



HIGHER EDUCATION

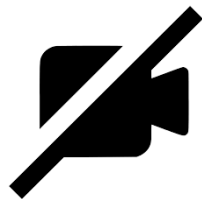
APPLYING THROUGH UCAS

Parent Information Evening
Monday 6th September – Microsoft Teams



> Welcome!

- Mrs Claire Kerr – Depute Head Teacher (S6 Year Head)
- Ms Julie McSherry – Principal Teacher of Guidance (Macdonald House)
- Ms Sarah McLaren – Principal Teacher of Guidance (Thomson House)



UCAS

Please turn off your camera and ensure your microphone is muted

> UCAS - Setting the Scene



**University &
College
Admissions
Service**

- **Central organisation through which applications are processed for entry to full-time higher education (HE) courses in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland**
- UCAS operate on behalf of all full-time higher education courses at member institutions

UCAS

> Key facts

- Online Application – UCAS Apply
- Number of choices **5**
- Cost **£22 / £26.50**
- Simultaneous consideration
- 'Invisibility'
- Choice Restrictions:
Med/Dent/Vet **4**
Oxford **or** Cambridge
- 1 application per cycle
- Form considered late if submitted after deadline



UCAS Pupil Guide

>

- Every S6 pupil has been issued with a UCAS Apply guide. This highlights key information, deadlines and course codes which will allow them to complete their application.



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UCAS - Key dates and deadlines

- **Now** : Through PSE the application process has started
 - **7 September**: School can start to submit completed applications to UCAS
 - **1 October** : Music/Drama Courses - Conservatoire (CUKAS)
 - **15 October**: deadline for
 - Medicine, Veterinary, Dentistry
 - Oxford or Cambridge
 - **15 January**: main deadline
 - **30 June**: applications held for clearing
- Admissions test ***may*** need to be completed prior to applying

>

Bishopbriggs Academy Deadlines

First draft of Personal Statement: Monday 6th September

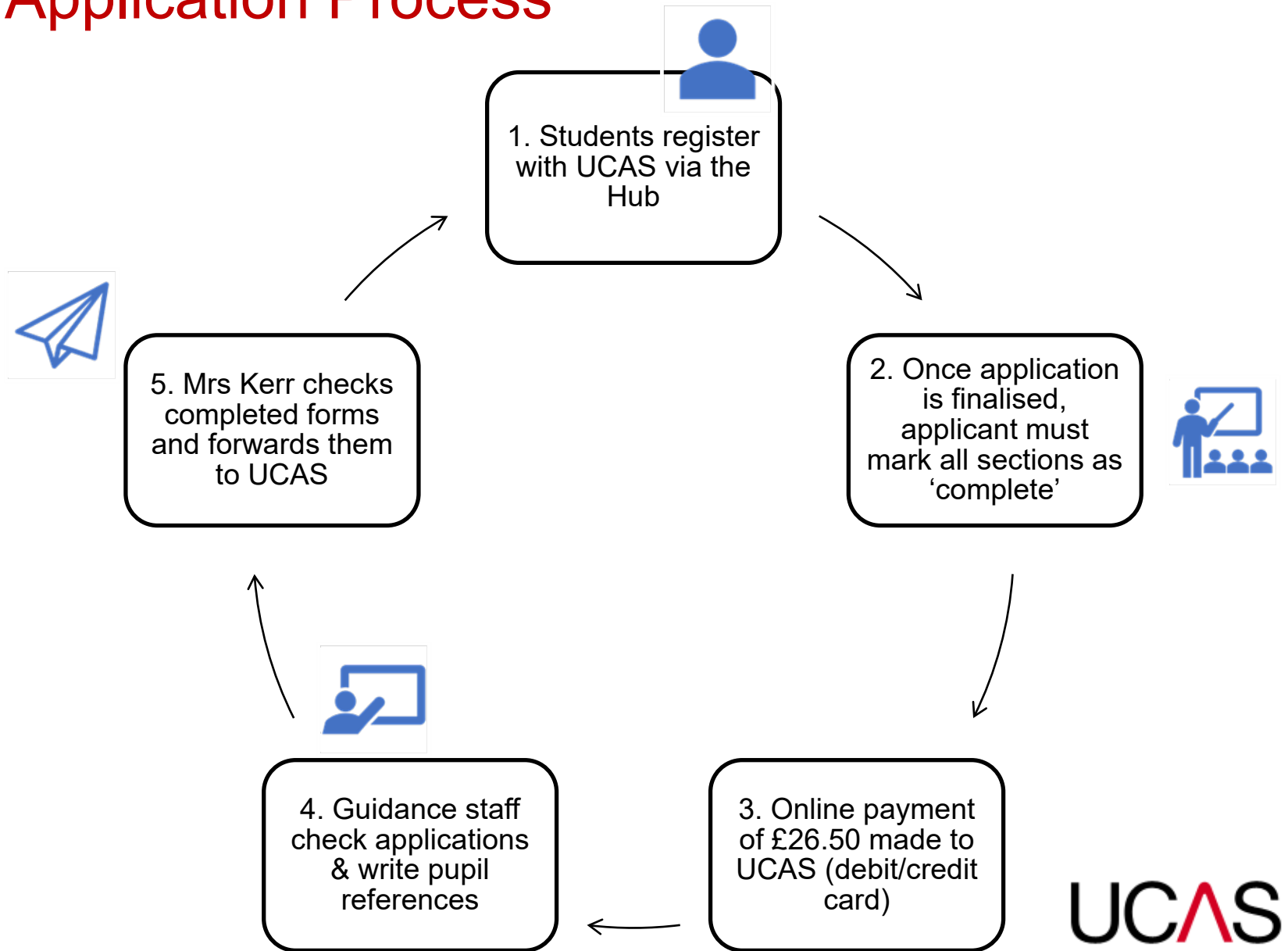
Final Draft of Personal Statement: Monday 4th October

