

UCAS

Parents' evening presentation

Help your son or daughter through the UCAS process

Why higher education?

- Increase potential earnings*
- Better career prospects
- Benefit the wider community
- Social and cultural reasons
- More independence, self-confidence and responsibility
- Personal challenge
- Broadens interests and knowledge
- Better health
- It can be immense fun!

*Source: Pricewaterhouse Coopers LLP, 2006, in
Universities UK, Research Report, The Economic Benefits
of a Degree

The UCAS journey

THREE STEPS TO APPLYING



Research – it's free and important to do

- Start at www.ucas.com
- Use the [Search tool](#) to find courses
- Find out the **UCAS deadlines** – make sure your son or daughter knows which deadline is relevant to them.
- **Research** – career options, universities, courses and minimum entry requirements.
- **Attend a UCAS event** – even if your son or daughter doesn't know what they want to do, speaking to those in the know will help.
- **Learn from others** – student videos are available to watch at ucas.tv.

Find us on:



Other things to consider

- Work experience – professional bodies, charities or at events.
- Finance – course fees, grants, travel and living costs.
- Travel – to and from home.
- Accommodation – uni halls or private residences?
- Entry requirements – be realistic about your likely grades
- [Tariff Calculator](#)



Living away
from home...

How can you support the research process?

- Sign up to the monthly UCAS **Parents' Newsletter**.
- Download the **2017 UCAS Parent Guide** from the UCAS website.
- Offer to attend open days with them as you may have a different perspective.
- Financial assistance – for example, with railway tickets.
- Try to remain impartial.

Visit

www.ucas.com/parents

Key features of the UCAS scheme

- Your son or daughter can make up to five choices one one application.
- The 2017 applicant fee is:
 - £13 for one choice
 - £24 for up to five choices
- Applications received by the key deadlines are given equal consideration.
- ‘Invisibility’ – universities cannot see where else students have applied.

In 2013...

- UCAS received **677,373** applications
- **495,596** were accepted

Key dates and deadlines

Mid-June	Applicants can register and start to complete their application.
Mid-September	Schools can start to submit completed applications to UCAS.
15 October	Most medicine, dentistry, veterinary sci/med and Oxford <u>or</u> Cambridge.
15 January	Application deadline for most courses.
24 March	Many art & design courses (check each course for deadline).
30 June	Applications after this date held for Clearing.

Please note we have our own internal deadlines which are earlier than those stated above.

UCAS

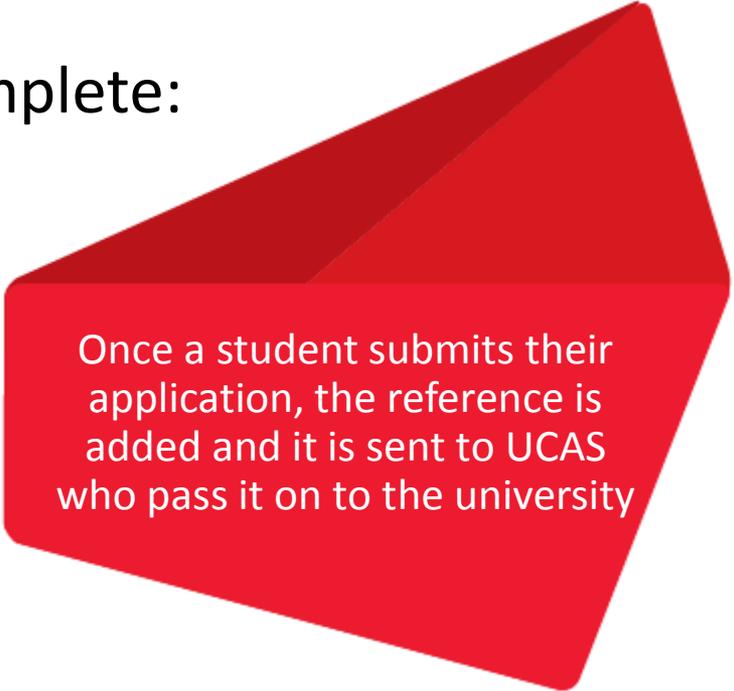
The UCAS application

Making the application

Apply is the UCAS online application system.

Each applicant has six sections to complete:

- personal details
- student finance (UK and EU only)
- choices
- education
- employment
- personal statement



Once a student submits their application, the reference is added and it is sent to UCAS who pass it on to the university

Personal statement – start early

Personal statements are so important, make sure your son or daughter includes:

- academic achievements, past and present
- interests in the chosen subject area
- knowledge of the subject and enthusiasm to go beyond the syllabus
- what they enjoy about studying
- details of their independent study skills

Personal statements should stand out – tutors receive 200 per week!

