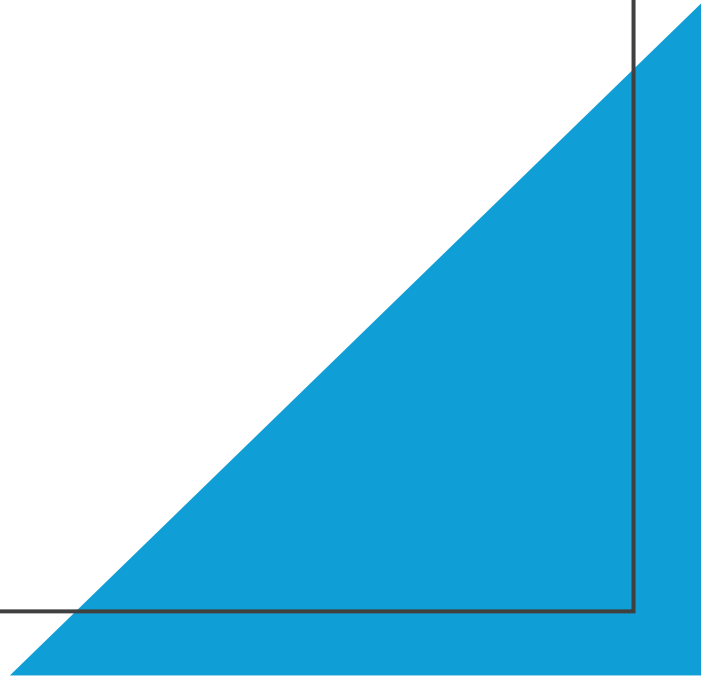


Future Pathway and UCAS Parent Information Evening

21st May 6pm – 7pm

Mrs. Owen – Assistant Head - Head of Sixth Form

Mrs. Phillips – Careers Lead



Focus:



UCAS and applying
to university



Finding the right
university and
course for you



Student Finance



Specialist
application Support



Apprenticeships



GAP years and
Volunteering



What is right for
your you?

What is UCAS?

350+ universities and colleges:

4 in **Northern Ireland**

15 in **Wales**


18 in **Scotland**

316 in **England**


35,000+ courses available

UCAS





We encourage
students to
maximise their
opportunities.



A UCAS application does not bind you to go universities.

On Results Day, you can decide to reject all your offers and do something completely different.

Give yourself the widest number of options on Results Day.

At this stage: Both UCAS and Apprenticeships, not either UCAS or Apprenticeships.

Why higher education?

The power of a degree

With a degree, they'll have:

- Demonstrates high-level literacy
- Ability to commit long-term and deliver
- The opportunity to follow their career path
- Better job prospects, as many employers target graduates
- Higher earning potential

Opportunities while studying:

- Chance to study a subject they are passionate about.
- Grow in confidence, make lifelong friends
- They will gain independence and important life skills that will widen their prospects.



You have 5 UCAS Choices.

That is 5 different courses. You cannot apply to more.

- We do not advise you apply to university courses that require grades higher than your Predicted Grades. You are very unlikely to get in, and then you have wasted an offer!
- Most students apply to the same subject for each choice, but they can be different subjects or allied-subjects e.g. geography and sustainability; finance and accounting
- Remember you will write only one personal statement for all five choices. This means that a personal statement will have to reflect both subjects.
- We do not advise a student applying for more than two subjects in their 5 choices. It is too much to handle within the personal statement.

EXAMPLE

Imperial – Mathematics and
Computer Science

KCL – Mathematics and
Computer Science

Durham University –
Computer Science

University of Exeter –
Computer Science

University of Leeds –
Computer Science

How to decide what university course to take?

Passion and curiosity for the subject are paramount. But do consider:

- What subject excites you most?
- What lesson do I look forward to during the school day?
- What can I imagine myself doing for five days in a week?
- What books do I actually enjoy reading?

TASK to help you decide:

Pick a difficult book in that subject. Buy an old textbook in that subject. Read it for a few days. Do you keep reading? Do you finish it? If not, why?

OR:

Does my heart sink when I think about doing a particular subject?

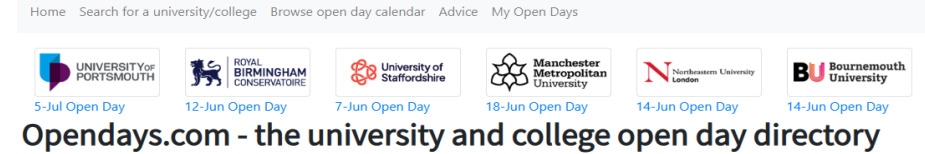




Other things to consider...

