



Achieving excellence through Curriculum and Culture



POST 18 PARENTS' INFORMATION EVENING

Work Hard

Be Kind

Aim High

Our Ambition

*Is to empower our young people,
through education, to have the
knowledge and skills you need to
be successful in life and make a
positive difference to your
communities*

OUTLINE OF THE SESSION

- Apprenticeships
- The UCAS application process
- Studying abroad
- Gap Years



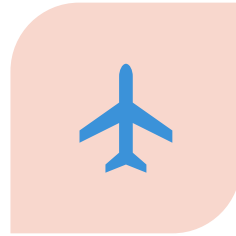
CHOICES



HIGHER
EDUCATION



APPRENTICESHIPS



STUDYING
ABROAD



GAP YEAR



GETTING A JOB

APPRENTICESHIPS



THE A-Z OF APPRENTICESHIPS

There are over 600 possible apprenticeship programmes which exist. It would be easier to name an industry that does not have them.

- Accounting and Taxation
- Architect
- Boat Builder
- Building Surveyors
- Civil Engineer
- Cyber Security Technician
- Data Analyst
- Doctor (from 2023)
- Early Years
- Ecologist
- Farrier
- Food Technologist
- Game Programmer
- Geospatial mapping
- Harbour Master
- Historic Environment Adviser
- Internal audit professional
- Intelligence analyst
- Journalist
- Junior 2D artist (visual effects)
- Knitted product manufacturing
- Laboratory scientist
- Licensed conveyor
- Midwife
- Marketing Manager
- Nuclear Scientist and Engineer
- Nursing
- Operational firefighter
- Orthodontic therapist
- Paralegal
- Physiotherapist
- Quality practitioner
- Rail engineer
- Research scientist
- Social worker
- Software Developer
- Teacher
- Town planning assistant
- Utilities engineering
- Veterinary nurse
- Vehicle damage assessor
- Water process technician
- Workplace pensions consultant
- Youth worker

www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/#

APPRENTICESHIP LEVELS

Level 2

Intermediate
Apprenticeship

Level 3

Advanced
Apprenticeship

Level 4-7

Higher
Apprenticeship

THE APPLICATION PROCESS

- Not one deadline
- Advertised throughout the year
- Larger organisations with multiple application processes may recruit earlier than smaller local organisations
- Higher apprenticeships with a Sep/Oct start date tend to recruit in the Autumn term of Year 13

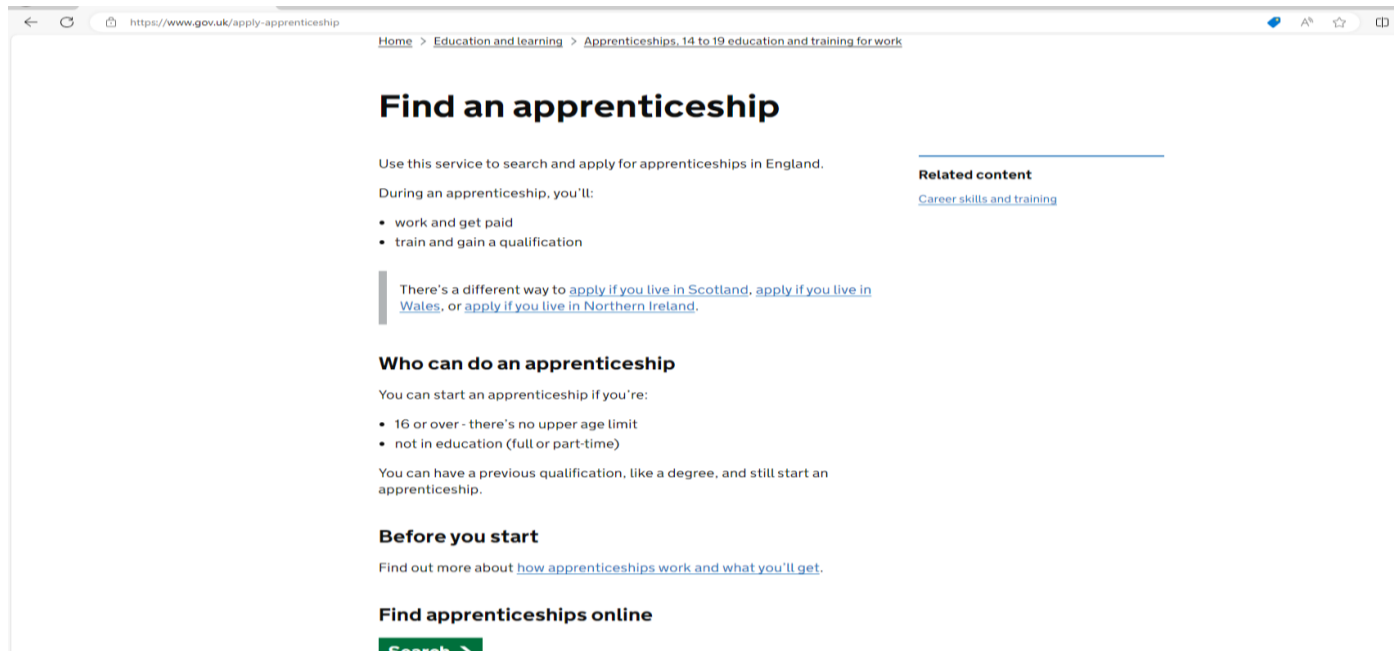
APPLICATION PROCESS

- Applications are made directly through the company or the education provider.
- There is no limit on the number of applications students can make.
- The application process might vary across vacancies, students could be asked for:
 - ❖ CV and Covering Letter
 - ❖ Application Form
 - ❖ In App/Site application
- Students can apply for universities and apprenticeships at the same time!

