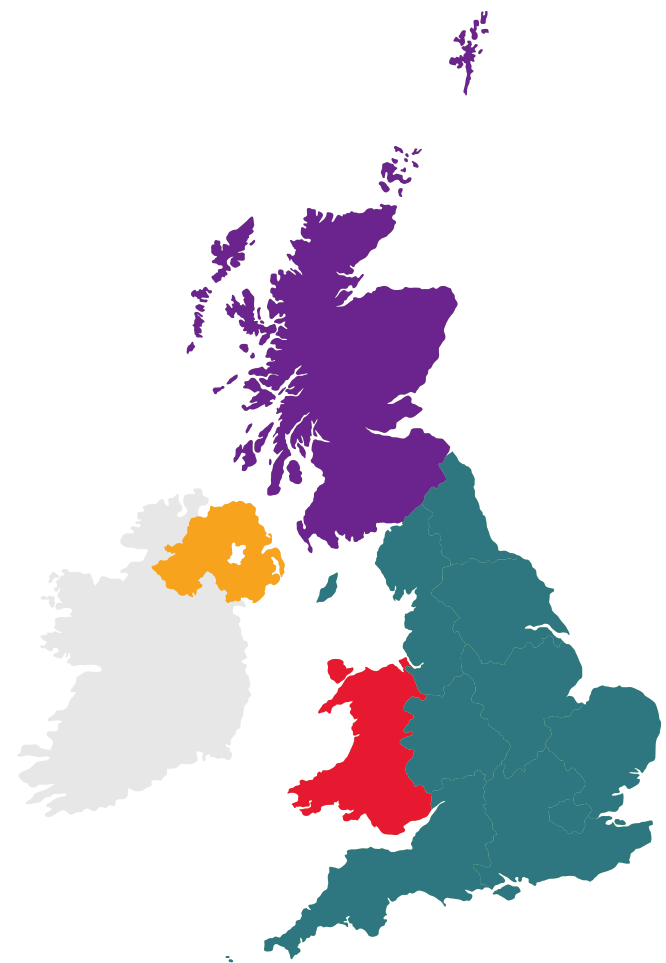




All about UCAS: Everything you need to know to apply to the UK



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All about UCAS: Everything you need to know to apply to the UK



Matthew Crichton
Regional Manager (Americas & Europe)
Abertay University(UK)



Aly Stewart
International Recruitment Manager
University of Edinburgh (UK)



Taylor Wearne
Regional Manager (Africa and Latin America)
University of Exeter (UK)



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What is UCAS?

- The UK's **shared admissions service** for UG Higher Education
- An independent, **not-for profit** organisation
- 380+ members that provide higher education (**140 of these members recruit international students**)
- Support 750,000 applicants annually, with around 1 in 5 from overseas
- More than **7,000 Registered Centres**, almost half of these outside the UK
- A registered centre is a school, agent, or independent advisor
- Provides **impartial, transparent information** on UK university and college admission
- Does not make admission decisions



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Applying - key facts

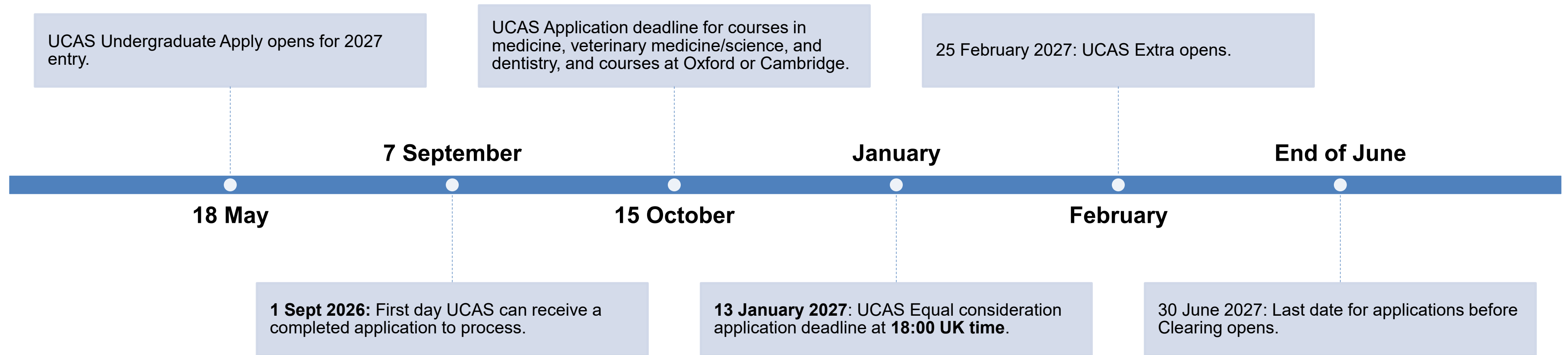
- Register with UCAS via the Hub
- Use a username and password to apply online
- Students can add up to 5 choices, unless they're applying to study medicine, veterinary, medicine/science, dentistry – then it's 4 choices
- Students can't apply to BOTH Oxford and Cambridge
- Applying costs £34.50 for 1 choice, or 5 choices
- Apply by the equal consideration date (where possible)
- Providers can't see other choices when you apply



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When to apply for 2027 entry

www.ucas.com/key-dates-timeline.



