



# UC/\S Information Evening

2025\_26











#### Choosing the Right Path



Each young person is unique and the right pathway post is highly individual:

#### **Employment**

College – January and August start courses

#### **Apprenticeships**

- Modern Apprentice opportunity to work in a paid job whilst undertaking workplace training in order to gain new and enhanced skills and recognized qualifications.
- Graduate Apprenticeships provides an alternative pathway to degree-level study for individuals who want to go straight into employment. Sectors include ICT and Digital, Cyber Security, Data, Civil Engineering, Engineering, Construction and Business (up to Masters level).

#### University











#### **University Places**



In recent years, places at university have become more competitive.

There are several reasons for this including funding cuts and an increase in adult applicants and foreign students (who pay higher fees than the Scottish Government do for Scottish students).











### Consequences of more competition



S5 attainment is often not enough. Universities increasingly want to see progress in S6:

- S6 students should be following a curriculum of 4 subjects in addition to attending PE, RE and SE.
- S6 Volunteering and Leadership
- Pursuing work experience

The key is for students to develop and broaden their skills!

Personal statements are becoming more and more important for many courses, particularly 'person-centred' courses such as Nursing and Teaching, as well as highly competitive courses such as Law and Engineering













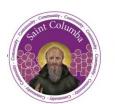
#### Entry requirements

#### FOR ENTRY IN 2025

#### Summary of entry requirements for Education with Primary Teaching Qualification

SQA Higher entry requirements (by end of S6)

- ABBB is the minimum requirement from S5 to be reviewed for an S6 offer.
- Offers are not guaranteed to applicants who meet the minimum from S5
- Typically offers will be made at AAABB by end of S6. B at Advanced Higher is equivalent to A at Higher
- Additional requirements: Higher English and National 5 Mathematics or Application of Mathematics at Grade B
- Interview\*\*.













### Minimum entry requirements

"Minimum entry requirements" are offered to applicants who may have faced barriers to entry to higher education.

#### These include:

- SIMD 1-4 postcode
- Care experience
- Young Carer











#### Choosing a course



- Focus on your strengths
- Does the course inspire you try to go to a lecture during a university open day!
- Length of course
- Which faculty
  - Arts / Social Science / Science / Finance / Business / Languages / Engineering / Computing











### Choosing a University



- Course content may vary depending on the university
- Stay at home/move out
- Support available
- Job prospects
- Facilities
- High performance sporting opportunities













#### What young people need to do...



- Research the careers they are likely to be qualified for
- Research whether the career/profession suits their interests/personality
- Talk to professionals and look for work experience
- Consider 'graduate schemes' many companies offer these schemes for graduates with any/multiple different degrees
- Attend open days
- Check individual university websites









### For those applying to start in September 2026

- Attend all SE classes
- Check the S6 Teams page regularly

#### Key dates for all applicants:

**Fri 19<sup>th</sup> Sept** (tomorrow) – Register with UCAS, link to school, add basic details and grades achieved so far

**Fri 10<sup>th</sup> Oct** – Share personal statement with pastoral care teacher and add course choices to UCAS

During the **fortnight following Oct break** – Meet with pastoral care teacher to discuss application

**Fri 21<sup>st</sup> Nov** – Deadline for application to be submitted on UCAS (pastoral teachers then check applications and add their reference)











#### School Reference



- Pastoral staff are required to provide and honest and accurate reference to UCAS
- Universities are of the view that a strong performance throughout S6 is a reliable indicator of future success

- Estimated grades
  - Based on evidence
  - 1st Tracking report 7th Nov
- All references undergo a quality assurance process









# For those applying for Medicine, Dentistry, Vet Med, Oxbridge or Conservatoires

• The deadlines for application to these courses are earlier

 Music courses at Conservatoires close on 2<sup>nd</sup> October and all other courses listed above close on 15<sup>th</sup> October

 Young people applying to these courses will already have spoken with their pastoral teacher to discuss earlier deadlines









# For those applying for Medicine, Dentistry, Vet Med, Oxbridge or Conservatoires

Key dates for these applicants:

**Fri 19**<sup>th</sup> **Sept** (tomorrow) – Register with UCAS, link to school, add all details of education, employment etc., make course choices, **share personal statement with pastoral teacher** 

w/b 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept – Meet with pastoral care teacher to discuss and submit application









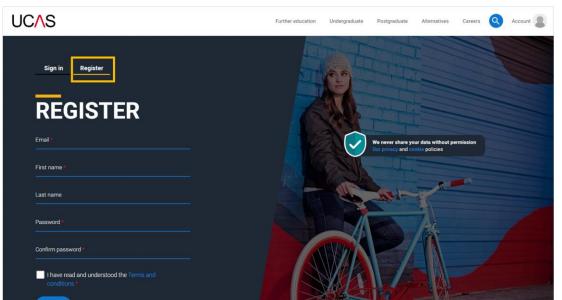




### Using the UCAS site

 Detailed instructions, including screenshots from UCAS website, can be found on the S6 Teams page.

