

# Post-18 options Parents' Information Evening

# What is UCAS?

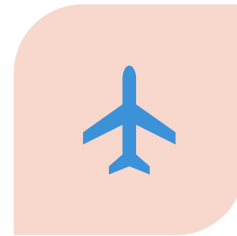
UCAS is an **independent charity** providing information, advice and admissions services.



HIGHER  
EDUCATION



APPRENTICESHIPS



STUDYING  
ABROAD



GAP YEAR



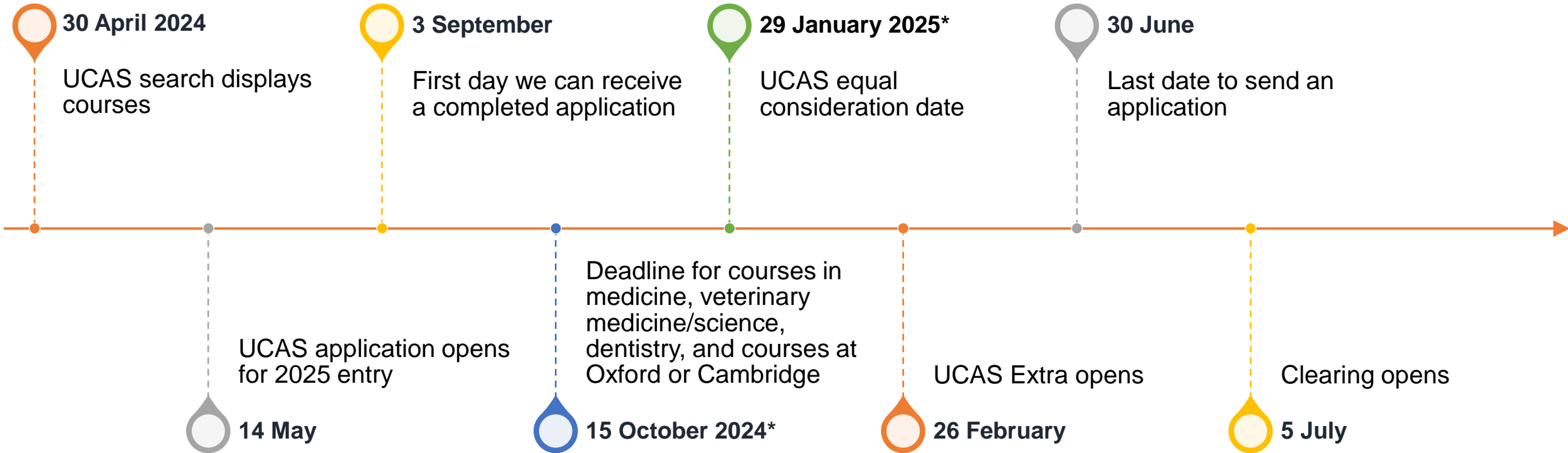
GETTING A JOB

# UCAS 2024-25 Student Information

UCAS

# When to apply **2025 entry**

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



\* 18.00 UK time

# 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.



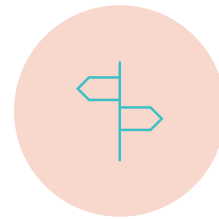
Start your application from  
**14 May 2024**



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 **£28.50**.

# Choosing the right place to study

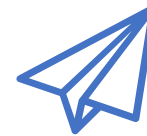
- **Style** – from traditional, with a focus on subject-based courses and research, to modern universities/colleges, with a greater focus on vocational courses.
- **Location** – some are in large cities, others in small towns, by the coast or in the countryside – it's all a major influence on the environment 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 application. 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.

