



HIGHER EDUCATION

UCAS APPLY

Choices available

- Higher education
- Higher/Degree Apprenticeships and traineeships
- Studying abroad
- Gap year
- Getting a job

Understand the options available and make choices that are right for you.

<https://www.ucas.com/alternatives/alternatives-higher-education>

Why choose HE?



Essential for some career paths.



Develop new transferable skills and subject knowledge.



Increase your confidence and independence.



Broaden your experiences.



Show yourself what you can do.



Invest in your future.

CHOICES

1. What?
2. Where?

RESEARCH IS VITAL

- 6.7% - drop out after first year (range = 0.8% - 23.8%)
- 31% - definitely/maybe chosen another course
- University visits where possible
- Virtual tours
- Unibuddy
- UCAS / Unifrog

UNIFROG

a 'one stop shop' to explore post-school options

- All should have logged in, created a password and explored the platform via the welcome email.
- Research university and course options via the 'exploring pathways' section or 'searching for opportunities' section.
- 'UK university longlist page' allows you to rank and filter courses based on your predicted grades and what is important to you – comes up with 3 lists: 'safe', 'solid' and 'aspirational'.

UNIFROG

- Research apprenticeships via the 'searching for opportunities' section. Updated every 24 hours, use UF to search for the apprenticeships which interest you.
- Upcoming and past webinars on a huge array of topics
- Personal statement builder and lots of info on writing PS in the 'know-how' library

CHOOSING A COURSE

Thousands available!

3 main options:

1. Similar/related to A level subject
2. Related to an extra-curricular interest
3. In preparation for a future career

UNIVERSITY COURSES

- Bachelor's degree
- Master's degree
- Foundation degree
- Higher National Certificate (HNC) & Higher National Diploma (HND)

TYPES OF DEGREES

1. Single Subject
2. Joint honours
3. Major/Minor
4. Combined
5. Modular
6. Sandwich

WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN A COURSE

- What is the subject all about?
- What is different about this course compared to others?
- How big is the department?
- How is the course taught?
- How will my work be assessed and examined?
- What is the drop out/failure rate?
- What are the career/job prospects like for course graduates?

The Guardian's Top 10 entry 2022 (= 2021)

1. Oxford (1)
2. Cambridge (3)
3. St Andrews (2)
4. LSE (5)
5. Durham (4)
6. Warwick (8)
7. Imperial (9)
8. Bath (6)
9. UCL (14)
10. Loughborough (7)

	LAW	ENGINEERING	BIOSCIENCES	POLITICS
1	Oxford	Cambridge	Cambridge	St Andrews
2	UCL	Oxford	Oxford	Oxford
3	Cambridge	Bristol	St Andrews	Cambridge
4	LSE	Imperial	Lancaster	LSE
5	Glasgow	Durham	Glasgow	King's
6	King's	Warwick	Durham	Aberystwyth
7	Durham	Leeds	UCL	Warwick
8	Q Mary	Loughborough	Imperial	Bath
9	Leeds	Bournemouth	Cardiff Met	Durham
10	Cumbria	Coventry	Manchester	UCL

NSS Student (Satisfaction) Survey 2021

1	Brighton and Sussex Medical School	95.19
2	University of St Andrews	93.34
3	The Open University	88.24
4	University of Bath	86.06
5	University of Strathclyde	85.15
6	Loughborough University	85.11
7	University of Law	84.97
8	Royal College of Music	84.75
9	University of Aberdeen	84.54
10	Imperial College London	84.46
11	Harper Adams University	84.22
12	University of Glasgow	83.68
13	Robert Gordon University	83.54
14	University of Warwick	83.24
15	Aberystwyth University	83.21

Searching for a course:

- Takes time
- Is about you – know yourself
- You don't have to have a career in mind
- Course content is key
- Pick the right **type** of course
- Use official data but beware – there's no 'best' university
- **Check entry requirements carefully (including GCSE/A level subjects required)**
- Explore funding opportunities

Where to study

- The course
- The place
- Transport
- Support
- Facilities
- Accommodation
- Costs
- Graduate prospects

WEBSITES

www.ucas.com

www.ucas.com/what-are-my-options/create-your-ucas-hub-today

- Subject & city guides
- Personal statement advice
- Chat to current students (<https://unibuddy.com>)
- Virtual open days
- Alternatives to HE

www.discoveruni.gov.uk

www.ukcoursefinder.com

www.theuniguide.co.uk/

www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk

university websites/prospectuses

<https://www.gresham.ac.uk/watch-now/browse-all?see-all>

Top tips for applications

- Don't rush it
- Know the deadlines
- Respect your referee (form tutor)
- Extra info needed? (eg: EPQ, 4th 'enrichment' subject, co-curricular)
- Oxbridge / MDV / some Art & Design
- You are not alone
- Cost £22.50 1 choice, £27 2-5 choices

Recent RGS slip ups!