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Completing the UCAS application



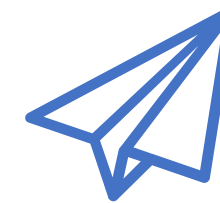
Students register for a UCAS account



Students complete their application – working their way through all sections and send it to their school / college



An advisor reviews the application and adds the reference and predicted grades



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



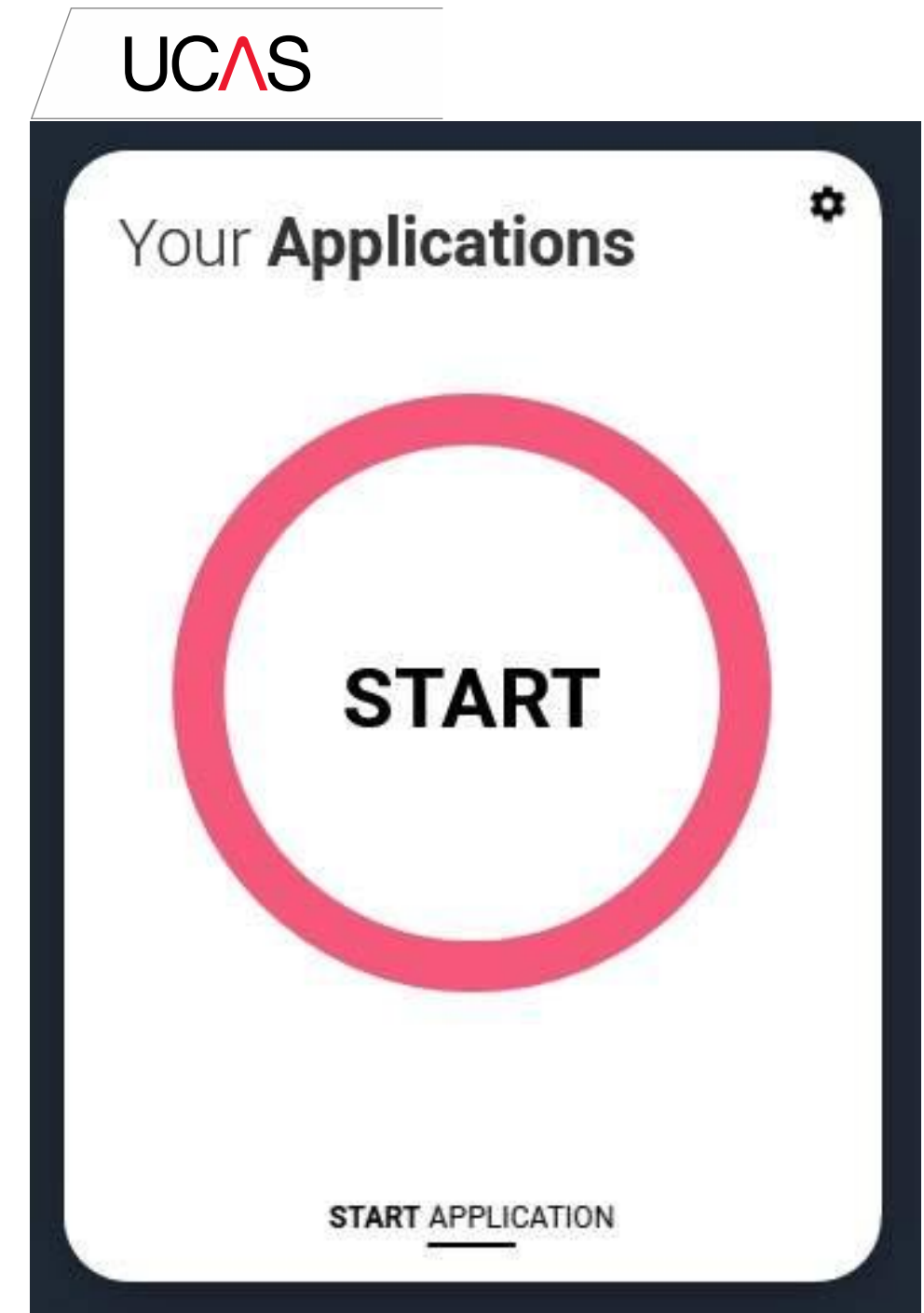
Universities/ colleges make their decisions