 There are also sample paragraphs to support you to write your personal statement.





### Starting your application

Choose the year you want to start your studies, level of study (it's **Undergraduate** if you are still at school/college) and type of application you wish to make.

Make sure you choose **2026** if you want to start next year, including if you want to defer entry.

YOUR APPLICATIONS

#### Start an application

You can only apply once in a cycle - Do not apply more than once in a cycle, or submit a new application if you are holding a deferred place, as your new application will be cancelled and you won't receive a refund.

In which year do you want to start your studies?

2026

Select the main level of study you are interested in

Undergraduate (Uni and college degrees, and ap... >



#### Undergraduate

Degrees, HNDs, and HNCs

Start 2026 application



#### Conservatoire

Undergraduate or postgraduate music, dance, drama, or musical theatre.

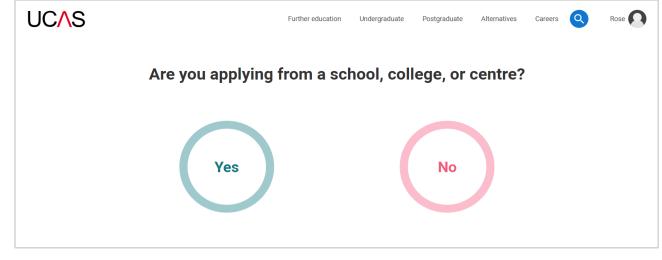
Start 2026 application >

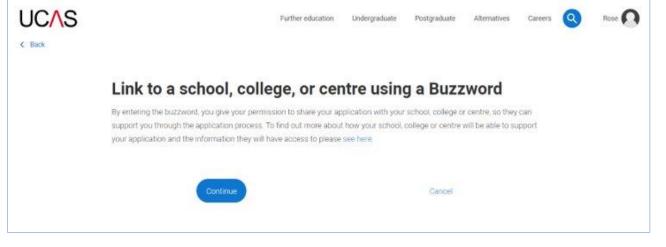


Linking to your school, college or centre

To link to Trinity High School, pupils should select 'yes' and the input the buzzword:

THSREN2026

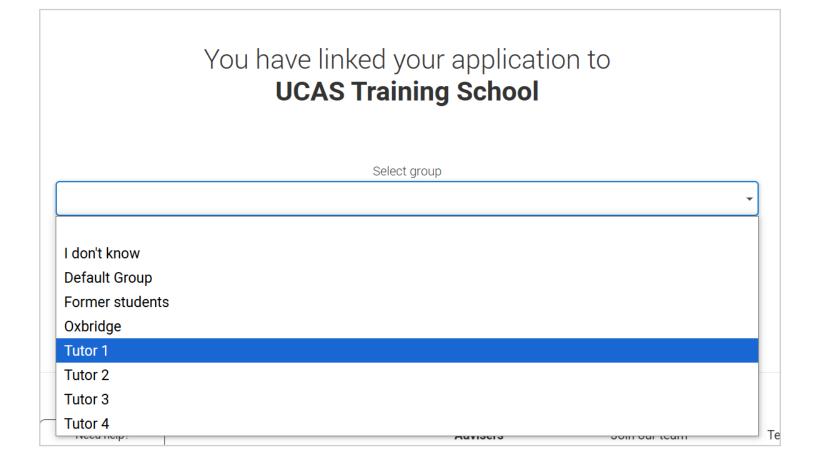




# Linking to your school, college or centre

Once your application has been linked, you can then select a **group**.

You should select your pastoral teacher.



