



HIGHER EDUCATION

APPLYING THROUGH UCAS

**Parent Information Evening
Monday 1st September 2025**



> Introductions

- Mrs Claire Kerr – Depute Head Teacher (S6 Year Head)
- Mrs Lesley Dawson – Principal Teacher of Guidance (Muir House)



> UCAS - Setting the Scene (www.ucas.com)



**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:

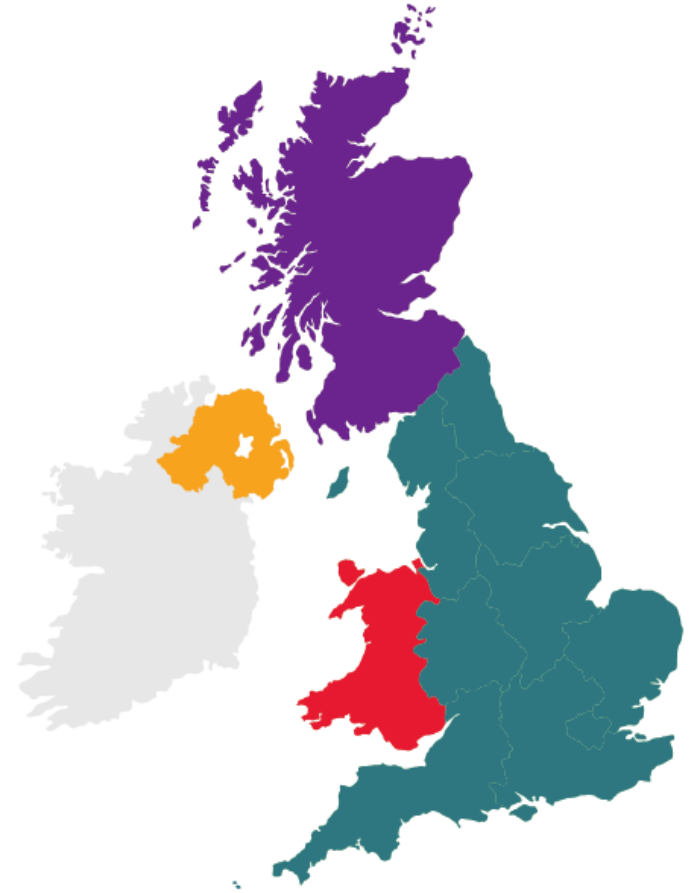
4 in Northern Ireland

15 in Wales

19 in Scotland

324 in England

35,000+ courses available



> Key facts

- Online Application – UCAS HUB
- Number of choices **5**
- Cost **£28.95* (FME)**
- 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.



UCAS

UCAS - Key dates and deadlines

- **Now** : Through PSE the application process has started
- **2 September**: School can start to submit completed applications to UCAS
- **2 October** : Music/Drama Courses - Conservatoire (Further info. [here](#))
- **15 October**: deadline for
 - Medicine, Veterinary, Dentistry
 - Oxford or Cambridge
- **14 January**: Main undergraduate deadline
- **26 February**: UCAS Extra opens
- **5 July**: UCAS Clearing opens



