



HIGHER EDUCATION

APPLYING THROUGH UCAS

**Parent Information Evening
Monday 5th September**



> Welcome!

- Mrs Claire Kerr – Depute Head Teacher (S5/6 Year Head)
- Ms Julie McSherry – Principal Teacher of Guidance (Macdonald House)
- Mrs Alice Currie – Principal Teacher of Guidance (Muir House)

> 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 **£22.50 / £27**
- 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.



UCAS APPLY
Online Applications for Higher Education 2022-23



UCAS

A QUICK GUIDE ON HOW TO
GET STARTED!



UCAS

UCAS - Key dates and deadlines

- **Now** : Through PSE the application process has started
- **6 September**: School can start to submit completed applications to UCAS
- **13 September**: UCAS Exhibition – SEC Glasgow
- **3 October** : Music/Drama Courses - Conservatoire (CUKAS)
- **15 October**: deadline for
 - Medicine, Veterinary, Dentistry
 - Oxford or Cambridge
- **25 January**: main deadline
- **23 February**: UCAS Extra opens
- **July TBC**: UCAS Clearing opens

Admissions test ***may*** need to be completed prior to applying

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Bishopbriggs Academy Deadlines

First draft of Personal Statement: Monday 5th September

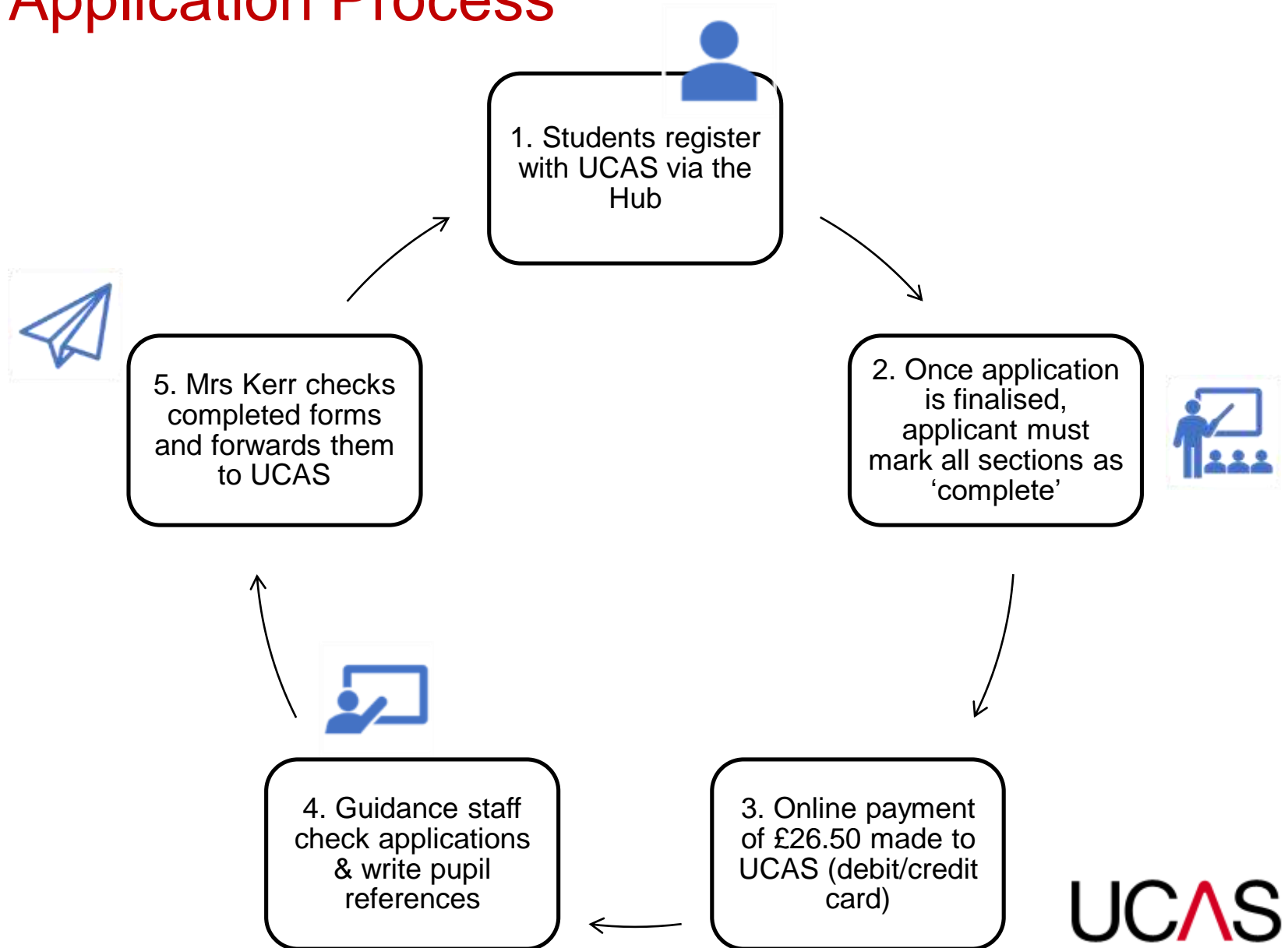
Final Draft of Personal Statement: Monday 3rd October

