

UCAS APPLICATION PROCESS: PARENT INFORMATION

The parent guide on the resources section is from 2020 entry – the information is the same but the dates will be different for 2021 – UCAS have not updated this yet.



UCAS

Security marking: PUBLIC

UCAS – an independent charity

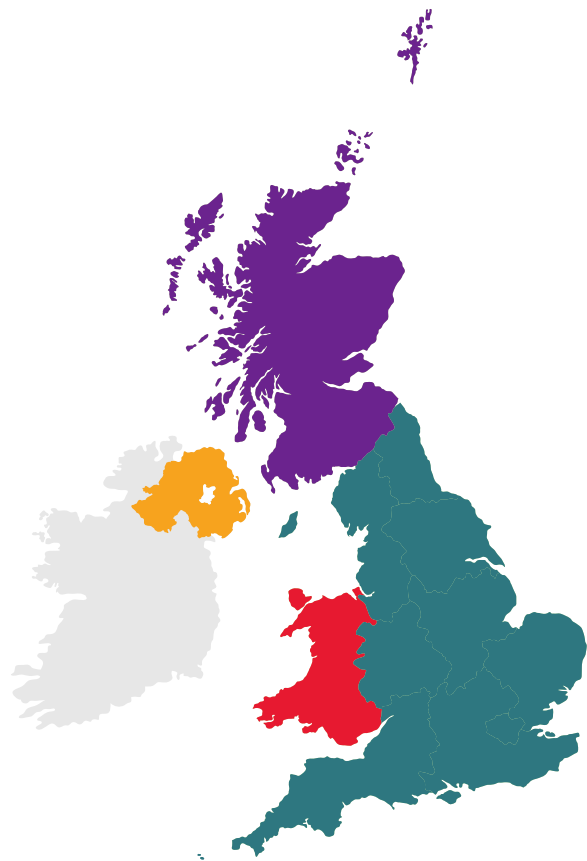
UCAS does:

- ✓ 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

Course providers



350+ universities and colleges:

- **4** in **Northern Ireland**
- **15** in **Wales**
- **19** in **Scotland**
- **324** in **England**
- **one** in mainland **Europe**

at the time of checking

- **35,000+** courses available

UCAS

Choices available



**Higher
education**



**Apprenticeships/
traineeships**



**Studying
abroad**



Gap year



Getting a job

Understand the options available: ucas.com

Apprenticeship advice

UCAS has [apprenticeship advice](#) 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

Go to ucas.com/understanding-apprenticeships.

25%

of applicants declining all offers in 2018 told UCAS they had chosen an **apprenticeship** instead.

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 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. 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** – 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 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 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



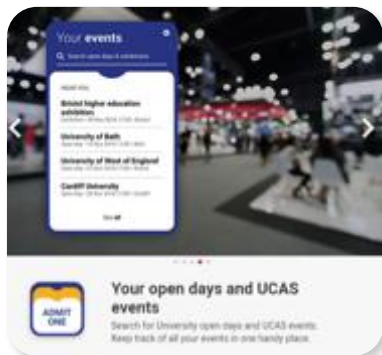
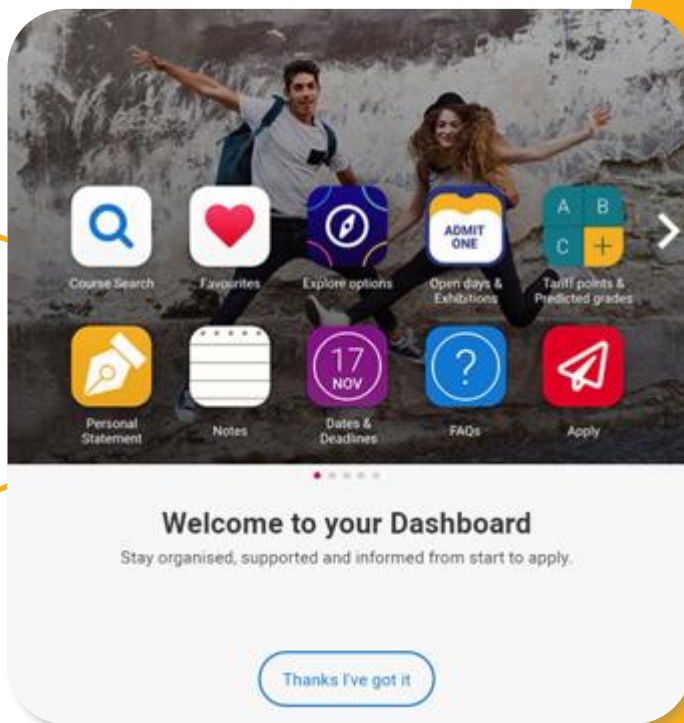
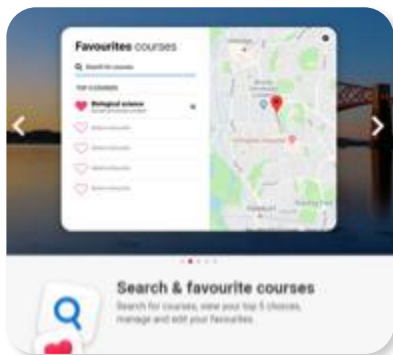
Research – it's free!