Final submission of application: Monday 8th November



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> Application Process



What is my first step?

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> Research

- Requires:

- Sufficient time
- Resources
- Organisation
- Knowing where to look / what to look for
- Encouragement and support



REMEMBER:

Course entry requirements show the MINIMUM grades or Tariff points a Higher Education Institution would expect an applicant to have to *even be considered* for an offer. If an offer is made, they could ask for higher grades or points.

> Research

- Online....
- www.ucas.ac.uk/students/coursesearch/ Ucas course search
- www.myworldofwork.co.uk click on 'Learn and Train'
- www.ucas.tv Ucas TV 'How to' guides
- www.planitplus.net course advice
- www.prospects.ac.uk course choice advice based on school subjects
- www.ukcoursefinder.com degree suggestions
- www.unistats.com advice on specific universities and courses
- www.studential.com sample personal statements
- <http://university.which.co.uk/> advice from uni admissions staff
- Open days
- Study experience
- Work experience
- Word of mouth

> UCAS website www.ucas.com

UCAS

Further education

Undergraduate

Postgraduate

Alternatives

Careers



Sign in



Applying through Clearing?

Choose your future

Explore your options, apply to university, and more

Courses



Undergraduate



Search for undergraduate courses by keyword



Clearing 2018

Find out how you can still get a place on a course starting this year.



Advertisement. Why the ads?



Advertisement. Why the ads?



Getting ready for your studies

You got your grades and you're off to uni – but what



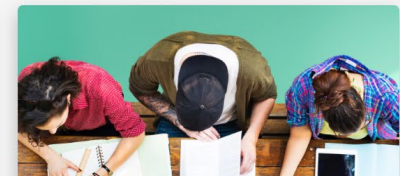
Going to university?

Studying a degree at university, college, or a



#belongatuni

20 – 24 August



Not sure what to do?

We can help you decide.

UCAS

> UCAS Course Search (...and Course Finder)

- Split into Home / Outside of UK

- Different ways to search:

