

GMS Next Steps Parents evening presentation

July 2023



unifrog

What is UCAS?

UCAS is an independent charity providing information, advice and admissions services. We're there to help people discover what their next step might be.

UCAS does:

- provide information, advice, and support
- process applications
- complete fraud and verification checks
- take part in education sector engagement

UCAS doesn't:

- make decisions or offers
- set entry requirements
- advise on finance
- advise on immigration or visas for individuals

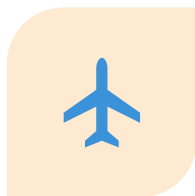
Choices available



HIGHER
EDUCATION



APPRENTICESHIPS



STUDYING
ABROAD



GAP YEAR



GETTING A JOB

Register for the UCAS Hub to understand the options available and make choices that are right for you: ucas.com/hub

Why continue in education?

- Essential for some career paths.
- Develop new transferable skills and subject knowledge.
- Increase confidence and independence.
- Broaden experiences.
- Meet new people.
- Investment in the future.
- Increased job prospects.
- Higher earning potential.



What are the options?

- **Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE) and Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE):** first and second year of a degree course.
- **Higher National Certificate (HNC) and Higher National Diploma (HND):** HNC is a one-year industry specific course, and the HND is a two-year industry specific course.
- **Higher apprenticeships:** provide an opportunity to gain Level 4 qualifications or above, e.g. HND, or foundation degree while you work. Can take from one to five years to complete, depending on the course level.
- **Foundation degree:** flexible vocational qualification, combining both academic study and workplace learning. It usually takes two years to complete.
- **Bachelor's or undergraduate degree:** a three to four-year course which can also be available as a part-time option, allowing you to study and work.
- **Degree apprenticeships:** enable you to gain a full undergraduate or master's degree while you work. Degree apprenticeships take three to six years to complete, depending on the course.

What's right?

There are a number of things to consider with your next step :

- something you enjoy – you are investing time and effort
- whether it's right for your career path – check with employers and professional organisations
- location – city or rural, transport links
- a study and assessment style that suits you
- environment including extracurricular, clubs, and societies
- finances



Choosing the right place

- **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 place

Course

Location

Feeling –Visit!

UCAS



Choosing the right course

- 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?

UCAS Hub

Your discovery tool

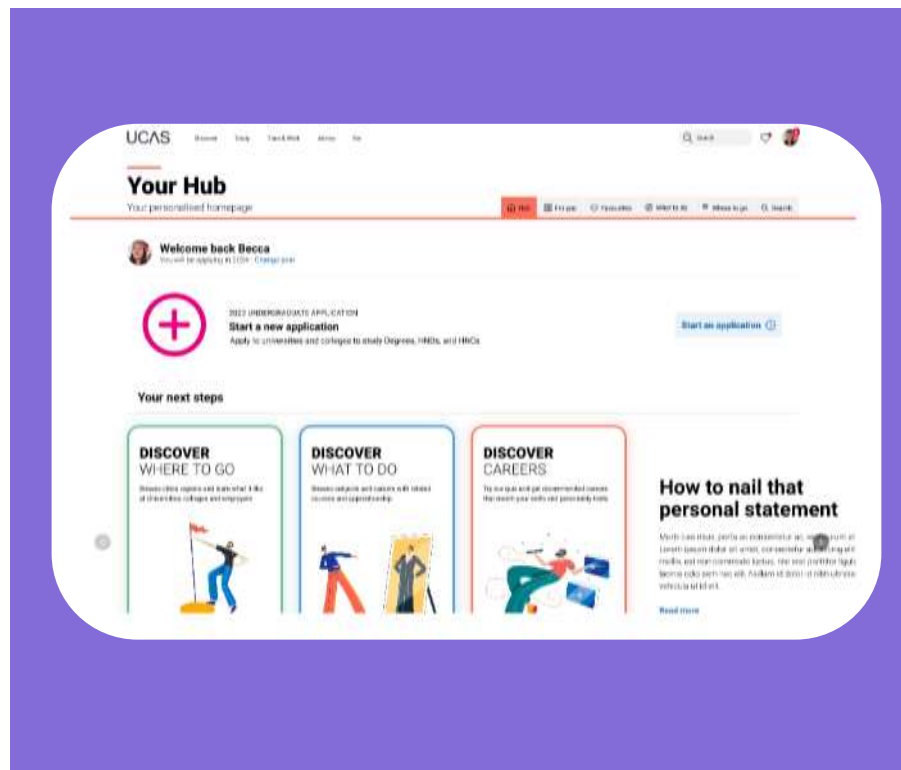
UCAS



Starting your research

Register with the UCAS Hub to:

- explore careers, subjects, places, and apprenticeships
- find and favourite over 35,000 courses
- search for open days, events and virtual tours
- turn predicted grades into UCAS Tariff points
- speak to those in the know using [Unibuddy](#)
- speak to career, higher education, and application specialists by attending [Hub lives](#)
- take the [UCAS Quiz](#) to find your career matches
- start your application
- Buzzword: GMS2023



UCAS Applications

How to apply



Completing the UCAS application



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.