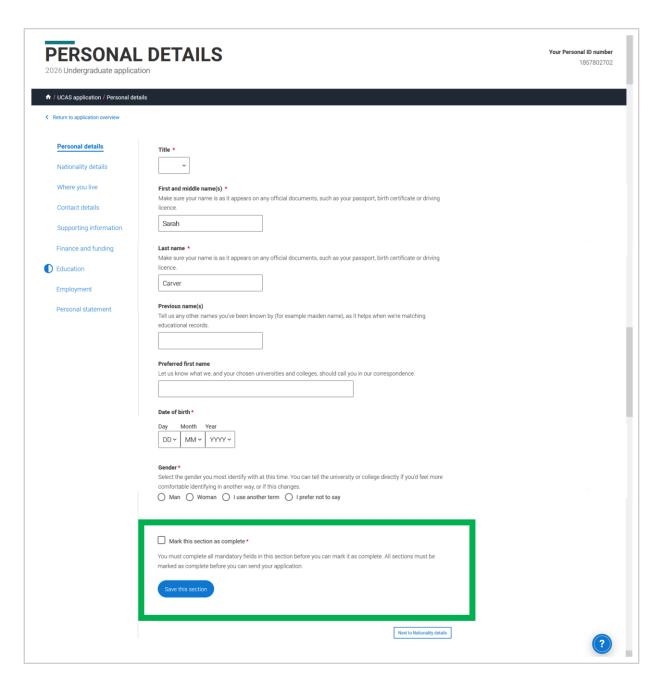


#### Personal details

Your name should already show, but you'll need to add your title and complete the other mandatory fields (marked with a \*).

Please be careful to capitalise proper nouns throughout the application process:

- -Your own name
- -Street name
- -Postcode
- -School subject names (e.g. Higher Modern Studies)





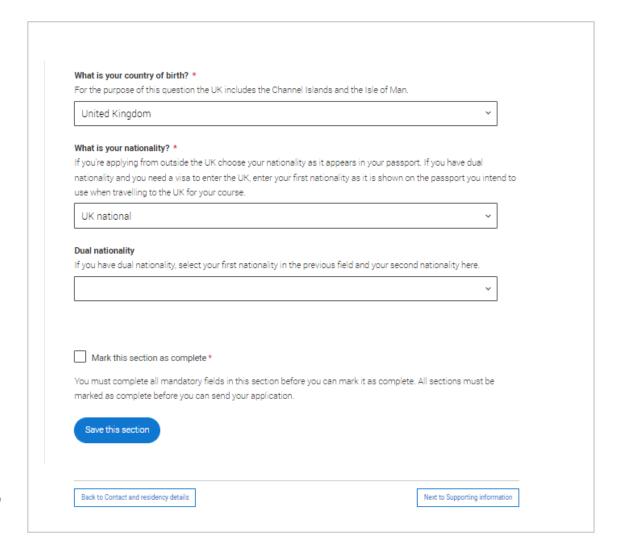
### **Nationality details**

Your nationality is associated with the country that would issue you a passport for international travel. If you don't have a passport, it is usually the country in which you were born.

This is not your ethnicity. Ethnicity refers to your cultural identity and ancestry.

Additional questions may appear based on the information you provide.

If you have lived in Scotland for less than 3 years, see your pastoral teacher to discuss. It is likely that you will not be entitled to have your tuition fees paid for by the Scottish Government.

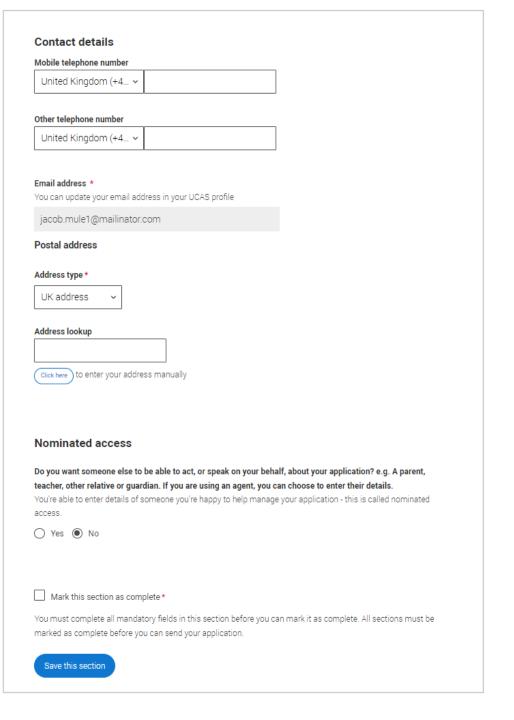


#### **Contact Details**

Your email will be used by both UCAS and your university and college choices.