Final submission of application: Monday 10th 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



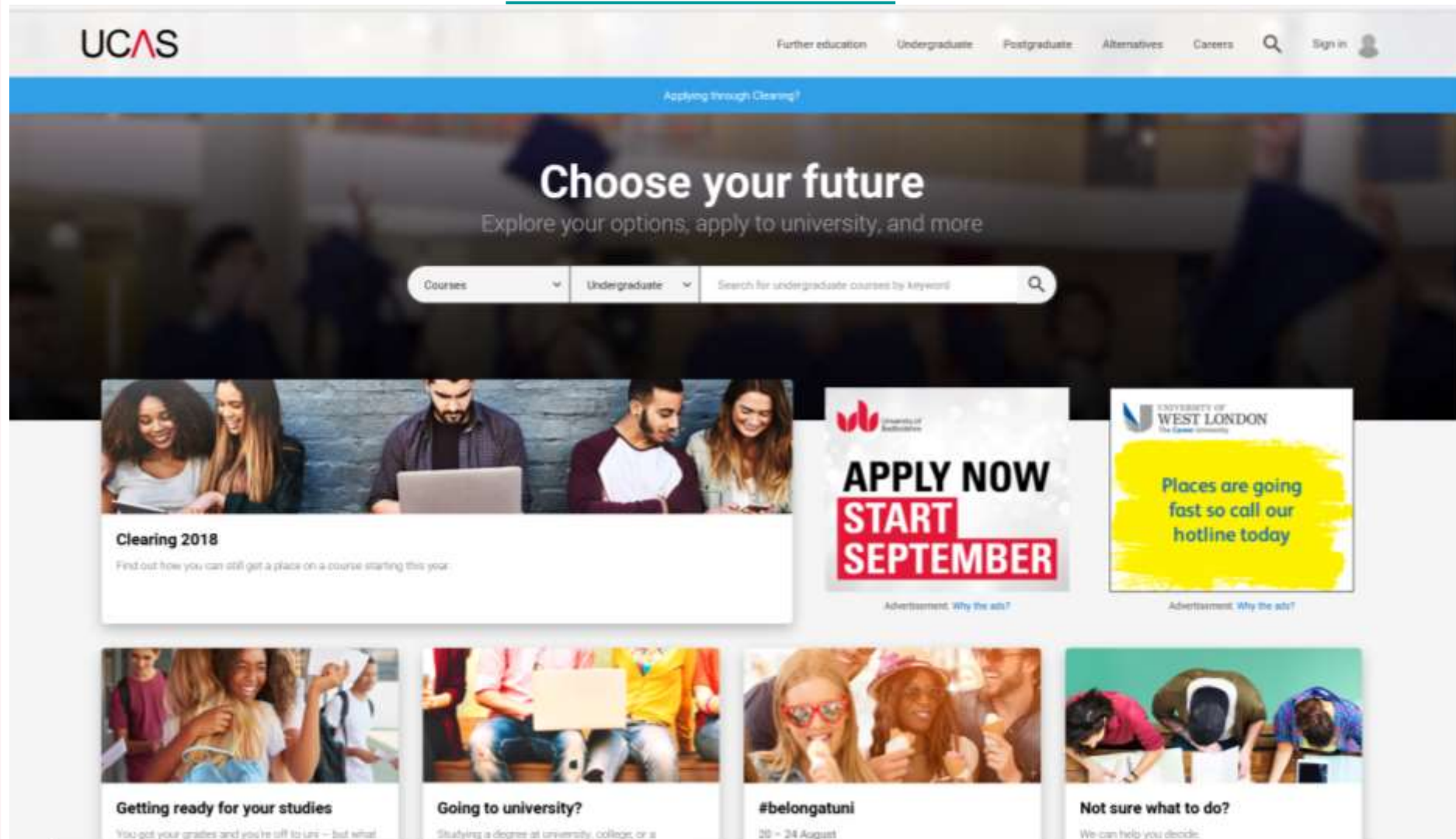
REMEMBER:

