



HIGHER EDUCATION

APPLYING THROUGH UCAS

**Parent Information Evening
Monday 4th September 2023**



> 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 (Fleming House)

> UCAS - Setting the Scene



University & College Admissions Service

- **Independent Charity** - They also provide information, training and advice (<https://www.ucas.com/apprenticeships>)
- **Central organisation** who process all applications for entry to full time higher education (HE) courses in Scotland, England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

UCAS

> What is UCAS?

- UCAS operate on behalf of all full-time higher education courses at member institutions

350+ universities and colleges:

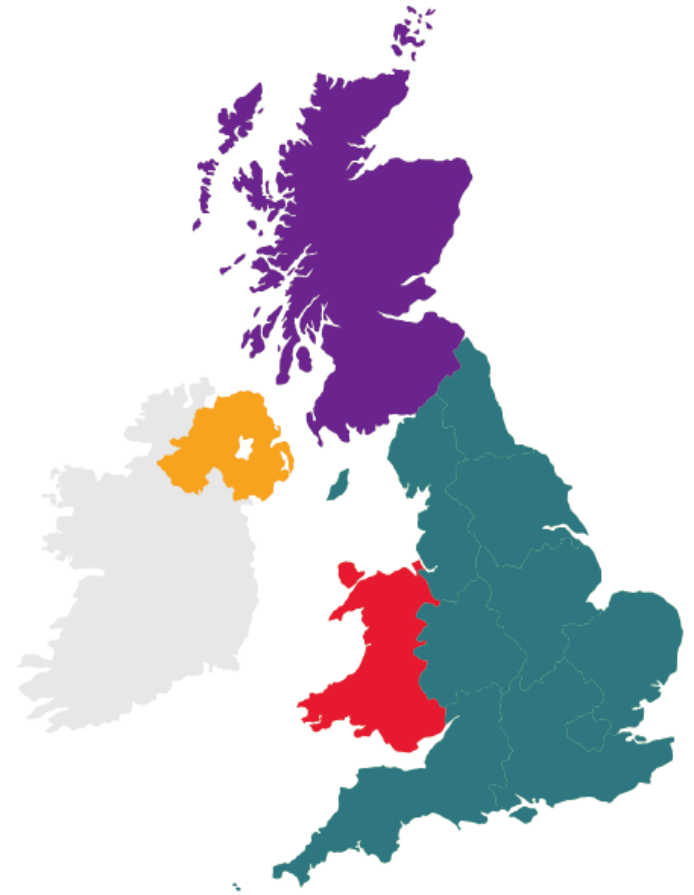
4 in Northern Ireland

15 in Wales

