

# Parents' evening presentation

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UCAS

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# UCAS – an independent charity

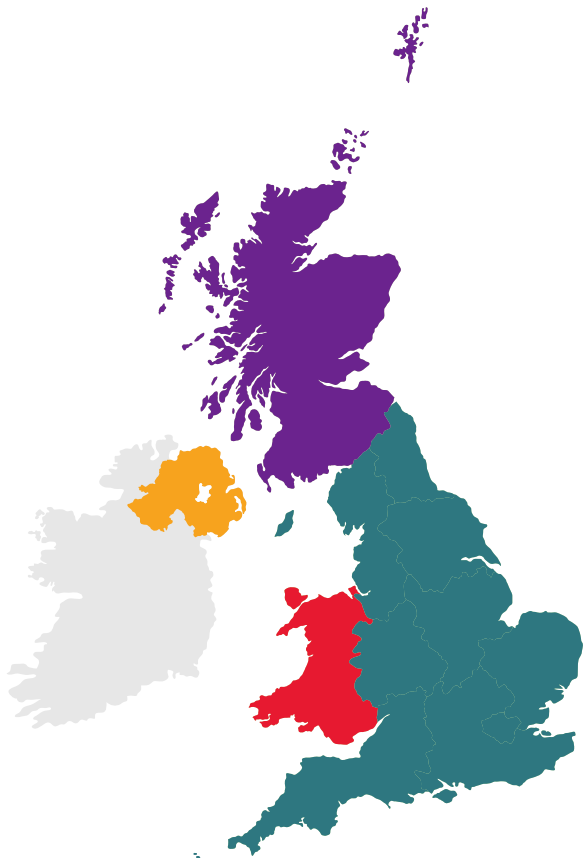
## UCAS does:

- ✓ 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

# Course providers



Circa. **344** universities and colleges (variable)

- **five** in **Northern Ireland**
- **19** in **Wales**
- **22** in **Scotland**
- **297** in **England**
- **one** in mainland **Europe**

at the time of checking

- **35,000+** courses available

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# Choices available



**Higher  
education**



**Apprenticeships/  
traineeships**



**Studying  
abroad**



**Gap year**



**Getting a job**

**Understand the options available: [ucas.com](https://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

Go to [ucas.com/understanding-apprenticeships](https://ucas.com/understanding-apprenticeships).

**25%**

of applicants declining  
all offers in 2018 told  
UCAS they had chosen  
an **apprenticeship**  
instead.

# 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

# Choosing the right university for you

- **Style** – from 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. This can have a major influence on the environment and lifestyle on offer.
- **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** – vary between course providers. Check if there are any scholarships/bursaries available.
- **Living costs** – accommodation, transport, and food can vary enormously.

# Choosing the right course for you

- 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



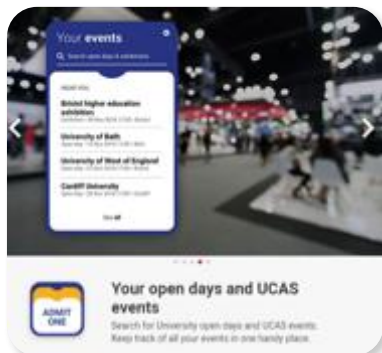
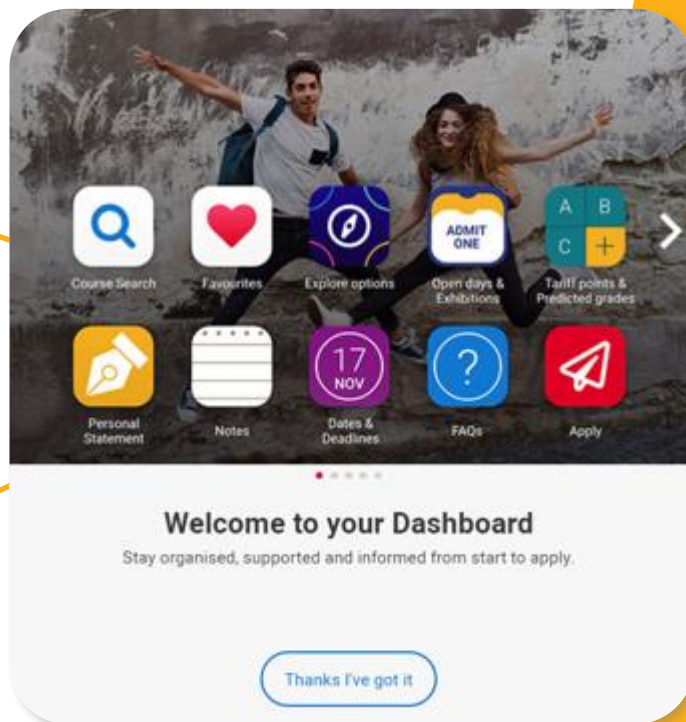
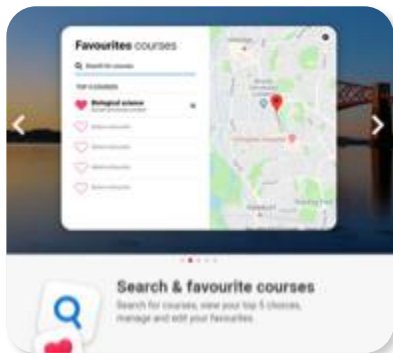
# Research – it's free!