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

>

Bishopbriggs Academy Deadlines

First draft of Personal Statement: Week beginning 1st September

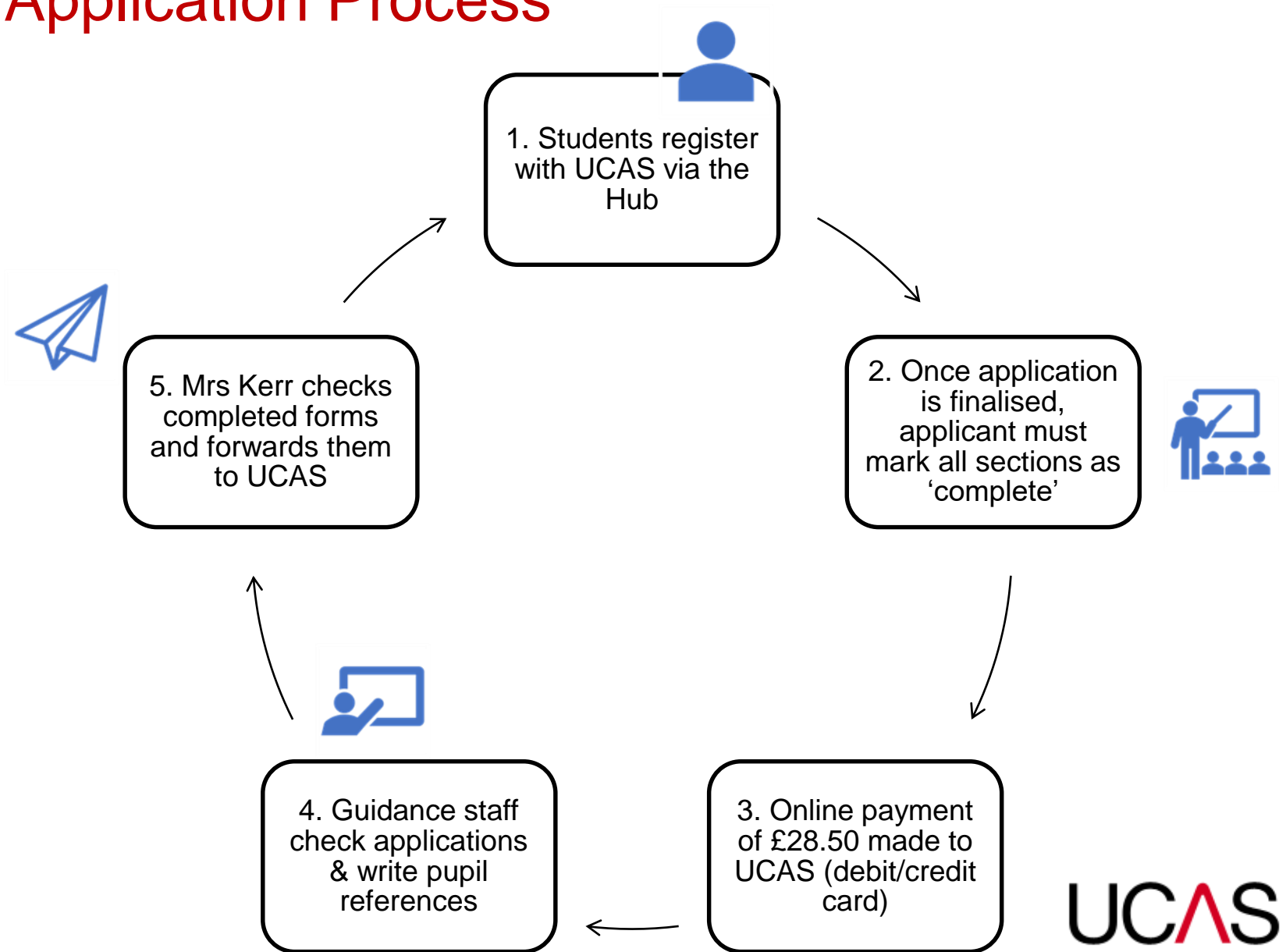
Final Draft of Personal Statement: Tuesday 30th September

Final submission of application: Tuesday 11th November



UCAS

> Application Process



What is my first step?

UCAS

> 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 course info, pupil info, parent info

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

<https://discoveruni.gov.uk/course-details/10007805/KIS0002822/Full-time/>
university statistics









<https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/student-advice/where-to-study/how-to-use-university-league-tables> university league tables


- Open days
- Work experience
- Word of mouth

Clearing 2025

Choose your future

 Search everything

-  Courses
-  Uni & Colleges
-  Apprenticeships
-  Employers
-  Events
-  Subject guides
-  Career guides
-  Industry guides
-  City guides



Discover your Clearing options

We'll guide you through every step – from understanding Clearing to exploring vacancies and hearing from students and experts. Get the trusted advice you need to prepare for results day and move forward with confidence.



