

ASPIRE Sixth - Parents' information evening 2023



1. Choices including apprenticeships
2. University v apprenticeship
3. Aspire Sixth support during the research process
4. Deadlines
5. What you can do to help
6. The applications



UCAS

Choices available

- University education
- Apprenticeships
- Studying abroad
- Gap year – valuable activities
- Getting a job – long term career?

Understand the options available at

www.ucas.com/alternatives-to-university



Apprenticeship advice

- UCAS has [apprenticeships advice](https://www.ucas.com/understanding-apprenticeships) to help students make informed decisions about their post-16 and post-18 opportunities.
- <https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship> the website for registering and finding apprenticeships
- IN-COMM training (big West Midlands apprenticeship provider) in school to offer advice and information about apprenticeships.

Higher Apprenticeship applications

- Typically positions become available from Spring of year 13, much later than the UCAS process. Students will need to register on the gov.uk website and check regularly.
- In March I will publish apprenticeship information including advice on how to register and search for apprenticeships.
- Students who want to make a higher apprenticeship application will write a template application/CV in the Autumn of year 13 which can then be easily adapted for apprenticeships that are advertised.

Why does Aspire Sixth strongly recommend that every year 12 student applies to university through UCAS?

- A higher apprenticeship can lead to a job and a degree qualification.
- In 2019 IN-COMM training had over 150 applicants for each apprenticeship position. Collins Aerospace recruited for 16 advanced apprenticeships which generated over 1000 applicants.
- A significant number of applicants are not suitable due to exam grades, experience, skills and qualities and the attitude of the candidate.
- They look for drive and ambition, outside interests, initiative and passion. They also value research - that the candidate knows about a company and the job role.
- Therefore a backup university application is crucial

What is UCAS?



- An independent organisation that provides advice and processes university applications and works as an intermediary between student/school and the universities. This year they charged £27 for making five university choices.

Why university/higher education?

Opportunities while studying:

- Chance to study a subject they are passionate about.
- Achieve a qualification that could lead to their chosen career.
- Grow in confidence, make lifelong friends, and gain independence and important life skills that will widen their prospects.

With a degree, they'll have:

- The opportunity to follow their (eventual) chosen career path
- Better job prospects - many employers target graduates
- higher earning potential
- Academic subject equips students for a range of careers

A university degree offers a life time value of £250,000 to £165,000 above a non graduate.¹

The working age graduate earned £10,000 more than non-graduate counterparts.²

1. Dept. for Business, education & skills (2017)
2. [gov.uk/statistics](https://www.gov.uk/statistics) (2018)



Paying for University

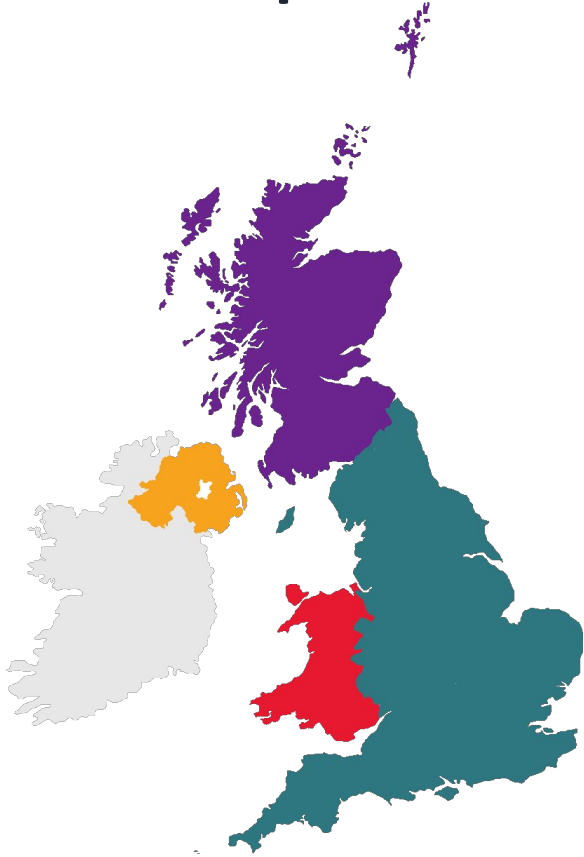
Costs

- £9250 tuition fees per year
- Living costs (cheaper if staying at home)

Affording university

- Tuition fees fully provided by student loans company
- Maximum maintenance loan of £9,978 per year - Minimum maintenance loan of £4,106 based on family income.
- No payments made until April after finishing course AND the graduate earns £25,000 a year
- Students pay 9% above this figure - example £30,000 a year salary - repayment is £20.29 a month

Course providers



370+ universities and colleges

- **five** in **Northern Ireland**
- **20** in **Wales**
- **21** in **Scotland**
- **334** in **England**
- **one** in mainland **Europe**
 - 37,000+ courses available

Study abroad - many universities offer a year abroad

Current steps: researching options...

