



UCAS Application Process and Applying to University

Tuesday 18th November

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Before personal statement and choices



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Your child needs to find the right course for them. All courses are on UCAS

They must check:

- Entry requirements - some degrees require specific subjects others just state grades or UCAS points.
- Distance
- Length of course (3 years with foundation or 3 years or 5 years etc)
- Course outline – does it encompass what they are interested in?

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



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UCAS Point Tariff



	A-Levels	AS Levels
A*	56	
A	48	20
B	40	16
C	32	12
D	24	10
E	16	6

National Extended Certificate		National Diploma		National Extended Diploma	
D*	56	D*D*	112	D*D*D*	168
D	48	D*D	104	D*D*D	160
M	32	DD	96	D*DD	152
P	16	DM	80	DDD	144
		MM	64	DDM	128
		MP	48	DMM	112
		PP	32	MMM	96
				MMP	80
				MPP	64
				PPP	48



Applying to University



If students want to apply to University the application process is through an online platform for ALL universities called UCAS.

For Year 12 – In June we have a UCAS day and get them to fill out all their personal details.

For Year 13 – this should already be set up

What do they have to fill in?



- **Personal details:** Includes your name, date of birth, and other demographic information.
- **Contact details and where you live:** Provides information on how to contact you and where you are based.
- **Education:** Requires details on all your qualifications from secondary school onwards.
- **Employment:** You must include details of any previous work experience.
- **Personal statement:** This is where you write about your passion for the subject, your qualifications, and your experiences outside of school.
- **Reference and predicted grades:** An academic or professional reference is required, submitted by Head of Sixth Form/Careers Adviser.
- **Supporting information:** This section is for optional details, including information about extra activities like summer schools or other courses you have taken.
- **Finance and funding:** This section covers information on how you plan to finance your studies.
- **Diversity and inclusion:** Provides the option to share information on your personal circumstances to help universities offer support if needed.
- **Choices:** Students select 5 choices and once they receive all their offers they then select their first choice and an insurance (backup)



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Personal Statement



The piece of text has now been replaced by three questions.

Each answer will have a minimum character count of 350 characters, which is clearly labelled on the question boxes, along with an overall character counter.

The 4,000 overall character limit (including spaces) remains the same, as does what you're expected to include.



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



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Examples of what you might talk about here are:

- **Your motivations for studying this course(s)**

Have you been inspired by a key role model or moment in your life? Maybe it's a subject you love and want to pursue further. We're all driven by something and it's important to talk about how yours has led you to this course or subject area.

- **Your knowledge of this subject area and interests**

Perhaps there's a particular subject area you've researched and can't wait to learn more about. A book or subject expert doing great things that have sparked your interest? Universities and colleges want to see you have done your research so they can be confident this is something you will enjoy and excel in. This is a great place to highlight super-curricular activities as evidence of curiosity and interest in the subject outside of the classroom.

- **Your future plans and why this is a good fit for you**

If you already have a particular profession in mind you could talk about how you'll use this to launch your career. If you don't, think about what's important to you and your future, and how the knowledge gained from your chosen course(s) will help you achieve this.

Here are some more examples for this section:

- 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, [subject tasters](#)
- Understanding of the area and the qualities you might need to succeed in it – research into the course/area



Q1: WHY DO YOU WANT TO STUDY THIS COURSE OR SUBJECT?

You'll want to show **evidence** of passion, curiosity and interest, this might include:

Motivations for studying this course(s):

- Have you been inspired by a key role model or moment in your life?
- Is it a subject you love and want to pursue further?
- What is your drive?
- How has your path led you to this course or subject area?

Knowledge of this subject area and interests:

- Is there a particular subject area you've researched?
- Something you can't wait to learn more about?
- What about a book or subject expert doing great things that's sparked your interest?