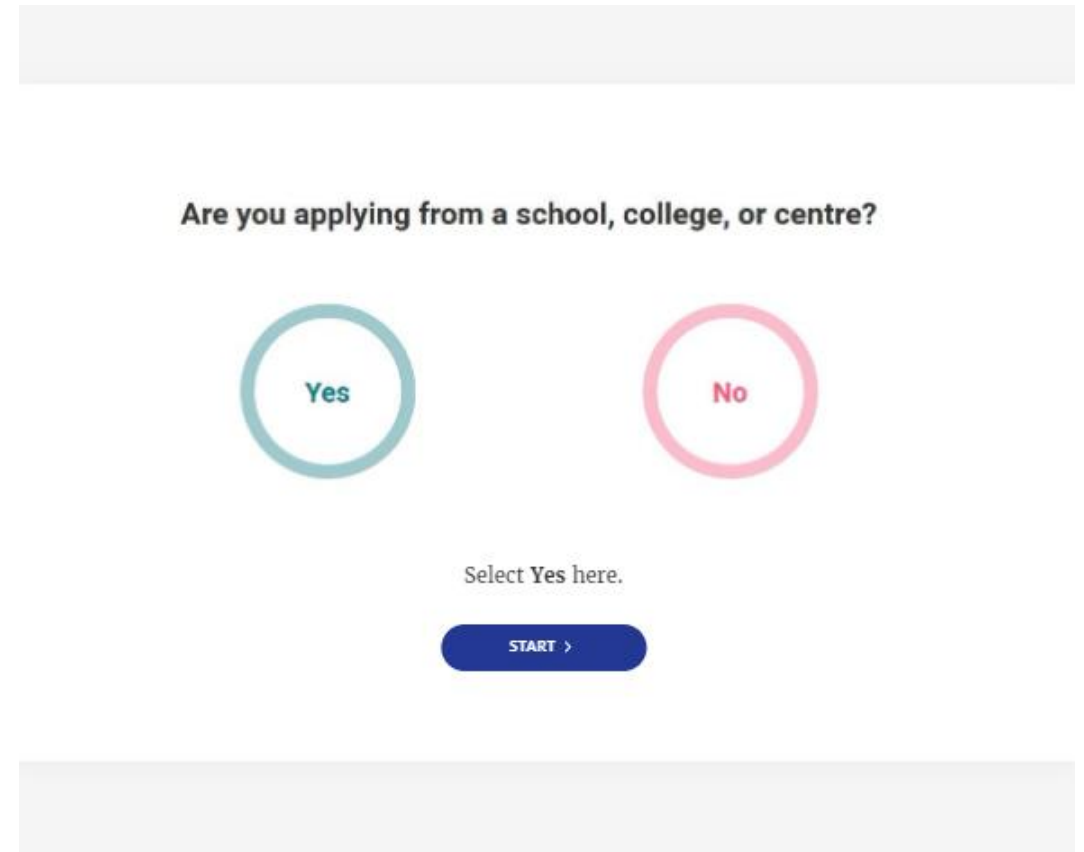
Applications are sent to UCAS by the school or college on behalf of the student.

Universities and colleges make their decisions on the application.



# Linking to a centre

- As students are applying with the help of a school, college or centre they enter our **'buzzword'** which links their application to us..
- By linking their application students give us permission to view and track your application.
- It also means we provide a reference and send their application to UCAS on their behalf.



Are you applying from a school, college, or centre?

Yes No

Select Yes here.

START >

# Application profile

- Personal details
- Nationality details
- Where you live
- Contact details
- Supporting information
- Finance and funding
- Diversity and inclusion\*
- More about you

\* (for students with a UK home address)

The image shows a grid of seven application profile sections, each with a title, a brief description, and a progress indicator. The sections are arranged in three rows: the first row has three sections, the second row has three sections, and the third row has two sections. The 'Where you live' and 'Contact details' sections have a blue bar at the bottom with a white circle and the text 'Section in progress'. The other sections have a white bar at the bottom with the text 'Start this section'.

