APPLYING TO UNIVERSITY: A GUIDE FOR PARENTS September 2024 entry

- Is university the right path for your child?
- How does your child apply to university?
- How does Rooks Heath School support your child's application?
- How can you, as a parent, support your child's application?



Choices available



Students have already registered for the UCAS Hub to understand the options available and make choices that are right for them: ucas.com/hub

Apprenticeships Study What are Job apprenticeships Wage



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

Applying for an apprenticeship: Apprenticeships are advertised on the government website but students also have a search facility in Unifrog.

https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship

There are many apprenticeships on offer to students who successfully complete A levels and/or BTEC level 3 course.

A popular route to gaining a degree are Degree Apprenticeships which are being offered by an increasing number of universities in a wider range of subjects – click on the link to find out more: https://www.ucas.com/apprenticeships

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Find an apprenticeship

Sign in / Create account

Find an apprenticeship

BETA This is a new service - your feedback r helps improve it.

Search and apply for an apprenticeship in England

Search Browse	Help
Keywords (optional)	How to search for an apprenticeship
Can include job title, employer or reference number	(interactive walkthrough)
All 🖌	0800 015 0400
Your location	Contact us
Enter postcode, town or city or use current location	About apprenticeships
	Find a traineeship
Within Apprenticeship level	
5 miles 🗸 All levels 🗸	



what is unifrog? A one-stop-shop for getting in.





Opportunity searching

Unifrog brings into one place every university course, apprenticeship, and college course in the UK, as well as other opportunities, such as School Leaver Programmes, MOOCs and every college at Oxford and Cambridge.

UCAS Exploring Apprenticeships

From UCAS Hub students can easily explore apprenticeships; learn more information and see a live selection of apprenticeship vacancies.

Set alerts to stay up to date.

APPRENTICESHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Search for apprenticeships Software Developer Degree	
Apprentice, Ware UK, 2023	GSX
Ware, Hertfordshire	
A competitive starting base salary of £18,	000 per
year, which increases after year 1	
Apply for this job	
R&D Laboratory IT (Digital & Tech)	
Degree Apprentice, Stevenage,	GSK
2023	
Stevenage, Hertfordshire	
A competitive starting base salary of £18,0	000 per
FIND MORE	

Found 504 jobs

Browse Search		Get new jobs for this search by email	
Keywords		Create alert	
Keyword			
Location		TOP JOB	
Location	•	Radio Access Optimisation Apprentice (Virgin Media)	
Within 5 miles	~	Leeds, Hammersmith , Runcorn , Wythenshawe £23,000	Nirgin media
Nationwide		Estio Training	
Homeworking		Level 3 Radio Network Technician About the company: We're Virgin Media O2 and we're here to upgrade the UK, Virgin Media O2 combine	
 Specialism 			
► Sector		View details	10 days ago 🛛 🏠 Sa
▼ Role Type	2 selected		
Apprenticeship	•	Software Developer Degree Apprentice, Ware UK, 2023	
Other work and training	•	Ware, Hertfordshire	
		 A competitive starting base salary of £18,000 per year, which increases after year 1 GSK 	GSK
		Join GSK's R&D (Research and Development) Apprentice Programme – W ahead of disease together	/are UK, 2023: Help us ge
 Start Date 		View details	4 days ago \mid 🟠 Sa

UCAS



How do you apply for an apprenticeship?

- Applications are made directly through the company or the education provider.
- There is no limit on the number of applications that can be made.
- 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!

Taking a Gap Year

Why?

- The experiences gained make people **better prepared** for university
- A chance to **earn money** for university, reducing the financial burden of university
- A chance to develop new skills
- An opportunity to experience **life away from home** before starting university
- Opportunity to gain work experience that increases **employability**
- Opportunity to volunteer and **help** organisations and/or people

Why not?

