



# **After Sixth Form – A guide to University and Apprenticeships**

## **2021 ENTRY**



# Key Questions

- Have I looked carefully at the case **for** going to university?
- Do I want a degree now or in the future?
- Do I want to do it full time at a university?
- **OR**..... Am I ready to start in the working world at the same time?
- Do I just want to go out into the workplace now?
- Do I need time to think about my future?



# Which route?

**We try to encourage students to keep all options open and many of our students will apply for a mixture of apprenticeships and university courses and employment. This then gives them the option to make the final decision later.**

The list below gives an idea of the routes that past students have taken:

- University
- Employment
- School leaver programmes - offer the chance to work towards a degree and/or professional qualification. (e.g. Marks and Spencer)
- Apprenticeship
- Degree Apprenticeship
- Gap Year for example teaching Sport in Australia
- Sport Scholarship American university
- Distance Learning



# Types of Apprenticeships

## Types of Apprenticeship

	<i>Type</i>	<i>Entry Requirement</i>	<i>Leads to Equivalent of</i>
Level 2	<b>Intermediate</b>	-	5 GCSEs
Level 3	<b>Advanced</b>	5 GCSEs	2 A-Levels
Level 4 & 5	<b>Higher</b>	A-Levels/NVQ Level 3	HNC/Foundation Degree/HND
Level 6	<b>Degree</b>	3+ A-Levels	Bachelor's Degree
Level 7	<b>Masters</b>	Bachelors Degree	Master's Degree



# Degree Apprenticeship



**STUDY TOWARDS A FULL BACHELOR'S DEGREE WITHOUT THE BURDEN OF STUDENT DEBT**



**EARN WHILE YOU LEARN**



**FULLY FUNDED BY YOUR EMPLOYER AND THE GOVERNMENT**



**ALTERNATIVE ROUTE TO TRADITIONAL UNIVERSITY**



**90% OF APPRENTICES STAY IN EMPLOYMENT**

Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, Apprentice survey, 2014

**A LONG-TERM CAREER PATH**



**ON THE JOB TRAINING**




**TAUGHT BY INDUSTRY EXPERTS**





# How to find Apprenticeships

- It is actually much easier to submit an application for universities because a student selects the course they wish to study and then selects up to 5 universities and the form is sent off. It is also possible to send off the UCAS form with less than 5 choices and add choices later, up to 5 in total.
- In the case of apprenticeships students need to decide the type of apprenticeship they wish to do and then look at the individual websites of companies offering those apprenticeships on a very regular basis to see when the application dates will become advertised.
- Students should also look at the apprenticeship guide on the UCAS website and on the unifrog platform.
- Companies that Carre's students have been offered apprenticeships in the past include Dyson, Rolls Royce, Jaguar Land Rover, Deloitte, Ernst & Young and MOD.
- Mr Scholefield, Mr Smith and I regularly send out e mail alerts regarding apprenticeship opportunities and dates for applications to be submitted, so it is important that students look out for these e mails
- This link will take you to a download of 'The Complete Guide to Degree and Higher Degree Apprenticeships 20/21' <https://www.ucas.com/file/301156/download?token=1kr35v3v>
- The next slide includes useful websites on apprenticeships



# Apprenticeships - Useful Websites

- <https://www.ucas.com/apprenticeships-in-the-uk>
- <https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>
- <http://university.which.co.uk/teachers/introduce-higher-education-options/higher-and-degree-apprenticeships-guide-download>
- <https://www.notgoingtouni.co.uk/>
- <http://www.apprenticeshipguide.co.uk/>

# GOV.UK Find an Apprenticeship

 GOV.UK

Search



[Home](#) > [Education and Learning](#) > [Apprenticeships, 14 to 19 education and training for work](#)

## Find an apprenticeship

[Search the find an apprenticeship service](#) for apprenticeships in England.

You don't need an account to search.

