Applying to University

The university application process can seem a bit daunting at first. This handy guide breaks down everything you need to know.

From Newcastle. For the world.
UCAS stands for Universities and Colleges Admissions Service
You'll use the UCAS website to apply to universities in the UK: www.ucas.com
The UCAS website also has a function where you can search which universities offer your course or search universities by location.

Choices
- You can apply for up to 5 courses
- So, you could apply to the same course e.g. History at five different universities or multiple courses at the same university
- There are a couple of exceptions:
  - You can only apply to four universities for: Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Medicine/Science. Your fifth choice must be a different course
  - You can only apply for one course at either Oxford or Cambridge University

The Application Form
- You'll register for a UCAS account and the form will ask you for:
  - **Personal details**
  - **Your 5 course choices**
  - **Education History**: GCSE Qualifications & A Level predicted grades
  - **Employment History**: Include part-time jobs & any work experience
  - **Your Personal Statement**: Help with your personal statement
- You also specify if you're applying for **2021 or 2022 entry**, if you're planning on taking a gap year
- Find more detailed information on the application form here.

Application Deadlines
- **15th October**: Applications to Medicine, Dentistry & Veterinary Medicine/Science & Oxford/Cambridge University
- **15th January**: Most other undergraduate courses
Application Outcomes
So what happens next? Here are the three ways a university can respond to your application:

- **Unconditional Offer:** You've got a place guaranteed as long as any outstanding examinations are completed.
- **Conditional Offer:** Most common for A-Level applicants, the university has offered you a place on the condition that you get the grades/UCAS points they require.
- **Unsuccessful:** Unfortunately, you haven't been offered a place.

Making your Choices
Once you have received a response from all of your universities, it's time for you to make some decisions:

- **Firm Choice:** This is your first choice and the university you will go to if you get grades.
- **Insurance Choice:** This is your back up university in case you don't get in to your firm choice.

Clearing
- If you don't get the grades you were hoping for and are not holding a university place on results day, you can look for a university course through Clearing.
- Clearing goes live on results day to help students find suitable vacant university places - phone a university on their clearing hotline to find out what places they have available.

Adjustment
- If on results day you exceed the conditions of your firm choice, you can go through Adjustment to look for an alternative course.
- Your firm choice will be safe whilst you look at other courses, you'll only lose this place if you confirm a place on a different course.