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Registering with UCAS

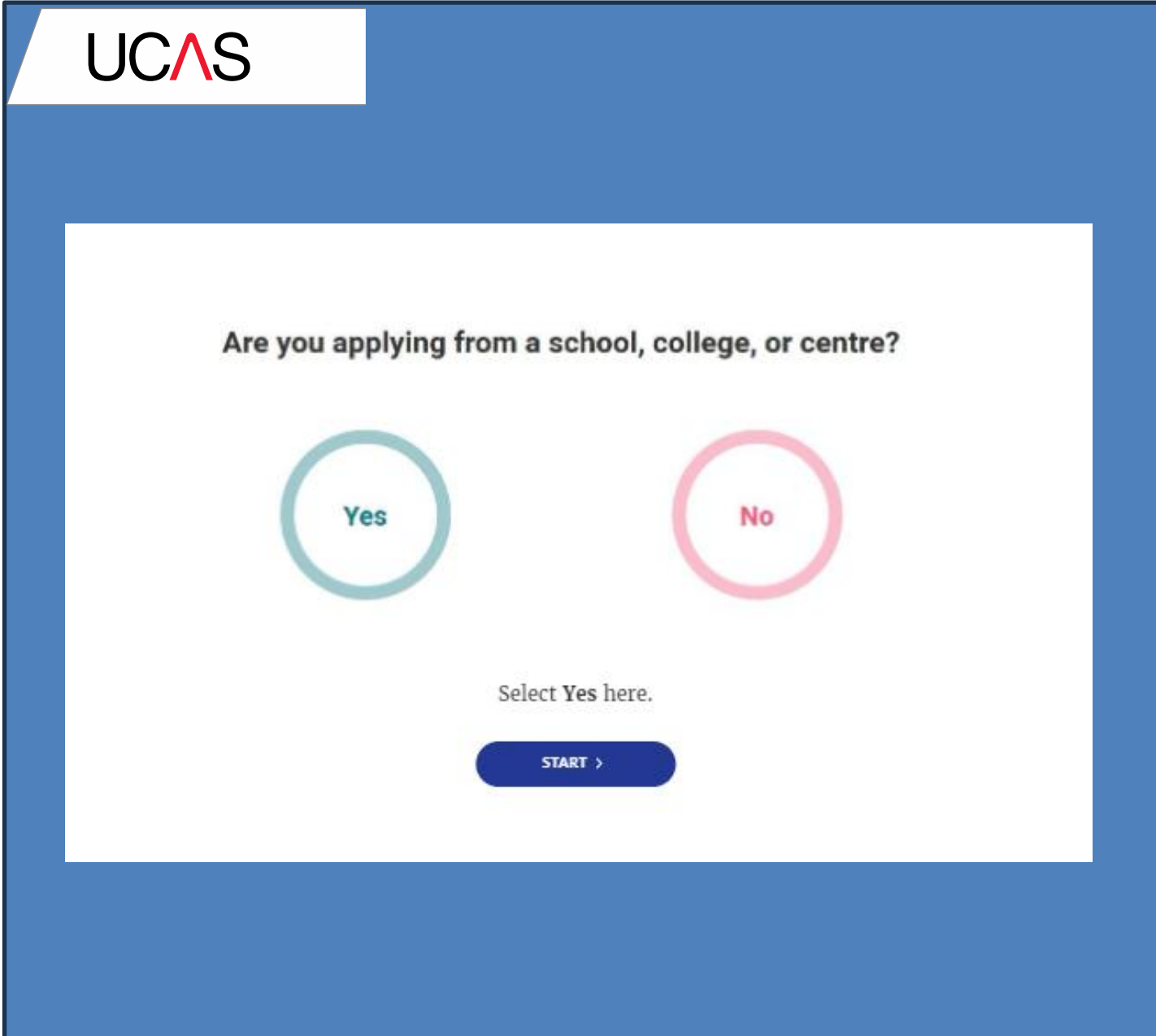
- To start an application students will need to register an account with UCAS.
- Recommend student's use a personal email address so they can get updates from UCAS and their university choice all year round.
- Students can begin completing their application from 12 May – on screen help will guide them through it.
- Students can:
 - ✓ follow the progress of their application 24/7
 - ✓ see their choices and personal information
 - ✓ view their offers
 - ✓ reply to offers online



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Linking to a school or centre

- If they're applying with the help of a school, college or centre applicants should enter a 'buzzword' to link their application.
- The buzzword is a *unique code* for the centre.
- By linking their application students are giving the school or centre **permission** to view and track their application.
- It also means the school or centre can provide a reference.
- Information on how to become a UCAS registered centre: ucas.com/becomeacentre
- Email: adviserhelp@ucas.ac.uk (dedicated support team)



The screenshot shows the UCAS logo at the top left. Below it, a question is displayed: "Are you applying from a school, college, or centre?". There are two circular buttons: a teal one labeled "Yes" and a pink one labeled "No". Below these buttons, the text "Select Yes here." is visible, followed by a dark blue button labeled "START >".