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



The screenshot shows the UCAS website homepage. At the top is the UCAS logo and a navigation bar with links for Further education, Undergraduate, Postgraduate, Alternatives, Careers, a search icon, and a Sign in link. Below the navigation bar is a blue banner with the text "Applying through Clearing?". The main section features a large heading "Choose your future" with the subtext "Explore your options, apply to university, and more". Below this is a search bar with dropdown menus for "Courses" and "Undergraduate", and a text input field for "Search for undergraduate courses by keyword". The page is divided into several promotional tiles. On the left, a large tile for "Clearing 2018" features a photo of four students and the text "Find out how you can still get a place on a course starting this year". To its right are two smaller tiles: one for the University of East London with the text "APPLY NOW START SEPTEMBER" and another for the University of West London with the text "Places are going fast so call our hotline today". Below these are four more tiles: "Getting ready for your studies" (with the subtext "You got your grades and you're off to uni - but what"), "Going to university?" (with the subtext "Studying a degree at university, college, or a"), "#belongatuni" (with the subtext "20 - 24 August"), and "Not sure what to do?" (with the subtext "We can help you decide").

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Further education Undergraduate Postgraduate Alternatives Careers Search 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

APPLY NOW START SEPTEMBER

Advertisement. Why the ads?

Places are going fast so call our hotline today

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

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

- Split into Home / Outside of UK

- Different ways to search:

