

# Parents' evening presentation



# UCAS – an independent charity

## UCAS does:

- ✓ process applications
- ✓ provide information, advice, and training
- ✓ have a Fraud and Verification Team
- ✓ take part in education sector engagement

## UCAS doesn't:

- ✗ suggest courses or universities
- ✗ make decisions or offers
- ✗ advise on finance, immigration, or visas for individuals

# 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.
- Grow in confidence, make lifelong friends, and gain independence and important life skills that will widen their prospects.

## With a degree, they'll have:

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

# Choosing the right university for you

- **Style** – from the traditional, with a focus on subject-based courses and research, to modern universities, with a greater focus on vocational courses.
- **Location** – some are based in large cities, others in smaller towns - 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 interesting to find out the types of jobs or further study students go on to.
- **Tuition fees** – can vary between course providers. Check if there are any scholarships or bursaries available.
- **Living costs** – accommodation, transport, and food can vary enormously.

# Choosing the right course for you

- 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?

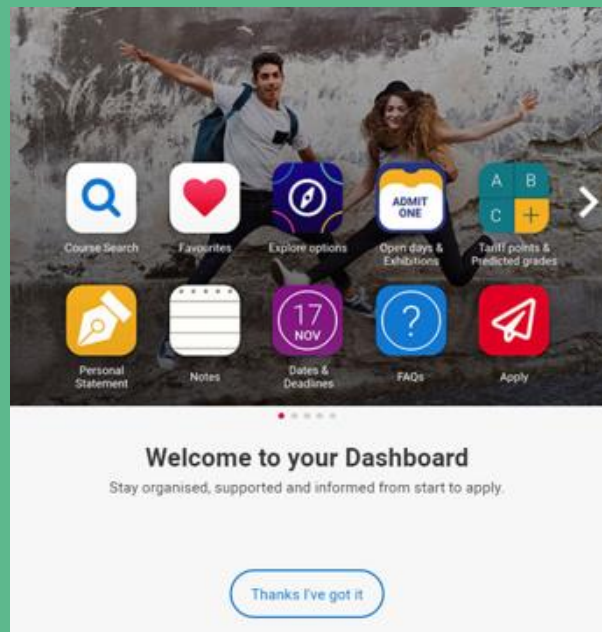
# Research resources



# Before you apply...

Register in the UCAS Hub to explore your options, such as:

- explore careers, subjects, universities and apprenticeships
- find and favourite over 35,000 courses
- search for virtual tours and online events
- turn predicted grades into Tariff points
- speak to those in the know using [Unibuddy](#)



# 'I'm overwhelmed by all the choice...'

## Get organised:

Tools to search, favourite, shortlist, reflect, diary, and build application.

## Define what's important:

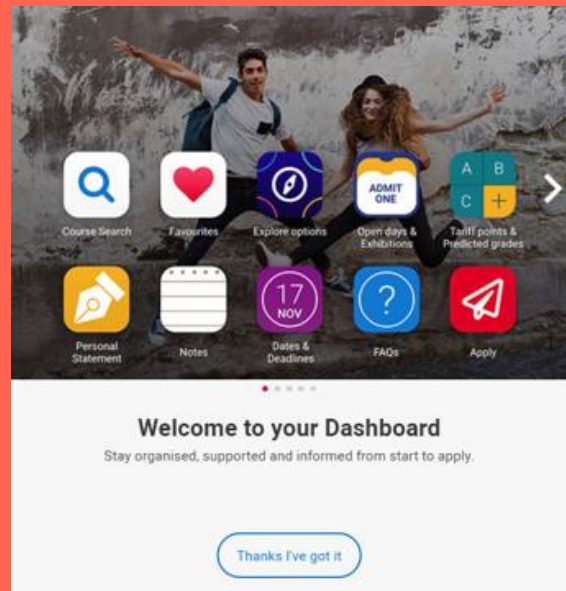
Distance from home, teaching satisfaction, work experience options, job outcomes...