Use your personal email address.

If there is any reason you may not be able to respond to university offers yourself, you will be given the option to nominate a parent/carer to be able to act on your behalf.





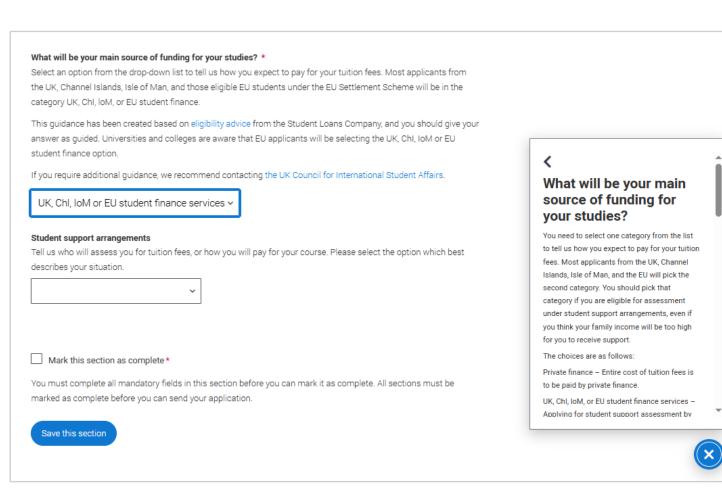


### Finance and funding

You will only be asked further questions in finance and funding if you select UK, ChI, IoM or EU Student Finance Services.

You should then select SAAS (Student Awards Agency Scotland).

The Scottish Government will only pay your fees if you apply for SAAS (even if you choose not to also apply for a student loan or bursary).

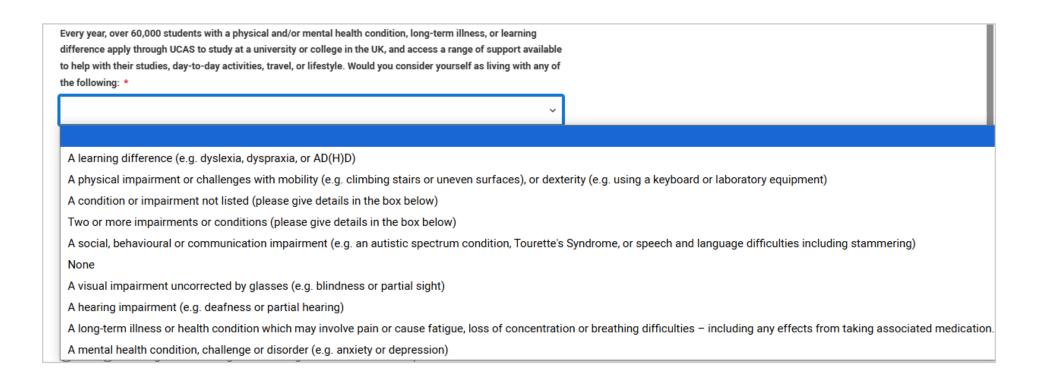




### More about you

You can share any individual needs or circumstances, such as a disability or health condition. Sharing this information helps the university connect you to the right support – they may send you more information or contact you to discuss what would help you succeed.

If you don't have any conditions to report, you select "No disability" to mark the section as complete.





### More about you

You might feel uncertain about sharing personal circumstances, be reassured it's never used to decide whether to offer you a place, but it might be used to make you an offer that looks at your achievements in context.

These questions are intended to connect you to the right support for your needs.

| Would you consider yourself estranged from both your parents (i.e. you are not in contact with and supported by either of your parents)?  |   |
|---|---|
| ○ Yes ○ No  |   |
| Do you have any unpaid caring responsibilities (not including parenting)?   |   |
| ○ Yes ○ No  |   |
| Are you a parent or do you have parenting responsibilities for a child aged 17 or under?  |   |
| ○ Yes ○ No  | Need some help?   |
| Do you have official refugee status or limited leave to remain, or are you seeking asylum?  No The UK government has granted me refugee status or humanitarian protection in the UK  I have limited or discretionary leave to remain in the UK I'm currently seeking asylum in the UK | Questions from this page that you might need help with:  Help for disability  |
| Do you have a parent or carer who currently serves in the UK Armed Forces, or who has done so in the past?  Yes No  | Help for estranged Help for caring responsibilities Help for parental responsibilities Help for refugees Help for parent armed forces |
| Have you ever served in the UK Armed Forces?  | Help for armed forces Help for free school meals  |
| ○ Yes ○ No  | Need some more general help wit your application?   |
| Are you currently receiving free school meals, or were you in receipt of free school meals between the ages of 11 to 18?  | Guide to completing your UCAS application ☑   |
| ○ Yes ○ No ○ Don't know   |   |
|   |   |
|   |   |
| Mark this section as complete *   |   |