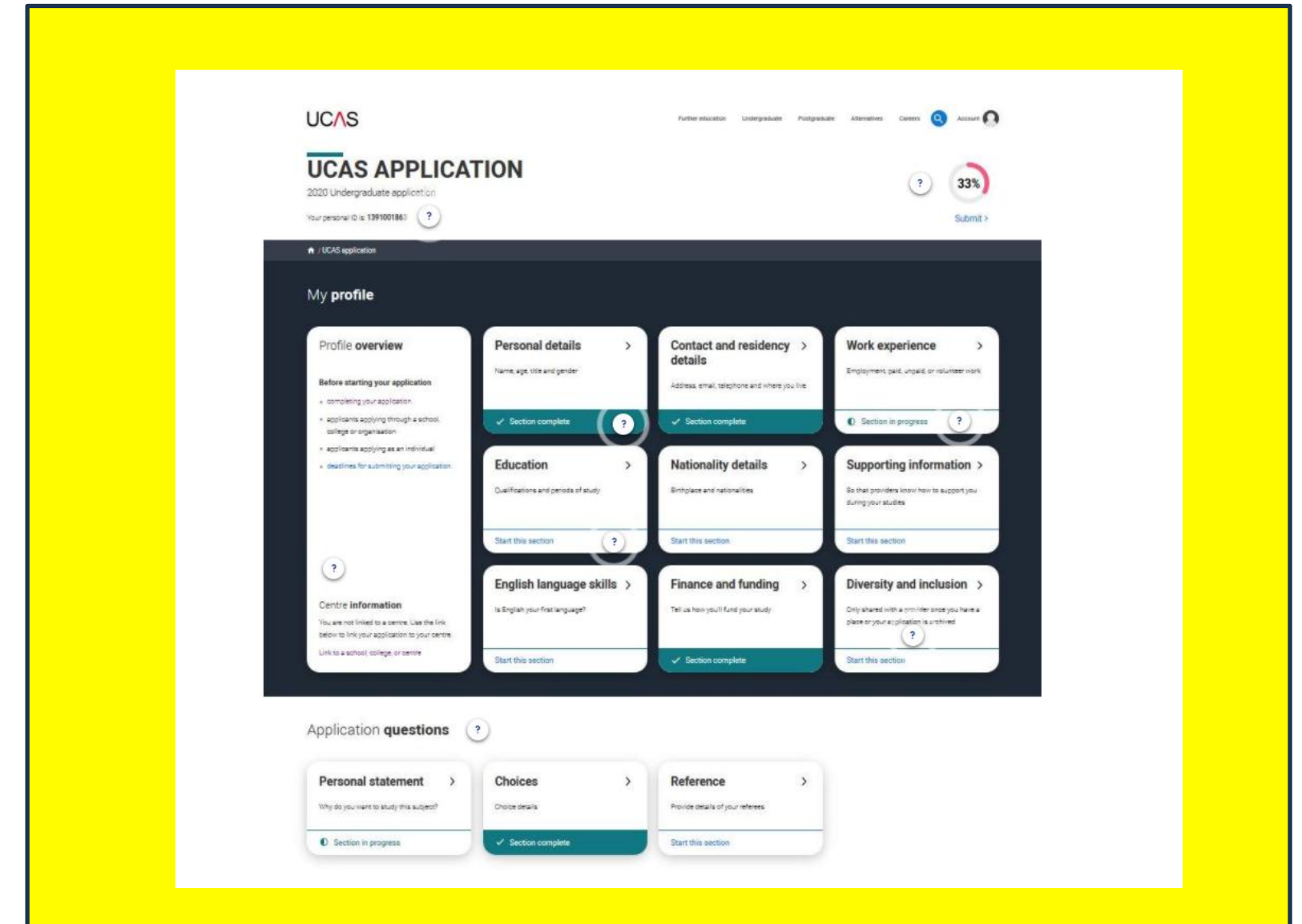


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Making an application

Sections to be completed:

- Personal details
- Education
- English language skills
- Supporting information
- Personal statement
- Choices – make up to five
- References
- **New for 2027:** uploading supporting documents to the application (optional)



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Document upload: new for 2027

For all 2027 applications, students will have the option to upload supporting documents.

Document types include:

- ✓ Change of name
- ✓ Care experience (UK only)
- ✓ Visa and immigration status
- ✓ Passports
- ✓ International qualifications
- ✓ UK qualifications* (where relevant; those currently in formal education are not expected to upload)

Upload is optional – the aim is to support efficient, inclusive admissions.

Applicants must still complete all required information on the UCAS application.

Advisers cannot access documents and are not required to review or check them.

Optional Would you like to upload your visa or immigration status?

Documents with security markings such as visas or immigration documents must be uploaded as photos and not scanned.

Only upload documents that are in your own name. Do not submit documents belonging to someone else (e.g. a parent, guardian or spouse).

Adding these documents may assist universities and colleges in evaluating your fee status. If you cannot add documents before you submit, you may be asked to send them directly to the universities and colleges.

[FAQs about uploading your visa and immigration documents](#)

 Upload documents



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The education section

- ❖ Provides key information about qualifications, helping universities decide whether students meet their requirements.
- ❖ Accurate and complete information in this section is essential to avoid delays, confusion or missed opportunities.
- ❖ Top tips
 - ✓ Applicants should enter all achieved and pending qualifications on their application to provide a full academic history
 - ✓ Ensure names and dates of birth match official documents
 - ✓ Advisers can create a qualification shortlist in the adviser portal
 - ✓ Use the “qualifications checked” box in the adviser portal
 - ✓ If a mistake is found after submission, complete an amendment form and inform uni choices

TOP TIP

We have guidance for international advisers on finding and entering qualifications at: www.ucas.com/advisers/help-and-training/guides-resources-and-training/international-advisers/qualifications-advice-for-international-advisers



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The personal statement



The only section students have full control over



Students only chance to market themselves individually



The same for all 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 is allowed

*UCAS' similarity detection service:
every personal statement is run through
software to check for plagiarism.*



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The reference section



Enter a general statement about your school/college/centre.



If applicable, enter any information about extenuating circumstances which may have impacted the applicant's education and achievement.



Outline other supportive information specific to the applicant and relevant to the course(s) applied for that you think universities/colleges should be aware of.

- ❖ Advisors identify relevant referees, add, and approve references.
- ❖ Referee should be someone who knows the applicant academically and can share supporting information relevant to the course applied for, along with any predicted grades for qualifications.



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Predicated grades

- ❖ UCAS predicted grades are a key part of the application process, serving as an indicator of a student's potential.
- ❖ These grades are added by the registered centre for all pending qualifications listed by the student.
- ❖ A predicted grade is the grade of qualification an applicant's school or college believes they're likely to achieve in positive circumstances.
- ❖ Universities use predicted grades in different ways as part of the consideration and offer-making process.

IMPORTANT

It's **essential** any adviser responsible for writing students' references reads our full information and guidance about what to include in it at www.ucas.com/advisers/references

Predicted grades should be..

- ✓ Achievable
- ✓ Objective and data-driven
- ✓ Comprehensive
- ✓ Determined by professional judgement
- ✓ Finalized by the point of submitting an application



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Decisions

Universities and colleges will review the:



personal statement



qualifications



reference

❖ *Additional steps may be required*

- ❖ Applicants will hear about each of their choices at different times
- ❖ Universities have deadlines by which they must make decisions on applications

Application received at UCAS on or before	University or college must make a decision on or before
13 January 2027	12 May 2027
30 June 2027	14 July 2027



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Types of offers

An offer will either be conditional or unconditional

- A **conditional** offer has conditions which may include the achievement of specific grades, possibly in named subjects, meeting a language requirement, etc.
- An **unconditional** offer usually means the applicant has already met the university's entry requirements.

