UCAS – your journey

October 2026



Public

Apply

How to apply to universities and colleges for 2027 entry.

Key dates for 2027

28 April 2026

UCAS search displays courses

12 May

UCAS application opens for 2027 entry

1 September

First day we can receive a completed application

15 October 2026*

Deadline for courses in medicine, veterinary medicine/science, dentistry, and courses at Oxford or Cambridge

13 January 2027*

UCAS equal consideration date

13 January 2027*

UCAS equal consideration date

25 February

UCAS Extra opens

30 June

Last date to send an application

2 July

Clearing opens

* 18:00 UK time

School Deadlines – undergraduate courses

- Personal Statement first draft: **Friday 6th November 2026**
- Final Application to be submitted to school: **Friday December 4th 2026**
- The purpose of an earlier deadline is to allow for time to quality assure all entries before the Christmas holidays.

Application key facts

Invisibility - Universities and colleges **can’t see** your other choices

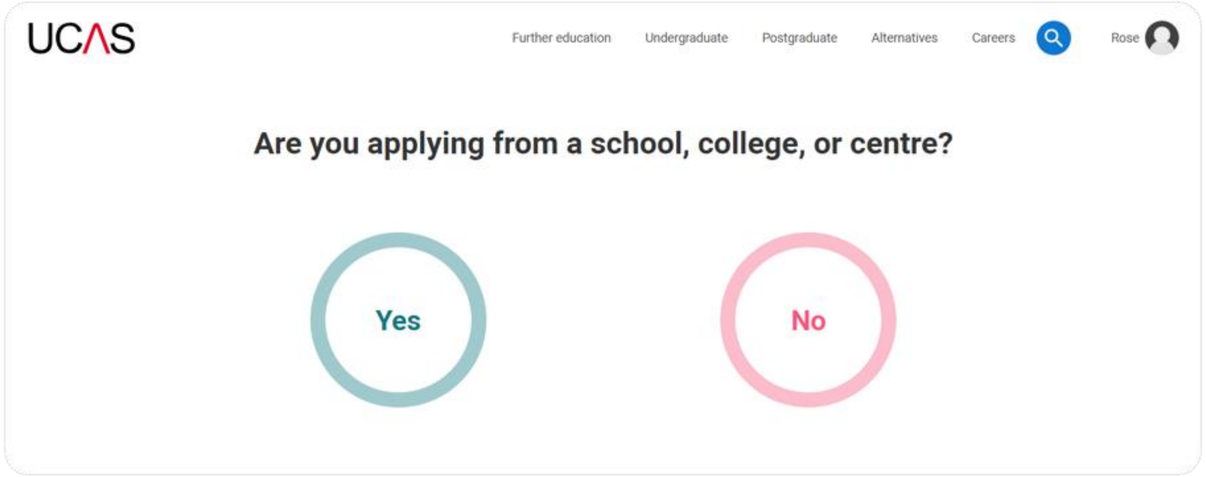
Apply by the relevant **equal consideration date**.

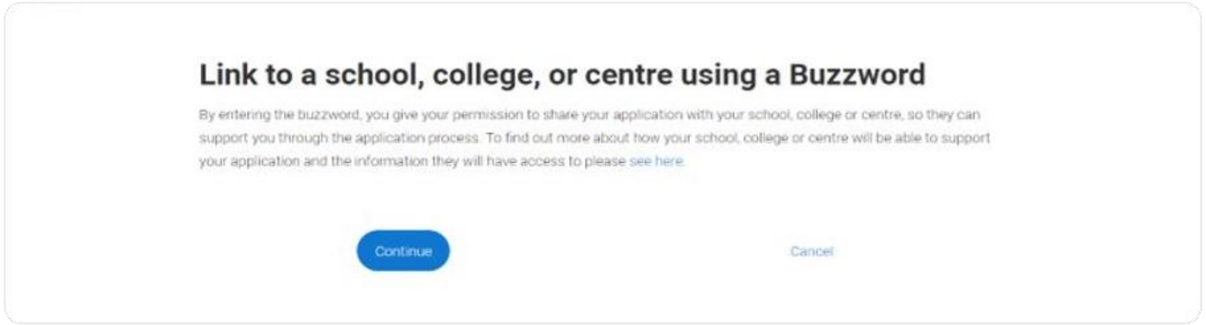
Five choices, with some restrictions (medicine, veterinary, dentistry, Oxford and Cambridge).

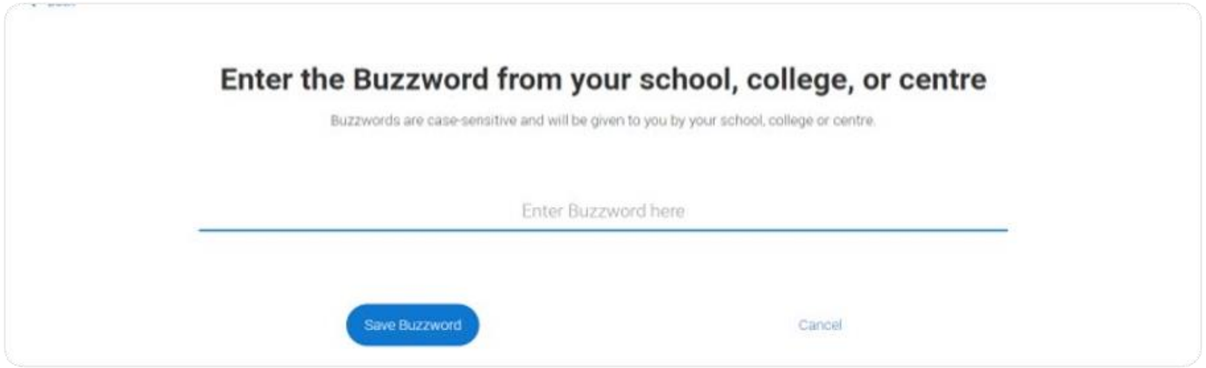
Research is key to a successful application.