Help for free school meals

Young people in the UK are usually eligible for

able to confirm this for you. You may also be eligible if you're paid qualifying benefits directly, instead of through your parent or carer. For more

free school meals if their parents or carers are or a low income or in receipt of certain benefits. If you're not sure, ask your school – they will be

### More about you

UCAS Free Schools Meal Application Fee Waiver

You must answer, 'Yes' to this question in 'More about you' to identify you are eligible for the free school meals application fee waiver.

If you are not entitled to Free School Meals, you will be asked to pay £28.95 by card when you come to submit your application to the school.

Are you currently receiving free school meals, or were you in receipt of free school meals between the ages of 11 to 18?

Yes No Don't know

✓ Mark this section as complete \*

You must complete all mandatory fields in this section before you can mark it as complete. All sections must be marked as complete before you can send your application.

Save this section



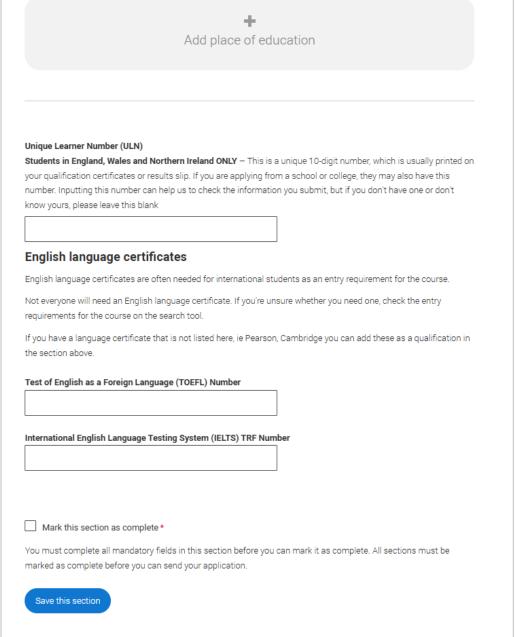


### Education

You must enter all your qualifications from secondary education onwards – whether you have the result or you're still awaiting exams and results.

For qualifications you are sitting this year, select 'pending'.

When you add your 'place of education', you'll be asked for a 'Unique Learner Number' — This is not required for Scottish students.



### Education

For some courses, you will notice that there are different course code options.

Select the code beginning with 'C'.

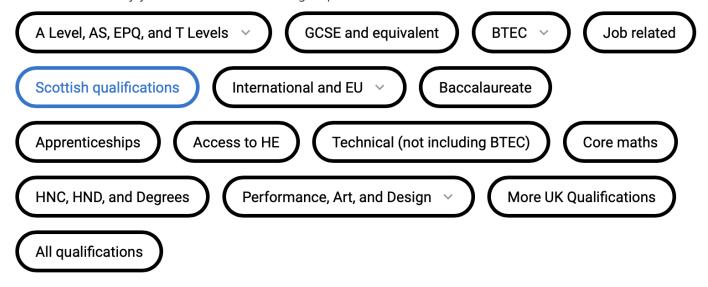
E.g. Higher English – C824; Higher Geography – C833

#### Add qualification

If you received any qualifications at this school, college or centre, or you have any pending at this school, add them here. All qualifications must be entered, even if you received an unsuccessful grade, haven't taken the final exams or are waiting for the results. If you're resitting a qualification you need to enter it twice: once as a completed qualification with the grade achieved and once as a qualification with the result Pending.

#### Pick your qualification type

Choose the type of qualification you would like to add - you can search for specific qualifications and view those shortlisted by your adviser within each group.



#### **Search for your qualifications**

If you cannot find your qualification, select the "All qualifications" filter and search there, if you still can't filter and search "Other".