- [Register in the UCAS Hub to explore options](#) – find and favourite courses and search for virtual events - all in one handy place!
- Learning from others – [student videos](#) and [blogs](#).
- [Career options](#) – use the [job profiles](#) to explore different career roles and pathways, or take the [Buzz quiz](#) to find out more about individual strengths, and what roles may suit.
- The [Career Finder tool](#) is ideal for considering options after education, including searching for [apprenticeships](#).

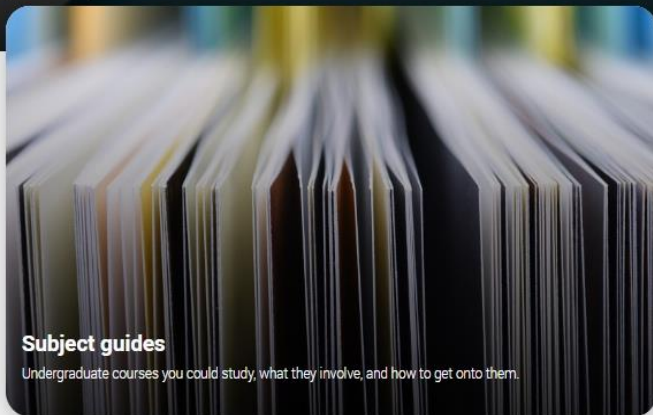
The UCAS Hub

UCAS



What and where to study

View published



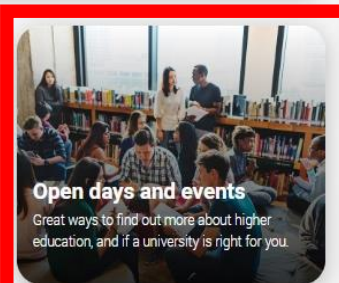
Subject guides

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



Choosing a course

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



Open days and events

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



Advertisement. Why the ads?



Advertisement. Why the ads?



Entry requirements

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



Apprenticeships

Everything you need to know about UK apprenticeships.



Advertisement. Why the ads?

Virtual tour search

The screenshot shows a website interface for virtual tours. At the top, there is a navigation breadcrumb: [Home](#) / [Undergraduate](#) / [What and where to study](#) / [Open days and events](#). Below this is the main heading "Virtual tours" in a large, bold, white font. Underneath the heading is a sub-section titled "Explore this section" with a menu icon. A search bar contains the text "View published". The main content area features a paragraph: "Here's a list of virtual tours and videos from universities and colleges, so you can see what it's like on campus and what facilities are available." Below this is a note: "If the uni/college you're interested in isn't listed, take a look at their website or YouTube channel instead." A search filter is shown as a grid of letters: A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P on the first row, and Q R S T U V W X Y Z on the second row. A horizontal line is positioned below the letters. Under the letter "A", a list of institutions is displayed, each with a small external link icon: University of Aberdeen, Abertay University, Aberystwyth University, Academy of Contemporary Music, and Arden University (Tower Hill Campus).

[Home](#) / [Undergraduate](#) / [What and where to study](#) / [Open days and events](#)

Virtual tours

Explore this section ☰

View published

Here's a list of virtual tours and videos from universities and colleges, so you can see what it's like on campus and what facilities are available.

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A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P
Q R S T U V W X Y Z

A

- [University of Aberdeen](#)
- [Abertay University](#)
- [Aberystwyth University](#)
- [Academy of Contemporary Music](#)
- [Arden University \(Tower Hill Campus\)](#)

Apply key facts...



It's an online application.



