Parents' evening presentation



UCAS

An independent charity



- 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



Course providers



- **370+** universities and colleges
 - five in Northern Ireland
 - 20 in Wales
 - 21 in Scotland
 - 334 in England
 - **One** in mainland **Europe**
- 37,000+ courses available



Choices available

- Higher education.
- Apprenticeships and traineeships.
- Studying abroad.
- Gap year.
- Getting a job.

Understand the options available at

www.ucas.com/alternatives-to-university



Apprenticeship advice

UCAS has <u>apprenticeships advice</u> to help students make informed decisions about their post-16 and post-18 opportunities.

Find out about:

- the different types of apprenticeships
- how to find and apply for apprenticeships
- preparing for the application and interview process

With the predicted growth of higher and degree apprenticeships, you'll also find a dedicated degree and professional apprenticeships section on ucas.com, which profiles current programmes in more detail.



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

- **Style** from traditional, with a focus on subject-based courses and research, to more modern universities that may have a greater focus on vocational courses.
- Location some are based in large cities, others in smaller towns. This can have a major influence on the environment and lifestyle on offer.
- 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/bursaries available.
- **Living costs** accommodation, transport, and food can vary enormously.



Choosing the right course

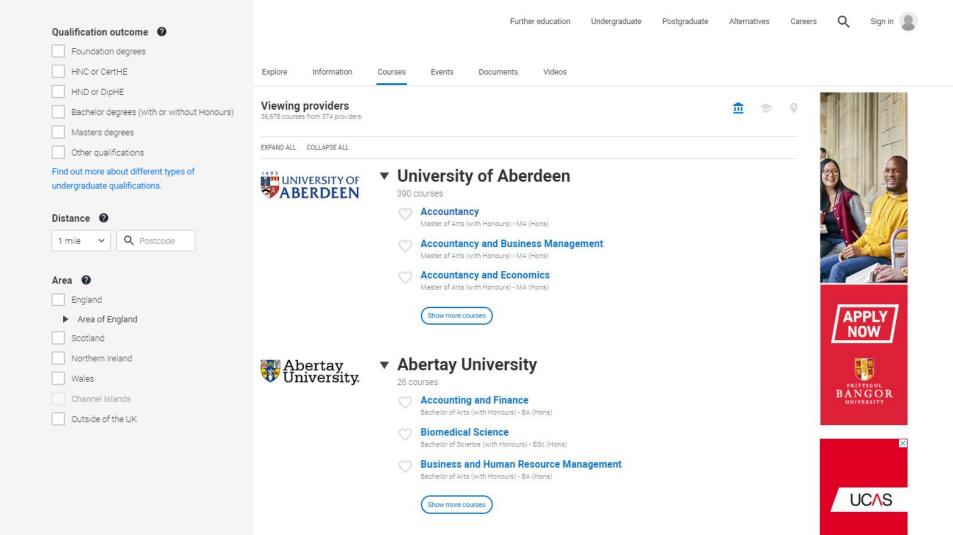
- What does the course cover?
- Courses with the same title may be very different.
- Look carefully at the core course content, and the range of optional studies/modules available.
- Which modules are the most interesting and relevant to career aspirations?
- See if the course or university/college offers 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 – it's free!

- <u>Search tool</u> to look for providers, courses, and minimum entry requirements. Use the <u>subject</u> <u>guides</u> to find more information.
- Open days and <u>virtual tours</u> a great way to explore campuses and facilities.
- <u>UCAS' higher education exhibitions</u> useful to meet different universities and colleges, and explore options. It is important to register, and encourage your students to register in advance.
- Learning from others <u>student videos</u> and <u>blogs</u>.
- <u>Career options</u> use the <u>job profiles</u> to explore different career roles and pathways, or take the
 <u>Buzz quiz</u> to find out more about individual strengths, and what roles they may suit.
- The <u>career finder tool</u> is ideal for considering options after education, including searching for <u>apprenticeships</u>.





What and where to study

View published



Subject guides

Undergraduate courses you could study, what they involve, and how to get onto them.



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Choosing a course

Tips and advice to help you decide what subject, course type, and provider is right for you.



Entry requirements

Unis have different requirements for their courses – usually a mix of qualifications, subjects, or exam grades.