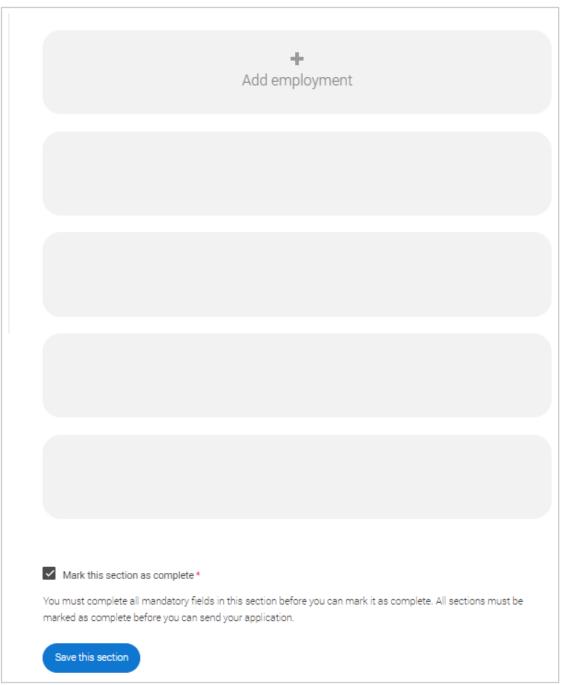


### **Employment**

Include details of any paid employment relevant to the courses or subjects you're applying for.

Any unpaid or voluntary work relevant to the courses or subjects you're applying for shouldn't be included in this section - you may wish mention that in your personal statement.

If you don't have any paid work experience, leave this section blank, and mark it as complete.





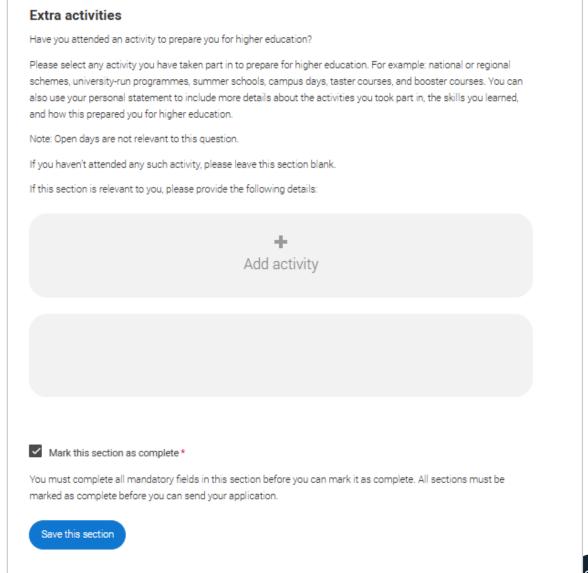
### **Extra activities**

Please add any activity you have taken part in to prepare for higher education.

These include national or regional schemes, university-run programmes, summer schools, taster courses, and booster courses.

Open days are **not relevant** to this question.

If you haven't attended any such activity, please leave this section blank and mark it as complete





#### Personal statement

You can save and edit this as many times as you need to.

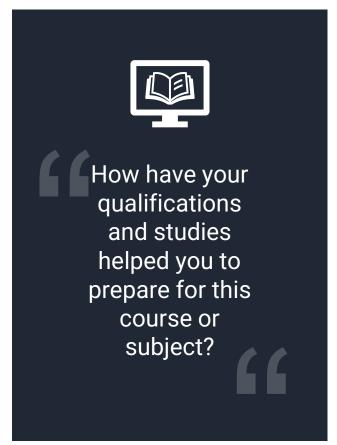
However, this should be shared with your pastoral teacher by **Fri 10**<sup>th</sup> **October** as a word document.

This allows us to add comments and suggestions.

| Why do you want to study this course or subject? *  This is your opportunity to showcase your passion and knowledge of your chosen subject area and to demonstrate to universities and colleges why they are a good fit for you and your future ambitions. | Overall character count<br>0 / 4000 |  |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|
| Please use a minimum of 350 characters in this section (350 needed)  |                                     |  |
| How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject? *   |                                     |  |
| This is your chance to shout about the relevant or transferable skills you've gained from your education and highlight your understanding of how they will help you succeed in this subject area.  |                                     |  |
|  |                                     |  |
| Please use a minimum of 350 characters in this section (350 needed)  |                                     |  |
| What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful? *   |                                     |  |
| This is your chance to reflect on any other activities you have undertaken outside of your education or personal   |                                     |  |
| experiences which further demonstrate your suitability for the course. This section is likely to be deeply personal to you, so anything you include should be meaningful and relevant to you.  |                                     |  |
| Please use a minimum of 350 characters in this section (350 needed)  |                                     |  |

