

UCAS

# UCAS APPLICATIONS 2026

Guidance for Parents and Carers



Public



# UCAS

## Session objectives

- **Outline** the right tools to help your children find their next step.
- Share how your children will **apply** to a UK university or college.
- Share **key dates** in the 2026 cycle.
- Explain how your children can **Track** their applications.



# DISCOVER

Explore all your options



# DISCOVER OPTIONS



HIGHER  
EDUCATION



APPRENTICESHIPS



STUDYING  
ABROAD



GAP  
YEAR



GETTING A JOB

# DISCOVER PATHWAYS

- **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 technical qualifications (HTQs) in England are an example of these.
- **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.
- **Apprenticeships:** typically take 1 to 5 years to complete depending on their level. Apprenticeships are offered for levels 2-7 in N.I. and England, levels 2-6 in Wales, and SCQF levels 4-11 in Scotland. All nations offer degree level apprenticeships.



# Your Hub

Your personalised homepage and discovery hub

Start your journey →

- Hub
- For you
- Favourites
- What to do
- Where to go
- Search



Welcome Sam

You're applying for Undergraduate courses in 2026 - [Change year](#)

Start application

## 2026 Application

Start application



### Start an application

Apply to universities and colleges to study degrees, HNDs, and HNCs and dance, drama and music at conservatoires.

## Your next steps | [Open legacy to do list](#)

### DISCOVER WHAT TO DO

Browse subjects and careers with related courses and apprenticeships.

[Discover more](#)

FAQS

### What subject should I take?

Read our subject guides to see what might be right for you.

HOW TO

### How to apply

All you need to know about applying to university, college or an apprenticeship.

### FOUND A COURSE YOU LIKE?

[Find out more >](#)

### FIND AN APPRENTICESHIP

[Learn more >](#)

### DISCOVER CAREERS

Try our quiz and get recommended careers that match your skills and personality traits.

[Take the quiz](#)

FAQS

### Key application dates

Find out what you need to do and when.

HOW TO

### How to nail that personal statement

Writing a personal statement can be daunting. Follow our tips and advice to help make it easier.

### DISCOVER WHERE TO GO

Browse universities, colleges and employers and learn more about cities and regions in the UK.

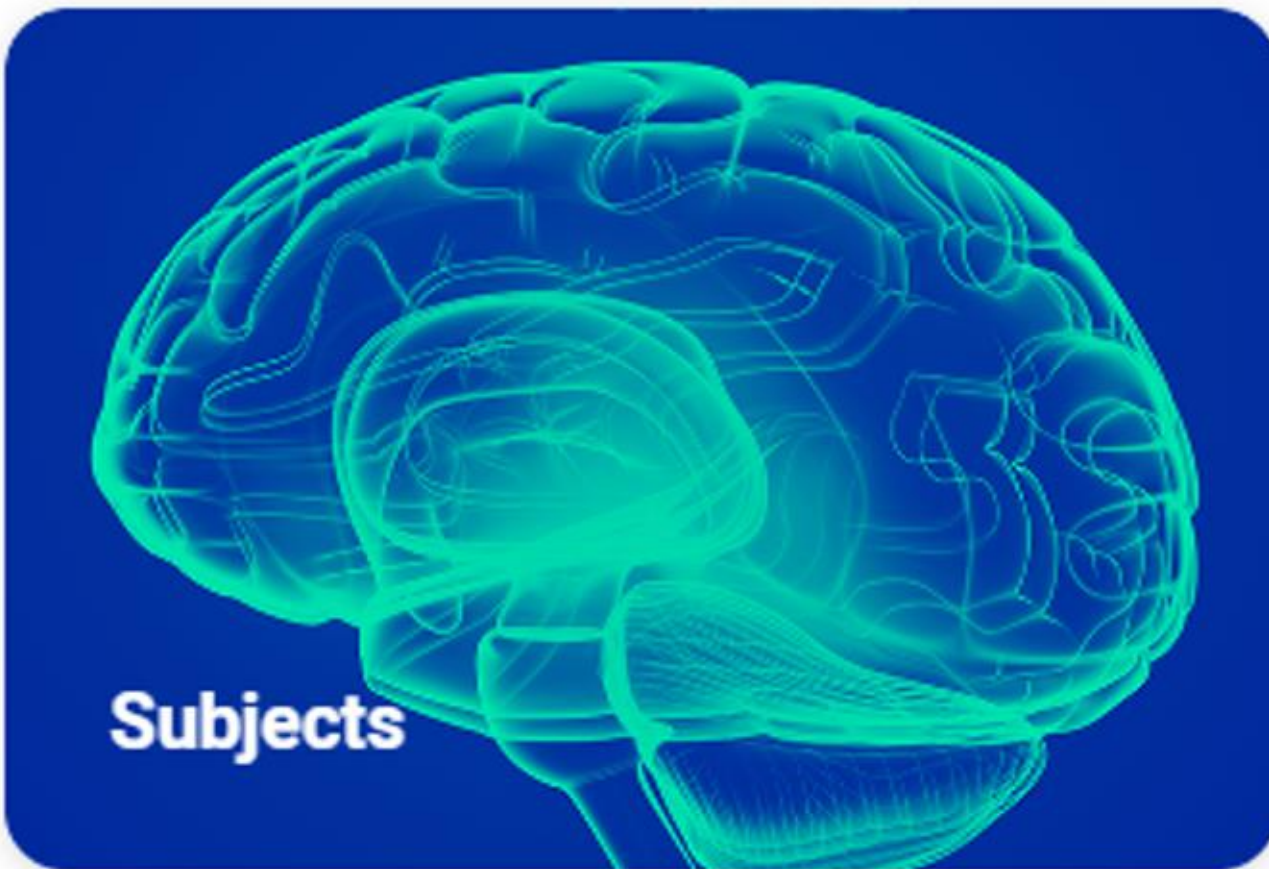
[Find out more](#)