- [Register in the UCAS Hub to explore options](#) – find and favourite courses and search for virtual events - all in one handy place!
- Learning from others – [student videos](#) and [blogs](#).
- [Career options](#) – use the [job profiles](#) to explore different career roles and pathways, or take the [Buzz quiz](#) to find out more about individual strengths, and what roles may suit.
- The [Career Finder tool](#) is ideal for considering options after education, including searching for [apprenticeships](#).

# The UCAS Hub

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# What and where to study

[View published](#)

## Subject guides

Undergraduate courses you could study, what they involve, and how to get onto them.

## Choosing a course

Tips and advice to help you decide what subject, course type, and provider is right for you.

## Open days and events

Great ways to find out more about higher education, and if a university is right for you.



Advertisement. Why the ads?



Advertisement. Why the ads?

## Entry requirements

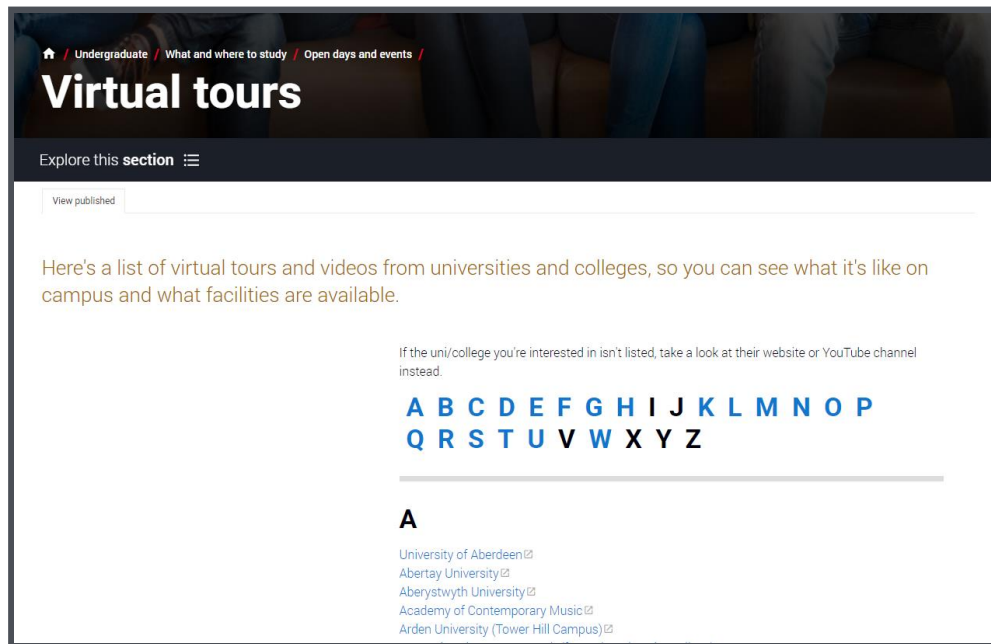
Unis have different requirements for their courses – usually a mix of qualifications, subjects, or exam grades.



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# Virtual tour search



The screenshot shows the UCAS Virtual tours search interface. At the top, a dark header contains navigation links: Home, Undergraduate, What and where to study, and Open days and events. Below this, the title 'Virtual tours' is prominently displayed. A sub-header 'Explore this section' with a menu icon is present. A 'View published' button is located on the left. The main content area features a paragraph explaining the purpose of the page: 'Here's a list of virtual tours and videos from universities and colleges, so you can see what it's like on campus and what facilities are available.' Below this, a note advises users to check university websites or YouTube channels if the university is not listed. A large, bold, blue alphabet grid (A-Z) is displayed, with the letter 'A' highlighted. Underneath the grid, a list of universities is shown, each with an external link icon.

