Parents' evening presentation

UCAS

UCAS – an independent charity

UCAS does:

- ✓ process applications

- ✓ provide information, advice, and training

- ✓ have a Fraud and Verification Team

- ✓ take part in education sector engagement

UCAS doesn't:

- ✗ suggest courses or universities

- ✗ make decisions or offers

- ✗ advise on finance, immigration, or visas for individuals
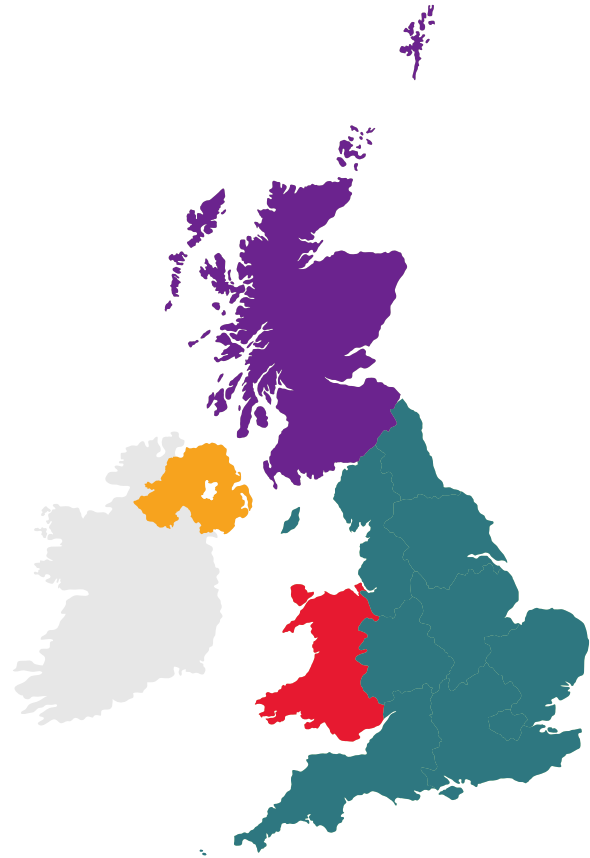
What is UCAS?

350+ universities and colleges:

    4 in **Northern Ireland**

    15 in **Wales**

    18 in **Scotland**

    316 in **England**

35,000+ courses available

UCAS

Choices available

Higher education

Apprenticeships/ traineeships

Studying abroad

Gap year

Getting a job

Find out more: ucas.com

Apprenticeship advice

UCAS has [apprenticeship advice](#) to help students make informed decisions about their post-16 and post-18 opportunities.

Find out about:

- the different types of apprenticeships

- how to find and apply for apprenticeships

- preparing for the application and interview process

Head to:

[ucas.com/apprenticeships](#)

Why higher education?

Opportunities while studying:

- Chance to study a subject they are passionate about.

- Achieve a qualification that could lead to their chosen career.

- Grow in confidence, make lifelong friends, and gain independence and important life skills that will widen their prospects.

With a degree, they'll have:

- the opportunity to follow their career path

- better job prospects, as many employers target graduates

- higher earning potential

UCAS

Choosing the right university

- **Style** – from the traditional, with a focus on subject-based courses and research, to modern universities, with a greater focus on vocational courses.

- **Location** – some are based in large cities, others in smaller towns - a major influence on the environment and lifestyle.

- **Size** – larger universities can have more than 20,000 students, whereas some of the smallest have only a few thousand.

- **Culture and facilities** – influenced by a range of factors, including the diversity of students who attend.

- **What graduates do** – all universities collect destination statistics. It can be interesting to find out the types of jobs or further study students go on to.

- **Tuition fees** – can vary between course providers. Check if there are any scholarships or bursaries available.

- **Living costs** – accommodation, transport, and food can vary enormously.

Choosing the right course

- What does the course cover?

- Courses with the same title may be very different.

- Look carefully at the core course content, and the range of optional studies/modules available.

- Which modules are the most interesting and relevant to career aspirations?

- See if the course or university/college offers any internship, placement, or study abroad opportunities.