The questions universities and colleges will ask:

- Have they chosen the right subject for the right reasons?
- Do they have a range of interests?
- Does the personal statement confirm their interest in the subject?
- Have they studied independently?
- Are they motivated and committed?
- Do they possess good numeracy and literacy skills?

How to structure your personal statement

- [Personal statement tool](#)

This will help your son/daughter think about what to include in your personal statement, and how to structure it.

It also counts how many characters you've used, so it's easy to see when you're close to the 4,000 character limit.

Make sure your personal statement shows your enthusiasm for the subject and the relevant skills you have acquired.

Decision-making by course providers

Universities and colleges will review:

- personal statement
- reference
- qualifications
- admissions test results
- interviews
- portfolios
- auditions

An admissions tutor may make one of three decisions:

- **unconditional** offer
- **conditional** offer
- **unsuccessful**

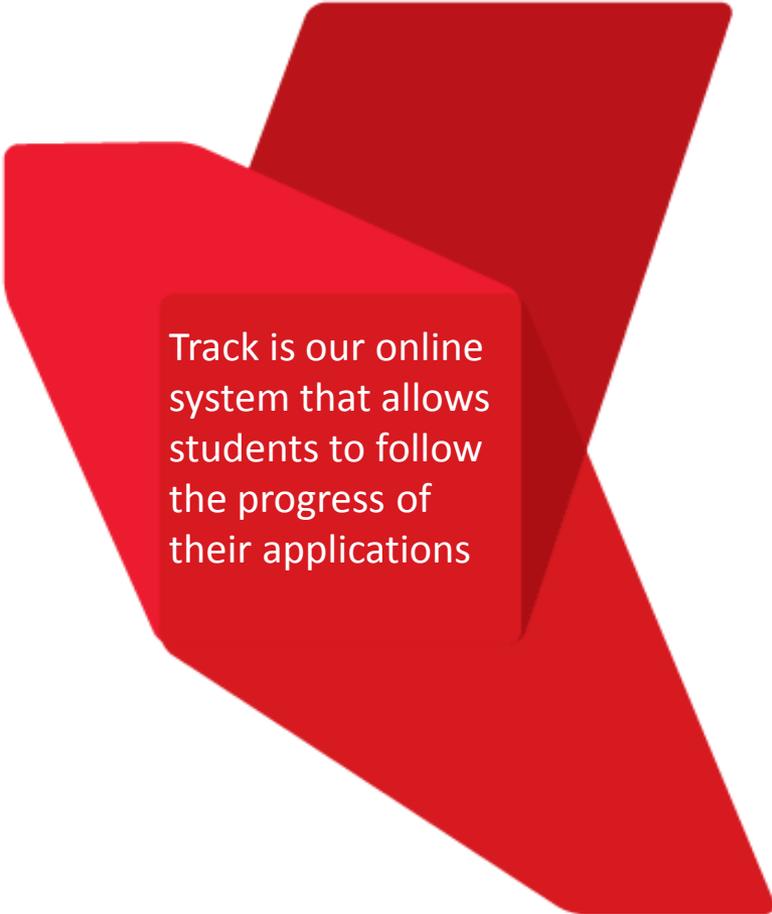


Providers may also offer a place on an alternative course

Tracking applications

Track will allow your son or daughter to:

- follow the progress of their application 24/7
- see their choices and personal information
- display their offers
- reply to offers online



Track is our online system that allows students to follow the progress of their applications

Replying to offers

- When your son or daughter receives decisions from all of their choices they will need to make their replies by a set date.
- They can then hold a maximum of two offers:
 - **Firm** – their first choice. If they meet the conditions of the offer they will be placed
 - **insurance** – acts as a back-up choice and only comes into play if they are not placed with their firm choice
- If your son or daughter fails to reply to their offers by the deadline date, all offers will be automatically declined.