RESEARCHING APPRENTICESHIPS

- With the following websites students can easily explore apprenticeships; learn more information and see a live selection of apprenticeship vacancies.
- Set alerts to stay up to date.

- [Find an apprenticeship - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship)



The screenshot shows the GOV.UK page for finding an apprenticeship. The browser address bar displays 'https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship'. The page title is 'Find an apprenticeship'. The main content includes instructions on how to use the service, a list of benefits (working and getting paid, training and gaining a qualification), and links for users in Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. It also details who can do an apprenticeship (16 or over, not in education) and provides a 'Before you start' section with a link to learn more. At the bottom, there is a 'Find apprenticeships online' section with a green 'Search' button.

Home > Education and learning > Apprenticeships, 14 to 19 education and training for work

Find an apprenticeship

Use this service to search and apply for apprenticeships in England.

During an apprenticeship, you'll:

- work and get paid
- train and gain a qualification

There's a different way to [apply if you live in Scotland](#), [apply if you live in Wales](#), or [apply if you live in Northern Ireland](#).

Who can do an apprenticeship

You can start an apprenticeship if you're:

- 16 or over - there's no upper age limit
- not in education (full or part-time)

You can have a previous qualification, like a degree, and still start an apprenticeship.

Before you start

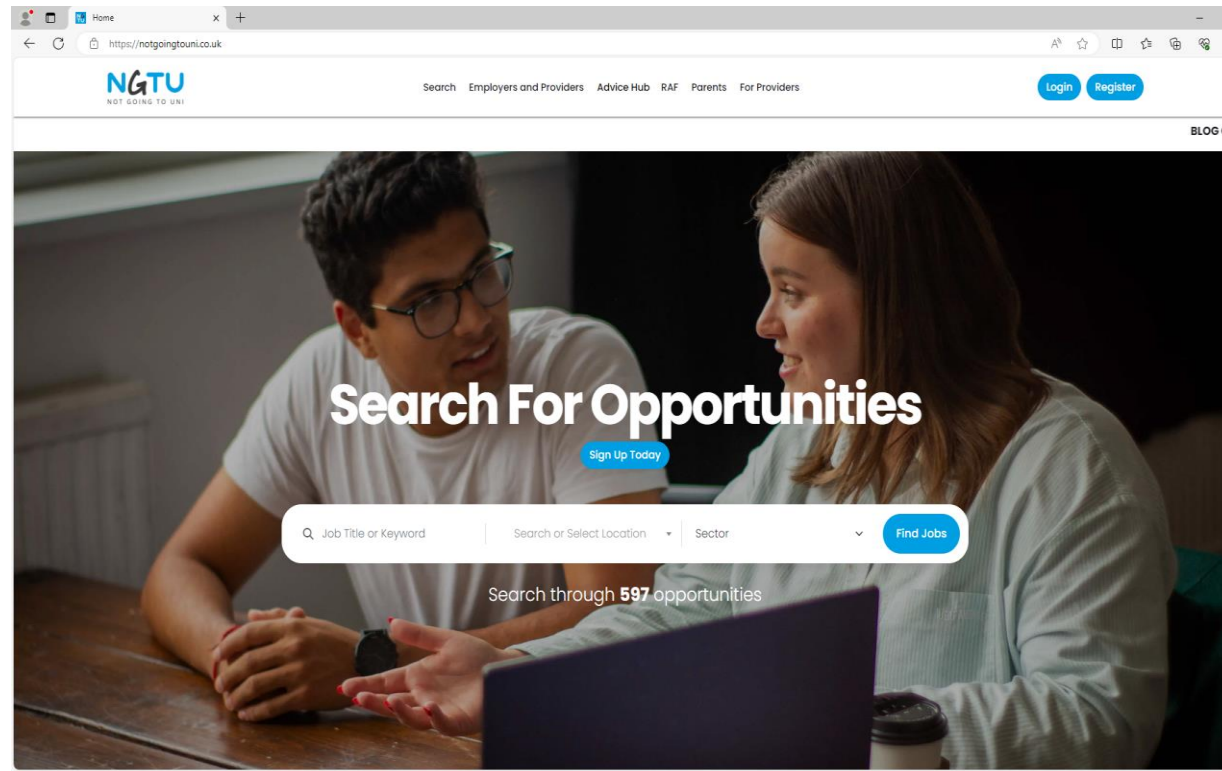
Find out more about [how apprenticeships work and what you'll get](#).