- Subject
- Code
- Institution
- Geographical location

The screenshot shows the UCAS Course Search homepage. At the top is the UCAS logo and a navigation bar with links: Home, How it all works, Apply, Providers, Data & analysis, News & events, and About us. The main section is titled 'Search courses' and includes a dropdown menu for 'Where do you normally live?*' with 'Please select' as the current choice. Below this are radio buttons for 'Clearing 2014', '2014', and '2015'. A note states: '*This helps us to show courses that are available to you. Click here for more info'. There are three input fields: 'Course: Enter a course title', 'Provider: Enter a university, college or conservatoire', and 'Location: Enter a country, county, city or town', followed by a 'Search' button with a right arrow. To the right of the search bar is a red box titled 'Don't know what to study?' with the text 'Need help finding courses? Browse subjects and find out what's available.' and a 'Browse' button with a right arrow. Below the search bar is a 'UCAS Search tool' section with the text: 'Use our new search to find undergraduate courses and courses at conservatoires. We'll be adding all our other courses soon - until then, click the links below.' and three links: 'Postgraduate courses', 'Postgraduate teacher training courses', and 'Foundation degrees'. At the bottom, there are several promotional banners: 'Secure your place now' with BPP University logo, 'Kingston University London UNLEASH YOUR POTENTIAL', 'PLACES AVAILABLE FOR SEPT 2014' with the number '01752 58 58 58', 'Sheffield Hallam University Clearing 2014 We have places across a wide range of courses.', 'Secure your future' with Anglia Ruskin University logo, 'CLEARING PLACES AVAILABLE', 'University College Birmingham 0800 073 1472', and 'UNIVERSITY of BRADFORD'.

- During clearing only courses with vacancies will be displayed (still split into two lists)

> UCAS: Course Search Function

www.ucas.com

Filters

Physics x

Save search Clear filters

In which academic year would you like to start your studies?

☒ 2018 - 2019

☐ 2019 - 2020

Search for Clearing vacancies: ?

☒ Show all courses

☐ Show Clearing courses with vacancies

What type of degree do you want to study? ?

☒ Undergraduate

☐ Postgraduate

Where do you want to study? ?

Strathclyde +

☐ Conservatoires UK (CUK)

University or college (A to Z) ▾

Provider Courses Map view

Found 511 courses from 62 providers

EXPAND ALL COLLAPSE ALL

University of Aberdeen



9 undergraduate courses

Physics

Bachelor of Science (with Honours) - BSc (Hons) - 1 Option

Geology and Physics

Bachelor of Science (with Honours) - BSc (Hons) - 1 Option

Mathematics and Physics

Bachelor of Science (with Honours) - BSc (Hons) - 1 Option

Show more courses

Abertay University



1 undergraduate course

Environmental Science and Technology

Bachelor of Science (with Honours) - BSc (Hons) - 1 Option

Aberystwyth University



14 undergraduate courses

Physics

Master of Physics - MPhys - 1 Option

Physics

Bachelor of Science (with Honours) - BSc (Hons) - 1 Option


Physics with Planetary and Space Physics


Filters can be used to narrow your search:

- Academic Year of study
- Type of Degree
- Location
- University
- Subject
- End Qualification

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> My World of Work: <https://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/learn-and-train>

**My
World of
Work**

Account Settings **Log out** Search the site 

My career options | **Learn and train** | Getting a job


Learn and train

Your guide to training and studying – from college and uni to volunteering, picking the right course and funding, including Individual Training Accounts.

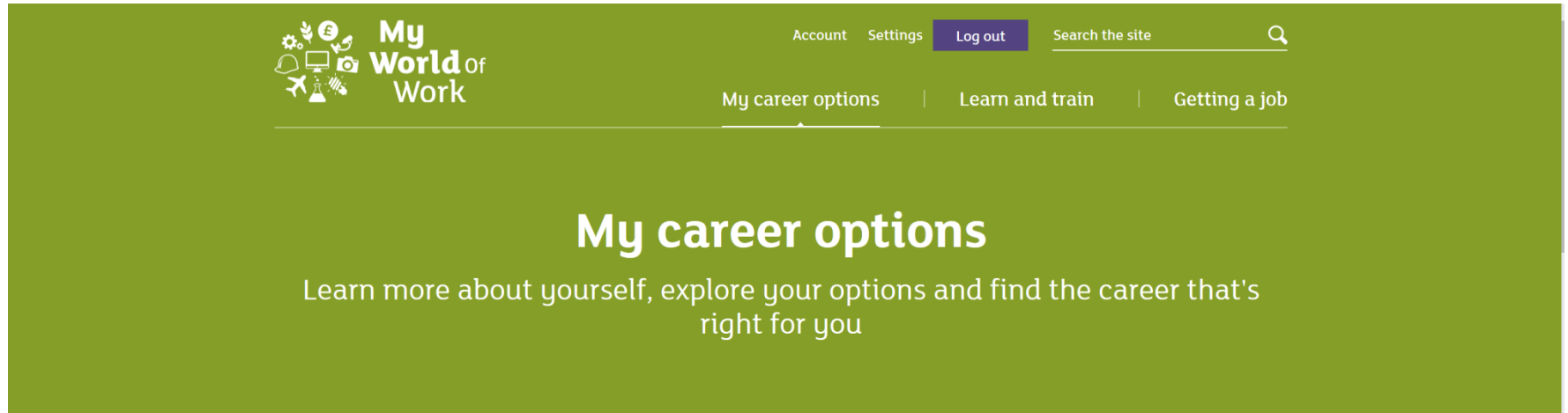
Find a course or volunteering opportunity