- Subject
- Code
- Institution
- Geographical location



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

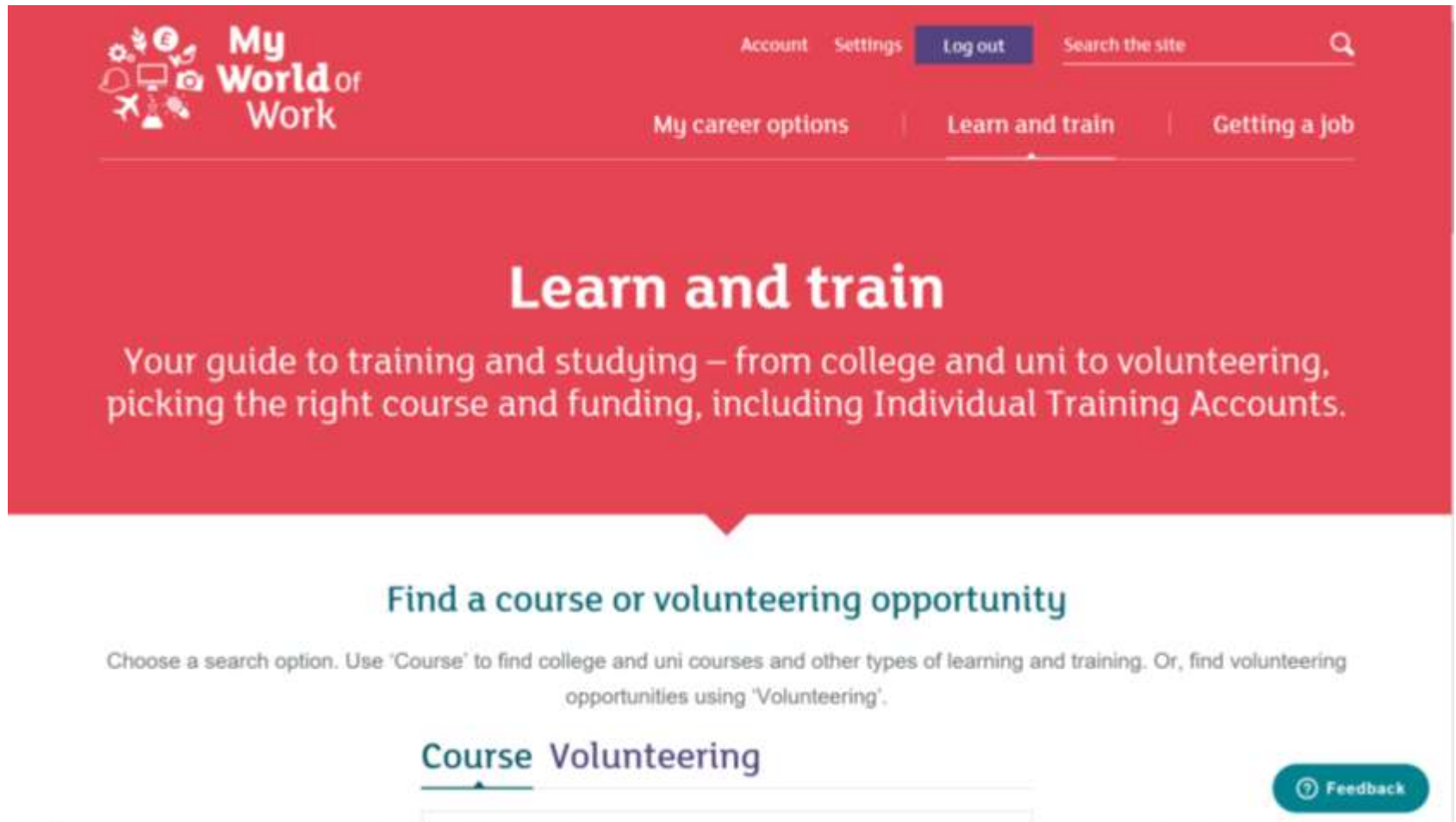
> UCAS: Course Search Function www.ucas.com

The screenshot displays the UCAS Course Search Function interface. On the left, there are several filter sections: 'Filters' with a search bar containing 'Physics', 'In which academic year would you like to start your studies?' with radio buttons for '2018 - 2019' (selected) and '2019 - 2020', 'Search for Clearing vacancies?' with radio buttons for 'Show all courses' (selected) and 'Show Clearing courses with vacancies', 'What type of degree do you want to study?' with radio buttons for 'Undergraduate' (selected) and 'Postgraduate', and 'Where do you want to study?' with a text input field containing 'Strathclyde' and a checkbox for 'Conservatores UK (CUK)'. The main search results area shows 'Found 511 courses from 62 providers'. The first provider listed is 'University of Aberdeen', which has '9 undergraduate courses'. The second provider is 'Abertay University', which has '1 undergraduate course'. The third provider is 'Aberystwyth University', which has '14 undergraduate courses'. Each provider's list of courses includes the course name and a 'Show more courses' button.

Filters can be used to narrow your search:

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

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



The screenshot shows the 'My World of Work' website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the site logo on the left, and links for 'Account', 'Settings', 'Log out', and a search bar on the right. Below this is a secondary navigation bar with three tabs: 'My career options', 'Learn and train' (which is highlighted with a red underline), and 'Getting a job'. The main content area has a red header with the title 'Learn and train' in white. Below the title, a white text box contains the description: 'Your guide to training and studying – from college and uni to volunteering, picking the right course and funding, including Individual Training Accounts.' Further down, a section titled 'Find a course or volunteering opportunity' provides instructions on how to use the search function. At the bottom of this section, there are two tabs: 'Course' (highlighted with a red underline) and 'Volunteering'. A search input field is located below these tabs. In the bottom right corner of the page, there is a teal 'Feedback' button with a question mark icon.