- **October Aspire day** - the importance of super-curricular thinking and reading
- **November Aspire day** - advice about researching university choice
- **February Aspire day** - how to research and apply for apprenticeships
- **March Aspire day** - visit to University of Birmingham
- **Meetings with previous students** - Summer term
- **Visit to the UCAS conference** at Birmingham NEC in the summer
- **Summer school applications** open around this time, including the Sutton Trust's free school to enable students' to experience Russell Group universities - <https://summerschools.suttontrust.com/>

The booklet given
to year 12s on
google classroom
in November.

Cheslyn Hay
Academy



Your application to

University

Student Copy

UCAS

Top tips for university research

- Do they enjoy the subject? – they're investing time, money, and effort
- Joint honours degree - e.g. Politics and economics
- Does it lead to a specific career or keep options open?
- Location – city/rural, transport links, accommodation, etc.
- The study style that suits them
- Extracurricular activities
- Finances – course fees, travel, and living costs

Research –

- <https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate> - a good starting place
- <https://careerfinder.ucas.com/> - unsure about career direction?
- <https://www.ucas.com/careers-advice> - general careers advice
- <https://www.ucas.com/explore/subjects> - guides to unfamiliar subjects
- <https://discoveruni.gov.uk/> - useful unistats website
- <https://www.theguardian.com/education/ng-interactive/2022/sep/24/the-guardian-university-guide-2023-the-rankings> Allows you to search university league tables. Inputting different subjects will allow you to see how the university performs for that particular subject. The website then has a link that will take you to the university's website where you can find more details.
- <https://www.ucas.com/ucas/events/find/type/open-day?keywords=> Virtual open days
- <https://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/> - online university student forum. Good for finding answers to specific questions

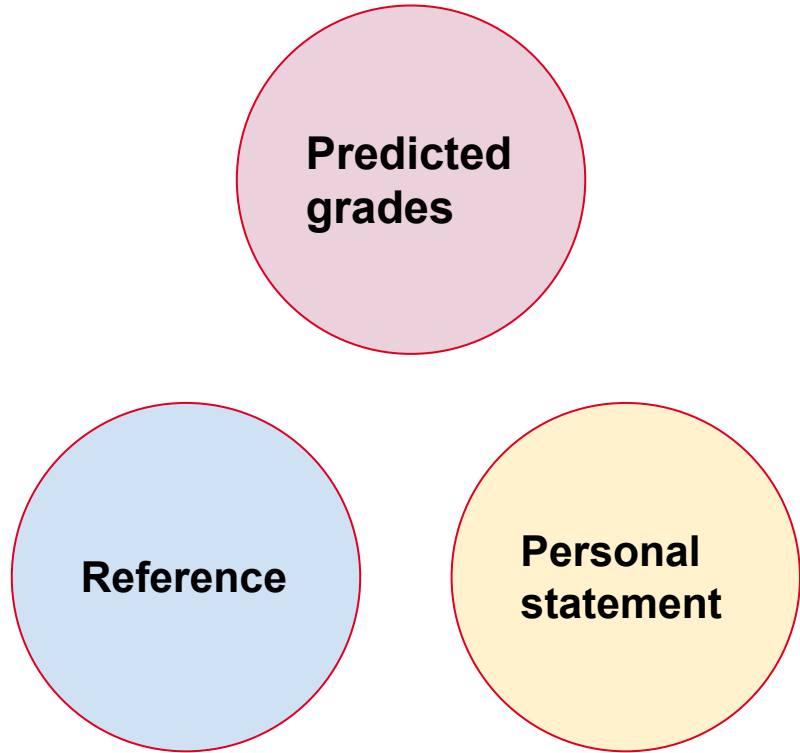
UCAS Apply – key facts

- Application is entirely online.
- Maximum of five choices.
- Some choice restrictions:
medicine, veterinary medicine/science, dentistry
(maximum of four), Oxford or Cambridge
- Equal consideration if deadlines are met
- ‘Invisibility’ – universities cannot see other institutions applied to.

When to apply to UCAS for 2024 entry

- May 2023** UCAS Undergraduate online opens for 2024 entry.
- Sep 2023** Completed applications can be sent.
- 15 Oct 2023** Application deadline for Oxford/Cambridge, medicine, veterinary, dentistry.
- First Friday after Oct half term** Internal school deadline
- 15 Jan 2022** External deadline.
- Feb 2022** Extra opens (for changes to choices)
- June 2022** Last date for applications before Clearing.

How do students get university offers?



