UCAS

UCAS – YOUR JOURNEY

Last updated: March 2026



Public

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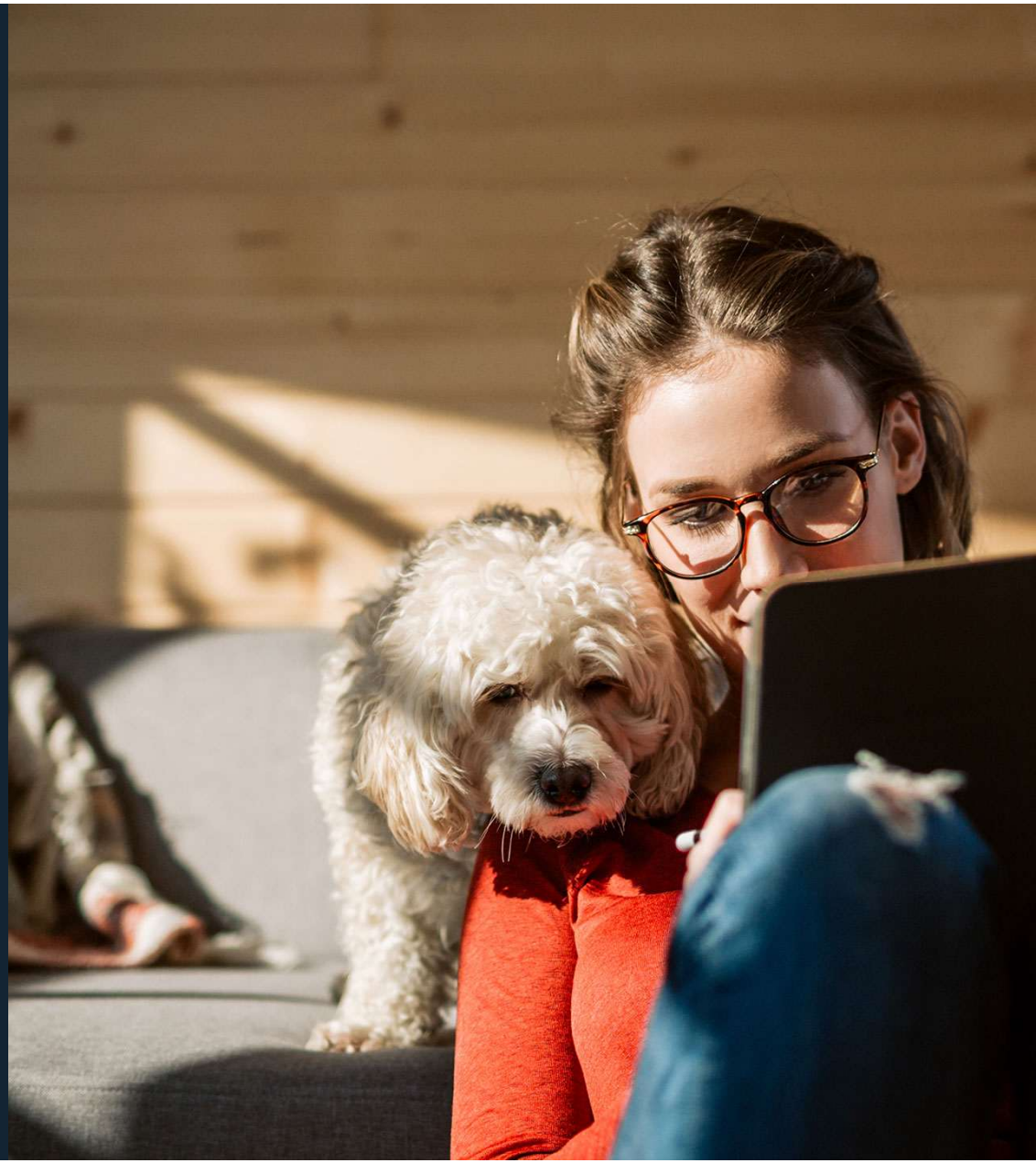
Get ready to:

- Discover the right tools to find your next step.
- Confidently apply to a UK university or college.
- Stay on top of key dates.
- Track your application effortlessly.



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DISCOVER

Explore all your options

YOUR HUB JOURNEY

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1 GET STARTED: REGISTER ON THE HUB

2 BUILD YOUR PROFILE

Explore your favourite subjects, universities, employers, courses, apprenticeships, and more. Create a list of all your options.

3 TAKE THE CAREERS QUIZ

What would you like to do? Find careers that match your personality, interests, and skills.

4 TRY SUBJECT TASTERS

Grab the popcorn and hear real lecturers covering topics you would actually study. Try before you apply. You even get a certificate at the end!

5 EXPLORE THE WORLD OF WORK

Get work experience with top employers like Airbus, the Met Office, and Amazon Future Engineer. Perfect for CVs, applications, and personal statements.



6 FAVOURITE YOUR TOP CAREERS

Click or tap the heart to save what you love as favourites. Not sure which is right for you? We'll show you what's out there.

7 UNIVERSITY, COLLEGE OR APPRENTICESHIP?

Compare all your options side-by-side. Take a closer look at apprenticeships, courses, and job opportunities.

8 DIVE INTO SUBJECT AND INDUSTRY GUIDES

Discover what it's like to study a subject, the career and salary opportunities available, and see what current students and apprentices think.

9 CHAT TO CURRENT STUDENTS

Get messaging! Ask questions, get advice, and see if the university, subject, and location are a good fit for you.



10 ATTEND A LOCAL UCAS DISCOVERY EVENT

Chat with people from different universities and companies. Open your eyes to new options and grab some giveaways.

11 KNOW YOUR FINANCE OPTIONS

Learn about potential study costs and funding options, including student loans and scholarships.

12 BOOK AN OPEN DAY

Get ready for a great day out! You'll get to see the facilities on campus, speak to current staff and students, and explore the local area.

13 MAKE A SHORTLIST

Shortlist your favourite options: university courses, apprenticeship pathways, and further education. Use the Historical Entry Grades Tool to understand the grade profiles previously accepted by universities.

14 STILL DECIDING?

See if a gap year or internship is the best choice for you.

15 START YOUR APPLICATION

Clear on your next step? Then it's time to start applying!

EXPLORE THE HUB: UCAS.COM/HUB

DISCOVER OPTIONS



HIGHER EDUCATION



APPRENTICESHIPS



STUDYING ABROAD



GAP YEAR



GETTING A JOB

Head to UCAS to understand all your options and make the right choices for you.

DISCOVER PATHWAYS

- 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 technical qualifications (HTQs) in England are an example of these.
- Foundation degree: flexible vocational qualification, combining both academic study and workplace learning. It usually takes two years to complete.
- Bachelor's or undergraduate degree: a three to four-year course which can also be available as a part-time option, allowing you to study and work.
- Apprenticeships: typically take between 8 months to 6 years to complete depending on their level. Apprenticeships are offered for levels 2-7 in N.I. and England, levels 2-6 in Wales, and SCQF levels 4-11 in Scotland. All nations offer degree level apprenticeships.

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DISCOVER YOU

Is it right for you?

- Is it something you enjoy? You're investing time and effort
- Is it right for your career path? Check with employers and professional organisations
- What about location? Stay at home, move away, city or rural, transport links
- Is it a learning and assessment style that suits you?
- What will your environment be like?
- What about cost?



