

Supporting successful next steps

Parents' Information Evening

Parent Information:

Good habits

Getting stuff done

Goals and systems

UCAS 2025-26

Parent Information

UCAS

What is UCAS?

UCAS is an **independent charity** providing information, advice and admissions services.



HIGHER
EDUCATION



APPRENTICESHIPS



STUDYING
ABROAD



GAP YEAR



GETTING A JOB

**OCT
02**

(18:00 UK time) Application deadline for conservatoire music applications

Applications for dance, drama, and musical theatre courses may have a different deadline – check conservatoires' websites for information.

**OCT
15**

(18:00 UK time) Deadline for applications to the universities of Oxford and Cambridge, and for most courses in medicine, dentistry, and veterinary medicine/science

Applications can be sent after this, but universities and colleges cannot guarantee they'll give it equal consideration.

**JAN
14**

(18:00 UK time) Equal consideration date for applications for most undergraduate courses and most conservatoire undergraduate dance, drama, or musical theatre courses.

Applications can be sent after this, but providers cannot guarantee they'll give it equal consideration.

When to apply 2026 entry

We aim for all our students to have completed their applications by October half term with all applications sent off by early December

Key facts

Students pay for their application with a debit card just like any other online payment.
16-19 bursary scheme- students who are eligible for this are able to cover the cost through their bursary.



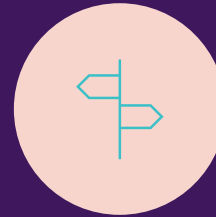
Start your application
from May



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 **£28.95**.

Choosing the right place to study

- **Style** – from traditional, with a focus on subject-based courses and research, to modern universities/colleges, with a greater focus on vocational courses.
- **Location** – some are in large cities, others in small towns, by the coast or in the countryside – it's all a major influence on the environment and lifestyle.
- **Size** – larger universities can have more than 20,000 students, whereas some of the smallest have only a few thousand.
- **Culture and facilities** – influenced by a range of factors, including the diversity of students who attend.
- **What graduates do** – all universities collect destination statistics; it can be useful to find out what jobs or further study students go on to.
- **Tuition fees** – can vary between universities and colleges; check if there are scholarships or bursaries available.
- **Living costs** – accommodation, transport, and food can vary enormously.

Choosing the right course to study

- 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?

Completing the UCAS application

All students' applications are checked by the Sixth Form Team before being sent off to UCAS. We sit down with the student and review their application- checking the course they have applied for, the entry requirements needed in comparison to their predicted grades & go through their reference. Students are also asked to review their application for a final time independently and sign a consent form before we send it off.



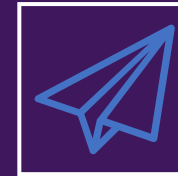
Student registers for a UCAS Hub account to carry out research and start application.



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.

Decisions

Universities and colleges will review the:



personal statement



qualifications



reference

They may also ask for:



admissions test



interview



portfolio/audition

Tracking applications



Waiting for decisions

Universities or colleges are considering your application.
Providers have until dd-mm-yyyy to respond to your choices.



All decisions received

You've received a decision from all of your choices. You can now reply to your offers at any time.
Reply by dd-mm-yyyy



Waiting for confirmation

You're waiting for confirmation of your choices. If you meet the offer conditions, the university/college will confirm your place. Send them your results if requested.

Students can follow their application 24/7:

- see their choices
- keep contact information up to date
- view and reply to their offers

They'll receive one of three decisions from your choices:

