

Dear Parent/Carer,

Thank you for coming to the Y13 Form Tutor Parents Evening. We hope you found it a useful opportunity to meet your child's tutor, discuss how they are progressing academically and understanding how best to support them as we approach A Levels and next steps planning.

We offered three additional seminar sessions on the evening, and have attached here the resources used, for your information.

If your child has any questions about their next steps plans, please encourage them to speak to their referee in the first instance, who will be able to support. Equally, if they are feeling uncertain about their plans, their tutor can refer them for an appointment with the careers team.

With best wishes,

Mr Z Kazi
Deputy Director of Sixth Form





What is an apprenticeship?

.....a way of gaining a qualification that combines study (approx. 20%) with paid employment (approx. 80%)

Apprentices are entitled to
holiday pay, sick pay, and all
other employee rights

2026 Apprenticeship Salaries

Age	Hourly Rate
16-18	£8 regardless of length of service
19+ in 1 st year	£8
19+ post 1 st year	National minimum wage for your age

Apprenticeship Levels

Level 4- Higher Apprenticeship. Equiv. to the 1st year of a degree Up to 2 years duration

Level 5- Higher Apprenticeship. Equiv. to the 2nd year of a degree Up to 2 years duration

Level 6 - Degree Apprenticeship. Equiv. to a full degree 3+ years duration

Level 7 - Degree Apprenticeship. Equiv. to postgraduate degree 1+ years duration

- Can apply on a rolling basis*
- Can apply to UCAS at the same time

You can do an apprenticeship at a lower or same level as your current highest qualification **providing** it's in a different subject

Duration 3 Years **Positions available** 1

In your final year, you will pick a specialism in one of these areas, which you will continue in your role to develop your supervisory/managerial skills for the final year of your programme.

96 UCAS Points

Initiative

How to apply for Apprenticeships



Dedicated Apprenticeship Job Sites



UCAS

<https://www.ucas.com/apprenticeships/search-apply>

Generic Job Sites



<https://uk.indeed.com/jobs?q=degree+apprenticeship&l=London%2C+Greater+London&radius=25&from=searchOnDesktopSerp&vjk=41b215499c8d092d>

Direct to the Company



Law Firm

<https://www.rpclegal.com/careers/early-talent/uk/solicitor-apprenticeship/>



<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/career-planning/study-and-training/nhs-apprenticeships>

Y13 Careers Page in the Google Classroom*

<https://classroom.google.com/c/MTgzODM5NTY1MDla>

This might be of interest.....

- **Free** careers exhibition taking place on 13th and 14th of November 2026 in Olympia, Hammersmith
- Over 100 employers in attendance, from Coca Cola to Aon
- Find out about their apprenticeship opportunities first hand

Click [here](#) for more information and to book tickets

What
Next?

Events

Jobs

Universities

Advice

Parents

Contact

EXHIBIT

BOOK TICKETS



SO YOU'RE LEAVING SCHOOL

WHAT NEXT?

What
CAREER
LIVE



What
UNIVERSITY
LIVE



Speculative Applications



Apprenticeship Facts and Stats at a Glance

Degree apprenticeships are advertised on a rolling basis throughout the year, though some vacancies may mirror the UCAS application cycle

You can apply simultaneously for a degree apprenticeship and 'traditional' degree via UCAS

Majority of degree apprentices remain with their employer upon graduation

No application limit-apply as you would for any job

You cannot defer a degree apprenticeship place

Some roles may require a DBS check

The highest paying degree apprenticeship sectors:

IT Finance Engineering Law

Largest UK apprenticeship employer to date:

BAE Systems: Aerospace and arms manufacture

Takeaways....

Start looking now

Have an up to date CV and cover letter

Look at the Y13 Careers Page

Have a plan B!