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.

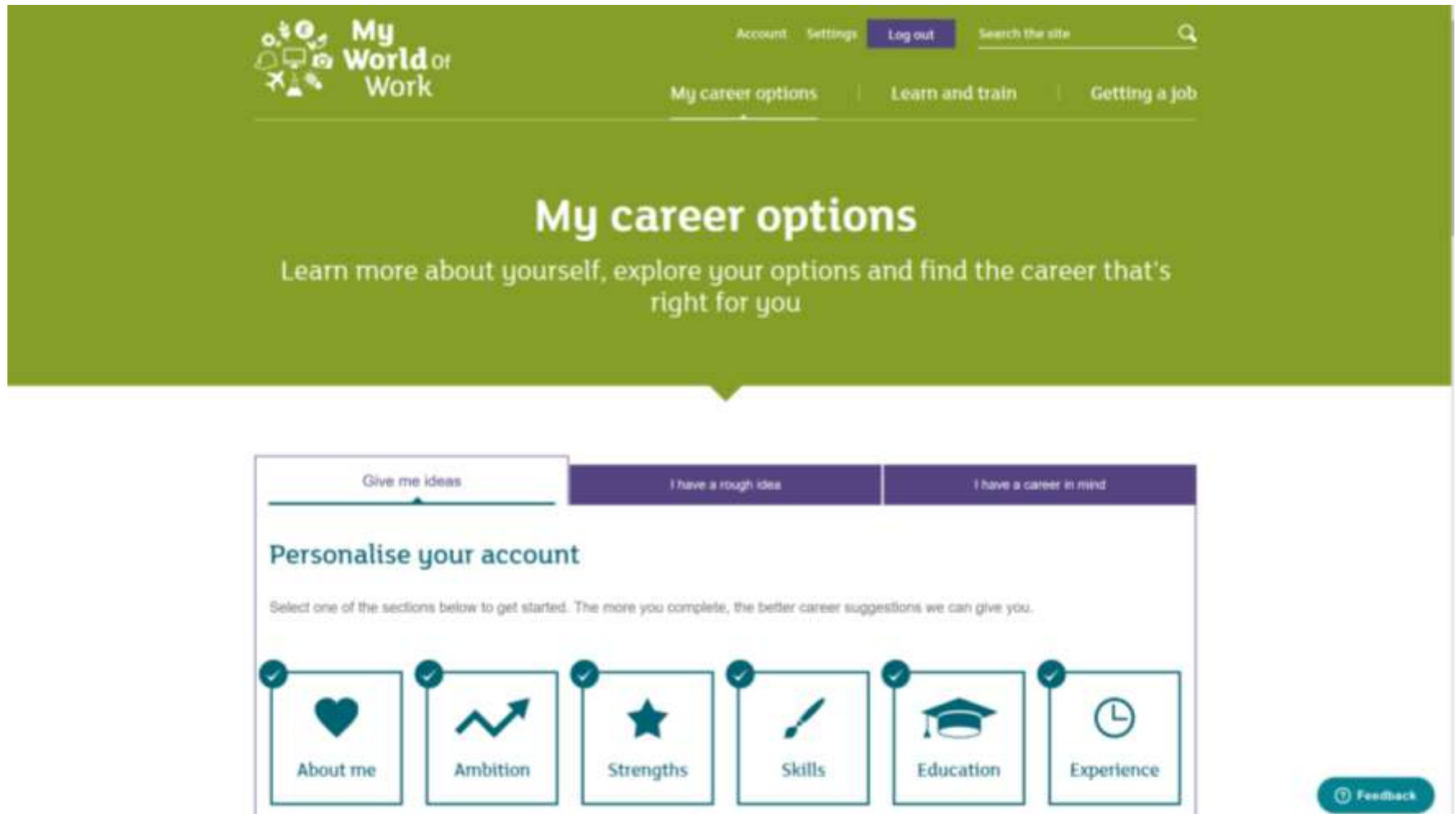
Find a course or volunteering opportunity

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>



> 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.