- Travel and/or organized gap year programmes are **expensive**
- There may be changes to courses or student finance packages / fees during the year off
- Choose a course with an industrial placement if you want work experience
- People can **forget** a lot in a year that would be useful on the course
- If people don't get organised, they may end up spending their gap doing nothing but watching TV. Not great for the CV!

Taking a gap year

- Ideally, a gap year should be a planned year out of education and students should still apply to university in the September 2024 application cycle. They just need to select the defer option in their UCAS application.
- We do not encourage students to take a gap year in order to 'improve their grades' and not make a deferred application to university.

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Why university?

- Essential for some career paths.
- Develop new transferable skills and subject knowledge.
- Increase confidence and independence.
- Broaden experiences.
- Meet new people.
- Investment in the future.
- Increased job prospects.
- Higher earning potential.



What are the options at university?

- Bachelor's or undergraduate degree: a three to four-year course which can also be available as a parttime option, allowing you to study and work.
- Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE) and Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE): first and second year of a degree course.
- Higher National Certificate (HNC) and Higher National Diploma (HND): HNC is a one-year industry specific course, and the HND is a two-year industry specific course.
- Higher apprenticeships: provide an opportunity to gain Level 4 qualifications or above, e.g. HND, or foundation degree while you work. Can take from one to five years to complete, depending on the course level.
- **Foundation degree:** flexible vocational qualification, combining both academic study and workplace learning. It usually takes two years to complete.
- Degree apprenticeships: enable you to gain a full undergraduate or master's degree while you work.
 Degree apprenticeships take three to six years to complete, depending on the course.



Which university is right for my child?

There are a number of things to consider with choosing a course and university:

- An enjoyable and stimulating course as it is important to be successful at university
- A course that is right for your child's career path check with Unifrog, employers and professional organisations
- The university's location city or rural, transport links, closeness to home
- How the course is delivered and assessed so that it suits your child's strengths
- The academic and wider social environment including extracurricular activities, clubs and societies that your child might want to join
- How expensive it will be tuition fees, accommodation costs, travel costs, course expenses, living costs





Are there jobs for graduates?

- Competition is fierce: It is now becoming the norm for a degree to be a minimum educational requirement for many occupations
- For many employers, quality of degree (First and Upper Second) is more important than course followed
- But many graduate employers want to see evidence of skills and competencies in addition to the degree
- So need to provide evidence of work experience and extra-curricular activities
- Universities provide information on employability of their graduates

 students have access to this via Unifrog and

 https://discoveruni.gov.uk/
- Universities provide links to employers careers fairs, work placements, websites (<u>www.prospects.ac.uk</u>)

How much does university cost?

There are two main costs:

- 1. Annual course/tuition fee.
- 2. Living costs.

How much does university cost? 1. Tuition Fees

- Tuition fees are charged by universities and colleges to cover key elements of a student's course and academic life, as well as core services related to wellbeing.
- Tuition fees normally cover:
- lectures, seminars, and tutorials, course admin costs, access to course-related facilities and equipment (e.g. laboratories, studios), access to campus libraries and computer rooms, support services for students, student union membership, field trips essential for completion of your course (travel and accommodation only), graduation ceremony
- However, tuition fees won't usually cover:
- printing or photocopying at libraries or IT facilities, non-compulsory field trips, textbooks and other course materials, e.g. art supplies or dancewear, personal technology, e.g. laptop, tablet, specialist software, camera, and accessories, membership to union clubs and societies, travel costs to work placements, professional body membership, living costs such as accommodation or travel, graduation attire, photography, and guest tickets.
- They depend on what and where a student studies
- For 2023, universities and colleges could charge up to £9,250 a year (most do charge the full amount). This is not expected to change for 2024.