Linking to our centre

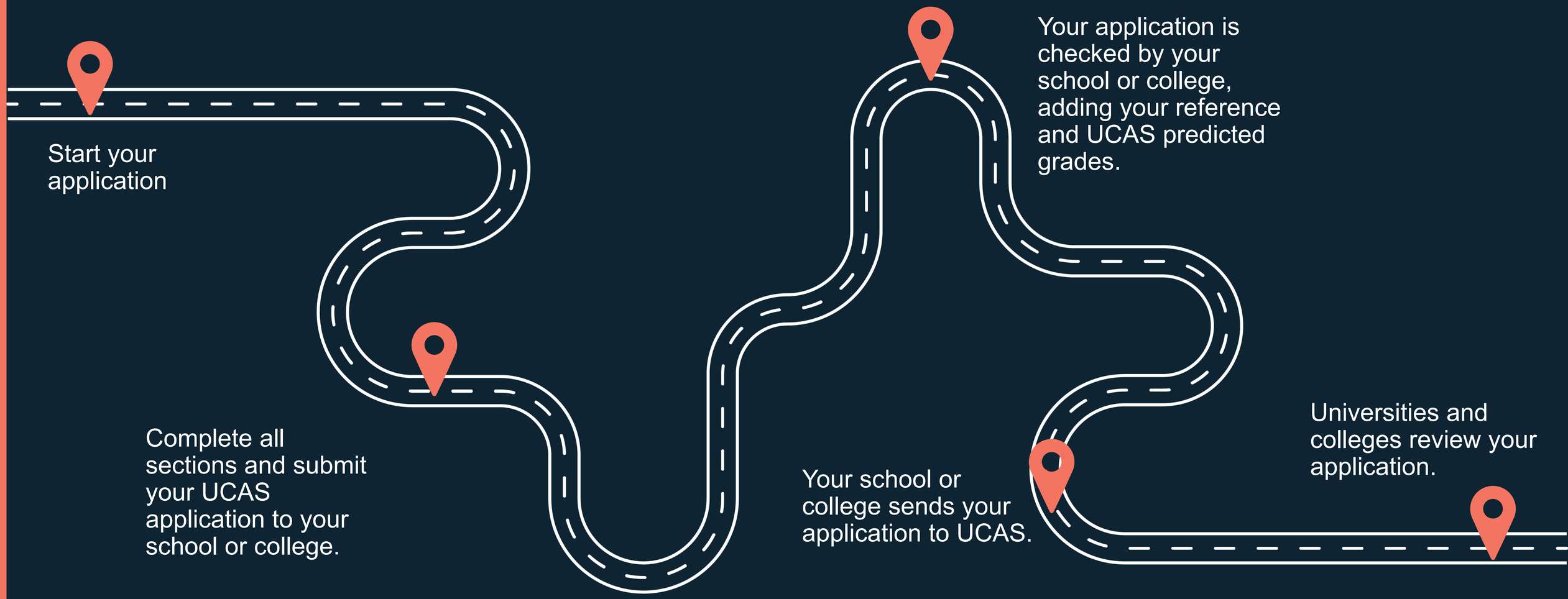
- Enter the ‘**buzzword**’ to link your application.
- The buzzword is a unique code.
- By linking your application you’re giving us permission to view and track your application.
- We send your application to UCAS on your behalf.
- **Craigmount27**





