

PARENTS' UCAS INFORMATION EVENING

17th July 2018



Outline of Session

- **Why Higher Education?**
- **The UCAS application process;**
- **Making a successful application and the importance of a strong personal statement;**
- **Target Grades vs. Predicted Grades;**
- **Student Finance.**



Why Higher Education?

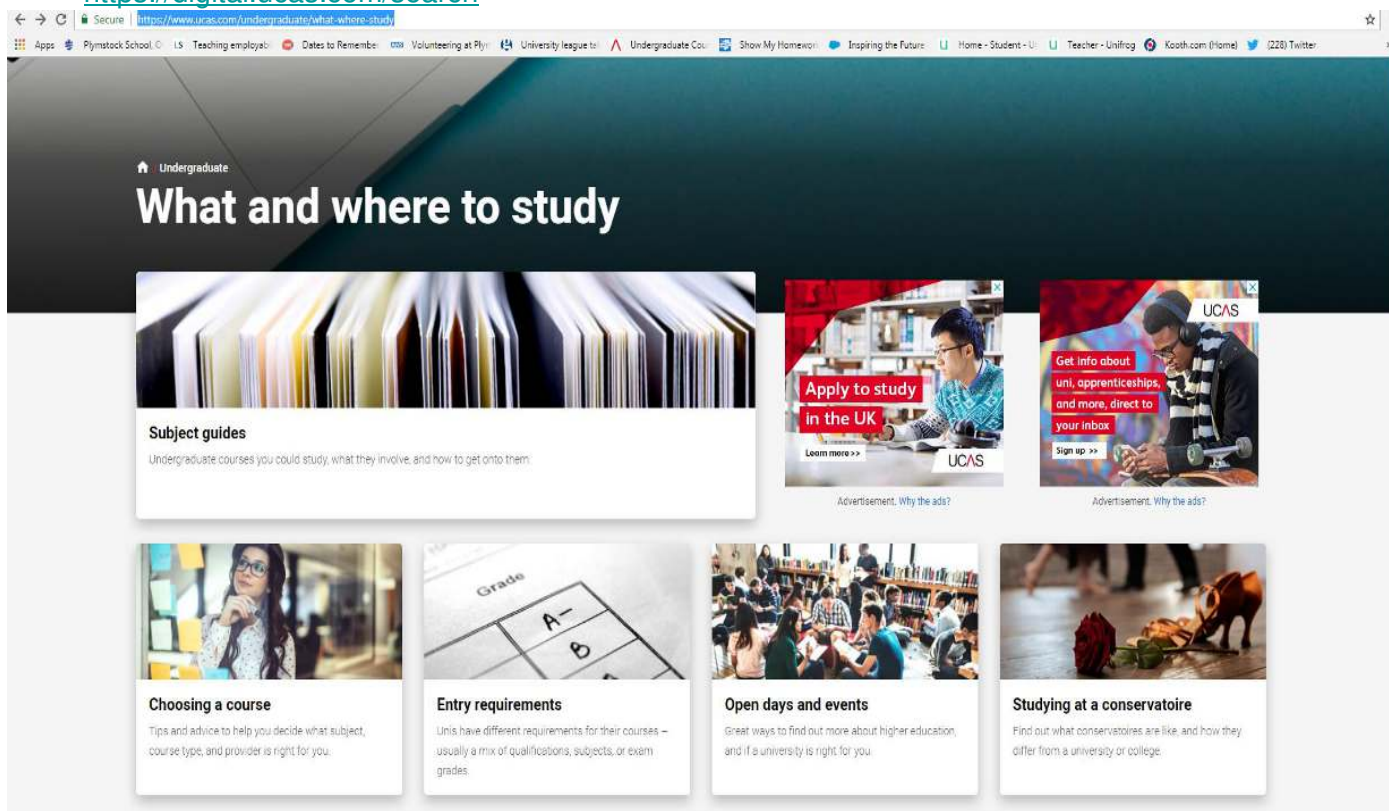
Opportunities whilst studying

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



Researching Courses

- Your son or daughter can use the UCAS search tool www.ucas.com
- There is help for parents' too. www.ucasdigital.com/widgets/parents_tool/index.html#/home
- <https://digital.ucas.com/search>



