



Vyners School

Striving for
Excellence

Welcome

Year 12 UCAS Parent Information Evening

Miss Batten
Year 12 Leader

UCAS



Aims of this session

- Career and Further Education Choices (university and apprenticeships)
- UCAS Application Process
- Personal statements
- Student Finance
- What to do now?



Choices Available

- Higher Education
- Apprenticeships and traineeships
- Studying Abroad
- Gap Year
- Getting a Job



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
- gain confidence, independence, and important life skills that will widen their prospects
- make lifelong friends

With a degree:

- the opportunity to follow their career path
- better job prospects
- many employers target graduates
- higher earning potential



Do you know what job/career you want to do?

“I don’t yet know what kind of job I want after university...”

For 70% of graduate jobs, it doesn’t matter what degree subject you study at university

- Choose a subject you will enjoy and do well in
- Try for the best university you can get into
- Start researching your career options as early as possible
- Make sure you get plenty of work experience whilst at university
- Do as many co-curricular activities as you can
- Prepare thoroughly for employer’s applications and selection processes

“I know what kind of job I want after university”

- Study a specific degree subject which prepares you for a particular profession, occupation or career area
- Aim for one of the best courses available in your chosen subject
- Consider the reputation of the university with graduate employees in your chosen field
- Check if the courses you are considering have a good employment record
- Do not assume that the number of places available on a specialist course will match the number of jobs available in that specialism



How to choose the perfect course?

- **Pursue your interests**
- Consider:
 - New subjects
 - Vocational degrees
 - Joint Honours degrees
 - Foundation degrees
 - Length of degrees
 - Sponsored degrees (businesses, Army, Navy...)





Where to study?

- Home or away?
- Rural or urban?
- Large or small?
- Campus/one site?
- New or old?
- Study abroad?
- League Tables?





Useful questions to consider...

- What are the course options?
- How is the course assessed?
- How is the course taught?
- Work placement?
- What sort of jobs do they go on to do?





Vyners School

Striving for
Excellence

Narrowing down the search...

unifrog



WHAT IS UNIFROG?

One-stop-shop for destinations



Pathways

CAREERS

SUBJECTS

GOALS

KNOW-HOW

MOOCS



Opportunities

USA UNIVERSITIES

UK UNIVERSITIES

EU UNIVERSITIES

APPRENTICESHIPS

COLLEGE & 6TH FORM

OXBRIDGE



Applications

ACTIVITIES

COMPETENCIES

COMMON APP ESSAY

PERSONAL STATEMENTS

REFERENCES

CV / RESUME



Management

PLANNING

TEACHING RESOURCES

INTERACTIONS

DESTINATIONS



Vyners School

Striving for
Excellence

Aspirational (156)













































Top of your range

Solid (436)

In the middle

Safe (357)