<b>Personal details</b> Name, age, title and gender Start this section	<b>Nationality details</b> Birthplace and nationalities Start this section	<b>Where you live</b> Tell us about your address history Section in progress
<b>Contact details</b> Address, email, and telephone Section in progress	<b>Supporting information</b> So that providers know how to support you during your studies Start this section	<b>Finance &amp; funding</b> Tell us how you'll fund your study Start this section
<b>Diversity &amp; inclusion</b> Additional equality information Start this section	<b>More about you</b> Tell us about any circumstances that you might need support for during your studies. Start this section	

# Experiences

- Education
- Employment
- Extra activities\*
- Personal statement
- Reference\*\*

\*(for students with a UK home address)

\*\* (not visible if linked to your school/college)

## Experience

### Education

Qualifications and periods of study

🕒 Section in progress

### Employment

Paid employment

✓ Section complete

### Extra activities

Taken part in any activities to prepare you for higher education?

Start this section

## Your personal statement

### Personal statement


Why do you want to study this subject?

Start this section


# The personal statement

 The only section students' have full control over


 Their only chance to market themselves as an individual

 The same for all of their 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 allowed

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

# Start early

Include:

- academic achievements, past and present
- interest in the course area
- knowledge of the subject area
- enthusiasm to go beyond the syllabus
- details of independent study skills



# Consider...

Universities and colleges will consider:

- Have they chosen the course for the right reasons?
- Can they achieve in a new learning environment?
- Do they have a range of interests and aptitudes?
- Do they have a depth of interest in the subject?
- Have they studied independently?
- Do they appear motivated and committed?
- Do they have good numeracy and literacy skills?



# 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



# Keeping parents/ carers informed



[www.ucas.com/parents](http://www.ucas.com/parents)



[Sign up](#) for UCAS  
parents newsletter



Read UCAS [guides](#) just for  
parents and carers

# Student finance

## **Tuition fee loans**

The university or college sets the tuition fee, and the loan is paid directly to them. Full-time students, can get up to £9,250.

## **Maintenance Loan for living costs**

Students may have to give details of their household income.

The loan is paid directly into students' bank accounts at the start of each term.

Both of these loans are paid back.

# Student finance

## Maintenance Loan for living costs

	2023 to 2024 academic year	2024 to 2025 academic year
Living with your parents	Up to £8,400	Up to £8,610
Living away from your parents, outside London	Up to £9,978	Up to £10,227
Living away from your parents, in London	Up to £13,022	Up to £13,348
You spend a year of a UK course studying abroad	Up to £11,427	Up to £11,713

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 £480 a week, £2,083 a month or £25 000 a year

The amount repaid will be 9% on earning above this amount.

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.

Interest is paid on loans as soon as students receive their loan- this is currently 7.8%

# Student finance

## Applying

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

**Advise- 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 \(ucas.com\)](#)

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  
ROYCE

**gsk**

**itv**



**NetworkRail**

**ROYAL  
AIR FORCE**



**LAND  
-ROVER**



TM

**BRITISH AIRWAYS**

**ASOS**  
discover fashion online



**Santander**



17  99  
**GREENE KING**  
BURY ST EDMUNDS

**IBM**

**RBS**



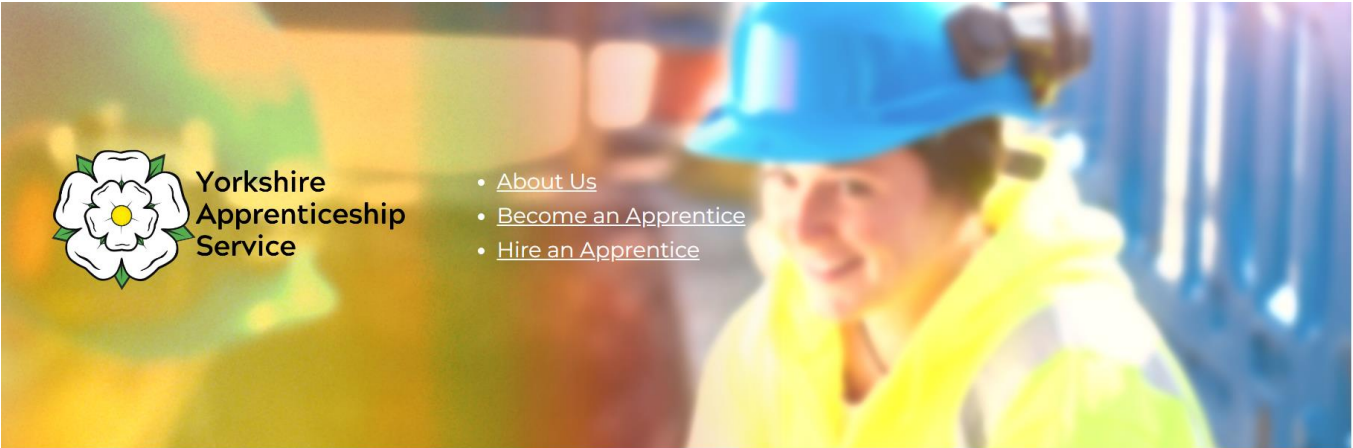
# Are there any vacancies near me?