Home > Education and learning

How do I pay the tuition fee? Tuition Fee Loan

Student finance, loans and universities

- If a student is not able to use private finance to pay for their tuition fee then a loan is available from Student Finance England to match the tuition fee charged for their course.
- This is available to all eligible students and not subject to household income.
- No UPFRONT costs students never see this money, it is paid direct to institution on behalf of student
- Students will have to pay it back Government advise students to see it as a graduate tax rather than a loan which they start paying back when they are employed
- Check website for more details: <u>https://www.gov.uk/student-finance</u>

2. Living costs-how do students pay for these?

- The main living costs whilst at university are accommodation (including utilities bills), food, travel and other expenses such as mobile phone contracts.
- Most universities have online cost of living calculators available to help students plan their budget.
- Students are eligible for a **maintenance (living) loan which is paid in three instalments.** Students have to pay this back once they are in employment and earning above the threshold salary.
- The size of the living loan is based on their family's income. The maximum loan available depends on whether students live at home or go away to study (with an uplift for those studying in London). Then, with that, the actual loan received is means-tested based on their family's annual 'residual' income. The higher the income, the lower the loan. Details are shown on the next slide.
- For students who do not receive the full loan, the system assumes parents will fill the income gap but this is not enforceable. Furthermore, the loan letter students receives does not make it explicitly clear that parents are expected to make up the difference.
- Consequently, students who do not get the full amount, may have to find other ways to fund the rest of their living costs. This could include, for example, part-time work, local authority assistance, bursaries, scholarships, or family contributions. Recent evidence suggests that many students have part-time paid work whilst studying at university.
- Students can use the <u>student finance calculator</u> to estimate how much Maintenance Loan they will get it will also tell them if you're eligible for extra grants or allowances.
- Parents can use the Money saving Expert University Parental Contribution Calculator to work out their likely contribution-<u>https://www.moneysavingexpert.com/students/university-living-costs-calculator/</u>

Maintenance loans for students from England, 2023/4

HOUSEHOLD INCOME	LOAN IF LIVING AT HOME	LOAN IF LIVING IN LONDON	LOAN IF LIVING ELSEWHERE
Up to £25,000	£8,400	£13,022	£9,978
£35,000	£6,988	£11,571	£8,552
£45,000	£5,576	£10,120	£7,125
£55,000	£4,163	£8,668	£5,699
£65,000	£3,698	£7,217	£4,651
£75,000	£3,698	£6,485	£4,651

Student living costs calculators: Google "university cost of living calculator" for lots of examples

Expense	Cost per month
Accommodation	£££-£££££
Transport	£80
Food shop	£74
Water, gas and electricity	£46
Interests and hobbies	£46
Clothing	£42
Holidays and flights	£89
Bank charges and fees	£30
Takeaways and snacks	£26
Phone and internet	£27
Alcohol and cigarettes	£15
Personal care	£12
Coffee and tea	£6
Other expenses	£21

How will students repay these loans?

- Graduates pay back loans when they finish the course and start earning over the threshold of £25,000
- They pay 9% of the amount they earn over the threshold
- Loan is scrapped after 30 years if they never earn over the threshold
- This is subject to change as there is talk of extending the loan period to 40 years

Interest Rates on student loans

- Interest is added to the loan immediately from when a student first borrows money.
- The minimum interest rate is linked to the Retail Price Index (currently at 8.9%) and is calculated every September.
- Due to current high rates of inflation, the Government has capped the interest rate from 1st June 2023 at 7.1%.
- The rate of interest does increase if a student has a salary above £49,130 RPI plus 3%.
- The link below offers some detailed advice for parents and students concerned about borrowing large quantities of money.
- Martin Lewis money saving expert
- Which have a very good factual summary of student loans <u>here</u>

https://www.gov.uk/student-finance/extrahelp

Financial support available – check out university scholarships

National Scholarship Programmes

£1000 grant for lower income families (less than £25,000) but Government cuts have meant that focus is now on postgraduate courses.

• Scholarships, Bursaries and Hardship Funds from individual universities



University of Southampton

Home | University life | Fees and funding | Undergraduate students | Scholarships

Scholarships for UK and EU undergraduates

As an institution in the top one per cent of world universities*, we are committed to attracting bright, ambitious students from all backgrounds onto our courses. Scholarships are available to talented students across our subject areas.