### What are the questions?







### Personal statement guides



What to include in your achitecture, planning or building personal statement



What to include in your animal science personal statement



What to include in your art and design personal statement



What to include in your biology personal statement



What to include in your business management personal statement



What to include in your chemistry personal statement



What to include in your computer science personal statement



What to include in your dance personal statement

#### Q1: Why do you want to study this course or subject?

You'll want to show evidence of passion, curiosity and interest, this might include:

#### Motivations for studying this course(s):

- Have you been inspired by a key role model or moment in your life?
- Is it a subject you love and want to pursue further?
- What is your drive?
- How has your path led you to this course or subject area?

#### Knowledge of this subject area and interests:

- Is there a particular subject area you've researched?
- Something you can't wait to learn more about?
- What about a book or subject expert doing great things that's sparked your interest?

Future plans; demonstrate why this course/subject is a good fit:

- Do you already have a particular profession in mind?
- How might you use your studies to launch your career?
- What's important to you and your future, and how might the knowledge gained from this course(s) help you achieve this?

Remember these are just some examples, you don't need to include it all. The key is to research the course(s) to find out what might be most relevant.

#### **Example: Law**

I first gained an insight into the nuanced and ever-changing nature of law when studying drug laws in Scotland and was particularly struck by the way in which legislation evolves in response to the challenges faced by society.

#### **Example: Sports Science**

Studying Sports Science is the ideal course to prepare me for a career as a strength and conditioning coach for Olympic athletes. Studying Sports Science will provide me with a deep understanding of human physiology and biomechanics, allowing me to apply scientific principles to elite training environments.

# Q2: How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?

Focus on what's most **recent** and **relevant** to your subject or course(s), examples could include:

How your studies or training relate to chosen course(s) or subject area:

- This could be your current or previous studies.
- This could be from any form of formal education

   think school, college, training, or short online courses.

What relevant or transferable skills have you got that make you a great candidate:

- Are there a couple of subjects that helped you develop a core set of relevant skills required for your chosen course(s).
- Maybe a particular module or project helped you understand where your interests and strengths lie.

#### Any relevant educational achievements

- Universities and colleges will see your grades on your application don't waste space talking about these.
- Focus on your other accomplishments like a competition, holding a position of responsibility or representing the school/college.

**Focus** on the **skills** you have developed through your studies and how this has prepared your for studying your chosen course.

#### **Example: Biomedical Science**

I have outstanding scientific knowledge, analytical skills and time management skills, as demonstrated by my success in Higher Biology and Chemistry. I am also adept at applying and transferring the knowledge I have acquired from one area of study to another. For example, studying molecular structures allowed me to better understand gene expression. Furthermore, the excellent scores I achieved for both my Biology and Chemistry assignments highlight my ability to plan, carry out and evaluate an experiment safely and effectively.

# Q3: What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?

Examples should be **reflective** and **demonstrate** further **suitability** for your subject or course(s), this could include:

### Work experience, employment, or volunteering

- In-person or virtual work experience.
- Paid for work or volunteering.
- The key thing is reflection on the experiences and the skills gained relevant to your chosen course(s).

### Personal life experiences or responsibilities

- Is there a situation you've personally overcome that has influenced your decision?
- Are there personal experiences that have helped you develop essential qualities for the course?

### Hobbies and any extracurricular or outreach activities:

- Think sports, reading, community work, summer schools.
- Any activities outside of core studies that help further showcase why you'd make a great student.

### Achievements outside of school or college

 This could be a position of responsibility for local clubs or groups, competitions, or qualifications you've attained outside of the classroom.

**Focus** on the **skills** you have developed through these activities. Try to ensure roughly 70% of your personal statement focuses on academics and relevant work experience and around 30% on hobbies and non-related employment.

#### **Example: Generic**

As the captain of my basketball team, I have developed a range of skills that extend beyond the court and into my academic development. Being the captain has required me to communicate effectively, motivate others and foster a sense of unity among the team. The role has also strengthened my ability to make strategic decisions and remain resilient in challenging situations, qualities that are vital both in sport and study.