Find apprenticeships online

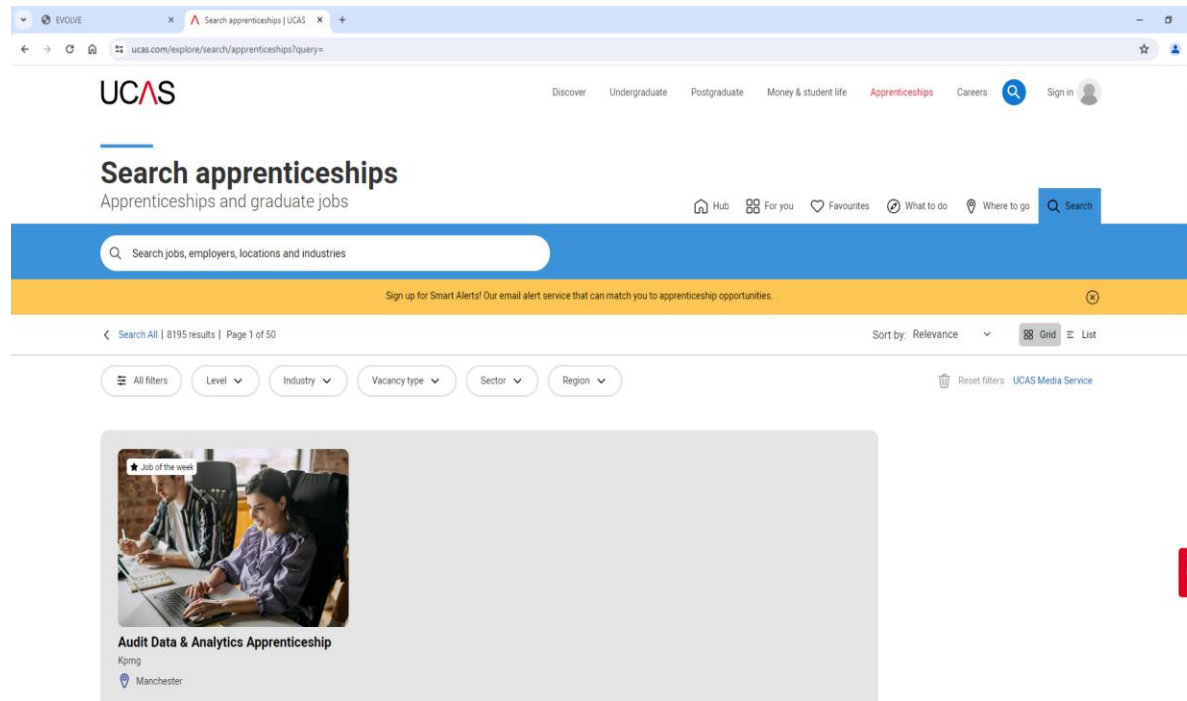
[Search](#) >

Related content
[Career skills and training](#)

- [Home \(notgoingtouni.co.uk\)](https://notgoingtouni.co.uk)



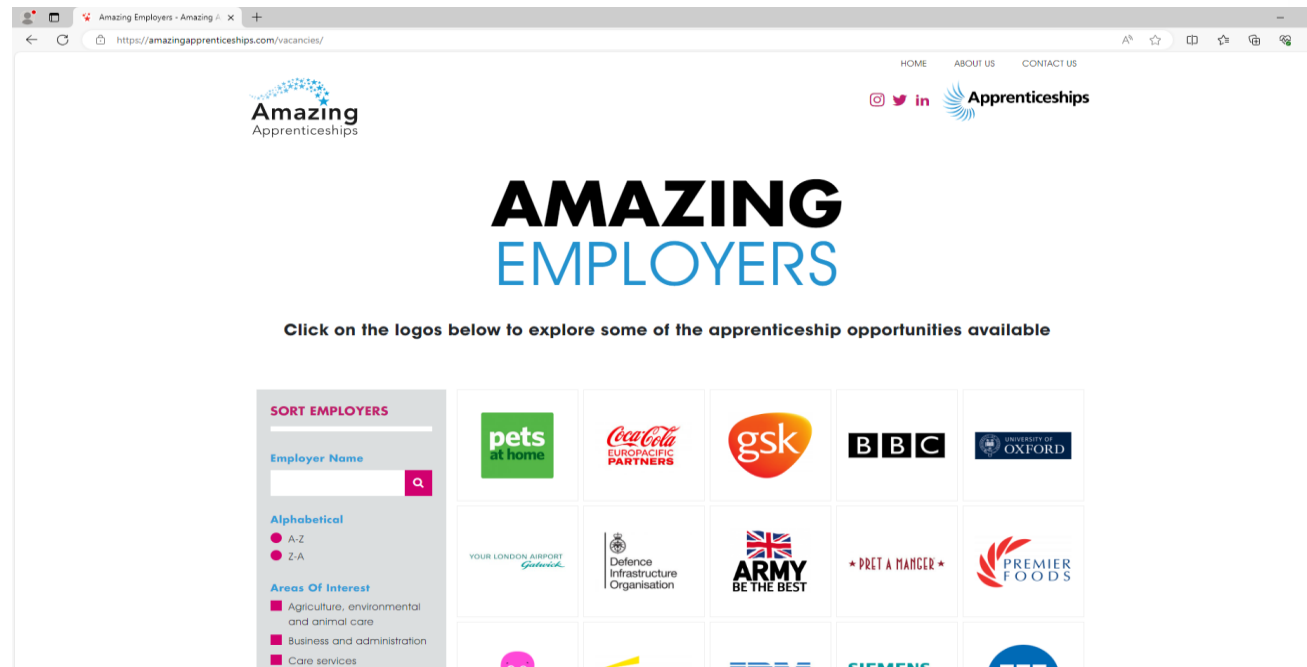
- <https://www.ucas.com/explore/search/apprenticeships?query=>