Future plans; demonstrate why this course/subject is a good fit:

- Do you already have a particular profession in mind?
- How might you use your studies to launch your career?
- What's important to you and your future, and how might the knowledge gained from this course(s) help you achieve this?



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Remember these are just some examples, you don't need to include it all.
The key is to research the course(s) to find out what might be most relevant.



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



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Examples of what you might talk about here are:

- **How your studies or training relate to your chosen course(s) or subject area**

This could be current or previous studies within a school, college, training provider, or even a short online university course – any form of formal education. The main thing here is to focus on what’s most recent and relevant to your chosen course(s). If you are no longer in full-time education, use section three to talk about your experiences since leaving.

- **What relevant or transferable skills you have that make you a great candidate**

Maybe there are a couple of subjects that have helped you develop a core set of skills required for your chosen course(s). Or, a particular module that helped you understand where your interests and strengths lie.

- **Any relevant educational achievements**

Universities and colleges will see your grades elsewhere on your application so don’t waste time talking about these. Consider accomplishments like winning a school or national competition, serving as a student ambassador or team captain, or landing the lead role in a play.



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Q2: HOW HAVE YOUR QUALIFICATIONS AND STUDIES HELPED YOU TO PREPARE FOR THIS COURSE OR SUBJECT?

Focus on what's most **recent** and **relevant** to your subject or course(s), examples could include:

How your studies or training relate to chosen course(s) or subject area:

- This could be your current or previous studies.
- This could be from any form of formal education – think school, college, training, or short online courses.

What relevant or transferable skills have you got that make you a great candidate:

- Are there a couple of subjects that helped you develop a core set of relevant skills required for your chosen course(s)?
- Maybe a particular module or project helped you understand where your interests and strengths lie.

Any relevant educational achievements

- Universities and colleges will see your grades on your application - don't waste space talking about these.
- Focus on your other accomplishments like a competition, holding a position of responsibility or representing the school/college.



Remember these are just some examples, you don't need to include it all. The key is to research the course(s) to find out what might be most relevant. Check out the [UCAS personal statement guidance](#).



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



Examples of what you might talk about here are:

- **Work experience, employment, or volunteering**

Whether it's in-person work experience at your local school or virtual work experience through [Springpod](#), or volunteering at a dog shelter, the key thing here is for you to reflect on your experiences and the skills gained relevant to your chosen course.

- **Personal life experiences or responsibilities**

Is there a situation you've personally overcome that has influenced your decision? Are there responsibilities such as caring for a family member that has helped you develop essential qualities for the course like resilience and empathy?

- **Hobbies and any extracurricular or outreach activities**

Think sports, reading, community work, summer schools – any activities outside of your studies that help further showcase why you'd make a great student.

- **Achievements outside of school or college**

This could be a position of responsibility such as captain for your local club, a musical achievement, competition you won, or a qualification you've attained outside of the classroom.

- **Post-education activities**

If you're no longer in full-time education, it's a good idea to detail what you've been doing since and how this has equipped you with the skills and qualities for your desired course(s).



Q3: WHAT ELSE HAVE YOU DONE TO PREPARE OUTSIDE OF EDUCATION, AND WHY ARE THESE EXPERIENCES USEFUL?

Examples should be **reflective** and **demonstrate** further **suitability** for your subject or course(s), this could include:



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Work experience, employment, or volunteering

- In-person or virtual work experience.
- Paid for work or volunteering.
- The key thing is reflection on the experiences and the skills gained relevant to your chosen course(s).

Personal life experiences or responsibilities

- Is there a situation you’ve personally overcome that has influenced your decision?
- Are there personal experiences that have helped you develop essential qualities for the course?

Hobbies and any extracurricular or outreach activities:

- Think sports, reading, community work, summer schools.
- Any activities outside of core studies that help further showcase why you’d make a great student.

Achievements outside of school or college

- This could be a position of responsibility for local clubs or groups, competitions, or qualifications you’ve attained outside of the classroom.