PRIFYSGOL BANGOR UNIVERSITY

CLEARING

APPLY NOW OR CALL 0800 085 1818

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UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX

GUARANTEED ACCOMMODATION

with US

APPLY IN CLEARING

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

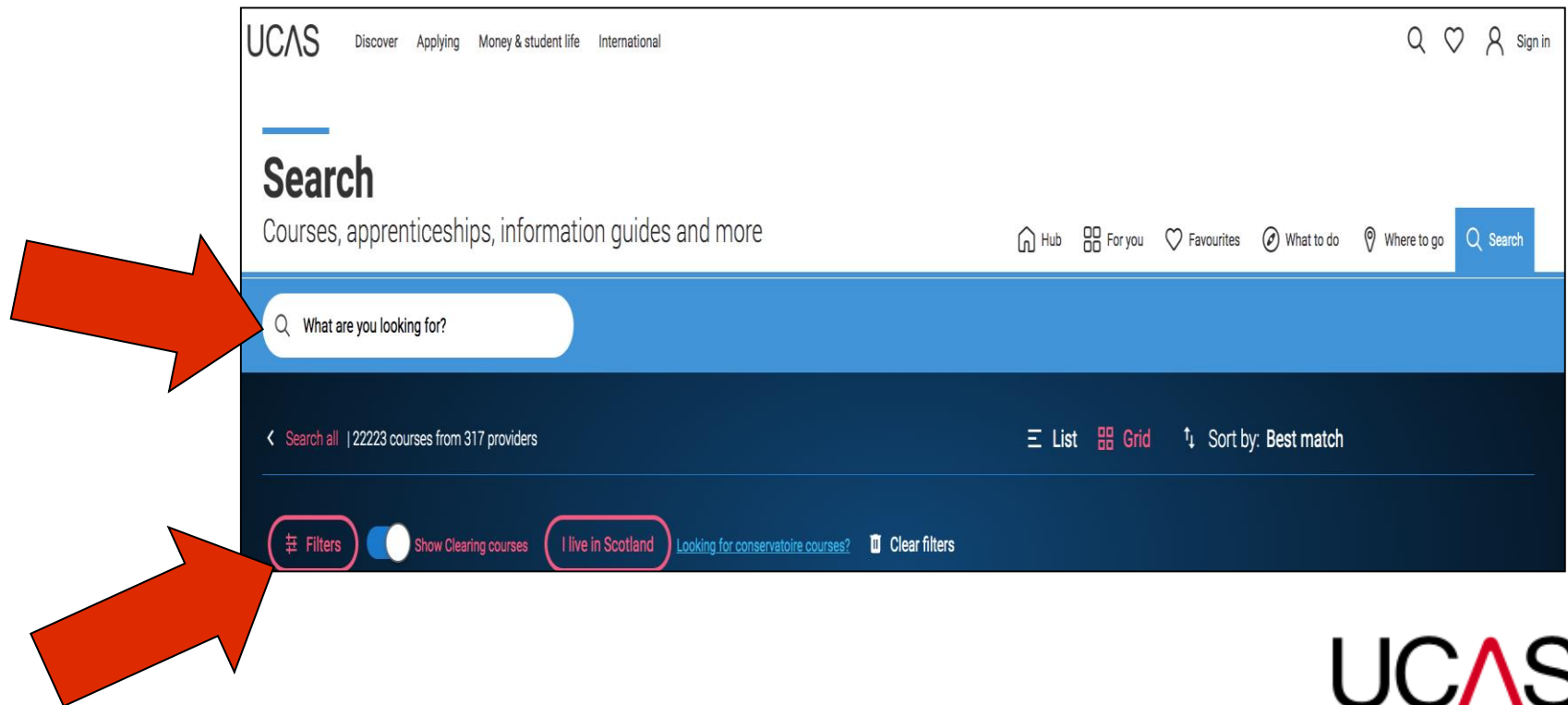


Explore regions

UK regions and city guides.