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Start your discovery journey

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Your Hub

Your personalised homepage and discovery hub

Hub | For you | Favourites | What to do | Where to go | Search

S

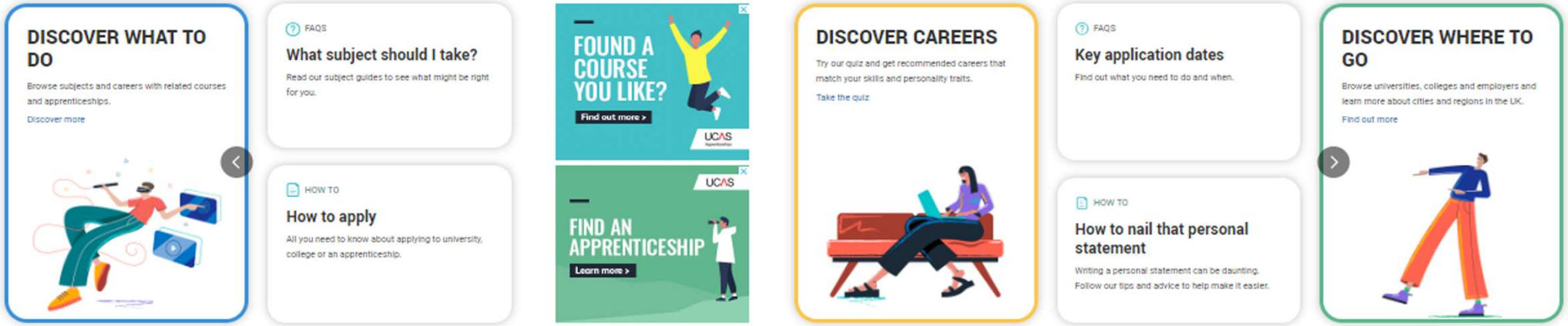
Welcome back Sam

You're applying for Undergraduate courses in 2027 - Change year

Start an application

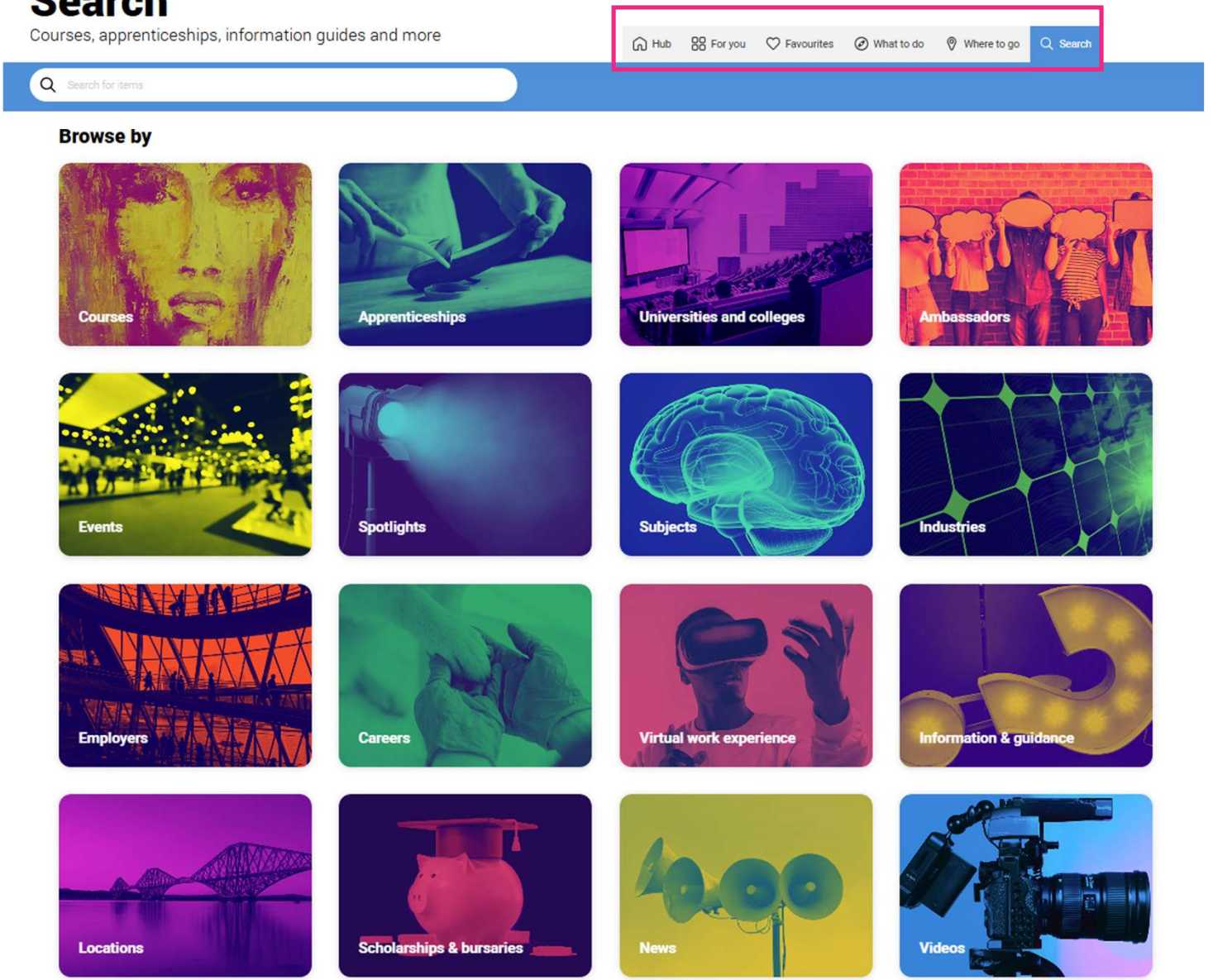
Apply to universities, colleges, or conservatoires to study degrees, HNDs, HNCs, masters degrees, postgraduate diplomas, and doctorates.

Start an application

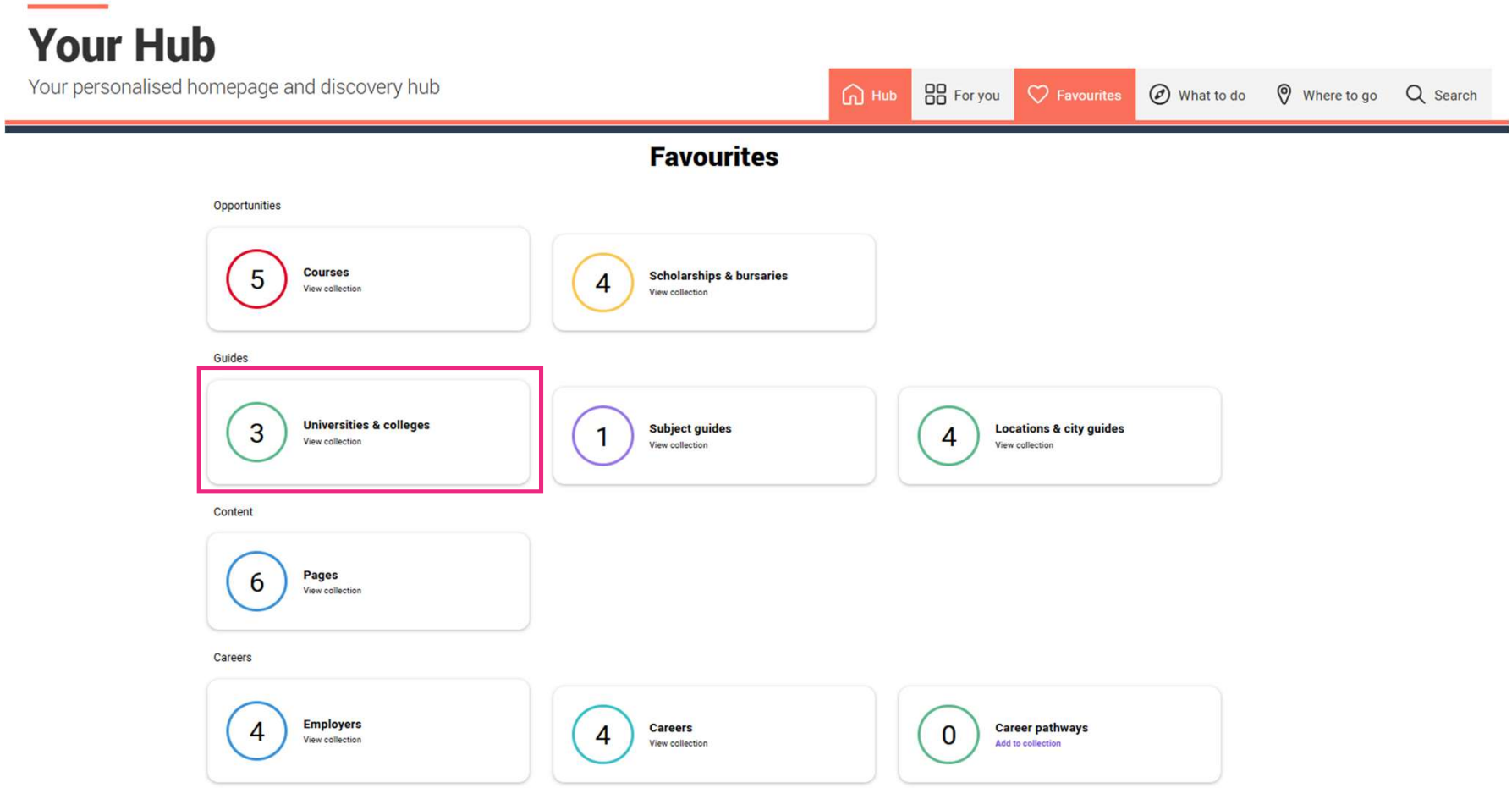


Search

Courses, apprenticeships, information guides and more



BUILD YOUR PROFILE. FAVOURITE AS YOU GO.