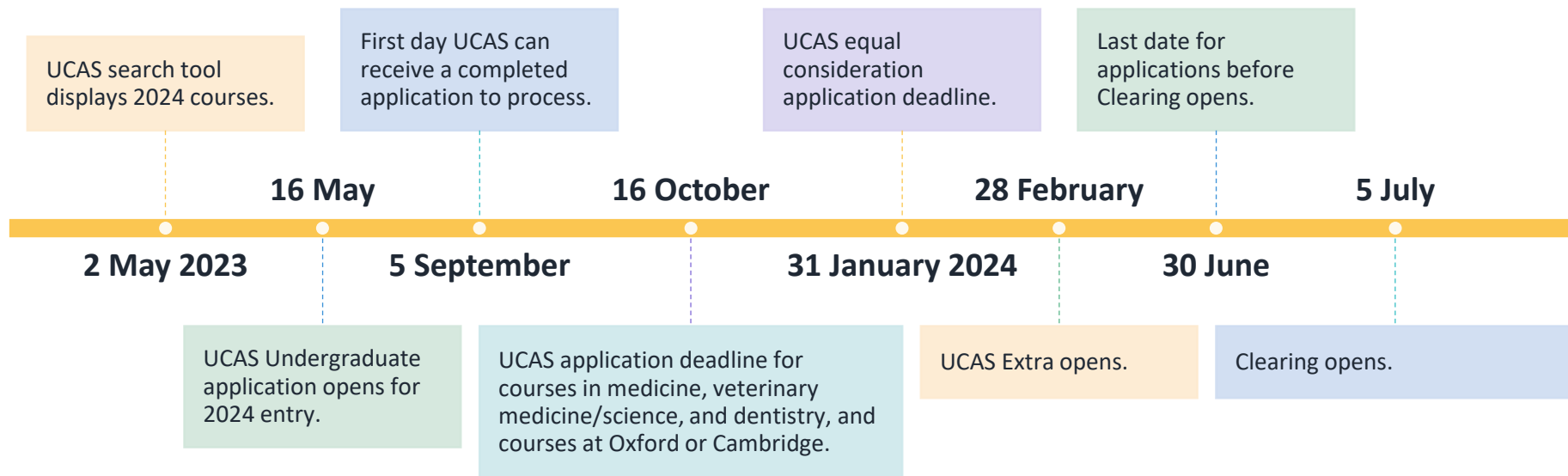


Applications are sent to UCAS by the school or college on behalf of the student.



Universities and colleges make their decisions on the application.

When to apply for 2024 entry



Key facts

- To start an application you need to register with ucas.com, you can register at any time.
- From **16 May 2023** you'll be able to start an application.
- Universities and colleges **can't see** your other choices when you apply.
- Apply by the **equal consideration date**.
- You have up to **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** £27.50.



2024 UNDERGRADUATE APPLICATION

Start an application

Apply to universities and colleges to study Degrees, HNDs, and HNCs

Linking to a school

- If you're applying with the help of a school, college or centre you should enter their 'buzzword' to link your application to them.
GMS 2023
- The buzzword is a unique code set by your school, college or centre.
- By linking your application you're giving your school, college or centre permission to view and track your application.
- It also means they'll provide you with a reference, and send your application to UCAS on your behalf.

The image shows a digital interface for linking an application to a school. It features a purple background with a white rounded rectangle in the center. Inside the rectangle, the text 'Are you applying from a school, college, or centre?' is displayed. Below this text are two circular buttons: a teal one labeled 'Yes' and a pink one labeled 'No'. The 'Yes' button is highlighted with a yellow glow. Below the buttons, the text 'Select Yes here.' is shown, followed by a dark blue button with the text 'START >'.

The personal statement



The only section you have full control over



Your only chance to market yourself as an individual



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



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



Replies to offers

Once you have decisions on all your choices, you can choose two:

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

Any remaining offers must be declined.

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



unifrog

Introduction to Unifrog: Parents Evening



What is Unifrog?

- Unifrog believe that destinations - where students end up after school - is even more important than their academic performance. They partner with schools to support students to progress into the best opportunity for them.
- Unifrog do this by providing a one-stop-shop where students can explore their interests, then find and successfully apply for their best next-step after school.

The Unifrog tools

Access all tools on Unifrog to learn what options are available, access good quality information, and search for opportunities to support your child.

Exploring pathways	Recording what you've done	Searching for opportunities	Drafting application	Making applications
Careers library	Activities	UK universities	UK Personal Statement	Post 18 Intentions
Subjects library	Competencies	US universities	Classes	Locker
Know-how library	Interactions	European universities	Subject References	Applications list
MOOC		Oxbridge	CV / Resumé	
Personality profile		Canadian universities	Writing tool	
Interests profile		Asian universities	Common App Essay	
Read, Watch, Listen		Australasian universities	US recommenders	
Webinars		ME and African universities	Notes for Reference writers	
		Irish universities		
		Special Opportunities		
		Events		

Careers Library

- Over 1000 career profiles
- Presents information from a range of sources, including local and national LMI
- Includes qualifications and skills needed, interviews with industry professionals and labour market information
- Explores progression opportunities and what a working week really looks like


Architect

Architects design new buildings and the spaces around them, and work on the restoration and conservation of existing buildings.