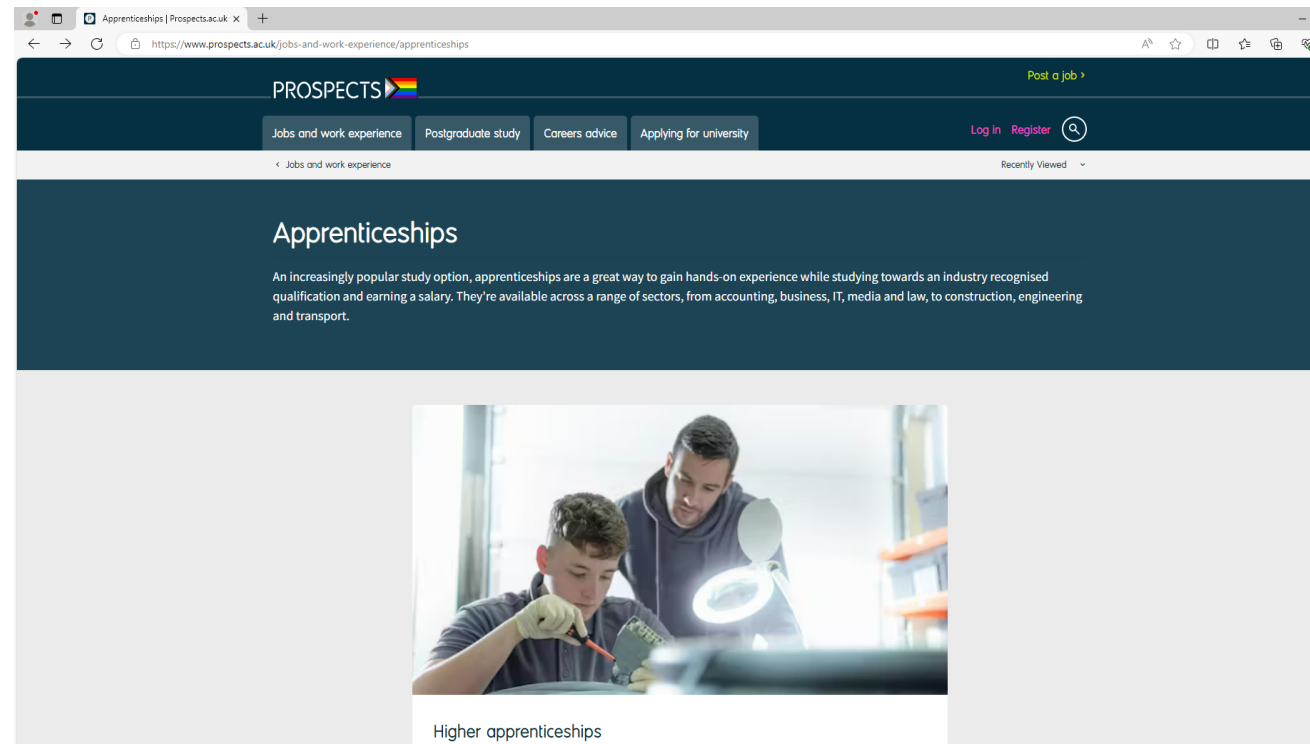
The screenshot shows the UCAS website interface for searching apprenticeships. The browser address bar displays the URL: [ucas.com/explore/search/apprenticeships?query=](https://www.ucas.com/explore/search/apprenticeships?query=). The page header includes the UCAS logo and navigation links for Discover, Undergraduate, Postgraduate, Money & student life, Apprenticeships, and Careers. A search bar is present with the text "Search jobs, employers, locations and industries". Below the search bar, there is a yellow banner encouraging users to sign up for Smart Alerts. The main content area shows search results for "Audit Data & Analytics Apprenticeship" by Kpmg in Manchester. The page also features filter buttons for Level, Industry, Vacancy type, Sector, and Region, along with a "Reset filters" button and a "UCAS Media Service" link.



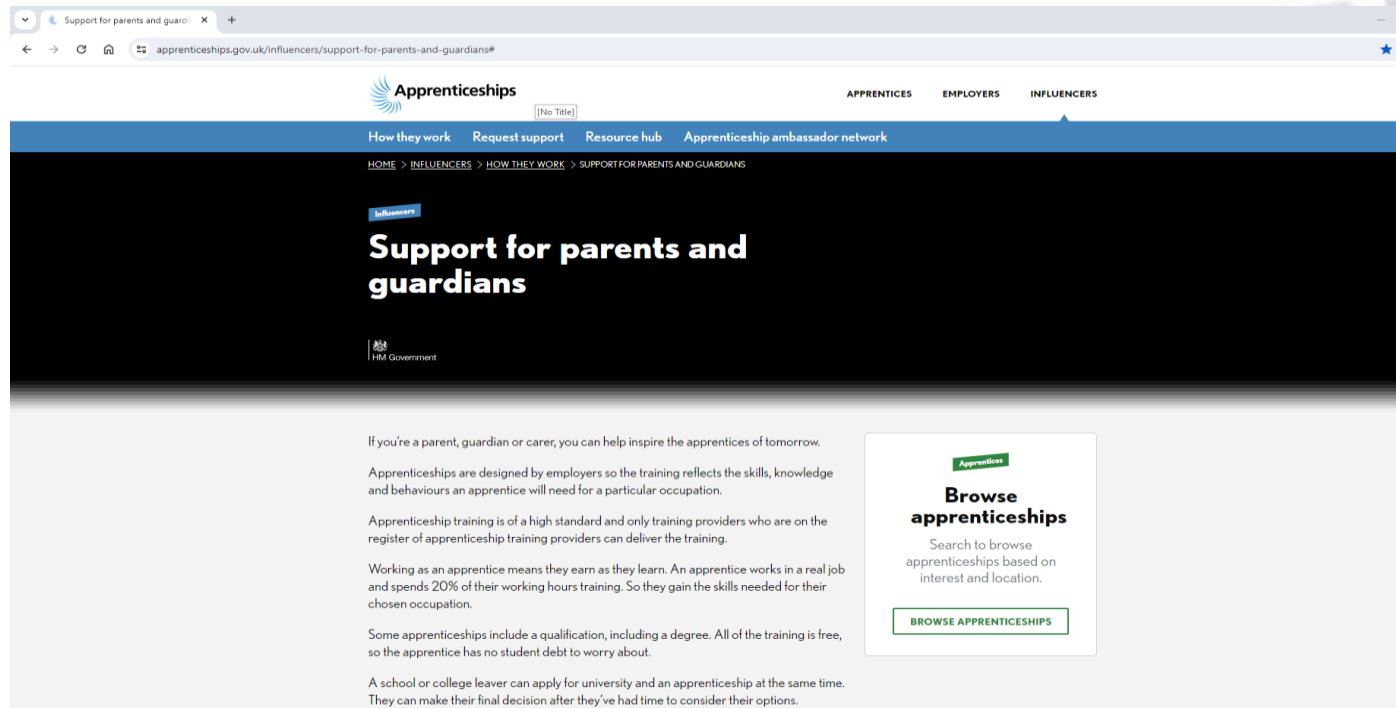
- [Amazing Employers - Amazing Apprenticeships](#)