### Create an account

You need to [create an account](#) to:

- apply for apprenticeships
- get email and text alerts about new apprenticeships and your applications
- track your applications

### Log in to your account

You need your email address and password to [log in](#).

The process is different in [Scotland](#), [Northern Ireland](#) and [Wales](#).

### Contact

#### National Apprenticeship Helpdesk

[nationalhelpdesk@findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk](mailto:nationalhelpdesk@findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk)

Telephone: 0800 015 0400

[Find out about call charges](#)

#### Related content

[Become an apprentice](#)

[Find a traineeship](#)

Explore the topic

#### Apprenticeships

[Apprenticeships, 14 to 19 education and training for work](#)

#### Elsewhere on the web

[Help with your application](#)

**Video Guide:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7IqFUxSLufw>

**GOV.UK Website:** <https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>





# Guide to university application

We try to encourage students to keep all options open and some students will apply for a mixture of apprenticeships and university courses and employment. This then gives them the option to make the final decision later.

The following slides will include information on:

- University finance including students loans, bursaries and scholarships
- Repaying the loan
- Possible benefits of university
- What graduates do and what graduates might earn
- The UCAS application process and key dates
- How to choose universities
- Oxbridge applications
- How to choose courses
- UCAS tariff
- The personal statement
- The reference
- BMAT UCAT LNAT tests



# University Finance

[www.moneysavingexpert.com/students/student-loans-tuition-fees-changes](http://www.moneysavingexpert.com/students/student-loans-tuition-fees-changes)

The link above to Martin Lewis moneysaving expert is essential reading and explains in detail the situation with student loans (tuition loans and maintenance loans).

## Tuition Loans

- These cover the full cost of tuition fees and are available to all eligible first time students. They are paid directly to your university every year by SFE – Student Finance England – a service provided by the Student Loans Company.
- **Tuition fees maximum £9,250. (2020)**



# Maintenance Loans

## 2021 Entry

In addition to the Tuition Loan students can apply for a Maintenance Loans. These are available for eligible full-time students to pay for things such as rent, food and bills. **The way some of this is decided is by means testing, which is where they look at how much your household earns each year, usually based on your parents' income.** All students are eligible for at least 65% of the maximum.

- £9,203 maximum for students living away from home outside of London
- £12,010 maximum for students living away from home in London
- £7,747 maximum for students living at home



# Bursaries and Scholarships

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

These are provided by universities and colleges, or other organisations like charities and businesses, which **you don't have to pay back**. Not everybody can get a bursary or scholarship, and they are awarded to different students for different reasons – like your household income and how well you've done in your exams.



# Repaying the Loan

- Repayments depend solely on how much you earn once you graduate/leave university. If you choose a career that isn't highly paid, you won't need to repay much at all – some won't pay a penny.
- You **repay 9% of everything you earn annually above £26,575 (current figure) of pre-tax salary once you've left university**. Therefore if you've started repaying the loan, but then lose your job or take a pay cut, your repayments drop accordingly.
- <https://www.ucas.com/student-finance-england/repaying-your-student-loan>



## How much will I repay each month?

If you earn £30,000 in a year, what do you repay?

If you earn £30,000 you'll repay £25.69 a month. This is because £30,000 is £3,425 above the threshold of £26,575.

9% of £3425 is £308. £308 per year works out at paying back £25.69 each month

- The **loan is wiped out 30 years** after a student graduates.

Yearly income before tax	Monthly income before tax	Monthly repayment
£26,575	£2,214	£0
£27,000	£2,250	£3
£29,500	£2,458	£21
£31,000	£2,583	£39
£33,000	£2,750	£54



# When do I Pay?

No-one has to pay fees upfront. The government will provide loans for your time at university so you or your parents do not have to save up all the money beforehand.

You only repay when you earn enough. Once you leave university you only repay the loan if you earn more than £26,575 a year. If not, you don't repay. And if you never earn enough (although we hope for you that you do) you never repay a thing.

[Think of loans like a graduate tax.](#)

Student loans DO NOT go on your credit file.