Choose a search option. Use 'Course' to find college and uni courses and other types of learning and training. Or, find volunteering opportunities using 'Volunteering'.

Course Volunteering

 Feedback

> My World of Work: <https://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/my-career-options>




Give me ideas


I have a rough idea


I have a career in mind


Personalise your account


Select one of the sections below to get started. The more you complete, the better career suggestions we can give you.



About me


Ambition


Strengths


Skills


Education


Experience

Feedback

> The Application Process: What UCAS require?

8 Key Sections

Students are asked to complete the following sections online:

1. About you – personal details
2. Work Experience
3. Education – school/college details, academic qualifications
4. Finance and Funding
5. Diversity and Inclusion
6. Personal Statement – 47 lines of text, 4000 characters
7. Choices



Having checked the above, Guidance Teachers will then add:

8. Reference

> **Personal Statement basics**

- **47 lines/4000 characters**
- **Type in MS Word and paste into UCAS Apply**
- **No spell check in UCAS**
- **UCAS uses similarity detection software**
- **Do not submit your first draft**

> Personal Statement

■ **Your opportunity to tell the institutions about you:**

- Why are you applying? Link academic skills and achievements to course choice
- What your ambitions are when you finish your course.
- What makes you suitable? Skills, knowledge, achievements and experience you have that will help you do well. These could be from education, employment or work experience, or from hobbies, interests and social activities.

■ **Check course listings**

see what level of understanding you need to have and what qualifications or skills they're looking for. This way you can link your experiences to the skills and qualities they mention.

> The Personal Statement – top tips

- **Should be relevant to all your choices**
 - Consistency in your choices makes the PS easier to write
- **200 personal statements per admissions tutor per week!**
 - Make yours stand out

NB: SIMILARITY DETECTION TEST
- **Write it early:**
 - You will need to write a few drafts – starting now!!
 - Get someone to read through it
 - Does it make sense?...Does it flow?...Can you say ‘So what?’ to anything in it? Have you used evidence to demonstrate your skills etc.

Checklist



A Weak Personal Statement

- I want to do Maths at University because I liked it at Higher
- 6-8 lines about the subject of study
- 'I have Gold award Duke of Edinburgh'
- Lists 10 sports played and 3 positions of responsibility held at school with no mention of skills or qualities developed
- I like socialising with friends, reading and films...

> **An Excellent Personal Statement**

- Clever, high impact opening sentence
 - this is usually written last to avoid getting a 'block'
- Around half about the subject area
 - shows real passion for the subject area
- Work experience/career aspirations
- Explain context of social life/achievement
 - why? NOT what?, skills learnt and impact on self and others
- Shows real personality
- Reference to skills and links them to course/career

>

According to the UCAS Guide to Getting into University and College, the most over-used phrases (so, the ones to avoid) are:

- 'From a young age/an early age/for as long as I can remember, I have always been interested in...
- 'Nursing is a very challenging and demanding career ...'
- 'Fashion is not something that exists in dresses only.' (This is a quote from Coco Chanel – it was original when she said it.)
- 'Academically, I have always been a very determined and ...'