19 in Scotland

324 in England

35,000+ courses available



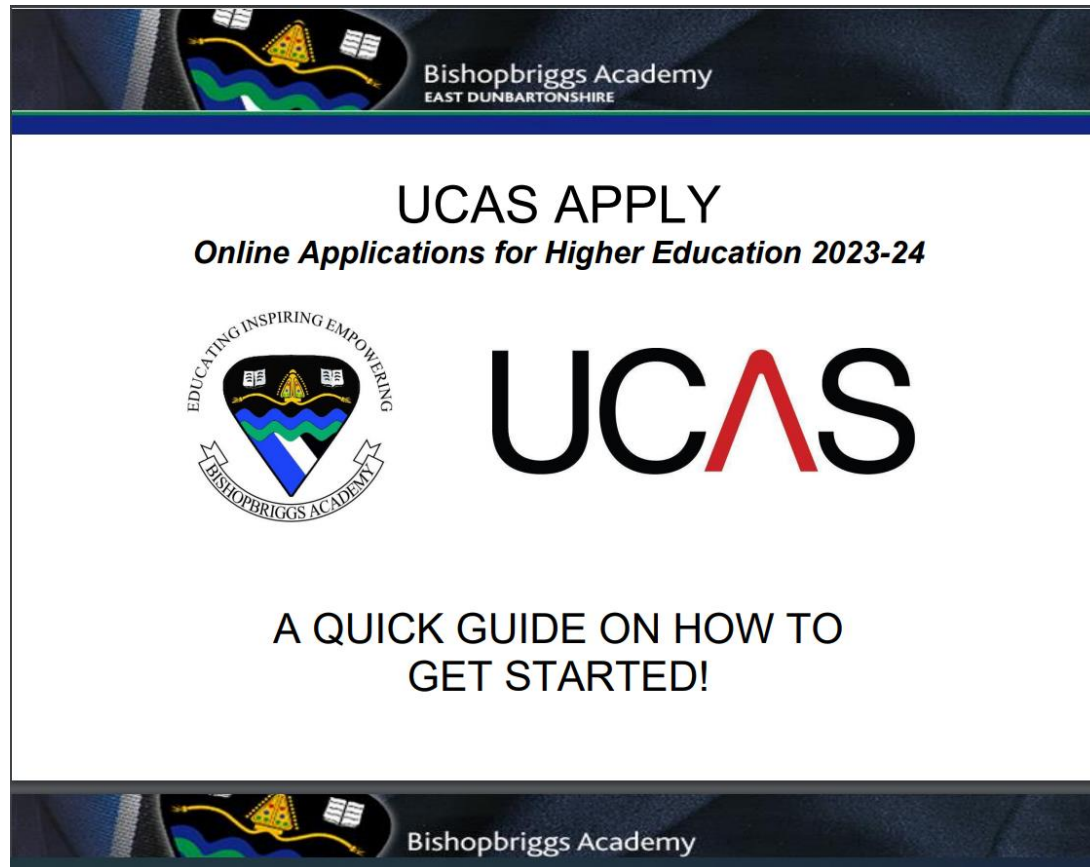
> Key facts

- Online Application – UCAS Apply
- Number of choices **5**
- Cost **£27.50***
- 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 applicant will be 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
 - **5 September**: School can start to submit completed applications to UCAS
 - **12 September**: UCAS Exhibition – SEC Glasgow
 - **2 October** : Music/Drama Courses - Conservatoire (CUKAS)
 - **16 October**: deadline for
 - Medicine, Veterinary, Dentistry
 - Oxford or Cambridge
 - **31 January**: main deadline
 - **28 February**: UCAS Extra opens
 - **5 July**: 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: Week beginning 4th September