# Search

Courses, apprenticeships, information guides and more

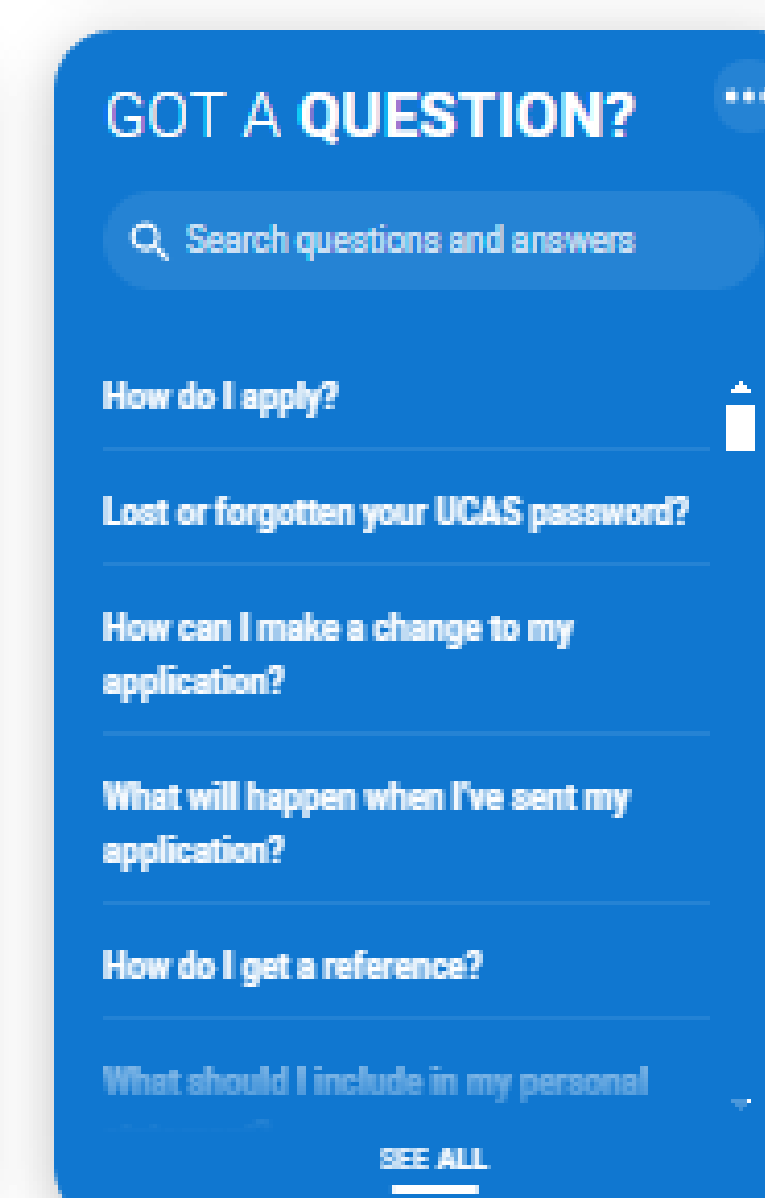
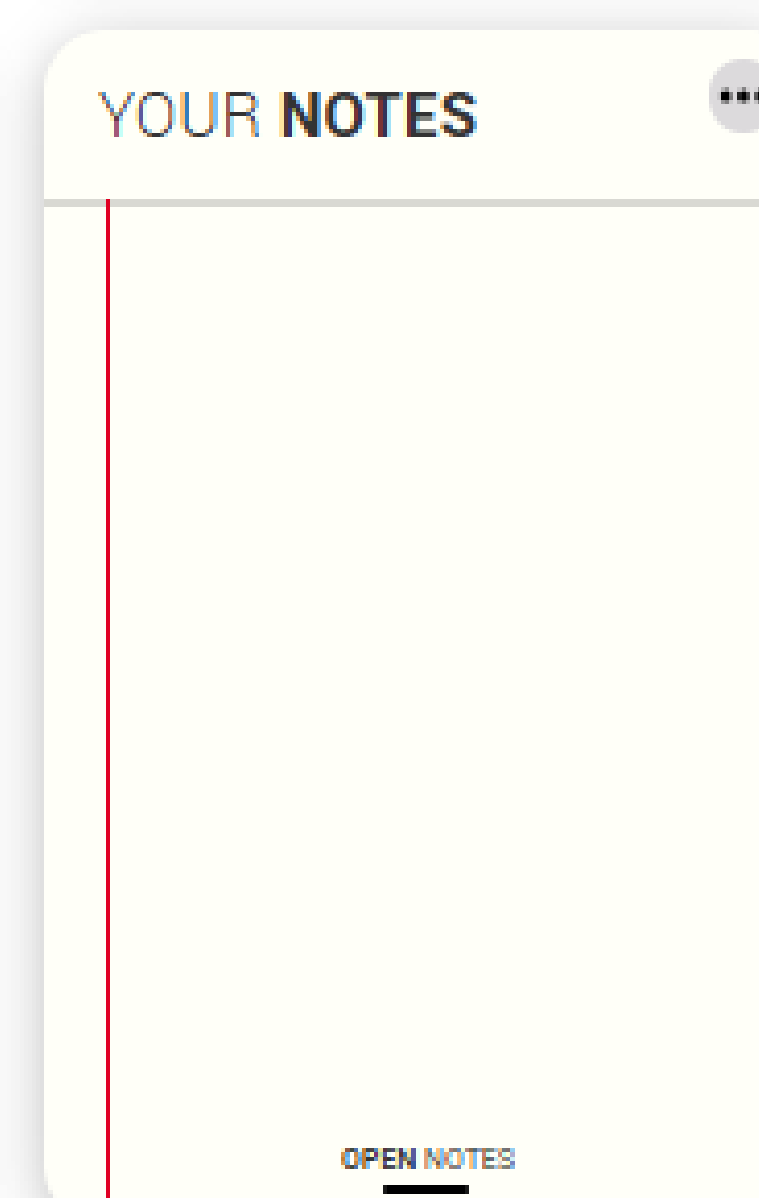
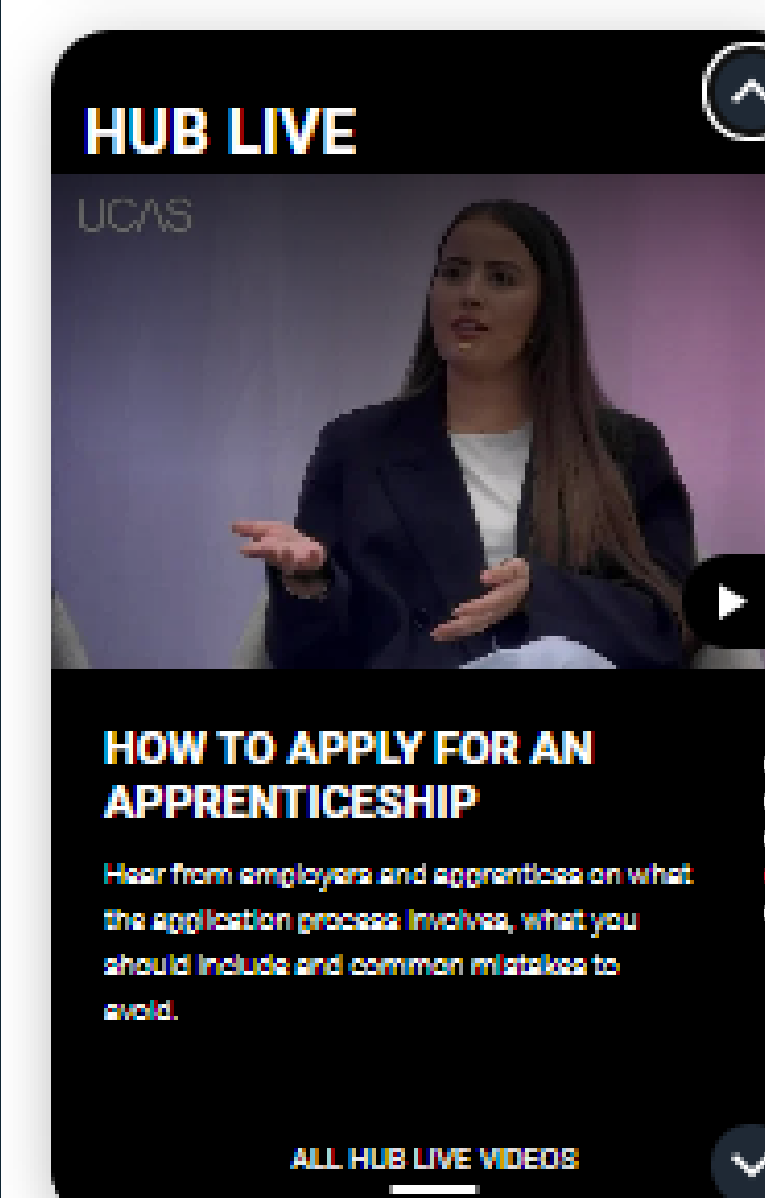