Apprenticeships are not just the easy option

You don't *necessarily have* to apply for a *degree* apprenticeship next

Apprenticeship area not always linked to the employer's sector – e.g., IT apprenticeship in the NHS

WHERE TO SEARCH FOR APPRENTICESHIPS

GOVERNMENT APPRENTICESHIP WEBSITE

<https://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/apprenticeshipsearch>

UCAS

<https://www.ucas.com/explore/search/apprenticeships?query=>

NOT GOING TO UNI

<https://notgoingtouni.co.uk/opportunities>

SUCCESS AT SCHOOL

<https://successatschool.org/jobs>

HIGHER IN

<https://higherin.com/search-jobs>

GET MY FIRST JOB

<https://www.getmyfirstjob.co.uk/>

TALENTVIEW

https://talentview.org/vacancy?opportunity_type=apprenticeships

TOTAL JOBS

<https://www.totaljobs.com/jobs/apprenticeship/in-london>

FIND APPRENTICESHIPS

<https://www.findapprenticeships.co.uk/>

NHS APPRENTICESHIPS

<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/career-planning/study-and-training/nhs-apprenticeships>

CREATIVE APPRENTICESHIPS

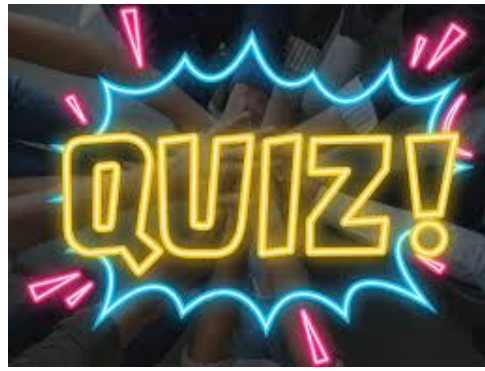
<https://bigcreative.education/apprenticeship/vacancies/>

CONSTRUCTION APPRENTICESHIPS

<https://searchcareers.goconstruct.org/search?keywords=apprentice&lat=51.5074456&lng=-0.1277653>

INDEED

<https://uk.indeed.com/jobs?q=degree+apprenticeship+level+6&l=London%2C+Greater+London&ts=1789557645978&from=searchOnDesktopSerp&rq=1&rsidx=1&fromage=last&vjk=c783a56b12064aab>



On an apprenticeship what % of time is spent studying and working? **20 and 80 %**

What level is a degree apprenticeship? **6**

What is the hourly apprenticeship wage if you're 17? **£8**

What is the deadline for applying for a degree apprenticeship? **There is none but (advisable to apply from Sept-January)**

Name one way to apply for an apprenticeship

I have a Level 3 BTEC in Science. Can I do a Level 2 Apprenticeship in Hospitality? **Yes – lower level but different subject!**

Any Questions?

Thank you!

Nljeh@graveney.wandsworth.sch.uk

R21A, Red House



The Cost of University



Fees + Living Costs = Total cost £70,600

The typical student living in England on a three year course in the UK will pay £29,370 in fees

This cost can be borrowed as a Student Loan it is not an “upfront” cost.

