

Applying through UCAS



A group of students in a classroom or computer lab, with a red overlay containing text. The students are looking at a computer monitor. The text is white and bold.

By the end of this you will know:

- **What UCAS is.**
- **Have a brief overview of the application process**
- **Know who is available to support you.**

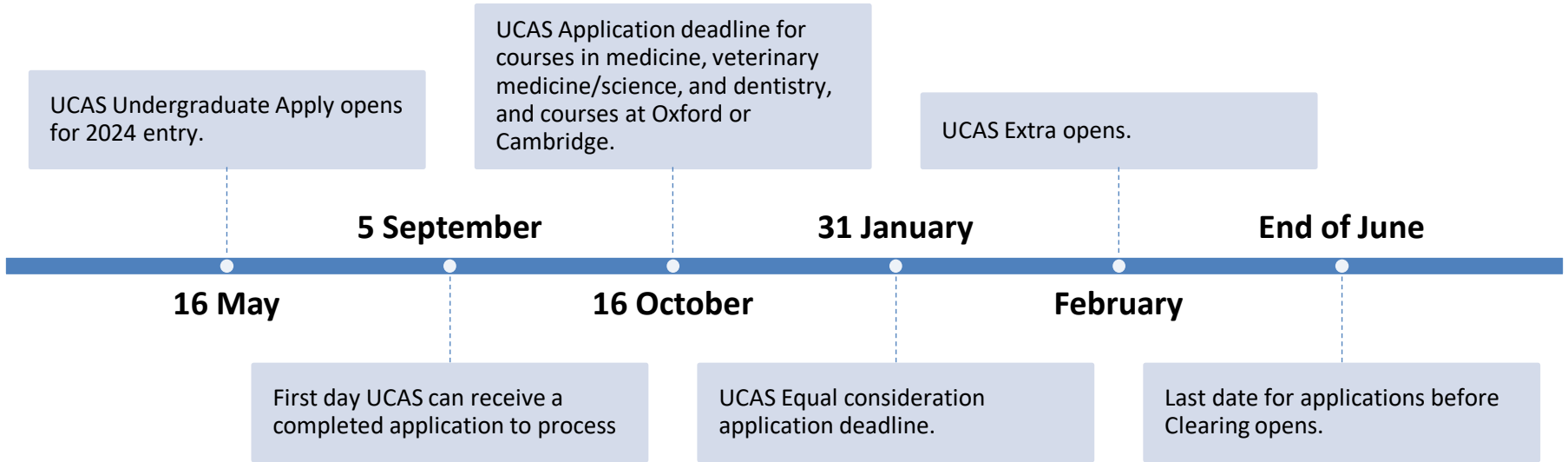
Things to consider

- choosing a subject you enjoy as you are investing time, money, and effort
- Whether you have chosen the correct subjects - A Level/ BTEC combination.
- whether it's right for your career path eg make sure the course is accredited.
- the location including transport links and accommodation available
- finances including course fees, travel, and living costs
- extracurricular activities to take part in

Apply key facts

- UCAS – University and College Admission Service
- Application is entirely online.
- Maximum of five choices.
- Some choice restrictions:
 - for medicine, veterinary science/medicine, and dentistry there is a maximum of four choices
 - can only apply for either Oxford or Cambridge
- Simple application cost:
 - one choice – £23.00
 - For more than one choice– £27.00
- Equal consideration if deadlines are met.
- Invisibility – universities cannot see where else you have applied.

When to apply for 2024 entry



Choosing a university

- There are approx. 325 universities in the UK .
- The top 24 universities are known as the RUSSELL GROUP. They are world-class, research-intensive universities.
- Some Russell Group universities and courses eg medicine have their own admissions tests.
- Eg LNAT – test for Law, UKCAT or BMAT test for Medicine, Dentistry.

Research – it's free

- <https://digital.ucas.com/search> to look for providers, courses, and minimum entry requirements.
- Open days and virtual tours – a great way to explore campuses and facilities.
- UCAS higher education exhibitions – useful to see different universities and colleges, and explore options.
- Learn from others – student videos, blogs, and case studies.
- Russell Group universities – the top 24 in the country
<https://russellgroup.ac.uk/>

When to apply – 2024 Entry

5 September – completed applications can be submitted to UCAS.

3 October – Conservatoire deadline

16 October (18:00 UK time) – deadline for Oxford or Cambridge, and most courses in medicine, dentistry, or veterinary medicine/science.

31 January (18:00 UK time) – deadline for the majority of undergraduate courses.

30 June (18:00 UK time) – last date to submit an application before Clearing.

What does the UCAS application consist of....

- **An online application form**
- **Personal statement**
- **Reference**

Sections in the UCAS online application

Below are the sections that need to be completed:

Your Choices:

Add up to 5 universities

Profile:

- Personal Details
- Nationality
- Finance and Funding
- Contact and Residency
- Supporting Information
- English Language Skills

Sections in the UCAS online application

Below are the sections that need to be completed:

Experience:

Education

Paid Employment

Your Personal Statement:

Reference: - not completed by you.

Predicted Grades: - not completed by you.

Personal statement

- The only section you have total control over.
- Your chance to sell yourself as an individual.
- One personal statement for all of your choices.
- Maximum of 4,000 characters or 47 lines.
- Minimum of 1,000 characters.
- No spelling or grammar check.
- No formatting, e.g. bold, italics, or underline

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

Personal statement – start early

Include:

- academic achievements, past and present
- why you're interested in the subject area
- your knowledge of the subject area
- your enthusiasm to go beyond the syllabus
- what you enjoy about studying
- details of your independent study skills

Personal statement – top tips

Universities and colleges will ask:

- have you chosen the right subject for the right reasons?
- can you survive in an intense and pressured atmosphere?
- 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?
- do you possess good numeracy and literacy skills?

Decision-making

After receiving your application a university or college will make one of three decisions:

- **unconditional** offer
- **conditional** offer
- **unsuccessful**

Or they can offer a place on an alternative course.

Universities and colleges can also:

- request an interview
- ask to see your portfolio
- ask you to take an admissions test

Replying to offers

Once you have decisions on all your choices, you can hold a maximum of two offers:

- 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

You must then decline any remaining offers.

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

Who can help you?

Dr Burrell – manages the UCAS process in school and can provide help and guidance on any aspect of the process.

Your form tutor – is a point of contact and will ensure the process keeps moving along. They can also provide help and guidance with the application and write your reference for you.

The sixth form team – are on hand at all times.

Lydia Gretton - our careers adviser is available if you are struggling with what to study and/or would like to apply for an apprenticeship.

What can I be doing?

- Researching courses and universities; checking entry requirements
- Building up a evidence of your genuine interest in the subject eg YouTube, TED talks, podcasts, reading etc.
- Demonstrating commitment to your sixth form community through volunteering.
- Seeking out work experience in your chosen career
- Building up a extracurricular activities.