In some cases, offers may also be for an *alternative* course.

There are two other decisions a university may make:

- Unsuccessful: a student has not been offered a place on the course
- Withdrawal: application has been withdrawn



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Replying to offers

❖ When an applicant has decisions from all their choices, they need to decide which one(s) they want to accept. The date they must reply to their offers by is shown in their application.

A student can accept a maximum of two offers:

- **firm** – if they meet the conditions of the offer they will be placed here
- **insurance** –if they are not placed with their firm choice, they may be placed with their insurance choice.
- Any remaining offers are automatically declined.

❖ Students should only accept offers from universities they are prepared to attend

It's important that applicants reply by the date we give them in the application status section. This date depends on when they receive the last decision from their chosen universities and colleges.

Last decision from university or college received on or before	Applicants must reply on or before
31 March 2027	5 May 2027*
12 May 2027	2 June 2027*
14 July 2027	21 July 2027**

* unless using Extra to find a place

** including Extra choices

You can see further key dates at
www.ucas.com/key-dates.

Make sure your students are aware their reply date could be different from their friends.



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Other options

Extra (Feb – Jul)

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

Clearing (Jul – Oct)

- Apply after 30 June, receive no offers, decline all offers, not met conditions.
- Find vacancies from early July and add a Clearing choice to their application.



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Clearing

An opportunity for students without a confirmed university place to find available courses.

- **Runs annually** from the beginning of July to late September.
- **Official search tool** on the UCAS website is the only comprehensive vacancy listing.

Who is Eligible?

- **No active offers:** Applicants who do not hold any confirmed places after results are published.
- **Late applicants:** Anyone who submitted their UCAS application after 30 June.
- **Declined places:** Students who did not meet their offer conditions, declined their offers, or used the 'decline my place' feature.

How the Process Works

- **Search & contact:** Students find open courses online and must contact the universities directly themselves.
- **Add a choice:** Once a university offers a place, the student adds it as a "Clearing choice" in their application.
- **Clearing Plus:** A feature that automatically matches unplaced students to relevant courses based on their application profile.



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Personal Statement: what universities are looking for?

Academic achievement – and potential to do well at university

Evidence of:

- ❖ strong interest in your chosen subject area
- ❖ commitment, motivation and readiness for higher education
- ❖ suitability for your chosen degree programme (especially for vocational courses).

1. Why do you want to study this course or subject?
2. How have your qualifications and studies helped you prepare for this course or subject?
3. What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?



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Why do you want to study this course or subject?

This is the opportunity for students to showcase their **passion, curiosity, interest**, and knowledge of their chosen subject area and to demonstrate to universities and colleges why it's a **good fit** for them and their *future* ambitions.

This will be *personal* to the applicant(!) but might include:

- ☐ Love of the subject and desire to pursue further?
- ☐ Inspired by a person/event/experience/book/exhibition?
- ☐ Interested in a particular part of this subject area and want to know more?
- ☐ Part of a long-term career plan? Driven to pursue a particular profession?
- ☐ Understanding of the area and the qualities you might need to succeed in it – research into the course/area



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

This is the chance for students to show evidence of the **relevant or transferable skills** they've gained from their formal education and highlight their understanding of how this will help them succeed in this subject area.

- What transferable **skills** have you gained? How might this help you succeed at University?
- What has helped to give you an **insight** into this subject? (Has a particular module helped you understand the subject more? Have you done any extra courses/study outside school that is relevant?)
- Any other academic achievements that can show your *skills and abilities*? (e.g. winning school competition? Acting as school ambassador or team captain? Musical or drama achievements?)

Focus on what's most recent and relevant to your application.



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

A chance to highlight *other* activities/experiences you have had which also demonstrate your **suitability for the subject** or course. This will be *unique* to you(!) – but examples might include:

Work experience, employment, or volunteering

- Particularly important if applying for a professional/vocational course where the University is looking for relevant work experience e.g. Medicine/Vet Med/Teaching/ health professions
- Also a great way to demonstrate key skills – time management, communication skills, leadership skills...

Personal life experiences or responsibilities

For example, a life experience that influenced/inspired your choice of career? Do you have family caring responsibilities? Have you had experiences that have helped you develop skills like resilience and empathy? (Important! Challenging circumstances can be included in the reference – you don't need to mention here unless relevant to your choices)

Hobbies and any extracurricular or outreach activities

This could include music, sport, drama – any activities which demonstrate your particular skills and personal qualities – and explain why you'd make a great student.



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AI – why not?

- ❖ When an application is complete, you have to declare that the personal statement hasn't been copied or provided from another source, including artificial intelligence software
- ❖ Make sure you read the guidance on using AI when writing your personal statement on the UCAS [website](#).
- ❖ There are a few ways AI tools can assist:
 1. Brainstorm some ideas about topics that are relevant to your chosen subject, which you can then relate to your own experiences and opinions. Or you could ask it to list skills that are relevant to the course you're applying for, allowing you to think about your own talents and how to convey them.
 2. Help with structure you may want some suggestions of structuring your personal statement.
 3. Checking readability for example ways to rephrase certain sentences to make them more concise, while maintaining their meaning.



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Personal statement: **Top tips**

Top tip

Advise students not to waste characters on listing qualifications and subjects. Focus on giving examples depth and context in relation to students' chosen courses. Try the PEEL Method - Point, Evidence, Explain, Link.

- Aim for all choices to have a common theme (avoid 50:50 statements)
- Three sections will be viewed as one by universities, so be sure not to repeat information.
- Limit includes punctuation, spaces and blank lines
- Draft and redraft!