In the last couple of years we have discovered that students have applied for a course:

- Studying the wrong subjects
- Sandwich when they didn't mean it
- Declared a criminal conviction when they didn't have one
- Being flippant on the actual application (King X)
- With no A levels apparently
- Forgetting genuine achievements
- **SO CHECK CAREFULLY!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**



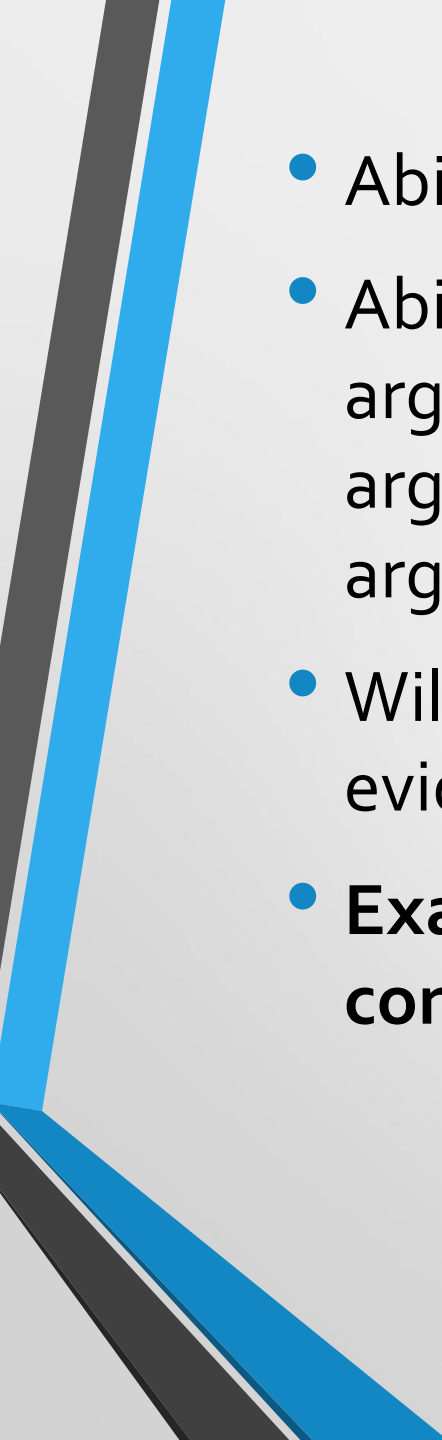
Personal Statements

DO NOT PLAGIARISE

Personal Statements

Universities are looking for:

- A clear understanding of what the course entails
- Commitment to the discipline (includes broad reading and extra curricular activities)
- Commitment to the study of X, coupled with curiosity about the study of a diverse range of X

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- Ability to make connections between X and Y
 - Ability to develop independent opinions and arguments on X, and use them to sustain an argument, identify weaknesses in other arguments and respond to criticisms
 - Willingness to think creatively about using evidence from a range of sources
 - **Examples are key – demonstrate by using concrete evidence > evaluate > reflect**

FINANCE

- Not our problem!
- www.gov.uk/student-finance
- www.grantfairy.com
 - GrantFairy is a scholarship app which matches students with thousands of scholarships and bursaries to help pay university tuition fees and living expenses.

DEADLINES/DATES

- Personal statements – OMDVs: first draft NOW
- Friday 8th July - Respond to letter offering opportunity for 1-2-1 Personal Statement or Interview Clinic
- Wednesday 21 September – final submission of all Oxbridge (min 1 (2)), MDVs (min 4)
- Wednesday 16 November – final submission date for any prediction upgrades
- Monday 21st November - final submission of all applications
- Guaranteed if above deadlines met - Applications will be sent out from RGS to UCAS by 25 January 2023 (= equal consideration deadline)
- NB: Conservatoires/foreign universities have their own deadlines – **your** responsibility to know them

DEADLINES/DATES 2023

23 February 2023 – Extra opens


8 June – confirm your CF/CI for decisions received by 18 May

5 July – Clearing opens

Thursday 18 August TBC – A Level Results Day

Your application

- Please see the **Checklist for 2022 applicants and list of qualifications with board – USE these!**



UCAS APPLY
BUZZWORD for entry
2023 or 2024 (deferred)

RGSHW2023