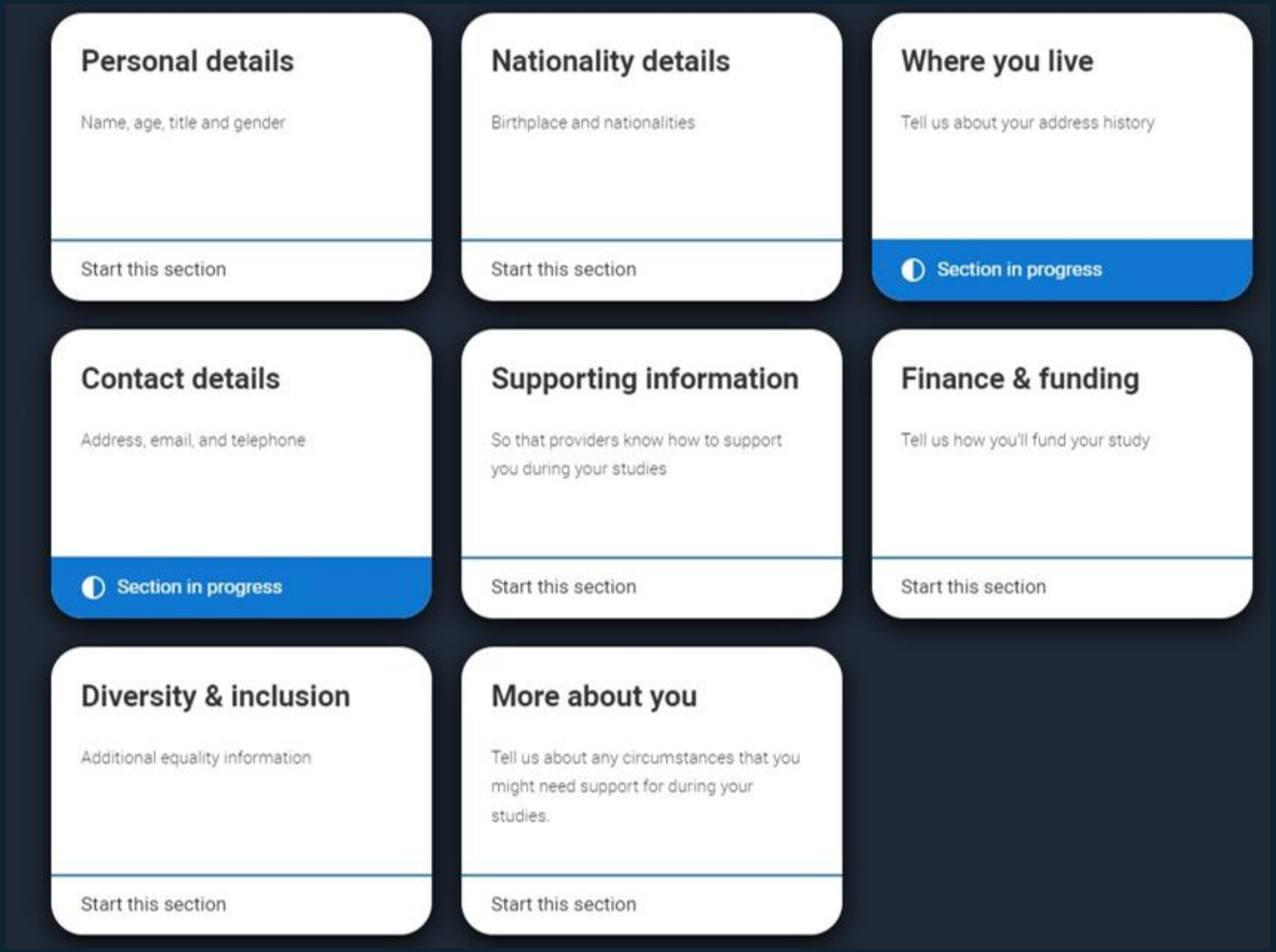


The UCAS Application



application profile

- Personal details
- Nationality details
- Where you live
- Contact details
- Supporting information
- Finance and funding
- Diversity and inclusion
- More about you **(Free School Meals)**