# A degree really can make a difference

- It has been estimated that approximately 40% of the jobs in the UK economy are now graduate level, therefore a degree is an additional qualification when seeking employment
- A good degree (First or 2.1) **DOES** make a difference in the competition for jobs





# What do graduates earn

- Graduate starting salaries at the UK's leading graduate employers reach an average of £25,000 and a median of £30,000
- More than a quarter of top graduate programmes will pay new recruits more than £35,000 when they start work and four organisations are offering salaries in excess of £45,000 to this year's graduates.
- The most generous salaries in 2018 were those on offer from investment banks (median of £45,000), law firms (median of £40,000), banking & finance firms (median of £36,500) and oil & energy companies (median of £32,500), Dentistry £34,840, Chemical Engineering £31,824.
- One of the highest published graduate starting salaries for 2108 is Aldi (£44,000 plus Audi A4 car)
- <https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/careers/what-do-graduates-do-and-earn>



# A very useful website

<https://luminare.prospects.ac.uk/what-do-graduates-do?>

- The website above gives an excellent overview into the types of jobs that graduates went into after graduation.
- It illustrates very clearly that the roles were extremely diverse and often not linked with the subject of the degree.



# How employable are graduates?

- The ten universities most targeted by Britain's top graduate employers in 2015 were Manchester, Nottingham, Warwick, Cambridge, Oxford, Durham, Bristol, Imperial College London, University College London and Leeds.
- BUT.....recruiters stated that graduates who have had no previous **work experience** at all are unlikely to be successful during the selection process and have little or no chance of receiving a job offer for their organisations' graduate programmes.
- Recruiters have confirmed that 31% of entry-level positions are expected to be filled by graduates who have already worked for their organisations, either through paid internships, industrial placements or vacation work.
- <https://luminare.prospects.ac.uk/what-do-graduates-do?> this gives an annual review of graduate vacancies & starting salaries at the UK's leading employers



# What do employers want?

A degree is not the only benefit of a university education. Choosing the right degree at the best institution will also provide students with the skills employers are looking for including:

***Self reliance, people skills, team work, presentation skills, communication, leadership, IT skills, numeracy, problem solving, technical skills, business acumen, diplomacy, dedication, time management***



# Work Experience and Networking

- Some courses offer the chance of work experience (70% led to a graduate job offer)
- Sandwich courses (37.4% led to a position at the placement)
- Some courses include a year abroad
- Careers advice and networking
- 'Milk round' – employers visit universities to find prospective employers and encourage them to apply to their companies



# Additional benefits

- Over 81% of graduates who graduated in 2018 were working in a 'graduate job' related to their long-term career plans just 3 years after graduating
- 6.3% were unemployed
- 87% said they were satisfied with their career progress
- The student experience report - 96% reported that going to university was a worthwhile experience - life changing
- University gives opportunities for extracurricular activities highly rated by graduate recruiters.
- A degree might lead to a more interesting job



# What do graduates do?

- To find out the most up to date and detailed information about what graduates do when they have graduated refer 'What do graduates do'.
- <https://luminate.prospects.ac.uk/what-do-graduates-do?>
- Copies can be downloaded from the internet.



# Parent Guide ucas

<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/ucas-undergraduate-advice-parents-and-guardians>

- This will give parents an excellent overview of the UCAS application process





# Applying for Higher Education

- UCAS online
- Year 12 students have all been sent details via e-mail from me with how to register for UCAS online
- Students are able to list a maximum of FIVE courses on the application form
- UCAS will accept applications from early September
- Mr Smith and I have sent out a number of important e-mails with lots of information on how to complete the UCAS form and how to start to write a personal statement. It is very important that students regularly open and read their school e-mails!