- [Apprenticeships | Prospects.ac.uk](https://www.prospects.ac.uk)



- <https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/influencers/support-for-parents-and-guardians#>



The screenshot shows a web browser displaying the 'Support for parents and guardians' page on the Apprenticeships.gov.uk website. The page features a dark blue header with the 'Apprenticeships' logo and navigation links for 'APPRENTICES', 'EMPLOYERS', and 'INFLUENCERS'. Below the header, there is a blue navigation bar with links for 'How they work', 'Request support', 'Resource hub', and 'Apprenticeship ambassador network'. The main content area has a dark background with the title 'Support for parents and guardians' in white. Below the title, there is a section with text explaining the role of parents and guardians in supporting apprentices. To the right of this text is a white box with a green 'Apprenticeships' label, the heading 'Browse apprenticeships', and a 'BROWSE APPRENTICESHIPS' button.

Apprenticeships

APPRENTICES EMPLOYERS INFLUENCERS

How they work Request support Resource hub Apprenticeship ambassador network

HOME > INFLUENCERS > HOW THEY WORK > SUPPORT FOR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

Support for parents and guardians

HM Government

If you're a parent, guardian or carer, you can help inspire the apprentices of tomorrow.

Apprenticeships are designed by employers so the training reflects the skills, knowledge and behaviours an apprentice will need for a particular occupation.

Apprenticeship training is of a high standard and only training providers who are on the register of apprenticeship training providers can deliver the training.

Working as an apprentice means they earn as they learn. An apprentice works in a real job and spends 20% of their working hours training. So they gain the skills needed for their chosen occupation.

Some apprenticeships include a qualification, including a degree. All of the training is free, so the apprentice has no student debt to worry about.

A school or college leaver can apply for university and an apprenticeship at the same time. They can make their final decision after they've had time to consider their options.

Browse apprenticeships

Search to browse apprenticeships based on interest and location.

BROWSE APPRENTICESHIPS

UCAS



UCAS APPLICATION PROCESS



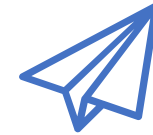
Student registers for a UCAS Hub account to carry out research and start application.



Student completes all sections of the application and sends it to their school/college.



Teacher or adviser reviews the application and adds reference and predicted grades.



Applications are sent to UCAS by the school or college on behalf of the student.



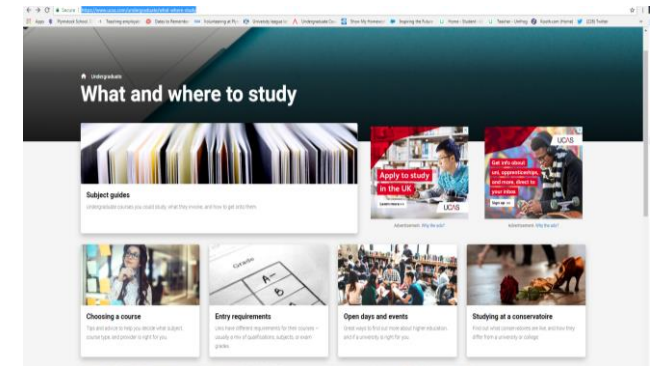
Universities and colleges make their decisions on the application.

TARIFF SYSTEM

| 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 | | | | | |

RESEARCHING COURSES

- UCAS search tool www.ucas.com
- There is help for parents too.
www.ucasdigital.com/widgets/parents_tool/index.html#/home
- **League Tables:**
- <https://www.theguardian.com/education/ng-interactive/2023/sep/09/the-guardian-university-guide-2024-the-rankings>
- <https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/league-tables/rankings>
- <https://university.which.co.uk/>
- <https://www.whatuni.com/>



THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN CHOOSING A UNIVERSITY

- Graduate employment rates <https://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/latest/insights-and-analysis/what-did-graduates-do-after-higher> <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/graduate-labour-markets/2022>
- Student satisfaction (value for money) <https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/league-tables/rankings?sortby=student-satisfaction>
- 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

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

<https://www.ucas.com/ucas/events/find?keywords=virtual+open+days&layout=list>

<https://www.ucas.com/explore/search/events?query=open%20days>



KEY DATES

- **3 September 2024** First day for receipt of completed applications.
- **2 October 2024** Deadline for most UCAS Conservatoires music courses
- **16 October 2024*** Application deadline for courses in medicine, veterinary medicine/science, and dentistry, and courses at Oxford **or** Cambridge.
- **29 January 2025*** Equal consideration application deadline.

*6PM

KEY DATES

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| 14 May 2024 | UCAS Undergraduate Apply opens for 2025 entry. Conservatoire applications will open for 2025 entry on the 11 July 2024 |
| 3 September 2024 | First day for receipt of completed applications. |
| 2 October 2024 | Deadline for most UCAS Conservatoires music courses |
| 16 October 2024* | Application deadline for courses in medicine, veterinary medicine/science, and dentistry, and courses at Oxford or Cambridge. |
| 29 January 2025 | Deadline for most undergraduate dance, drama or musical theatre course. Check conservatoire websites to ensure you know the deadlines. * |
| 29 January 2025* | Equal consideration application deadline. |
| 26 February | Extra opens. |
| 30 June* | Last date for applications before Clearing. |
| 5 July 2025 | Clearing Opens |

• *18:00 UK time

APPLICATION COST

- Students can apply for up to 5 courses.
- The fee is £28.50 in total.



THE PERSONAL STATEMENT

- The only section your son or daughter has control over
- Their chance to market themselves individually
- One personal statement for **all** choices*
- Maximum 4,000 characters, 47 lines
- Minimum 1,000 characters
- American spelling/grammar check – students are advised to put it into a word document before transferring it to UCAS.