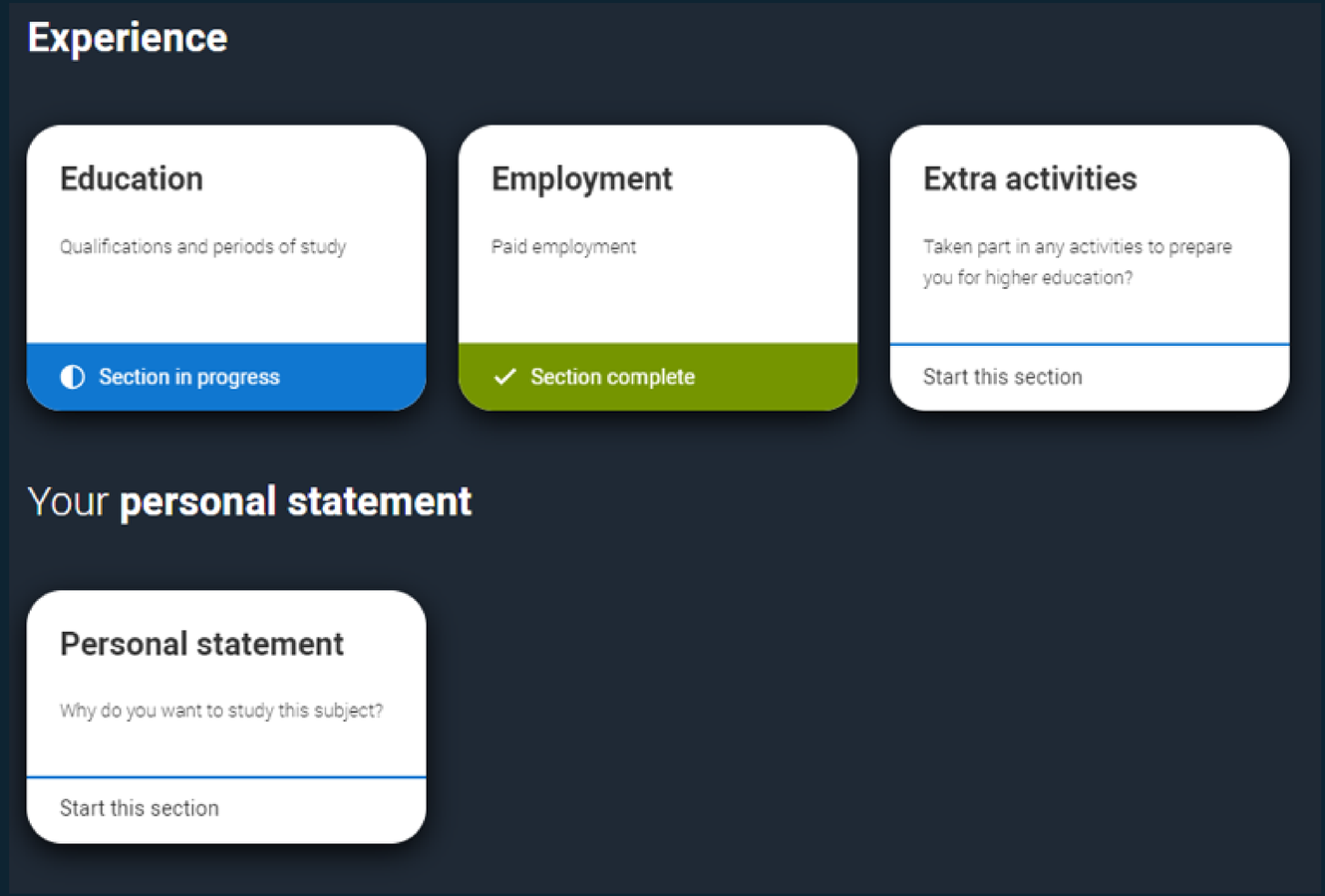


application experiences

- Education
- Employment
- Extra activities*
- Personal statement
- Reference**

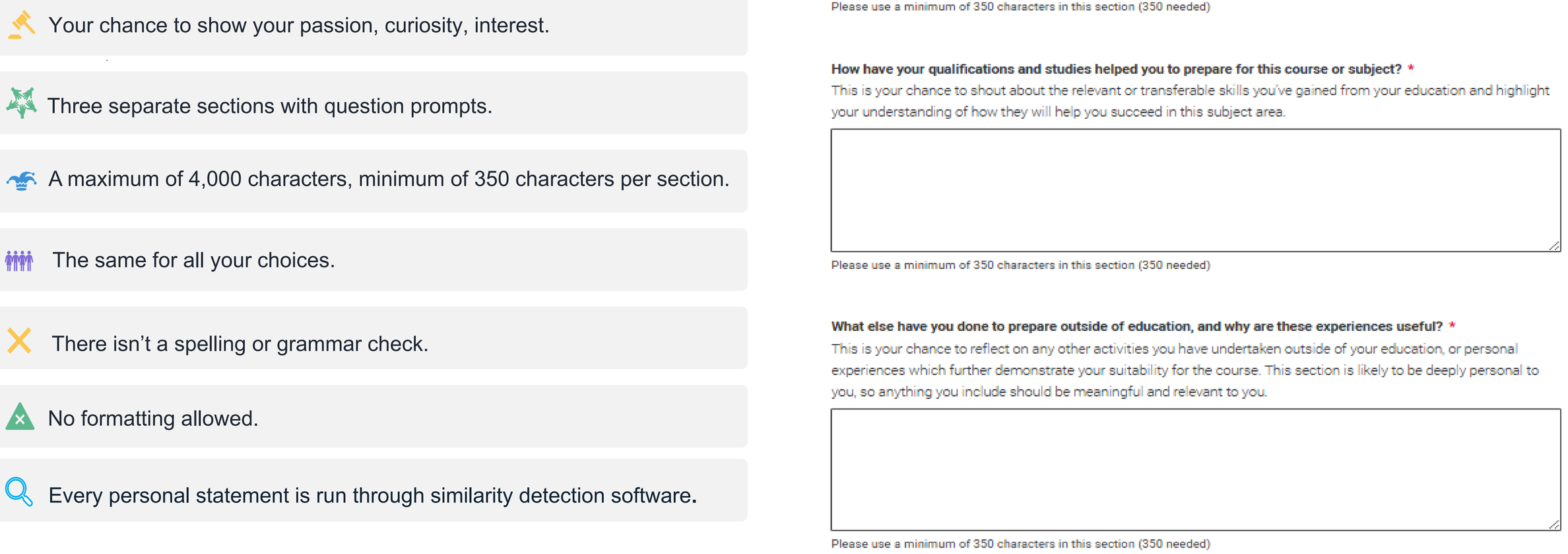
*(LEAPS Eligible students indicate here)

**(not visible if linked to your school/college)



the personal Statement

- Your chance to show your passion, curiosity, interest.
- Three separate sections with question prompts.
- A maximum of 4,000 characters, minimum of 350 characters per section.
- The same for all your choices.
- There isn’t a spelling or grammar check.
- No formatting allowed.
- Every personal statement is run through similarity detection software.



What are the questions?



Why do you want to study this course or subject?



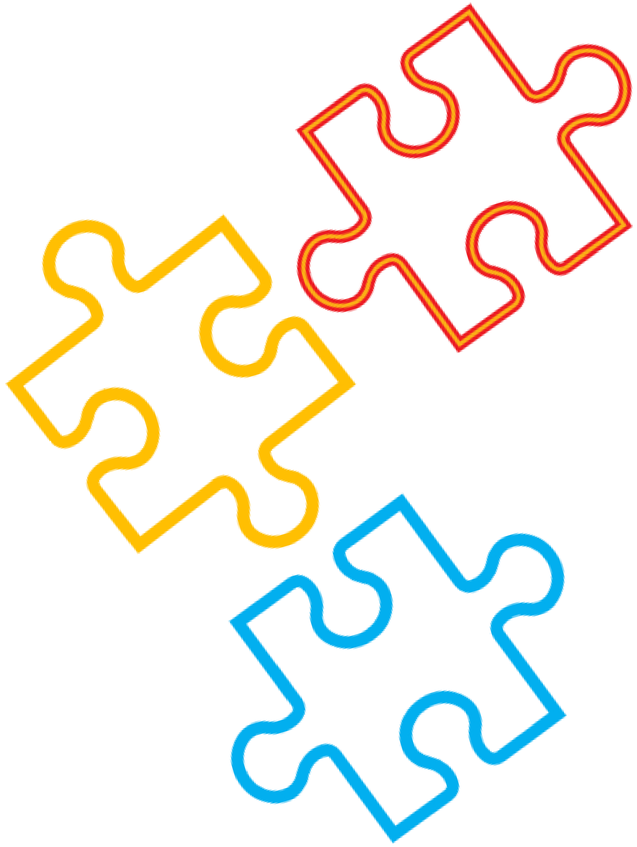
How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?



What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?

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Build A personal Statement



Ultimately, think of it like a jigsaw.

Each piece is **reflective evidence**.

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personal Statement support




What to include in your achitecture, planning or building personal statement


What to include in your animal science personal statement


What to include in your art and design personal statement


What to include in your biology personal statement


What to include in your business management personal statement


What to include in your chemistry personal statement


What to include in your computer science personal statement


What to include in your dance personal statement


What to include in your dentistry personal statement


What to include in your drama personal statement


What to include in your economics personal statement


What to include in your engineering personal statement

Offers and Decisions

decisions

Universities and colleges will review the whole application including:

- Qualifications
- Personal statement
- Reference

They may also require :

