

Explaining the UCAS Process

Information for parents and carers

Did you know?

Approximately 700,000 people apply for full-time undergraduate courses at over 380 universities and colleges across the UK each year.



What is the UCAS Process?

UCAS stands for the University and Colleges Admissions Service and is the organisation that administers and processes applications to universities.

The process for sixth forms starts in the summer term when students register on the UCAS website and begin the completion of their application form.

The application form is divided into straightforward sections: personal details, course choices, education history, employment history and a personal statement. A member of staff, often the tutor, will provide a reference.

By the end of the summer term, most students have completed much of the application form and have made a start with the personal statement.

There are key application dates of which you need to be aware (these are for 2019 entry; they are normally the same every year):

October 1st Deadline for music courses via UCAS Conservatoires.

October 15th Deadline for Oxford, Cambridge and most courses in Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Medicine. (There are also extra admissions tests with many of these applications.)

January 15th Application deadline for the majority of undergraduate courses.

Once an application has been sent to UCAS, it can be tracked. A university may offer a student a conditional place for the course that has been applied for – so the student will have to achieve the grades or points asked for by the university to secure their place. Alternatively, they may be offered an unconditional place or be rejected. If a student is rejected from all of their university choices, they may re-start the application process in February when UCAS Extra opens, an opportunity to apply to different universities, or different courses.

What can you do?

One thing you can do is to take your child to visit universities, if this is a possible, or look online at each campus. It's also helpful to discuss different options with your child – find out why they want to go to university. Do they want to or are they 'following the crowd'?

If you want to find out more, UCAS has many tools for parents. These look at the application process in detail, including accommodation and finance. You can also sign up for monthly newsletters to keep you in touch with the whole application process. Just search for parents at www.ucas.com.

Or for the parent and guardian form visit <https://www.ucas.com/file/185091/download?token=4Pf51fWt>

Post-18 Pathways

Information for parents and carers



Did you know?



Millennials are likely to have **TWELVE** jobs in their working lives. Jane Warren, CEO of Investec Click and Investec, said, "The days of having a job for life have long been over and our findings show that younger people are keen to take control of their careers by switching jobs to meet their objectives, despite the greater insecurity this brings."

The career path that our young people take at 18 may be the first of many.



What can you do?

Deciding what you want to do or be in the future can be very daunting for young people, and also a milestone for you as you watch your child starting to think about becoming much more independent.

- It is important that you ask them to consider what they really like, and the things that they could do – they shouldn't rule anything out at this stage.
- Encourage them to do research. They can look at career videos and consider the facts and figures or careers they may be interested in.
- They could look at the range of apprenticeships that are available and where they can lead – they are a completely viable alternative to a traditional university route.
- The Sixth Form team will help with the university application process, from starting to consider what to study to how to apply for finance and accommodation.

- Ask them if they are going to do work experience so they can gain more understanding of a potential career, or to help in the development of soft skills that will enhance their applications. You may have friends who are happy to have your son/daughter shadowing them for a couple of days in their holidays.
- Perhaps they could consider some volunteering opportunities that will serve to add to their experience, develop their soft skills and enhance their CVs.
- Have a look at some of the tools with your son or daughter that we will be using in the sixth form. For example: www.careermap.co.uk, the Careerometer from www.lmiforall.org.uk, information about Universities at www.ucas.com and for apprenticeships <https://www.ucas.com/alternatives-to-university>