The screenshot shows the UCAS website's 'What and where to study' page. The page features a dark blue header with the text 'Undergraduate' and 'What and where to study'. Below the header, there are several content blocks:

- Subject guides**: Undergraduate courses you could study, what they involve, and how to get onto them.
- Apply to study in the UK**: A promotional banner with a 'Learn more >>' button.
- Get info about uni, apprenticeships, and more, direct to your inbox**: A promotional banner with a 'Sign up >>' button.
- Choosing a course**: Tips and advice to help you decide what subject, course type, and provider is right for you.
- Entry requirements**: Unis have different requirements for their courses – usually a mix of qualifications, subjects, or exam grades.
- Open days and events**: Great ways to find out more about higher education, and if a university is right for you.
- Studying at a conservatoire**: Find out what conservatoires are like, and how they differ from a university or college.



UCAS Tariff

Tariff Points	GCE AS	GCE A Level	BTEC (QCF) Subsidiary Diploma	BTEC (QCF) Certificate	OCR Cambridge Technical	Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)
56		A*	D*		D*	
48		A	D		D	
40		B				
32		C	M		M	
28				D*		A*
24		D		D		A
20	A					B
16	B	E	P	M	P	C
12	C					D
10	D					
8				P		E
6	E					



Things to consider

- Graduate employment
- Student satisfaction (value for money)
- Teaching Excellence Framework
<https://www.ucas.com/ucas/undergraduate/choosing-course/how-choose-between-undergraduate-courses-and-unis/teaching-excellence-framework-tef-what-you-need-know-courses-starting-2018>
- Finance – course fees, grants, travel and living costs
- Accommodation – university halls or private residences?
- Extra curricular activities



Visit, visit, visit ...



Introducing the new UCAS open days search tool – get some dates in your students diaries:
www.ucas.com/open-days

UCAS



www.ucas.com/ucas/undergraduate/getting-started/events-and-open-days/virtual-tours

UCAS Advisers Providers Corporate Events Connect

UCAS At the heart of connecting people to higher education

Next event: **Ayrshire higher education convention**
Ayr, 8 Sep 2015 - More events

Keyword search

Exploring university Conventions and exhibitions Conferences Training for advisers & providers

Home > Events > Exploring university > Virtual tours

Find open days
Learn about uni on a taster course
Open days tips
Virtual tours

UCAS Events on Twitter

about 45 days ago @UCASDesign welcomes some new exhibitors in November @LondonAtelier @UoW @AmandWycCollege @WSofArchi Find out more ow.ly/DRM0h

about 74 days ago Thank you to @PH_Hotels The Met Hotel #Leeds for hosting another conference for us.

about 74 days ago Thank you to all who attended #UCASCompetitive Admissions in #Leeds. It's been a great conference! What were the best bits for you?

Follow us on Twitter

Virtual tours

View published

We realise that not everyone can attend an open day, but it's pretty important to see where you'll be studying and possibly living.

So here's a list of virtual tours and videos from universities and colleges so you can see what it's like on campus and what facilities are available.

If the uni/college you're interested in isn't listed, take a look at their website or YouTube channel instead.

Click on a university or college to view their virtual tour or video.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

A

- University of Aberdeen
- Aberystwyth University
- Anglia Ruskin University
- Arts University Bournemouth (formerly University College)
- Aston University, Birmingham

B

- Bangor University
- University of Bedfordshire
- Birmingham City University

CALL OUR CLEARING TEAM
01227 540980

 Canterbury Christ Church University



HOW TO APPLY

- Log onto www.ucas.com – students will be registering when they resume the normal school timetable.
- Online application
- Personal statement
- Reference
- To send off the application students will meet with one of us.