* Sometimes universities will accept an additional personal statement.

WHERE TO START....

- Don't start at the beginning!
- 70%-80% of the personal statement needs to be about the course (subject) 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!

REFERENCES

- References are requested by Mrs Littler from subject teachers once students have completed a first draft of their personal statement and are showing progress.
- The reference has 3 sections:-
 - Contextual Information about the school;
 - Extenuating Circumstances (not applicable for all students);
 - Information about the students (focus on the subject they are applying for, their capabilities as a student, achievement to date, wider engagement with the subject, relevant work experience/volunteering, roles in the school).

PREDICTED GRADES

- Predicted grades will be based on current data and performance throughout Year 12 (and beginning of Year 13) and professional judgment.
- For UCAS we take a holistic view and teachers will use evidence gathered over year 12 and the beginning of year 13.

SCHOOL TIMELINE

- **Stage 1 (May onwards)**

Students begin completing the online application form and start drafting Personal Statement. Ongoing personal statement feedback will be provided.

- **Stage 2 (2 weeks)**

Once a student is nearing completion of their personal statement their teacher references will then be requested. Students will need to arrange their first meeting. Their application form and personal statement will be checked.

- **Stage 3 (2 weeks)**

Once the teachers have written their subject reference we will then compile the schools reference, incorporating the subject references.

- **Stage 4**

Whilst the reference is being finalised students will need to book their 'sending off' meeting with Mrs Littler. Students need to communicate with effectively about their application. Students will need to pay the application fee prior to sending off their application (or alternatively bring a debit card with them to the appointment in order to pay the application fee).

- **Stage 5 (Final Stage)**

At the 'sending off' meeting, the schools reference and predicted grades will be input, entire application will be checked again to ensure no mistakes and will be submitted to UCAS.

Students who are applying for the early deadline (16th October) will be given priority in September.

Students must be proactive, the sooner they are ready, the sooner their application can be sent.

HOW DO INSTITUTIONS MAKE A DECISION?

- Predicted grades and all entry requirements satisfied
- GCSE results
- Personal Statement
- Reference
- Interview
- Entrance exams: UCAT / LNAT/ MAT/ STEP etc.
- Contextual data



UNIVERSITY DECISIONS

Provider decisions:

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

Once all decisions are received, students will select their final choices (the deadline for this is set by UCAS and depends on the date of receipt of the last university response):

- One as their **firm** choice
- One as their **insurance** choice (recommended)
- All other offers are declined

Track will show their **reply date** -this will be around June 2025.

IF NO OFFERS ARE RECEIVED...

Extra (Available from February to July)

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

Clearing (Available from end of June)

- If no offers have been received, or have applied after 30 June deadline.

HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT?

- 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 (if you can), you may have a different perspective to offer.
- Don't book family holidays at key times (results day 2025).
- Make sure they read everything carefully that is sent to them.
- Support your son/daughter's management of their application.
- Look at the finances with your son/daughter.

STUDENT FINANCE

student finance
england



TUITION FEE AND MAINTENANCE LOAN

- All students no matter what their household income are entitled to the full **tuition fee loan**.
- Maintenance support is available to help with living costs while in higher education through the **Maintenance Loan**.
- The Maintenance Loan is 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 student's bank account each term.

MAINTENANCE LOAN

Maintenance Loan Assessments are based on :-

The income of the parent(s) that the student lives with – including step-parents or new partners living in the household

Based on taxable income for the last complete tax year (Tax year ending April 2024 for student starting in Academic Year 2025/26)

Current Year Income Assessments option where income has dropped by at least 15% since the previous tax year (redundancy, retirement)

A guide is available for parents, explaining this process.