> UCAS Course Search

- Search box to find available courses
- Filters can be used to narrow your search



> UCAS Course Search

UCAS

Discover Applying Money & student life International



Course type and year

Select the year you'd like to study, and the type of course you're interested in to filter your results.

Undergraduate

Postgraduate

2025-2026

2026-2027

Conservatoire

Teacher training courses in Scotland and Wales

Select the start month for the course you're interested in.

Aug 2026

Sep 2026

Oct 2026

Nov 2026

Dec 2026

Jan 2027

Feb 2027

Mar 2027

Apr 2027

May 2027

Jun 2027

Jul 2027

Full-time

Accelerated

Part-time/flexible

Distance learning

Degree Apprenticeship

HNC or CertHE

HND or DipHE

Bachelor's

Masters

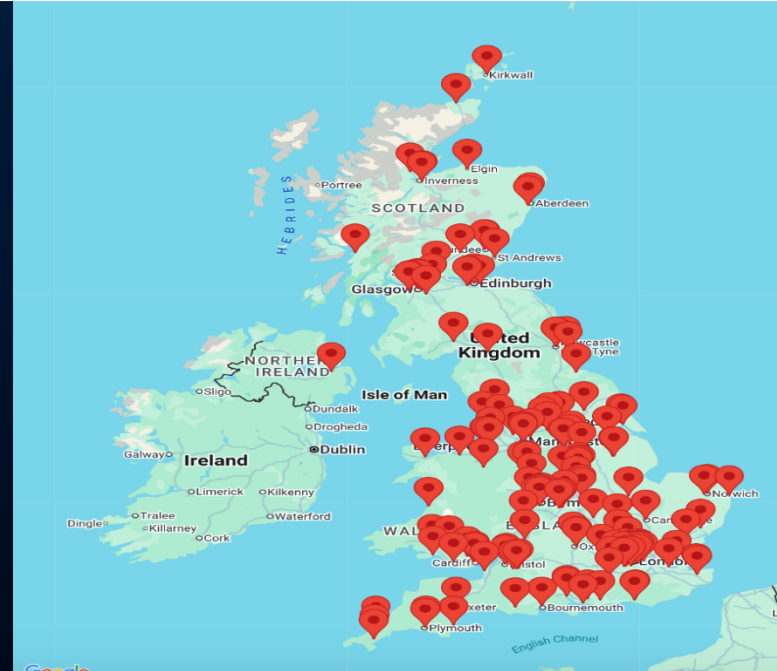
PG Certificates or Diplomas

Higher Technical Qualifications

Other qualifications

+ University or college

+ Subjects



- Available filters:
 - ❑ Course type and year
 - ❑ University/College
 - ❑ Subject(s)
 - ❑ Entry requirements
 - ❑ Geographical location

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> UCAS Course Search

Filters

Undergraduate ▾

2026-2027 ▾



Politics ×

History ×

Humanities ×

Scotland ×

Clear filters



Accountancy and Economics
University of Aberdeen
Main Site

MA (Hons)

4 years

Full-time



14/09/2026

N/A

UCAS Tariff Points

Chat to students

Related courses >



Ancient History/Archaeology
University of Glasgow
Gillmorehill (Main) Campus

MA (Hons)

4 years

Full-time



14/09/2026

120-136

UCAS Tariff Points

Chat to students

Related courses >



Ancient History/History
University of Glasgow
Gillmorehill (Main) Campus

MA (Hons)