This information applies to students from the UK or EU. **Visit our international fees and funding pages** if you are looking for information about scholarships for international students.

Southampton Merit Scholarships

Our £1,000 Southampton Merit Scholarships are awarded to the highestachieving, first-year entry UK and EU students across the University (with the exception of Medicine and NHS-funded Health Sciences programmes). There is no need to apply and the criteria for the scholarship for 2015/16 entry are as follows:

1.You must exceed the grades contained within your offer.



You must achieve a minimum of AAA or equivalent (for some subjects this may include your portfolio or audition).

3.You must make the University of Southampton your firm acceptance to be eligible.

4.'Your offer' will be the highest of any offers you are made, should you transfer to another course. In certain cases, where a group of programmes share a first semester, any scholarship will be based on the highest offer for that group of programmes.

How much does university cost? The two main costs (for Sept 2023):

1. Annual tuition fee.

3 years at £9,250

£27,750 (at current levels, remember not all universities charge or are allowed to charge the full amount) 2. Living costs.

3 years at £9,978

£29,963

(Living away from home outside London)

Total debt = £57,684 minus any other income (parents, work) plus debt interest and extra living costs. Approaching a debt of mortgage proportions! Choosing the correct course and university is more crucial than ever

How do students choose a university and course?

- Entrance requirements A level and/or BTEC level 3 grades or UCAS points
- Course structure teaching styles vary
- Facilities
- Home or away? how far away?
- Cost of living: London or not (on average £3,000 per year more expensive)
- Campus / non campus
- Social life
- Family advice
- Job prospects
- Favourite subject
- Students need to research



UCAS & Unifrog search engines: Students have weekly tutorial sessions where they are supported with their searches on UCAS and Unifrog



The Guardian's Good University Guide:

Online guides offer detailed guidance now on how well universities perform in general as well as subjects

2023~	× 2022	✓ Institution ✓	Guardian score/100	Satisfied with course	Satisfied with teaching	Satisfied with feedback	Student to staff ratio	Spend per student/10 \	Average entry tariff	Value added score/10	Career after 15 months	Contin- uation
1	3	St Andrews	100	91.6	91.6	77.8	11.8	7	200	6.6	88	98.5
2	1	Oxford	99.4	n/a	n/a	n/a	10.5	10	199	5.8	92	99
3	2	<u>Cambridge</u>	98.1	n/a	n/a	n/a	11.6	9.9	207	5.6	92	99.3
4	4	London School of Economics	95.2	78.8	82	67.2	13.4	8.7	189	7.4	92	98
5	7	Imperial College	89.3	83.1	85.8	60.6	11.7	9	198	5.1	95	98.2
6	5	Durham	87	80.7	83.9	65.6	13.7	6.5	185	6	88	98.5
7	8	Bath	85.8	86.1	84.6	61.1	15.4	6.2	177	5.4	90	97.5
8	6	Warwick	84.2	82.9	84.6	69.8	14.2	7.1	173	4.7	88	97.6
9	9	UCL	83.5	76.6	81.2	61.1	11.1	7.8	179	6.4	88	97.2
10	10	Loughborough	82.6	84.6	82.9	64.8	13.8	5.2	156	4.4	85	97.5
11	11	Glasgow	82.1	81.5	84	61.6	13.7	5.8	206	6.2	82	96.3
12	12	<u>Edinburgh</u>	81.8	72	80.6	52.4	11.5	8.9	191	6.6	85	97.7
13	20	Aberdeen	81.2	85.2	85.3	67.4	15	4.7	187	7.8	82	96.4
14	13	Lancaster	80	83.1	84.1	66	14.8	7.6	150	5.3	84	97.8
15	15	Exeter	76.3	79.6	82.3	62.8	16.2	3.5	161	5.7	83	96.7
16	17	Southampton	76.2	79.2	82.6	66.4	12.6	5.9	155	5.3	81	96.7
16	14	Bristol	76.2	74.6	81.1	58.8	14.1	7	167	5.7	85	98
16	18	Strathclyde	76.2	83.3	84.9	64.9	19.1	6.9	204	3.8	85	95
19	26	University of the Arts London	75.5	60.1	70.4	73.2	11.9	9.8	139	6.3	68	92.5
20	16	Leeds	75.1	72.6	79.4	59.6	13.8	6.9	161	5.6	83	97.8
21	18	York	75	78.9	82.6	65.2	15.1	5.1	150	4	83	98.1
22	25	Aston	74.5	75.7	78.5	62.6	17	5.8	133	6.1	82	96.2
23	35	West London	73.7	80.6	84.5	77.7	12.9	5.7	120	6.9	73	88.4
24	57	<u>Surrey</u>	72.8	82.2	83	68.6	16	4.9	142	3.6	86	95
24	36	UWE Bristol	72.8	76.9	80.5	69.2	15.7	4	123	6.5	79	92.7