- Admissions test
- Interview
- Portfolio / audition

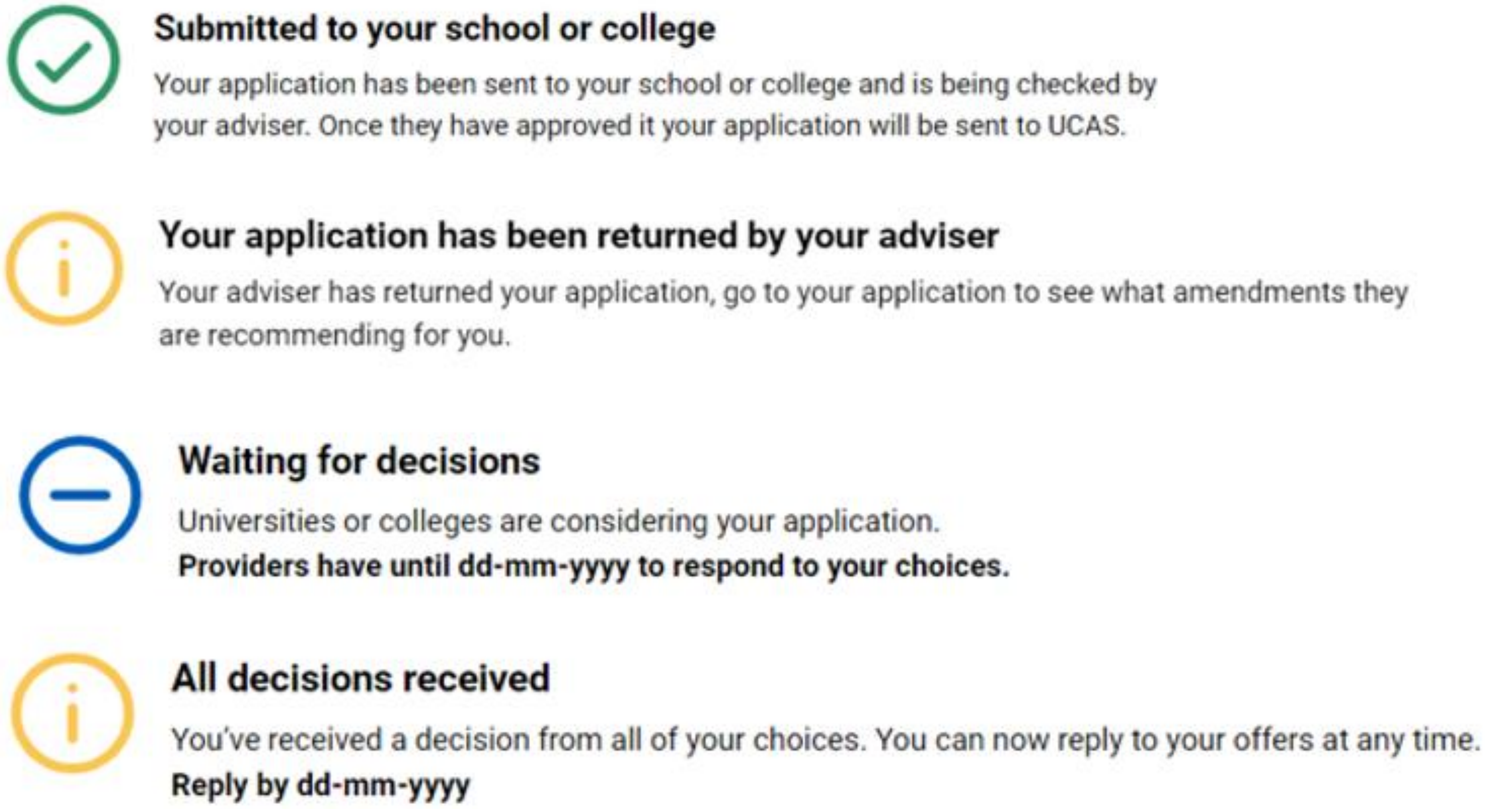
Tracking your application

Follow your application to:

- check progress
- see your choices
- update contact information
- view and reply to your offers

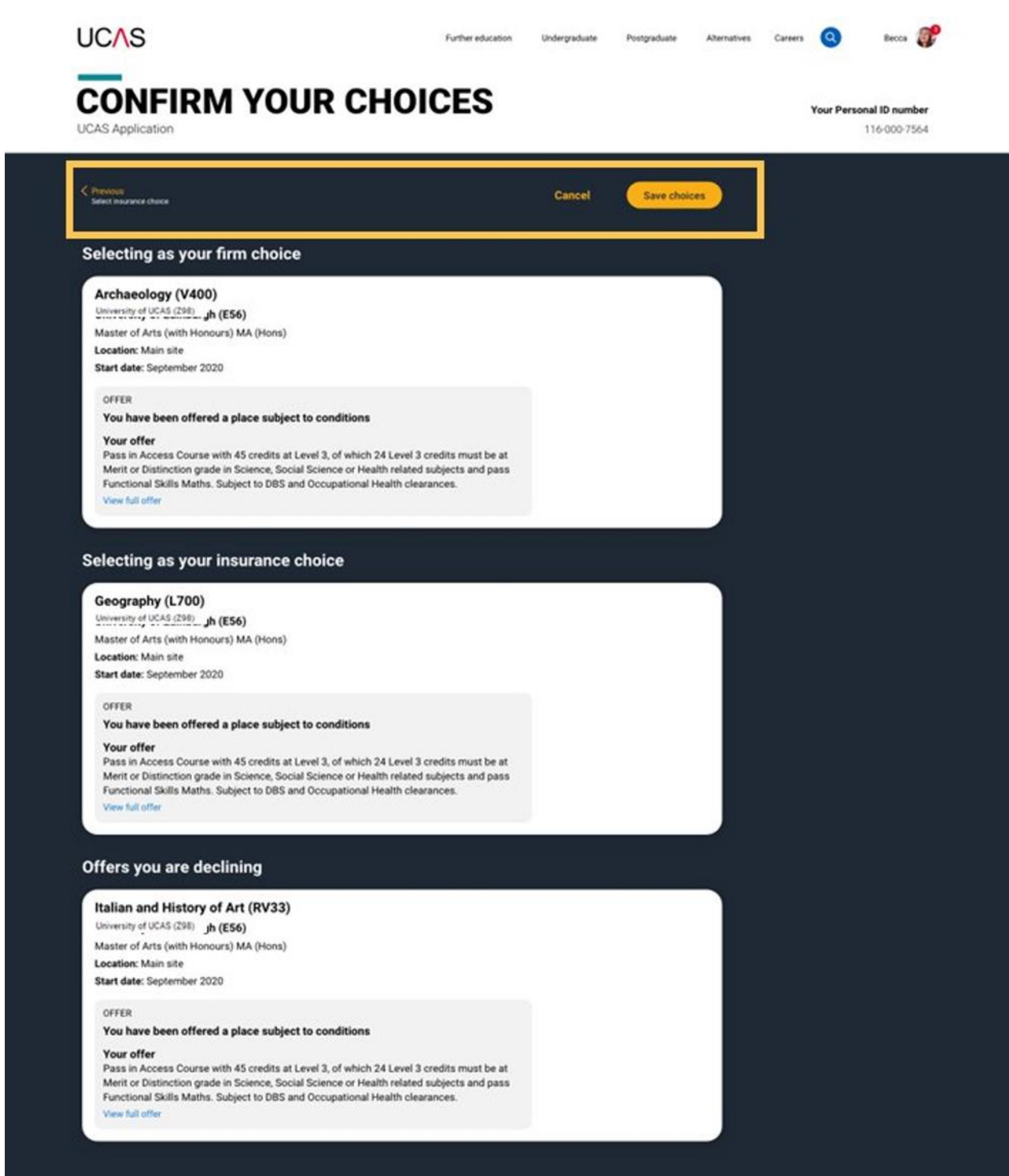
One of three decisions:

