

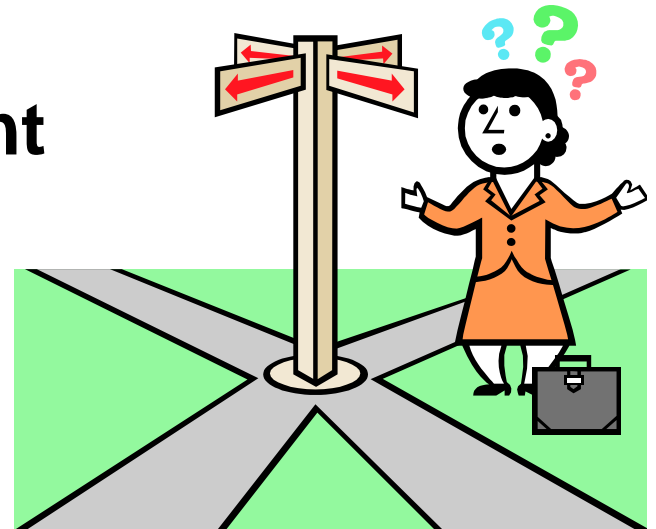
APPLYING TO UNIVERSITY: A GUIDE FOR PARENTS

September 2020 or 2021 entry

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

Student choices after A Levels.....

- **University**
- **Gap Year**
- **Internship or Employment**
- **Apprenticeships**
- **Part-time courses**



Applying for an apprenticeship: All 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 the new 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/ucas/undergraduate/getting-started/apprenticeships-uk/degree-apprenticeships>

The screenshot shows the GOV.UK website interface for finding an apprenticeship. At the top, it says 'GOV.UK Find an apprenticeship' and 'BETA This is a new service - your feedback helps improve it.' The main heading is 'Find an apprenticeship' with the subtext 'Search and apply for an apprenticeship in England'. There are two tabs: 'Search' and 'Browse'. Under 'Search', there is a 'Keywords (optional)' section with a text input field and a dropdown menu set to 'All'. Below that is the 'Your location' section with a text input field and a link to 'use current location'. At the bottom of the search section, there are two dropdown menus: 'Within' set to '5 miles' and 'Apprenticeship level' set to 'All levels'. On the right side, there is a 'Help' section with links for 'How to search for an apprenticeship (interactive walkthrough)', 'Contact us', 'About apprenticeships', and 'Find a traineeship'.

Unifrog

WHAT IS UNIFROG?

A one-stop-shop for getting in.



APPRENTICESHIPS



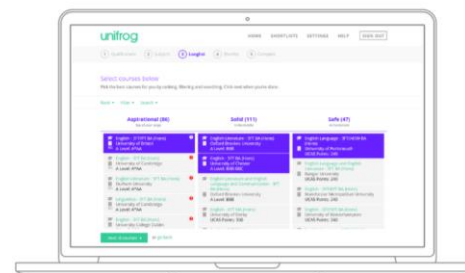
FURTHER EDUCATION



UNIVERSITY



+ LOTS MORE!



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.

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!**

Why University?

- **Career opportunities**
- **Potential earnings**
- **Passion for learning**
- **Once in a lifetime opportunity**
- **Independence – development of social skills**
- **Becoming the norm**
- **Parental decision**



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 – Unifrog, Unistats
- Universities provide links to employers – Milkrounds, work placements, websites (www.prospects.ac.uk)

Unistats website: A very useful place to compare universities and courses

UNISTATS
Compare official course data from universities and colleges

Home Your Unistats Subjects Universities & colleges Course Assistant About Unistats Cymraeg

Subject or course in Institution or location Search More search options

Compare: No courses added
Sign in or register

BSc (Hons) Mathematics

full time, sandwich year (compulsory), year abroad (optional)

[+ Compare](#)

[View similar courses at other universities or colleges >](#)

[Find similar courses at Aston University >](#)

