

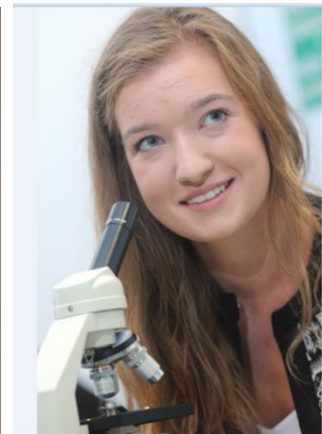


UCAS Parent Seminar

Tuesday 13 June 2023

with Miss L Griffiths (Director of Sixth Form), Mr B Fitzgerald (UCAS co-ordinator)
& Mrs K Douglas (Head of Careers)

The UCAS Process at Upton Hall School



1 Choose courses

- UCAS Hub
- Unifrog
- Sunday Times 'Good University' Guide
- Russell Group?
- Which? University
- Open Days
- **5 choices (range)**

2 Apply at www.ucas.com

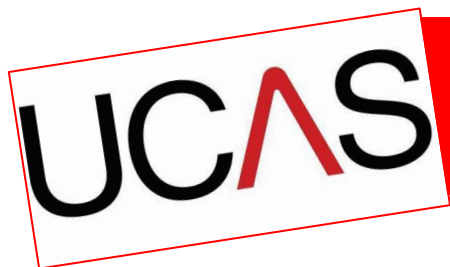
- Set up an application online
- Personal statement submitted
- Pay UCAS directly online (£27.50) and press 'send'.
- Reviewed by school and reference added.

3 Track the application

- Testing for some courses (in school/at test centre)
- Offers
- 'Conditional offers' most common
- Interviews

4 Confirm choices

- Offers usually come in by 31 March or 7 May (must respond by a certain date)
- Firm Insurance 'Extra'**
- Apply for Student Finance



When?

These are our **internal** deadlines; national deadlines are different and set by UCAS.

Early entry 'undergraduate courses

**PERSONAL STATEMENT
DEADLINE:**

Mon 11th September

FINAL DEADLINE:

Mon 25th September

Deadlines: All other undergraduate courses

**PERSONAL STATEMENT
DEADLINE:**

Mon 16th October

FINAL DEADLINE:

Wed 1st November

** Any students wishing to apply to read Music through the Conservatoire route, should see Mr Fitzgerald as an earlier deadline will also apply.*

Choosing a University Course

There are over **150 universities** in the UK, offering a total of **almost 40,000 undergraduate courses**.

Some you may not have heard of include:

- BA Animation
- BSc Audiology
- BSc Ecotourism and Adventure Tourism
- BA Arabic and Persian
- BA Special Effects
- BA Packaging design
- BA Playwork
- BSc Police Studies
- BSc Disaster Management
- BA Viking studies



So how do students select a course?

Choosing a University Course

**RUSSELL
GROUP**

The Russell Group's 24 members are world-class, research-intensive universities. They are unique institutions, each with their own history and ethos, but they share some distinguishing characteristics.



Bath – **GOLD**
Birmingham – **GOLD**
Lancaster - **GOLD**
Durham – **GOLD**
King's College – **SILVER**
Liverpool – **SILVER**
Leeds - **GOLD**



Choosing a University Course

Beware the league tables...

University ranking	University name	Overall score
1 ▲ 1	University of Oxford VIEW COURSES →	100%
2 ▼ 1	University of Cambridge VIEW COURSES →	99%
3 ▲ 1	London School of Economics and Poli... VIEW COURSES →	96%
4 ▼ 1	University of St Andrews VIEW COURSES →	95%
5	Imperial College London VIEW COURSES →	90%



2021 ▼	2020 ▼	Institution ▼	Guardian score/100 ▼
1	3	Oxford	100
2	2	St Andrews	98
3	1	Cambridge	95.4
4	5	Durham	81.5
5	19	London School of Economics	81
6	6	Bath	80.1
7	4	Loughborough	79.3
8	9	Warwick	77.1
9	7	Imperial College	74.4
10	7	Lancaster	73.1



Although these can be useful, subject-based rankings may be better.

Choosing a University Course

Top tips:

Is there a **profession** that they want to pursue?

Which **subject** do they feel passionate about?

How **far** do they want to travel?

Would they prefer a **campus/city-based** university?

What are the **job prospects** like?

Check the **course content** and structure.



Choosing a University Course

Students have access to this excellent tool, Unifrog.