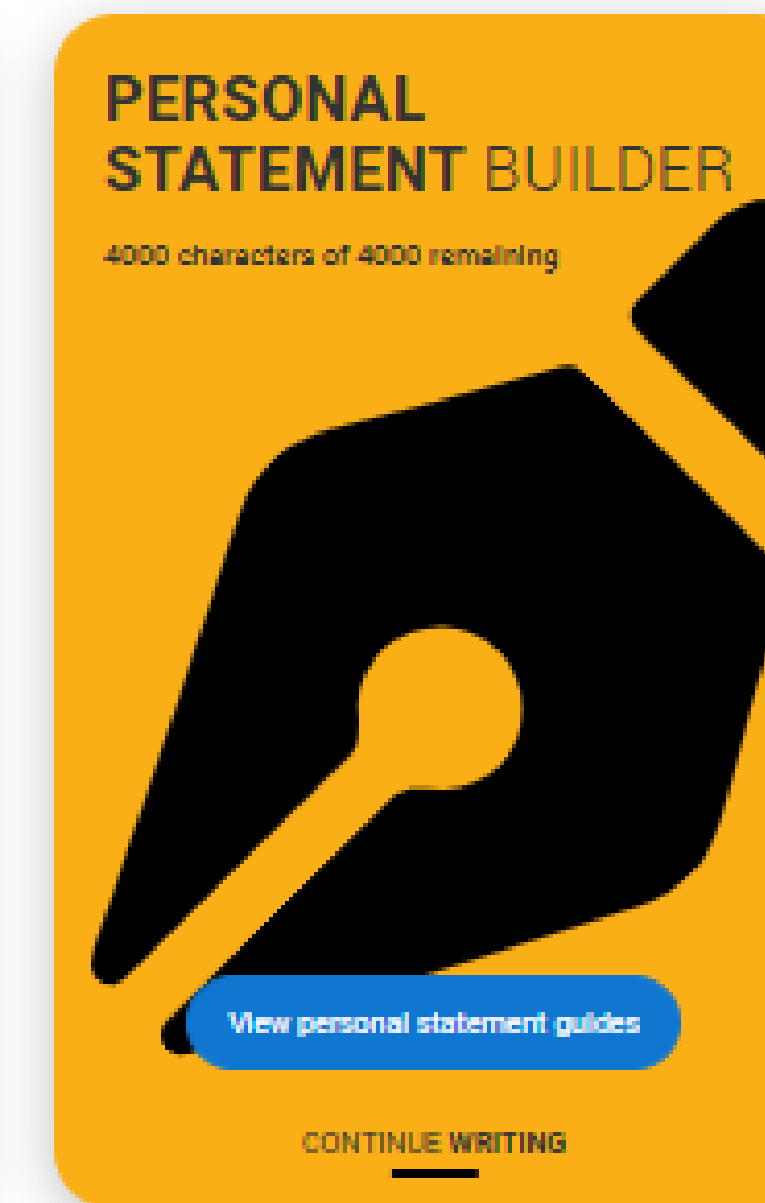
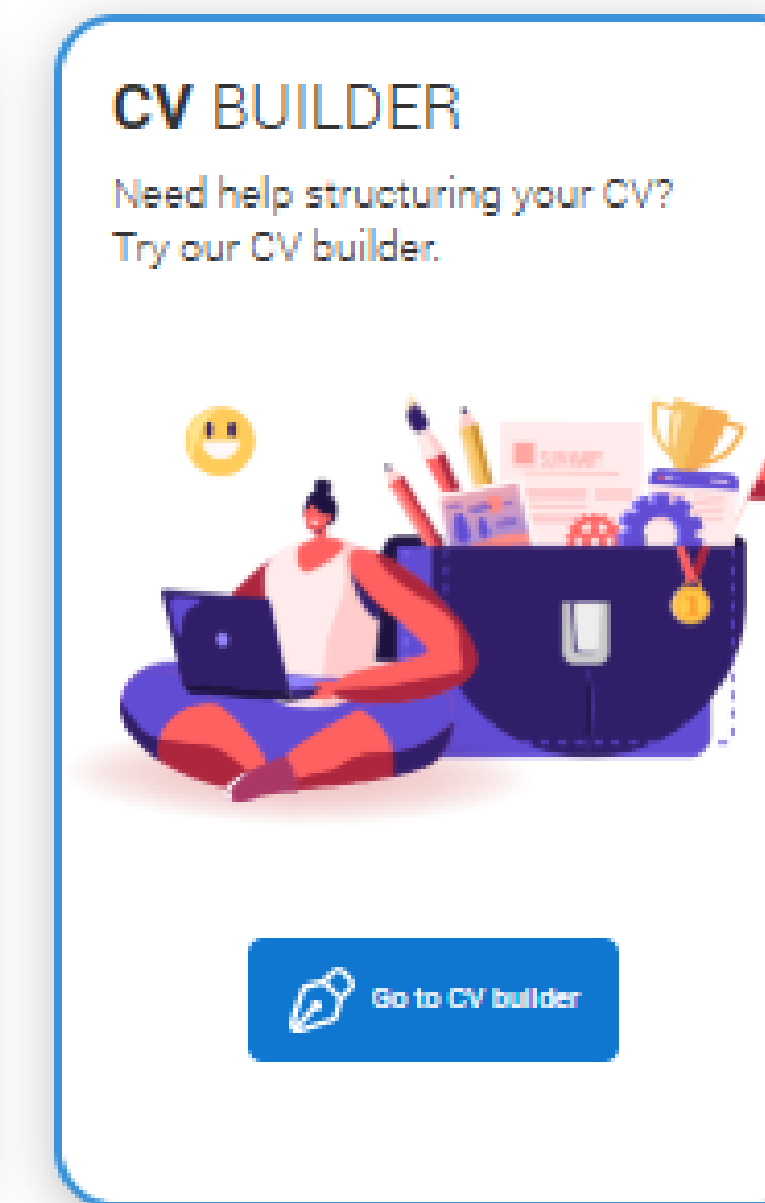
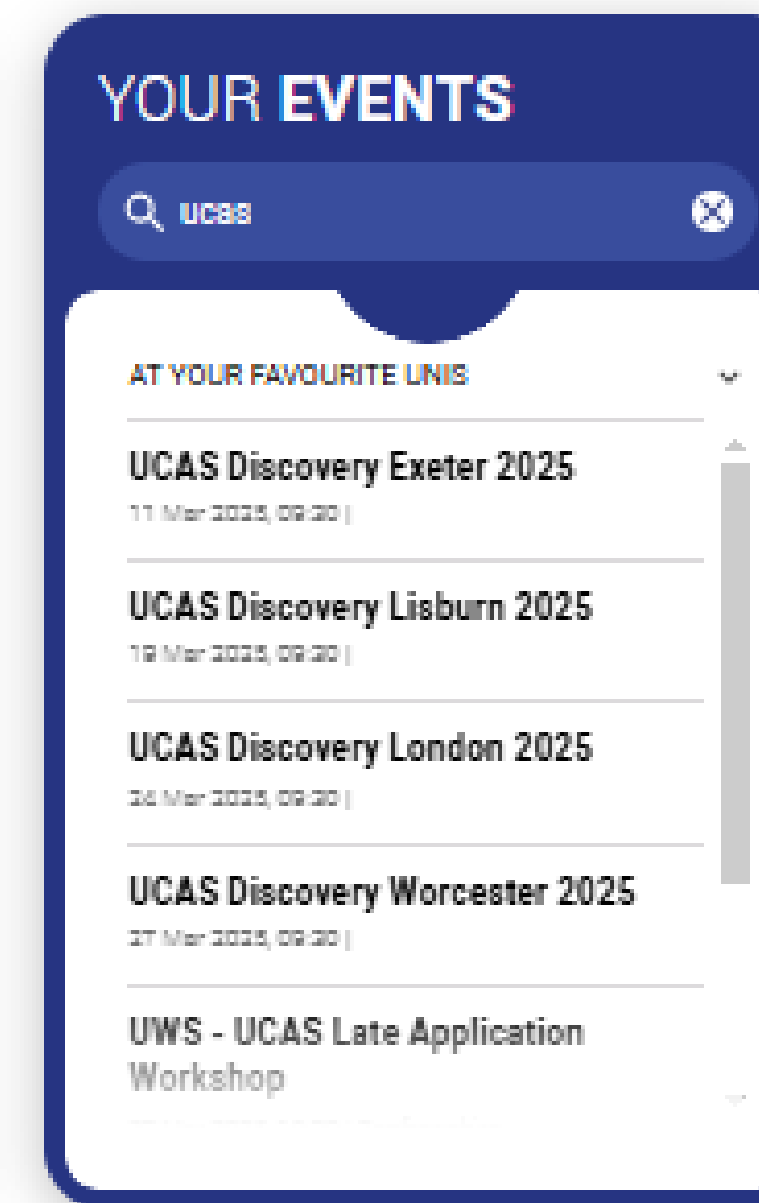
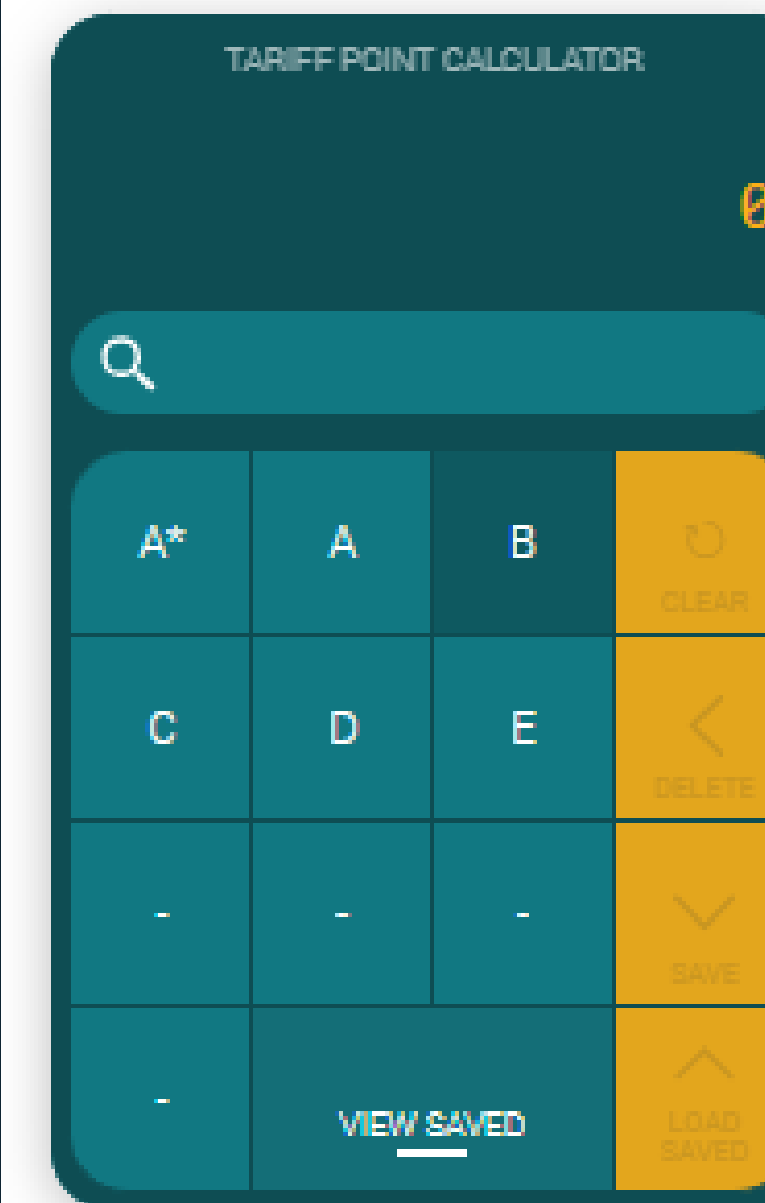
 Search for items