At the bottom

<p> Human, Social, and Political Sciences - 3FT BA (Hons) </p> <p> University of Cambridge RG A Level: A*,A,A</p>	<p> Flexible Combined Honours - 3FT BA/BSc (H)</p> <p> University of Exeter RG A Level: A,A,B-A*,A,A</p>	<p> Japanese Studies/International Relations - 8PT/4SW BA/BSc (H)</p> <p> Oxford Brookes University UCAS Points: 112</p>
<p> History and Politics - 3FT BA (Hons) </p> <p> University of Cambridge RG A Level: A*,A,A</p>	<p> International Management and Modern Languages - French - 4SW BSc (Hons)</p> <p> University of Bath TT A Level: A,A,B</p>	<p> Politics and Popular Music - 3FT BA (Hons)</p> <p> Liverpool Hope University A Level: B,B,C-B,B,B</p>
<p> International Relations and Mathematics - 4FT MA (Hons) </p> <p> University of St Andrews TT A Level: A*,A,A</p>	<p> History and International Relations with Study Abroad - 4FT BA (Hons)</p> <p> University of Exeter RG A Level: A,A,B-A,A,A</p>	<p> International Relations and Popular Music - 3FT BA (Hons)</p> <p> Liverpool Hope University A Level: B,B,C-B,B,B</p>
<p> Combined Honours in Social Sciences - 3FT BA (Hons) </p> <p> Durham University RG A Level: A*,A,A</p>	<p> History and International Relations with Employment Experience Abroad - 4FT BA (Hons)</p> <p> University of Exeter RG A Level: A,A,B-A,A,A</p>	<p> History/International Relations - 3FT BA (Hons)</p> <p> Manchester Metropolitan University A Level: B,B,C</p>
<p> Liberal Arts - 3FT BA (Hons) </p> <p> Durham University RG A Level: A*,A,A</p>	<p> History and International Relations with Employment Experience - 3FT BA (Hons)</p> <p> University of Exeter RG A Level: A,A,B-A,A,A</p>	<p> Business Management/International Relations - 3FT/6PT BA/BSc (H)</p> <p> Oxford Brookes University UCAS Points: 112</p>
<p> Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE) - 3FT BA/BSc (H) </p> <p> University of Warwick RG A Level: A*,A,A</p>	<p> Liberal Arts with Employment Experience Abroad - 4FT BA (Hons)</p>	<p> Drama and History - 3FT BA (Hons)</p> <p> Liverpool Hope University A Level: B,B,C-B,B,B</p>
<p> International Relations - 3FT BA (Hons) </p>		<p> Music and Politics - 3FT BA (Hons)</p>



Vyners School

Striving for
Excellence

The Application Process

UCMS

Application process

- 1 Applicant researches and chooses courses.
- 2 Registers online with UCAS Undergraduate Apply.
- 3 Completes application, and processes payment.
- 4 Reference added by centre/independent referee.
- 5 Centre/applicant sends application electronically to UCAS.
- 6 UCAS processes application and sends to chosen provider(s).
- 7 Decisions made (offer or unsuccessful).
- 8 Applicant views decisions in Track.
- 9 Applicant replies to offers.
- 10 Place confirmed.

Key:

Black – applicant

Red – school/college

Green – UCAS

Blue – HEPs

Apply key facts

- Application is entirely online.
 - Maximum of five choices.
 - Some choice restrictions:
 - Medicine, veterinary science, dentistry (maximum of four).
 - Oxford or Cambridge.
 - Simple application cost:
 - One choice – £18 (changed for 2019 cycle).
 - Two to five choices – £24.
 - Equal consideration.
 - 'Invisibility'.
-

Completing the UCAS application

The screenshot shows the UCAS Apply 2019 website. At the top, there is a red banner with '2019 apply' and 'Welcome' on the left, and '<Log out' on the right. Below the banner is a navigation menu with the following items: Welcome, Personal details, Choices, Education, Employment, Statement, Reference, View all details, PaySend, Help, and Options/Optional. A 'Key' section below the menu shows checkboxes for 'Completed', 'In progress', and 'Not started', with 'Completed' checked. The main content area displays 'Welcome' and 'Welcome Charlie'. It states 'Your Personal ID is: 137-305-6906' and asks the user to make a note of this number. A video player is embedded, showing a video titled 'Apply 2018' with a play button. Below the video, there is a note: '(Unable to view video here? You can watch them at www.ucas.com/connect/videos instead)'. A warning message says: 'Verify your email address. Your email address needs to be verified as valid before you send your application to us. Please click here to verify your email address.' Below this, it says 'Before starting your application, please read through the relevant information below regarding:' followed by a list of links: 'completing your application', 'applicants applying through a school, college or organisation', 'applicants applying as an individual', and 'guidelines for submitting your application'.