#### **Example: Maths**

Working at Next has developed skills directly transferable to studying Maths. In a fast-paced retail environment, I regularly use problem solving and logical thinking to help manage stock, organise displays and respond efficiently to customer needs. Teamwork with colleagues and clear communication with customers have further enhanced my interpersonal skills. These experiences have prepared me to thrive both academically and socially in a university setting.



### Decisions

Universities and colleges will review the whole application including:



Qualifications



Personal statement



Reference

They may also require:



Admissions test



Interview



Portfolio / audition

### Replies to offers

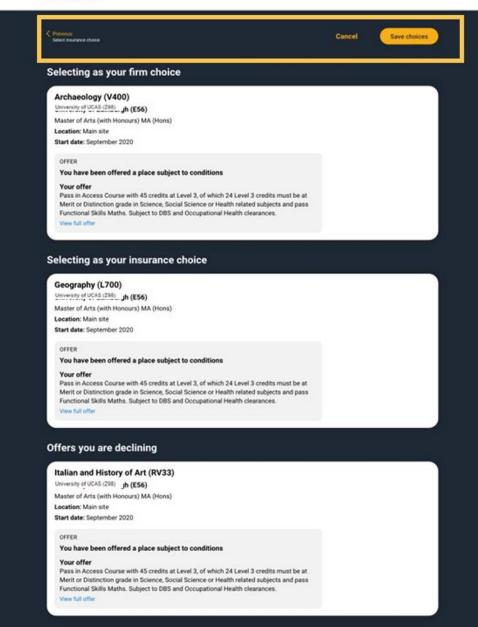
- Once you've made your decisions, choose a 'firm' and 'insurance' choice.
- Decline any remaining offers.
- If you receive your last decision on or before 31 March 2026, your reply date is **6 May 2026**
- If you receive your last decision on or before 13 May 2026, your reply date is 3 June 2026
- If you receive your last decision on or before 15 July 2026, your reply date is 22 July 2026





#### **CONFIRM YOUR CHOICES**

Your Personal ID numbe 116-000-7564



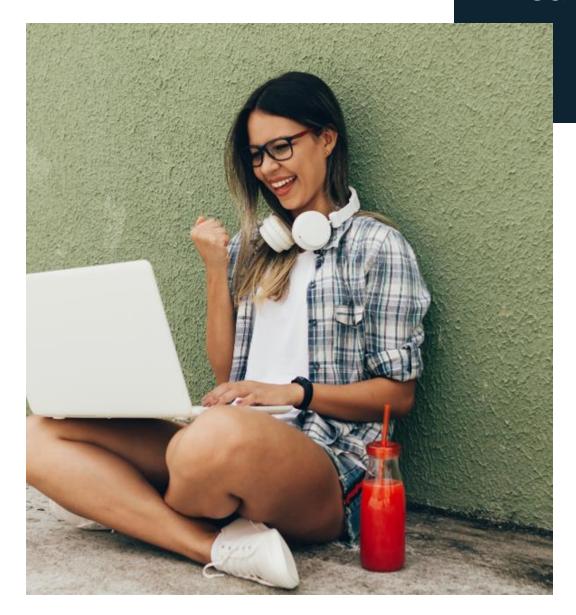
### Other options

#### **Extra** (26 Feb – 1 Jul)

•If you have used all five choices and had no offers, you can still find a place using Extra.

#### Clearing (2 Jul - Oct)

 Clearing is for students in various situations, whether you've exceeded expectations, changed your mind, or don't have a place.





#### Applying for SAAS



• Apply to SAAS for your first choice of course. If you do not get on that course, or if you change your mind, contact SAAS to change your application to another course or cancel your application.

• The deadline to apply for student finance for academic year 2025 to 2026 is **31 March 2026**.

 You need to apply for SAAS so the government pay your tuition fees.













### Living cost support

- Bursaries do not need to be repaid.
- You will have student loan repayments deducted from your wage when you start earning once you earn over £32,745 per year.

| Household<br>Income  | Young Student<br>Bursary (Grant) | Loan (Max) | Total Support |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|------------|---------------|
| £0 – £20,999         | £2,000                           | £9,400     | £11,400       |
| £21,000 –<br>£23,999 | £1,125                           | £9,400     | £10,525       |
| £24,000 –<br>£33,999 | £500                             | £9,400     | £9,900        |
| £34,000+             | £0                               | £9,400     | £8,400        |













# UC/\S Information Evening

Any questions?