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Personal statement: research

Research chosen course(s) and key skills required

**University
prospectuses, course
leaflets, websites**

**Higher Education
Exhibitions**

**Work experience/
shadowing**

**Open Days / online
visits**

Careers library

**Email universities with
questions if necessary**

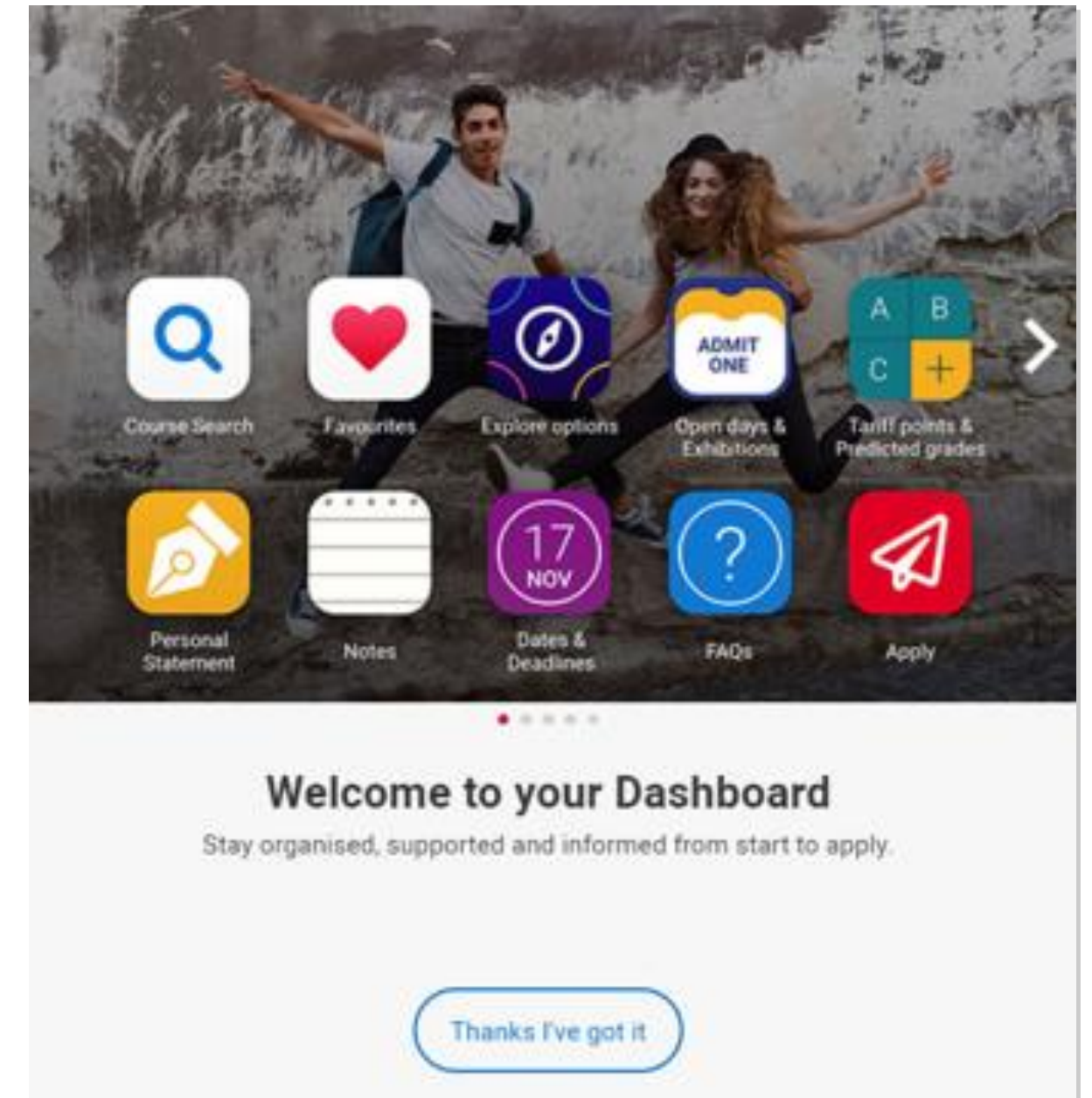


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Starting research

Students should register in UCAS Hub to:

- explore careers, subjects, and universities
- find and favourite over 35,000 courses
- search for virtual tours and online events
- turn predicted grades into Tariff points
- speak to those in the know using [Unibuddy](#)
- speak to career, higher education, and application specialists by attending the [Hub lives](#).
- explore [job profiles](#) to discover different career roles and pathways.



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Free tools to help...