- How is the course taught – structured teaching, or more independent research? How many lectures are there, and how much group work will be done in seminars?
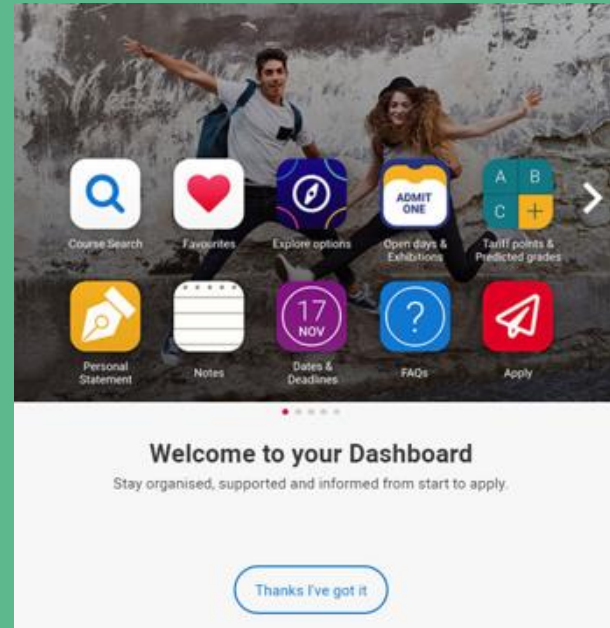
- How is the course assessed?

Research resources

Starting research

Students should register in UCAS Hub to:

- explore careers, subjects, universities and apprenticeships

- find and favourite over 35,000 courses

- search for virtual tours and online events

- turn predicted grades into Tariff points

- speak to those in the know using Unibuddy

- speak to career, higher education, and application specialists by attending the Hub lives.

- explore job profiles to discover different career roles and pathways.

- Start an application for 2022 entry (from May 2021)

Organise everything in one place...

Get organised:
Tools to search, favourite, shortlist, reflect, diary, and build application.
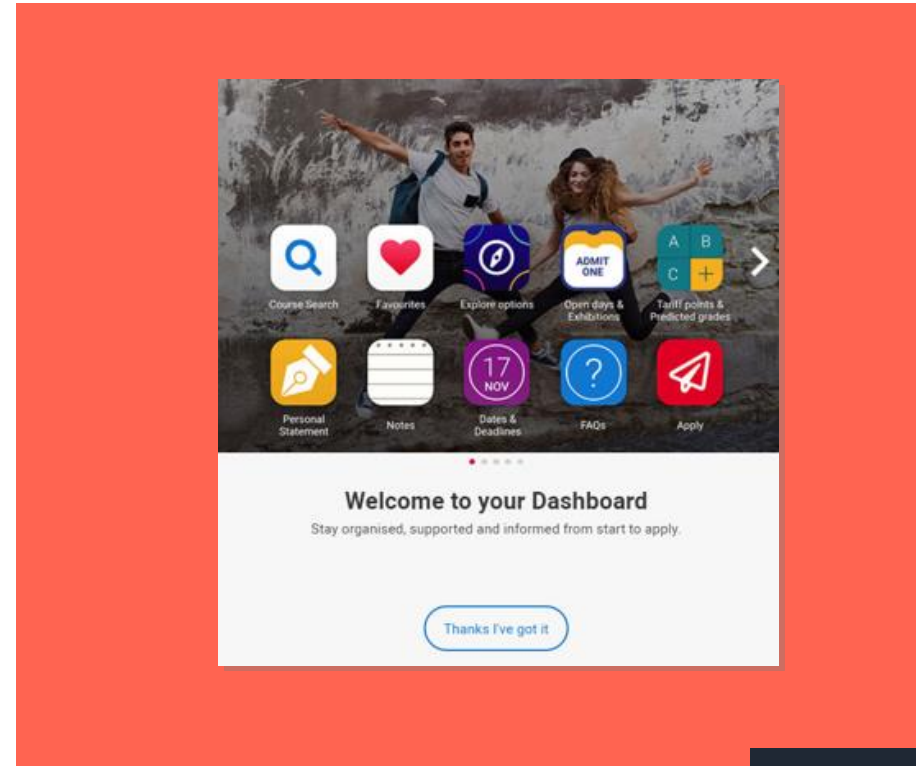
Define what's important:
Distance from home, teaching satisfaction, work experience options, job outcomes...