- **Job prospects after university** – e.g. graduate employability statistics.
 - **Does this degree maximise or limit my opportunities?**
 - **Vocational requirements** - some jobs require particular degrees, e.g. doctor.
 - **Competitiveness of course vs. university prestige** - e.g. UCL with a less competitive course may be better than not getting in with a harder degree (e.g History or Classics followed by Law conversion).
 - **Realistic possibility of getting the grades** - applying to universities with grades far beyond attainment will likely result in no offers
 - **Does the course require certain A-Levels, and do you have them?**
 - **Do I want a strict vocational route, or something broader and academic?**
 - **Would you like to embed placements, study abroad, or work experience into your degree?.**
-

How to choose the right universities for you?



What universities do you want to go to?

- Does the university offer my course?
- Size of the university
- Location
- Accommodation
- The prestige of the university
- The culture and history of the institution.

Go see some universities! Organise these yourselves.

Now is a good time to enrol for open days:

Unifrog :

<https://www.unifrog.org/>

UCAS :

[UCAS Open Days](#)

OpenDays.com

<https://www.opendays.com/>

Select courses below

Pick the best courses for you by ranking, filtering and searching. Click next when you're done.
Currently only showing courses most closely related to your search. [Widen search](#)
Stuck on a strange term? Check out the [glossary](#) ▾

Rank ▾ ✓ Filter ▾ <input type="text" value="Keyword search"/>			✕		
Aspirational (82) <small>Top of your range</small>			Solid (125) <small>In the middle</small>		
RG	Political Economy - 3FT BA/BSc (H) King's College London, University of London A Level: A*,A,A	1	RG	Global Affairs and Politics - 3FT BA (Hons) University of Derby A Level: B,B,B	RG
	Politics - 3FT BA/BSc (H) King's College London, University of London A Level: A*,A,A	1		International Relations and Politics with a Placement Year - 4FT SW BA (Hons) University of East Anglia UEA A Level: B,B,B	
	International Social and Political Studies - 4FT BA (Hons) UCL (University College London) A Level: A*,A,A	1		Politics with a Placement Year - 4FT SW BA (Hons) University of East Anglia UEA A Level: B,B,B	
	Politics - 4FT MA (Hons) The University of Edinburgh A Level: A*,A,A	1		Politics (Including Year Abroad) - 4SW BA (Hons) University of Essex A Level: B,B,B	
	Politics, Philosophy and Economics - 4FT MA (Hons) The University of Edinburgh A Level: A*,A,A	1		Politics - 3FT BA (Hons) University of Essex A Level: B,B,B	
RG	Politics with Foundation - 4FT BA (Hons) Durham University Foundation year	RG	RG	Politics with Foundation Year - 4FT BA (Hons) University of Sheffield Foundation year	
	International Relations and Politics with Foundation Year - 4FT BA (Hons) University of Sheffield Foundation year			Politics and International Relations with International Foundation Year - 4FT BA (Hons) University of Reading Foundation year	
	Politics and International Relations with International Foundation Year - 4FT BA (Hons) University of Reading Foundation year			Politics and International Relations with International Foundation Year (January entry) - 4FT BA (Hons)	

UK universities (10 shortlists)

Start >

Using Unifrog

Get active - start your Future Pathway research now!

- **Look** at courses and apprenticeships available on UCAS now!
- **Read** – read books linked to your course subject or career of interest. You will build knowledge and confirm your curiosity
- **Speak** – chat with your teachers, family and friends
- **Visit** universities for open days and taster days.
- **Research** websites. Read up on the course requirements, structure, modules you will study, how you will be assessed.
- **View and listen** - Youtube videos of current students; podcasts, current affairs news can keep you informed
- **Attend** - summer schools, subject taster days, lectures,
- **Explore** – gain insights via Work Experience and Placements.

Remember the more placements and opportunities you take, the more you will stand out in your Personal Statement and/or apprenticeship applications



The Basic UCAS Timeline for the next few crucial months...

Y12 Term 6

June/July

First Draft
Outline of
Personal
Statement
(on Unifrog)

Teacher's
References
and grades
uploaded

UCAS account
created -
DONE

Y12 Summer Holiday

July-August

Personal
Statement
drafting
continues.

Opportunity
for reading,
activities to
improve PS.

Y13 Term 1

Beginning of September

Personal
Statement
Second Draft
handed in.

(EEC) End of September

EA application
sent.

EA have sat all
admissions
tests.

Half Term

October- November

Students
prepare their
final draft.

Oxbridge
Interviews in
Early
December.