4 years

Full-time

14/09/2026

120-136

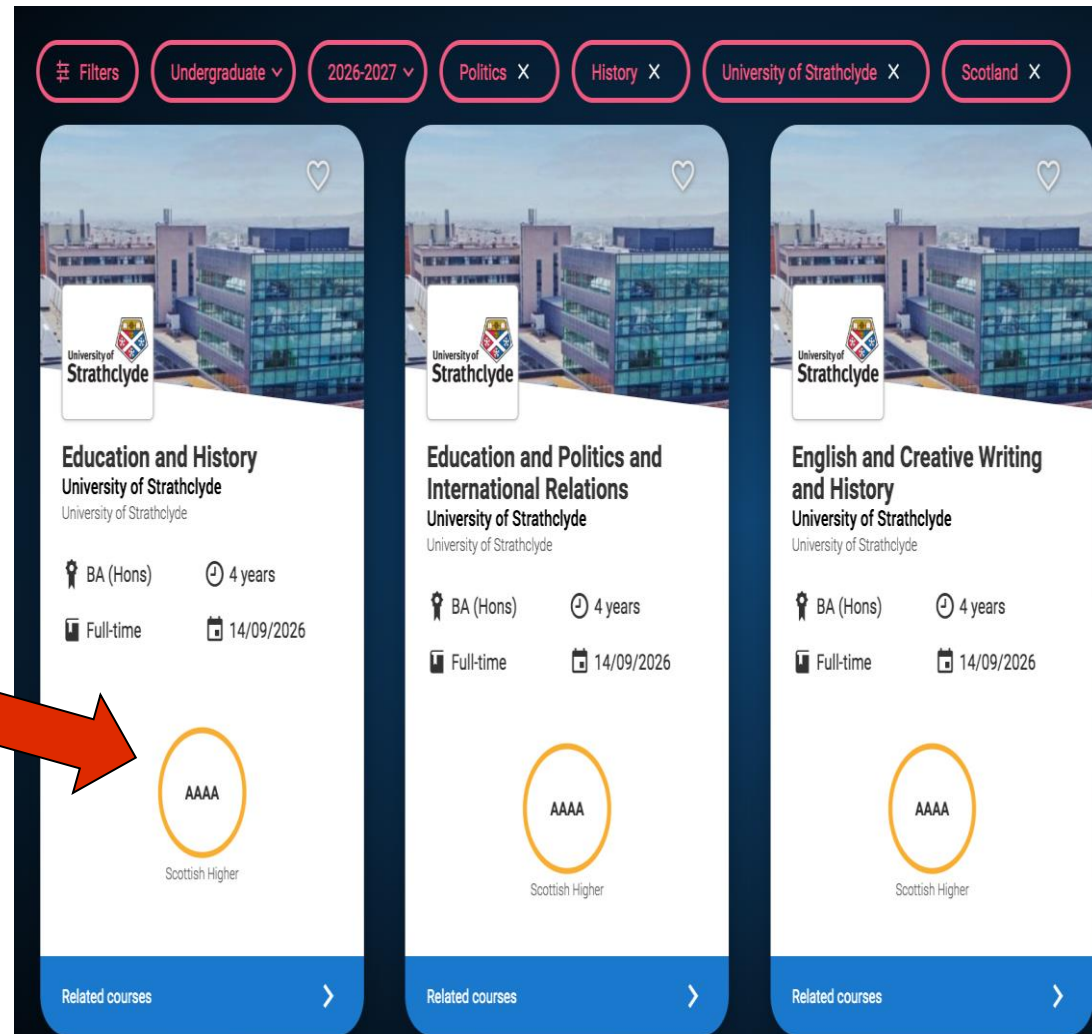
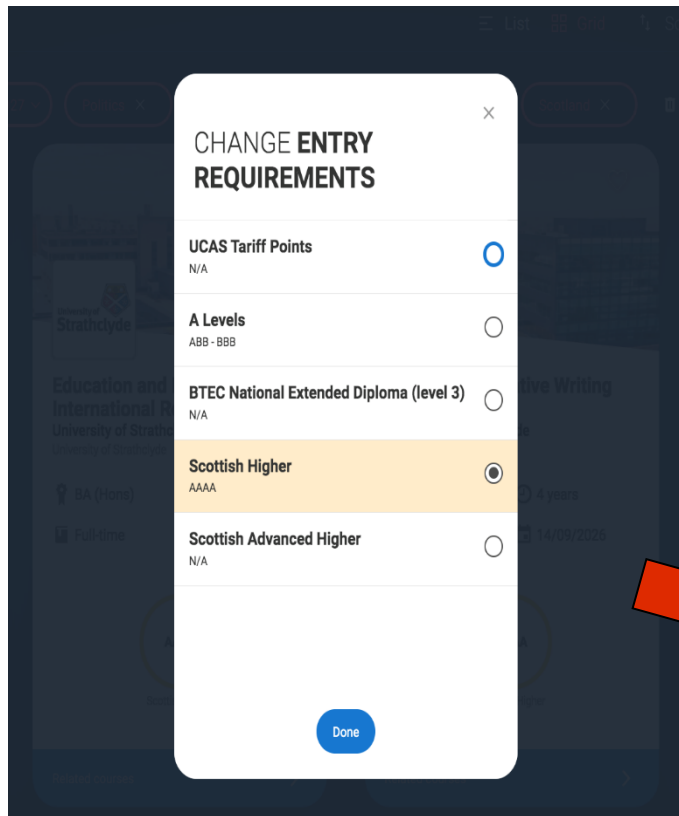
UCAS Tariff Points