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 ...'

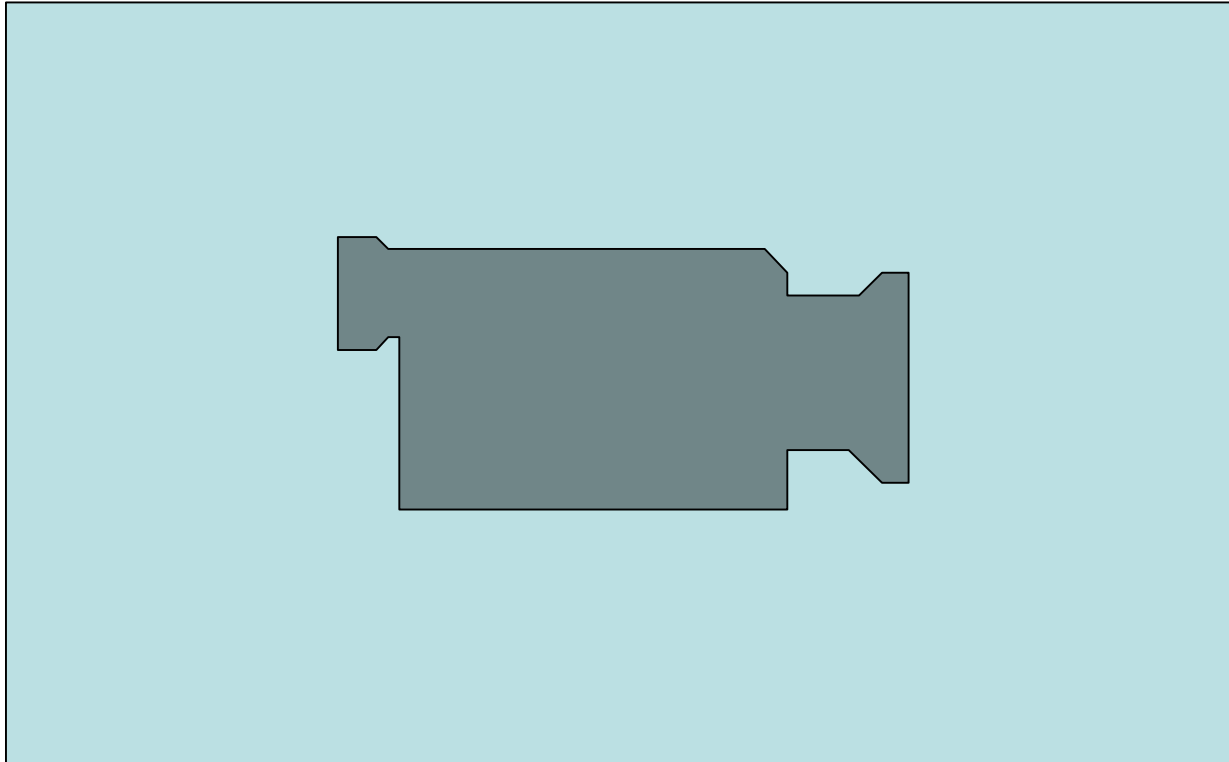
A Suggested Structure



- 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.