UCAS Discover Applying Money & student life International S

Favourite courses

List Grid

You can shortlist up to 5 courses



Animal Bioscience and Management

University Centre Askham Bryan

BSc (Hons) · 3 Years · Full-time · York · 2025

UCAS Tariff: 84 points

Add to Shortlist



Accounting and Finance

University of Plymouth

No option selected, please visit the course details page to review and favourite the available options.

UCAS Tariff: N/A

Add to Shortlist



3D Animation and Visualisation

Glasgow Caledonian University

BSc (Hons) · 4 Years · Full-time · Glasgow · 2026

UCAS Tariff: N/A

Add to Shortlist



Accountancy and Business Law

University of Stirling

BAcc (Hon) · 4 Years · Full-time · Stirling · 2026

UCAS Tariff: N/A

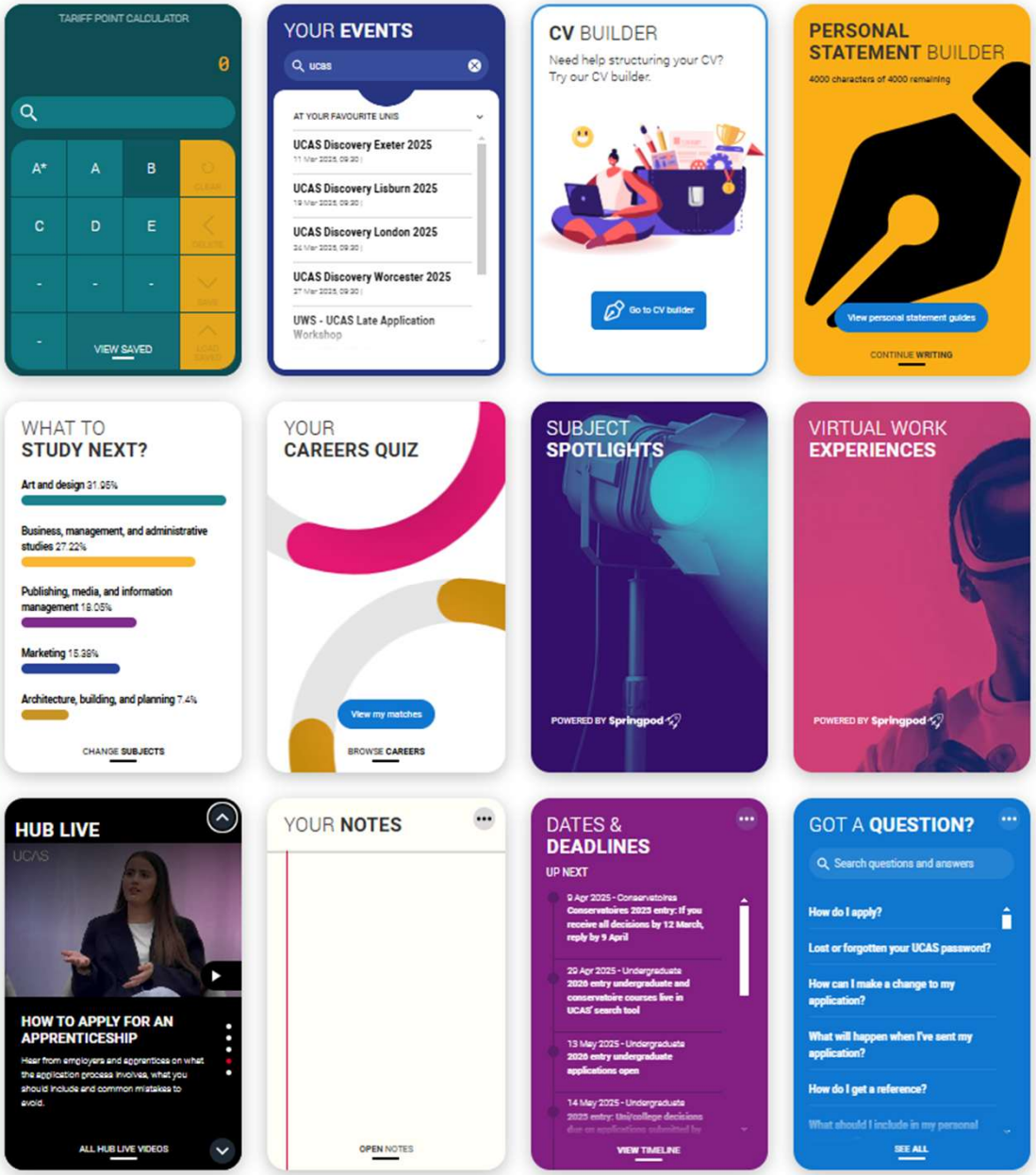
Add to Shortlist



Close

TOOLS FOR SUCCESS

- Explore the Careers Quiz, What to Study Next, Subject Spotlights and Virtual Work Experiences for **career and course inspiration**.
- Use the Tariff Calculator, Personal Statement Builder, and CV Builder to stay on track and **plan your path**.
- Search for events, open days, videos to get expert help and **questions answered**.



