

UCAS

**UCAS 2: Choosing courses &
starting your Personal Statement**

UCAS 2: Choosing a course

- At this stage you should be giving real thought to the courses you are thinking of applying for.
- UCAS allows you to choose **5 courses**.
- Where they are mentioned, look at the Widening Participation/ Access requirements.
- Plan It Plus is a good place to look:
 - <https://www.planitplus.net/>

UCAS

Widening Access/ Contextualised offers

- Most local unis will offer you slightly reduced requirements:
 - **Strathclyde Uni** will make adjusted offers for *all* Rosshall pupils.
 - **GCU and UWS** do this also, but do not always share their info as openly unfortunately.
 - **Glasgow** is based on your postcode. You can check your postcode (you should have already checked this and completed this questionnaire <https://bit.ly/3jFYWyK>)
 - Other unis further away have their own policies (eg Stirling)
 - If unsure, ask Mr Clelland

Choosing a University

Some considerations -

- Does it offer the course/s you are interested in?
- Reputation of the University
- Location – close to home or do you want to move away?
- Style/type of teaching for the course you are interested in?
- Additional services e.g. Learning support provision
- Chances of getting in
 - Consider requirements and where necessary have 'insurance' courses that there is a high chance of a successful application

A general rule of thumb (though not always!) :



University of St Andrews



University of Strathclyde Glasgow

(Higher)



University of Glasgow



UWS

(Lower)

Academic Demand/ Requirements



UNIVERSITY of STIRLING
INNOVATION and EXCELLENCE



GCU
Glasgow Caledonian University

Choosing a Course

- Which course(s) interest you?
- Is your course approved or accredited?
 - (British Psychological Society BPS, Chartered Institute of Accountants, Institute of Mechanical Engineers etc.)
- Study Abroad opportunities?
- Work placement opportunities?
- Links to industry?



Choosing a Course

- You have **5 application slots** on your UCAS form
- You do not have to fill them but strongly recommend you do

- Fee of **£26** (£20 if applying to just one course) for 2021 Entry



Personal Statement

- About you, in your own words
- What experiences, skills and attributes do you have that make you suitable for the course
- Limited space - only **4,000** characters (including spaces and punctuation)
- Look on **ucas.com** for more tips
- What should go in to your personal statement ...

ucas

What to Include

- The skills, hobbies and interests that make you a good candidate for your course.
- The awards you have received that show you have succeeded at a high level.
 - DO NOT include exam results
- The work experience that demonstrates your suitability for the course, maturity and work ethic.
- Your participation in a pre-entry Programme e.g. Summer School to prove your awareness of and preparedness for university.

What happens next?

- Once sent...
- UCAS sends your application to your choice of universities
- University staff view your application and respond with decision (by end of March latest)

- 3 possible outcomes:
 - Conditional Offer
 - Unconditional Offer
 - Unsuccessful Offer

The image shows the letters 'UCAS' in a large, bold, sans-serif font. The 'U', 'C', and 'S' are grey, while the 'A' is pink. The 'A' has a red shadow or outline at its base. The letters are positioned at the bottom of the slide, partially overlapping the text above.

Q&A

- ***When is the deadline?***
 - We expect all UCAS forms to be completed and sent before Christmas hols (22nd Dec)
- ***Can I send my application now/ once I have chosen my courses?***
 - No. You will need to complete your **personal statement**. You will also need a **Reference** completed by your Pastoral Care teacher. This takes time for them to complete.
- ***Can I start my personal statement now?***
 - Yes- please do! You will be helped by the info on there slides and examples given to you.
- ***What if I don't get in to any universities?***
 - All pupils will apply for college in Jan 2021 as a backup to their UCAS application (except pupils with an unconditional offer)
- ***I don't know what courses to choose.***
 - Speak with Mr Clelland/ people at home/ careers advisors/ pastoral care

Check List

Log on and register with UCAS (linked to school)	
Begin to complete the form	
Research and choose courses	
Start Personal Statement (Word doc)	
Get teacher reference from 3 chosen subjects (to help pastoral care with their references)	
Give your Personal Statement and References from teachers to pastoral care (via glow- no paper)	
Receive your teacher ref/ be informed it is uploaded	
Pay and send to UCAS with either Mr Clelland or pastoral care.	
Done!	