Sections to complete:

1. Personal details.
2. Additional information.
3. Student finance.
4. Choices.
5. Education.
6. Employment.
7. Personal statement.
8. Referee details.



tutor adds reference



UCAS



universities/colleges



Tutor References

- Realistic summary of the applicants likely achievements
- A comment on their suitability for the course for which they have applied
 - Subject reports, tutor reports used
 - Final draft checked
 - NAB and Sixth Form Team to check form, add reference and grades
 - School sends application to UCAS

Tracking applications

Track will allow your son or daughter to:

- follow the progress of their application online
- see their choices and personal information
- see their offers
- reply to offers online

Decisions and replies

Provider decisions:

- unsuccessful
- unconditional offer
- conditional offer – qualifications and achievements and/or UCAS Tariff points

Once all decisions are received, they can hold up to two offers:

- one as their **firm** choice
- one as their **insurance** choice (if they want to)
- all other offers are declined

Track will show their **reply date**.

Other options

Extra (24 Feb – 4 July)

If all five choices have been used and they have no offers/rejected all offers.

Clearing (from early July)

If there are no offers, or have applied after 30 June deadline.

Adjustment (from A level results day)

If they've gained better results than the conditional offer they hold, they could apply for a different course or university.



Registering with UCAS

- Students have received instructions on how to register with UCAS
- We encourage all students to register with UCAS
- Buzzword - **VynersSixthForm**

You need to enter your buzzword on this page. If you do not know the buzzword, your tutor or careers adviser will give this to you. You will only need to enter your buzzword at this stage and then it will no longer be needed.

(Buzzwords are case sensitive and should be entered exactly as supplied.)

Buzzword*



Your buzzword should have been given to you by your tutor or careers adviser. This is very important, as it helps us establish which organisation you're applying from. It also enables your referee to attach your reference and send your application to us once all parts are complete. By entering your buzzword, you give your permission for your school, college, careers centre, or other organisation to access and view the progress of your application.

If you wish to withdraw your request to link to a centre, so you can add a reference from a different source, or if you no longer want them to see the progress of your application, please call our Customer Experience Centre on 0371 468 0 468.

[previous](#) [next](#)



Deadlines and Important Dates

First day for receipt of applications	5 September 2018
UCAS Medicine/Oxbridge Deadline	15 October 2018
Vyners Internal Medicine/Oxbridge Deadline	26 September 2018
UCAS Deadline for applications	15 January 2019
Vyners Internal Deadline for applications	5 November 2018 (to meet the January deadline)

All students should be drafting Personal Statements over the Summer break – send to tutors

Tutors will not write references without a personal statement

Keep communication open about your application – a lack of communication/missed deadlines will cause delays



Oxbridge, Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science

- Earlier deadline – 15th October (internal deadline late September 26/09/18)
- Make the school and teachers aware
- Entrance exams - <https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/admissions-tests>
- Interviews
- Intensive and challenging
- Additional guidance
 - Lumina Course
 - Meeting - Monday 16th July in the Study Room
 - Workshops and guidance – Workshop - Monday 17th Sept