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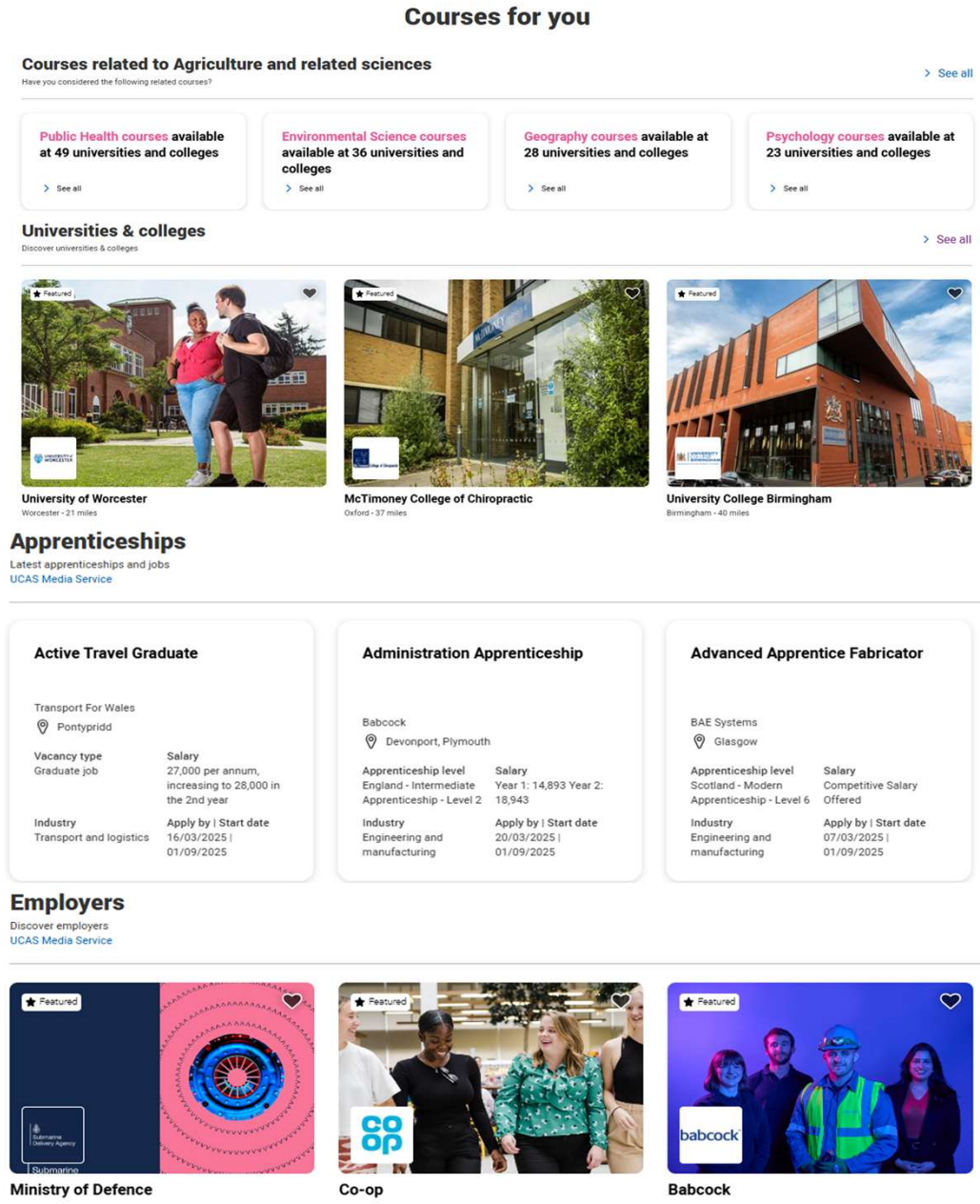
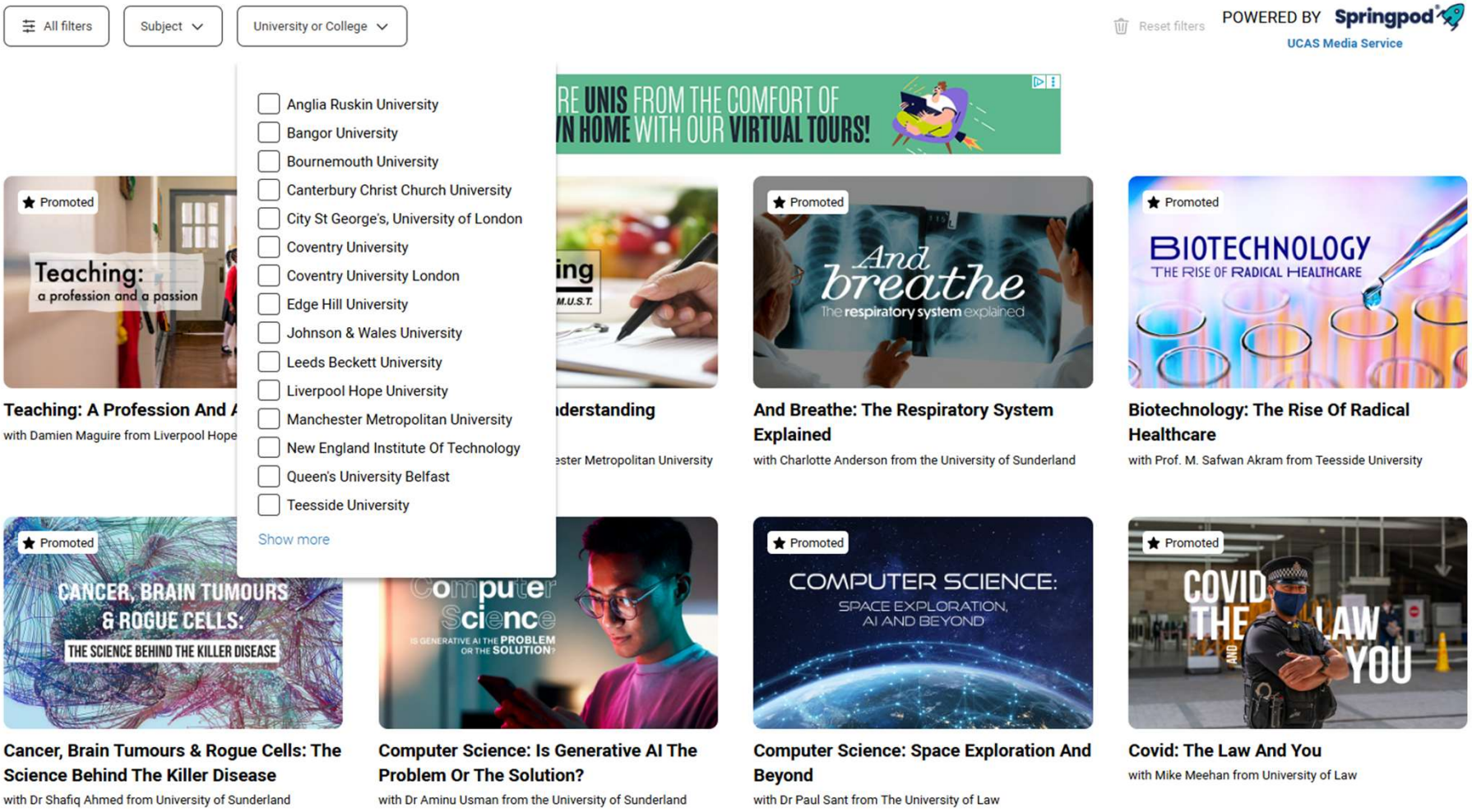
OPTIONS SIDE BY SIDE

Compare all your options side-by-side. Take a closer look at apprenticeships, courses, and job opportunities - all in one place.

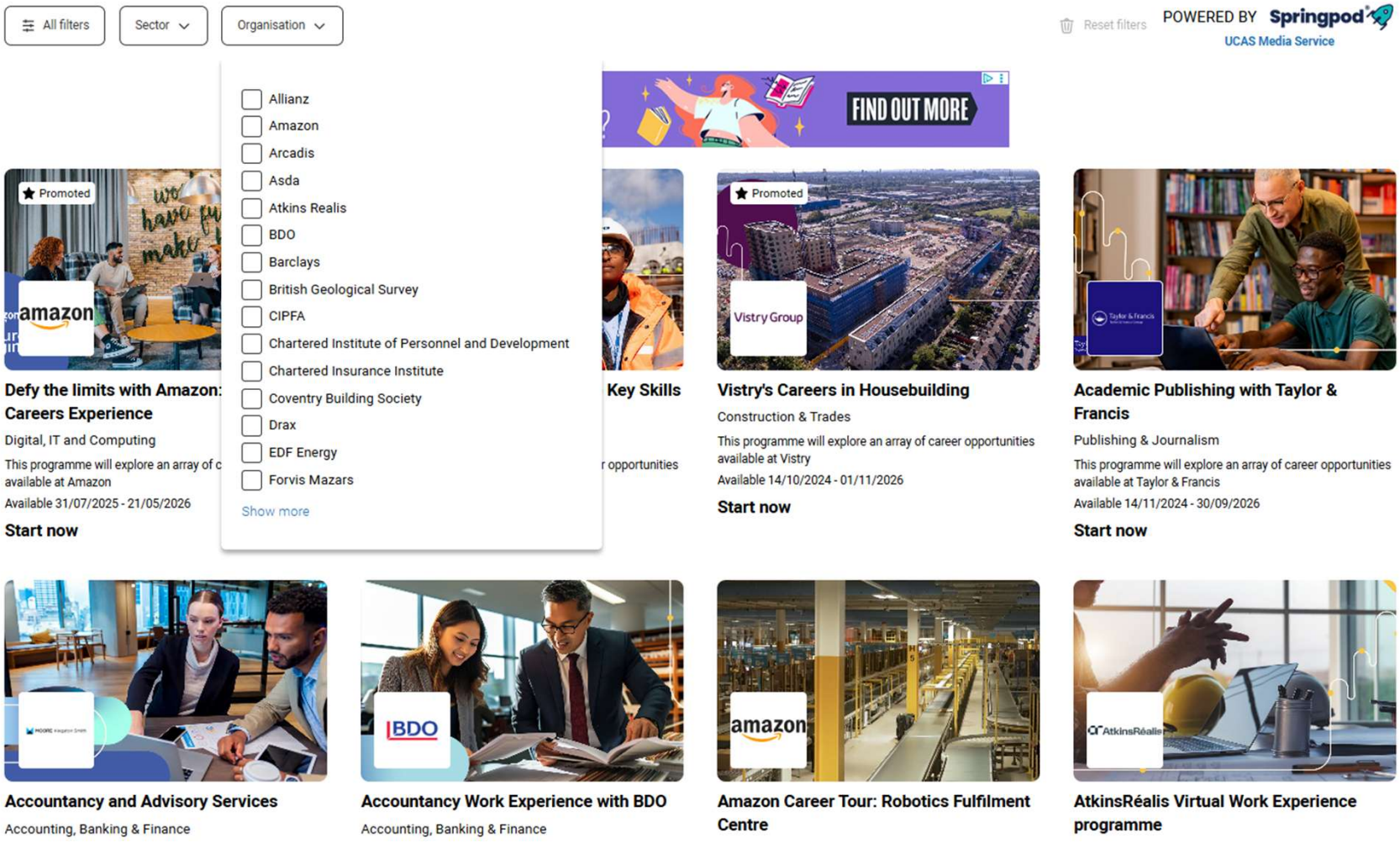
Build your personalised UCAS Hub profile and find your best fit!