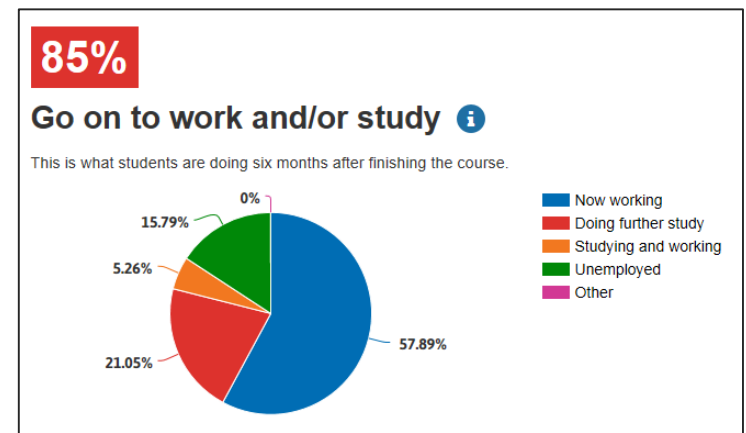
Aston University 1 location: Aston University
See this course at the Aston University website

Your measures Overview Employment & accreditation Student satisfaction Cost & accommodation Study information Entry information

KIS stands for Key Information Set. The KIS is an official overview of comparable information on higher education courses for prospective students.

WHAT IS UNISTATS?
Unistats is an independent website offering a range of useful info and statistics on university courses.

QUICK ANSWERS



£24,000

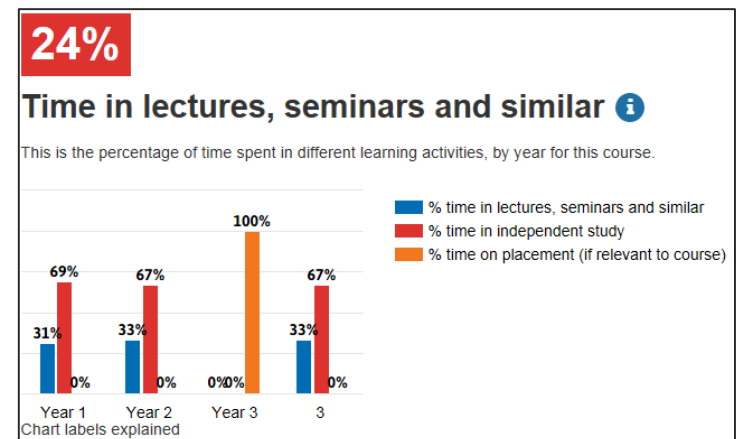
Average salary six months after the course

Typical salary range: £19,000.00 - £27,000.00

Average salary across the UK after taking a similar course

£22,000.00 after six months (salary range: £18,000.00 - £27,000.00)
£29,000.00 after 40 months (salary range: £24,000.00 - £35,000.00)

[More on Employment & accreditation >](#)



Financial payback-is it worth getting a degree?

- YES or NO?
- UK university graduates between 30 and 44 earn 77% more than those without.
- Average starting salary for graduate vacancies is higher.

Subject	Graduate employment or self-employment	Non-graduate employment or self-employment
Dentistry	£30,775	—
Medicine	£29,383	—
Geology	£29,182	£14,558
Chemical Engineering	£27,722	£16,000
Economics	£26,940	£16,630
General Engineering	£26,294	£19,859
Mechanical Engineering	£25,703	£16,761
Veterinary Medicine	£25,690	£18,880
Mathematics	£24,296	£16,196
Electrical and Electronic Engineering	£24,214	£15,510
Aeronautical and Manufacturing Engineering	£24,133	£16,008
Physics & Astronomy	£23,964	£16,687
Civil Engineering	£23,707	£15,774
Social Work	£23,445	£14,391
East and South Asian Studies	£22,922	£18,429
Complementary Medicine	£22,818	£14,205
Computer Science	£22,793	£15,780
Nursing	£22,626	£17,403
Politics	£22,479	£15,251
Business & Management Studies	£22,103	£15,910
All Subjects	£22,057	£15,376

Trends in the Graduate Employment Market

- Media and teaching are the most popular destinations.
- Investment banking, marketing and accounting are next most popular job sectors.
- 70% of all advertised vacancies were open to graduates from any degree discipline.
- Employers value the “soft” transferable skills over subject knowledge.
- However, engineering and technology require specific subject knowledge (and tend to pay better).

How much does university cost?