Home / Undergraduate / What and where to study / Open days and events /

## Virtual tours

Explore this section ☰

View published

Here's a list of virtual tours and videos from universities and colleges, so you can see what it's like on campus and what facilities are available.

If the uni/college you're interested in isn't listed, take a look at their website or YouTube channel instead.

**A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P**  
**Q R S T U V W X Y Z**

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**A**

- [University of Aberdeen](#)
- [Abertay University](#)
- [Aberystwyth University](#)
- [Academy of Contemporary Music](#)
- [Arden University \(Tower Hill Campus\)](#)

# Apply key facts...



It's an online application.



Maximum of five choices.



Choice restrictions:

- medicine, veterinary, medicine/science, dentistry (maximum of four)
- Oxford or Cambridge



Simple application cost:

- one choice – £20
- two to five choices – £26



Equal consideration.



'Invisibility'.

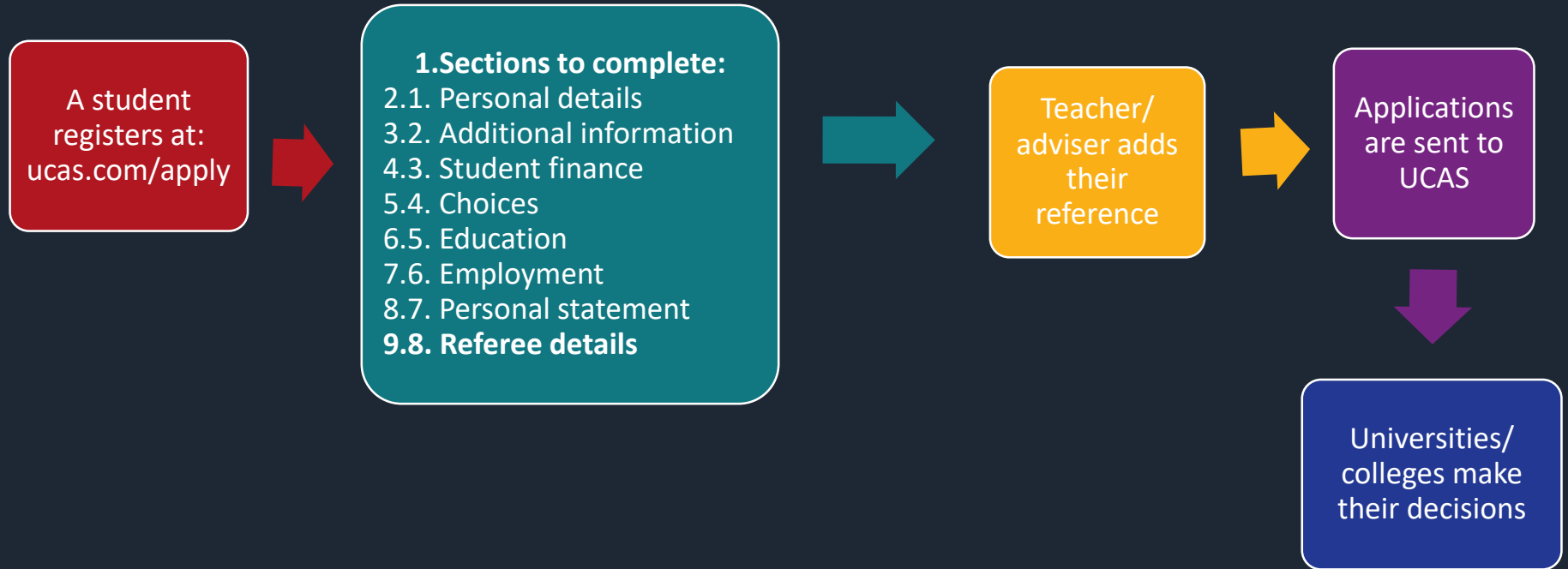
# When to apply for 2021 entry

<b>19 May</b>	UCAS Undergraduate Apply opens for 2021 entry.
<b>8 September</b>	First day for receipt of completed applications.
<b>15 October*</b>	Application deadline for courses in medicine, veterinary medicine/science, and dentistry, and courses at Oxford <b>or</b> Cambridge.
<b>15 January*</b>	Equal consideration application deadline.
<b>25 February</b>	Extra opens.
<b>30 June*</b>	Last date for applications before Clearing.

**\* All 18:00 (UK time)**



# Completing the UCAS application





# The personal statement



The only section the applicant has full control over.



Their only chance to market themselves individually.