Many subjects have ranking tables such as the one below for medicine

2023 V Institution V	Guardian score/100	Satisfied with course 🗸	Satisfied with teaching	Satisfied with feedback	Student to staff ratio	Spend per student/10	Average entry tariff ~	Value added score/10 ~	Career after 15 months 🗸	Contin uatio
1 (+) <u>Cambridge</u>	100	n/a	n/a	n/a	7.9	10	212	n/a	100	98.
2 (+) <u>Aberdeen</u>	97.2	87.5	93.5	65.6	6.9	3	238	n/a	100	9
3 (+) <u>Edinburgh</u>	97	78.6	88	54.2	6.3	10	227	n/a	100	99
4 (+) Imperial College	96.6	88.4	89.7	64.1	6.8	10	187	n/a	100	98
5 (+) <u>St Andrews</u>	94.2	95	95.3	74.6	11	4	209	n/a	97	10
6 (+) <u>Oxford</u>	93	n/a	n/a	n/a	10.1	10	205	n/a	99	99
7 (+) <u>Swansea</u>	92.2	77.5	88.9	71.9	8.4	9	n/a	n/a	100	99
8 (+) Brighton Sussex Medical School	90.5	88	92.9	77	n/a	8	173	n/a	99	98
9 (+) <u>Keele</u>	87.2	87.4	92.5	72.5	7.8	4	168	n/a	99	99
10 (+) <u>Glasgow</u>	84.9	83.4	88.4	65.5	9.6	3	236	n/a	98	97
11 (+) <u>Dundee</u>	83.1	85.6	88.7	56.5	9.8	5	248	n/a	100	9
12 (+) <u>Bristol</u>	82.3	89.7	92.9	70.6	9.8	5	178	n/a	100	99
13 (+) <u>Liverpool</u>	79.6	82.1	87.8	62.5	7.3	7	169	n/a	100	99
14 (+) Hull York Medical School	76.5	74.6	84.4	63.6	6.1	4	166	n/a	100	9
15 (+) <u>Cardiff</u>	76.2	82.9	88.1	64.4	9.9	7	188	n/a	99	

SACU careers test: Subjects Cloud For students who have no idea what to study



SACU Spartan test: Career Cloud

For students who need more support in deciding suitable careers



How to apply to university



- All University applications are made through a system known as UCAS: University & Colleges Application System
- www.ucas.com
- Parent guide available <u>here</u> with lots of video clips to help explain the different stages of the application process
- Students have further guides available on SharePoint which include information on applying to Oxford and Cambridge entrance exams for competitive courses such as medicine and law

UCAS APPLY ON-LINE APPLICATION

- All university applications are made via the on-line application system - students have already registered during their tutorial time at school
- One UCAS application form, FIVE choices, £27.50 fee
- One personal statement written by the student
- One UCAS reference written by the school
- Applicants cannot indicate a course preference
- Invisibility of choices universities do not know which other universities students have applied to