# What are the closing date for UCAS?

- **Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science and Oxbridge.**
  
- **15 October**



# What is the closing date for all other applications?

- The closing date for all other courses (except some Art and Design courses)

**15 January**



# Key Dates

- Final UCAS deadline **15 January**
- BUT to meet 15 January deadline your application needs to be complete by beginning of December to allow time for the school to process the form
- We guarantee that the application will reach UCAS for the deadline if it is complete and paid for by **15 December** at the latest.



# How much does UCAS charge for processing applications?

- The fee for applicants is £26
- If you only apply for one course you pay £20
- All students pay online with debit card
- The school cannot send the form to UCAS until the fee has been paid



# What should students be doing now in preparation

- Fill in as much of the form as possible – this should be ongoing
- Choose up to five courses
- Research universities online and find out as much as possible about the course
- Make a start on a personal statement and write this on the unifrog platform so that tutors can note the progress and give feedback



# How to choose a university

- <https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/what-and-where-study/choosing-course/how-choose-between-undergraduate-courses-and-unis>
  - <https://www.theguardian.com/education/universityguide>
  - <https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/>
  - <https://university.which.co.uk/>
  - The Times Good University Guide
- 
- **Students will need to do lots of research. Aspects to look out for are:**
  - League table positions for your selected course
  - Hours of tuition and numbers of lectures and tutorials / seminars each week
  - Specific course content
  - Style of assessment
  - Does course include a year in industry or abroad or work experience
  - Student satisfaction
  - Employment statistics after graduation



# Applications for Oxford or Cambridge

There's one clear requirement: minimum of AAA or A\*AA (or higher!).

Oxford and Cambridge are collegiate universities. You need to choose a university and college (or make an open application). Do not worry too much about which college

Students can apply for either Oxford or Cambridge but not both universities

A majority of subjects will require students to take a pre interview test (in school on Wednesday 4 November) to help select the students who will be invited to interview in December.

Students will need to find out which tests are required and book them with Mrs Williams the examination secretary before the deadline of 15 October. It is the responsibility of the student to do this.

Some subjects will give students a test when they attend their interview.

<http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/applying-to-oxford/guide/admissions-tests>

<https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/applying/admission-assessments>

Choose a course you are really passionate about and focus on your passion and genuine academic interest in this course when writing your personal statement.

Read widely now around the subject & show this wider reading in your personal statement.

Practice talking about your subject: not just with your teachers and students, but with friends and family members. Talking to 'non-experts' is an excellent exercise as it gets you thinking in new ways, and helps you to find new ways of expressing your thoughts which will be invaluable preparation for interview.





## How to select a course to study

- The most important thing to consider when choosing what to do at university is whether you **really enjoy the subject**. You will be spending 3 or 4 years studying and will only be successful if you really are very keen to learn more about the subject.
- For some students it might be worthwhile considering courses that include work experience / year abroad / year in industry. These placements often lead to an offer of employment after graduation.
- Do not think that you will have to go into a job that is directly related to your subject. Many graduate recruitment schemes will not ask for a specific subject they will be open to all disciplines. Refer to <https://luminare.prospects.ac.uk/what-do-graduates-do?> to see the great diversity of graduate jobs that History graduates took up. Many were totally unrelated to History. (see page 45 of the download on this site)



# Essential Resources

- Unifrog
- Heap Guide
- Times Good University Guide
- Student planner pages 131 - 155
- <https://www.theguardian.com/education/universityguide>
- <https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/>
- <https://university.which.co.uk/>
  
- <https://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/university/personal-statements>
  
- <https://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/university/personal-statements/personal-statements-by-subject>
  
- <https://www.ucas.com/file/4251/download?token=KIC9IMgH>
  
- <https://www.ucas.com/file/4261/download?token=u7I6M9Q5>
  
- <https://www.ucas.com/advisers/which-for-teachers/help-your-students-get-into-uni/how-to-help-your-students-write-their-personal-statement-tips-activities-and-resources>
  
- <https://targetcareers.co.uk/uni/applying-for-uni/314659-how-to-structure-your-ucas-personal-statement>
  
- <https://www2.le.ac.uk/offices/scs/resources/writing-personal-statements>



# Revised UCAS tariff for A Levels

- A\* 56 points BTEC Distinction\*
  - A 48 points BTEC Distinction
  - B 40 points
  - C 32 points BTEC Merit
  - D 24 points
  - E 16 points BTEC Pass
- 
- Extended Project Qualification is half an A level so worth half the number of points above.