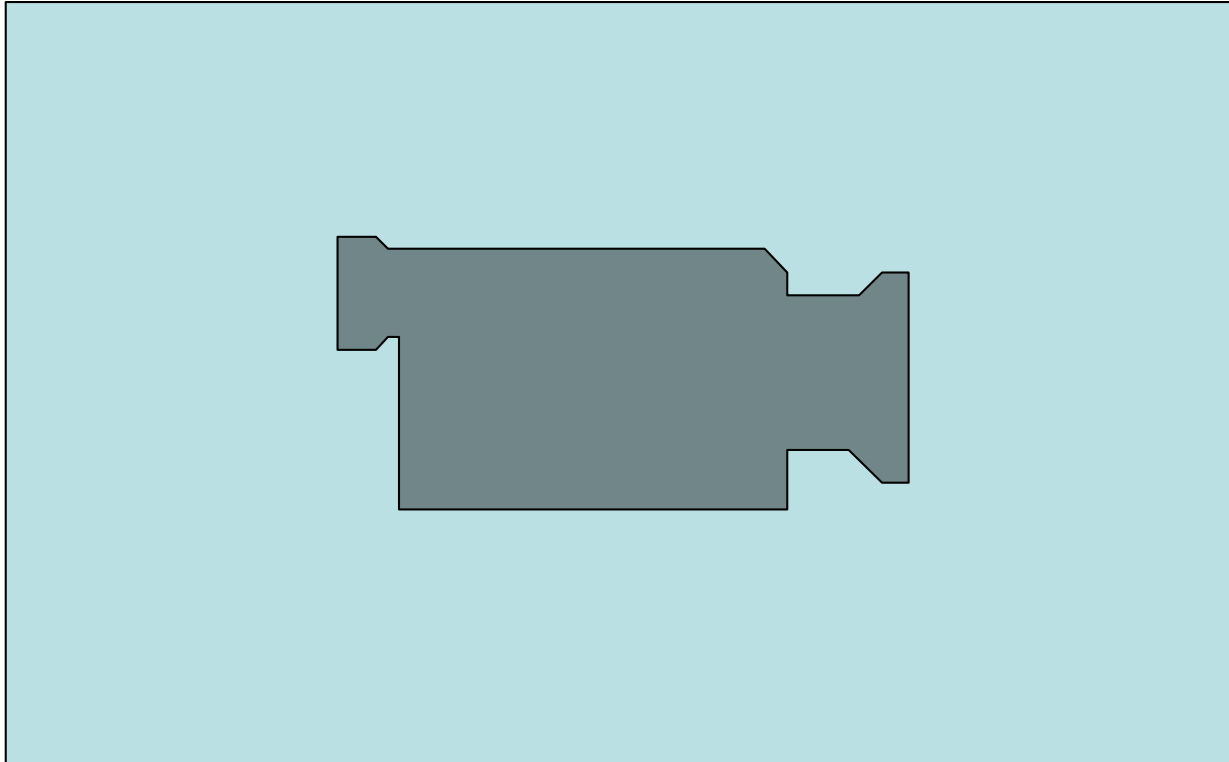
A Suggested Structure



- Paragraph 1 - What you are applying for and why you are interested in this area.
- Paragraph 2 - What experience, hobbies, interests etc. you have done which would make you ideal for this course
- Paragraph 3 - Any other relevant information
- Paragraph 4 - Why you should be considered for this course/what future career you can see yourself having.