KEY DATES AND APPLICATION FEES

15th October 2018 6:00pm This is for medicine, dentistry, or veterinary medicine. When applying for these courses students can apply for four courses for their subject area i.e. medicine and their fifth choice must be something different but related i.e. biomedical sciences.

15th October 2018 6:00pm One choice - Oxford or Cambridge – you can't apply to both. You would then apply for four other universities in addition.

Main Deadline: 15th January 2019 6:00pm

Students can apply for up to 5 courses. Some students may only wish to apply for one course and this costs- £13 (subject to change). If you apply for more than one course the fee is £24 (subject to change).



The personal statement...

- The only section your son or daughter has control over.
- Their only chance to market themselves individually.
- One personal statement for all choices.
- Max. 4,000 characters, 47 lines
- Min. 1,000 characters
- No spelling/grammar check – students are advised to put it into a word document before transferring it to UCAS.
- No formatting



Where to start..

- Don't start at the beginning!
- 70%-80% of the personal statement needs to be about the course being applied for.
- Show **enthusiasm** for the course and give supporting **evidence** to back this up.
- Extra curricular activities and **relevant** work experience.
- **Skills** they can use on the course – leadership, communication, team work for example.
- Allow plenty of **time** as they will have to draft, redraft and redraft again!



What to avoid...

The 11 most common opening lines used in personal statements :

- 1. From a young age I have (always) been [interested in/fascinated by]... [1,779]
- 2. For as long as I can remember I have... [1,451]
- 3. I am applying for this course because... [1,370]
- 4. I have always been interested in... [927]
- 5. Throughout my life I have always enjoyed... [310]
- 6. Reflecting on my educational experiences... [257]
- 7. Nursing is a very challenging and demanding [career/profession/course]... [211]
- 8. Academically, I have always been... [168]
- 9. I have always wanted to pursue a career in... [160]
- 10. I have always been passionate about... [160]
- 11. Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world... [148]



Importance of Work Experience/Voluntary Work

- **Increasing employability skills by taking part in work experience / voluntary work / part time work / supporting clubs / playing sport competitively etc. This will also support university applications.**
- **CBI Report 2015 advised that a majority of businesses remain concerned about the preparation of school leavers in important areas including business and customer awareness (66%), self-management (61%). Many also report room for improvement in essential capabilities such as teamwork (31%).**



References

- **References are requested from subject teachers once students have met with either one of us and they are almost ready to submit their application e.g. when they have drafted their personal statement and it's almost complete.**
- **Once subject teachers have completed their references tutors will then compile a full reference to be attached to their UCAS application.**



Targets vs. Predicted Grades

- **Target grades are calculated from prior performance and contextualised data.**
- **Predicted grades will be based on prior performance and professional judgment.**



School Timeline

- Stage 1 (May onwards)

Students' completion the online application form and start drafting Personal Statement.

- Stage 2 (2 weeks)

Once a student has completed the above they need to meet with Beckie who will check their application form and personal statement. The teacher references will then be requested.

- Stage 3 (1 week)

Once the teachers have written their subject reference tutors will then complete the schools reference incorporating the subject references

- Stage 4

Students' will need to pay the application fee and arrange a meeting with Beckie or Mr Sprenkel.

- Stage 5

Students' will meet with Beckie or Mr Sprenkel who will attach the schools reference and input their predicted grades, check the entire application again to ensure no mistakes and send the application to UCAS.



How do institutions make a decision on who to give offers to?

- **Predicted grades and all entry requirements satisfied**
- **GCSE results**
- **Personal Statement**
- **Reference**
- **Interview**
- **Extra assessments BMAT / UKCAT / LNAT/ MAT/ STEP**
- **Contextual data**



Decisions and replies

Provider decisions:

- Unsuccessful
- Unconditional offer
- Conditional offer – qualifications and achievements and/or UCAS Tariff points

Once all decisions are received, they can hold up to two offers:

- One as their **firm** choice
- One as their **insurance** choice (if they want to)
- All other offers are declined

Track will show their **reply date** this will be based on when the last offer was received so is individual to the student.