# TOOLS FOR SUCCESS

- Explore the Careers Quiz, What to Study Next, Subject Spotlights and Virtual Work Experiences for **career and course inspiration**.
- Use the Tariff Calculator, Personal Statement Builder, and CV Builder to stay on track and **plan your path**.
- Search for events, open days, videos to get expert help and **questions answered**.





# OPTIONS SIDE BY SIDE

Compare all your options side-by-side. Take a closer look at apprenticeships, courses, and job opportunities - all in one place.

Build your personalised UCAS Hub profile and find your best fit!

## Courses for you

### Courses related to Agriculture and related sciences

Have you considered the following related courses?

> See all

**Public Health courses** available at 49 universities and colleges

> See all

**Environmental Science courses** available at 36 universities and colleges

> See all

**Geography courses** available at 28 universities and colleges

> See all

**Psychology courses** available at 23 universities and colleges

> See all

### Universities & colleges

Discover universities & colleges

> See all

★ Featured



**University of Worcester**  
Worcester - 21 miles

★ Featured



**McTimoney College of Chiropractic**  
Oxford - 37 miles

★ Featured



**University College Birmingham**  
Birmingham - 40 miles

### Apprenticeships

Latest apprenticeships and jobs  
[UCAS Media Service](#)

**Active Travel Graduate**

Transport For Wales  
📍 Pontypridd

Vacancy type	Salary
Graduate job	27,000 per annum, increasing to 28,000 in the 2nd year
Industry	Apply by   Start date
Transport and logistics	16/03/2025   01/09/2025

**Administration Apprenticeship**

Babcock  
📍 Devonport, Plymouth

Apprenticeship level	Salary
England - Intermediate Apprenticeship - Level 2	Year 1: 14,893 Year 2: 18,943
Industry	Apply by   Start date
Engineering and manufacturing	20/03/2025   01/09/2025

**Advanced Apprentice Fabricator**

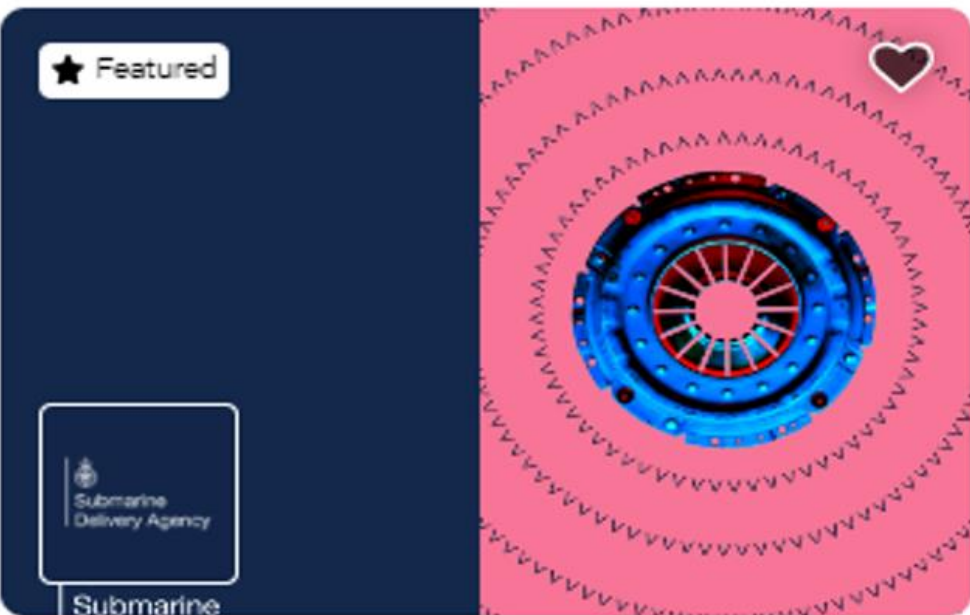
BAE Systems  
📍 Glasgow

Apprenticeship level	Salary
Scotland - Modern Apprenticeship - Level 6	Competitive Salary Offered
Industry	Apply by   Start date
Engineering and manufacturing	07/03/2025   01/09/2025

### Employers


Discover employers  
[UCAS Media Service](#)

★ Featured




**Ministry of Defence**

★ Featured



**Co-op**

★ Featured



**Babcock**



Public



# WHAT AND WHERE

## Favourites

[Manage favourites >](#)

[Shortlist](#) [Courses](#) [Uni & colleges](#) [Locations](#) [Subjects](#) [Pages](#)



### Agricultural Business Management with Foundation

University of Reading  
10/2025 • 4 Years • BSc (Hons) • Full-time  
Tariff points: N/A



### Animal Science (Zoo and Wildlife Conservation)

Anglia Ruskin University  
15/09/2025 • 3 Years • BSc (Hons) • Full-time  
Tariff points: 96/96



### Animal Bioscience and Management

University Centre Askham Bryan  
08/09/2025 • 3 Years • BSc (Hons) • Full-time  
Tariff points: 84/84



### Animal Behaviour with Foundation Year

Liverpool John Moores University






# SUBJECT SPOTLIGHTS

All filters

Subject

University or College


★ Promoted



Teaching:  
a profession and a passion

Teaching: A Profession And A Passion  
with Damien Maguire from Liverpool Hope University


★ Promoted



CANCER, BRAIN TUMOURS  
& ROGUE CELLS:  
THE SCIENCE BEHIND THE KILLER DISEASE

Cancer, Brain Tumours & Rogue Cells:  
The Science Behind The Killer Disease  
with Dr Shafiq Ahmed from University of Sunderland


★ Promoted



And  
breathe  
the respiratory system explained

And Breathe: The Respiratory System  
Explained  
with Charlotte Anderson from the University of Sunderland


★ Promoted



COMPUTER SCIENCE:  
SPACE EXPLORATION,  
AI AND BEYOND

Computer Science: Space Exploration  
And Beyond  
with Dr Paul Sant from The University of Law


★ Promoted



BIOTECHNOLOGY  
THE RISE OF RADICAL HEALTHCARE

Biotechnology: The Rise Of Radical  
Healthcare  
with Prof. M. Safwan Akram from Teesside University

★ Promoted



COVID  
THE LAW  
YOU

Covid: The Law And You  
with Mike Meehan from University of Law

Reset filters

POWERED BY Springpod

UCAS Media Service

☐ Anglia Ruskin University (20)

☐ Canterbury Christ Church University (4)

☐ City St George's, University of London (3)

☐ Coventry University (4)

☐ Coventry University London (2)

☐ Durham University (1)

☐ Leeds Arts University (3)

☐ Leeds Beckett University (4)

☐ Liverpool Hope University (3)

☐ Manchester Metropolitan University (3)

☐ Middlesex University London (1)

☐ Queen's University Belfast (1)

☐ Teesside University (5)

☐ The University of Law (8)

☐ UCL (4)

Show more




# VIRTUAL WORK EXPERIENCE

All filters

Sector

Organisation



**AtkinsRéalis Virtual Work Experience**

Engineering

This programme will explore an array of career opportunities available at AtkinsRéalis

Available 11/11/2024 - 30/06/2025

**Start now**

☐ Accounting, banking & finance (9)

☐ Agricultural & environmental (1)

☐ Business, administration & consulting (3)

☐ Construction & trades (2)

☐ Digital, it and computing (2)

☐ Energy & utilities (6)

☐ Engineering (7)

☐ Government & politics (1)

☐ Healthcare & medicine (12)

☐ Hospitality, catering & events (2)

☐ Law & legal services (1)


☐ Property & surveying (1)

☐ Publishing & journalism (1)

☐ Retail (1)

☐ Science & research (4)

Show more




**Allied Health : Virtual Work Experience with Health Education England**

Healthcare & Medicine

This programme will explore an array of career opportunities available at Health Education England

Available 16/09/2024 - 25/03/2025

**Start now**




**Virtual Work Experience with mydentist**

Healthcare & Medicine

This programme will explore an array of career opportunities available at mydentist

Available 11/11/2024 - 30/06/2025

**Start now**




**Severn Trent Sustainability: Water Industry Virtual Work Experience**

Energy & Utilities

This programme will explore an array of career opportunities available at Severn Trent

Available 09/09/2024 - 29/04/2025

**Start now**




**HR Career Insights: Virtual Work Experience with CIPD and Springpod**

Business, Administration & Consulting

This programme will explore an array of career opportunities available at Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development

Available 13/11/2023 - 31/10/2025

**Start now**




**Skills for Success: Forvis Mazars Work Experience**

Accounting, Banking & Finance

This programme will explore an array of career opportunities available at Forvis Mazars

Available 28/10/2024 - 15/06/2025

**Start now**




**Allied Health : Virtual Work Experience with Health Education England**

Healthcare & Medicine

This programme will explore an array of career opportunities available at Health Education England