<https://media.slc.co.uk/sfe/currentyearincome/index.html>

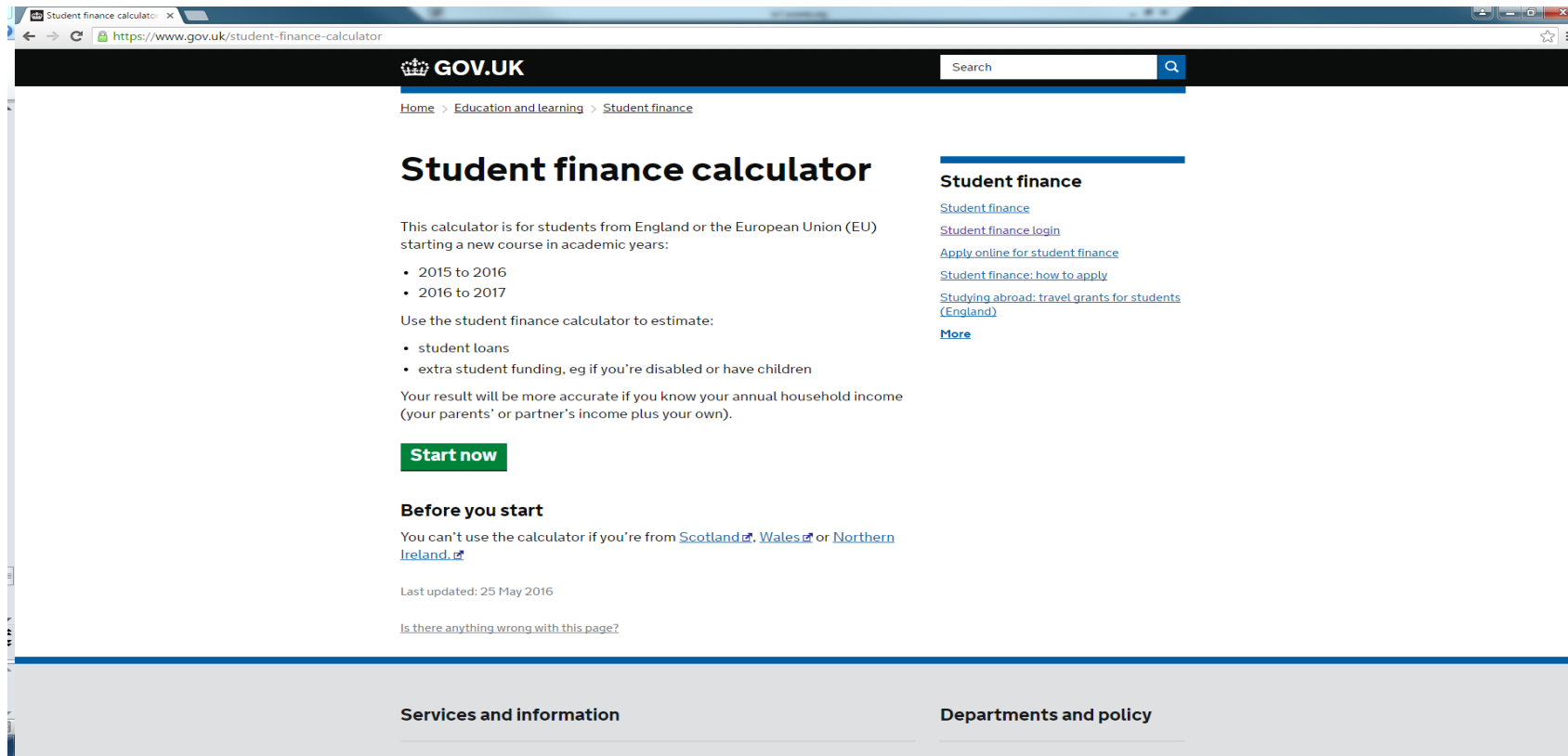
ENTITLEMENT 2024 FIGURES

Maintenance Loan entitlement

| Household income | Maintenance Loan – living away from home and studying outside London | Maintenance Loan – living away from home and studying in London | Maintenance Loan – living with parents |
|------------------|--|---|--|
| £25,000 | £11,658 | £14,557 | £10,158 |
| £30,000 | £10,527 | £13,476 | £9,002 |
| £35,000 | £9,396 | £12,395 | £7,845 |
| £40,000 | £8,265 | £11,314 | £6,689 |
| £42,875 | £7,614 | £10,692 | £6,024 |
| £45,000 | £7,304 | £10,377 | £5,717 |

GET YOUR ESTIMATE

- www.gov.uk/student-finance-calculator



The screenshot shows the GOV.UK website for the Student finance calculator. The page title is "Student finance calculator" and the breadcrumb trail is "Home > Education and learning > Student finance". The main heading is "Student finance calculator". Below this, it states: "This calculator is for students from England or the European Union (EU) starting a new course in academic years:" followed by a list: "• 2015 to 2016", "• 2016 to 2017". It then says "Use the student finance calculator to estimate:" followed by a list: "• student loans", "• extra student funding, eg if you're disabled or have children". Below that, it says "Your result will be more accurate if you know your annual household income (your parents' or partner's income plus your own)." There is a green "Start now" button. Under "Before you start", it says "You can't use the calculator if you're from [Scotland](#), [Wales](#) or [Northern Ireland](#)." At the bottom, it says "Last updated: 25 May 2016" and "Is there anything wrong with this page?". The footer has "Services and information" and "Departments and policy".

BURSARIES AND SCHOLARSHIPS

It's important you spend some time looking into bursaries and scholarships offered and find out what's on offer and how/when to apply.

Where to find the information:-

- University and college websites – usually in the Fees & Funding sections.
- Other sites such as:-

<https://www.thescholarshipclub.org.uk/>

https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/university-tuition-fees/other-financial-support/university-bursaries-and-scholarships/#Find_scholarships_and_bursaries

For students in the South West:-

<https://educational-grants.org/>

<http://www.dwyer-hartfoundation.co.uk/>

NHS LEARNING SUPPORT FUND

- Students starting and continuing their course from September 2020 can apply for the NHS Learning Support Fund (NHS LSF) if they are on one of the following pre-registration undergraduate or postgraduate courses:

- dental therapy/dental hygiene (level 5 and 6 courses)
- dietetics
- midwifery
- nursing (adult, child, mental health, learning disability, joint nursing/social work)
- occupational therapy
- operating department practitioner (level 5 and 6 courses)
- orthoptics
- orthotics and prosthetics
- paramedics (bachelors and masters courses are eligible, DipHE and FD courses are not eligible for NHS LSF)
- physiotherapy
- podiatry/chiropractic
- radiography (diagnostic and therapeutic)
- speech and language therapy

<https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/nhs-learning-support-fund>