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

- Two deadlines for applications: 16th October for applications to Oxford and Cambridge Universities and all medicine, dentistry and veterinary science courses. 31st January for everything else apart for Art and Design courses who have their own application process.
- UCAS sends copies of the form to each of the five choices for equal consideration.
- June March: Interviews & Open Days (attendance to which can be a requirement for an offer to be made)
- Sept May: Offers (both Conditional and Unconditional) and/or Rejections
- End of May: <u>Final Decisions</u> Time (students have to nominate 1 Firm and 1 Insurance)

BMAT / UCAT / LNAT tests

• BE AWARE!

- External Entrance Exams for students applying for Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science or Law at participating universities
- Students are responsible for arranging their own exam entry **MUST CHECK CLOSING DATES** & these need to be added on their application form
- Use these websites for more details <u>www.bmat.org.uk</u> <u>www.lnat.ac.uk</u> <u>https://www.ucat.ac.uk/</u>

HOW TO GET THAT PLACE: What are students being told?



1.

2.

- RESEARCH, RESEARCH, RESEARCH!
- Course content varies between universities no common specification
- Check entry qualifications any specific GCSE/A Level subjects/grades/tariff points plus and any other requirements e.g. work experience
- Find out if and what work experience is necessary (medicine, teaching, NHS supported degrees, social work, journalism, law). It is asked for by universities for 2 main reasons:
 - To demonstrate commitment to career choice
 - So the university is sure that the applicant is going into this career path with their eyes open.
- Research University Scholarships & Bursaries find out what's on offer
- Produce a high quality 'Personal Statement' deadline for first draft is July 14th
- Liaise with your tutors they are a very important aspect of your application

HOW ELSE DOES THE COLLEGE SUPPORT STUDENT APPLICATIONS?

- Specialist help for those wanting to apply for Oxford & Cambridge and Medicine, Dentistry & Veterinary Science including help with interview technique
- Tutorial programme most of the first half of the Autumn term in Year 13 devoted to university applications, time and support to perfect personal statements
- Time off to go to Open Days-only 2 though!
- One to one meetings with Ms McCutcheon or Mr Wright to check all aspects of the UCAS application

WHAT HAPPENS IF...?

- UCAS Extra: February June (for students without any offers)
- Results and Confirmation of place Mid August
- **Clearing:** Mid August September (for students with lower than predicted grades)

How can parents/carers help?



- Discuss the key points from this presentation with their child choosing to go to university is a really important decision which should be justified by more than a shrug of the shoulders!
- Encourage and support students to attend university Open Days (even if they do not want to go to university as it can really help them to visualise what attending university is like). <u>www.opendays.com</u> is a great website to search for university open days
- Help them check course details and entry requirements on <u>www.ucas.com</u> or Unifrog. Show interest and support (read up about universities by referring to good university guides or work together on Unifrog)
- Proof read their Personal Statements but please do not write it for them many admissions tutors say this is the easiest thing to spot
- Encourage them to work hard preparing for exams
- Encourage them to seek advice from the school Careers team if having difficulty in finding a suitable course (tutors will book appointments for students on request)
- Work with them to apply for Student Finance from January onwards students do not need to know their specific university before they start their application
- Encourage them to complete their UCAS online application ASAP we like all applications to be sent before the Christmas holiday

If you have any questions or need further help contact me via....

- Email: <u>awright@rooksheath.harrow.sch.uk</u>
- Phone:
 0208 872 8919

Thank you, Mr Wright

- Useful websites for further information
- Student Finance: https://www.gov.uk/student-finance
- University and course finder: <u>http://www.ucas.com/</u>
- Good University Guides: <u>http://www.theguardian.com/education/univer</u> <u>sityguide</u> <u>http://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/</u>
- Online help and advice: <u>https://sacu-student.com/</u>
- <u>https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applyin</u> g-university/ucas-undergraduate-adviceparents-and-guardians