The screenshot shows the Unifrog website interface. At the top, a browser address bar displays the URL <https://www.unifrog.org/student/home>. Below the address bar, the text "ACCESS ALL THE TOOLS BELOW" is centered, followed by the heading "Searching for Opportunities". The Unifrog logo, featuring a green cartoon frog character and the word "unifrog" in green lowercase letters, is positioned on the right side of the page. The main content area is divided into four colored rectangular tiles, each representing a different educational path:

- University** (purple tile): "You have 3 shortlists" and a link to "[View shortlists](#)". A "Start >" button is at the bottom.
- Apprenticeships** (pink tile): "You have 1 shortlist" and a link to "[View shortlist](#)". A "Start >" button is at the bottom.
- MOOC** (teal tile): "Make your first shortlist".
- Oxbridge** (blue tile): "Make your first shortlist".

A text box on the right side of the screenshot provides additional context:

This is a 'Destinations Platform' for which students have log on details. It lists both university/non university destinations. Unifrog sources its information from a range of websites, including UCAS, university league table providers, UniStats etc.

University Testing for 'Apply 2024'

Some Cambridge tests are completed at interview and others are completed beforehand.

Test	Registration deadline	Test date/s	Location of test
UCAT	21 September 2023 (register now, booking open 20th June)	10 July - 28 September 2023	Pearson Vue Test Centre
BMAT	29 September 2023	18 October 2023	Upton Hall School FCJ
LNAT	Registration opens 1 August 2023	1 September 2023 onwards (for Oxbridge, take before 16 October)	Pearson Vue Test Centre
Oxford Tests (ELAT, MLAT, MAT, TSA, OLAT, HAT, PAT)	29 September 2023 (Note that this is <u>before UCAS deadline</u>)	19 or 20 October 2023	Upton Hall School FCJ
Cambridge Tests (NSAA, ENGAA)	29 September 2023 (Note that this is <u>before UCAS deadline</u>)	18 October 2023	Upton Hall School FCJ

UCAS 'Tariff' Points

AS Level	A Level	New Tariff points
	A*	56
	A	48
	B	40
	C	32
		28
	D	24
A		20
B	E	16
C		12
D		10
		8
E		6



UCAS 'Tariff' Points

For the BTEC Extended Certificate in IT

Grade	Tariff points
D*	56
D	48
M	32
P	16

For the AQA Extended Project (EPQ)

Grade	Tariff points
A*	28
A	24
B	20
C	16
D	12
E	8





The Tariff Points

UCAS Tariff ‘Ready Reckoner’

A level grade	New tariff (from 2017)
A*A*A*	168
A*A*A	160
A*AA	152
AAA	144
AAB	136
ABB	128
BBB	120
BBC	112
BCC	104
CCC	96
CCD	88
CDD	80
DDD	72

The Application Form

All completed via **UCAS Apply 2024**

Personal details

Student finance

Education/qualifications

Courses (x5)

Deferred entry?

Personal statement

Reference and predicted grades

APPLYING THROUGH
UCAS

Personal Statements

FACT

The statements can be no more than **4000 characters or 47 lines of text** (including spaces and blank lines), which is approximately 600 words.

FACT

The personal statement will be **used by course tutors to compare applicants**; students typically do several drafts!

FACT

The **same personal statement is used for all courses** applied for, so students should avoid mentioning universities or colleges by name.