Chat to students

Related courses >

> UCAS Course Search

- Entry requirements



>

My World of Work: <https://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/>

The screenshot shows the homepage of the My World of Work website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the following elements: a logo for Skills Development Scotland and My World of Work, a language dropdown menu set to 'EN', a search bar with the text 'Search My World of Work', a 'Sign in' link, and a 'Create an account' button. Below the navigation bar is a horizontal menu with links: 'Explore careers', 'Skills and tools', 'Getting a job', 'Courses', 'Career support', and 'Information for ...'. The main content area features a large yellow banner with the text 'Find your animal' and 'Find your future!' in purple rounded rectangles. A white arrow points from 'Find your animal' to 'Find your future!'. Below this text is a paragraph: 'Discover your animal personality with our fun quiz and get exciting career suggestions.' and a button labeled 'Try Animal Me'. To the right of the text is a large illustration of a tiger's face and a small seal. A red arrow points from the 'Courses' link in the navigation bar to the 'Find your future!' button. Below the yellow banner, the text 'Let's get you to the right place' is displayed. Underneath this text are five colored buttons with the following text: 'I'm a primary school pupil', 'I'm a secondary school pupil', 'I'm an adult looking for a change', 'I'm a parent or carer', and 'I'm an educator'. Each button has a 'Visit section' link with a right arrow. A red arrow points from the 'I'm a primary school pupil' button to the 'I'm a secondary school pupil' button. Another red arrow points from the 'I'm an adult looking for a change' button to the 'I'm a parent or carer' button. At the bottom right of the buttons, there are two circular navigation arrows, one pointing left and one pointing right.

Skills Development Scotland My World of Work

EN

Search My World of Work

Sign in Create an account

Explore careers Skills and tools Getting a job Courses Career support Information for ...

Find your animal

Find your future!

Discover your animal personality with our fun quiz and get exciting career suggestions.

Try Animal Me

Let's get you to the **right place**

I'm a **primary school pupil**
Visit section →

I'm a **secondary school pupil**
Visit section →

I'm an **adult looking for a change**
Visit section →

I'm a **parent or carer**
Visit section →

I'm an **educator**
Visit section →

> **My World of Work:** <https://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/secondary>

Home > Secondary

Build **your future** today

Thinking about your options or ready to leave school? We can help. For career inspiration, advice and support to grow your skills – look no further.

Understand **yourself**



Find your strengths

Your strengths are things you're naturally good at. Let's find out what yours are.

[Try My Strengths →](#)



Personality quiz

Discover what makes your inner animal tick and learn about your extraordinary personality.

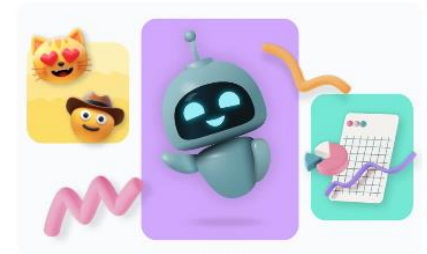
[Try Animal Me →](#)



My Achievements

Keep a library of all your achievements, track your successes and find out what motivates you.