Simple application cost:

- one choice – £20
- two to five choices – £26



Maximum of five choices.



Equal consideration.



Choice restrictions:

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



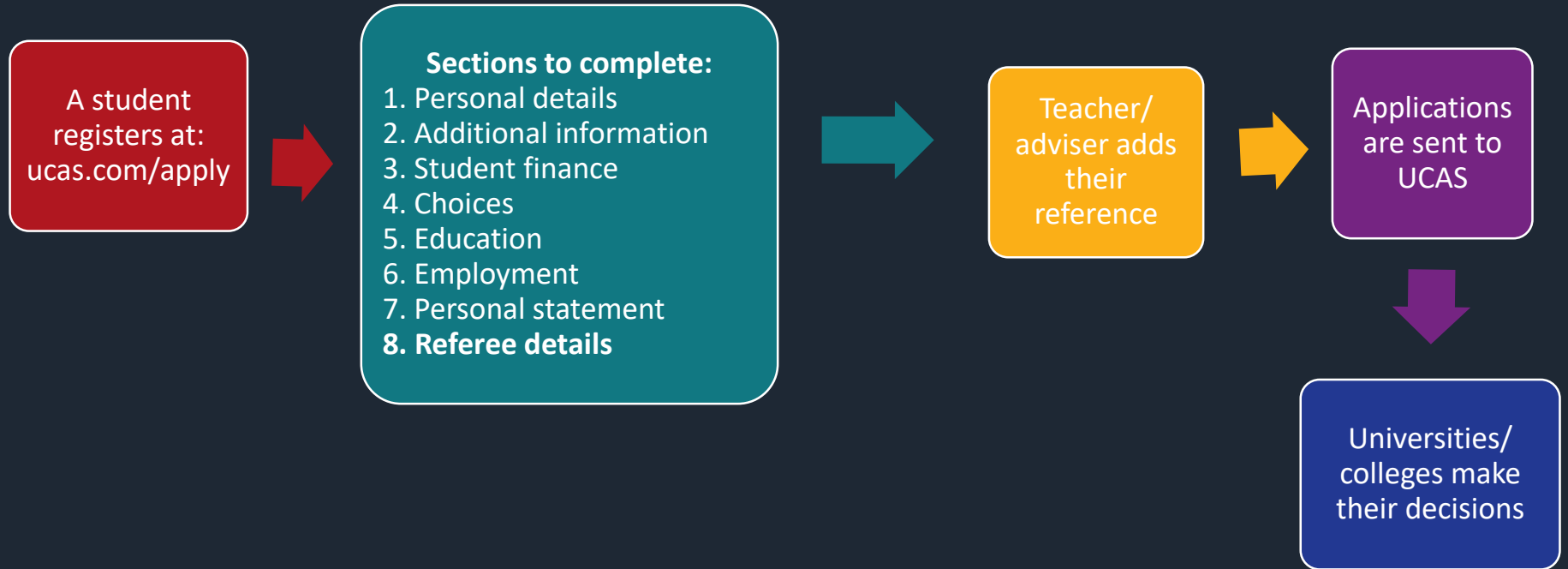
'Invisibility'.

When to apply for 2021 entry

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| 19 May | UCAS Undergraduate Apply opens for 2021 entry. |
| 8 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



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:



personal statement



qualifications



reference

They make ~~some~~ three decisions:



Admission ~~also~~



Conditional offer

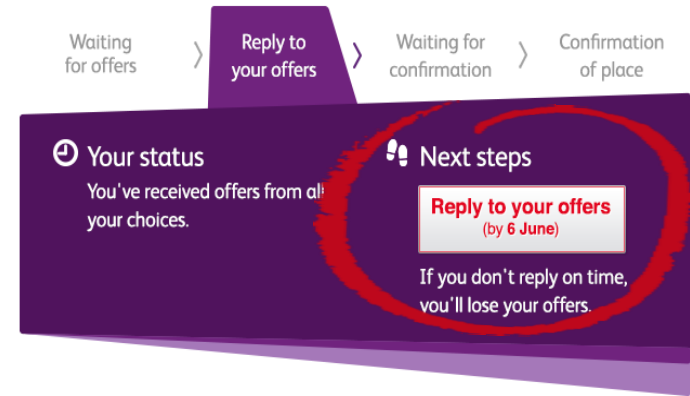


Post-course audit

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
- **insurance** – if they are not placed with their firm choice, they may be placed with their insurance choice

Other options



Extra (25 Feb – 4 Jul)

- Used all five choices and had no offers.
- Add Extra choices for consideration one at a time in Track.