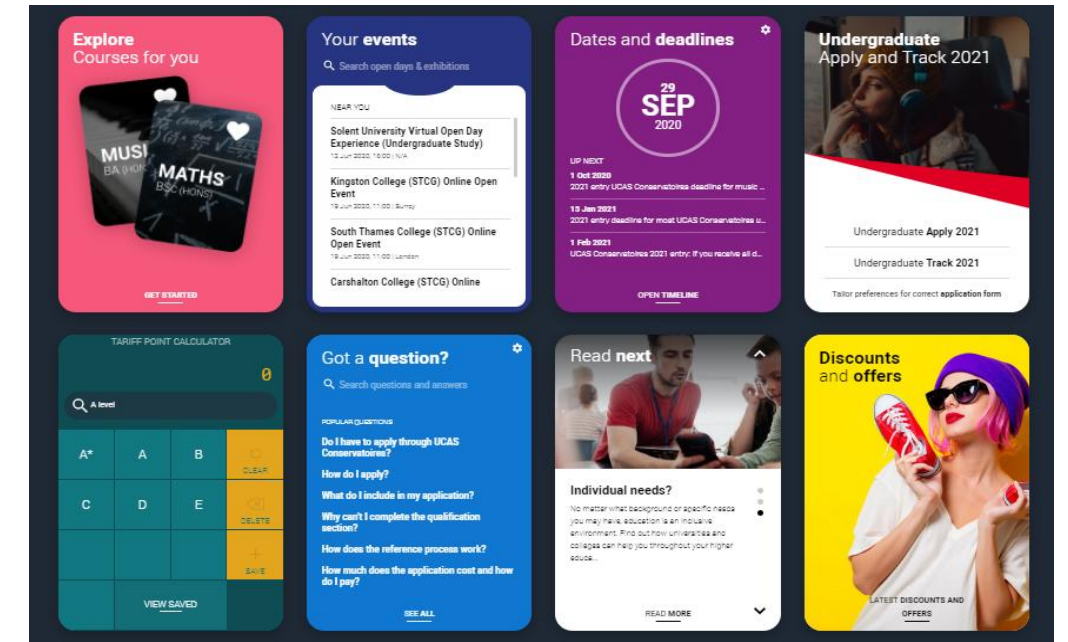
Discovery Days - at UCAS/Discovery you can explore all kinds of possibilities. Talk to subject and admissions experts, discover apprenticeships, get advice on personal statements, applying through UCAS, and more. Get stuck in and open your mind to a world of opportunities.



Join our UCAS Hub lives and Facebook lives -each live session is hosted by an expert panel to give you what you need to make an informed decision.



Accommodation Search- accommodation is high on the list when considering where you want to study, but it's not always easy to compare what's on offer. Understand what options there are using our new Accommodation search.



UCAS

Find your new halls of residence

Search for a university, college, campus or location.

What year are you going into?

How to find the right student accommodation for you

This is it. Life is good. You're going to uni. Is it going to be the party paradise of on-campus halls, or a flat-share right in the middle of town? Maybe the cost of rent will decide, what supports on hand, or whether there's a bus stop...

[read more](#)



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PODCASTS

EPISODES



[Why study in the UK?](#)

Join Robbie with guests Catriona McCarthy and Anastasia Guseva to discuss the realities of choosing the UK as a study destination. Here we discuss what the UK has to offer, the options available, and what it all looks like once you're done.



[Student life in the UK](#)

Join Robbie and students Malcom Kazimil and Arya Nur Güneş to find out what it's really like to study in the UK. Discover helpful tips about the application process, finding accommodation, and how to make the most of your time here.



[Scholarships and budgeting](#)

Robbie is joined by Catriona McCarthy and Arya Nur Güneş to discuss all things finance. This includes how to budget effectively, what payments you're expected to make, and a brief overview of scholarships and how to find them.



[International alumni: Opportunities and options](#)

Noeleen Hammond Jones and Adora Wong join Robbie for a chat about alumni and post-university options. Discover what kind of options are available after graduation, how you find these opportunities, and where can you get support?

Available on:

- Amazon Music
- Apple
- Audible
- Deezer
- Spotify
- YouTube



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SCHOLARSHIPS SEARCH TOOL

Search

Scholarships, bursaries & grants



Hub



For you



Favourites



What to do



Where to go



Search



Search for items



Not all scholarships, bursaries, and grants are on UCAS.com. Check directly with your chosen university for all available options. [Learn more](#)