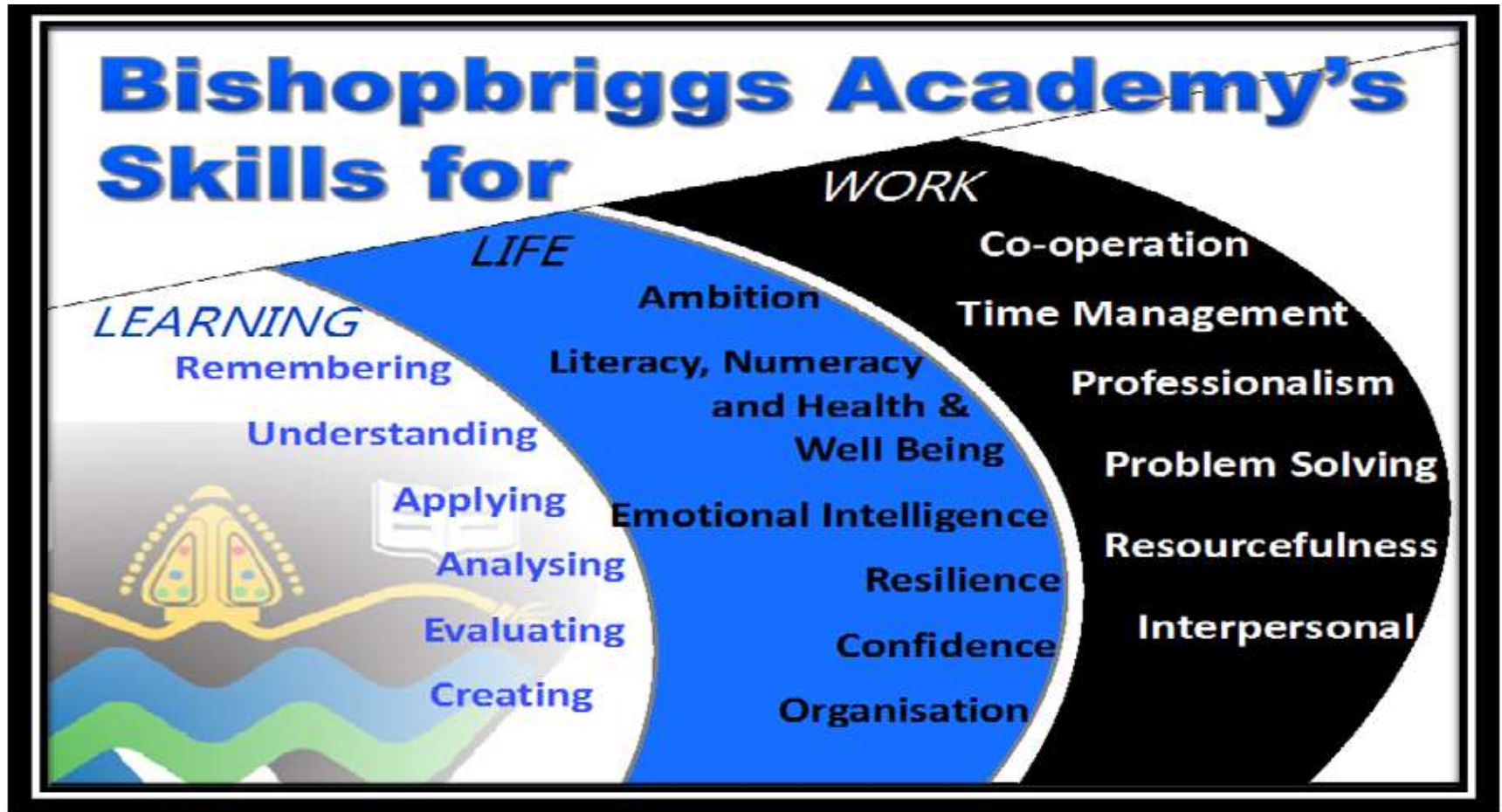
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Writing a Personal Statement: Hints & Tips



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

> **Key Skills to Mention:**



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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 a navigation menu with links: Home, Free courses (underlined), Subjects, For Study, For Life, TV & Radio, and a 'Create account / Sign in' button. The main content area is titled 'All our free courses' and features a search bar. Below the search bar, there are two large, colorful buttons: 'Health, Sports & Psychology' (blue) and 'Education & Development' (pink), both with downward-pointing chevrons. On the left side of the page, there is a sidebar titled 'Free courses' with a list of links: 'All our free courses' (with a circular 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 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 **23 Feb** to the **30 June**
- 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 from **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

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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 >](#)



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Feedback Form
Please scan the QR
code

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