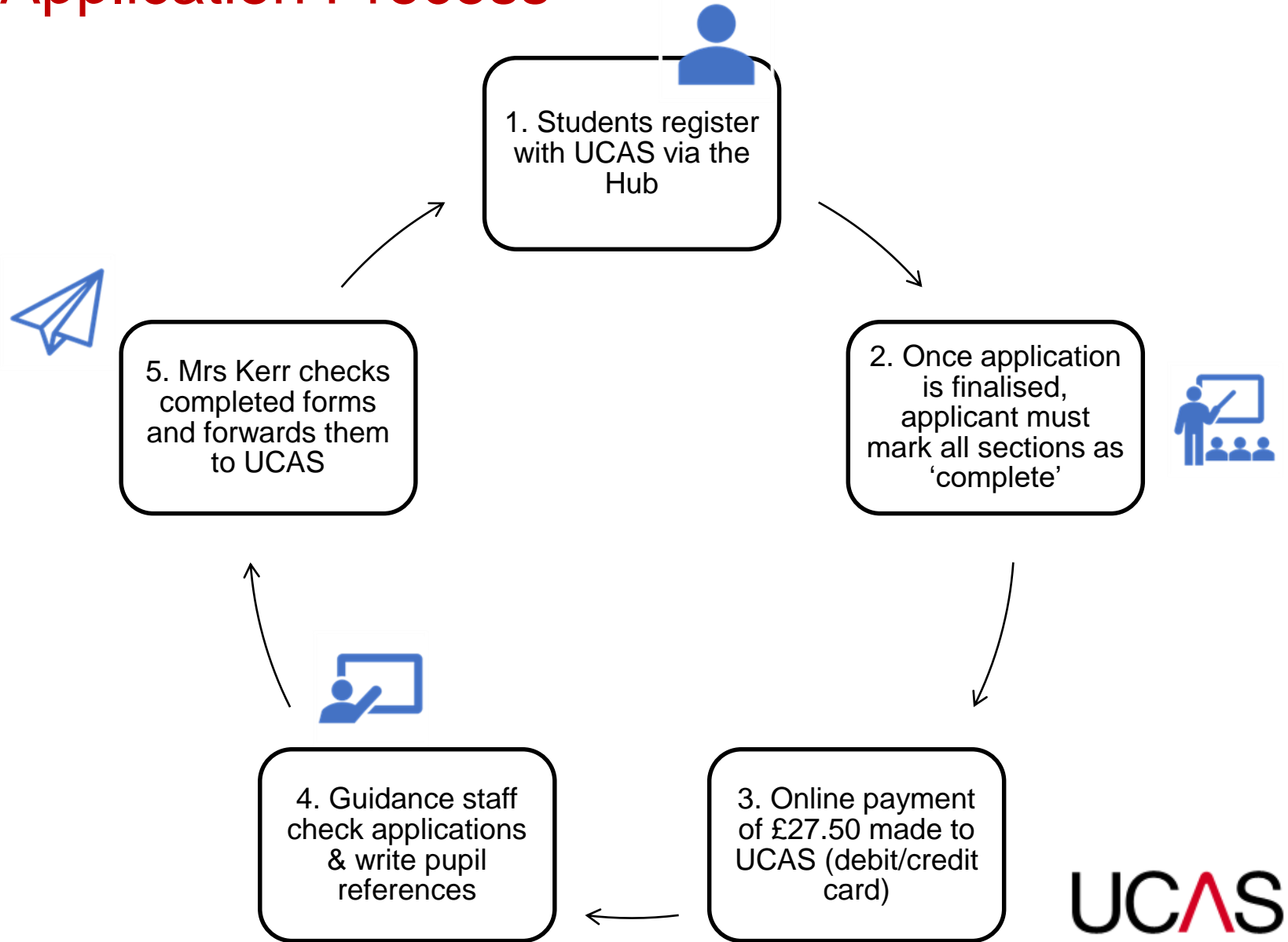
Final Draft of Personal Statement: Monday 2nd October

Final submission of application: Monday 13th November



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> Application Process



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What is my first step?

Research

Research

Research

Research

Research

Research

Research

Research

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Research

Research

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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

Clearing 2023
Discover your options

GO BEYOND BOUNDARIES
UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN
Find your True North in **Clearing**
LEARN MORE →
EST. → 1495

We're 1st in the UK for graduates in employment.
Get in touch
Canterbury Christ Church University

Advertisement. [Why the ads?](#)

Advertisement. [Why the ads?](#)

Explore your options
The personalised space to help you make the next step

Explore uni and colleges
A-Z and search universities and colleges

Explore regions
UK regions and city guides.

Feedback (

> 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)

Undergraduate ▾

2024-2025 ▾

Scotland ✕

Clear filters



Maths (Graduates only)

University of Edinburgh

Edinburgh Campus

Additional information in Scotland

1 year

08/2024

N/A

UCAS Tariff Points



Accountancy and Mathematics

University of Dundee

Main Site

BSc (Hons)

4 years

Full-time

09/2024

102-128

UCAS Tariff Points



Accountancy and Mathematics

University of Stirling

Main Site

BAcc (Hon)

4 years

Full-time

09/2024

120-128

UCAS Tariff Points

Related courses

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

Learn and train

College, university, training or volunteering – find out about your options and what funding is available.

[Go to section](#)

Find free online courses

Study, learn and upskill with free online learning.