- unconditional offer
- conditional offer
- unsuccessful

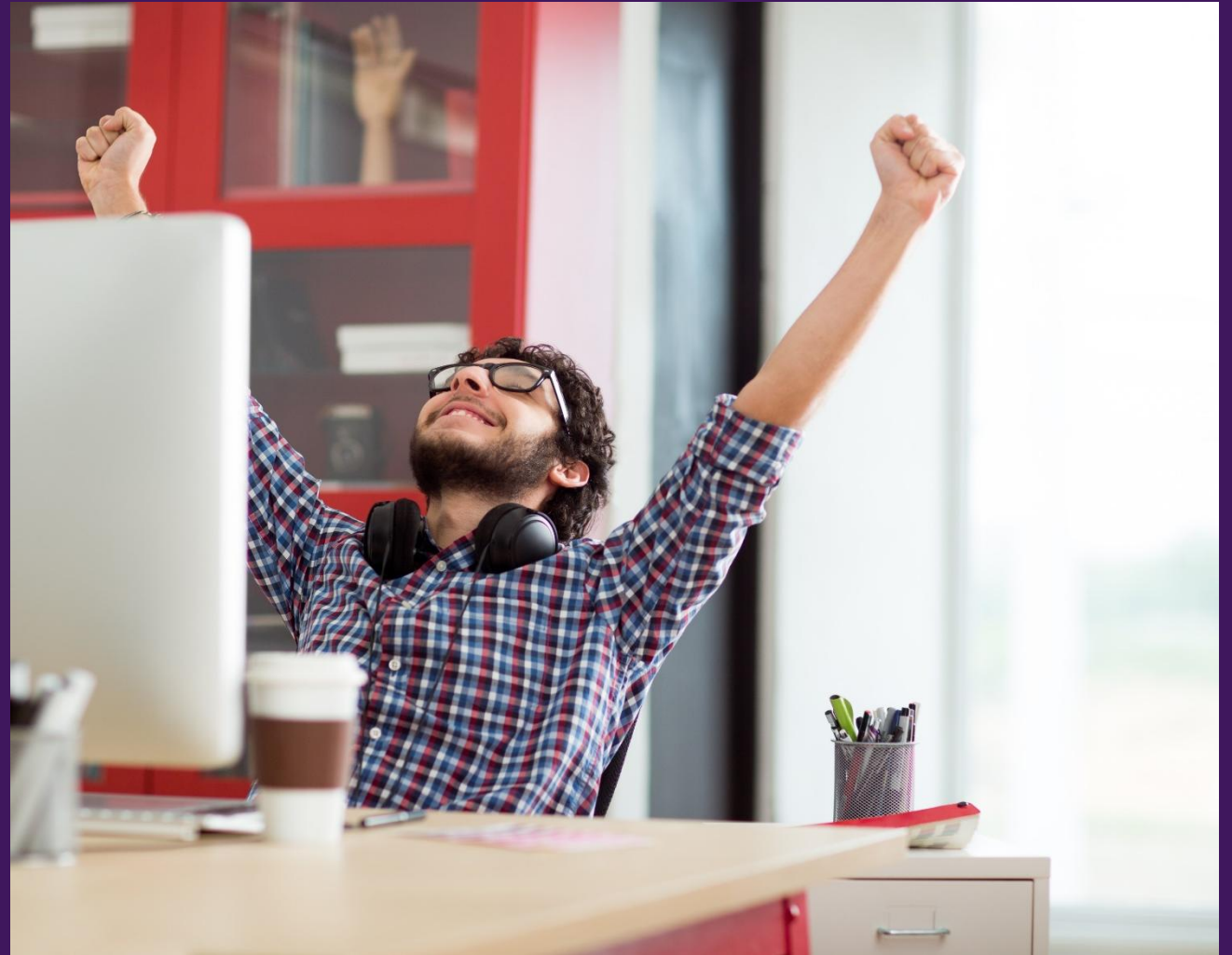
Replies to offers

Once they have decisions on all their choices, they can choose two:

- One as a 'firm' acceptance – their first choice.
- The other as an 'insurance' acceptance. This acts as a back-up if they do not get into their 'firm' choice.

Any remaining offers must be declined.

Once all their decisions and replies have been made, if they are not holding an offer, they may be able to use Extra or Clearing to find available places.



What can students be doing?

- research, research, research
- attend open days and events
- extracurricular and super curricular activities
- work experience
- volunteering
- independent learning outside the curriculum
- focus on this year's studies



Student finance



Full-time undergraduate students not eligible for benefits

The table gives maximum and minimum rates of loans for living costs, in the 2025 to 2026 academic year, for full-time undergraduate students who are not eligible for benefits.

Rate of loan for students	Maximum loan	Minimum loan
Living at home	£8,877	£3,907
Living away from home and studying in London	£13,762	£6,853
Living away from home and studying outside London	£10,544	£4,915
Studying overseas as part of a UK course	£12,076	£5,838

Students can use the [student finance calculator](https://www.gov.uk/student-finance-calculator) to estimate their Maintenance Loan.
<https://www.gov.uk/student-finance-calculator>

Student finance

Repaying student loans

Students only repay their student loan when their income is over the threshold amount for their repayment plan.

The threshold amounts change on 6 April every year: at the moment this is when their income is over £26,900 a year

The earliest students will start repaying is the April after they leave their course

Repayments automatically stop if either:

- they stop working
- their income goes below the threshold.

Student finance



Students apply through the government website towards the end of February.

Apply straight away to ensure that the loans are available when students start their courses.