Sections to complete:

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



The importance of predicted grades

- Each course will publish its entry requirements – either a UCAS points tariff (e.g. a B = 40 points) or grades required. Look for “entry requirements” on the university website.
<https://www.ucas.com/ucas/tariff-calculator> use this website to work out if you have that entry requirements.
- Schools are required to include predicted grades on the UCAS application. We add these grades to the application, not the student.
- Students’ reports from now will have a “UCAS predicted grade” to aid university research. We encourage our sixth formers to ask their teachers what they could be doing academically to get this grade raised.

The personal statement

- The only chance students can market themselves individually.
- One personal statement for all choices.
- Max. 4,000 characters, or 47 lines.
- Tutors will check and advise students' personal statements from May and I will make a final check.
- I will check any statement from a student who wants to start this process early.
- The UCAS guide has detailed information on how to write the statement as well as extracts from previous statements
- Has some similarity to the type of things that might be written in an apprenticeship application.

The academic reference

- A trusted subject teacher writes a subject specific reference – the form should be sent to that staff member by your son/daughter in the summer term.
- The subject teacher will then send the completed form to your son/daughter's tutor to complete a full reference.
- Tutors will also write an apprenticeship application reference when requested.

Tracking applications

UCAS website's "Track" application 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

Track

English Cymraeg Hello Rebecca Chen
(Personal ID 34567 56789) [Log out](#)

UCAS Track **Your choices** / Your application / Your details / Help / Contact us /

Welcome back Rebecca

Today's date: 13 March 2013

Waiting for offers > **Reply to your offers** > Waiting for confirmation > Confirmation of place

Your status

You've received offers from all your choices.

Next steps

Reply to your offers
(by 6 June)

If you don't reply on time you'll lose your offers.

Frequently asked questions

- [Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet](#)
- [Consectetur adipiscing elit sed diam](#)
- [Nibh euismod tincidunt ut](#)
- [Laoreet dolore magna aliquam erat](#)
- [Ut wisi enim ad](#)
- [Minim veniam quis nostrud exerci](#)
- [Ullamcorper suscipit lobortis nisl](#)
- [Ut aliquip ex ea commodo](#)
- [Duis autem vel eum](#)

From application

Universities will then make one of three decisions:

- unconditional offer
- conditional offer
- Unsuccessful

When all five decisions have been made by the universities
- students can select a firm and insurance choice

Applicant replies

Applicants should wait for all decisions from all choices, then they can choose one:

- **firm** – usually the offer with higher grade requirements
- **insurance** – usually lower conditions, in case firm conditions are not met

Any other offers must be declined.

If a student firmly accepts an unconditional offer, they must decline any/all others.

Students can get into top universities even without a strong academic background.

Not all students progress at the same rate, therefore some students think university isn't for them, but there are ways to get into top universities.

- Foundation degree - these are where prestigious universities let students in with low A-Level grades. In return the student studies over 4 years instead of 3. The applicant needs to display potential.
- Contextual offers - many universities will lower their entry requirements to students from certain backgrounds, e.g first in family to go to university.

Other options

Extra (Feb – Jul)

Used all five choices and had no offers (or declined all offers/withdrew).

Add Extra choices for consideration one at a time via Track.

Clearing (early Jul – Oct)

Apply after 30 June, receive no offers, decline all offers, or not met conditions.

Find vacancies from 5 July, and add one choice via Track.

Adjustment (up to five days in Aug)

Placed with firm choice, and did better than conditional offer.

Register in Track, then find another university or college. The new university or college adjusts the record.

What should your son or daughter be doing now?

- Research – Open days
- Super-curricular activities e.g. reading – make you stand out
- Work experience – especially for competitive degrees e.g. medicine
- Focus on this year's studies – convince your teachers to put high predicted grades on reports

Reading lists...
 on the school's
 website
 (students tab).
 Vital for
 improving
 personal
 statements
 /apprenticeship
 applications

Art	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Y12-13
Biology						Y12-13
Business Studies				Y10	Y11	Y12-13
Chemistry						Y12-13
Computer Science	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Y12-13
Construction				Y10	Y11	
Drama	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Y12-13
DT	Y7	Y8	Y9			
English	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Y12-13
Food	Y7	Y8	Y9			
Geography	Y7	Y8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Years 12-13
Government and Politics						Y12-13
Health and Social Care				Y10	Y11	Y12-13
History	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Y12-13
Hospitality and Catering				Y10	Y11	
Maths	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Y12-13

<https://www.aspiresixth.org.uk/support-and-advice/reading-lists/>

How can you support them?

- Use the parents/guardians' section of the UCAS website at www.ucas.com/parents.
- Use UCAS's [parent information tool](#) for advice, hints, and tips about the application process.
- Go on open days together – you may have a different perspective.
- Make sure they read everything carefully that is sent to them.
- Look at gov.uk apprenticeships website.

Thank you
- if you do have any questions
do please email me
rallen@cheslynhay.windsoracademytrust.org.uk



UCAS

Security marking: PUBLIC