Y13 Term 2

November-Early December

Finalising drafts
intensively.

STUDENTS MUST
COMPLETE
PERSONAL
STATEMENT BY
EARLY DECEMBER

Applications sent
before the holiday

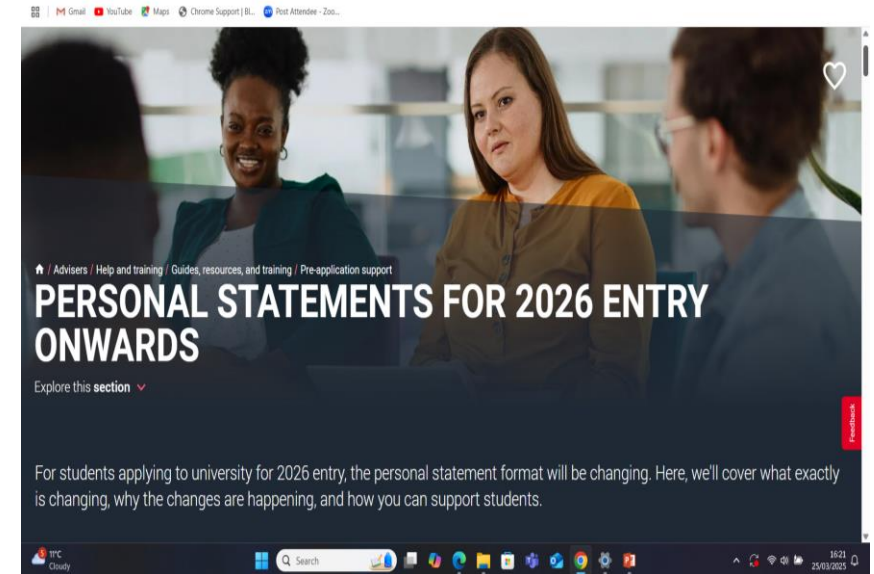
UCAS Personal Statement Changes & guidance

Purpose of change

- suits differing needs of subjects.(theoretical/applied/vocational e.g. nursing/medicine need more work experience than English or History)
- Offers more flexibility
- Offers more structure to support students

Nature of Change

- **Word count - still 4000** characters
- **3 sections** - minimum of **350 for each section**
- Be reassured – it will be reviewed as a whole – no need to worry which box you use.



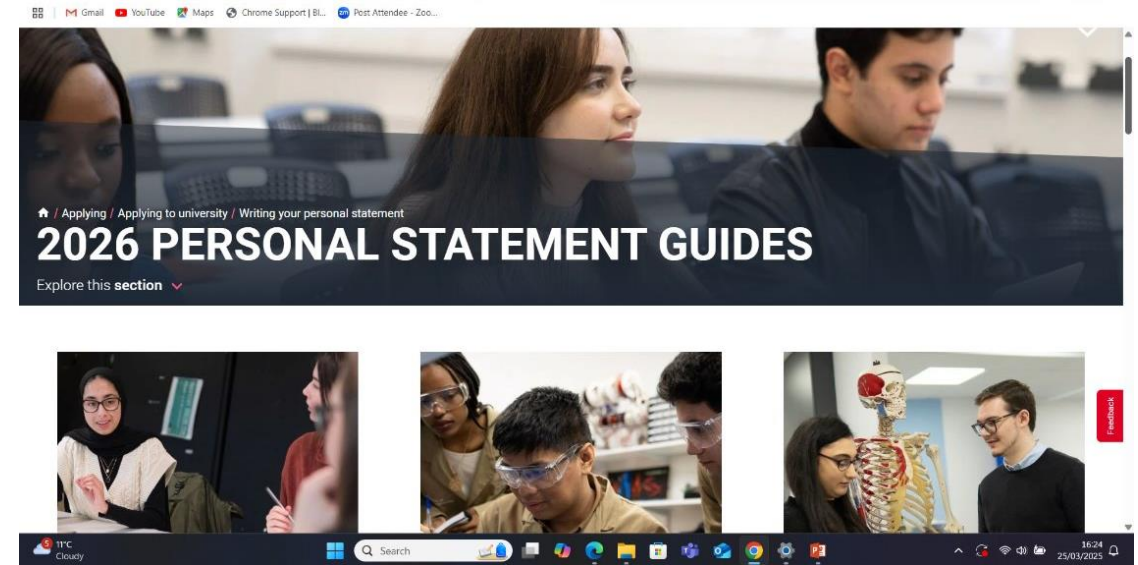
New Format Personal Statements

Three sections to help students persuade an admissions tutor that they know about the course, are prepared for the course and for university life.

