 32

Research stage

Example: A university ask for
120 points for entry on to
Geography degree

This could come just from three courses' grades:

Geography	(A)	= 48
English	(B)	= 40
Business C Tec	(Merit)	= 32

Or you could use points from AS / EPQ / Finance as well:

Geography	(B)	= 40
English	(C)	= 32
Business C Tec	(Merit)	= 32
EPQ	(C)	= 16

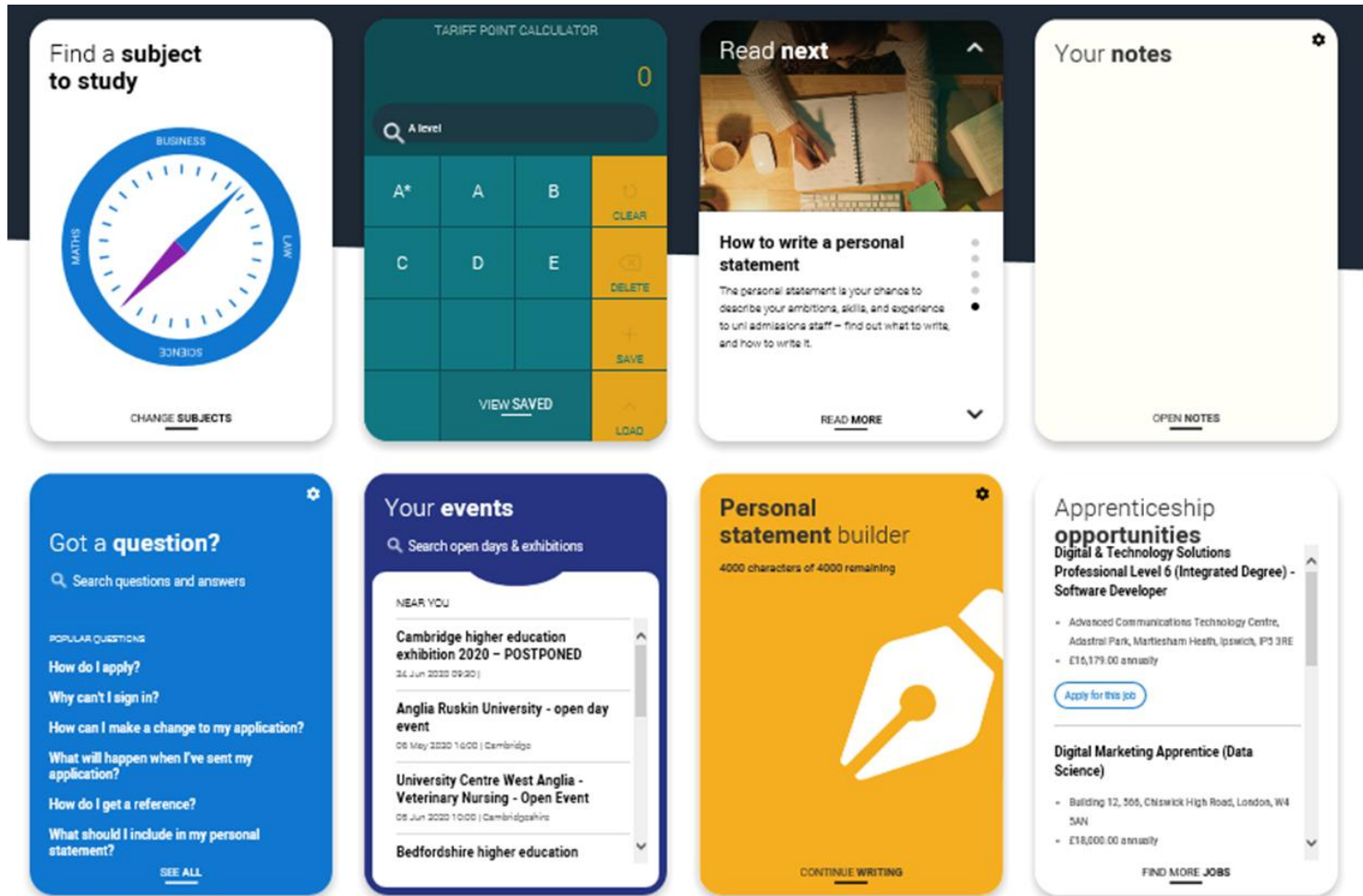
Research stage

As well as grades, some degree courses also require entrance tests

- Most courses at Oxford and Cambridge, plus...
- Some courses in:
 - Medicine (UCAT and BMAT)
 - Maths (STEP and MAT)
 - Law (LNAT)
- Check whether the courses you are interested in require any entrance tests. Most of these tests will be sat in October. It is students' responsibility to check whether any of their courses require entrance tests.

Research stage

Using www.ucas.com/dashboard to research university options



Students will shortly be invited to register for a login with UCAS Hub on this site. This gives them access to all of the research facilities provided by UCAS.