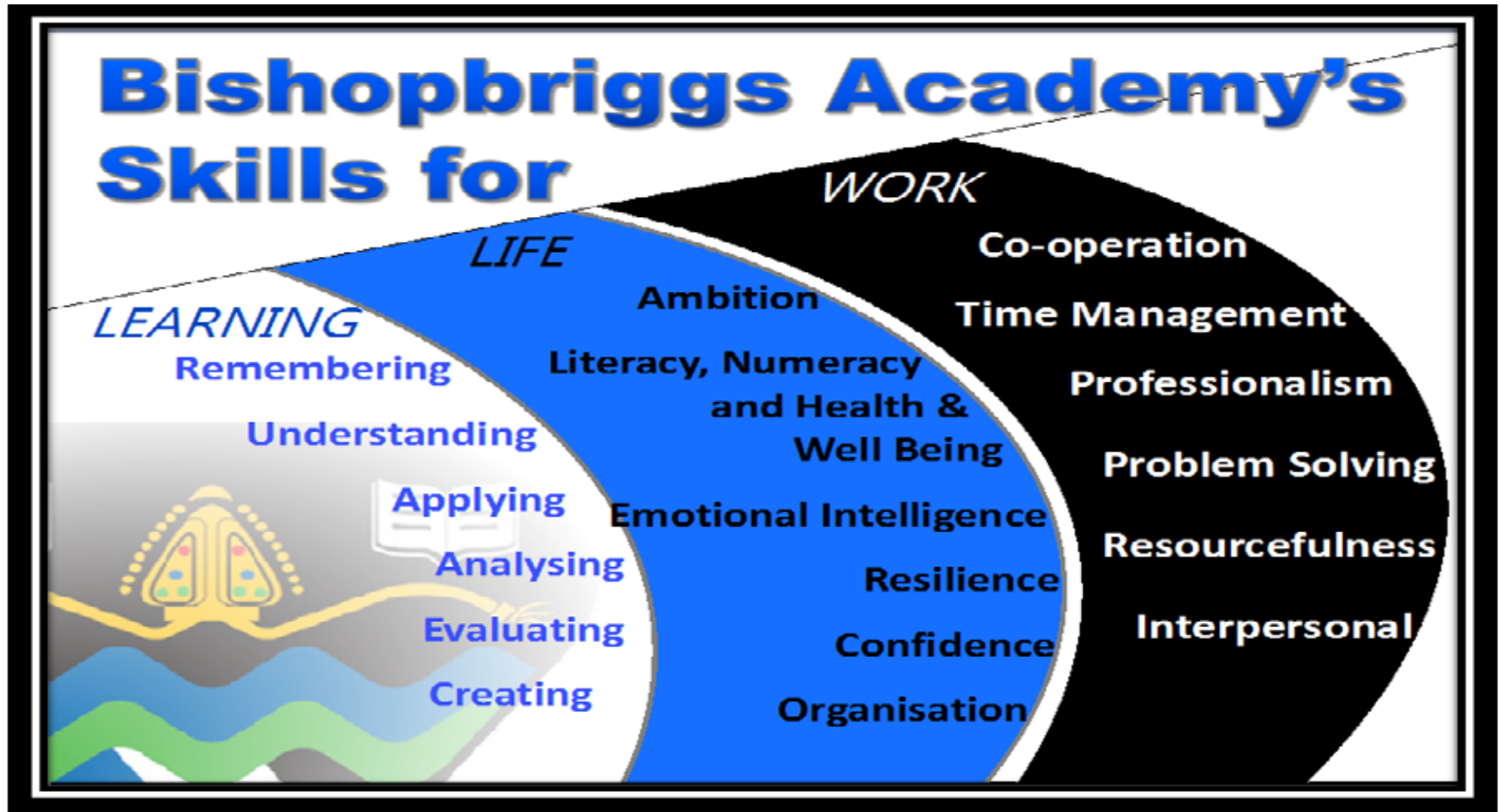
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Writing a Personal Statement: Hints & Tips



<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/how-write-ucas-undergraduate-personal-statement>

> **Key Skills to Mention:**



>

Things you could add:



Primary School Link
School Clubs
House Council
School Committees
Charity events
Paired Reading
Buddy
Youth Champion (Poland Trip)
Young Enterprise
Departmental Links
Volunteer Work
Prefects/Captain
Work placement
First aid certificate
Pool Lifeguard
Sports coaching awards
Kenya



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Online Experience: OpenLearn Courses

> <https://www.open.edu/openlearn/free-courses/full-catalogue#>

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the OpenLearn website. The browser's address bar shows the URL <https://www.open.edu/openlearn/free-courses/full-catalogue#>. The website header includes the OpenLearn logo, the text 'Free Learning from The Open University', a search bar with the placeholder 'Search for free courses, interactiv', and the Open University logo. Below the header is a navigation menu with links: Home, Free courses (underlined), Subjects, For Study, For Life, TV & Radio, and a green button 'Create account / Sign in'. The main content area is titled 'All our free courses' and features a search bar. On the left, there is a sidebar with the heading 'Free courses' and a list of links: 'All our free courses' (with a colorful dot icon), 'Why study a free course on OpenLearn?' (with a document icon), 'Advantages of enrolling on a free course' (with a checkmark icon), 'Badged courses' (with a badge icon), and 'Frequently asked questions' (with a question mark icon). The main content area displays two large, colorful buttons: 'Health, Sports & Psychology' (blue) and 'Education & Development' (pink), both with downward-pointing chevrons. The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the time as 14:51 on 03/09/2020.

