

UCAS

The Applicants Journey

Overview of UCAS process

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Applicant research

2

Registers online with UCAS Apply

3

Complete form and process payment

4

Academic reference added

5

Application form sent to UCAS by school

6

UCAS forwards application to chosen universities

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Universities submit decisions

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Applicants view decisions on Track

9

Applicants replies to offers on Track (Firm / Insurance)

10

Universities confirm places when results are released



Online resources

- UCAS.com
- Institutions sites
- Subject specific
- Unistats
- National press
- Journals
- Social media websites
- Government sites



Key features of UCAS

All managed through www.ucas.com

- Register with school buzzword:
 - **Knockcareers24**
- Standard fee - £27
- Maximum of 5 choices
- Some choice restrictions:
 - Medicine, Veterinary, Dentistry – max 4
 - Oxford or Cambridge
- Simultaneous consideration (universities do not know where else you have applied to).
- There are opportunities for other choices:
 - Extra , Clearing & Adjustment



Key dates and deadlines

- **Early September:** School can start to submit completed applications to UCAS
- **2nd October (School deadline) 16th October (UCAS deadline) for :**
 - Medicine, Veterinary, Dentistry
 - Oxford or Cambridge
- **6th November:** School deadline for all applicants
- **31st January:** UCAS deadline



Making your application

Every applicant has seven sections to complete:

- Personal details
- Additional information (UK students only)
- Student Finance
- Choices
- Education
- Employment
- Personal statement

When you pay and send it does not leave the school system only Mr Davey can send it UCAS after your reference has been added and been approved by your careers teachers. This may take 1-2 weeks before you application is sent to UCAS by the school. Be patient. You will be notified by UCAS once your application has been sent.






> Apply



University and college decisions

Once sent you enter UCAS Track, you will receive one of three decisions:

- Conditional Offer – we want you provisionally. 
- Unconditional Offer – we definitely want you. 
NB. There may be some non academic requirements such as fee status.
- Unsuccessful – sorry we are not interested. 

Most will receive conditional offers, based on:

- Grades;
- Tariff points (see next slide);
- A combination of both;
- Non academic conditions eg relevant experience or interviews.



Tariff points

AS Grades	Points		A2 Grades	Points
			A*	56
A	20		A	48
B	16		B	40
C	12		C	32
D	10		D	24
E	8		E	16

What do universities use to make their decisions?

A combination of any of these sources:

- Information on Apply
 - Your grades (GCSE, AS and predicted A2 grades)
 - Your personal statement
 - Your reference
 - Work experience
- Interviews/additional work/portfolios/Auditions
- Admissions tests



Applicant replies

- When you have received decisions from **ALL** of your choices you will be asked to reply by a given date via UCAS Hub (see next slide).
- UCAS will send reminders – but if YOU fail to reply by this date your offers will be **declined by UCAS automatically**.
- You are able to hold 2 offers to the end of the process (all others are declined).

Offers

- **Firm** - your first choice where you want to go.
- **Insurance** - your back up choice but nevertheless a commitment like the firm. You will be placed here if you do not meet the conditions of firm.

You cannot swap between them



Reply Dates



- If you receive your last decision on or before end of 1st May 2024, your reply date is 31st May 2024.
- You can reply anytime you do not need to wait until this date.

Please note you must double this dates on
UCAS Hub!


UCAS Hub

When you log onto UCAS Hub you will see something similar to this. It will show the decisions made by each university.


Additional information about the decision can be viewed here.

Once you have selected your Firm and Insurance you will receive additional information from the universities and UCAS.

Your Choices

 **Offers received**

University of Wales <small>N37</small> Social Studies and Counselling Studies (BA) <small>LB3X</small> Start Date: Sep – 2013 Start from: Year One	The university has offered you a place subject to conditions (Conditional offer) Last updated <i>2 May 2013</i>	View >
University of Wales <small>N37</small> Social Studies (BA) <small>L300</small> Start Date: Sep – 2013 Start from: Year One	The university has offered you a place subject to conditions (Conditional offer) Last updated <i>2 May 2013</i>	View >
Bangor University <small>B06</small> Sociology with Cultural Studies (BA) <small>L310</small> Start Date: Sep – 2013 Start from: Year One	The university has offered you a place subject to conditions (Conditional offer) Last updated <i>12 March 2013</i>	View >