## Make it yours:

Organise tools, remove the ones they don't need, and tick off their to do list. It's their space, and their future.

## You might not have thought of...

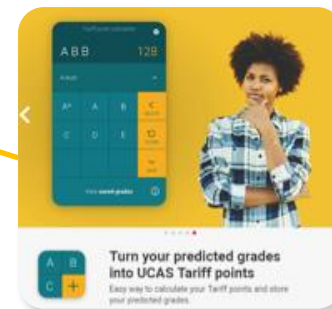
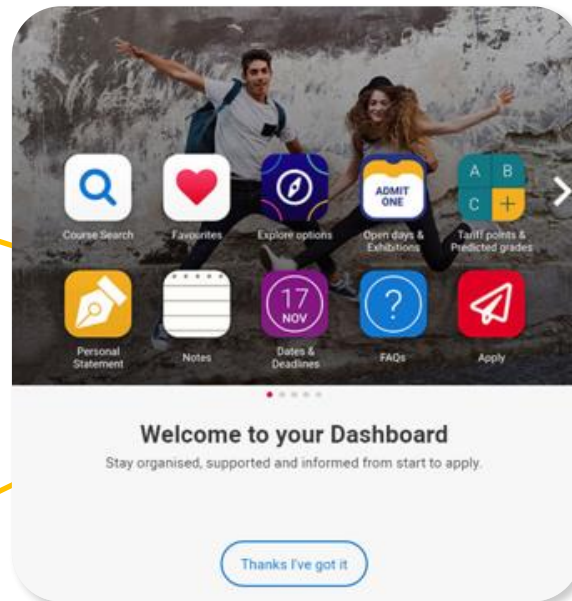
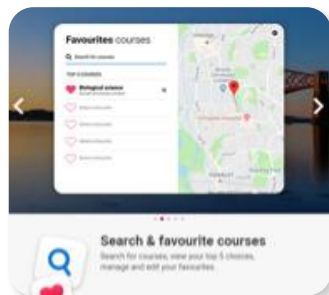
Expand horizons by pushing options they might not have considered.





# UCAS Hub

UCAS



# Research – it's free!



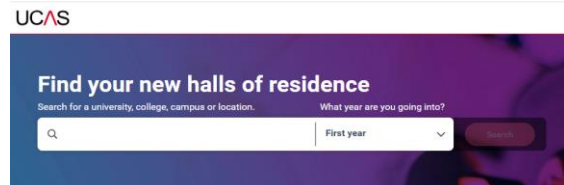
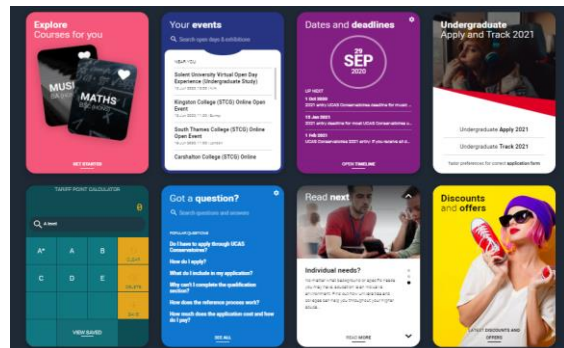
[New - Accommodation Search](#) - accommodation is high on the list when considering where you want to study, but it's not always easy to compare what's on offer. Understand what options there are using our new Accommodation search.



[Join our UCAS Hub lives and Facebook lives](#) -each live session is hosted by an expert panel to give you what you need to make an informed decision.



[UCAS Futures](#) - a chance to explore courses you're interested in and speak to universities and colleges from around the UK. You can talk to subject and admissions experts, discover apprenticeships, get advice on personal statements, applying through UCAS, and more.



## How to find the right student accommodation for you

This is it. Life is good. You're going to uni. Is it going to be the party paradise of on-campus halls, or a flat-share right in the middle of town? Maybe the cost of rent will decide, what supports on hand, or whether there's a bus stop...

