Applying to University
Applying to Higher Education

A guide to:

• Research

• UCAS

• How to Apply

• Further Information
Campus or city University?

Which Course?

Local or Further afield?

Research

What are the Course Requirements?

What about League Tables?
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
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
UCAS Conservatoires

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

UCAS Search tool
Use our new search to find undergraduate courses and courses at conservatoires. We’ll be adding all our other courses soon – until then, click the links below for:
- Postgraduate courses
- Postgraduate teacher training courses
- Foundation degrees
3. Deferred Entry

- Take some time out before further study at university
- We recommend applying with everyone else in Year 13
- When applying tick ‘2019 entry’
- Justify the decision in your personal statement

Check with each university individually
4. Qualifications & Work History

- Include ALL qualifications the student already has

- Also include any qualifications which haven’t yet been marked – this is what unis 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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Write about
the course
↓
Skills and achievements
↓
Hobbies and interests
↓
Work experience
↓
Write a concluding statements

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:
  - £13 for one course
  - £24 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 open
Monday 18 August onwards: 9am to 5pm
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
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 2017**
  - Applications open from early September

• **15\(^{th}\) October 2018**
  - Application deadline for Oxford and Cambridge, and Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary medicine/science

• **15\(^{th}\) January 2019**
  - 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?