# When completing your UCAS form do you list your universities and colleges in order of preference?

- Universities are listed in alphabetical order. No university is aware which other institutions you have selected



# Is it possible to apply for completely different courses on the UCAS form?

- It is not advisable to choose vastly different courses when completing a UCAS application. Although the other universities are not aware of the remaining choices listed on the form, applicants would find it impossible to produce a convincing Personal Statement that would apply to differing disciplines.



# Do all universities and courses accept deferred entry?

- Some institutions may not accept deferred entry
- It is advisable to check carefully with each college or university
- Some universities do not recommend it for Maths



# What is the Personal Statement?

- This is the part of the form that gives the applicant the opportunity to convince an Admissions Tutor that they are a student worth having! It includes details of why you have chosen your particular courses and some persuasive details about you.
- <https://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/university/personal-statements>
- <https://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/university/personal-statements/personal-statements-by-subject>



# Is it better to apply earlier rather than later through UCAS for admissions to HE?

- It is sensible to apply as early as possible. Admissions Tutors do run out of time and will probably consider early applications, because they are fewer in volume, in less of a rush than those arriving later
- Do not however rush to choose courses and then find you have selected inappropriate ones and need to make changes later





# Getting your form ready to send to UCAS

- Once your form is complete you send your form electronically to your tutor will check your form and your tutor will provide a reference
- GCSEs, and any other qualifications, will be stated on the UCAS form by you
- Your teachers provide your predicted grades, and they are included in the reference section
- The reference takes time to write as it needs to support your application to help you secure a place – it is also proof read several times so can take time to be processed
- You must allow your tutor at least 1 week (when few references have been submitted)



# What is included in the school reference?

- Attitude to study, potential for study at HE level, evidence of interest in the chosen subject, relevant work experience, written and oral skills, level of independent learning, evidence of teamwork, practical dexterity, extra curricular and school involvement, attendance and punctuality

## **Universities want to know...**

- **Your strengths**
- **Justification of predicted grades**
- **Passion for the course / learning in general**
- **Highly self-motivated**
- **Independent learning skills**



# What happens when the UCAS form has been sent?

- UCAS send your form to all your chosen universities at the same time
- Each university only receives details relating to that particular university and course
- Some universities will interview but most will send details of the conditions of an offer (or rejection)
- Applicants for teaching courses have to be interviewed before they can be given an offer
- News appears on 'track'



# The competition out there!

- It is well-known that Oxford and Cambridge Universities reject a large number of applicants with straight As at A Level
- But so do other highly competitive universities
- ***“I can accept the rejection from Cambridge, as so many able students apply, but I could not understand why I ... was rejected by the other universities”, which were Durham, Edinburgh and York. (The Times)***
- The applicant above was not aware of how competitive it is out there!
- Spread your risk by choosing a *range* of courses, all of which you have researched, visited and feel completely happy to attend



# UCAS extra and UCAS Clearing

- **What is UCAS Extra?**
- UCAS Extra operates from March to June. It offers applicants who have received all rejections, or students who have turned down all offers, the opportunity to contact institutions that still have course vacancies. Institutions are contacted one at a time.
- **What do you understand by the term 'Clearing'?**
- Clearing is the final part of the application cycle. It aims to match unplaced students to courses with vacancies. It is used by students who have received no offers, people who have failed to achieve the grades required, applicants who have declined all offers and very, very late applicants



# WHAT DO I DO NOW?

- Register for *Apply*
- Write an effective Personal Statement
- Research thoroughly your courses and universities
- Aptitude tests – in some cases eg BMAT, LNAT, UCAT and Oxbridge tests - check website for full details
- Students should check Carre's e-mails carefully for help, hints and tips.