[read more](#)

# Research – it's free!



- Learning from others – [chat to](#) uni students [student videos](#) and [blogs](#).
- [Career options](#) – use the [job profiles](#) to explore different career roles and pathways.
- Take the [Buzz quiz](#) to find out more about individual strengths, and what roles may suit you.
- The [Career Finder tool](#) is ideal for considering options after education, including searching for [apprenticeships](#).

# Apply key facts



It's an online application

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Maximum of five choices.



Choice restrictions:

- medicine, veterinary, medicine/science, dentistry (maximum of four)
- Oxford or Cambridge



Simple application cost:

- one to five choices – £27.50 (there is no longer a single application cost)



Equal consideration.

# When to apply for 2024 entry

- **16 May** UCAS Undergraduate Apply opens for 2024 entry.
- **5 September** First day for receipt of completed applications.
- **2 October** Closing date for conservatoires music applications.
- **16 October** Application deadline for courses in medicine, veterinary medicine/science, and dentistry, and courses at Oxford or Cambridge.
- **31<sup>st</sup> January** Applications for the majority of undergraduate courses should arrive at UCAS by 18:00 (UK time) on the equal consideration date.  
  
Closing date for most conservatoires dance/drama/musical theatre applications.

# Caldervale High UCAS Timeline (not medics)

- 6<sup>th</sup> Sept- 27<sup>th</sup> Sept UCAS workshops (register for HUB, research, Top-Up reg)
- 27<sup>th</sup> Sept Pupil info sheet to be returned to PTPS
- 18<sup>th</sup> October Staff to return predicted grades to PTPS
- 29<sup>th</sup> November Pupils fully complete and pay for their online application
- 13<sup>th</sup> December PTPS complete UCAS reference and send to UCAS co-ordinator

# Making a UCAS application

Begin at [ucas.com/apply](https://ucas.com/apply).

Sections to be completed:

- Personal details
- Choices – make up to five
- Education
- Employment
- Personal statement
- Reference



# Completing the UCAS application

A student registers at:  
[ucas.com/apply](https://ucas.com/apply)



- Sections to complete:
1. Personal details
  2. Additional information
  3. Student finance
  4. Choices
  5. Education
  6. Employment
  7. Personal statement
  8. Referee details



Teacher/  
adviser adds  
their  
reference



Applications  
are sent to  
UCAS



Universities/  
colleges make  
their decisions



# The personal statement



The only section you have full control over



Your only chance to market themselves individually



The same for all of your 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 is allowed

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

# Decisions

Universities and colleges will review the:



**personal statement**



**qualifications**



**reference**

They may also ask for:

**Portfolio/audition**

**Interview**

**Admissions test**

And make one of three decisions:



**Unconditional offer**



**Conditional offer**



**Unsuccessful**

# Tracking applications

Track allows applicants to:

- follow the progress of their application 24/7
- see their choices and personal information
- view their offers
- reply to offers online

In Track, a student can hold up to two offers:

- **firm** – if they meet the conditions of the offer they will be placed here
- **insurance** – if they are not placed with their firm choice, they may be placed with their insurance choice.



# What should your child be doing now?

- research.
- extracurricular activities.
- work experience.
- go beyond the syllabus.
- focus on this year's studies.
- Fully engaging in school's support programme.



# School's Support Programme

- UCAS assembly.
- Permission granted for 2 open days.
- 4 UCAS workshops (during minority time).
- Personal Statement helpful handouts.
- Personal Statement review by Pupil Support.
- Personal Statement review by Top-Up tutors.
- SAAS assembly.
- Campus visit to eligible pupils.



# How can you support them?

Research

Use the parents/guardians' section of the UCAS website at [www.ucas.com/parents](http://www.ucas.com/parents).

Sign up

Sign up for updates from UCAS, and get everything you need to know about the application process direct to your inbox.

Open days

Attend virtual events and open days – you may have a different perspective.

Be proactive

Make sure they read everything carefully that is sent to them and don't book family holidays at key times!



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# Thank you for listening.