UK Universities

<https://www.unifrog.org/student/universities/country>



English Literature - 3FT/6PT BA (Hons)

Oxford Brookes University
Safe - YEF Silver



English Literature offers the opportunity to study an exciting range of modules, blending the study of classic texts and literary traditions with current theoretical models for understanding literature as a dynamic, global phenomenon. Our course is renowned for its inspirational teaching and research excellence. In the 2013 National Student Survey (NSS), 93 per cent of students agreed that staff had made the subject interesting.

Full-time undergrads at the uni: 1300% Domestic / Int'l undergrads at the uni: 84% / 16%

[Website](#) [Open Day](#) [Course page](#) [Feedback page](#) [Disabilities](#)

Getting in

Overall Application success rate
27%

UK Application success rate
22%

Entry requirements A Level

Full-time 3 Years: Grade B in A-level English Literature or English Language required.

Entry requirements UCAS points
112 points

IMPORTANT: check the [course page](#) to see if your qualifications are accepted.


Additional requirements
GCSE: GCSE English - Grade 5/2 or further GCSE - Grade 4, normally to include Maths.

Last year's successful applicants
80.8% of successful applicants did the same qualification types as you, and of these a typical result was:
A Level: C

Unofficial overview

"Oxford Brookes is spread across three suburban campuses in Oxford and the small university city has a friendly feel. Oxford Brookes pioneered the modular system of study and the academic year is split into two semesters rather than three terms. The university has a strong reputation for sport, and there are also strong links with industry. Despite the fact that the city is tiny, nightlife is lively and students enjoy studying here."

Campus or City: CAMPUS



- Students can enter subject of interest and projected grades to see all relevant university courses available in the UK
- Rank and filter opportunities by factors like hours of lectures, price of accommodation and graduate job rates
- Get direct links to university information pages, with impartial information on courses and institutions
- Save unlimited shortlists to refer back to later

Parents & guardians, get signed up!



Scan this QR code or go to www.unifrog.org/student and click 'Sign in for the first time'

You'll be asked for some details and a Sign up Code. This is what you need:

GRMAparents

After signing up, log into Unifrog using your email address and password via the student sign-in page!





Apprenticeships Information:

Levels of Apprenticeships Available

Intermediate Apprenticeship

- Level 2
- 12-18 months
- Equivalent to 5 GCSEs A* - C

Advanced Apprenticeship

- Level 3
- 18-48 months
- Equivalent to 2 A-levels

Higher Apprenticeship

- Levels 4,(5-7)
- 24 months+
- Equivalent to foundation degree level +

Plus knowledge, competence, and employability skills

Apprenticeship Levels Available (since 2019)

Advanced Apprenticeship

- Level 3
- 18-48 months
- NVQS, HNC or BTEC Diplomas

Higher Apprenticeship

- Level 4 (or 5)
- 24 months +
- HND or Foundation Degree

Degree Apprenticeship

- Levels 6 (or 7)
- 36-48 months+
- Bachelor Degrees (BA, BSc)


Why an Apprenticeship ?

PROS

- A job with substantial training & development
- Gain invaluable industry experience, job specific skills
- Employee Status
- Higher-level qualifications or degree without tuition fees

CONS

- Combining work and study isn't an easy option – doesn't suit all
- Complex recruitment process – needs a different 'Mindset'
- Vacancies are dispersed
- Applications needs careful research & preparation



Apprenticeships: Who do they suit ?

- Do you have a particular interest in the area of work you're applying for ?
- Can you demonstrate this from previous experience, e.g, volunteering, work experience or contributions in school?
- Excellent time management skills required!
- Learning on-the-job skills in a professional environment whilst work towards a qualification **is hard work (20 % Training Time)**
- You might have to travel on a daily basis or relocate to find the right opportunity
- Your degree will be gained in a way that fits around your work, based on employer's needs. It's different to the full-time HE experience.
- Length of the programme ? Do you know what you are committing to?

From the UCAS mindset to the Apprenticeship mindset

UCAS Mindset

- Grades
- Personal statement
- Some other things for a minority of students (interviews/tests/portfolio)

Apprenticeship Mindset

- CV and cover letter
- Online application forms
- Psychometric tests
- Video/Skype/telephone screening interviews
- Role play
- Group exercises
- Case studies
- Final interviews
- Grades

How can I apply?

- Applications are made directly through the company or the education provider.
- There is no limit on the number of applications you can make.
- The application process might vary across vacancies, you could be asked for:
 - CV and Covering Letter
 - Application Form
 - In App/Site application
- You can apply for universities and apprenticeships at the same time!





Any questions?



Thank you

UCAS



Great Marlow School