The Open University | Study with The Open University

OpenLearn

Free Learning from The Open University

Search for free courses, interactiv

Home **Free courses** Subjects For Study For Life TV & Radio [Create account / Sign in](#)

Free courses ▶ All our free courses

Free courses

- All our free courses
- Why study a free course on OpenLearn?
- Advantages of enrolling on a free course
- Badged courses
- Frequently asked questions

All our free courses

Search free courses

Health, Sports & Psychology

Education & Development

> The Reference – What we include

- Their post-16 academic performance and their potential for success in higher education.
- Why they're suited to their chosen subject and career path, plus their attitude, motivation and commitment.
- Skills and qualities like aptitude and enthusiasm, plus current or past achievements that will help with their chosen subject area.
- Achievements, work experience, extracurricular activities and interests that relate to their chosen courses.
- Any factors/personal circumstances that might affect their performance (consent must be gained first to mention health or disabilities).

> Next Steps...



How do I check
the progress of
my application?

> UCAS Track



Track will allow your son or daughter to:

- follow the progress of their application online
- see their choices and personal information
- see their offers
- reply to offers online

> Offers: decisions and replies

- Admissions tutors can offer interviews and make 3 decisions:



- **Unconditional Offer**

If you already have all required grades



- **Conditional Offer**

Offering a place dependent upon successfully meeting academic conditions

These could be expressed in terms of:

UCAS Tariff points

Qualification grades/results

A mixture of the above



- **Unsuccessful**

The HEI cannot offer you a place

UCAS Tariff

- The UCAS Tariff is a means of allocating points to post-16 qualifications used for entry to higher education.
- Not all institutions use the Tariff and may use grades instead
- Check carefully entry requirements
- See tariff calculator to check your qualifications:
<https://www.ucas.com/ucas/undergraduate/getting-started/entryrequirements/ucas-undergraduate-tariff-points>

> Scottish Qualifications: Tariff Points

Advanced Higher	Higher	Tariff points
A		56
B		48
C		40
D		32
	A	33
	B	27
	C	21
	D	15



When to upgrade Highers?

- ▶ If a Higher which you gained at B or C is required at A or B for entry to your chosen course

When to take Advanced Highers?

- ▶ If you enjoy a subject, want to continue studying it and are close to the required entry grades for your chosen course by the end of S5
- ▶ If you gained a C in a Higher required at B, but are very confident you can gain at least a C at Advanced Higher, this is an alternative to upgrading the Higher

In both cases, it is important to check the entry requirements in the undergraduate prospectus, to find out what credit is given to Advanced Highers for the courses which interest you or what Highers are required for entry.

> How an offer might actually look

Institution	Course	Decision	Reply	Conditions
(G28) University of Glasgow	(H600) Electronics and Electrical Engineering	Unconditional offer		This offer is subject to you obtaining We strongly encourage you to fully commit to your S6 studies even though you have an unconditional offer based on your S5 results. If you are considering dropping S6 subjects included in your UCAS application you must contact University Admissions. Research indicates that students with good S6 results find the transition to university much smoother and attain better degrees. Graduate employers are interested in all qualifications attained by students - not just their degree qualification.
(G28) University of Glasgow	(H601) Electronics and Electrical Engineering	Conditional offer	----- !	This offer is subject to you obtaining Scottish Qualifications Authority Advanced Higher Grades AB in any order in Mathematics Physics Entry to the BEng will be offered if the MEng conditions are not met. Please follow UCAS Track instructions for accepting the BEng offer if applicable.
(S78) University of Strathclyde	(H600) Electronic and Electrical Engineering	Unconditional offer	-----	
(S78) University of Strathclyde	(H601) Electronic and Electrical Engineering	Unconditional offer		
(S78) University of Strathclyde	(HH6H) Electrical and Mechanical Engineering	Conditional offer		This offer is subject to you obtaining Scottish Qualifications Authority Advanced Higher Grade B - Mathematics and Grade C - Physics

> Applicant replies

- When applicants have received decisions from **ALL** of your choices, if you have offers you will be asked to make replies (and given a date to reply by) on Track
- UCAS will send reminders – but if you fail to reply by your reply date, your offers will be **declined by default!**
- Once all decisions are received, you will be able to hold a maximum of **2** offers:
 - **Firm** (if you meet the conditions you will be placed)
 - **Insurance** (only comes into play if you are not placed with your Firm choice)