- unconditional offer
- conditional offer
- unsuccessful



Replies to offers

- Once you've made your decisions, choose a 'firm' and 'insurance' choice.
- Decline any remaining offers.
- If you're not holding an offer, use Extra or Clearing to find available places.



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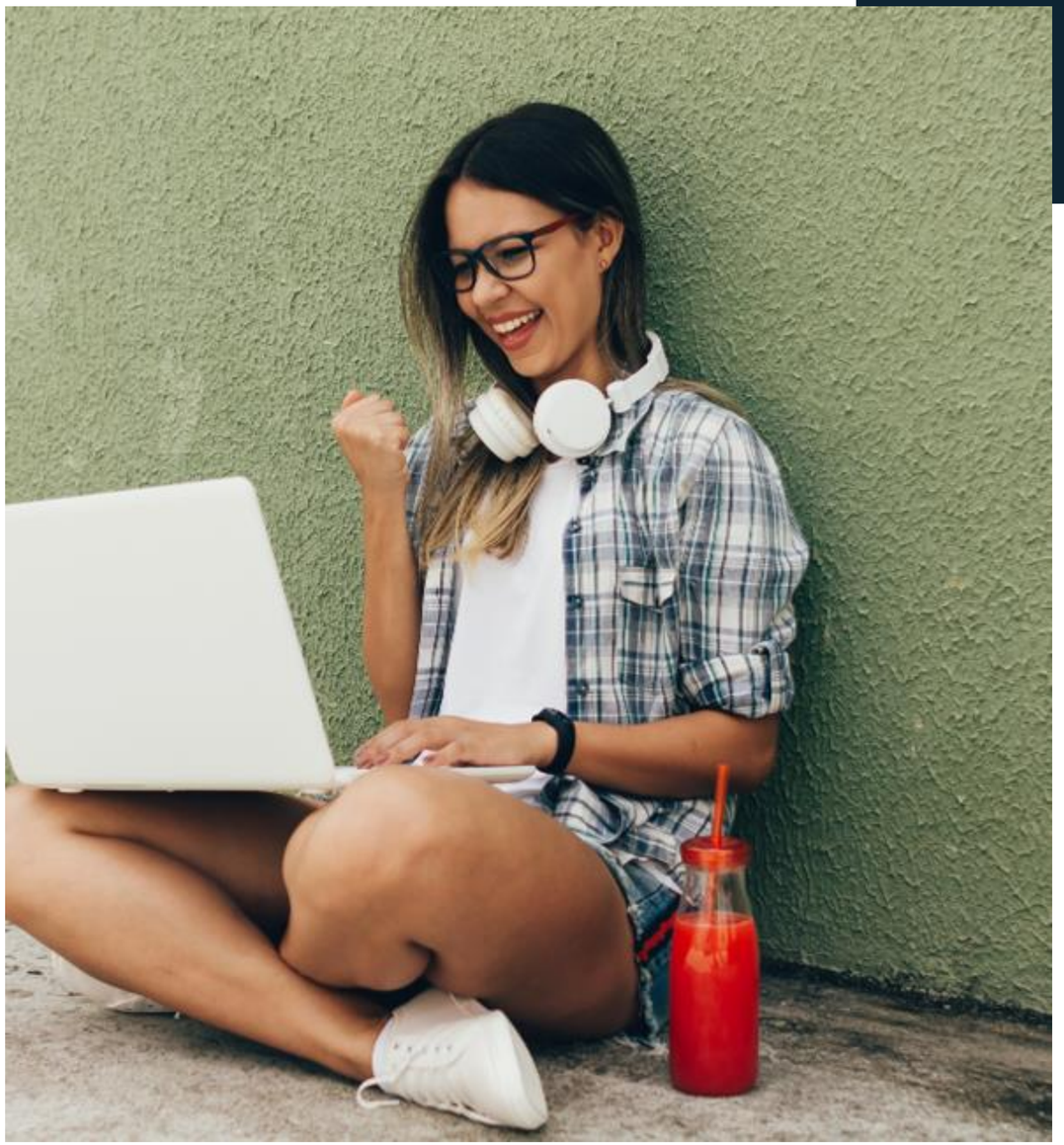
Other options

Extra (25 Feb – 1 Jul)

- Used all five choices and had no offers find a place using Extra.