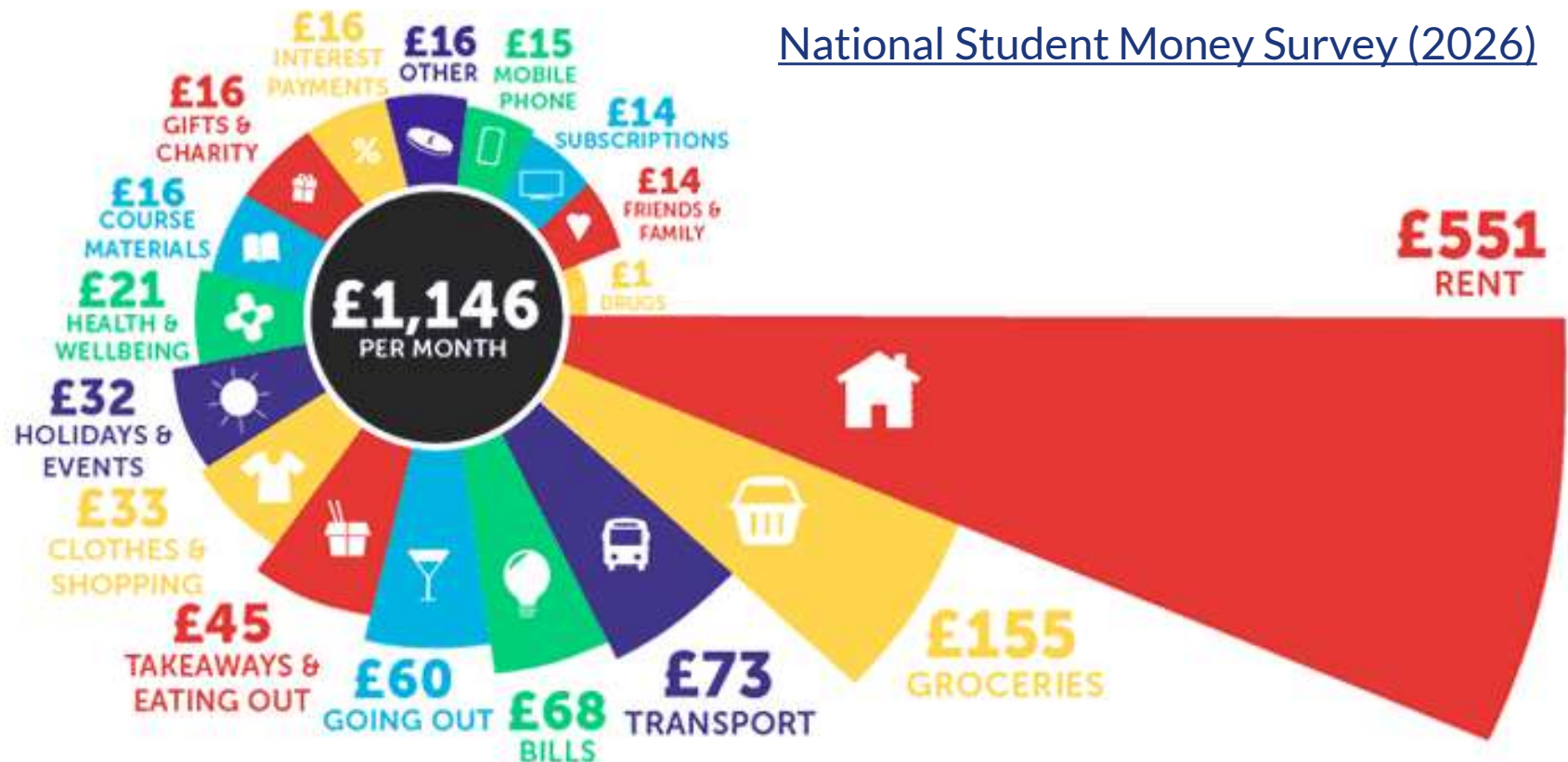
Based on figures from the National Student Money Survey (2026) the average annual cost of living excluding fees is £13,743 each year - that is £41,230 over three years.

The maintenance Loan is available but won't cover the full cost

Cost varies greatly by **both** university **and** region

Average monthly spend - UK university student

National Student Money Survey (2026)



Regional Variation

Cheapest: Northern Ireland, East Midlands
Wales

Middle: North West, Yorkshire
and West Midlands

Most Expensive: Scotland, North East,
East of England, South West and **London**

Caveat: These averages include
students who lived at home
so the true average is likely higher