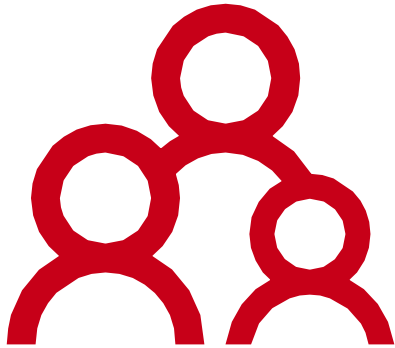
Clearing (5 Jul – 19 Oct)

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

Adjustment (up to five days in Aug)

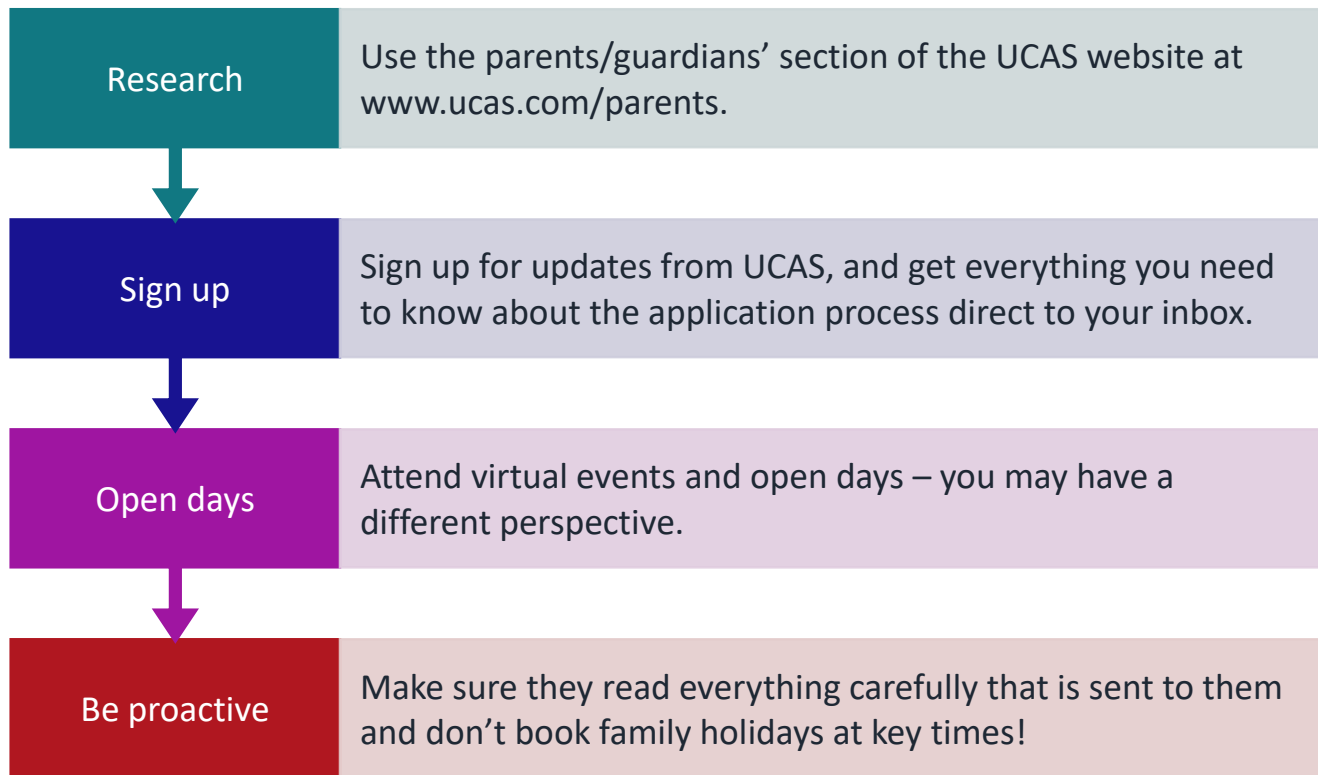
- Placed with firm choice, and did better than expected.
- Register in Track, then find another university or college. The new university or college adjusts the record.

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?



Students will be required to write their personal statement which supports their application. More information on this can be found in the 'personal statement' guidance.

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UCAS

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