Make it yours:
Organise tools, remove the ones they don't need, and tick off their to do list. It's their space, and their future.

Expanding horizons...
...by pushing options they might not have considered.

Free tools to help…

UCAS

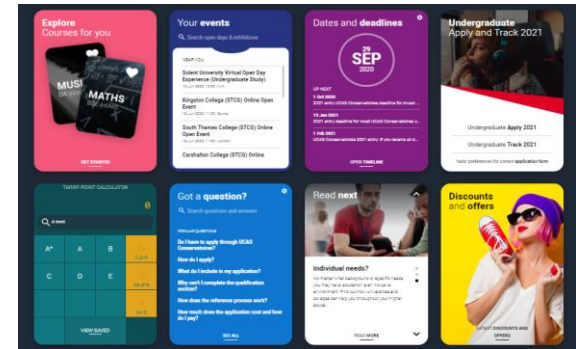**Discovery Days** - at UCAS/Discovery you can explore all kinds of possibilities. Talk to subject and admissions experts, discover apprenticeships, get advice on personal statements, applying through UCAS, and more. Get stuck in and open your mind to a world of opportunities.

Join our UCAS Hub lives and Facebook lives -each live session is hosted by an expert panel to give you what you need to make an informed decision.

Accommodation Search- accommodation is high on the list when considering where you want to study, but it's not always easy to compare what's on offer. Understand what options there are using our new Accomodation search.
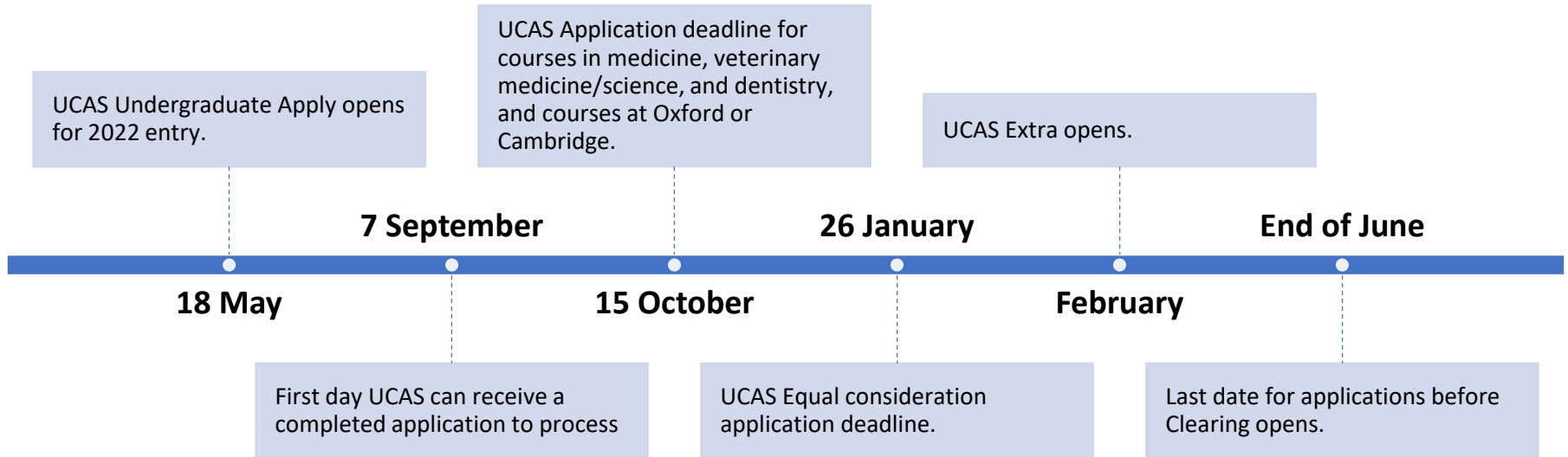
When to apply for 2022 entry

UCAS Undergraduate Apply opens for 2022 entry.