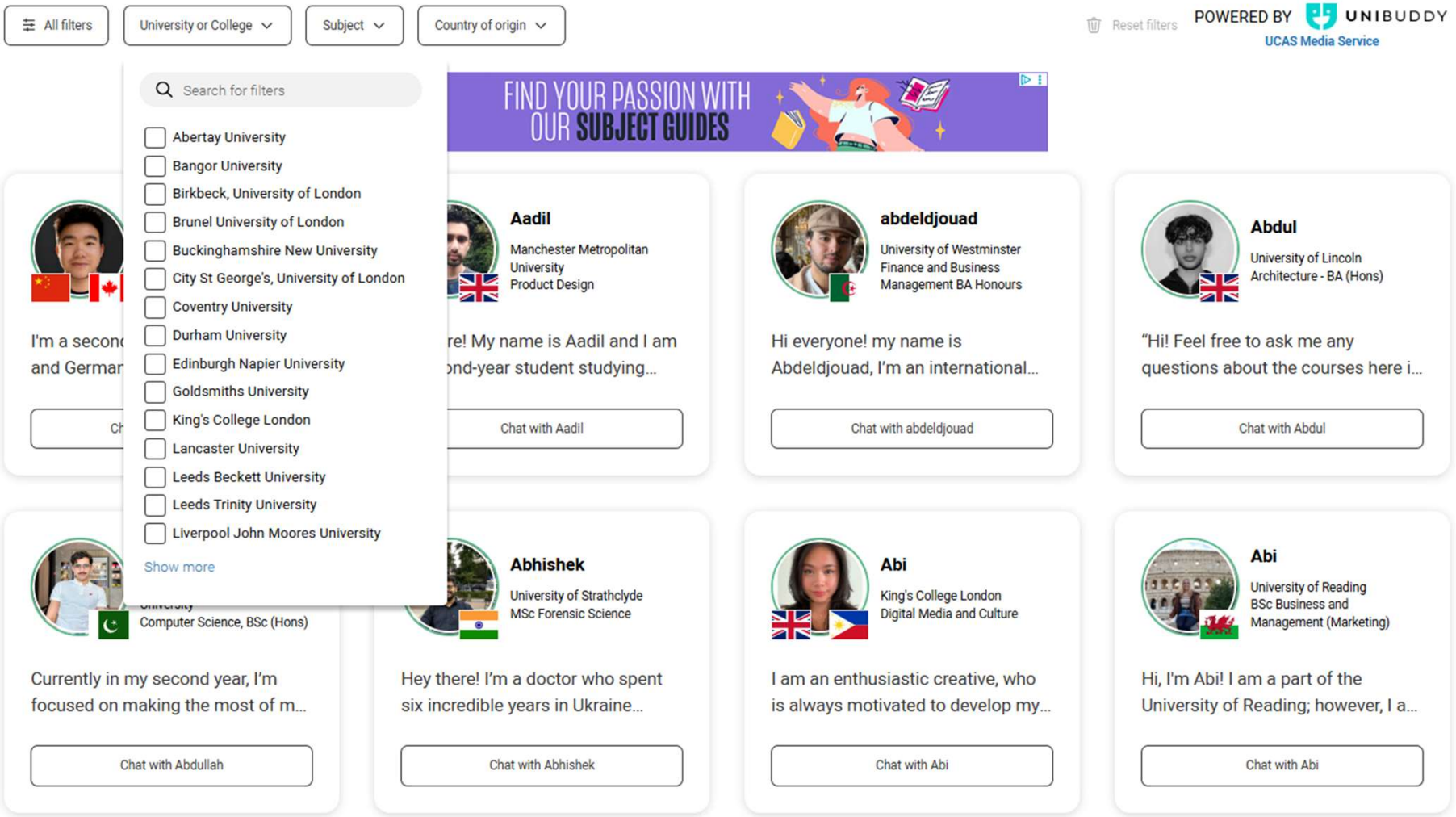
SUBJECT SPOTLIGHTS



VIRTUAL WORK EXPERIENCE



CHAT TO STUDENTS



SCHOLARSHIPS, BURSARIES & GRANTS

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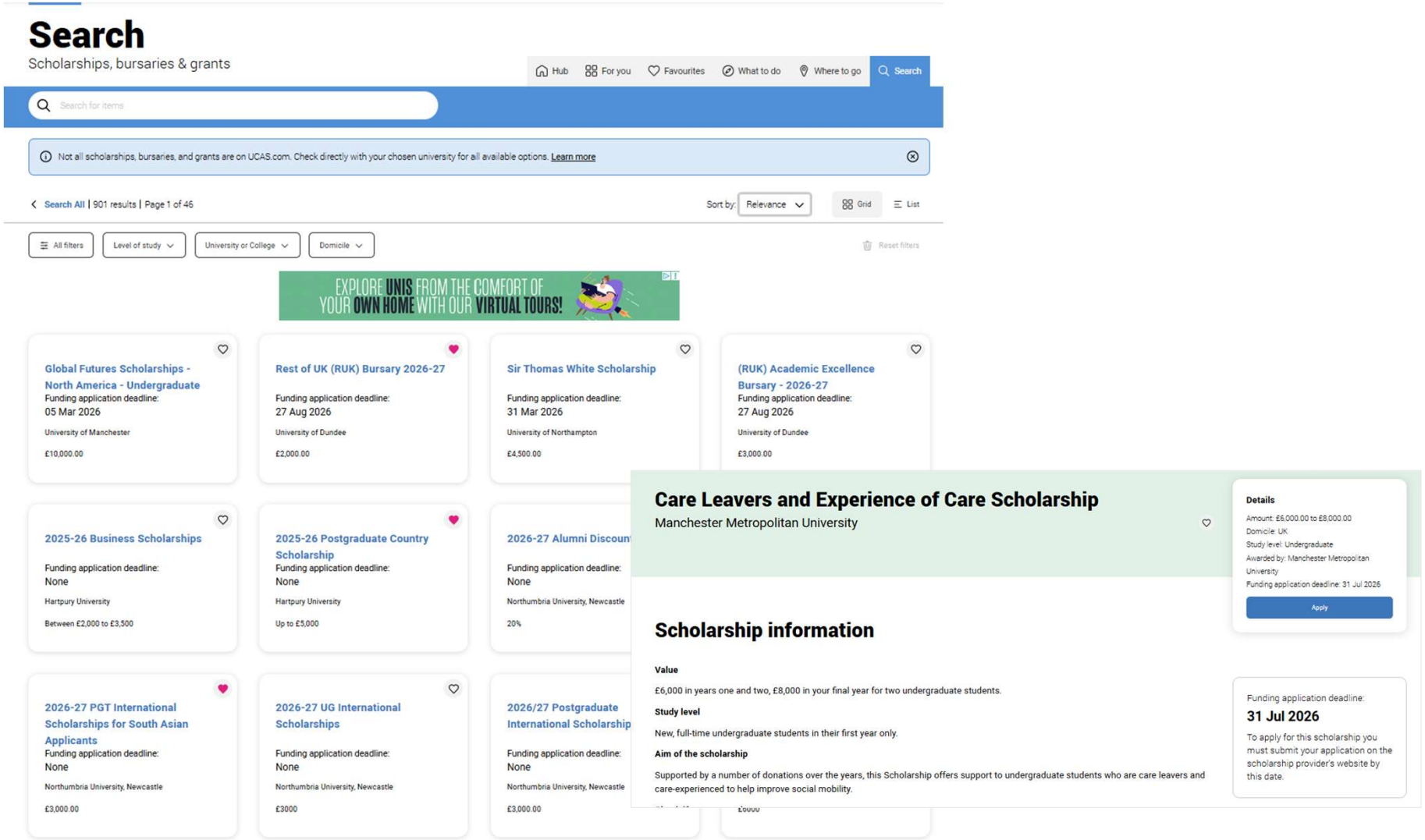
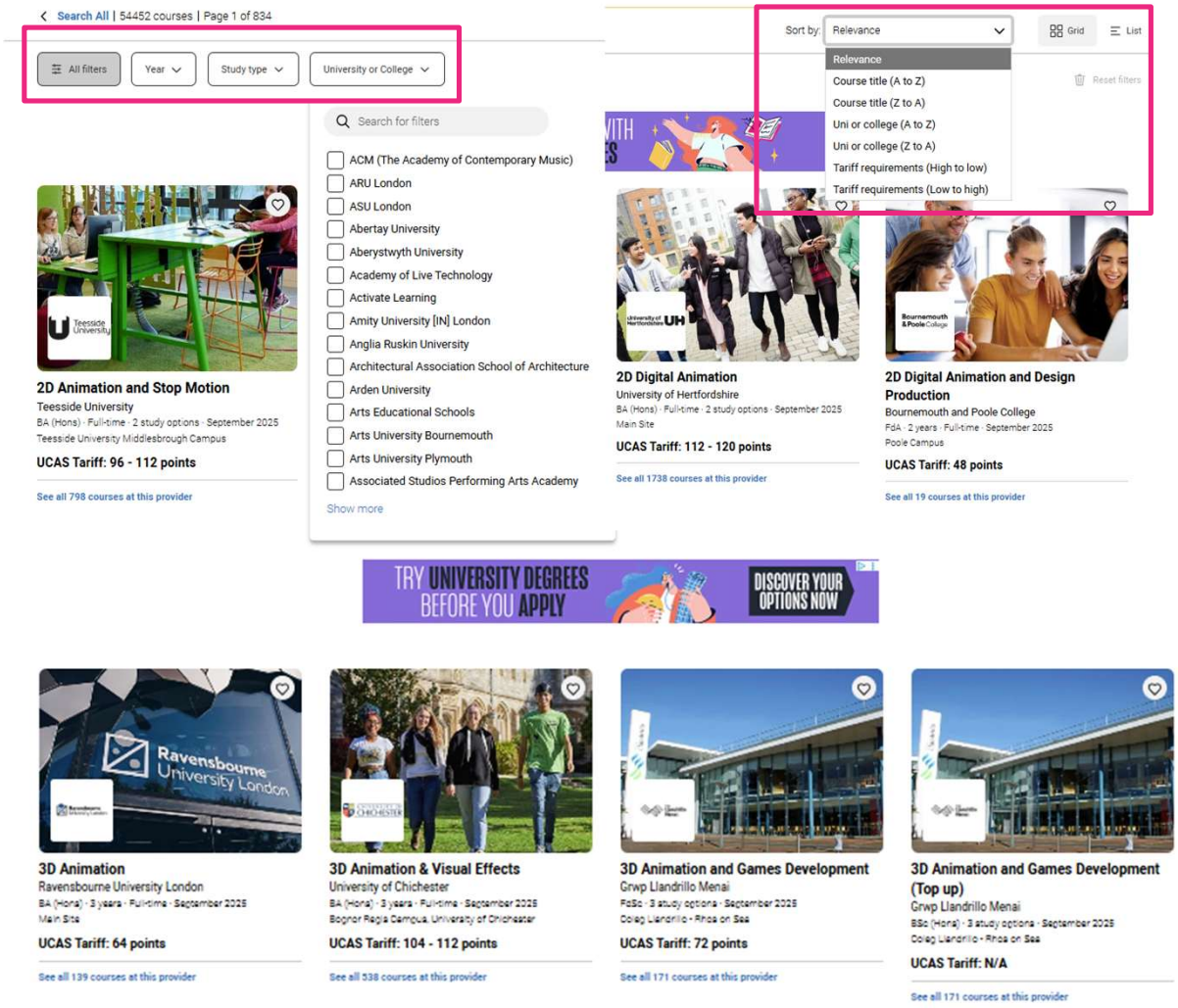