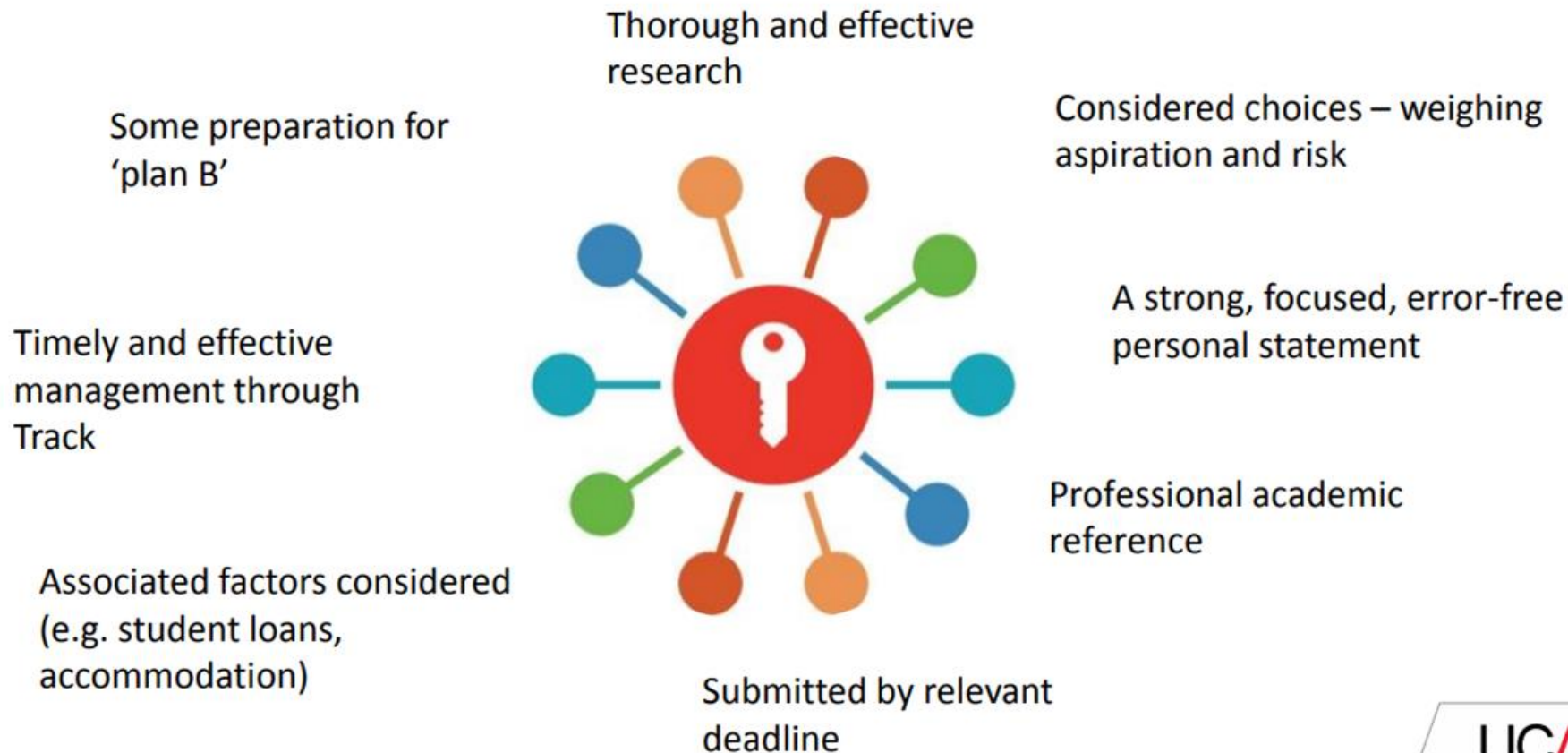
Vyners School

Striving for
Excellence

Personal Statements



Key factors for successful applications





What is a Personal Statement?

The Personal Statement gives you an opportunity:

- 1) To tell the universities and colleges why they should choose you
- 2) To tell universities and colleges about your suitability for the course(s) that you hope to study.
- 3) To demonstrate your enthusiasm and commitment, and above all, ensure that you stand out from the crowd

Preparing

your personal statement



1. Preparation

- You can only write one personal statement, so don't mention a uni or college by name.
- Check uni and college websites to see what skills and qualities they'd like you to have.
- Make a list of things you want to include.
- Start drafting early.



2. What to include

- Why you're interested in the subject.
- Your enthusiasm for the subject.
- How your previous studies relate to the course(s).
- Relevant aspects of jobs, placements, work experience or volunteering.
- Activities or hobbies that show your interest in the subject.
- Any training or achievements that show your skills.
- Demonstrate you're a great candidate and you have skills and qualities they're looking for.



3. How to write it

- Introduction – start with an opening sentence that encourages the reader to read on.
- Structure what you want to include in an order that's most relevant to what the unis and colleges are looking for.
- Conclusion – reinforce your commitment, enthusiasm and skills suited to uni/ college life.
- Check your grammar, spelling and punctuation.
- Leave time to get feedback and redraft.



4. Technical details

- Length – up to 4,000 characters or 47 lines of text (including spaces and blank lines).
- Make sure you don't copy – our software detects any similarities and this could jeopardise your application.