Question 1: Why do you want to study this course or subject?

Question 2: How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?

Question 3: What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?



UCAS Predicted grades and references

Your predicted grades will be generated using the exams you have just sat and the grades from your first examinations in year 13.

We will imagine you on your best possible day, with your best possible paper and the best possible questions.

Your UCAS references are written by your teachers over the next few weeks and the information we collect from you via the Microsoft form we sent out at the beginning of the week will support your teachers as they write your references.

What about Offers? Firm and Insurance

Firm Choice – Your most preferred

- If you meet the conditions of the offer you will be placed here

Insurance Choice – safe, good second option

- If you miss the grade requirements of your Firm, you will get this if you make the conditions for it
- *In Most Cases: Lower Grade Requirement than your Firm*

When you have all your offers, you must choose two of them:

What are Contextual Admissions?

Contextual admissions are when a university considers the social, economic and other barriers a student may face to entry.

The result of a contextual offer is often a lower grade requirement, e.g. AAB rather than AAA.

Such offers are given to 'widen participation' in Higher Education

Considerations may include:

- the school you attend
- where you live
- if money is tight at home
- if your parents went to university themselves
- if you have been in care
- if you have cared for a family member
- eligible for Free School Meals

What should students be doing now?

- Research universities and courses.
- Supra curricular – go beyond the syllabus – what books are you reading outside of your A-level subjects. **Super-curricular reading is crucial for Personal statement.**
- What work experience have you got lined up?
- What summer schools or other opportunities have you managed to secure?
- Increase your independence. Universities are looking for driven and independent.
- Increase your responsibility: Be Proactive. Be on time. Take responsibility for your grades.
- **Focus on your A-Levels!**



Student Finance

- What is student finance for?
- How is the amount calculated?
- What are the terms of repayment?
- What about bursaries and other support?
- How and when do students apply?



Funding university - Student Loans

Students must apply for finance by themselves: teachers are not involved.

- **Tuition Fee Loan:** This money is to cover teaching and student services costs. Your child's fees are paid directly to the university each term by Student Finance England.
- **Maintenance Loan:** This loan is to cover your child's living costs. Costs such accommodation (if living away from home), food, transport and socialising. This will be paid into your child's bank account at the start of each term (usually September, January and April).

Loans for living costs (per year)



**Living with parents
(in or out of
London)**

Max: £8,877

Min: £3,907



**Living & studying
outside London**

Max: £10,544

Min: £4,915



**Living &
studying in
London**

Max: £13,762

Min: £6,853

Government expectation on parental contribution

Paid directly into your bank account - $\frac{1}{3}$ each term

Living costs: student halls

Location	High cost per month	Low cost per month
London	£1,620	£480
Exeter	£1,060	£480
Warwick	£792	£324
Lancaster	£760	£380
Manchester	£704	£416
Lincoln	£684	£412
Huddersfield	£560	£280

Loan repayment terms

WJ
Jack

Earning LESS THAN £25,000 per year
until 2027: *no repayment*

Earning MORE THAN £25,000 per year until
2027: *9% of earnings above threshold*



Repayments

Linked to how much your child earns – not what they borrowed

Payments will be 9% of earnings above £25,000 (not the whole amount)

Interest is at Retail Price Index rate of inflation

After 40 years the government will write off the loan (regardless of amount paid back)

Disabled student allowance

Additional support may be available to students with mental health issues, long term illnesses or any other disability

Apply via [DirectGov](#)



General allowance

Up to £26,948 a year

Student Funding – Scholarships and Bursaries

- Each university has its own funding package and eligibility criteria. It could be based on previous academic achievement, financial need or both.
- Look on the university's website for further details of funding they offer for undergraduate students.
- This money doesn't have to be paid back!
- We will actively help students to find scholarships.

Bursaries & Scholarships



Basics of applying for support

1

WHEN?

Earliest:

February for the same year.

Latest:

9 months after the start
of the academic year.

2

WHERE?

**Student Finance
England**

Or other online websites

- **Process lasts 40mins – 1hour.**
- **Start the application process at school.**
- **Finish it at home, as you'll need to ask parents about household income.**

3

HOW OFTEN?

Every year

Just one click if circumstances
haven't changed.

**YOUR APPLICATION ONLY
LASTS FOR ONE YEAR!**

**ANY CHANGES UPDATE
IMMEDIATELY.**

So is it worth the debt?



"Someone who gets the right degree should earn about £1 million more than someone without that degree" - University of Kent

So what's the right degree?

Understanding apprenticeships

Version 2: September 2024



What are apprenticeships?