[Try My Achievements →](#)



My Profile

Create your digital canvas and showcase everything about you.

[Try My Profile →](#)

> My World of Work: <https://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/search-courses>

Find courses in Scotland

Use our search to explore thousands of learning opportunities in Scotland. We'll show you college and university courses and a wide range of other learning and training opportunities.

[Search all courses →](#)

Search course by keyword

Postcode or town

Distance

+ 20 miles ▼

Search

What would you like to **explore**?



Applying for college or university

Everything you need to know if you're considering a college or university course.

[View applying for college or university →](#)



Funding and support

Find free courses, funding information and other support you can access while learning.

[View funding and support →](#)



Find free online courses

Discover free courses that can help you upskill or reskill so you can take the next step in your career.

[View article →](#)

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

Parents and carers

You're a big influencer in your child's life — use our advice and tools to empower them, whatever stage they're at.

Here are some ways you can **support your child**



Start with a career conversation

Discover how My World of Work can help you chat to your child about their career.

[View article →](#)



Look after your child's mental health

A helping hand with your child's wellbeing. Find free helplines and expert online guidance.

[View article →](#)



Additional support for you and your child

Find sources of help and advice for parents, carers and anyone who needs additional support.

[View article →](#)



How to help your child get work experience

Discover how you can support your child get a taste of the working world.

[View article →](#)



The parents and carers' guide to option choices

Use our guide to help your child choose their school subjects with confidence.

[View article →](#)



Support your child as they leave school

Read top tips on how you can help and use our handy resources.

[View article →](#)

> 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 – **new for 2026 cycle**
7. Choices



Having checked the above, Guidance Teachers will then add:

8. Reference

> **Personal Statement**

What's Changing for 2026 entry?



Format & structure

Move from one long piece of text to a scaffolded approach.

Three sections with question prompts.



Character Count

4000 total character count remains; includes spaces.

Minimum character count of 350 per section.



Support & advice

Clear links to guidance in the application for students.

> **Why is it changing?**

Previous UCAS research found 79% of students felt that the process of writing the statement was difficult to complete without support.

The new format will ensure students from all backgrounds better understand the key information universities and colleges want to know about them.

The three sections, each carefully scaffolded with specific, mandatory questions will improve the application experience for all.

> 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?

>

Q1. Why do you want to study this course or subject?

- Opportunity for students to showcase their passion, curiosity, interest, and knowledge of chosen subject area – demonstrate why it's a good fit for them and their future ambitions.
- Universities and colleges want to see students have done their research so they can be confident this is something the young person will enjoy and excel in. This is one place to highlight super-curricular activities as evidence of curiosity and interest in the subject outside of the classroom.

Examples for this section could include:

- Personal life experiences e.g. being a carer, the environment where you grew up or lived, an inspirational friend, colleague or family member, a book you read, a news article or blog/vlog, a YouTube video, a podcast, a show you saw.
- An understanding of the area and the qualities you might need to succeed in it.

> **Q2. How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?**

- This is the chance for students to show evidence of the relevant or transferable skills they've gained and highlight their understanding of how this will help them succeed in this subject area.

Examples for this section could include:

- Specific modules or topics studies
- Essays or projects that explore a particular view point or technique
- School, local, or national competitions
- Private lessons and qualifications e.g. music, stage school or sports if relevant to the course
- Tutoring or mentoring
- Online courses leading to a qualification

> **Q3. What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?**

This is students' chance to talk about any other activities they have undertaken outside of their formal education or personal experiences which further demonstrate their suitability for the course. This section is likely to be highly personal to them and anything they do include should reflect on why they're including it.

Some examples for this section:

- Extra-curricular activities
- Volunteering/Work experience
- Personal life experiences e.g. caring for a family member, overcoming a challenge
- Job/employment
- Online learning activities e.g. Springpod, MOOCs etc.
- Trips and visits
- Podcasts, TED talks, documentaries etc.
- Duke of Edinburgh award

> **Personal Statement basics**

- 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

> The Personal Statement – top tips

- **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.