One personal statement for all choices.



Maximum of 4,000 characters, or 47 lines.



Minimum of 1,000 characters.



No spelling/grammar check.



No formatting.

# Decisions

Universities and colleges will review the:



**personal statement**



**qualifications**



**reference**

They may also ask for:

**Admissions test**

**Portfolio/audition**

**Interview**

And make one of three decisions:



**Unconditional offer**



**Conditional offer**



**Unsuccessful**

# Tracking applications

Track allows applicants 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
- **insurance** – if they are not placed with their firm choice, they may be placed with their insurance choice



# Other options



## **Extra** (25 Feb – 4 Jul)

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

## **Clearing** (5 Jul – 19 Oct)

- Apply after 30 June, receive no offers, decline all offers, not met conditions.
- Find vacancies from July, and add one choice in Track.

## **Adjustment** (up to five days in Aug)

- Placed with firm choice, and did better than expected.
- Register in Track, then find another university or college. The new university or college adjusts the record.

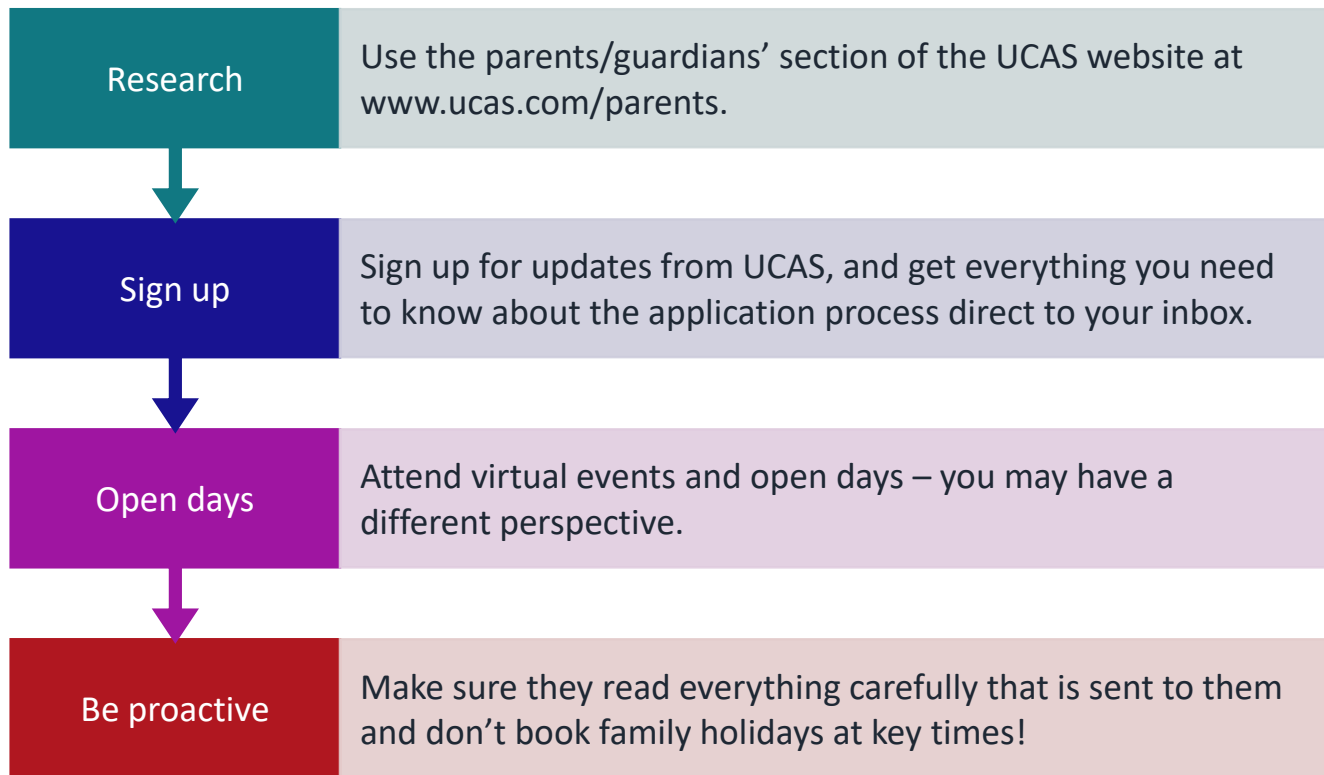
# What should your child be doing now?

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- research
- extracurricular activities
- work experience
- go beyond the syllabus
- focus on this year's studies

# How can you support them?



Thank you

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