Employed



Off the job



Intermediate -
degree



Paid a salary



Typically 1-6
years



Real
responsibilities



Contract



700+ standards



Not the easy
option

APPRENTICESHIP LEVELS EXPLAINED

Ranging from intermediate to degree level

Apprenticeship levels range from level 2 (intermediate) through to level 7 (master's level) in more than 1,500 different job roles.

There are four types of apprenticeship

- Intermediate (level 2)
- Advanced (level 3)
- Higher (levels 4 and above)
- Degree (levels 6 - 7)



Intermediate apprenticeships

Intermediate apprenticeships are typically considered to be the same level as five GCSE passes.

Intermediate apprenticeships are a fantastic way to get started with your career in an entry level role within an organisation.

Advanced apprenticeships

Advanced apprenticeships are considered to be the same level as two or three A level passes. Many individuals who have completed their A levels or other level 3 qualifications will undertake an advanced apprenticeship as it will enable them to gain experience in the workplace and undertake a variety of different tasks.

Higher apprenticeships

Higher apprenticeships include qualifications at levels 4 and above. They can be suitable for those looking to progress from level 3 qualifications, including advanced apprenticeships and T Levels.

Degree apprenticeships

Degree apprenticeships are offered by universities and other higher education providers. They contain either a full degree or degree-level qualification and go up to master's level (which is post-graduate).

Which level is right for you?

The type of apprenticeship undertaken will depend on both the needs of the employer and the job role as well as the apprentice, their previous experience and qualifications held.

Your training provider will also be able to guide you as to the most appropriate level for you.

How do I choose the right apprenticeship for me?

WHICH APPRENTICESHIP AM I? QUIZ

JANUARY 13, 2021



Which Apprenticeship Am I?

There are nearly 600 different apprenticeship standards across England, which cover more than 1700 different job roles.

Can you guess which apprenticeship we are describing and match them up to the correct answer?

If you see any apprenticeships you like the sound of, be sure to make a note of them so you can research them later!

Start

CREATE YOUR OWN QUIZ >

Powered by  Riddle

Quiz Maker - powered by Riddle

There are nearly 600 different apprenticeship standards across England, which cover more than 1700 different job roles.

Can you guess which apprenticeship we are describing and match them up to the correct answer?

 SUBSCRIBE

INSPIRE ME!

To hear from real apprentices, explaining how they found their apprenticeship and what they love most about their job roles, scan the QR code with your phone or visit: amapps.uk/apprentice-story-films



Top 10 Employers



Armed Forces Armed Forces



Technology



Armed Forces



Public Sector



Construction



Hospitality



Professional Services



Engineering



Grant Thornton

Professional Services

Common questions

Will I have fun as an apprentice?



What is a degree apprenticeship?



What kind of job could I be doing?



Which employers offer apprenticeships?



How do I apply for an apprenticeship?



How do I find an apprenticeship?



What are the different apprenticeship levels?



Are there any 'green' apprenticeships?



Is an apprenticeship a good choice for me?



Should I apply for more than one apprenticeship?



Where can I find out about apprenticeships?



Apprenticeships

No debt at the end

Work experience

Job at the end of it

You get paid - £6.40 per
hour for first year, then
raises to

v

University

Degree in 3 years on average

Flexibility to change of course

Great social life (freshers etc)

Long holidays / gap opportunities

Apprenticeships

Few Places

Shorter Holidays

Not easy to change course

337,140 apprenticeship starts in the 2022/2023 academic year.

46,800 were degree apprenticeships.

v University

Average debt if £45k – needs to be repaid

May be difficult to work in chosen field

550,000 out of 757,000 applications for full time undergraduate places were accepted in 2023.



Why take a gap year?

Deciding to go on a Gap Year before or after university is a big decision, but you're not the only one considering it. Global tourism contributes over **£5.5 trillion** a year to the world economy - that's **9%** of the world's GDP!



Gap Years and Volunteering



Do you want to give back to communities and learn new skills?

Do some research into volunteering companies that can help you organise placements. Some of the most well-known ones are:

- International Citizen's Service- if you're a student who has graduated with the NCS programme, you get an automatic interview with ICS!
- Go Abroad
- Inspire Worldwide

Remember volunteering can come with a cost and organisations may require you to fund raise

Useful Links

- [Resources - Amazing Apprenticeships](#)
- <http://icould.com/>
- <https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/>
- <http://www.careerpilot.org.uk/info/your-choices-at-18>
- <http://www.ucas.com/>
- <http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk/>



Any
Questions?





Feedback
welcome

Future Pathway and UCAS Evening
Feedback