 **Unsuccessful, declined and withdrawn choices** [Hide](#)

University of East London <small>E28</small> Sociology with Cultural Studies (BA) <small>L3LP</small> Start Date: Sep – 2013 Start from: Year One	The University has received your application and is considering it Last updated <i>20 April 2013</i>	View >
University of Essex <small>E70</small> Sociology with Psychosocial Studies (BA) <small>LJC8</small> Start Date: Sep – 2013 Start from: Year One	The University has received your application and is considering it Last updated <i>3 May 2013</i>	View >

Deferred Entry



- Deferring means applying for a course then taking a year out before going to university.
 - you could apply in September 2023 to start university in September 2025.
 - Usually, you can only defer your entry by one year.
- Some universities and colleges do not allow deferred entry for some subjects.
 - Make sure you check with the university or college that they are happy to consider an application for deferred entry.
- You will still need to meet the conditions of any offers in the year that you apply.

How to defer your application

1. You need to select the deferred entry start date when adding a choice on your UCAS application.
2. In your personal statement, you need to give reasons for deferring, and your plans for your year out. These will be taken into account when assessing your application.
3. Your application will then go through the same process, at the same time, as applications to start in 2024. You will be able to track your application, and may receive the same types of offers from the universities and colleges by the same deadlines. You may also be invited to interviews, and will need to reply to your offers.

How to defer your application

Deferring after submitting your application

- In some cases, this is possible, but it will depend on the university or college and course you have applied to. You should contact the university or college directly for advice. You may be asked to give reasons for deciding to defer.

Deferring after you get your exam results/after your place is confirmed :

- If you are due to start your course in September and decide you want to defer your place for a year, you must contact the university or college directly. Some course providers may not allow deferral for some courses at this point in the application cycle. You will be asked to give reasons for your late decision to defer. Your request will be considered, but there is no guarantee that it will be accepted, and you may be asked to reapply. **Be sure!** Once you have deferred your place at this point, you will not be able to revert back to your original year of entry, so you need to be sure of your decision before contacting the university or college.

What if you defer your place then change your mind?

- If you apply for and receive an offer of a deferred place for the following year's entry, but then decide you want to start your course this year, you need to contact the university or college directly. This process is not straightforward, and will depend on whether there are places available on the course.

Confirmation options



1. Exam results are issued.
2. Admissions staff check if you have matched the conditions of your offer.
3. If you meet the conditions of the firm choice, you will be placed there.
4. You will be able to view this on track, and you will be sent an official confirmation from the university.

If you have not met the conditions of your firm choice, but meet the conditions of your insurance choice (which should be lower), you will be placed there.

If you do not meet the conditions of your Firm or Insurance choice you become eligible for Clearing. You can still be placed on a course similar to your Firm or Insurance. You will be able to view decisions about Clearing on Track. If you enter Clearing, research the courses before making a decision.

Useful websites

- www.ucas.com
- <http://unistats.direct.gov.uk>
- <http://university.which.co.uk>
- www.bestcourse4me.com
- www.thestudentroom.co.uk
- www.studential.com
- www.completeuniversityguide.co.uk



Extra & Clearing

To be done later!

UCAS Extra

- Operates from late February to the beginning of July
- Course vacancies listed on UCAS website
- Allows additional single choices, entered and considered once at a time via Track
- Applicants eligible for Extra:
 - Used all 5 choices
 - All choices unsuccessful, cancelled or offers declined



Clearing

- Operates after the release of A level results;
- Course vacancies listed on UCAS website;
- Allows additional single choices, entered and considered once at a time via Track;
- Applicants must contact the university to discuss directly;
- Applicants eligible for Clearing:
 - Paid full fee (£27);
 - All choices unsuccessful, cancelled or offers declined.



Clearing Plus

- Clearing Plus is only available if you're unsuccessful with your application or are applying for the first time for a place in Clearing. You'll be able to 'view your matches' in your UCAS Hub.
- UCAS will look at the original choices you applied for, combined with your qualifications and grades.
- Universities and colleges have already told UCAS what courses they will make available in Clearing Plus (only relevant courses are included in your matches), and the entry requirements for them.
- UCAS then matches your profile to each course.