Research stage

Further research

University of Hertfordshire has a platform with some excellent guides to how to choose courses, the application process and student finance.

<https://www.herts.ac.uk/about-us/school-and-college-liason/getting-ready-for-university>

Getting ready for university

The University of Hertfordshire regularly visits schools and colleges offering information, advice and guidance for educational going to university. With advice and challenges every school, we would be pleased to offer you that support. Please you will find all of our information, so that you can make it more in the context of your own future. You know you feel more helpful. You can also contact us directly for any questions both on campus or through to receive emails from the University of Hertfordshire.



Why go to university?

At 18, you have some big decisions to make. This section will help you decide whether university is the right choice for you...



Degree Apprenticeships or full-time university?

Which is the right route for you? This section explains what Degree Apprenticeships are and will help you also if the route differences compared to full-time university study...



How to choose a course and university

With so many courses and universities to choose from, we look at what you need to consider when making your final UGEE choice...



This is Herts

In this section we will share with you what it's like to be a student at the University of Hertfordshire...



The UCAS application process

This section covers all aspects of the application process, detailing what is required at each stage...



Personal statements

Writing a strong personal statement can increase your chances of reaching offers from your preferred university choices. In this section we offer guidance on content, structure and common pitfalls...



Gaining experience during a lockdown



Student finance

This section includes information on tuition and maintenance loans, bursaries, scholarships and more. It is designed to help you understand the various options available to you.



Preparing for university

Starting university can be a daunting prospect, so whether it is worrying about the academic challenges, the social life, or the cost of living, we have a range of resources to help you prepare for your first year.

Application stage

Sept – Nov

UCAS application deadlines

- For Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, Dentistry, and Oxford and Cambridge courses

October 15 (Sept 30 Freman deadline)

- For all other courses

End of November (Freman deadline)

Application stage

Freman College guide to making your university application 2026-2027

In June,
students will
be given this
booklet,
guiding them
through the
application
process



**Application
stage**

What goes into a
UCAS application?

Application stage

Your choices



Add choice

Profile

Personal details

Name, age, title and gender

Start this section

Nationality details

Birthplace and nationalities

Start this section

Where you live

Tell us about your address history

Start this section

Contact details

Address, email and telephone

Start this section

Supporting information

So that providers know how to support you during your studies

Start this section

Finance & funding

Tell us how you'll fund your study

Start this section

Your personal statement

Personal statement

Why do you want to study this subject?

Start this section

Experience

Education

Qualifications and periods of study

 Section in progress

Employment

Paid employment

Start this section

Sections of a UCAS application

The new-style Personal Statement

<p>3 questions</p>	<p>Why do you want to study this course or subject?</p>
<p>Total character count 4000</p>	<p>How have your qualifications & studies helped you prepare for this course?</p>
	<p>What else have you done to prepare and why are these experiences useful?</p>

Using Unifrog to help

Quizzes

Personality profile

✓ Quiz last taken 19 Aug 20: ESFJ and ESFP



Quiz profile

✗ 2 of 4 quizzes complete



Exploring

Careers library

✗ Careers favourited



Subjects library

✓ Subjects favourited



Know-how library

✗ Guides favourited



Courses

✗ No courses added



Recording

Activities

✗ Recorded at least 10



Skills

✗ Completed all 12



Interactions

✗ Missing 4 Interaction types



Academics

✗ 3 Classes, 3 Predicts missing



Materials

UK personal statement

✗ Marked as finished



Subject References

✗ Overall Ref not finished / 3 Sub Ref, 3 not finished



Searching

UK universities

69 shortlists



Oxbridge

0 shortlists



Apprenticeships

27 shortlists



Applications

Post 18 Intentions

✗ Plan A and Plan B complete



Talent pool

✗ Not joined



**Application
stage**


**Very useful advice for
parents**

UCAS At the heart of
connecting people
to higher education

Information and advice



Search articles, information and advice by keyword

 Customer Experience Centre closed: 1 May - Read more

UCAS Undergraduate: parents and guardians

Find advice to help you support your son or daughter throughout the UCAS application cycle, including videos and tips for getting started.

Relevant to **Undergraduate**

<https://www.ucas.com/ucas/undergraduate/getting-started/ucas-undergraduate-parents-and-guardians>

Responding to offers

Dec – May

Responding to offers

What happens once the application has been submitted through UCAS?

- Each university will respond in one of four ways:
 - Make a conditional offer
 - Invite to interview before making an offer
 - Make an unconditional offer
 - Decline to make an offer



- Students track the progress of application online
- When ALL universities have responded...
 - ... accept one offer as your **firm choice** and one as an **insurance choice**.

Student Finance applications

- Apply by May of the year you will start university
- Applications open in March (takes 30 minutes)
- Helpful to do it alongside a parent or carer, as you need details of household income

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