



MAKE
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HAPPEN

MAKE
YOUR FUTURE
HAPPEN.

Our Partner Universities



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UCAS Drop-in

Ask us anything!

Session aims



Understand what UCAS is and develop an understanding of the application process for university



Identify how you can use UCAS to help make your university choices



Learn some top tips for making a successful application

University process

- Research – attend open days
- Select and apply for up to 5 choices via UCAS
- Receive offers - conditional/unconditional
- Attend applicant days/interviews
- Respond to your offers - firm/insurance
- Apply for student finance
- Prepare for university!

Universities Colleges and Admissions Service

- Manages UK undergraduate applications
- Offers support on getting into Higher Education
- Everyone in the UK applies online through UCAS
- UCAS sends your application to the Universities
- Can track application online



CHOOSE YOUR FUTURE

[All results](#) [Courses](#) [Uni & colleges](#) [Apprenticeships](#) [Advice](#) [Events](#)



Applying to uni or college
Everything you need to know about applying for an undergraduate university or college course.



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Apprenticeships

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UNSURE WHICH SUBJECT IS BEST?
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Not sure what to do?

Browse subject guides

Explore subjects

Applying to university

When to apply
How to apply
UCAS Tariff points
Personal statement
Key dates

Student life

Chat to students
UCAS student discounts
Find accommodation
Getting support
City guides
Gap year

What and where to study

Subjects
Choosing a course
Distance learning
Conservatoires
UCAS virtual exhibitions
Open days and events

Coronavirus

Information for students in England
Information for students in Northern Ireland
Information for students in Scotland
Information for students in Wales

After applying

Interviews
Track your application
Decisions and offers

Results and Clearing

Exam results
What is Clearing?

Finance

Tuition fees
Student loans
Managing money

Applying to uni or college

Everything you need to know about applying for an undergraduate university or college course.

How do I decide on my choices?

- 5 choices- 1 firm, 1 insurance
- Consider what subject you'd like to study – something familiar or new?
- Consider the academic content and assessment criteria
- Consider location and facilities
- Need to identify the qualifications required, including grades and any other entry requirements e.g. interview
- Criteria will be different for every course at every university

Activity – we're going to use UCAS to identify the differences between courses at different universities. This will help you to decide your own course choices.

Spot the Difference



University of Bath
Degree level: **Undergraduate**

SOCIOLOGY

Course **options**


2021 - 2022 2022 - 2023

Location: **Main Site**

Start date: **04 October 2021**

Study mode: **Full-time**

Duration: **3 years**



Aston University
BIRMINGHAM UK

Aston University, Birmingham
Degree level: **Undergraduate**

SOCIOLOGY

Course **options**

2021 - 2022 2022 - 2023

Location: **Main Site**


Start date: **20 September 2021**

Study mode: **Sandwich**

Duration: **4 years**

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Spot the Difference




University of Essex
Degree level: **Undergraduate**

MARINE BIOLOGY (INCLUDING FOUNDATION YEAR)

Course options

2021 - 2022 2022 - 2023

Location: Colchester Campus Start date: 07 October 2021 Study mode: **Full-time including foundation year** Duration: **4 years**



Bangor University
Degree level: **Undergraduate**

MARINE BIOLOGY

Course options

2021 - 2022 2022 - 2023

Qualification type: Bachelor of Science (with Honours) - BSc (Hons) Location: Main Site

Start date: 27 September 2021 Study mode: **Full-time** Duration: **3 years**

Spot the Difference




Aberystwyth University
Degree level: **Undergraduate**
Awarded by: **Aberystwyth University (Prifysgol Aberystwyth)**

GEOGRAPHY

Start date: 27 September 2021
Study mode: Full-time
Duration: 3 years

Qualification requirements

- ▶ UCAS Tariff - 120 - 96 points
- ▶ A level - BBB - CCC
- ▶ Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma (first teaching from September 2016) - DDM - MMM
- ▶ Access to HE Diploma
- ▶ International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme - 30 - 26 points