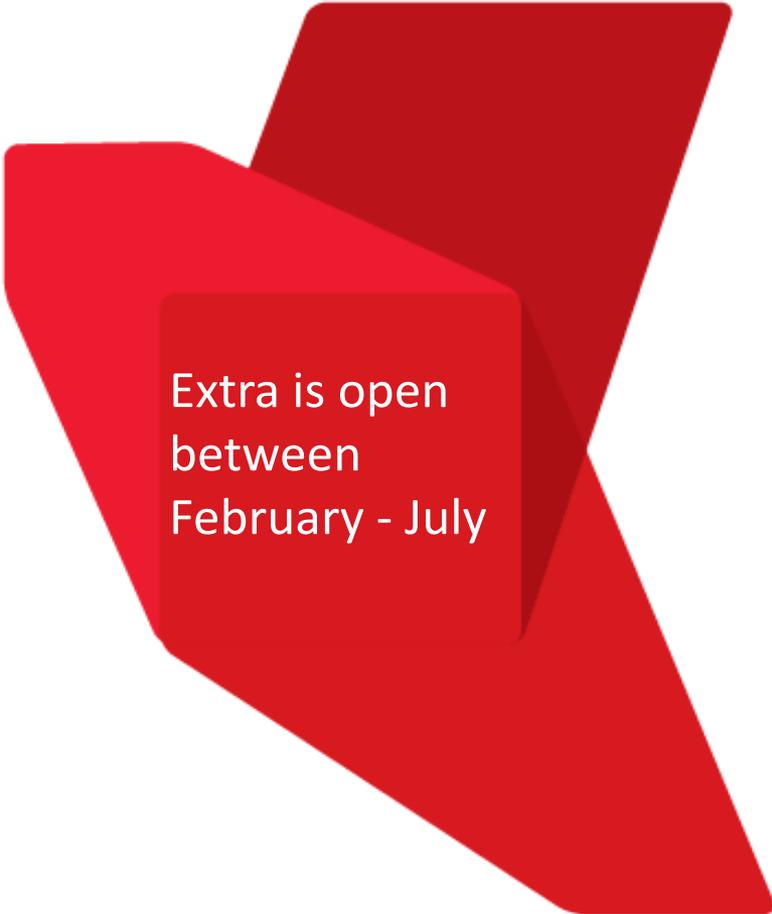


If they do not receive any offers they can make an additional choice through the **Extra** scheme

Extra

If your son or daughter does not get an offer from any of their choices they can use Extra.

- Students eligible for Extra:
 - used all five choices
 - all choices unsuccessful, cancelled or offers declined
 - no option for insurance
 - universities have 21 days to respond
 - existing apply information used



Extra is open
between
February - July

Confirmation

- Exam results are published – many are passed electronically to universities by UCAS.
- Admissions staff check if the applicant has met the conditions of the offer. There are four possibilities:

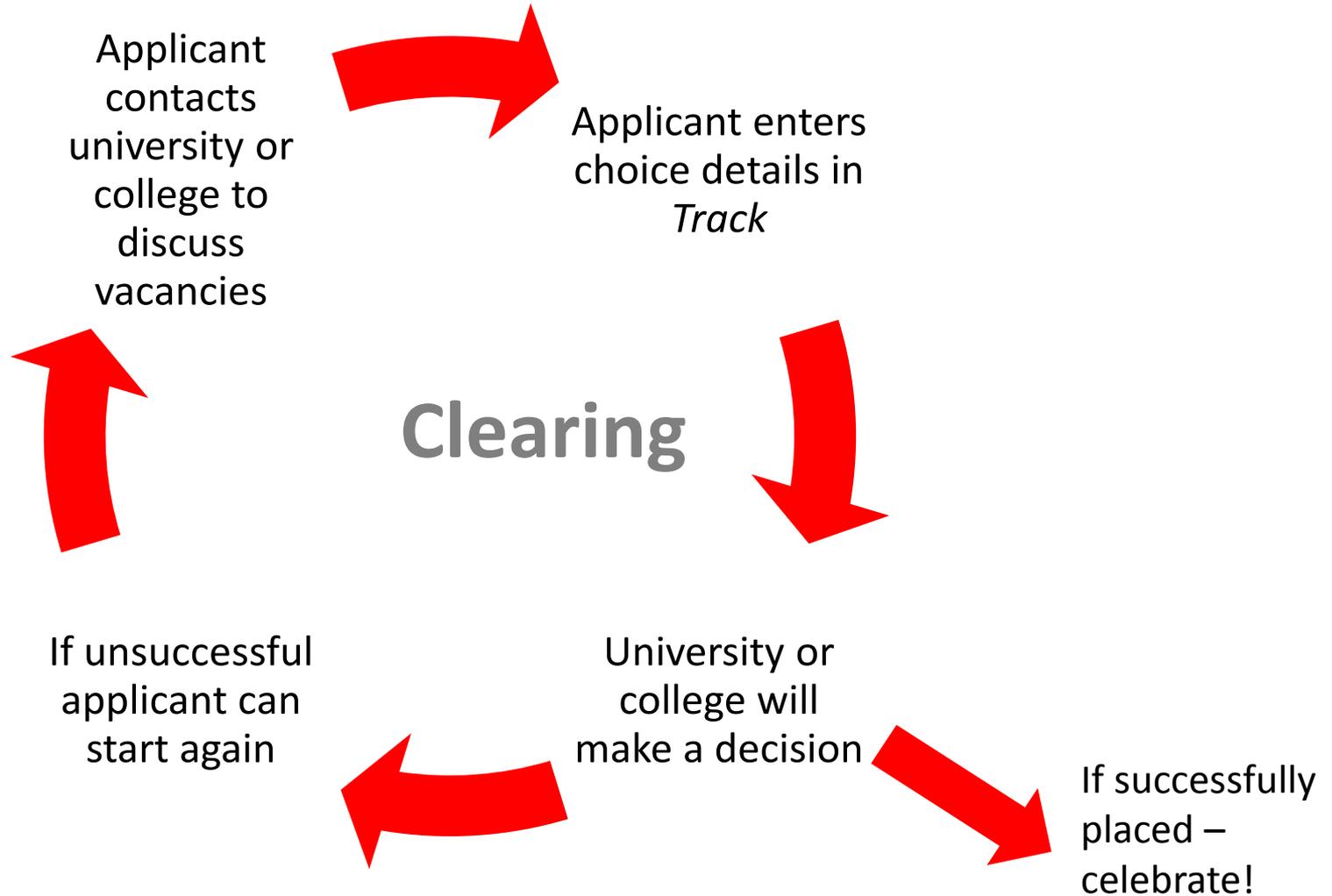
1. If a student meets the conditions of their firm choice. It's time to celebrate!