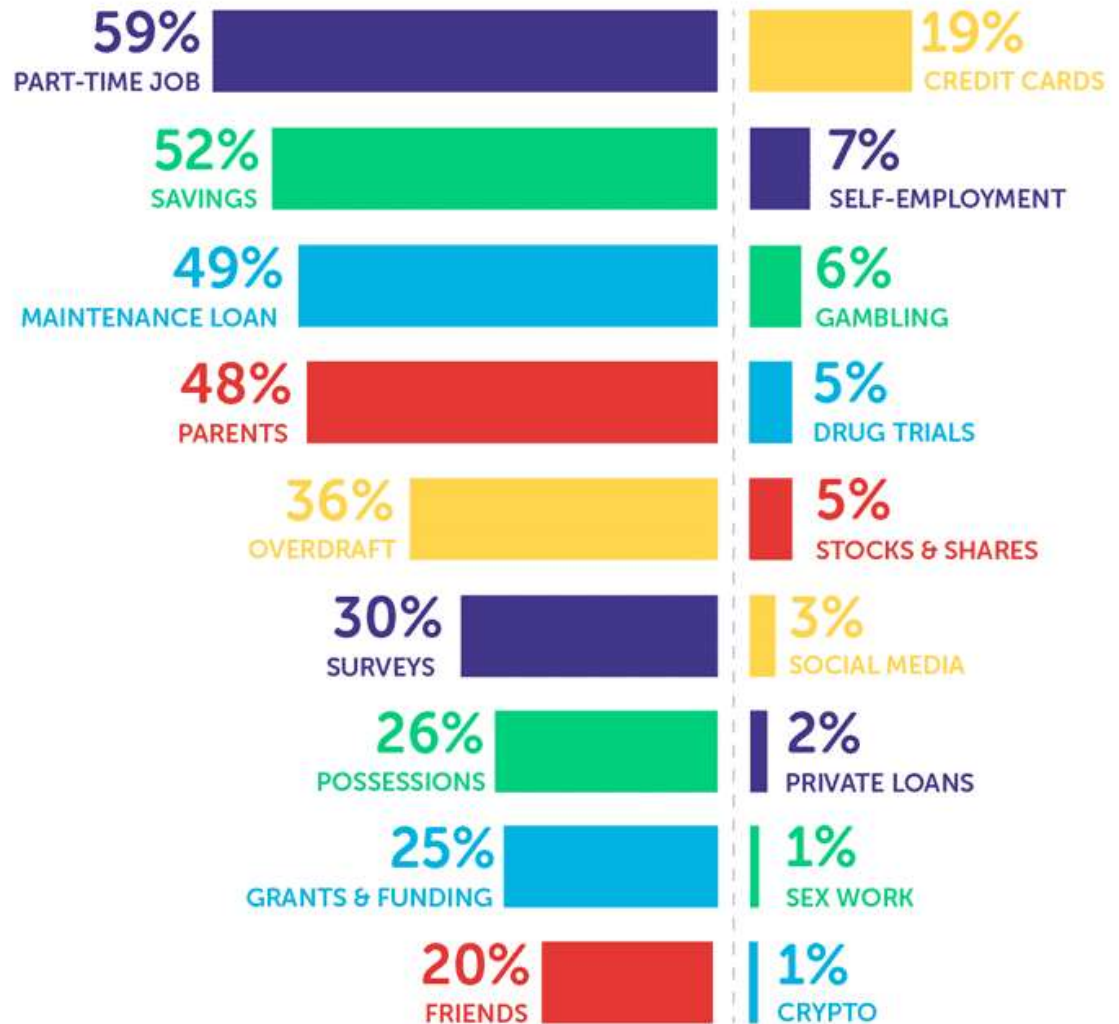
Students: self reported sources of income

Please note these figures are from a student survey.

Government statistics indicate that 90% of eligible students take up the maintenance loan and 95% of eligible students take up the fees loan.



AVERAGE EARNINGS
FROM A STUDENT'S
PART-TIME JOB



Accommodation Costs



Accommodation is your single largest cost. Every university offers a variety of price points, service levels and availability.

- Catered Halls / Semi-Catered / Self-catered
- En Suite / Shared bathroom
- Separate Flat / Single room / Shared room
- Contract length: 50 weeks / 39 weeks
- Guaranteed accommodation? / Private rental?