Student finance



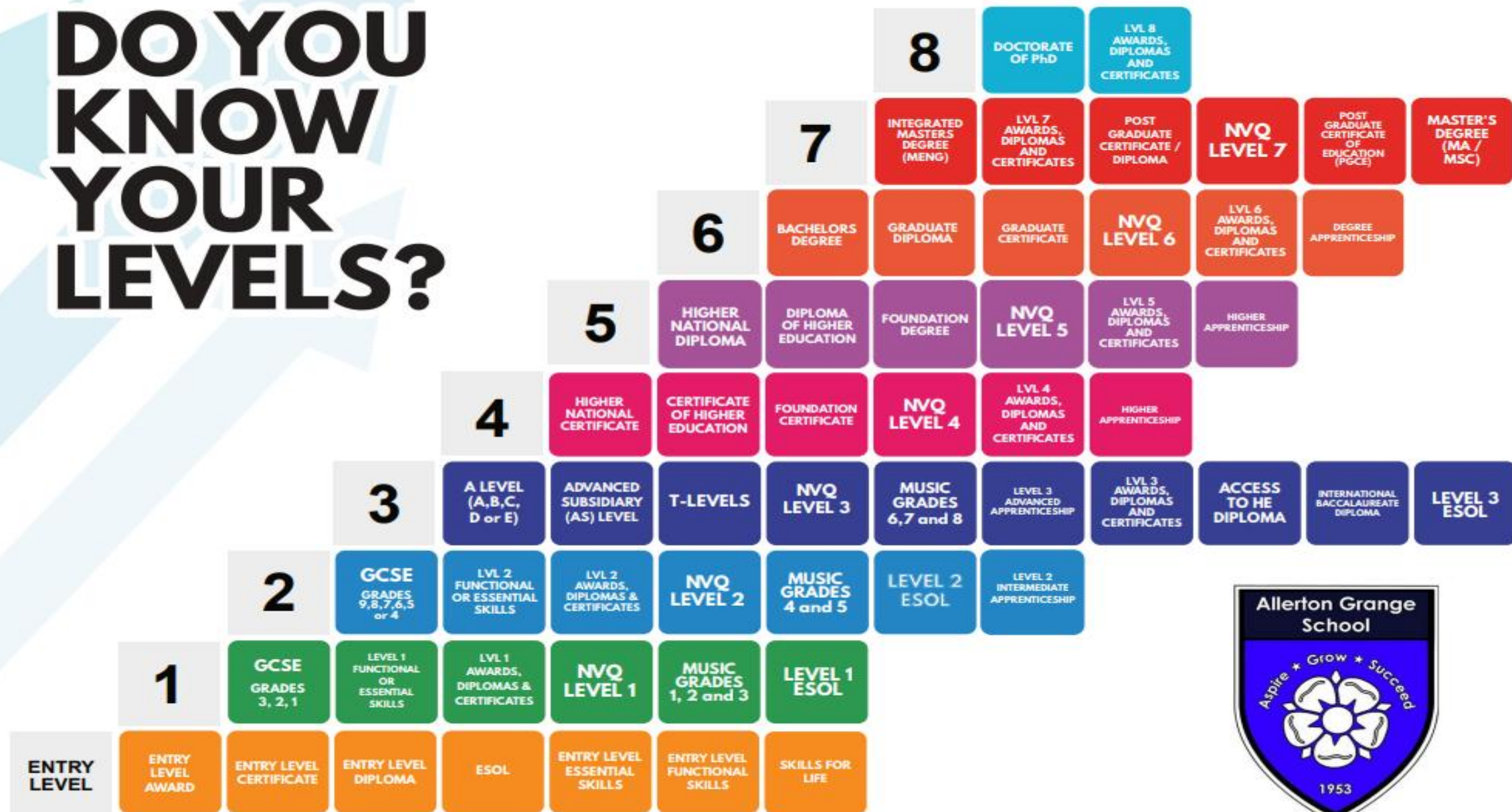
For further information:

[Student finance in England - Everything you need to know
\(ucas.com\)](https://www.ucas.com)

There is lots of really useful information on the UCAS website so please have a look at this.

Considering other Post-18 options

DO YOU KNOW YOUR LEVELS?



The levels of apprenticeships



Name	Level	Equivalent educational level
Intermediate	2	5 GCSE passes at grade A*-C or 4-9
Advanced	3	2 A Levels / Level 3 diploma / International Baccalaureate
Higher	4,5,6 & 7	Foundation degree and above
Degree	6 & 7	Bachelor's or master's degree

Which employers offer apprenticeships?



AIRBUS

BBC

pwc

British Gas

★ PRET ★

BAE SYSTEMS

JAGUAR

pets
at home

MINI

sky

FUJITSU

Specsavers

ROLLS
RR
ROYCE

gsk

itv

BMW

NetworkRail

ROYAL
AIR FORCE

LAND
- ROVER

Starbucks

BRITISH AIRWAYS

asos
discover fashion online

EE

Santander

G

17 99
GREENE KING
BURY ST EDMUNDS

IBM

RBS

Are there any vacancies near me?