Learning options

Explore different ways to learn.

Course search

Find further and higher education courses and training.

Funding

Advice on funding and grants to support learning.

Volunteering search

Discover opportunities to build your skills.

Individual Training Accounts

Get up to £200 to support training costs.

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

My career options

Learn more about yourself, explore your options and find the career that's right for you.

[Go to section](#)

About Me tool

Find careers that match your personality.

Option Choices tool

Find out where your subjects can take you.

Strengths tool

Discover jobs that suit your strengths.

Explore careers

Discover over 600 job profiles.

Skills Explorer tool

Learn which jobs match your skills.

Industries

Explore the different industries you could work in.

> 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

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> **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.

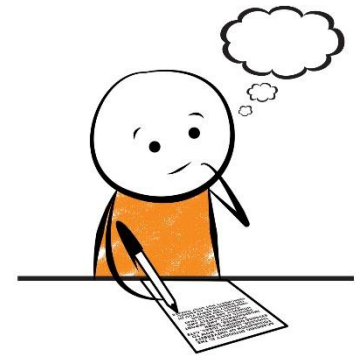
> The Personal Statement – top tips

- **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

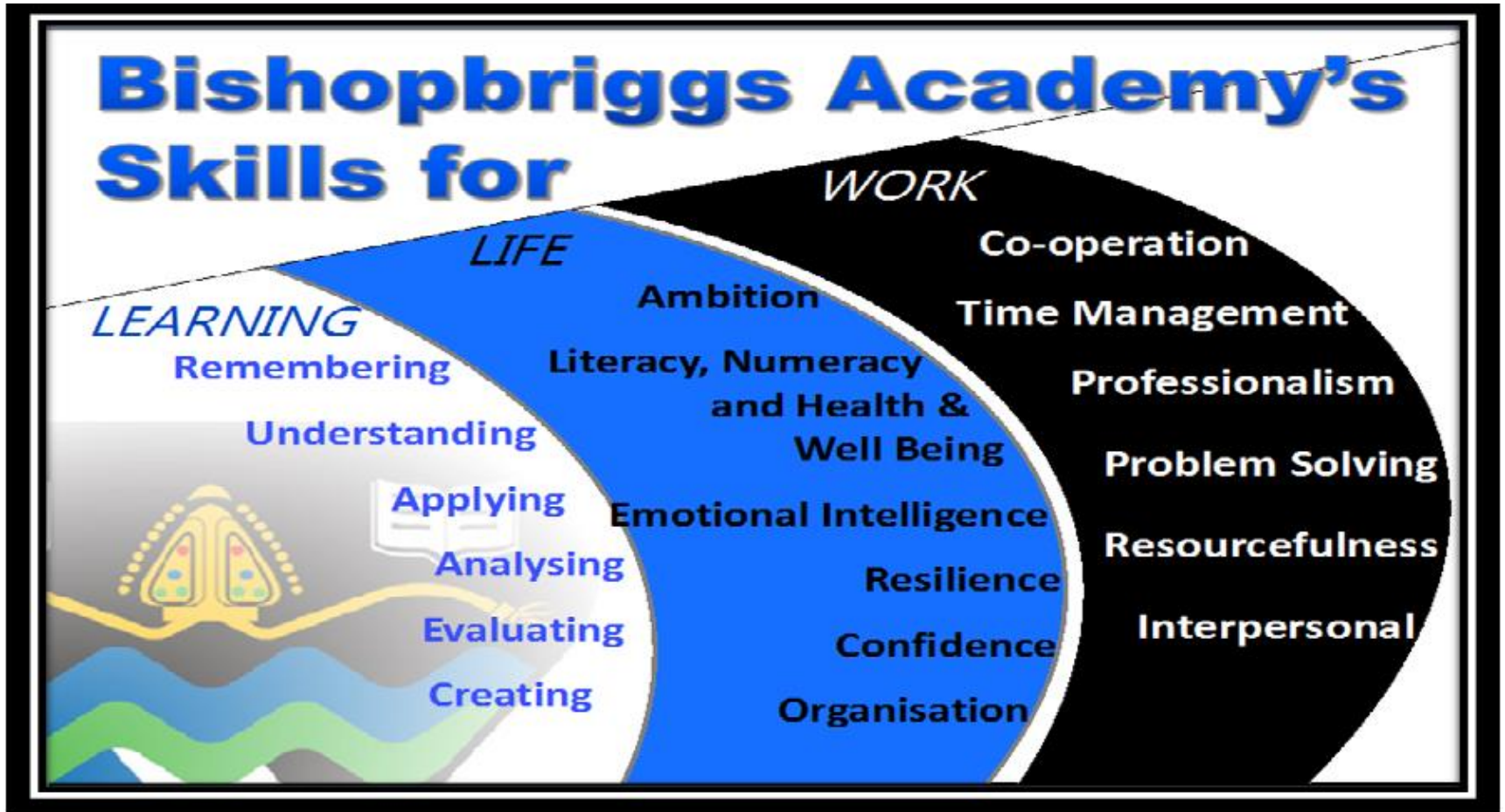


A Suggested Structure



- 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.

> **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 the Open University logo. A navigation menu below the header includes "Home", "Free courses" (which is 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 labeled "Search free courses". Below the search bar are three large, colorful buttons with dropdown arrows: "Health, Sports & Psychology" (blue), "Education & Development" (pink), and a partially visible red button. On the left side, there is a sidebar titled "Free courses" with 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 Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the time as 14:51 on 03/09/2020.

> The Reference – What we include