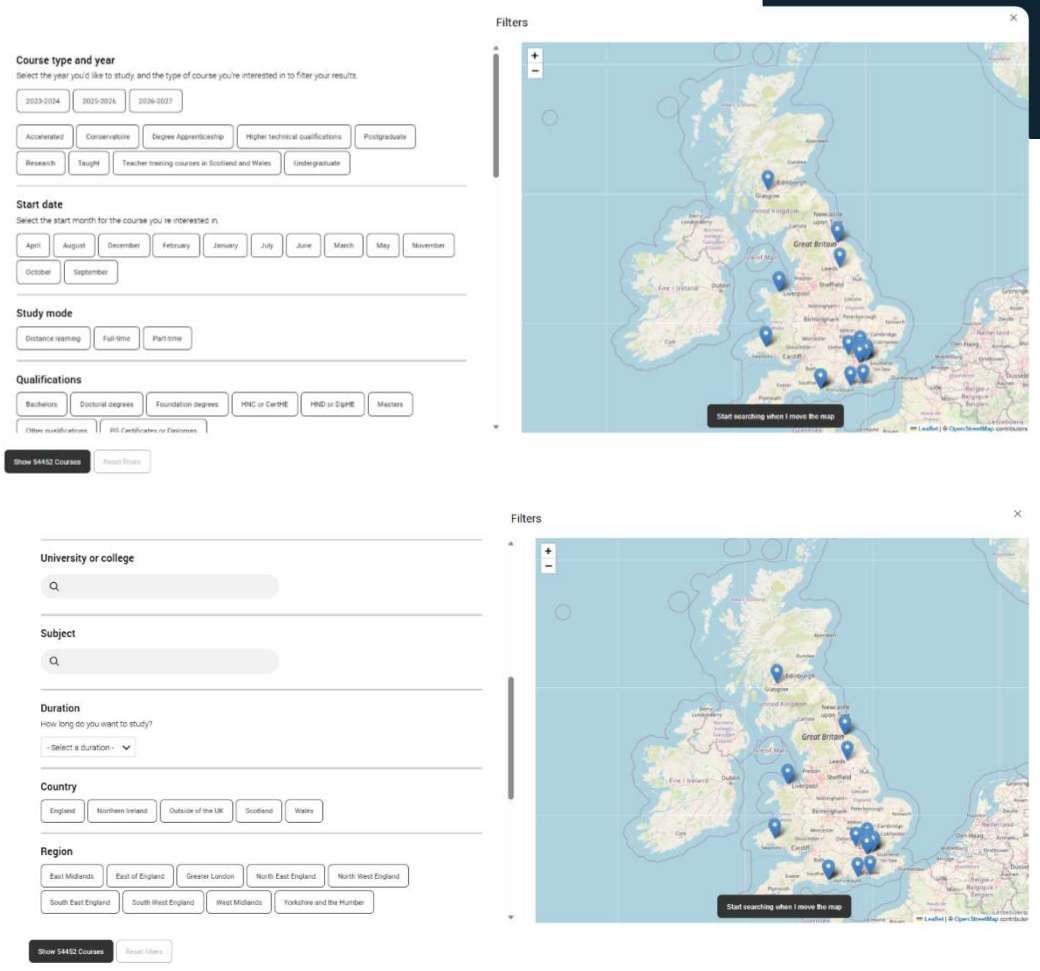
UCAS COURSE SEARCH



UCAS COURSE SEARCH

Top Tips for Using the UCAS Search Tool

1. **Explore broadly** first to avoid missing great courses you may not have considered.
2. **Use filters to** refine results by year, study type, or university/college.
3. **Sort results** in the way that works best for you, such as alphabetically or in a way that helps you compare courses.
4. **Check course details** (entry requirements, placement options, study modes) to see how well they match what you want.
5. **Favourite courses** you like so you can easily return to them later; save time and keeps everything organised.



THE COURSE MATTERS

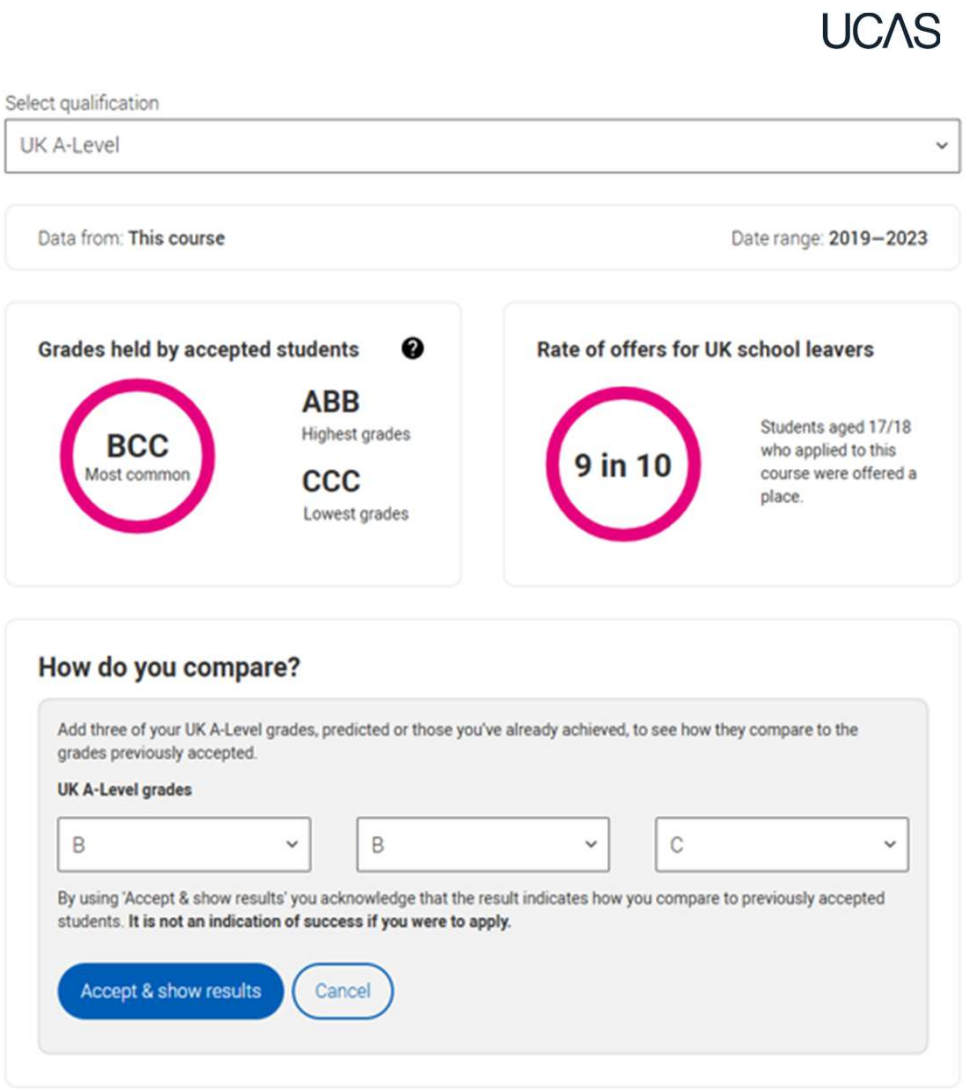
Teaching & learning
✓ Teaching hours, self-study, lectures, and group work.