Clearing (2 Jul – 18 Oct)

- Whether you've exceeded expectations, changed your mind, or don’t have a place.
- **Clearing is for everyone**.
- Understand the process to take control of your options.



apprenticeships

What you need to know

www.ucas.com/apprenticeships

How does it work?

- It’s a real job where you **learn**, **gain experience**, **study for a qualification and get paid.**
- An apprentice is an employee, **with a contract of employment** and holiday leave.
- Over **600 different apprenticeships** available, from Nuclear Engineer to Architect to Digital Marketer.



* Foundation apprenticeships in Scotland are unpaid

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Who are they for?

- Anyone 16 and over
- Anyone not in full time education*
- Apprenticeships in Scotland, Wales or England require you to be living in the same country as the apprenticeship
- Apprenticeships in Northern Ireland require you to:
  - be employed or be about to take up paid employment in Northern Ireland
  - be working a minimum of 21 hours per week on a permanent contract

* a foundation apprenticeship in Scotland is typically taken alongside Scottish Higher and National 5s



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The a-z of apprenticeships

There are **over 600** possible apprenticeship 'standards' (training programmes) which exist. It's probably easier to name an industry that doesn't have an apprenticeship then to list all that do. Here are just a few…

- 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

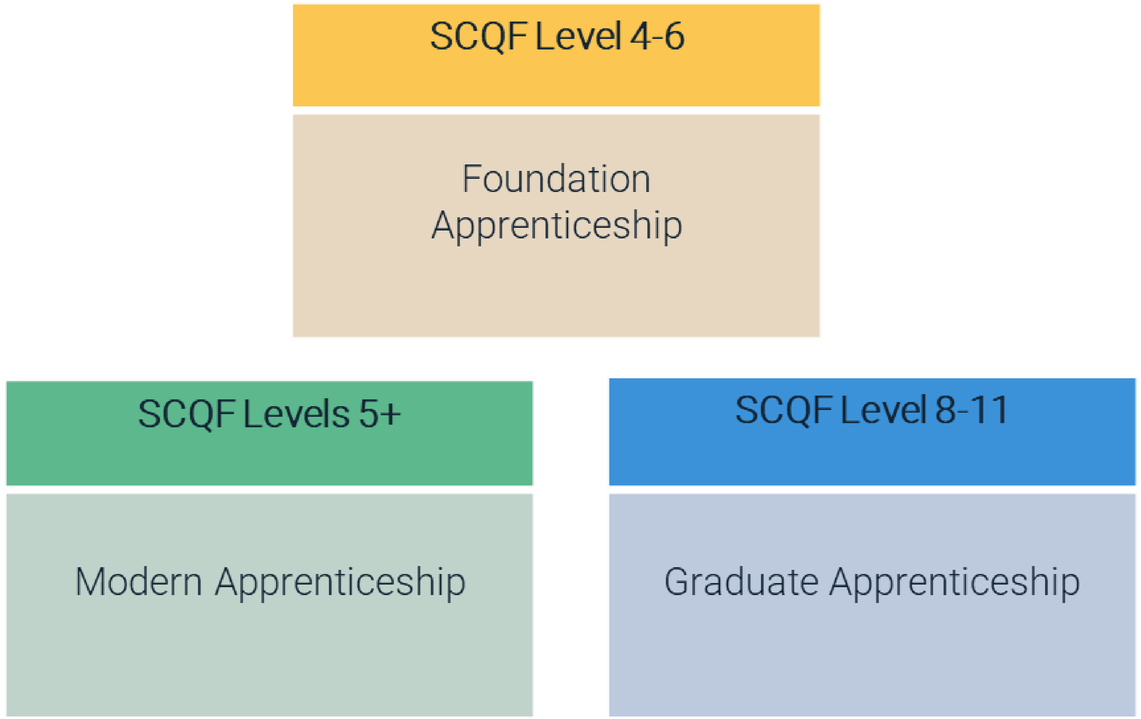
www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/#

What am I doing now?

For example, in Scotland:

- Scottish National Level 5 is a **SCQF Level 5 qualification**
- Scottish Higher is a **SCQF Level 6 qualification**

Apprenticeships work in levels in Scotland too



When can I apply?

- Advertised throughout the year; with no single application deadline.
- Larger organisations with multiple application processes may recruit earlier than smaller local organisations.
- Higher apprenticeships with a Sep/Oct start tend to recruit in the previous academic year.