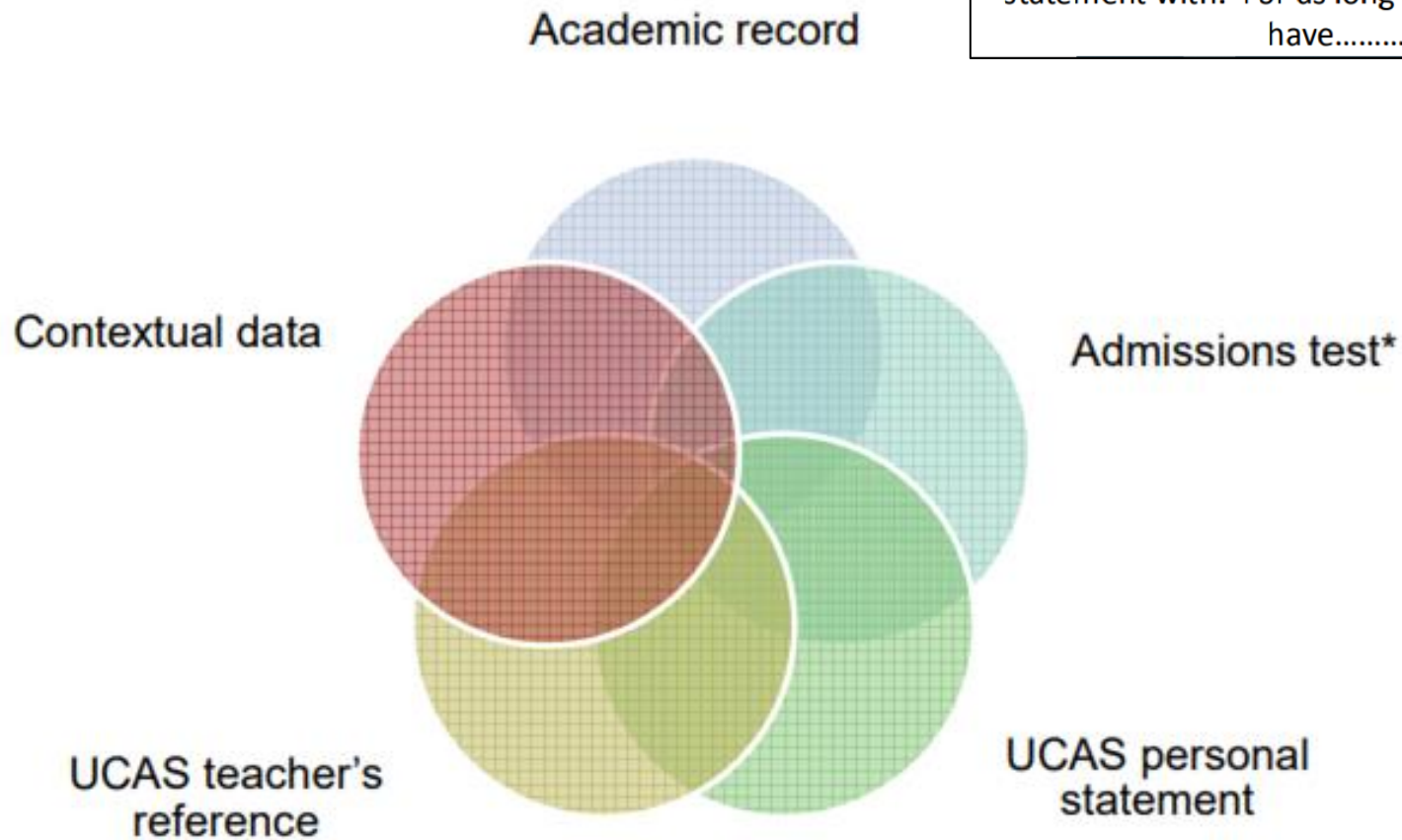
Useful guide: [The Personal Statement workshop \(lse.ac.uk\)](http://lse.ac.uk)

Personal Statements

How is it used?

1451

Number of applicants who began their personal statement with: 'For as long as I can remember I have.....'



Structure and Style

80%
Academic
including
super-curricular

20%
extra-curricular

- Why do they want to study this course?
 - current studies
 - outside reading

- Super-curricular:
 - what have they read, listened to, watched, visited
 - how do these things support and compliment the course they are applying for?

- Extra-curricular:
 - should try and focus on transferable skills

- Encourage them to be reflective:
 - critically engage with any reading materials
 - be honest
 - check spelling and grammar



Enthusiasm and motivation for the study of the subject

Why this particular subject?

Example:

'When I studied the upheavals of the 19th and 20th centuries, I began to see how this period is key to understanding the modern era. As I examined the Industrial Age and the growth of global trade, I focused increasingly on economics. I believe that the analytical tools of both fields are essential for a deep understanding of the world.'

Economic History with Economics



Understanding and or experience of the subject

Less convincing examples:

'I have been fascinated by the idea of becoming a lawyer ever since I watched the TV drama Suits.'

Law

'My love for the subject began in Year 6, when I conducted independent research for a project on natural hazards, which introduced me to tectonic theory.'

Geography



Pay and Send

Students pay for their application individually with a credit/debit card online and then send it to school.



Predicted Grades/References

Subject references
and predicted grades
from subject teachers.



Full reference written
by Sixth Form Team.
Predicted grades from
teachers entered on
UCAS form.



Have you any other references apart from your mother's?