Other options

Extra (Available from February to July)

- If all five choices have been used and they have no offers/rejected all offers.

Clearing (Available from early July)

- If there are no offers, or have applied after 30 June deadline.

Adjustment (from A level results day)

- If they've gained better results than the conditional offer they hold, they could apply for a different course or university.



How can you support the application process?

- Use the parents'/guardians' section of the UCAS website/Parent Guide publication – www.ucas.com/parents and sign up for the newsletter.
- Offer to attend open days, you may have a different perspective.
- Don't book family holidays at key times.
- Make sure they read everything carefully that is sent to them.
- Support your son/daughter's management of their application



2018 Applications – What we've seen..

- **More unconditional offers being given.**
- **More contextual offers being given – linked to decline in population.**
- **Most popular courses:- business related courses, science related courses and social sciences (criminology).**
- **Applicants across UK down by 4% for the 2017 cycle – nursing saw the biggest decline. 18 year olds are the largest group of applicants.**



MAINTENANCE LOAN

- **Maintenance support is available to help with living costs while in higher education.**
- **There is now only one type of support, Maintenance Loan (repayable).**
- **All students applying for University are entitled to receive some maintenance support.**
- **The amount of Maintenance Loan received depends on household income, and where you will be studying (inside or outside London).**
- **Maintenance support is broken down into three amounts which are paid directly into the students bank account each term.**



MAINTENANCE LOAN

MAXIMUM LEVELS 2017/18



Parental home

Live at home while you study

Up to
£6,904



Elsewhere

Live away from home & study outside London

Up to
£8,200



London

Live away from home & study in London

Up to
£10,702

N.B. Figures for next year have not been released yet – this is a rough guide



Maintenance Support Packages

Students living with their parents

N.B. Figures for next year have not been released yet – this is a rough guide

Household Income	Maintenance Loan (Paid in 3 instalments –one at the start of each term)	Max Tuition Fee Loan (N.B. Not all courses cost £9,250)	Max amount borrowed per year (excluding interest)
£25,000 or under	£6,904	£9,250	£15,904
£30,000	£6,322	£9,250	£15,322
£35,000	£5,740	£9,250	£14,740
£40,000	£5,158	£9,250	£14,158
£42,875	£4,824	£9,250	£13,824
£45,000	£4,576	£9,250	£13,576
£50,000	£3,994	£9,250	£12,994
£55,000	£3,412	£9,250	£12,412
£58,201 and over	£3,039	£9,250	£12,039



Maintenance Support Packages

Students studying outside of London and not living with parents
N.B. Figures for next year have not been released yet – this is a rough guide

Household Income	Maintenance Loan (Paid in 3 instalments –one at the start of each term)	Max Tuition Fee Loan (N.B. Not all courses cost £9,250)	Max amount borrowed per year (excluding interest)
£25,000 or under	£8,200	£9,250	£17,200
£30,000	£7,612	£9,250	£16,612
£35,000	£7,023	£9,250	£16,023
£40,000	£6,434	£9,50	£15,434
£42,875	£6,095	£9,250	£15,095
£45,000	£5,845	£9,250	£14,845
£50,000	£5,256	£9,250	£14,256
£55,000	£4,667	£9,250	£13,667
£60,000	£4,078	£9,250	£13,078
£62,180 and over	£3,821	£9,250	£12,821



Maintenance Support Packages

Students studying in London and not living with their parents

N.B. Figures for next year have not been released yet – this is a rough guide

Household Income	Maintenance Loan (Paid in 3 instalments –one at the start of each term)	Max Tuition Fee Loan (N.B. Not all courses cost £9,250)	Max amount borrowed per year (excluding interest)
£25,000 or under	£10,702	£9,250	£19,702
£30,000	£10,103	£9,250	£19,103
£35,000	£9,503	£9,250	£18,503
£40,000	£8,904	£9,250	£17,904
£42,875	£8,559	£9,250	£17,559
£45,000	£8,304	£9,250	£17,304
£50,000	£7,705	£9,250	£16,705
£55,000	£7,105	£9,250	£16,105
£60,000	£6,506	£9,250	£15,506
£65,000	£5,906	£9,250	£14,906
£69,803 and over	£5,330	£9,250	£14,330