Available 16/09/2024 - 25/03/2025

**Start now**




**Severn Trent Sustainability: Water Industry Virtual Work Experience**

Energy & Utilities

This programme will explore an array of career opportunities available at Severn Trent

Available 09/09/2024 - 29/04/2025

**Start now**




**Engineering a Sustainable World - Work Experience with IChemE**

Engineering

This programme will explore an array of career opportunities available at Institution of Chemical Engineers

Available 30/09/2024 - 30/04/2026

**Start now**



**Legal Realities Unveiled: Virtual Law Careers with TLT and Springpod**

Law & Legal Services

This programme will explore an array of career opportunities available at TLT LLP

Available 01/09/2024 - 31/08/2025

**Start now**

Reset filters

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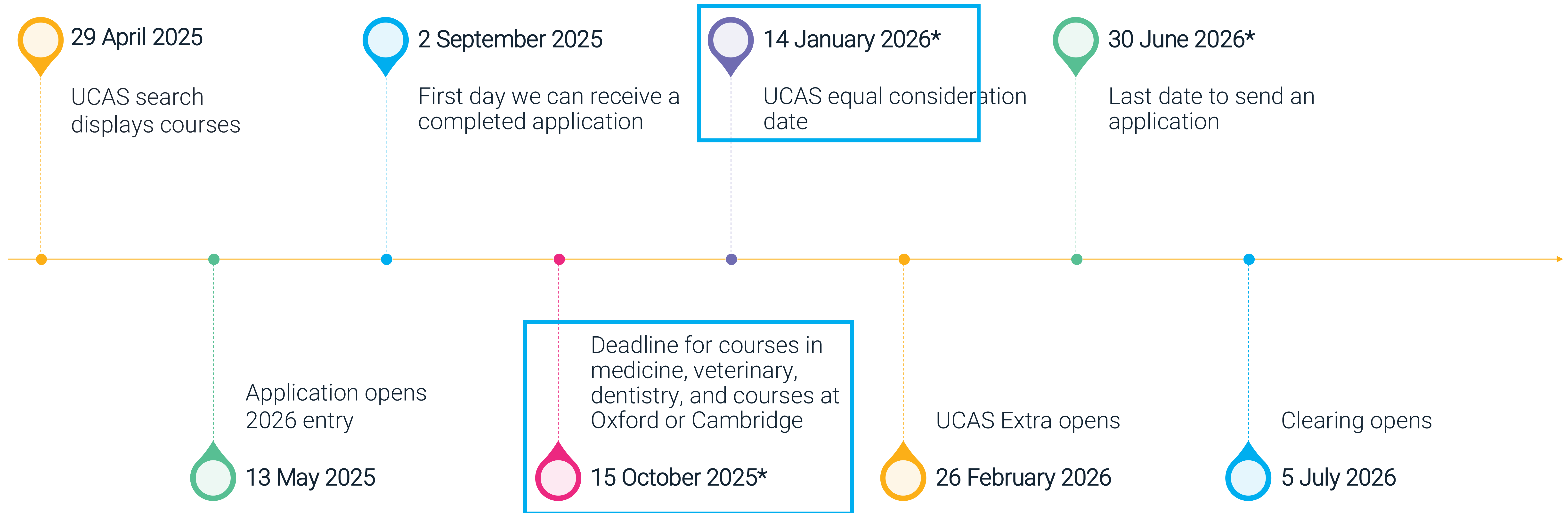
# APPLY



How to apply to universities and colleges for 2026 entry



# KEY DATES FOR 2026



\* 18:00 UK time



# THE COURSE MATTERS

## Teaching & learning

- ✓ Teaching hours, self-study, lectures, and group work.

## Assessment & structure

- ✓ Coursework, exams, practical work, and module choices.

## Entry requirements

- ✓ Grades, skills, interviews, or auditions.

## Career links

- ✓ Placements, internships and study abroad.

## Class size & experience

- ✓ Student numbers and learning environment

Select qualification

UK A-Level

Data from: This course

Date range: 2019–2023

### Grades held by accepted students ?



**ABB**

Highest grades

**CCC**

Lowest grades

### Rate of offers for UK school leavers



Students aged 17/18  
who applied to this  
course were offered a  
place.

### How do you compare?

Add three of your UK A-Level grades, predicted or those you've already achieved, to see how they compare to the grades previously accepted.

UK A-Level grades

B

B

C

By using 'Accept & show results' you acknowledge that the result indicates how you compare to previously accepted students. It is not an indication of success if you were to apply.

Accept & show results

Cancel



# FIND YOUR **BEST FIT** UNI OR COLLEGE

## Style and focus

- ✓ From research-intensive to practical, career-orientated learning.

## Location and size

- ✓ Ranges from small campuses to large city-based universities with over 20,000 students.

## Culture and facilities

- ✓ Environment, resources, and student life.

## Graduate outcomes

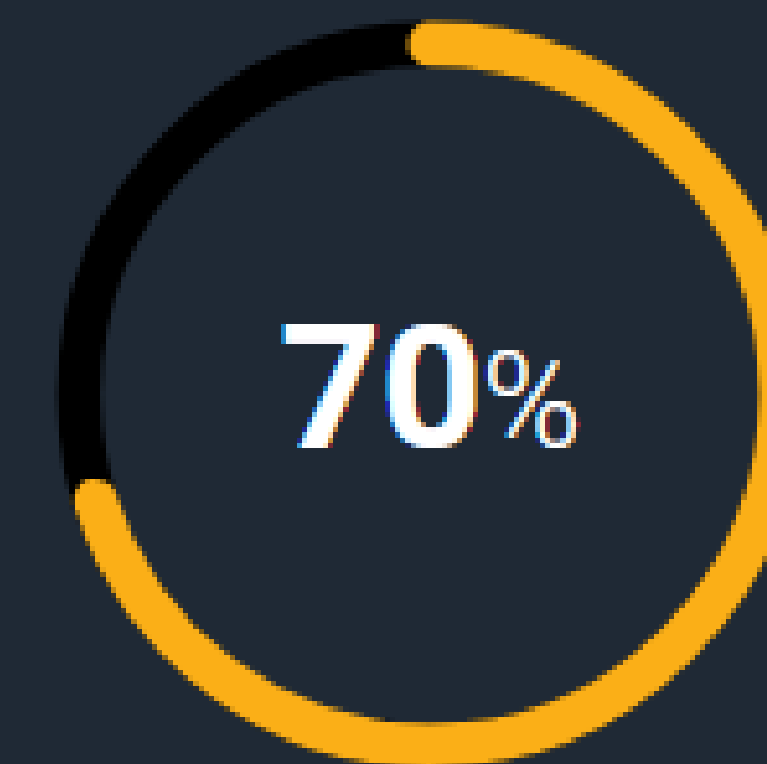
- ✓ What careers have recent graduates gone on to?

## Costs

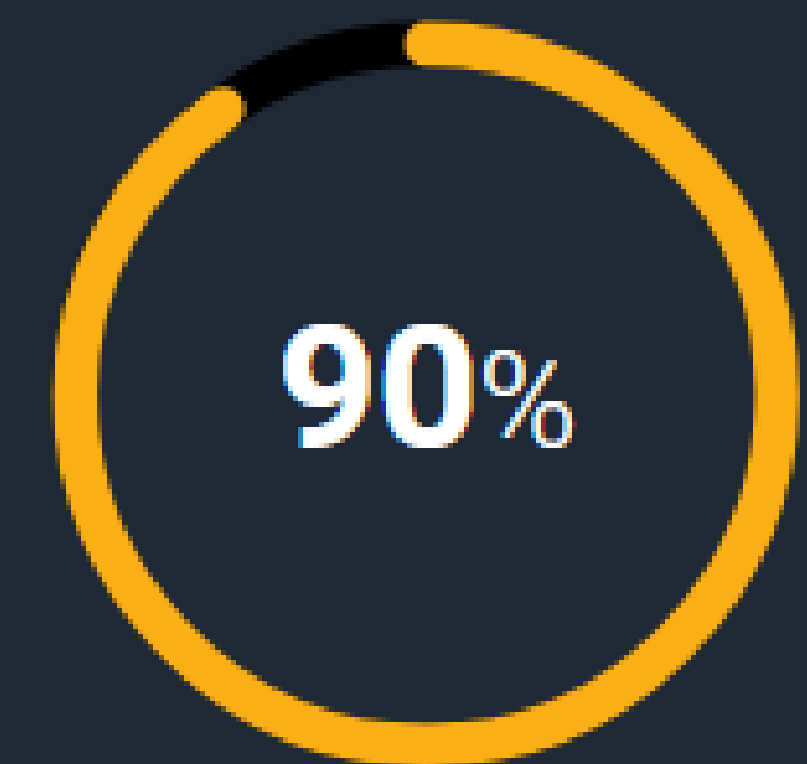
- ✓ Include living costs, accommodation, and transport.