Any other offers must be **declined**

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> **Next Steps: If left holding no offers**

EXTRA

- Operates from **25 Feb** to the **5 July**
- You are eligible if you have:
 - Used all 5 choices
 - Holding no offers
- You can add one more choice at a time via Track

CLEARING

- Operates **mid July** onwards (depending on your status)
- You are eligible if you are:
 - Holding no offers
- Add one choice at a time via Track
- Clearing vacancy list
- Call HEIs first and get verbal offer(s)

>What your son/daughter should be doing now?

- Research
- Extra curricular
- Work experience
- Virtual Open Days
- Go beyond the syllabus
- Focus on this year's studies



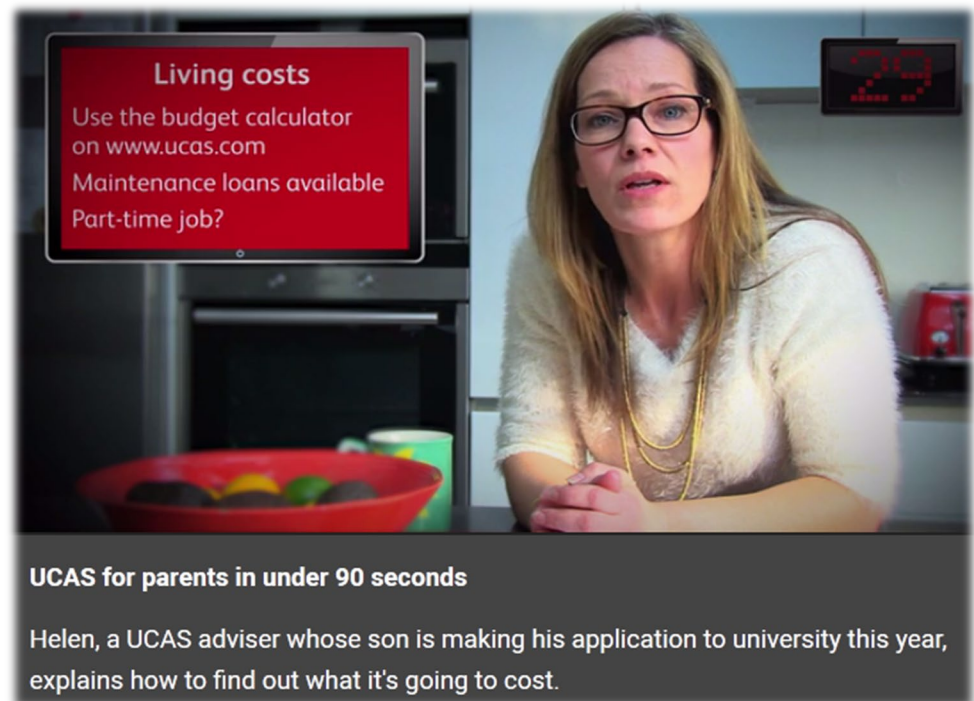
>How can you support the application process?

- Use the parents/guardians section of the UCAS website/Parent Guide publication – www.ucas.com/parents and sign up for the newsletter.
- Make sure they read everything carefully that is sent to them.
- Support your son/daughter's management of their application.

New videos for parents

UCAS has developed four videos on key topics:

- The UCAS process
- Open days
- Student finance
- Clearing



www.ucas.com/parents

UCAS

OTHER USEFUL RESOURCES

- www.ucas.com
- www.myworldofwork.co.uk/
- www.thestudentroom.co.uk/
- www.university.which.co.uk/
- www.whatuni.com/
- www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/
- www.theguardian.com/education/universityguide

- > Link to UCAS homepage and My World of Work can be found on the school website



Welcome to our website

We hope you find it concise, informative and stimulating. Bishopbriggs Academy has built a strong reputation in its community and beyond. We aim to provide the highest quality of learning experience for all our young people through outstanding practice in our classrooms and by offering a wide range of extra curricular activities. [Read more >](#)





- Please raise hand / unmute microphone
- Individual questions can be answered by Guidance Teacher / Mrs Kerr by contacting school