University Offers

3 Track the application



Offer and reply combinations

Unconditional firm (UF)	You're in!
Conditional firm (CF)	You're in if you meet the conditions.
Conditional firm (CF) and conditional insurance (CI)	You've made a first and second choice – you'll be in at the first if you meet the conditions. If not you might have met the conditions for the second – if so you'll be on that course instead.
Conditional firm (CF) and unconditional insurance (UI)	You've made a first and second choice – if you meet the conditions of the first you'll be on that course. If not you'll definitely be on the second.



There are different types of offers: Conditional and Unconditional. Once students decide on their offers, they mark one as FIRM and one as INSURANCE. They have a significant amount of time to decide.

Student Finance

Fast facts

1. Applications usually **open in February** for courses starting the following September.
2. Students can get a **Tuition Fee Loan of up to £9,250** to cover the fees charged by their university.
3. And a **Maintenance Loan** to help towards their living costs such as rent and bills.
4. Interest will be charged on the loan from the day we make their first student finance payment until the loan is repaid in full or cancelled. The interest rate is linked to the UK Retail Price Index (RPI).
5. A student graduating will start **repaying the loan when** they earn **over £25,000 a year**. Repayments will be 9% of income above that threshold.
6. Students **don't need to wait until they have a confirmed place** at university or college to apply for finance – they can use their preferred choice and update it online later if they need to.
7. They are written off after 40 years.

Household income	Maintenance Loan – living away from home and studying outside London	Maintenance Loan – living away from home and studying in London	Maintenance Loan – living with parents
£25,000	£9,978	£13,022	£8,400
£30,000	£9,265	£12,297	£7,694
£35,000	£8,552	£11,571	£6,988
£40,000	£7,839	£10,845	£6,282
£45,000	£7,125	£10,120	£5,576

Annual Income	£25,000
Monthly gross	£2,083
Income Tax	£207
National Insurance	£124
Student Loan	0
Take home (doesn't include pension)	£1,752

Annual Income	£35,000
Monthly gross	£2,917
Income Tax	£374
National Insurance	£224
Student Loan	£75
Take home (doesn't include pension)	£2,244

Annual Income	£60,000
Monthly gross	£5,000
Income Tax	£953
National Insurance	£393
Student Loan	£263
Take home (doesn't include pension)	£3,391