There are two main costs:

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

1. Tuition Fees

- They depend on what and where a student studies
- For 2019, universities and colleges can charge up to £9,250 a year (£8,354 was the 2014 average). Fees for 2020 have not been finalised yet but initially were agreed to be around £9,500 – this might not happen due to it being so unpopular with voters and recent calls for fees to be reduced to £7,500 per year.
- Don't forget that some courses have extra expenses too, such as costumes for drama, protective wear for engineering or archaeology, or travel for languages or hospitality courses

How do I pay the fees? Tuition Fee Loan

Student finance, loans and universities

- Loan available to match tuition fee charged
- Available to all eligible students
- 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 working
- Not compulsory
- Check website for more details:
- <https://www.gov.uk/student-finance>

<https://www.gov.uk/student-finance/loans-and-grants>

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

- Covers accommodation, food, travel and course resources
- Will vary on where students study (most universities have online calculators available)
- Students are eligible for a **maintenance loan paid in three instalments** which they have to pay back. There are no government GRANTS available anymore for undergraduate study.

Full-time student	2018 to 2019 academic year	2019 to 2020 academic year
Living at home	Up to £7,324	Up to £7,529
Living away from home, outside London	Up to £8,700	Up to £8,944
Living away from home, in London	Up to £11,354	Up to £11,672
You spend a year of a UK course studying abroad	Up to £9,963	Up to £10,242

Student living costs calculators:

Google “university cost of living calculator” for lots of examples

Living costs calculator GBP USD EUR CNY
INR

LEVEL OF STUDY
 Undergraduate Postgraduate

NATIONALITY
 UK Rest of EU Outside the EU

ACCOMMODATION
 University residence Rented accommodation (4 people sharing)

Item	Per week	Per month	Per year (271 days)
Rent (including bills)	£87.82	£381.86	£3,400.00
Food	£33.00	£143.49	£1,277.57
Books and copying	£8.75	£38.05	£338.75
Social	£30.00	£130.44	£1,161.43
Clothes	£7.50	£32.61	£290.36
Laundry and toiletries	£5.00	£21.74	£193.57
Travel	£9.00	£39.13	£348.43
Telephone/mobile and TV licence (assuming a TV licence for each bedroom is bought)	£8.50	£36.96	£329.07
Total	£189.57	£824.29	£7,339.18

How will students repay these loans?

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

Loan Repayments

Salary	Amount of salary from which 9% will be deducted	Monthly repayments
£25,000	£4,000	£30.00
£30,000	£9,000	£67.00
£35,000	£14,000	£105.00
£40,000	£19,000	£142.00
£45,000	£24,000	£180.00

Interest Rates on student loans

- Interest is added to your loan immediately from when you first borrow money.
- The rate of interest varies on how quickly you pay the loan back – it actually increases if you pay the loan back more quickly than the minimum payments
- The minimum interest rate is currently 6.3% (The Retail Price Index [3.3%] plus 3%)

More about interest rates

- Interest charges on student loans are becoming increasingly unpopular.
- This is because they are linked to the Retail Price Index (RPI) which increased substantially in March 2017 to 3% and is currently 3.3%. Consequently interest rates on student loans have increased from 4.6% in 2016/7 to 6.1% from September 2017 to currently 6.3%.
- Furthermore, students have to pay interest on loans whilst still at university. Therefore, they accrue interest for at least three years before starting to pay their loans off.

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

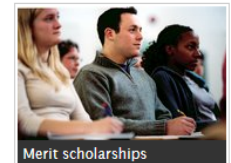
As an institution in the top one per cent of world universities*, we are committed to attracting bright, ambitious students from all backgrounds onto our courses. Scholarships are available to talented students across our subject areas.

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 highest-achieving, 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.
2. 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 2020):

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 £8,944

£26,832

(Living away from home outside London)

Total debt = £54,582 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 screenshot shows the UCAS search tool interface. At the top left is the UCAS logo and the text "Search tool". Below this is a "Search courses" section with a dropdown menu for "Where do you normally live?", radio buttons for "Search courses available in" (2015 and 2016), and a link for "Click here for more info". There are three input fields: "Course" (with placeholder "Enter a course title"), "Provider" (with placeholder "Enter a university, college or conservatoire"), and "Location" (with placeholder "Enter a country, county, city or town"). A "Search >" button is at the bottom right of this section. To the right is a "Don't know what to study?" section with a "Browse >" button and a small image of students. Below the search tool is a "UCAS Search tool" section with text: "Use our new search to find undergraduate courses and courses at conservatoires. We'll be adding all our other courses soon - until then, click the links below." followed by a list: "• Postgraduate courses", "• Postgraduate teacher training courses", and "• Foundation degrees". To the right of this text is a hexagonal image of two students looking at a tablet.