- **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

- **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.



> Remember to PEEL

Point

Evidence

Explain

Link



> **Key Skills to Mention:**

Bishopbriggs Academy Meta Skills

Together We **CARE**

SOCIAL INTELLIGENCE



RESPECT

Together We **LEARN**

SELF-MANAGEMENT



EFFORT

Together We **THRIVE**

INNOVATION



RESILIENCE

> 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



UCAS

Online Experience: OpenLearn Courses

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

The screenshot shows the OpenLearn website interface. At the top, there is a search bar with the text "Free courses, interactives, videos and more". Below the search bar, there are navigation links: Home, Free courses (selected), Subjects, Study skills, Work skills, and Help. A "Create account / Sign in" button is also visible. The main content area is titled "All our free courses" and displays a list of courses. The courses are categorized by subject: Money & Business, Science, Maths & Technology, and Health, Sports & Psychology. Each category shows a "1 LEVEL" badge and a brief description of the course. For example, under "Money & Business", there is a course titled "Diversity and inclusion in the workplace".

- Free learning platform provided by The Open University
- Offers a wide range of free online courses, resources and learning materials
- Courses often come with free digital badge/statement of participation – boost application!

> The Reference – What we include

The UCAS reference includes 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 HUB



This 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.

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
	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**

UCAS

> **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

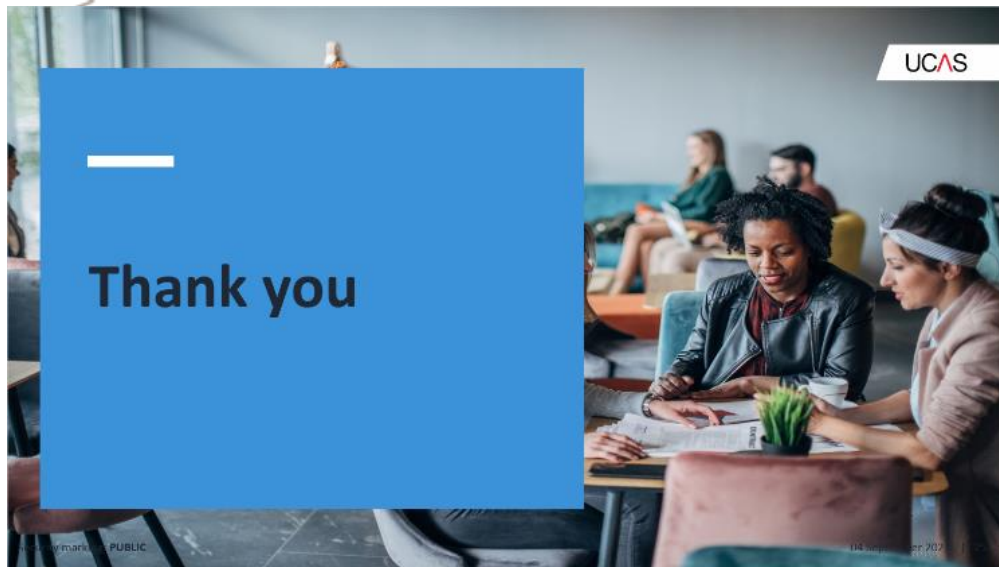


How can you support the application process?

- Use the Parents/Carers section of the UCAS website www.ucas.com/parents and download the 2026 Parent/Carer Guide. ([click here](#))
- Support your son/daughter's management of their application through the UCAS Hub.
- Make sure they read everything carefully that is sent to them.

OTHER USEFUL RESOURCES

- www.ucas.com
- www.myworldofwork.co.uk/
- www.whatuni.com/
- www.theguardian.com/education/universityguide
- https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/universities?sortby=provider_name
- <https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/student-advice/where-to-study>



Feedback Form
Scan the QR code