UCAS Application deadline for courses in medicine, veterinary medicine/science, and dentistry, and courses at Oxford or Cambridge.

UCAS Extra opens.

7 September

26 January

End of June

18 May

15 October

February

First day UCAS can receive a completed application to process

UCAS Equal consideration application deadline.

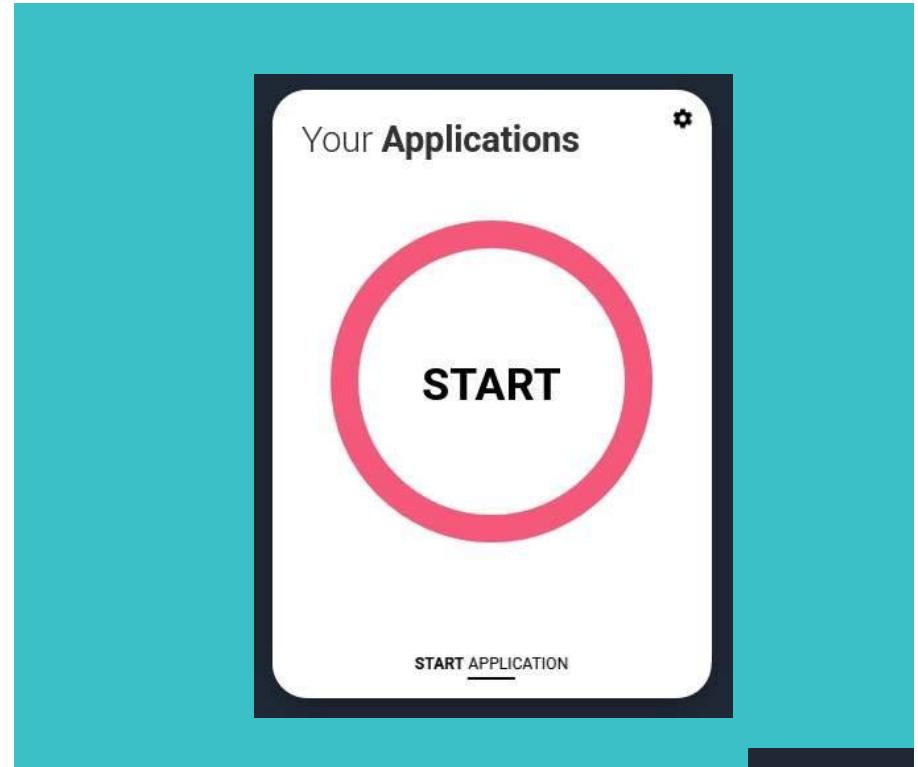Last date for applications before Clearing opens.

Applying - key facts

- Register with UCAS via the Hub

- Use your username and password to apply online

- Students can add up to 5 choices, unless they're applying to study medicine, veterinary, medicine/science, dentistry – then it's 4 choices

- Students can't apply to BOTH Oxford and Cambridge

- Applying costs £22 for 1 choice, or £26.50 for 5 choices

- Apply by the equal consideration date

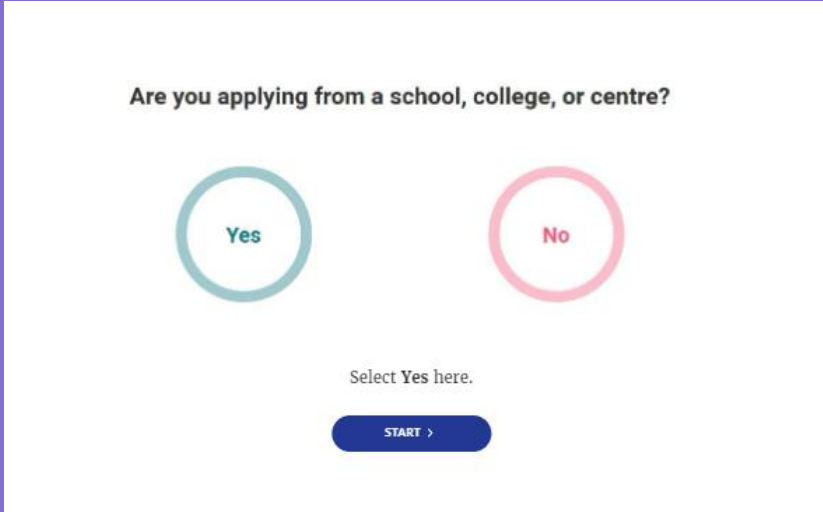- Providers can't see other choices when you apply