Remember these are just some examples, you don’t need to include it all. The key is to research the course(s) to find out what might be most relevant.



Useful information



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Subject specific personal statements:

<https://www.ucas.com/applying/applying-university/writing-your-personal-statement/2026-personal-statement-guides>

There's no right or wrong answer

There's no 'wrong' place to include information in your answers, so just make sure your evidence is included where you feel it is relevant...and don't panic about whether it should be in your answer for question 2 or 3!

Your answers will be reviewed as one

Admissions staff will still review your personal statement as a whole, so remember not to repeat information - focus on making your evidence relevant and specific to the subject you're applying to.

Maximising the character count limit

You can use the 4,000 character count limit across all answers in any way you choose, and the amount you write for each question can vary depending on your chosen course or experience.



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Process of Personal Statements at Etone



- Pupils sent through their personal statement comprised of the 3 questions to tutors
- Tutors offer them support and guidance on how to improve it
- It goes back and forth between tutor and student until tutor feels it is ready to send to Careers Adviser (4,000 characters across all 3 questions)
- We then look through the personal statement and offer additional guidance.
- Then a meeting is organised to send off the student's personal statement.
- If students are entitled to FSM or bursary then the application is free
- For all other students to submit the application costs £28.95



Once your child has applied...



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1. Your child submits their application which includes 5 choices.
2. If your child has applied for a course that involves some sort of test, assessment, interview etc. Students will be contacted through emails and/or UCAS regarding when this will take place and what it will involve. Students must regularly check emails and UCAS.
3. Your child will then hopefully receive an offer through UCAS/emails from each university.
4. In an ideal world they will have 5 offers to then choose from. Do not worry if you they do not have all 5.
5. Once your child has heard back from **ALL** universities, they then need to decide by March time. Your child can only pick **ONE** of their 5 universities to select as their **FIRM(FIRST) CHOICE**. This is the one they **WANT TO GO TO** that might have higher grade entry requirements.
6. Your child will then also select **ONE INSURANCE** (backup). This **MUST** have lower entry requirements than their first choice. This is because on the day of results if they do not get the grades for their first choice but meet the entry requirements for their insurance they will then automatically get a place at that insurance university.
7. Once your child has decided they then wait until results day and focus on getting those grades!



Results Day – Thursday 13th August



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1. At this point you will already have selected your insurance and firm choice well in advance (by March)
2. You come in on results day from 8am to get your grade results.
3. UCAS will also open from 8am.
4. Your UCAS will tell you whether you have gotten into your first choice, insurance or neither.
5. You will automatically get your insurance if you have not met the entry requirements for your first choice but meet your insurance entry requirements.
6. If you have not got the grades from your first choice or insurance there is an option for you called clearing.
7. On UCAS clearing will be open for you to look at different courses.
8. You need to be quick on the day and ensure that you get your results early as the clearing course spaces come on a first come first serve basis.
9. If you need to call clearing, I will be able to help you. You can phone up the different universities with your grades to see what courses you can get on.
10. Do **NOT** worry, last year in summer 2024 we had **NO PUPILS** in clearing as all students had got their first or insurance choice.



Not going Uni?

If you are not applying to university, you need to start thinking about your next steps and plans

1. Apprenticeships
2. Job opportunities

You need to be applying **NOW** for next year

HOWEVER, You can apply to Uni AND apply to apprenticeships so I would ALWAYS RECOMMEND APPLYING TO UNI and putting in a UCAS application as a backup because you can always decide not to go on results day!

<https://padlet.com/asandilands/preparing-for-careers-the-future-457g3tb9amdb8bz9>



Where to access support



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- Careers Padlet - <https://padlet.com/asandilands/preparing-for-careers-the-future-457g3tb9amdb8bz9>
- Careers Adviser – book in appointment for 1:1 meeting
- Attend an open day and ask questions there
- UCAS website - <https://www.ucas.com/>



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Feedback from today's session



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