unifrog

HOME SHORTLISTS

- 1 Qualifications
- 2 Subjects
- 3 Longlist
- 4 Shortlist
- 5 Complete



Search our database of every University Course in the UK to find the best 5 Courses for you

The Guardian's Good University Guide:

Online guides offer detailed guidance now on subjects as well as universities

Sociology										
Find out more about studying sociology » Key to headings »										
Rank 2015	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 6 months
1	Cambridge	100	92	94.5	74.1	13.7	7	546	8	81
2	Manchester	84.4	91	92.8	78.4	9.3	10	391	6	52
3	Warwick	82.2	92	91.6	68	16.1	10	428	6	64
4	UEA	81.8	90.1	94.7	69.1	6.3	8	446	-	-
4	Bath	81.8	89.1	91	66.4	14.1	8	416	8	71
6	Exeter	81.3	95	94.8	78.5	14.2	5	408	7	-
7	Edinburgh	80.4	86	89.8	56.8	16.4	10	453	9	-
8	Huddersfield	79.3	100	99.5	89.8	20.5	5	252	8	-
9	Surrey	78.6	89	92.3	70.1	15.8	8	401	8	58
10	Durham	77.4	90	84.5	68.7	18.7	6	431	8	70
11	Birmingham	76.6	76.8	75.7	61.7	17.2	10	380	9	88
12	Kent	74.9	93.1	88.5	66.2	12.9	8	363	6	68
13	Bristol	74	81	92	68.9	20.6	7	437	6	61
14	Leeds	72.4	86	90.5	68.3	18	7	399	8	57
15	Portsmouth	71.7	96	93.5	73.3	21.9	6	323	9	55

SACU Spartan test: Career Cloud

For students who have no idea what career they want to follow



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 (as a download on the school website) also lots of video clips to help explain the different stages of the application process
- Students have two guides available on Canvas and the school website 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 - UCAS APPLY
- One UCAS application form, FIVE choices, £25 fee
- One personal statement written by the student
- One UCAS reference written by the college
- 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:
15th October for applications to Oxford and Cambridge Universities and all medicine, dentistry and veterinary science courses.
15th 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
- 1st May: Final Decisions Time (students have to nominate 1 Firm and 1 Insurance)

BMAT / UKCAT / 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 www.bmat.org.uk
www.lnat.ac.uk www.ukcat.org.uk

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



- **RESEARCH,RESEARCH,RESEARCH!**
Given time in tutorials and enrichment week
- 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:
 1. To demonstrate commitment to career choice
 2. 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
- Co-operate with your tutors – they are a very important aspect of your application
- Universities love early applications

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 and entrance exams (Lumina programme plus support from Mr Macaulay)
- Tutorial programme – most 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 Malins or Mr Wright to check all aspects of the UCAS application

WHAT HAPPENS IF...?

- **UCAS Extra:** March – June
(for students without any offers)
- **Results and Confirmation** of place
Mid August
- **Clearing:** Mid August – September
(for students with lower than predicted grades)
- **Adjustment** Mid August for 5 days
(for students with higher 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)
- Help them check course details and entry requirements on www.ucas.com 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 for exams
- Encourage them to seek advice from the College 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 I can help you....

- Email:
awright@rooksheath.harrow.sch.uk
- Phone:
0208 872 8919
- Useful websites for further information
- Costs of studying at university:
<http://www.nus.org.uk/en/advice/money-and-funding/average-costs-of-living-and-study/>
- Student Finance:
<https://www.gov.uk/student-finance>
- University and course finder:
<http://www.ucas.com/>
- Good University Guides:
<http://www.theguardian.com/education/universityguide>
<http://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/>
- Online help and advice:
<https://sacu-student.com/>
- <https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/ucas-undergraduate-advice-parents-and-guardians>

Thank you, Mr Wright