2. If a student doesn't meet the conditions of their firm choice, but meets the conditions of their insurance choice (which should be lower), they will be placed at their insurance choice. It's also time to celebrate!

3. If a student has not met the conditions of their firm or insurance choice (or no insurance), they will be entered into a process known as **Clearing**.

4. If a student meets and exceeds the conditions of their offer, they are eligible for **Adjustment**. This provides an opportunity for them to reconsider where and what to study whilst still holding their firm offer.

The Clearing process



How can you support the application process?

- Don't book holidays at key times e.g. results day
- Engage with the school – find out opening times and key contacts, use opportunities provided
- Support your son or daughter's management of their application.
- Make sure they read everything they are sent carefully!
- Prepare them for living away from home:
 - cost of living – paying bills
 - independent living skills – cooking and washing

Be there...

comforting, proofreading,
encouraging, testing,
practicing etc.

Find out more

Parents information tool

Find us on social media



Join our group to see what others are asking

www.facebook.com/ucasonline



Follow us to find out the latest news

www.twitter.com/ucas_online

Read our blogs



Read blogs from other students

www.ucasconnect.com/blogs

Watch our videos



Watch and share our videos and 'How To' guides

www.ucas.tv



Watch video guides and find out what other students think

www.youtube.com/ucasonline

Or call us

0371 468 0 468

To speak to one of our trained advisers
between 08.30 – 18.00

Parents Guide to Student Finance

What student finance is available?

- While at university or college your child will have two main costs - **tuition fees and living costs**. Depending on your child's circumstances, their course and where they study, they could get a range of financial support to help with both.
- The main types of finance are **tuition fee** and **maintenance loans**.



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What's available?

- They can get a **Tuition Fee Loan** of up to £9,000 to cover tuition fees, while Maintenance Loans help towards living costs such as rent and bills.
- Part of the **Maintenance Loan** depends on your household income - that is, the income of you and your husband, wife or partner.
- There's also extra support for those with specific circumstances, for example, students with a disability, including a mental-health condition or specific learning difficulty such as dyslexia or dyspraxia.



- Find out what your child could get using the [online student finance calculator](#).
- Encourage your child to apply early to make sure they have their money on time.
- If your child is only applying for the Tuition Fee Loan and the basic Maintenance Loan (the bit that doesn't depend on your household income), you won't have to do anything. They can just fill in the application with their own details.



- If your child is applying for student finance that depends on your household income, they'll be asked to enter your email address when completing their application.
- You will receive an email; follow the instructions given to support your child's application and create an account (if you haven't already got one).
- You will need to supply your National Insurance number and details of your household income, which will be used to assess your child's entitlement to student finance. Your household income will be confirmed directly with HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC), using your National Insurance number.
- You may need to send us evidence or further information to support the application.



- Your child won't have to repay their loan until they've left university or college and their income is over £21,000 a year, £404 a week, £1,750 a month.
- They'll then repay 9% of their income over these amounts. If your child's income drops below these thresholds, all repayments stop automatically.

Find out more

- Bookmark our website [Student finance at GOV.UK](#)
- For a range of helpful tools and guidance visit our dedicated student finance zone at [The Student Room](#)
- For a range of helpful links visit us at [Useful Links](#)