University of Brighton
Degree level: **Undergraduate**


GEOGRAPHY

Start date: 27 September 2021
Study mode: Full-time
Duration: 3 years

Qualification requirements

- ▶ UCAS Tariff - 112 - 96 points
- ▶ A level - CCC - BBC
- ▶ Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma (first teaching from September 2016) - MMM - DMM
- ▶ Access to HE Diploma - M: 24 credits

Spot the Difference



University of Essex


University of Essex
Degree level: Undergraduate

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

Unistats information

Operated by the Office for Student

78%	72%	92%
Student satisfaction	Employment after 15 months (Most common jobs)	Go onto work and study



a.r.u. Anglia Ruskin University

Anglia Ruskin University
Degree level: Undergraduate

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

Unistats information

Operated by the Office for Student

73%	78%	90%
Student satisfaction	Employment after 15 months (Most common jobs)	Go onto work and study

Entry Requirements- Example

Anglia Ruskin University – BSc Health and Social Care

- 96 UCAS tariff points from min 2 A Levels (AA/CCC) or equivalent (e.g. BTEC Level 3 Diploma, grades MMM)
- 3GCSEs at grade C/4 or above, including English and Maths.

University of Derby – BA Health and Social Care

- 104-112 UCAS tariff points from 3 A Levels (BCC) or equivalent (e.g. BTEC Level 3 Diploma, grades DMM)
- English GCSE at grade C/4 or above.

Tariff Points

Grade	Tariff Points
A*	56
A	48
B	40
C	32
D	24
E	16

Grade	Tariff Points
D*D*D*	168
D*D*D	160
D*DD	152
DDD	144
DDM	128
DMM	112
MMM	96
MMP	80
MPP	64
PPP	48



What is important when choosing a university?



What would you base your decision on?

There are many things to consider when selecting your course and your university. Top tip! Look at the course first before the University.

The course:

- Subject – single or joint
- Entry requirements
- Contact hours
- Academic content
- Assessment method

The university:

- City or campus
- Stay at home or move away
- Accommodation
- Size and Location
- Reputation
- Scholarships/bursaries
- Academic facilities
- Sports and Societies
- Part-time work opportunities
- Volunteering opportunities
- Study abroad/work placement
- Student support
- Graduate prospects/employment rates
- Quality and reputation
- Living cost

In pairs, discuss what your top 5 criteria would be when choosing a university.

How do I find out if a university is the right one for me?

Attend Open Days in-person

- Speak to current undergraduate students at Open Days
- Prepare questions to ask – for example, what's your course like?
-
- Join tours and attend workshops taking place on the day

Ways to find out without visiting:

- Filters on UCAS to narrow down choices e.g. location
- Google Maps and Street View
- Virtual Open Days
- League tables and rankings
- Compare sports facilities and societies
- Compare graduate outcomes
- Explore the specific uni website
- Talk to them! Ask questions through their live chat/social media/Uni Buddy and compare their responses to get a 'feel' for a uni.
- Student videos and blogs

UCAS

What do I do with all this information?

Courses you are considering /researching

	Courses I am considering				
Decision-making criteria	Maths at University A	Maths & Statistics at University B	Maths at University C	Maths at University D	Maths at University E
Location	5	1	3	5	3
Academic facilities	3	2	4		



Criteria that is important to you





How and when do you apply to university?



UCAS Timeline

UCAS Hub open now

- Register to UCAS Hub
- Research
- Narrow choices
- Draft personal statement



Sixth form/college deadline

- Teachers/Tutors look over draft
- Teachers/Tutors write references



UCAS application deadlines

- 15th Oct 2024 for early entry courses
- 29th Jan 2025 standard deadline



UCAS reply deadlines

Once you receive all 5 responses, you will be given a deadline to reply by on UCAS track.

