Applying to University
Applying to Higher Education

A guide to:

• Research

• UCAS

• How to Apply

• Further Information
Research

Where to look:

- Undergraduate prospectus
- Visits days
- Social media
- Parents and teachers
- Current students and friends
Research

Things to consider:

Size
Location
Distance

Attend open days!
Research

Which Course?

Over 52,000 to choose from

Newcastle offers over 200 Undergraduate Degrees

Placement/Study Abroad
Lydia’s placement at Nike

• Completed a year long placement with Nike in Football Team Sales

• Opportunities such as running events at St George’s Park, going to Barcelona for the Champions League, running the first ever U10s Nike World Cup festival
Elly’s year abroad

**Degree:** Sociology with Philosophy

**Placement:** Conversation Assistant

**Location:** Barcelona

**Benefits:**
- A way of pushing yourself and learning what you are capable of
- Educational benefits and a chance to encounter different cultures
- Further develop skills and experiences working with children aged 3-16
Research

Types of courses

**Foundation**
Academic study with work based learning

**Single**
Degree focused on a single subject

**Joint Honours**
Two subjects studied equally

**Major/Minor**
Two subjects, one in more detail than the other

**Combined**
Study up to 3 subjects for your degree

**Sandwich**
Placement/Internship between 2nd and 3rd year
Research

Course Structure

Stage 1 (First Year)
- Broad and Structured

Stage 2 (Second Year)
- More specific and more choice

Optional Stage 3 (Third Year)
- Year abroad or work placement

Stage 3 or 4 (Final Year)
- Very specific and even more choice
  - Dissertation module

Medicine and Dentistry are longer courses with different structures

Different courses have different levels of flexibility, which may differ between universities.
Research

Bursaries and Scholarships

What’s on offer?

Are you eligible?

How and when do you apply?

Do your research!
Research

Useful Websites

The Times Higher Education
www.timeshighereducation.com

Compare the Uni
www.comparetheuni.com
Research

Useful Websites

Which? University
www.university.which.co.uk

Uni Stats
www.unistats.com
Research

University Websites

www.ncl.ac.uk
What is UCAS?

Universities and Colleges Admissions Service

Online service for:

- Undergraduate degrees
- HND courses at universities
- Foundation courses
What can I do on the UCAS website?

- Search for courses
- Compare entry requirements
- Paste your Personal Statement
- Pay securely
- Track your application
What is a Conservatoire?
A college for the study of the arts, usually:
- Classical Music
- Dance
- Drama

www.ucas.com/ucas/conservatoires
10 Steps to Applying
1. Registering

ucas.com

Enter personal details and Education
2. Choices

• Students can apply for 5 courses

• You can only apply for 4 when applying for Veterinary Science or Veterinary Medicine, Medicine and Dentistry

• Students can only make 1 application to Oxbridge

Good to know

You can still use your fifth choice for courses such as Biomedicine
2. Choices

UCAS Course Finder
Find and compare undergraduate courses at different universities
3. Deferred Entry

- Take some time out before further study at university
- We recommend applying with everyone else in Year 13
  When applying tick ‘2021 entry’
- Justify the decision in your personal statement
4. Qualifications & Work History

- Include ALL qualifications the student already has.
- Also include any qualifications which haven’t yet been marked – this is what universities will base offers on.
- It is important to include any work experience whether voluntary or unpaid.
5. Personal Statement

- Each student has **4000 characters** for them to show the university why they should choose them to study their course

- Used by universities when:
  - Considering applications
  - Asking potential interview questions
  - Deciding the status of near-miss applications
5. Personal Statement

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[Diagram]

- Write about the course
  - Skills and achievements
  - Hobbies and interests
  - Work experience
- Write a concluding statement

More info online about what to include
6. Pay and Submit

• Mark all sections as ‘complete’

• Before students can submit there is a fee to pay:
  • £20 for one course
  • £25 for multiple courses

Good to know

Each university will receive applications independently
7. UCAS Track: Responses

- **Unconditional offer** – The student has already met the grade requirements. As long as they complete any stated examinations they have a place.

- **Conditional offer** - If the student meets the set conditions, they have a place. This normally means that they have to meet certain grade/points requirements.

- **Unsuccessful** – The application for that course has been unsuccessful and the student has not been offered a place.
8. UCAS Track: Reply

- **Firm** – The student’s first choice of course. If they meet the grade requirements, they will attend this course.

- **Insurance** – A second or back-up choice. If the student fails to meet the grade requirements for their firm choice, but meet the requirements for this course, they can attend this course.

**Recommendation**

Choose an insurance choice with lower entry requirements to act as a safety net.
9. Back-up Plan

• If the student is unsuccessful in all of their applications, they can make single applications to other courses through UCAS Extra.

• Vacancies are listed on the UCAS website.

• Available from around 25 February.

• Avoids the need for Clearing.
10. Results Day

- Aiming to match or exceed your conditional offer

- Here’s what happens next

- Meet the firm choice offer
  - Going to the firm choice uni

- Miss the firm choice offer but get the insurance offer
  - Going to the insurance choice uni

- The student exceeds the firm choice offer
  - They have the option to go through Adjustment

- Miss both the firm and insurance offers
  - Going to have to go through Clearing
Clearing

- Available for those who do not hold a university place following the publication of exam results in August.

- Becomes active for most students on the day of A-level results and helps students find suitable vacant university places.

CLEARING HOTLINE NOW OPEN
0800 073 5050
YOU BELONG HERE
Tips for Clearing

You snooze you lose!
Have a pen and paper to hand
Be open to suggestions
Avoid being on holiday on results day
Have your UCAS I.D. at the ready

Call our CLEARING HOTLINE
08457 88 77 22

Hotline open to end of August
Mon-Thu - 9am to 5pm
Fri - 9am to 4.30pm
Adjustment

• If you exceed the conditions of your firm choice you can look for an alternative choice

• Completely optional

• Your original firm choice will be safe while you are looking for another – you will only lose it if you confirm you’d like to go elsewhere
UCAS Key Dates

• September 2019
  • Applications open from early September

• 15th October 2019
  • Application deadline for Oxford and Cambridge, and Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary medicine/science

• 15th January 2020
  • Application deadline for all other courses
  • No longer a March deadline for Art and Design courses

Your Sixth Form/College may have earlier internal deadlines- check with your teachers
Applying to HE
Any questions?