E.g.

UCL prices range from £159.60 per week to £452.00 per week

Loughborough £125.64 per week to £256.43 per week

Bursaries / Hardship Funds

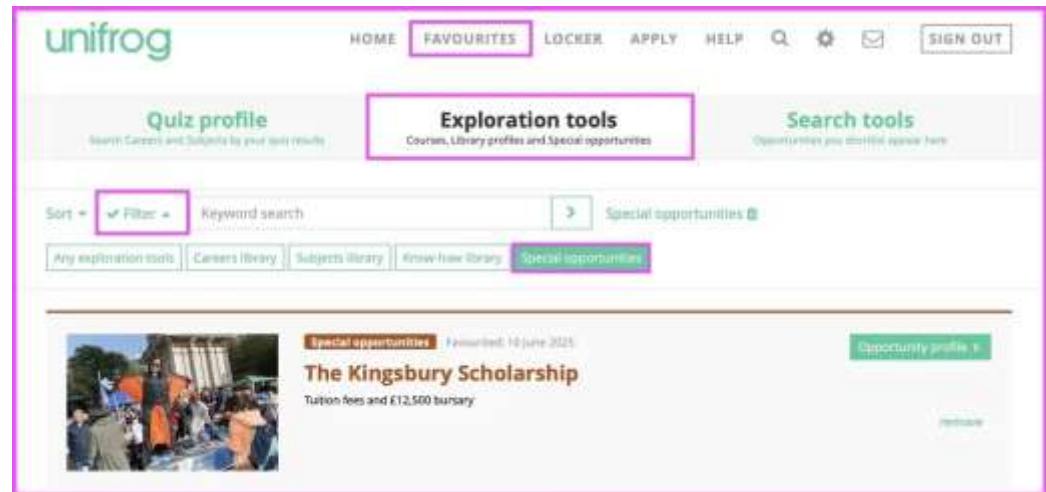


Most universities have a selection of bursaries that students can apply to.

Criteria include:

- Geographical
- Financial
- Academic
- Sporting

Research and Apply!



Most universities also have a hardship fund accessible to students who are not able to afford their living costs

Budgeting



Budgets aren't exciting but having one is very important.

Take time to help your child to come up with a realistic budget that has enough wriggle room, so they will not feel too bad if they occasionally break it. *Divide total funds for the term by number of weeks plus one.*

One trick for budgeting is to use only cash. Spending on debit and credit cards feels less real than handing over actual paper money. Or use up-to-date apps that let you track spending by category.

Avoid commercial debt

Student loans are unsecured debt with a strictly limited repayment plan. In contrast commercial debt affects your credit record and usually has far less favourable terms.

Banks compete for student business, and offer large overdrafts as inducements like railcards. Careful research is required. Beware high interest rates on overdrafts - read the small print!.

Credit cards are generally not a good idea

Store cards and payday loans should certainly be avoided.



Get a job



Working during studies is definitely one of the best ways to reduce student debt levels. Exams and coursework should come first, but a part-time job helps develop new skills and gives vital experience for life after education. Relevant work experience if possible will help when looking for a graduate job post university.

Away from traditional student jobs such as waitressing and bar work look for work that will be stimulating and useful. E.g. work as a private tutor, or building connections in their preferred post-university field.



Summary

- Fees can be fully covered by a loan
- Maintenance loan alone seldom covers the cost of university
- Course choice must come first but do research accommodation costs and other living costs in your chosen university before confirming your choice.
- Apply for bursaries
- Keep to a budget
- Get a job
- Be nice to Mum and Dad!