## Student Outcomes

Operated by the Office for Students



Employment after 15 months (Most common jobs)



Go onto work and study

The number of student respondents and response rates can be important in interpreting the data – it is important to note your experience may be different from theirs. This data will be based on the subject area rather than the specific course. [Read more about this data on the Discover Uni website.](#)





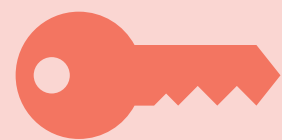
Invisibility - Universities and colleges **can't see** your other choices



Apply by the relevant **equal consideration date**.



Five choices, with some restrictions (medicine, veterinary, dentistry, Oxford and Cambridge).



Research is key to a successful application.



Applying costs £28.95.



# COMPLETING THE UCAS APPLICATION



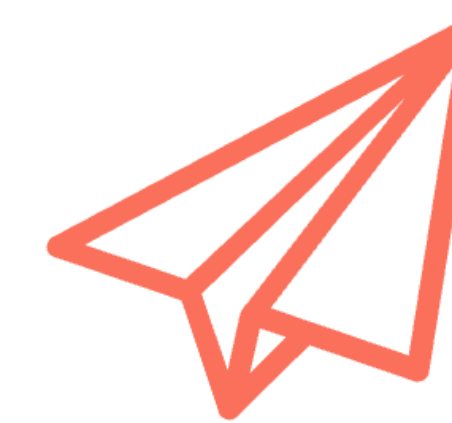
Student registers for a UCAS Hub account to carry out research and start an application.



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.



# 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)

<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	



# APPLICATION 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

 Your chance to show your passion, curiosity, interest.

 Three separate sections with question prompts.

 A maximum of 4,000 characters, minimum of 350 characters per section.

 The same for all your choices.

 There isn't a spelling or grammar check.

 No formatting allowed.

 Every personal statement is run through similarity detection software.

**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.

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?



Why do you want to study this course or subject?



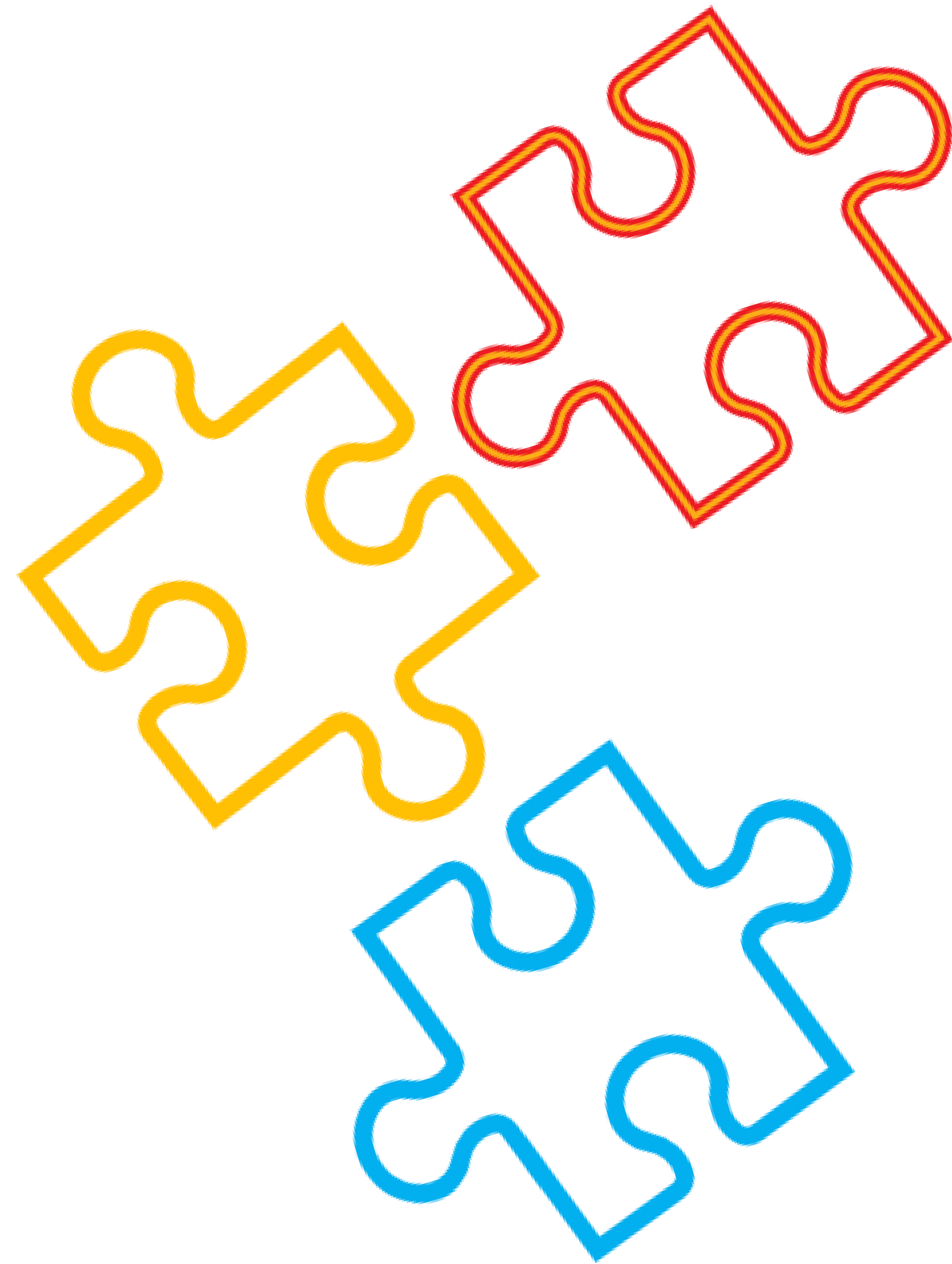
How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?



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



# BUILD A PERSONAL STATEMENT



Ultimately, think of it like a jigsaw.

Each piece is reflective evidence.



# PERSONAL STATEMENT SUPPORT

PERSONAL STATEMENT BUILDER

4000 characters of 4000 remaining

View personal statement guides

CONTINUE WRITING



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



What to include in your dentistry personal statement



What to include in your drama personal statement



What to include in your economics personal statement



What to include in your engineering personal statement



# OFFERS AND DECISIONS





# DECISIONS

Universities and colleges will review the whole application including:



Qualifications



Personal statement



Reference



Admissions test



Interview



Portfolio / audition



# TRACKING YOUR APPLICATION

Follow your application to:

- check progress
- see your choices
- update contact information
- view and reply to your offers

One of three decisions:

- unconditional offer
- conditional offer
- unsuccessful



## Submitted to your school or college

Your application has been sent to your school or college and is being checked by your adviser. Once they have approved it your application will be sent to UCAS.



## Your application has been returned by your adviser

Your adviser has returned your application, go to your application to see what amendments they are recommending for you.



## 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**



# REPLIES TO OFFERS

- Once you've made your decisions, choose a 'firm' and 'insurance' choice.
- Decline any remaining offers.
- If you're not holding an offer, use Extra or Clearing to find available places.

UCAS

Further educationUndergraduatePostgraduateAlternativesCareers

Becca

CONFIRM YOUR CHOICES

UCAS Application

Your Personal ID number  
116-000-7564

< Previous  
Select insurance choice

Cancel

Save choices

Selecting as your firm choice

Archaeology (V400)

University of UCAS (Z98)jh (E56)

Master of Arts (with Honours) MA (Hons)

Location: Main site

Start date: September 2020

OFFER

You have been offered a place subject to conditions

Your offer

Pass in Access Course with 45 credits at Level 3, of which 24 Level 3 credits must be at Merit or Distinction grade in Science, Social Science or Health related subjects and pass Functional Skills Maths. Subject to DBS and Occupational Health clearances.

View full offer

Selecting as your insurance choice

Geography (L700)

University of UCAS (Z98)jh (E56)

Master of Arts (with Honours) MA (Hons)

Location: Main site

Start date: September 2020

OFFER

You have been offered a place subject to conditions

Your offer

Pass in Access Course with 45 credits at Level 3, of which 24 Level 3 credits must be at Merit or Distinction grade in Science, Social Science or Health related subjects and pass Functional Skills Maths. Subject to DBS and Occupational Health clearances.

View full offer

Offers you are declining

Italian and History of Art (RV33)

University of UCAS (Z98)jh (E56)

Master of Arts (with Honours) MA (Hons)

Location: Main site

Start date: September 2020

OFFER

You have been offered a place subject to conditions

Your offer

Pass in Access Course with 45 credits at Level 3, of which 24 Level 3 credits must be at Merit or Distinction grade in Science, Social Science or Health related subjects and pass Functional Skills Maths. Subject to DBS and Occupational Health clearances.