What is a Personal Statement - Logistics

- A formal application
- You have 4,000 characters (including spaces) and 47 lines (no spell checking on UCAS)
- Write the statement in Word and then copy and paste into your application later.
- 80% Academic & Super-curricular - 20% Extra-curricular

Preparing

your personal statement



1. Preparation

- You can only write one personal statement, so don't mention a uni or college by name.
- Check uni and college websites to see what skills and qualities they'd like you to have.
- Make a list of things you want to include.
- Start drafting early.



2. What to include

- Why you're interested in the subject.
- Your enthusiasm for the subject.
- How your previous studies relate to the course(s).
- Relevant aspects of jobs, placements, work experience or volunteering.
- Activities or hobbies that show your interest in the subject.
- Any training or achievements that show your skills.
- Demonstrate you're a great candidate and you have skills and qualities they're looking for.



3. How to write it

- Introduction – start with an opening sentence that encourages the reader to read on.
- Structure what you want to include in an order that's most relevant to what the unis and colleges are looking for.
- Conclusion – reinforce your commitment, enthusiasm and skills suited to uni/ college life.
- Check your grammar, spelling and punctuation.
- Leave time to get feedback and redraft.



4. Technical details

- Length – up to 4,000 characters or 47 lines of text (including spaces and blank lines).
- Make sure you don't copy – our software detects any similarities and this could jeopardise your application.



Why do you need to write a Personal Statement?

- The Personal Statement helps to distinguish between applicants with similar academic profiles
- This is the only 'personal' information an admissions tutor will get from you (plus the reference from school) - You control the content!
- Most courses do not interview
- A chance for you to impress and differentiate yourself from others



Making Applications

UK Personal Statement

- ✘ Subject added
- ✘ Started
- ✘ Character count
- ✘ Marked as finished

[Go to tool >](#)

Teacher References

- ✘ Overall Reference

Post 18 Intentions

Sorry, your school doesn't yet have this tool

UK Top 5

- ✔ You've shortlisted UK university courses - now pick your top 5

[Start >](#)

CV / Resume

Sorry, your school doesn't yet have this tool

Common App Essay

Sorry, your school doesn't yet have this tool





Section 1

Why do you want to study this subject?

0 of 1200 characters

Start >



Section 2

What have you done in the past that makes you particularly suitable to study the subject?

0 of 2400 characters

Start >



Section 3

What else have you done that would contribute to the university community?

0 of 400 characters

Start >





Section 1: Why do you want to study this subject?

This part should make up 30% of the total statement

[← Back](#)

Examples of what you may want to write about:

1. Your knowledge of the subject area

Be specific - mention in detail what has interested you.

"I have been enthralled by the Japanese language since I was a young teenager; reading 'Japanese for Busy People' at school and trying to note down homework reminders in Kanji – anything to incorporate Japanese into my daily life. As I grew, so did my desire to study Japanese culture and society. Yukio Mishima's politically aware novel 'Confessions of a Mask' captivated me. I found very refreshing the contrast between the effeminate main character Kochan, and the uber-masculine male figures generally present in teenage Japanese media. I empathised with Kochan's oppression in an era of Japanese right-wing militarism. This is where my political interests began – through independent study I became absorbed in political history, with particular attraction to the way Japan avoided colonisation by becoming an industrial superpower."

2. Why this subject area interests you

3. What interests you the most about the subject area?

4. Where your studies could lead

Personal Statement Dos

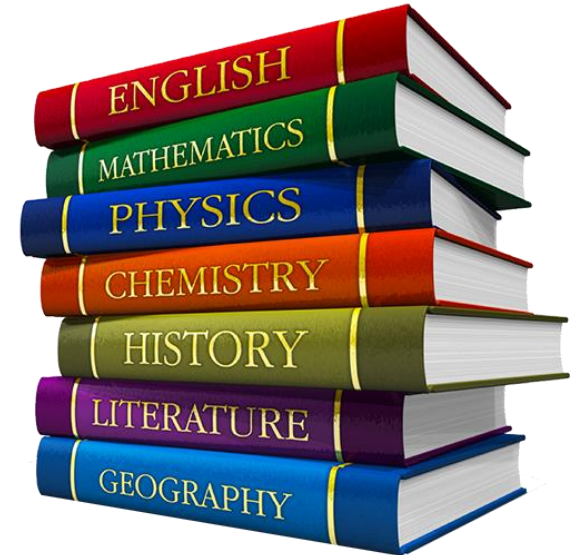
Personal Statement Don'ts





Two of the most important things to include are...