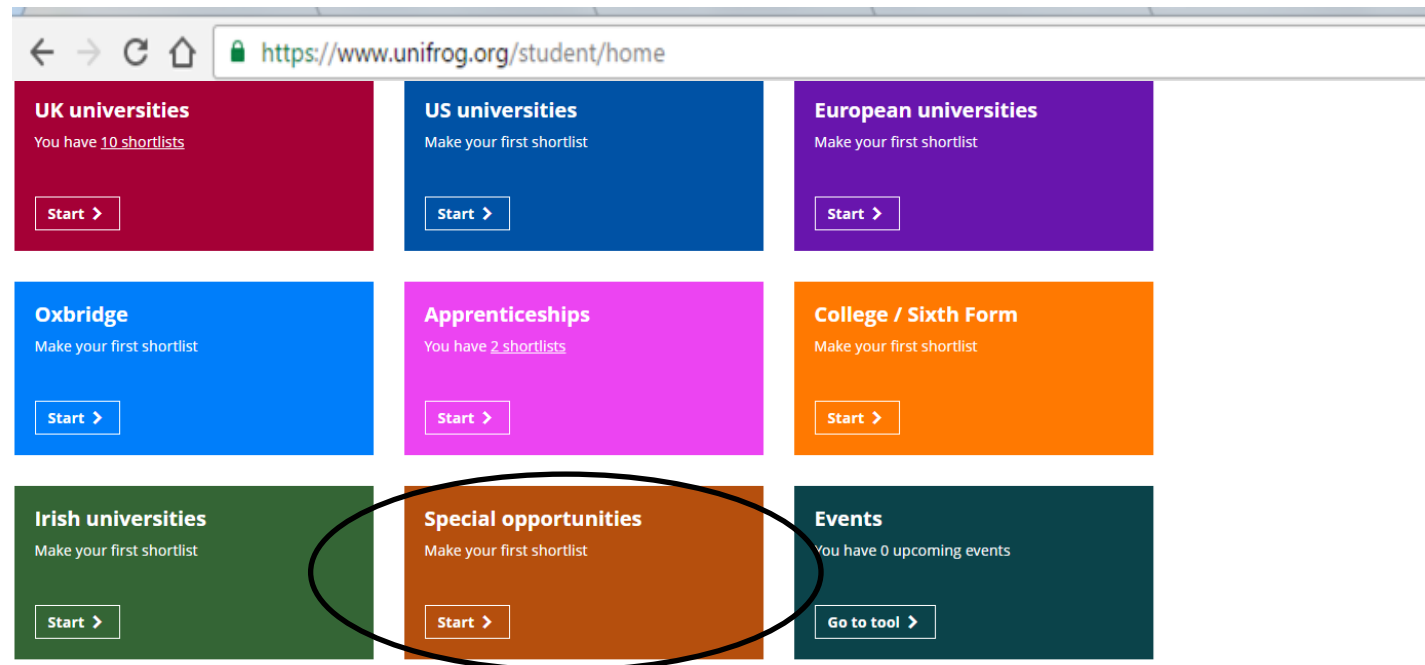
Bursaries/scholarships

Most universities run scholarships/bursaries. They also offer contextualised offers (also known as 'widening participation programmes').

It can be difficult to find information about bursaries but students can search on their Unifrog accounts for these in the **'Special opportunities'** tab (shown below).

Healthcare professions

Allied healthcare professions can get the NHS Bursary. Information available here: [NHSBSA Landscape Document](#) or for further opportunities in Wales, please click [here](#).



What if my child doesn't get the grades?

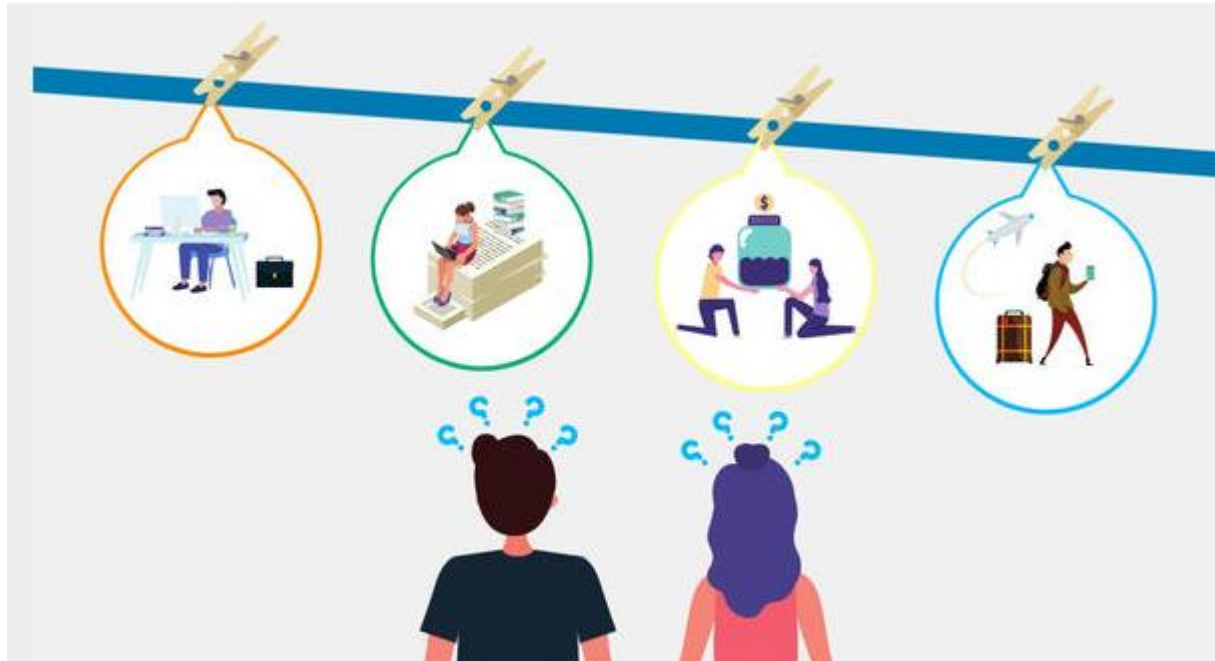
How-to guides

I already have an application -
how do I apply through Clearing?

UCAS

How do I apply through Clearing? <https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/results-confirmation-and-clearing/what-clearing>

What if my child wants to take a year out before university?



Check that the university accepts deferred entries (this can be done through a phone call but better through email).

Select **deferred entry** on the UCAS form in Apply 2024