Assessment & structure
✓ Coursework, exams, practical work, and module choices.

Entry requirements
✓ Grades, skills, interviews, or auditions.

Career links
✓ Placements, internships and study abroad.

Class size & experience
✓ Student numbers and learning environment



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FIND YOUR BEST FIT UNI OR COLLEGE

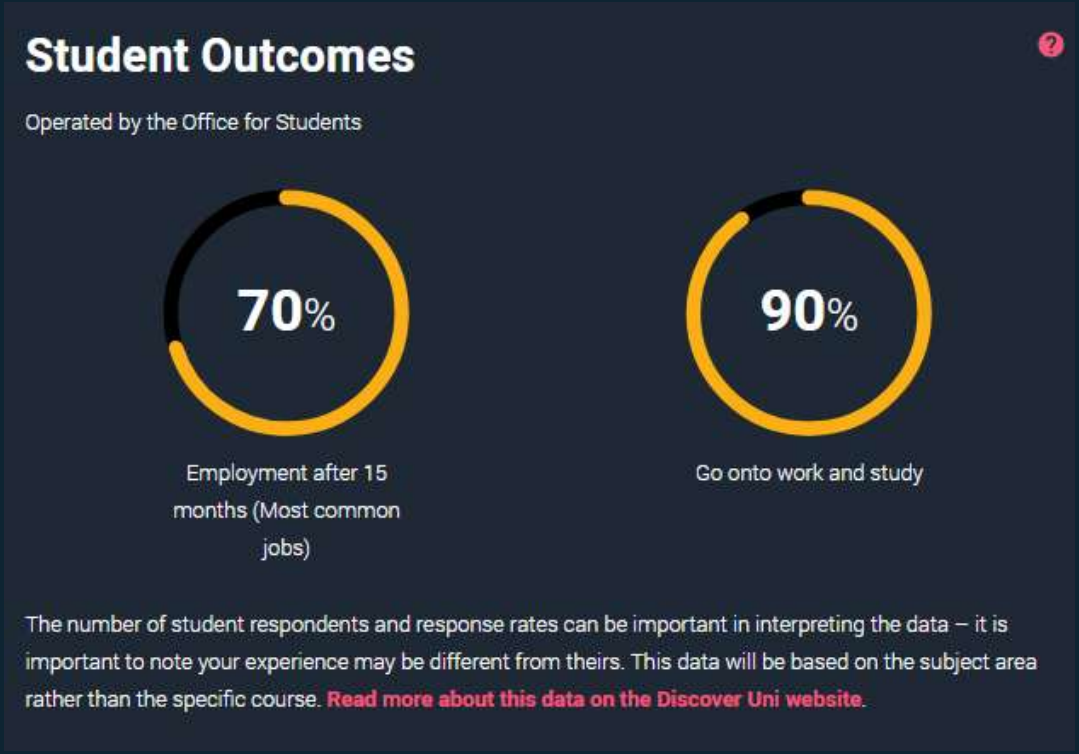
Style and focus
- ✓ From research-intensive to practical, career-orientated learning.

Location and size
- ✓ Ranges from small campuses to large city-based universities with over 20,000 students.

Culture and facilities
- ✓ Environment, resources, and student life.

Graduate outcomes
- ✓ What careers have recent graduates gone on to?

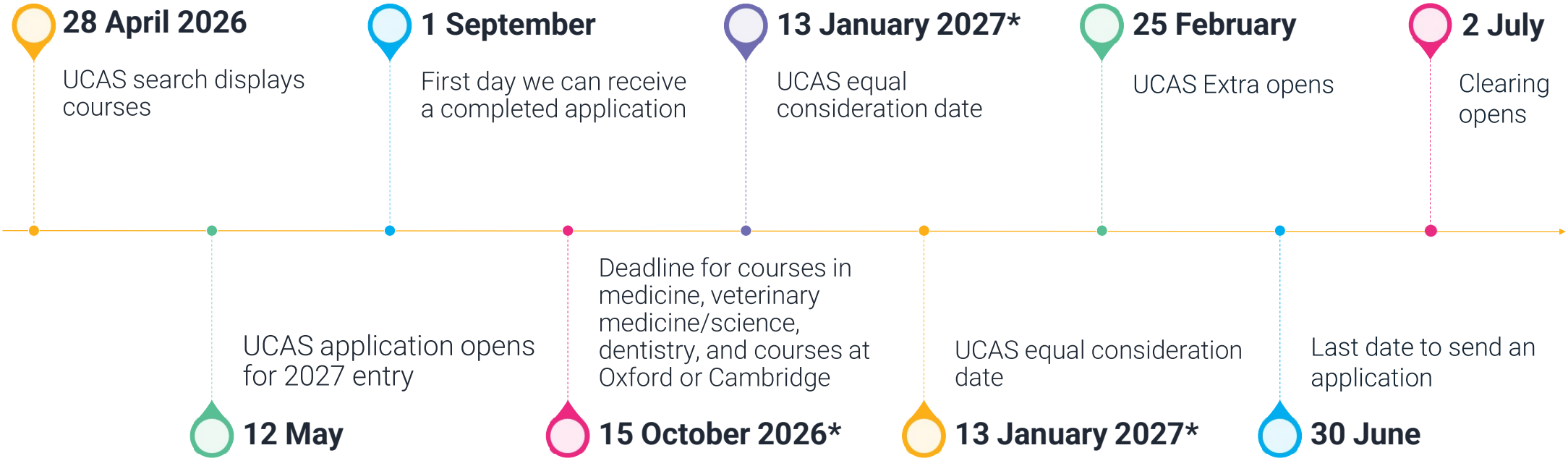
Costs
- ✓ Include living costs, accommodation, and transport.



APPLY

How to apply to universities and colleges for 2027 entry.

KEY DATES FOR 2027



* 18:00 UK time

APPLICATION KEY FACTS

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



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



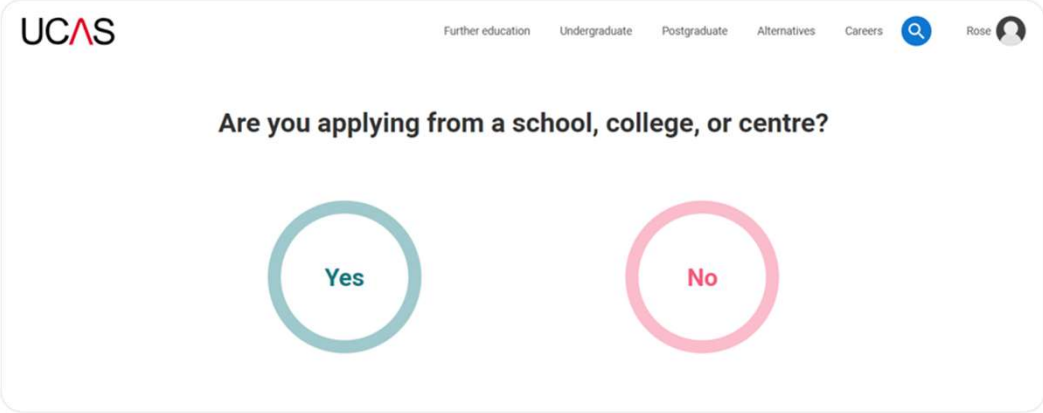
Five choices, with some restrictions (medicine, veterinary, dentistry, Oxford and Cambridge).