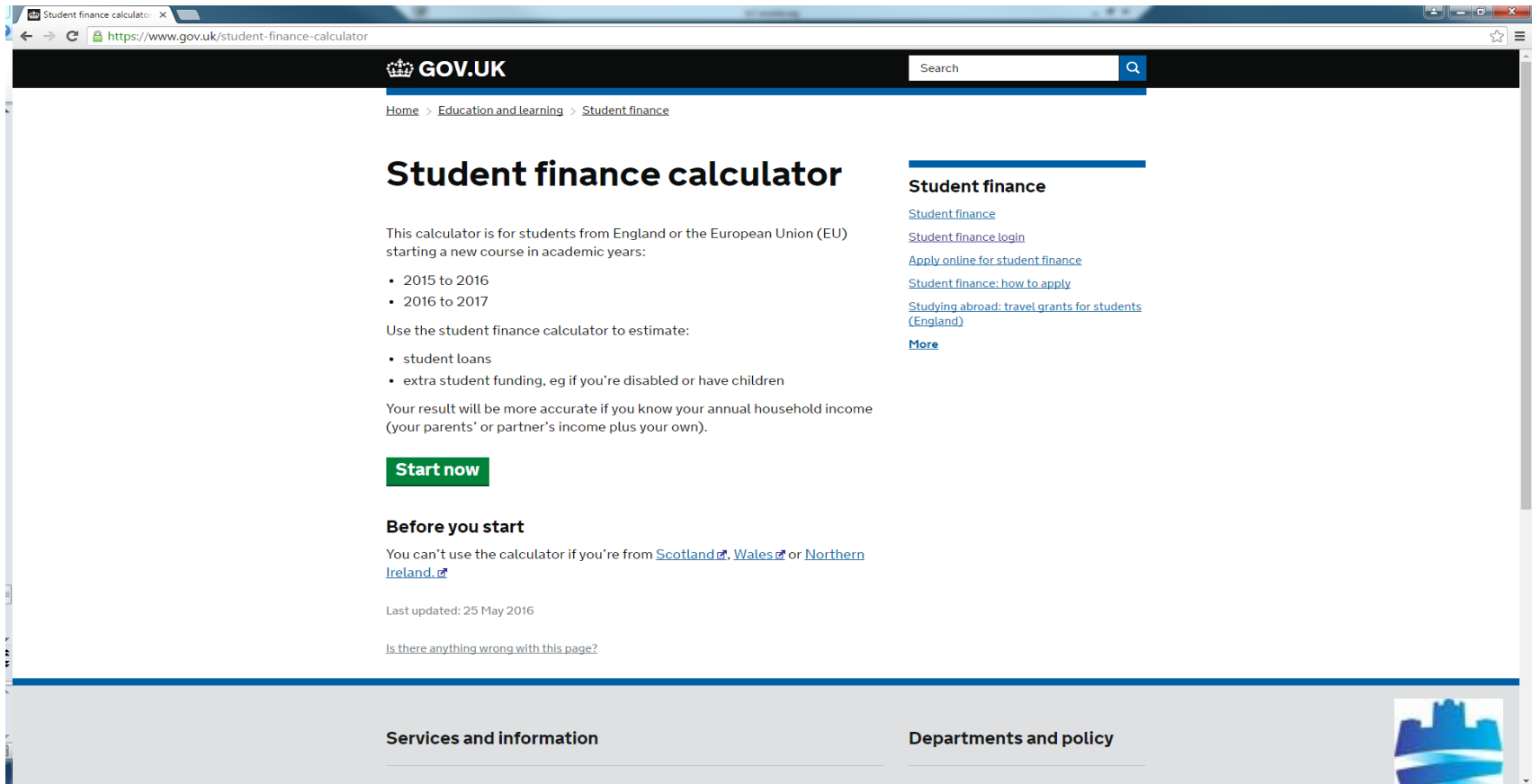
Interest

- **Interest is charged on the loan (tuition and maintenance) from the day the first payment is made until it is fully repaid.**
- **While studying and until the April after leaving university or college, interest will be charged at the Retail Price Index (RPI) plus 3%. Essentially inflation plus an additional 3%.**
- **From the April after leaving the course if your son/daughter is earning under £21,000, interest will be charged at the RPI. If your son/daughter's wage increases to £41,000 or above, interest will be charged at the RPI plus 3%.**



GET YOUR ESTIMATE

www.gov.uk/student-finance-calculator



The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the GOV.UK website. The address bar shows the URL <https://www.gov.uk/student-finance-calculator>. The page header includes the GOV.UK logo and a search bar. The main content area features a breadcrumb trail: Home > Education and learning > Student finance. The title is "Student finance calculator". The text explains that the calculator is for students from England or the European Union (EU) starting a new course in academic years: 2015 to 2016 and 2016 to 2017. It instructs users to use the calculator to estimate student loans and extra student funding. A green "Start now" button is prominent. Below, a "Before you start" section notes that the calculator is not for students from Scotland, Wales, or Northern Ireland. A footer contains "Services and information" and "Departments and policy" links, along with a blue shield logo.

Student finance calculator

GOV.UK

Search

Home > Education and learning > Student finance

Student finance calculator

This calculator is for students from England or the European Union (EU) starting a new course in academic years:

- 2015 to 2016
- 2016 to 2017

Use the student finance calculator to estimate:

- student loans
- extra student funding, eg if you're disabled or have children

Your result will be more accurate if you know your annual household income (your parents' or partner's income plus your own).

[Start now](#)

Before you start

You can't use the calculator if you're from [Scotland](#), [Wales](#) or [Northern Ireland](#).