UCAS Application

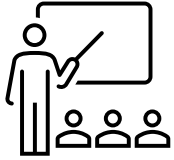
- ✓ Register with UCAS Hub
- ✓ Input general details
- ✓ Education and Employment history
- ✓ University choices
- ✓ Personal statement
- ✓ Reference from college/sixth form
- ✓ Application fee (£27)

The Personal Statement section

- A short reflective statement about why you're the perfect candidate for the undergraduate degree course/s you're applying to and your interest in the subject
- Read by admissions tutors so **think about your audience**
- Maximum of 4000 characters (including spaces) OR 47 lines
- No formatting (bold, italics, underlined)
- No spelling or grammar check
- Complete in Microsoft Word and upload to UCAS 'Personal Statement' section



Why is the personal statement important?



You still need to meet the required grades of the course. If the final place is between you and someone else with the same grades, what you write in your personal statement could help you get the place.




If you are invited to interview, they may ask questions about what you have written in your personal statement.





If you are slightly short of meeting the grades on results day, your personal statement can help you get a place.


What are universities looking for?


 Essay Writing – don't write lists


 Enthusiasm – going beyond the norm


 Time management skills


 Reflective thinking


 Research Skills

 Independent study skills

 Self-awareness

 Motivation and commitment

 An understanding of the course

 Good numeracy and literacy

True or False?

1. The most important part of my personal statement is a detailed paragraph reflecting on an academic topic relevant to my subject.
2. You write 1 personal statement for each of your 5 course choices.
3. The personal statement is about showing my personality so it should be focused on my hobbies and interests.

TRUE

FALSE

FALSE

What makes a good personal statement?

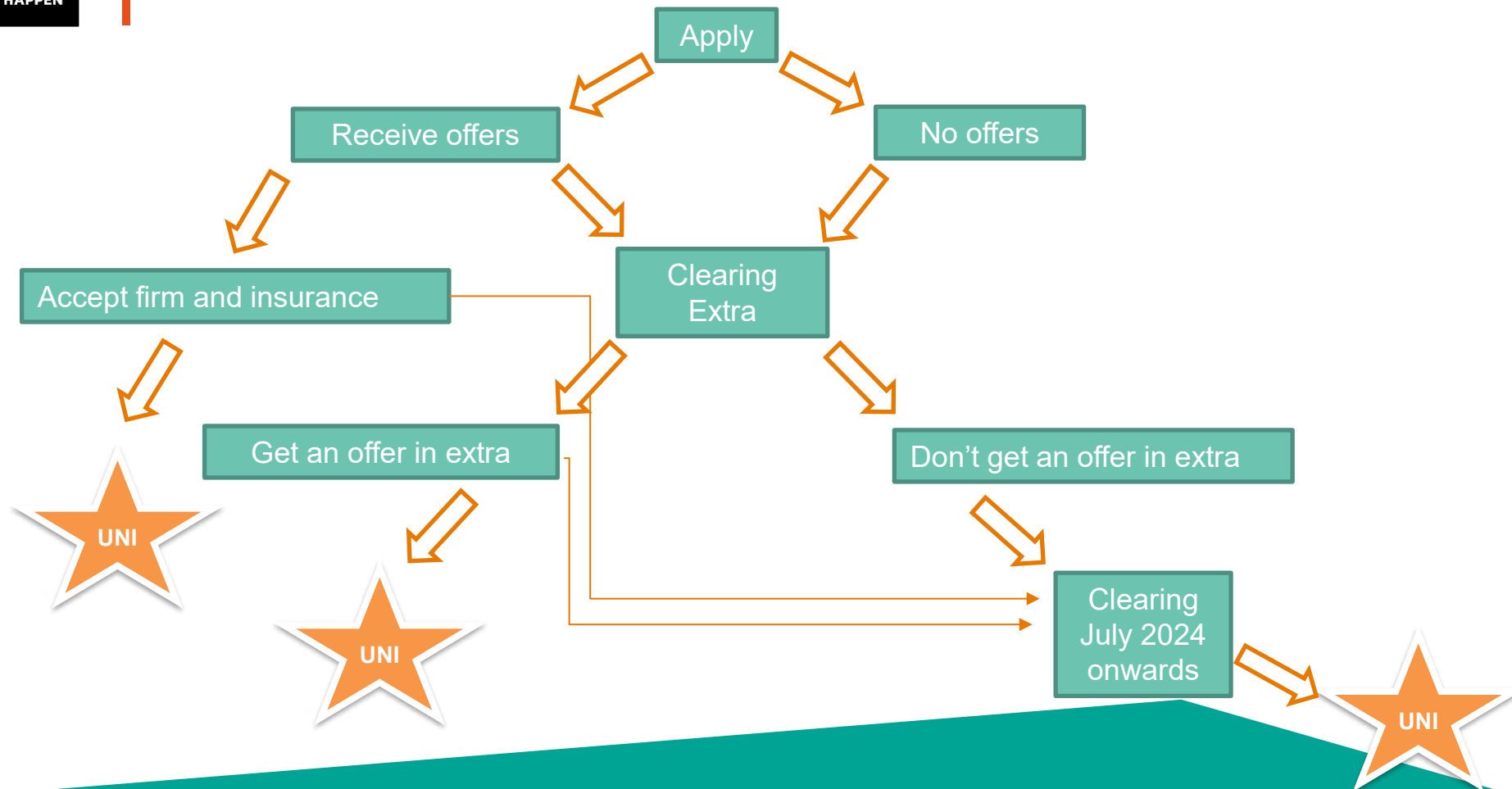
Top tips!