# BMAT Institution Courses requiring BMAT

- [University of Cambridge](#)  
Medicine
- [Imperial College London](#)  
Medicine
- [University of Oxford Medical School](#)  
Medicine                      Biomedical Sciences
- [University College London](#)
- Medicine
- [Leeds University](#)
- Medicine                      Dentistry
- [Brighton and Sussex Medical School](#)
- Medicine
- [Lancaster –](#)
- Medicine

**<http://www.admissionstestingservice.org/for-test-takers/bmat/>**



# Registering for BMAT

## Date of test and cost

Register here at school with Mrs T. Williams exam officer.

### Deadlines

- **1 September** : registration opens
- **1 October** : Standard entry closing date
- **15 October** : Last date for entries. Candidates or centres who miss this deadline date should contact Cambridge Assessment
- **Wednesday 4 November** : Test – in school – for the October sitting
- **Friday 27 November** : results released

### Standard entry fee £49 (2020-21)

- School bursary holders can apply through BMAT to have fee paid

### When is the BMAT test?

- Sit it here at Carre's 9am Wednesday 4 November





# UCAT for Medicine and Dentistry

- UCAT for most Medicine and Dentistry courses.
- There is no single date for sitting the exam,
- Refer to the UCAT website for full details <https://www.ucat.ac.uk/>.
- Registration opens in July.
- Information is subject to change due to recent events.
- Also go on the 'student room' to find out just how much emphasis / importance different universities place on UCAT scores  
<https://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/wiki/UKCAT>



# LNAT

- Some Law courses require students to sit LNAT e.g. Bristol, Oxford, SOAS, Glasgow, UCL, Nottingham, Durham, KCL, LSE.
- Register online
- Sit at a registered centre of your choice
- Check LNAT website for full details
- Refer to [www.lnat.ac.uk](http://www.lnat.ac.uk) for full details.
- Register in August. Testing starts on 1 September.
- Cost £50 (pay online).
- Some bursaries available you need to apply for bursary before booking your test.



## Russell Group Universities

- Birmingham\*
- Bristol\*
- Cambridge\*
- Cardiff
- Edinburgh\*
- Durham\*
- Glasgow
- Imperial College\*
- Exeter
- Imperial College London
- King's College London
- Leeds
- Liverpool
- LSE\*
- Manchester
- Newcastle
- Nottingham\*
- Oxford\*
- Queen Mary London
- Queen's University, Belfast
- Sheffield
- Southampton
- UCL\*
- Warwick\*
- York\*



- **Sutton Trust 30**

- In 2011, the Trust updated its methodology to include the 30 "most highly selective" British universities, which were "also the 30 most selective according to the Times University Guide" for the purpose of illustrating the relative number of students from poor backgrounds enrolled here against the rest of the institutions.- These are, in alphabetical order:
- [University of Bath](#), [University of Birmingham](#), [University of Bristol](#), [University of Cambridge](#), [Cardiff University](#), [Durham University](#), [University of Edinburgh](#), [University of Exeter](#), [University of Glasgow](#), [Imperial College](#), [King's College London](#), [University of Lancaster](#), [University of Leeds](#), [University of Leicester](#), [University of Liverpool](#), [London School of Economics](#), [University of Manchester](#), [University of Newcastle](#), [University of Nottingham](#), [University of Oxford](#), [University of Reading](#), [Royal Holloway, University of London](#), [University of Sheffield](#), [University of Southampton](#), [University of St Andrews](#), [University of Strathclyde](#), [University of Surrey](#), [University College London](#), [University of Warwick](#) and [University of York](#).



# FINANCE

TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT STUDENT  
FINANCE VISIT THE WEBSITES

<https://www.gov.uk/student-finance/new-fulltime-students>

<http://www.moneysavingexpert.com/students/student-loans-tuition-fees-changes>