Last updated: 25 May 2016


[Is there anything wrong with this page?](#)

Student finance

- [Student finance](#)
- [Student finance login](#)
- [Apply online for student finance](#)
- [Student finance: how to apply](#)
- [Studying abroad: travel grants for students \(England\)](#)
- [More](#)

Services and information

Departments and policy



Another option....

- Studying abroad for example Europe, USA or Canada is becoming an increasingly popular option.
- In Europe there are an increasing amount of degree courses taught in English. It can give you the opportunity to improve your language skills and experience different cultures. Studying in Europe is a lot cheaper than the UK. There are some scholarships available.
- Studying in America is expensive however, there are a number of different types of scholarships you can apply for in particular sporting scholarships which can cover the majority of tuition fees.
- Studying in Canada is only slightly more expensive than studying in the UK. There are scholarships students can apply for.
- You are not eligible to apply for student finance for any international universities however, there are scholarship programmes available to help with the cost.
- For more information visit:- <http://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/international/>
<http://www.eunicas.co.uk/index.php/eunicas/search.html> <http://www.fulbright.org.uk/going-to-the-usa/undergraduate>



Things to think about if you study abroad....

- What legal documentation is required (Visa, residence permit etc.)?
- Are students able to work to help fund their education?
- Are they entitled to free healthcare?
- Is there a specific language requirement?
- How do you apply? For some universities you apply directly to the institution or through their equivalent to UCAS – you need to check with each institution as it will vary.
EUNICAS <http://www.eunicas.co.uk/index.php/apply/apply-to-eunicas.html> (Europe)
<https://www.commonapp.org/> (USA) <http://www.ouac.on.ca/> (Canada)
- What scholarships are available?
- Are there any entry exams that you need to take alongside your A Levels (American universities require you to take either you SAT or ACT exams)?