- Be prepared
 - Brainstorm your ideas on paper
 - Aim for about 5 paragraphs
 - Produce several drafts
 - Ask people for their feedback
 - Look for spelling and grammar errors
 - Be enthusiastic
-
- UCAS provide some excellent guidance in this [quick video!](#)
 - Make Happen's [top 10 tips](#)
 - Speak to a teacher or tutor

What's next?

- Pay for and submit your application
 - Track offers from universities in your UCAS Track:
 - **Conditional offer** – You have a place if you meet the entry requirements
 - **Unconditional offer** – You have a place
 - **Unsuccessful** – You have not got a place
 - Universities may request you attend an interview, provide a portfolio, take an admissions test.
 - Universities can offer places on other courses!
 - Reply to your offers
- Firm and Insurance**
- What if it doesn't all go to plan?

What if it doesn't quite go to plan?



What is Clearing?

Clearing is how universities fill empty spaces on courses.

From 5 July – 18 October, you can apply for a course using Clearing if you're not already holding an offer from a university or college, and the course still has places.

You can use Clearing if:

- you're applying after 30 June
- you didn't receive any offers (or none you wanted to accept)
- you didn't meet the conditions of your offers
- you've paid the multiple choice application fee
- you've declined your firm place using the 'decline my place' button in your application

What is Clearing Plus ?

- Matches you to courses you may be interested in, using what they know about you from your application, and what universities and colleges are looking for in a student.
- Will show up in your UCAS Track as a button called "My Matches" This will take you to your top 50 course matches.
- Will give you the option to tell these universities and colleges you're 'interested' in their courses. If they still have vacancies and you meet their entry requirements, they may call you.

Don't worry, if you want to apply for something different you can still find courses available in Clearing using the UCAS search tool.

Next steps

- Research university courses, even if university is your back up option.
- Book yourself onto a university taster session/day at makehappen.org/events/university-taster-days/
- Read our uni guides and blogs at makehappen.org/guides/

Explore subject areas if you don't know exact courses or university.



ucas.com/explore/subjects

Help choosing a course



discoveruni.gov.uk/how-do-i-choose-course/

Speak to current uni students or the Make Happen team



makehappen.org/unibuddy/

University and course comparison sites



thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk



theuniguide.co.uk/



whatuni.com/

Thank you, any questions?

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