www.ucas.com/apprenticeships

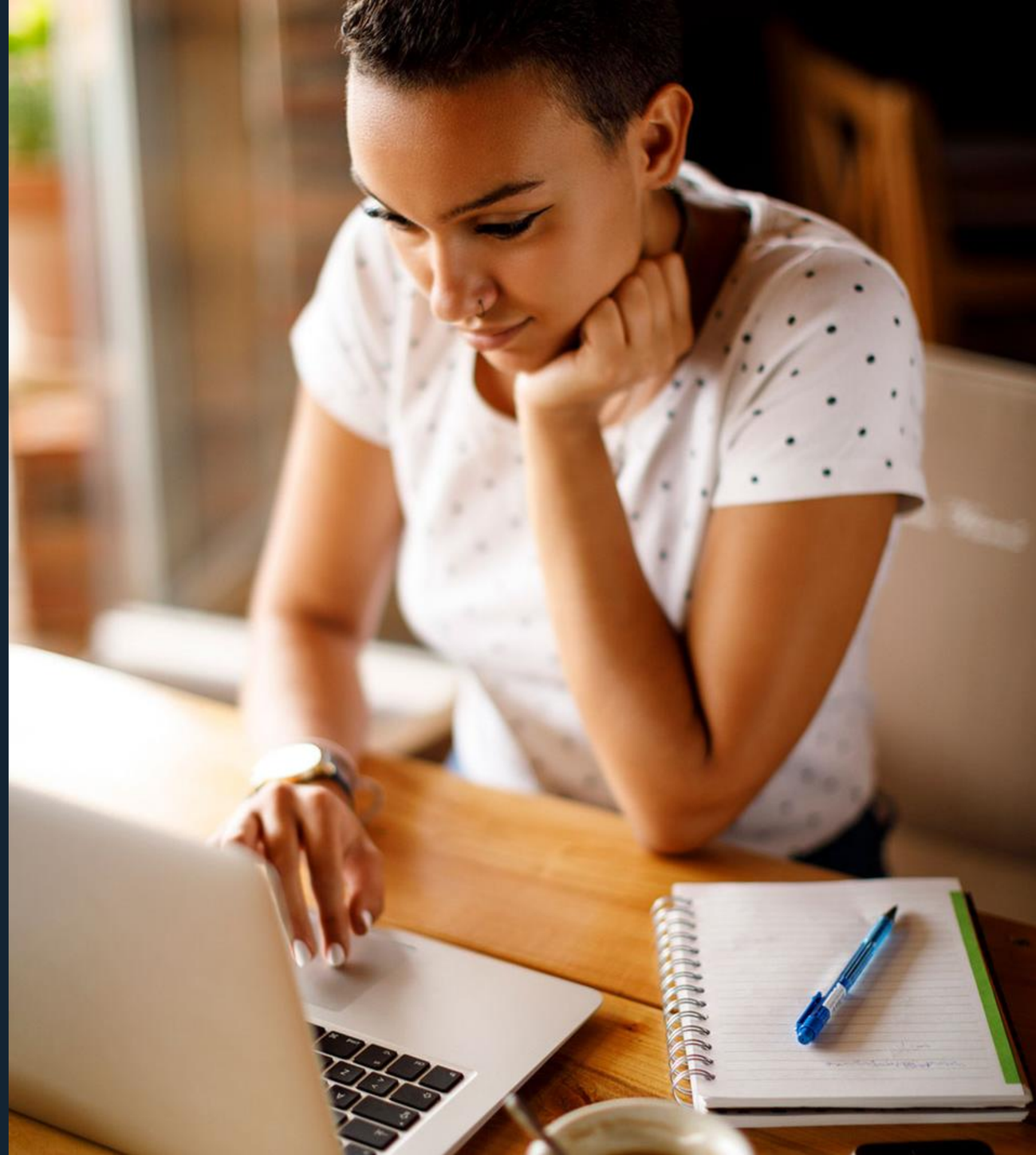


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How do I apply?

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



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How can ucas help?

Apprenticeship Application Guides
- Get to grips with what to expect when applying for specific industries.

Live studio apprenticeship podcast
- Radio 1's Katie Thistleton chats to apprentices and experts about what you need to know.

UCAS CV builder
- Create a professional CV in minutes.

Find it all and more ucas.com/apprenticeships





Next steps

UCAS Support

THINGS TO DO

- research, research, research
- attend open days and events
- independent learning outside the curriculum
- work experience
- volunteering
- focus on this year’s studies



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Ucas support

UCAS Customer Experience Centre:
0371 468 0 468

From outside the UK:
+44 330 3330 230

Monday to Friday
08:30 – 18:00 (UK time)


@ucas_online


@ucas_online


@ucas_online


@ucas

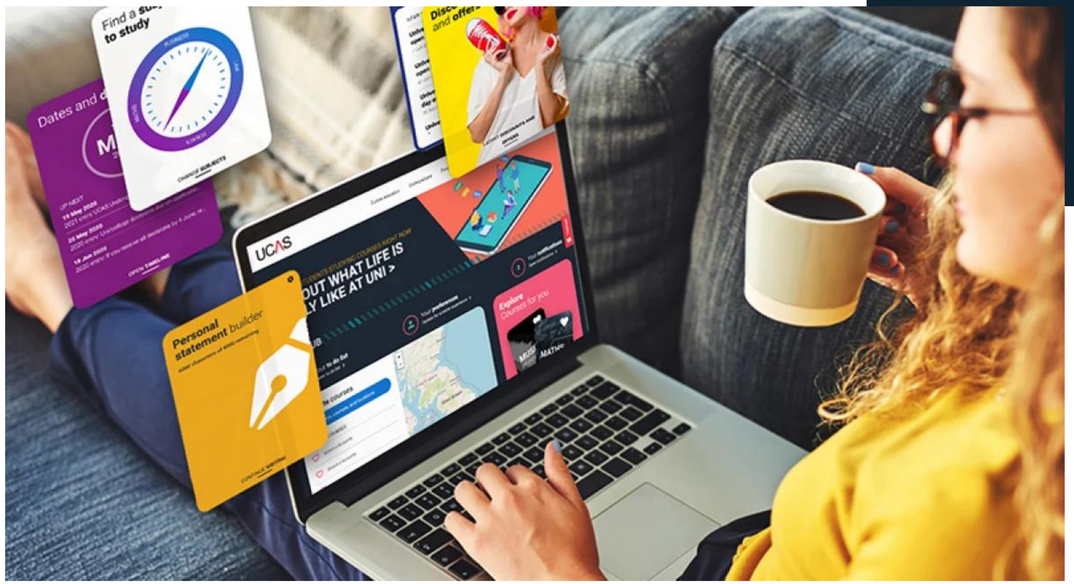

@UCASonline

www.ucas.com/parents

Are you supporting someone who's exploring their options?

Whether they're set on going to uni, or still deciding, we can help!

1. **Sign up for our parent newsletter** - we'll send you everything you need to help them.
2. **UCAS Parents' Podcast -** listen to our live studio podcasts covering everything you need to know about education and careers.
3. **Parent, Guardian and Carer Guides -** everything you need to support a young person with their options and decision-making and help them through the UCAS application process.





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Thank you



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