1. **Why you are applying for the course you have chosen:**
 - Why does the subject interest you?
 - Include evidence that you understand what is required to study the course
 - What got you interested in the subject?
 - What have you learnt about the subject?
 - Any activities which demonstrate your interest in the course(s)





Two of the most important things to include are...

2. Why you are suitable for the course:

- Which skills and experiences do you have that will help you succeed on the course?
- What have you done to develop your knowledge of the subject?
- What evidence is there that you have read, studied, gained experiences outside the confines of your A Level courses?





Plagiarism, lies or exaggeration

- UCAS uses similarity and plagiarism software and universities will be told if students copy anything from another source (eg. Internet resources, friends' statements, people already at university)
- Personal Statements are used to form the basis of interviews – so don't say you've read a book when you've just read a chapter.
- **'If you didn't do it, read it or see it, don't claim it!'**





What are the Admissions Tutors thinking?

- Have they chosen the right subject for the right reasons?
- Can they survive at university level - are they mature enough?
- Do they have a range of interests and aptitudes?
- Does the Personal Statement confirm their depth of interest in the subject?
- What has the candidate studied independently?



Evidencing Subject Interest...

- Academic Clubs or Societies - **involvement**
- Attending museums, festivals, events, exhibitions, debates - **passion and interest**
- Reading current literature - **up to date**
- Listening/watching debates on current issues – **engaged with current issues**
- Work Experience choices – **experiences relevant to the course**
- Experiences they've sought themselves - **initiative & self-reliance**

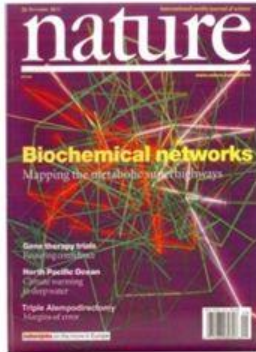
Super Curricular Exploration



92-95 FM



Inside the Ethics Committee



UCAS





ABC Rule

Activity: What have you done?

Benefit: What skills have you gained?

Course: How will this prepare you for the course?

SO WHAT?



What you **should not** do

- Waffle
- Go mad with a thesaurus
- Be trivial
- Exaggerate or lie
- Write lists
- Put **everything** in
- Plagiarise

What you **should** do

- Strong opening paragraph
- 80% academic, 20%
extracurricular
- Honest and genuine
- Draft, re-draft and proof-read
- Be analytical and reflective rather
than merely descriptive



Checklist

1. How impressive is your opening sentence/paragraph?
2. Have you made a convincing case of why you have chosen the course?
3. Do you have evidence to show that they have researched what the course entails?
4. Do you have evidence of wider reading in the subject?
5. Do you have evidence of skills picked up in your A-Levels/BTEC?
6. Do you have evidence of skills gained from an out-of-school activity?
7. Have you suggested what you might do after university?
8. Have you avoided using too long sentences?
9. Are you guilty of using any bland generalities (eg. I love history)
10. Is the ending a positive affirmation of what you can bring or contribute to the university community?



Key Points to consider...

- Admissions tutors want to see a person – not just the application!
- Based on the statement, would they want to meet you?
- Avoid just giving a list of activities you have done or a list of personal qualities – is it all relevant? How does it link to your chosen course?
- You will go through many drafts - get your tutor/friend/parent to read through it - check that it makes sense and flows and that you are selling yourself



Vyners School

Striving for
Excellence

Student Finance





Some useful Student Finance Websites

- <https://www.gov.uk/student-finance>
- <https://www.gov.uk/travel-grants-students-england/what-youll-get>
- <https://www.gov.uk/nhs-bursaries>



studentfinanceengland
the student finance experts



Tuition Fee Loans

Your university or college sets your tuition fee, and the loan is paid directly to them. You have to pay it back.