A background photograph of three young adults sitting on a concrete ledge outdoors. On the right, a man with a beard and a denim vest over a light blue shirt is smiling and looking towards the left. He is holding a blue book and a purple and yellow striped ball. In the center, a woman with long pink hair is also smiling and looking towards the left. On the far left, the back of a person's head wearing a black beanie is visible. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

UCAS Strategy Apply 2027

PLEASE TURN YOUR MOBILE PHONE TO SILENT

PLEASE DO NOT TAKE PICTURES OF THE SLIDES, WE WILL
SHARE THEM WITH EVERYONE

UCAS

What has happened already?

UCAS

- Opportunities bulletins - sharing lectures, work experience, placements, shadowing etc.
- Y12 form tutor parents evening - new format with more on next steps
- Requesting 1:1 careers meetings
- 1:1 Coaching meetings with tutors
- Extra sessions e.g. Weekly external speakers schedule
- Introduction to UCAS/Next Steps - Parent Webinars with approx. 250 attendees
- UCAS Sign Up Sessions – nearly all students signed up to UCAS
- Careers WEP - Unifrog log ins and orientation of the features of the platform
- Next Steps Day – 3 keynote speakers and our biggest range of options to date – 33!
- Letters to parents outlining processes and key dates
- Graveney Guide to Next Steps booklet published online
- The tutorial programme in form time
- Early Entry meeting 1 - admissions tests and admin
- Early Entry meeting 2 - writing personal statements and deadlines approaching

What is UCAS?

UCAS is an **independent charity** providing information, advice and admissions services. We're there to help people **discover** what their next step might be.

UCAS **does**:

- provide information, advice, and support
- process applications
- complete fraud and verification checks
- take part in education sector engagement

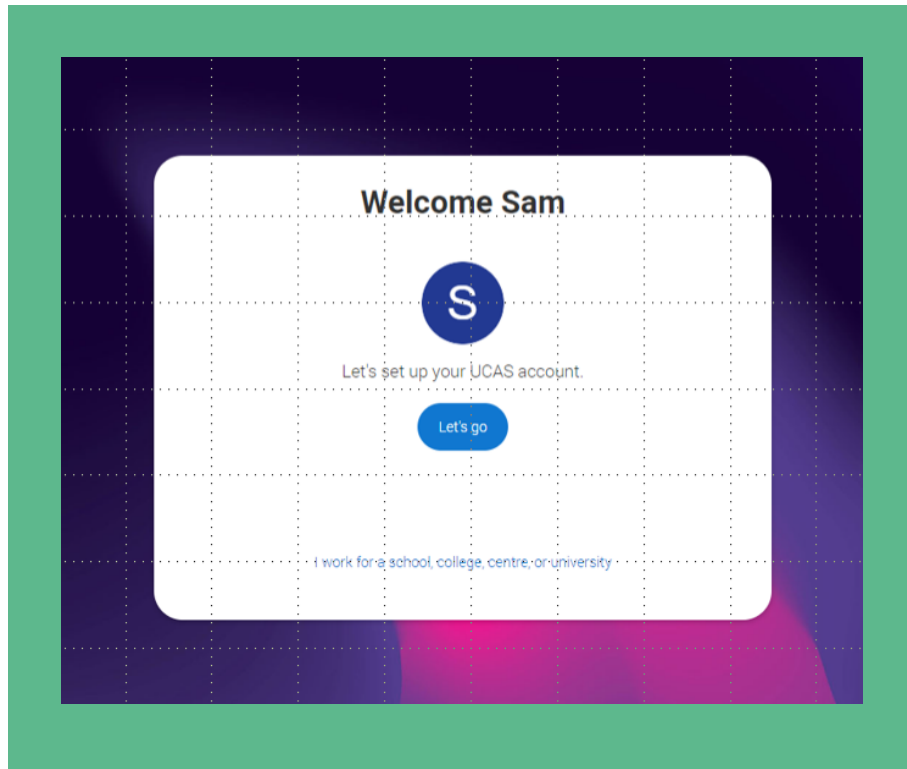
UCAS **doesn't**:

- make decisions or offers
- set entry requirements
- advise on finance
- advise on immigration or visas

Discover options

Register with the UCAS Hub to:

- explore careers, subjects, places, and apprenticeships in one place – you can see apprenticeship options and undergraduate courses side by side
- search for open days, events and virtual tours
- turn predicted grades into UCAS Tariff points
- try before you apply with [Subject Spotlights](#) from Springpod.
- take the [UCAS Quiz](#) to find career matches





UCAS

Is it **right** for you?