< [Search All](#) | 821 results | Page 1 of 42

Sort by: Relevance ▼

Grid

List

All filters

Level of study ▼

University or College ▼

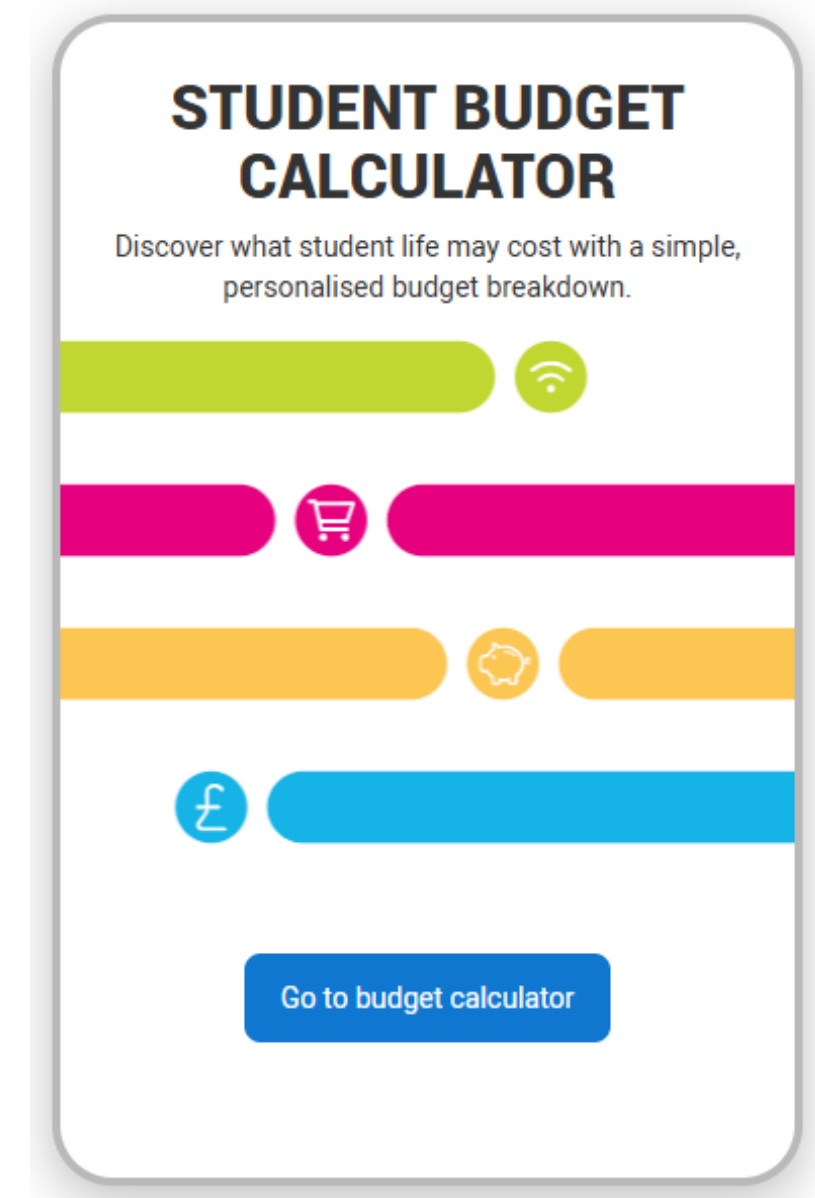
Domicile ▼



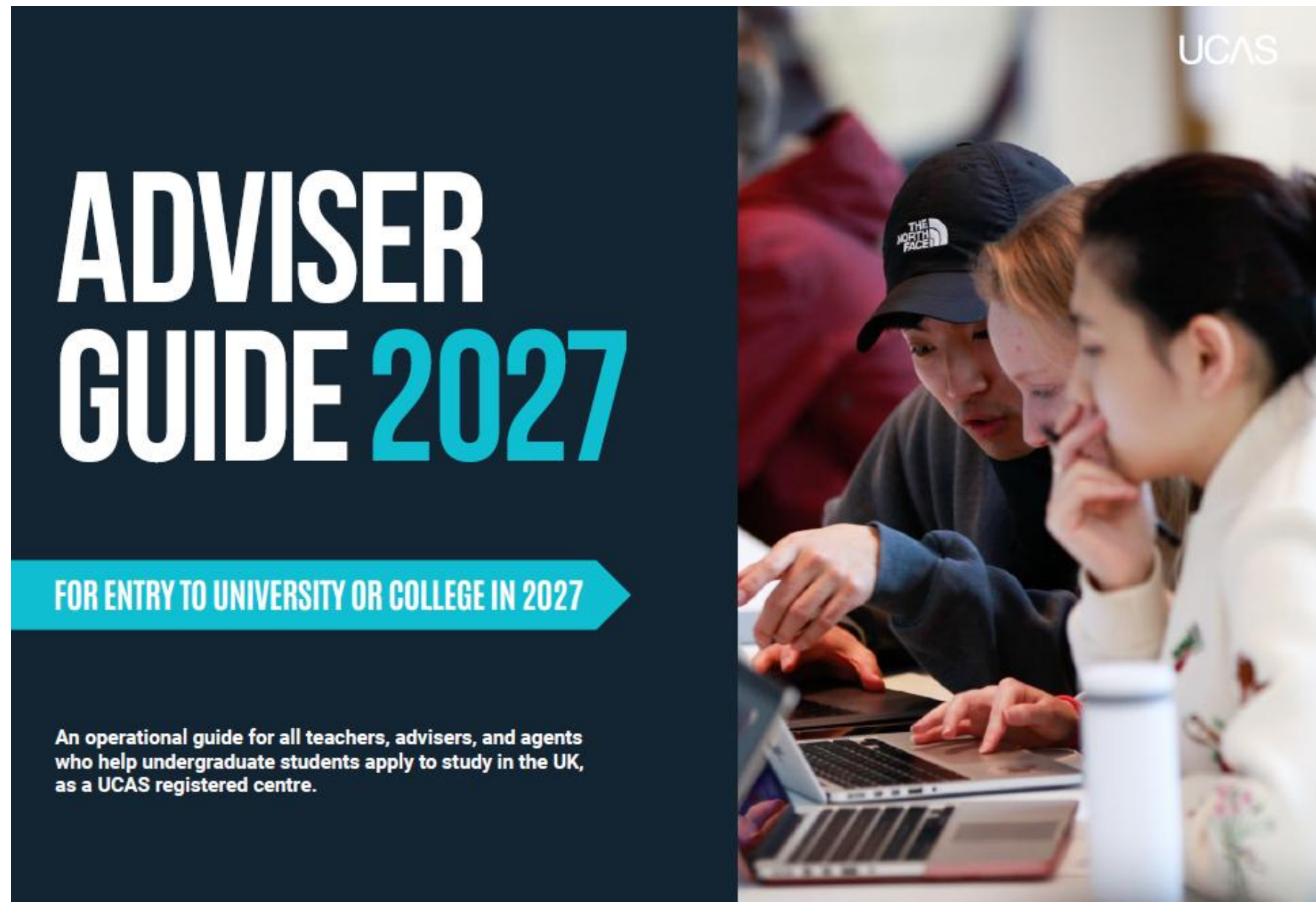
Reset filters

BUDGET CALCULATOR

- Available within the Hub for logged in students
- Helps your students understand the different cost of living in various parts of the UK
- Strengthens your advising practice when speaking about which locations are a good fit for your students
- Supports families with better financial planning



Adviser resources



1 [Adviser lives](#) (also available on online playback)

2 Adviser [newsletters](#)

3 Adviser [webpages](#)

4 Conferences and webinars

5 Dedicated adviser help team

6 Free [online learning](#) for Registered Centres



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Thank you! Any questions?



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