Full-time student	2017 to 2018 academic year	2018 to 2019 academic year
Full-time	Up to £9,250	Up to £9,250
Full-time at a private university or college	Up to £6,165	Up to £6,165



Maintenance Loan for living costs

The loan is paid directly to your bank account at the start of each term. You have to pay the loan back.

Full-time student	2017 to 2018 academic year	2018 to 2019 academic year
Living at home	Up to £7,097	Up to £7,324
Living away from home, outside London	Up to £8,430	Up to £8,700
Living away from home, in London	Up to £11,002	Up to £11,354
You spend a year of a UK course studying abroad	Up to £9,654	Up to £9,963



Apprenticeships

APPRENTICESHIP



Apprenticeships advice

UCAS has launched [apprenticeships 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

With the predicted growth of higher and degree Apprenticeships you'll also find a dedicated [degree and professional apprenticeships section](#) on [ucas.com](#) which profiles current programmes in more detail.



Apprenticeships

- **Work while you study** – an apprenticeship is a way to gain the skills, knowledge and experience you need to get into many careers. They combine work, training, and study, letting you '**earn while you learn**'.
- There are many different apprenticeships available across a wide range of industries, and for a wide variety of job roles.
- There are no student fees – your training costs are funded by the government and your employer.
- It's an ideal option if you have a clear idea of the career path you want to follow, providing you with practical, on-the-job training, and classroom-based instruction.



Degree Level Apprenticeships

- These are similar to higher apprenticeships, but differ in that they provide an opportunity to gain a full bachelor's degree.
- Degree apprenticeships combine working with studying part-time at a university. Apprentices are employed throughout the programme, and spend part of their time at university and the rest with their employer. This can be on a day-to-day basis or in blocks of time, depending on the programme and requirements of the employer.
- They can take between three to six years to complete, depending on the course level.
- Degree apprenticeships are still quite new, so there are a limited number of vacancies. It's anticipated that the number of vacancies will grow over the next year or two.

Check out the latest apprenticeships

UCAS

Software Engineer Degree Apprentice

Worthing, West Sussex | £15000 per annum with increments applied over the course of the apprenticeship

Nevalee Business Solutions are a small and dynamic IT Company specialising in building bespoke business solutions for our clients. We offer a range...

Recruiter: University of Chichester



[Apply for this job](#)

APPRENTICE/JUNIOR BUILDING SERVICES DESIGN ENGINEER

Clevedon, Somerset | Competitive remuneration package

Smith Consult Limited are a consultancy providing building services across all business sectors. As a relatively new business, started in 2012, we ...

Recruiter: Smith Consult Ltd



[Apply for this job](#)

Manufacturing Engineer Degree Apprentice

Littlehampton, West Sussex | £10,000 per year with annual pay rises based on performance

Inpress Plastics is a fast-growing family owned plastics manufacturer in Littlehampton West Sussex. We Provide a comprehensive manufacturing servic...



What should your son/daughter should be doing now?

- Research
- Extracurricular activities
- Work experience
- Go beyond the syllabus
- Focus on this year's studies

How can you support them?

- Use the parents/guardians' section of the UCAS website – www.ucas.com/parents – and sign up for the newsletter.
- Use our [parent information tool](#) for advice, hints, and tips to help someone you care for through the application process.
- Offer to attend open days; you may have a different perspective.
- Don't book family holidays at key times.
- Make sure they read everything carefully that is sent to them.
- Support your son/daughter's management of their application.



Resources will be available on the School Website

- This evening's presentation slides
- Personal Statement guidance slides
- Example Personal Statements
- Instructions to register on UCAS
- UCAS Guide to apprenticeships
- University Open Day Checklist
- Super-curricular Enrichment Guide (University of Cambridge)
- UCAS Advice for Parents
- Student Finance