Job opportunity	Level	Annual salary or weekly pay
GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEER (INTERGRATED) APPRENTICESHIP	7	£30,000
Degree Apprentice Development Chemist	6	£19,000
Environmental Health Apprenticeship	6	£12,313.60 to £22,010.56
Optical Apprentice	3	£13,312.00 to £23,795.20
RAF Firefighter	3	£21,091
Apprentice Adult Care Assistant	2	£9,984

Where/how to find an apprenticeship

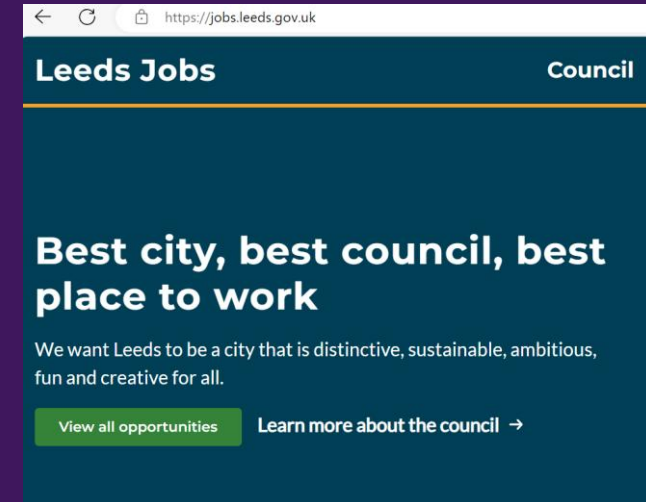
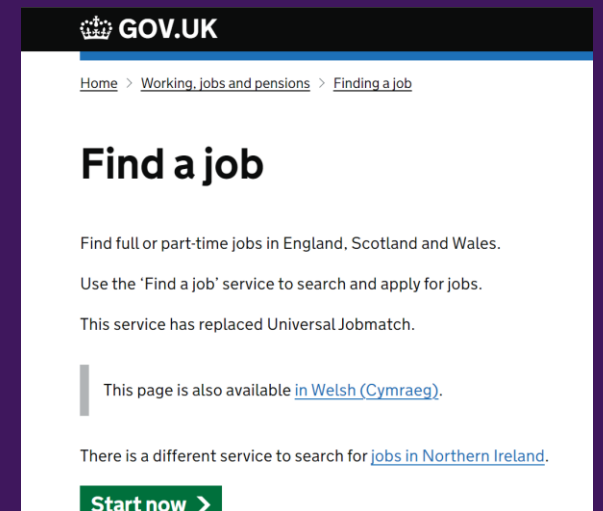
- The million dollar question!
- In truth, they are not an easy route at all, they are much more competitive than university and they're not always easy to find.
 - Job search sites, such as Reed, Indeed and LinkedIn are often used by large companies.
 - The government website has a lot of apprenticeship opportunities.
 - UCAS website.
 - Amazing Apprenticeships website.



The application process

- Will vary for each apprenticeship
- May include psychometric testing
- Will consist of either an online interview, an in-person interview, or both (in addition to applications forms).
- Assumes you've done your research!
- Companies are now starting recruitment as early as September.

Want a job rather than an apprenticeship. Here are a few places to look...

The Indeed logo, featuring a blue stylized 'i' icon followed by the word 'indeed' in a lowercase, blue, sans-serif font.The monster.com logo, with the word 'monster' in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font and '.com' in a smaller, white, lowercase, sans-serif font, all on a purple rectangular background.The Totaljobs logo, with the word 'Totaljobs' in a large, bold, green, sans-serif font.

For jobs and apprenticeships students need...

- An up-to-date CV with an impactful opening statement.
- A polite and professional email manner.
- A letter of application or personal statement (for some, others will have a series of questions for students to answer)
- Names and email addresses of 2 references (one can be school, the other should be a previous employer or family friend).

Top tips

- It may take 50-100 applications to be successful, so persevere!
- It is time consuming, so setting aside some time regularly to search and apply is important.
- Apply for Level 3 apprenticeships, they are a great way to get a foot in the door and many companies will then support you in moving onto a degree apprenticeship.
- Sign up for alerts on all the apprenticeship sites suggested, you'll be the first to hear about new apprenticeships and can then be one of the first to apply!
- LinkedIn is a great resource! All students should be creating themselves a profile and starting to connect with people and companies in the field/s they are interested in.
- Make use of Unifrog and UCAS (and Mrs Mills)!

Any questions?

- We'll be here to talk to you about any individual queries or concerns



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