Registering

- To start an application students need a UCAS Hub account.

- Register for a UCAS Hub account at any time

- From 18 May 2021 you'll see a new 'Your applications' tile in your UCAS Hub

- Click 'Start application' to get started…

Linking to a school

- If they're applying with the help of a school, college or centre they should enter their 'buzzword' to link their application.

- The buzzword is a unique code for our centre.

- By linking their application students are giving us permission to view and track their application.

- It also means we can provide a reference.

Are you applying from a school, college, or centre?

Yes

No

Select **Yes** here.

START ›

Making an application

Sections to be completed:

- Personal details
- Contact and residency details
- Work experience
- Education
- Nationality details
- English language skills
- Supporting information
- Personal statement
- Choices – make up to five
- References
- Finance and funding
- Diversity and inclusion (for students with a UK home address)

The personal statement

The only section students have full control over

Students only chance to market themselves individually

The same for all choices

A maximum of 4,000 characters, or 47 lines

A minimum of 1,000 characters

There isn't a spelling or grammar check

No formatting is allowed

UCAS' similarity detection service:
every personal statement is run through software to check for plagiarism.

UCAS

Completing the UCAS application

Students register for a UCAS Hub account

Student complete their application – working their way through all sections and send it to their school / college

Teachers/advisers review the application and add reference and predicted grades

Applications are sent to UCAS by the school on behalf of the student

Universities/ colleges make their decisions

Tracking applications

Students should head to ucas.com to track their application. Click your application to:

- follow the progress of their application 24/7
- see their choices and personal information
- view their offers
- reply to offers online

In Track, a student can hold up to two offers:

- **firm** – if they meet the conditions of the offer they will be placed here
- **insurance** –if they are not placed with their firm choice, they may be placed with their insurance choice.

YOUR
APPLICATIONS

SENT
WAITING FOR
DECISIONS

⊕ Add **Conservatoire Application**

VIEW APPLICATION

Decisions

Universities and colleges will review the:

🏛️ **personal statement**

🪪 **qualifications**

📊 **reference**

They may also ask for:

🏛️ **admissions test**

🪪 **interview**

📊 **portfolio/audition**

Replies to offers

Once students have decisions from all their choices, they can hold a maximum of two offers:

- one as a 'firm' acceptance – their first choice

- the other as an 'insurance' acceptance. This acts as a back-up if they don't get into their 'firm' choice

They must then decline any remaining offers.

Once all decisions and replies have been made, if students aren't holding an offer, they may be able to use Extra or Clearing to find available places.

Other options

Extra (Feb – Jul)
- Used all five choices and had no offers.
- Add Extra choices for consideration one at a time in Track.

Clearing (Jul – Oct)
- Apply after 30 June, receive no offers, decline all offers, not met conditions.
- Find vacancies from early July, and add a Clearing choice to their application.

What should students be doing now?

- research

- extracurricular activities

- work experience

- go beyond the syllabus

- focus on this year's studies

How can you support them?

UCAS

Research	Use the parents/guardians' section of the UCAS website at www.ucas.com/parents.
Sign up	Sign up for parent updates from UCAS and get everything you need to know about the application process direct to your inbox.
Open days	Attend virtual events and open days – you may have a different perspective.
Be proactive	Make sure they read everything carefully that is sent to them and don't book holidays at key times!

Thank you