There's things to consider with your next step

- something you enjoy – you're investing time and effort
- whether it's right for your career path – check with employers and professional organisations
- location – city or rural, transport links
- a study and assessment style that suits you
- environment including extracurricular, clubs, and societies
- finances

UCAS Applications

How to apply

UCAS



Completing the UCAS application



Student registers for a UCAS Hub account to carry out research and start application.

Student completes all sections of the application and sends it to their school/college.

Teacher or adviser reviews the application and adds reference and predicted grades.

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

Universities and colleges make their decisions on the application.

Application **profile**

- Personal details
- Nationality details
- Where you live
- Contact details
- Supporting information
- Finance and funding
- Diversity and inclusion*
- More about you

* (for students with a UK home address)

Personal details Name, age, title and gender Start this section	Nationality details Birthplace and nationalities Start this section	Where you live Tell us about your address history Section in progress
Contact details Address, email, and telephone Section in progress	Supporting information So that providers know how to support you during your studies Start this section	Finance & funding Tell us how you'll fund your study Start this section
Diversity & inclusion Additional equality information Start this section	More about you Tell us about any circumstances that you might need support for during your studies. Start this section	

Your experiences

- Education
- Employment
- Extra activities*
- Personal statement

*(for students with a UK home address)

Experience

Education

Qualifications and periods of study

🕒 Section in progress

Employment

Paid employment

✓ Section complete

Extra activities

Taken part in any activities to prepare you for higher education?

Start this section

Your personal statement

Personal statement

Why do you want to study this subject?

Start this section

Choosing the right **place** for you

- **Style** – from traditional, with a focus on subject-based courses and research, to modern universities/colleges, with a greater focus on vocational courses.
- **Location** – some are in large cities, others in small towns, by the coast or in the countryside – it's all 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 useful to find out what jobs students go on to.
- **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 your 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?

The personal statement



The only section you have full control over



Your only chance to market yourself as an individual



The same for all of your 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 allowed

UCAS' similarity detection service: every personal statement is run through software to check for plagiarism and use of Artificial Intelligence.

Section 1

Why do you want to study this course or subject?

Encourage students to write **in their own voice**. Admissions tutors want to hear **their** story, not what they think universities *want* to hear.

Students should consider:



Their passion, motivation and interest for the course



Their knowledge and skills of the subject area



How the course links to their future

This section isn't about proving they're the best; it's about showing why they're genuinely excited to study this subject!

Section 2

How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?

Students should consider:



How their studies have prepared them for their course/subject



The skills and knowledge they've developed



Any independent learning or academic achievements

This section is about highlighting evidence to show they are prepared for the challenges of university-level study

Section 3

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

Students should consider:



Work experience,
employment or
volunteering



Personal life
experiences,
responsibilities and
achievements



Hobbies and any
extracurricular or
outreach activities

This section is not just about listing experiences – students should explain why these experiences are useful and how they link to their chosen degree

Consider...

UCAS

Universities and colleges will consider:

- Have you chosen the course for the right reasons?
- Can you achieve in a new learning environment?
- Do you have a range of interests and aptitudes?
- Do you have a depth of interest in the subject?
- Have you studied independently?
- Do you appear motivated and committed?



When to apply **2027 entry**

The initial part of the Autumn term of Y13 is also used for completing applications, with the final deadlines, for students to meet, as follows:

- **Monday 28th September 2026 (18:00):** Graveney School deadline for applications to Oxford, Cambridge, Medicine, Veterinary Medicine or Dentistry.
- **Friday 4th December 2026 (18:00):** Graveney School deadline for UCAS applications to be processed before Christmas.
- **Friday 11th December 2026 (18:00):** Final Graveney School UCAS deadline.