REPAYMENT

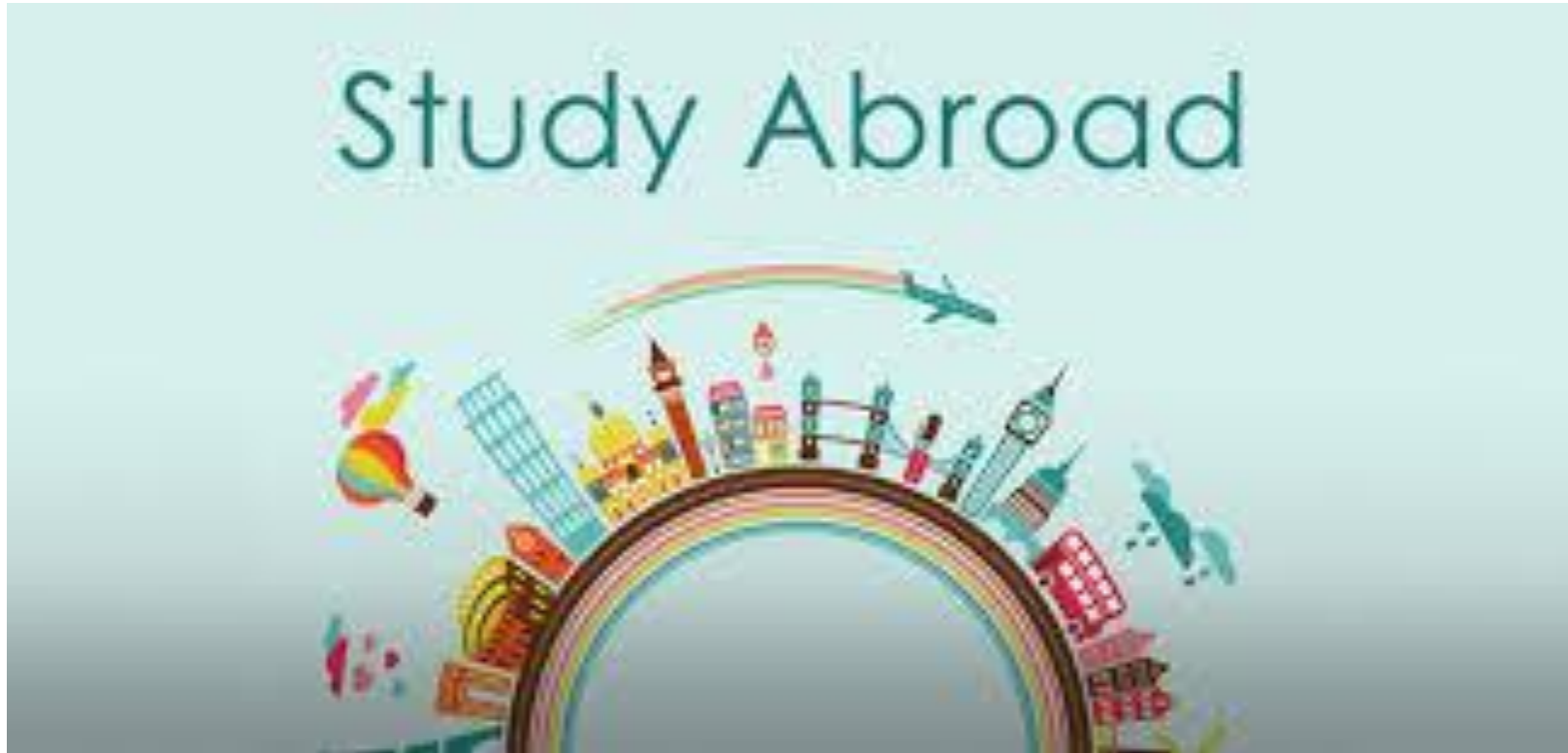
- Students are liable to start repayments from the April after they finish the course (coinciding with the new tax year).
- Repayments are normally taken automatically from a graduate's salary with tax and National Insurance.
- Separate arrangements are in place with HMRC if a graduate is self-employed.
- If a student leaves their programme early they will still have to pay back the loan once they earn more than the income threshold.

REPAYMENT

- “To make the system fairer for students, the student loan interest rate will be set at RPI+0% for new borrowers starting courses from 2023-24, meaning that graduates will no longer repay more than they borrowed in real terms.
- To make the system fairer for taxpayers, the repayment threshold – the point at which graduates start repaying their student loan - for new borrowers starting courses from September 2023 will be set at £25,000 until 2026-27.
- This still means that graduates will not start repaying until they have reached well over the current median young non-graduate salary of £21,500.
- The student loan repayment term will also be extended to 40 years for new borrowers from September 2023, to ensure more students repay their loan in full, taking into account the fact that people are now working and earning for longer.”

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/fairer-higher-education-system-for-students-and-taxpayers#:~:text=To%20make%20the%20system%20fairer,they%20borrowed%20in%20real%20terms.>

Study Abroad



STUDY ABROAD

- Studying abroad for example Europe, USA or Canada is another option.
- In Europe there is an increasing number of degree courses taught in English. It can give students the opportunity to improve their 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 CONSIDER....

- Cost.
- 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)?

GAP YEARS

- Internships
- Travel
- Volunteering
- Working



IDEAS

Gap Year Abroad with Volunteering

- <https://projecttrust.org.uk/>
- <https://jenza.com/uk/?ipredirect=true>

Gap Year

- <https://www.skifamille.co.uk/ski-jobs/>
- <https://coolskijobs.com/jobs/>
- <https://www.workaseason.com/>
- <https://www.interrail.eu/en/interrail-passes/choose-right-interrail-pass>
- <https://www.oysterworldwide.com/project/canada-whistler-blackcomb-ski-instructor-jobs/>
- <https://yearoutgroup.org/>

Volunteering

- https://www.realgap.co.uk/volunteering?#search_page_area_1
- <https://www.iwill.org.uk/young-people-are-still-waiting-to-be-heard/>
- https://www.yipiyap.co.uk/become-a-yipiyap?utm_source=ucas.com&utm_medium=webpage&utm_campaign=recruitment_summer_2023&utm_term=lifechanging_professionaldevelopment&utm_content=gapyear_ideas&utm_position=list

Internships

- <https://studentladder.co.uk/year-13/gap-year-placements/>
- <https://www.etrust.org.uk/the-year-in-industry>



SUPPORT AVAILABLE

- Drop in support every WEDNESDAY after school for all Post 18 routes
- Personal Statement Workshops at Lunchtime – VARIOUS DATES
- One-to-one appointments available upon request
- Every student who attended a Next Steps Meeting (which have been running since January) has been issued with a university and/or apprenticeship research booklet which contained areas of research and guidance