View full offer



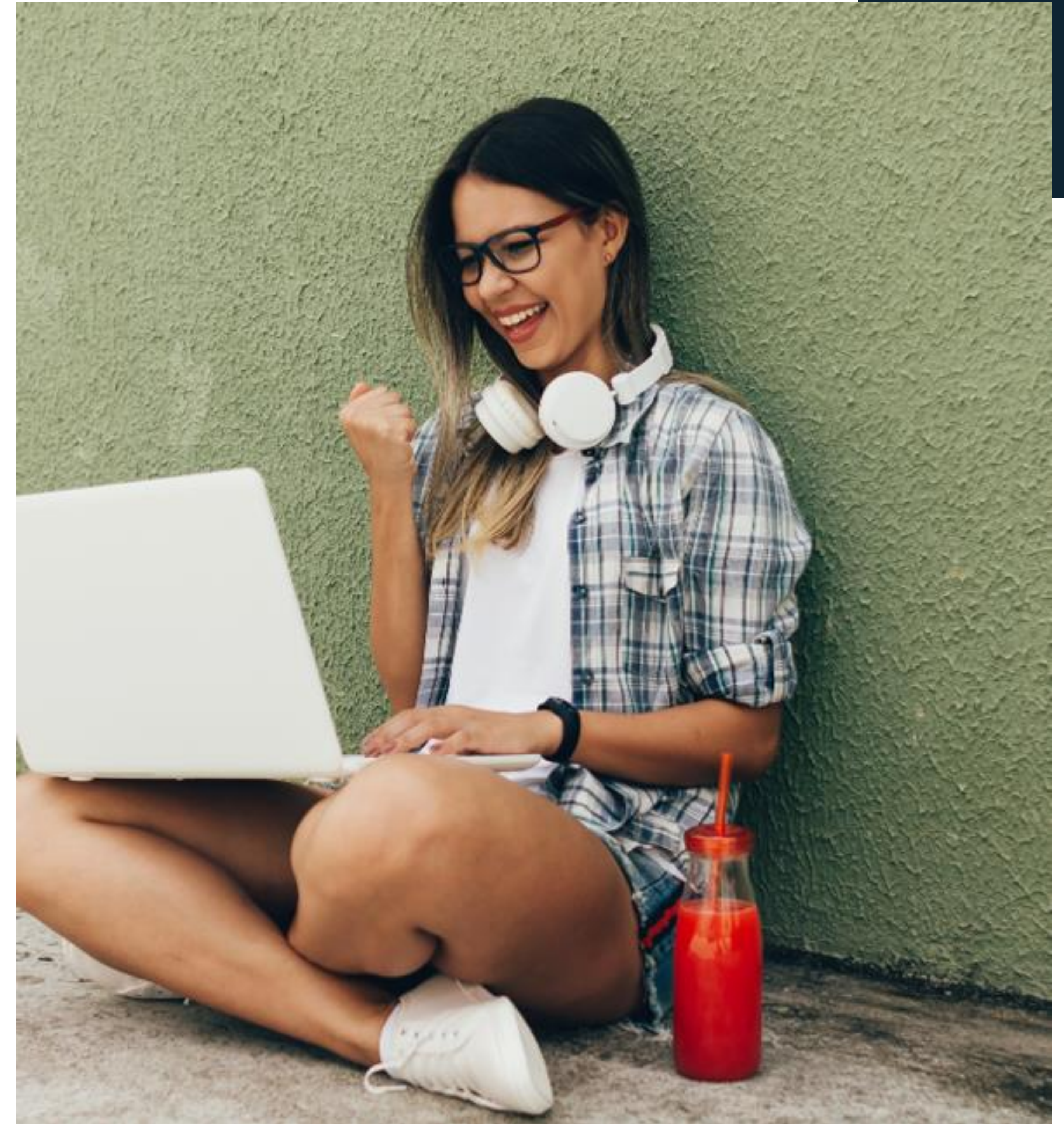
# OTHER OPTIONS

## Extra (26 Feb – 4 Jul)

- Used all five choices and had no offers.
- You can still find a place using Extra.

## Clearing (5 Jul – Oct)

- Clearing is for students in various situations.
- Whether you've exceeded expectations, changed your mind, or don't have a place.
- Understanding the process helps you take control of your options.





# APPRENTICESHIPS



What you need to know

[www.ucas.com/apprenticeships](https://www.ucas.com/apprenticeships)



# HOW DOES IT **WORK**?

- It's a real job where you learn, gain experience, study for a qualification and get paid.
- An apprentice is an employee, with a contract of employment and holiday leave.
- Over 600 different apprenticeships available, from Nuclear Engineer to Architect to Digital Marketer.



\* Foundation apprenticeships in Scotland are unpaid



# WHO ARE THEY FOR?

- Anyone 16 and over
- Anyone not in full time education\*
- Apprenticeships in Scotland, Wales or England require you to be living in the same country as the apprenticeship
- Apprenticeships in Northern Ireland require you to:
  - be employed or be about to take up paid employment in Northern Ireland
  - be working a minimum of 21 hours per week on a permanent contract

\* a foundation apprenticeship in Scotland is typically taken alongside Scottish Higher and National 5s





# THE **A-Z** OF APPRENTICESHIPS

There are **over 600** possible apprenticeship 'standards' (training programmes) which exist. It's probably easier to name an industry that doesn't have an apprenticeship than to list all that do. Here are just a few...

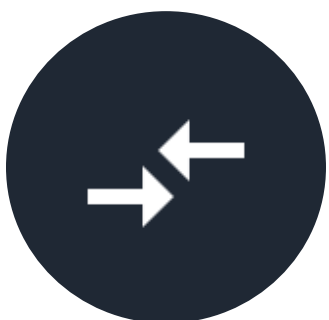
- Accounting and Taxation
- Architect
- Boat Builder
- Building Surveyors
- Civil Engineer
- Cyber Security Technician
- Data Analyst
- Doctor (from 2023)
- Early Years
- Ecologist
- Farrier
- Food Technologist
- Game Programmer
- Geospatial mapping
- Harbour Master
- Historic Environment Adviser
- Internal audit professional
- Intelligence analyst
- Journalist
- Junior 2D artist (visual effects)
- Knitted product manufacturing
- Laboratory scientist
- Licensed conveyor
- Midwife
- Marketing Manager
- Nuclear Scientist and Engineer
- Nursing
- Operational firefighter
- Orthodontic therapist
- Paralegal
- Physiotherapist
- Quality practitioner
- Rail engineer
- Research scientist
- Social worker
- Software Developer
- Teacher
- Town planning assistant
- Utilities engineering
- Veterinary nurse
- Vehicle damage assessor
- Water process technician
- Workplace pensions consultant
- Youth worker

[www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/#](https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/#)

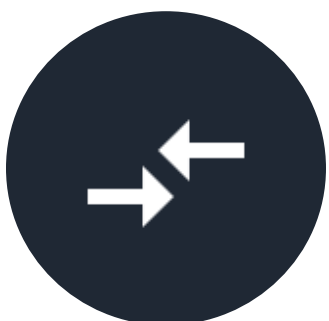


# WHAT AM I DOING NOW?

For example, in England, Northern Ireland and Wales:



GCSE grade 9-4 is a **Level 2** qualification



A level or T level is a **Level 3** qualification

## Did you know?

An apprenticeship offering a degree may also be called a Level 6 or Higher Apprenticeship

Apprenticeships work in levels too!

In England:

Level 2	Level 3	Levels 4-7
Intermediate Apprenticeship	Advanced Apprenticeship	Higher Apprenticeship

In Wales:

Level 2	Level 3	Level 4-6
Foundation Apprenticeship	Apprenticeship	Higher Apprenticeship

In Northern Ireland:

Level 2	Level 3	Level 4-7
Level 2 Apprenticeship	Level 3 Apprenticeship	Higher Apprenticeship



# WHEN CAN I APPLY?

- Advertised throughout the year; with no single application deadline.
- Larger organisations with multiple application processes may recruit earlier than smaller local organisations.
- Higher apprenticeships with a Sep/Oct start tend to recruit in the previous academic year.