Open days and events

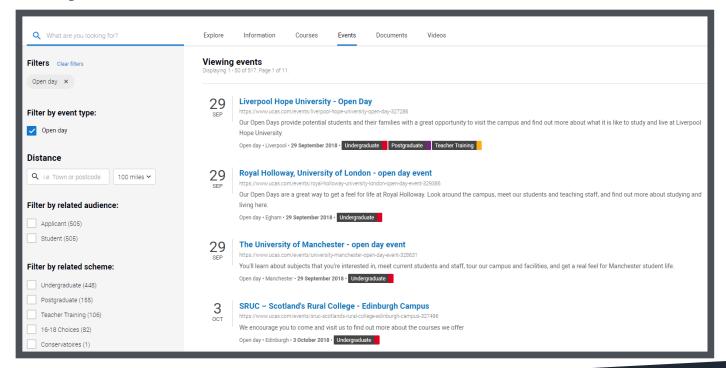
Great ways to find out more about higher education, and if a university is right for you.



Studying at a conservatoire

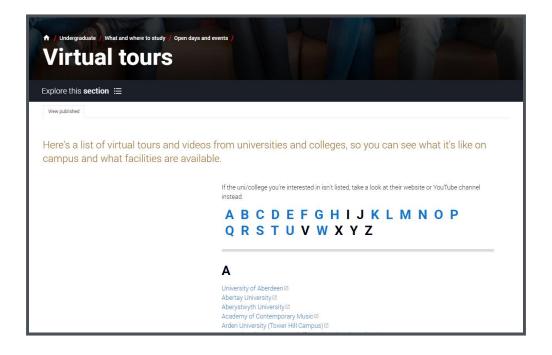
Find out what conservatoires are like, and how they differ from a university or college.

Open day search





Virtual tour search





Apply key facts

- Application is entirely online.
- Maximum of five choices.
- Some choice restrictions:
 - medicine, veterinary medicine/science, dentistry (maximum of four)
 - Oxford or Cambridge
- Simple application cost:
 - one choice £20 (changed for 2020 cycle)
 - two to five choices £25
- Equal consideration.
- 'Invisibility'.



When to apply for 2020 entry

21 May UCAS Undergraduate Apply opens for 2020 entry.

4 September First day for receipt of completed applications.

15 October* Application deadline for courses in medicine, veterinary medicine/science,

and dentistry, and courses at Oxford or Cambridge.

15 January* Equal consideration application deadline.

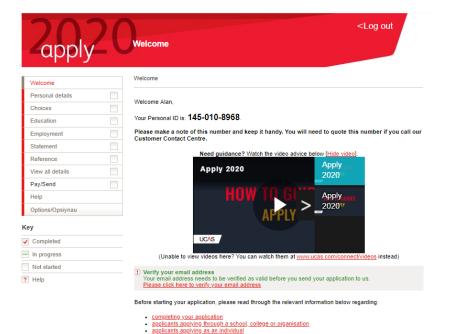
25 February Extra opens.

30 June* Last date for applications before Clearing.

* All 18:00 (UK time)



Completing the UCAS application



deadlines for submitting your application

Sections to complete:

- Personal details
- Additional information
- Student finance
- 4. Choices
- 5. Education
- 6. Employment
- 7. Personal statement
- 8. Referee details



Tutor adds reference



Universities/colleges



The personal statement

- The only section the applicant has full control over.
- Their only chance to market themselves individually.
- One personal statement for all choices.
- Maximum of 4,000 characters, or 47 lines.
- Minimum of 1,000 characters.
- No spelling/grammar check.
- No formatting.



Decisions

Universities and colleges will review the:

They make speok force decisions:



personal statement



Manageditionalsoffer



qualifications



transitional offer



reference



Postfodies/saudition



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 their first choice. If they meet the conditions of the offer they will be placed here
- insurance acts as a back-up choice if they are not placed with their firm choice



Other options

Extra (25 Feb – 5 Jul)

Used all five choices and had no offers (or declined all offers/withdrew). Add Extra choices for consideration one at a time via Track.

Clearing (6 Jul – Oct)

Apply after 30 June, receive no offers, decline all offers, or not met conditions. Find vacancies from 6 July, and add one choice via Track.

Adjustment (up to five days in Aug)

Placed with firm choice, and did better than conditional offer.

Register in Track, then find another university or college. The new university or college adjusts the record.



What should your child be doing now?

- Research.
- Extracurricular activities.
- Work experience.
- Go beyond the syllabus.
- Focus on this year's studies.



How can you support them?

- Use the parents/guardians' section of the UCAS website at www.ucas.com/parents.
- Sign up for updates from UCAS, and get everything you need to know about the application process direct to your inbox.
- Offer to attend open days you may have a different perspective.
- Don't book family holidays at key times.
- Make sure they read everything carefully that is sent to them.



Thank you