With effect from this year, UCAS are replacing the free text reference approach with three structured sections:



Enter a general statement about your school/college/centre.



If applicable, enter any information about extenuating circumstances which may have impacted the applicant's education and achievement.



Outline any other supportive information specific to the applicant and relevant to the course(s) applied for that you think universities/colleges should be aware of.

> 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 24/7
- see their choices and personal information
- view 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.

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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/tariff-calculator>

> Scottish Qualifications: Tariff Points

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

****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** choices.
- If you have offers you will be asked to make replies 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 **28 Feb** to the **4 July**
- **All applicants are now eligible to use this service if holding no offers**
- You can add one more choice at a time via Track

CLEARING

- Operates from **July** onwards (depending on your status)
- 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
- Attend Open Days
- Go beyond the curriculum
- Focus on this year's studies



How can you support the application process?

- Use the Parents/Carers section of the UCAS website www.ucas.com/parents and download the 2024 Parent/Carer Guide. (click [here](#))
- Support your son/daughter's management of their application.
- Make sure they read everything carefully that is sent to them.

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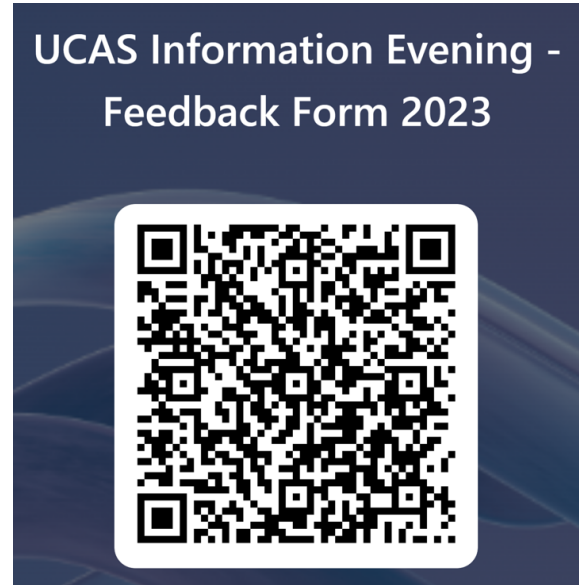
OTHER USEFUL RESOURCES

- 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



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Feedback Form
Scan the QR code