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.
  - ASK Padlet (combined authority)



## Committed To Supporting Apprenticeships Across Yorkshire



**ASK Resources 2023**  
ASK resources 2023 - including latest vacancies

- Apprenticeships**
  - A Guide to Apprenticeships
  - Guide to Apprenticeships November 2022
- Higher & Degree Apprenticeships**
  - Introduction to Higher and Degree Apprenticeships (Video • 20:41)
  - Pastel Handwritten About Me Blank Education Presentation
- Other resources**
  - Yorkshire apprenticeship service website
- New National Vacancies**
  - Vacancies 18.09.23

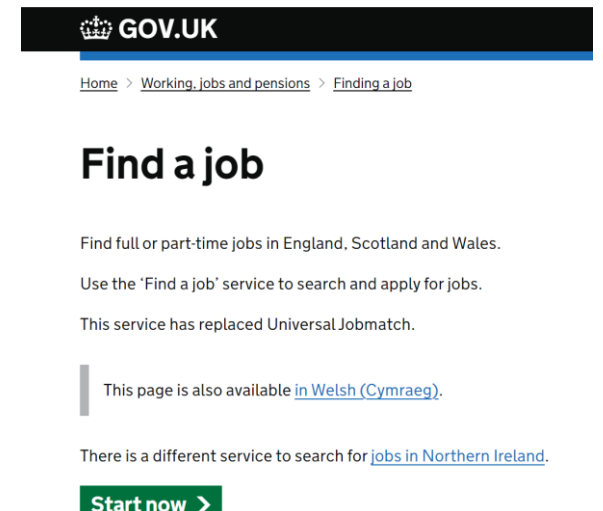
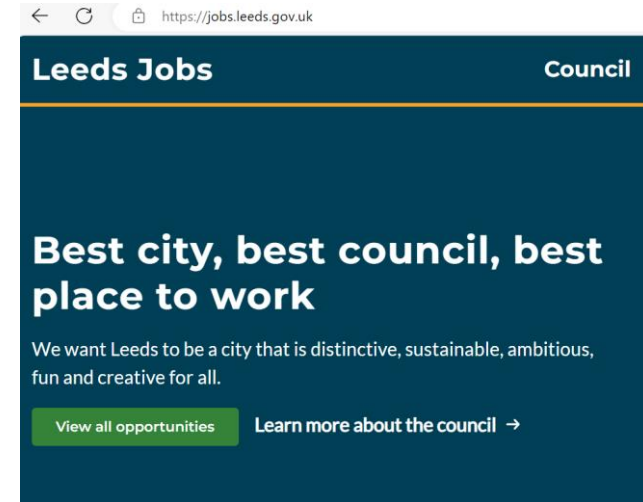


# The application process

- Will vary for each apprenticeship
- May include cognitive ability testing
- Will consist of either an online interview, an in-person interview, or both.
- 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...



# 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!
- It is time consuming, so setting aside some time regularly to search and apply is important.
- 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)!