Please note that our internal deadlines are earlier than those advertised by UCAS so that we have time internally to double-check each application and process them without errors. The official UCAS deadlines, for the school to meet, are:

- 15 October 2026: Applications for Oxford, Cambridge and most courses in medicine, dentistry, and veterinary medicine/science should arrive at UCAS by 18:00
- 13 January 2027: Applications for the majority of undergraduate courses should arrive at UCAS by 18:00 on the equal consideration date.

What happens next?

School receives application

We add reference, predicted grades etc

We check the details the student has entered against the data we hold on the student to make sure everything is correct

We send their application to UCAS

Once they click Pay & Send – we guarantee to send the application to UCAS within 14 days of it being **received correctly completed** – it is crucial that all students meet internal deadlines



Decisions

Universities and colleges will review the:



personal
statement



qualifications



reference

They may also ask for:



admissions test



interview



portfolio/audition

Tracking your application



Waiting for decisions

Universities or colleges are considering your application.

Providers have until dd-mm-yyyy to respond to your choices.



All decisions received

You've received a decision from all of your choices. You can now reply to your offers at any time.

Reply by dd-mm-yyyy



Waiting for confirmation

You're waiting for confirmation of your choices. If you meet the offer conditions, the university/college will confirm your place. Send them your results if requested.

Follow your application 24/7:

- see your choices
- keep contact information up to date
- view and reply to your offers

You'll receive one of three decisions from your choices:

- unconditional offer
- conditional offer
- Unsuccessful

Replies to offers

Once you have decisions on all your choices, you can choose two:

- One as a 'firm' acceptance – your first choice.
- The other as an 'insurance' acceptance. This acts as a back-up if you do not get into your 'firm' choice.

Any remaining offers must be declined.

Once all your decisions and replies have been made, if you are not holding an offer, you may be able to use Extra or Clearing to find available places.



Other options

Extra

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

Clearing

- Apply after June, receive no offers, decline all offers, not met conditions.
- Find vacancies from July and add a Clearing choice to your application.



Next steps

UCAS

What can students be doing?

- research, research, research
- attend open days and events
- extracurricular and super curricular activities
- work experience and volunteering
- independent learning outside the curriculum
- focus on this year's studies – work hard for the November mock exam series – this is the final window in which teachers can increase predicted grades



Predicted Grades

- Predicted Grades – have now been set by individual teachers, there will be an opportunity for teachers to **increase their predictions in November following the mock exam series – these will be considered final.**
- Predictions are a holistic appraisal of the student – we do not help students if we over-predict and they then gain offers from universities that they cannot subsequently meet in the public examinations. Equally, we do not under-predict to motivate students – **predictions will be favourable but realistic, and aspirational, but achievable.**

Keeping you informed



www.ucas.com/parents



Sign up for UCAS
parents newsletter



Read UCAS guides just
for parents and carers

UCAS support

UCAS Customer Experience
Centre:

0371 468 0 468

From outside the UK:

+44 330 3330 230

Monday to Friday

08:30 – 18:00 (UK time)



@ucas_online



@ucas_online



@ucas_online



@ucas



@UCASonline

Graveney – Sixth Form Team

UCAS

Mr Kazi – UCAS, Progression, Next Steps lead – that's me!

Mr Trimble – doing the student finance talk tonight!

Mr Simmons – available in the SFSC

Ms Scull – available in the SFSC

Ms Ijeh – Careers Advisor – doing apprenticeships talk tonight!

Mr Mercer – available in the SFSC

Ms Bajwa – available in the SFSC

Students should talk to their individual referees first with queries about all pathways.

And of course – The Graveney Guide to Next Steps which is available on the school website.



Thank you

Good luck!

UCAS