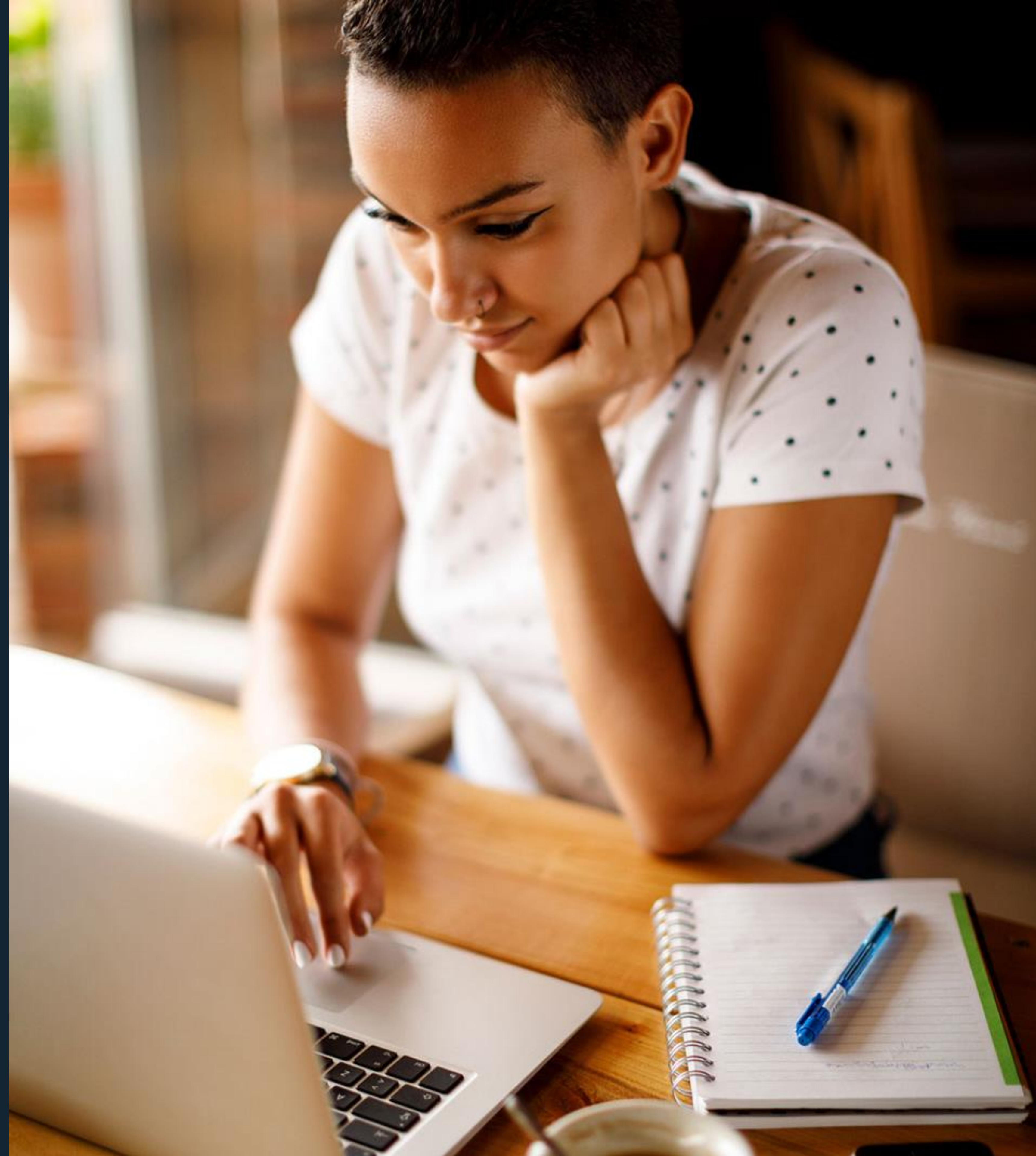
[www.ucas.com/apprenticeships](https://www.ucas.com/apprenticeships)





# HOW DO I APPLY?

- Applications are made directly through the company or training 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!





# HOW CAN UCAS HELP?

## Apprenticeship Application Guides

- Get to grips with what to expect when applying for specific industries.

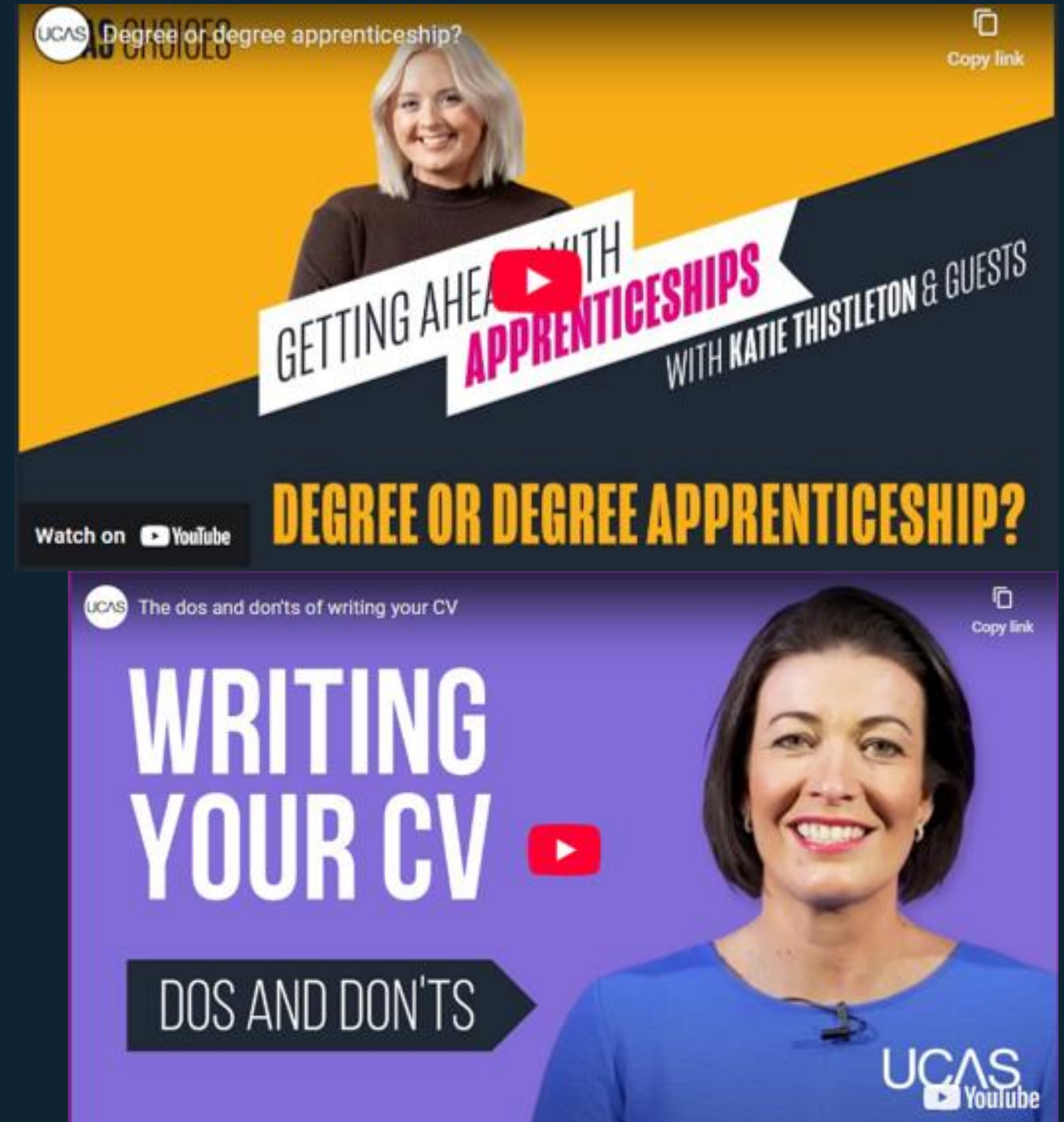
## Live studio apprenticeship podcast

- Radio 1's Katie Thistleton chats to apprentices and experts about what you need to know.

## UCAS CV builder

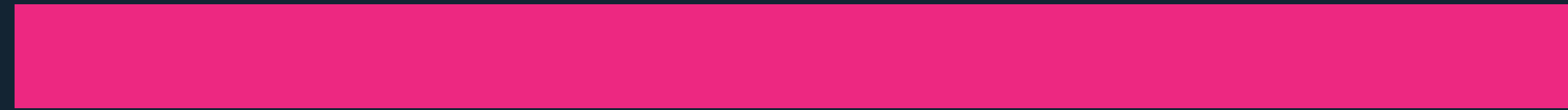
- Create a professional CV in minutes.

Find it all and more [ucas.com/apprenticeships](https://ucas.com/apprenticeships)





# NEXT STEPS



UCAS Support



# WHAT TO BE DOING

- research, research, research
- attend open days and events
- independent learning outside the curriculum
- work experience
- volunteering
- focus on this year's studies





# UCAS SUPPORT

UCAS Customer Experience Centre:  
0371 468 0 468

From outside the UK:  
+44 330 3330 230

Monday to Friday  
08:30 – 18:00 (UK time)



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# WWW.UCAS.COM/PARENTS

## Parent, Guardian and Carer Guide

Download our free guide, containing everything you need to support a young person with their options and decision-making, and help them through the UCAS application process.

**Parent, Guardian and Carer Guide**



## Sign up for our parent newsletter

Whether your child is set on going to uni, or still looking into their options – including apprenticeships, gap years, or conservatoire courses – we can help. Sign up and we'll send you everything you need to help them make an informed decision.





UCAS

THANK YOU



Public