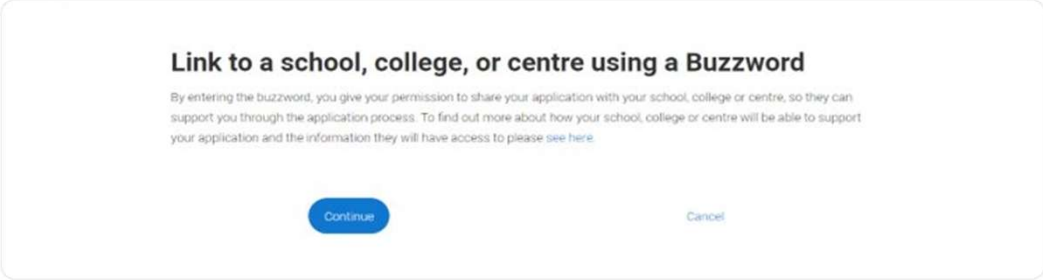


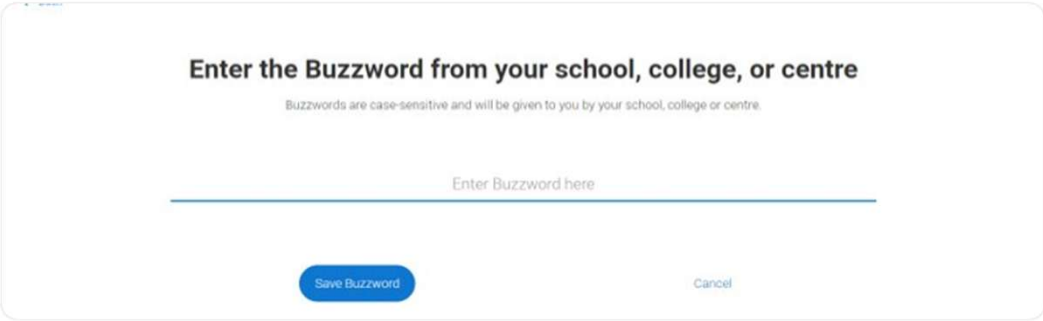
Research is key to a successful application.

LINKING TO OUR CENTRE

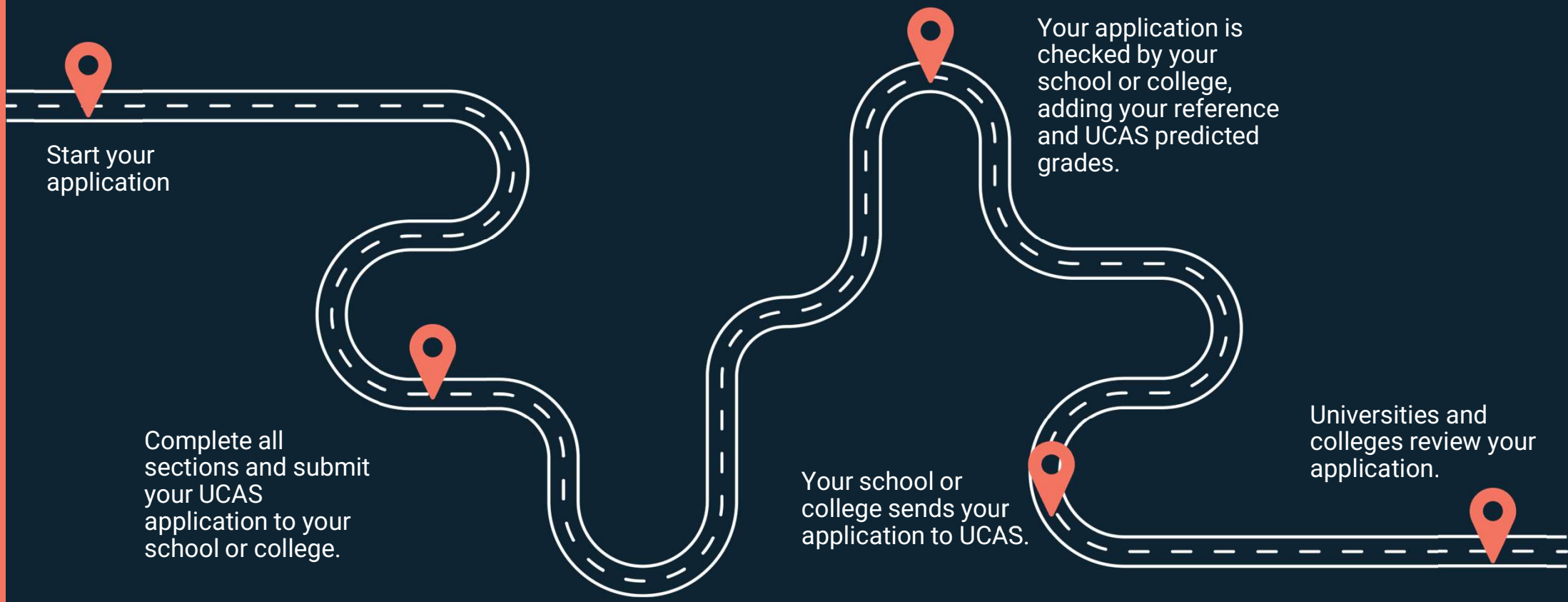
- Enter the ‘buzzword’ to link your application.
- The buzzword is a unique code.
- By linking your application you’re giving us permission to view and track your application.
- We send your application to UCAS on your behalf.





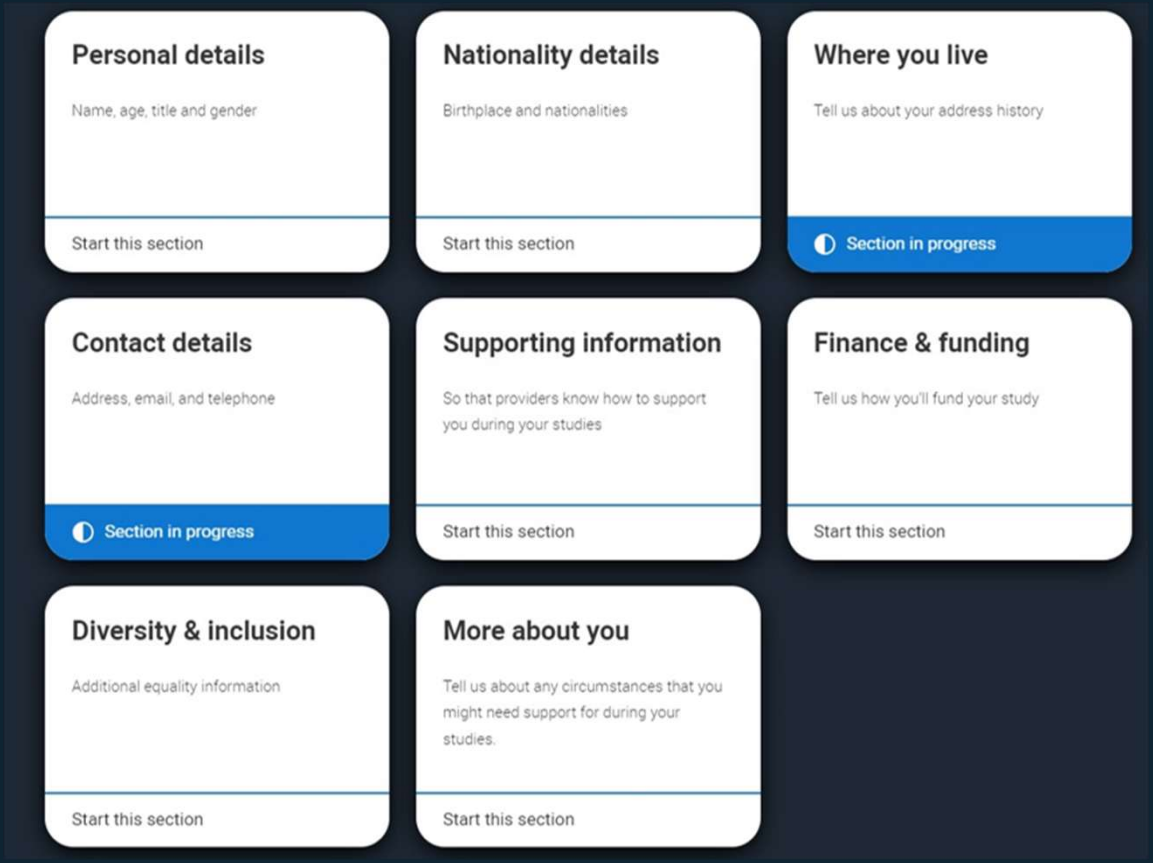


THE UCAS APPLICATION



APPLICATION PROFILE

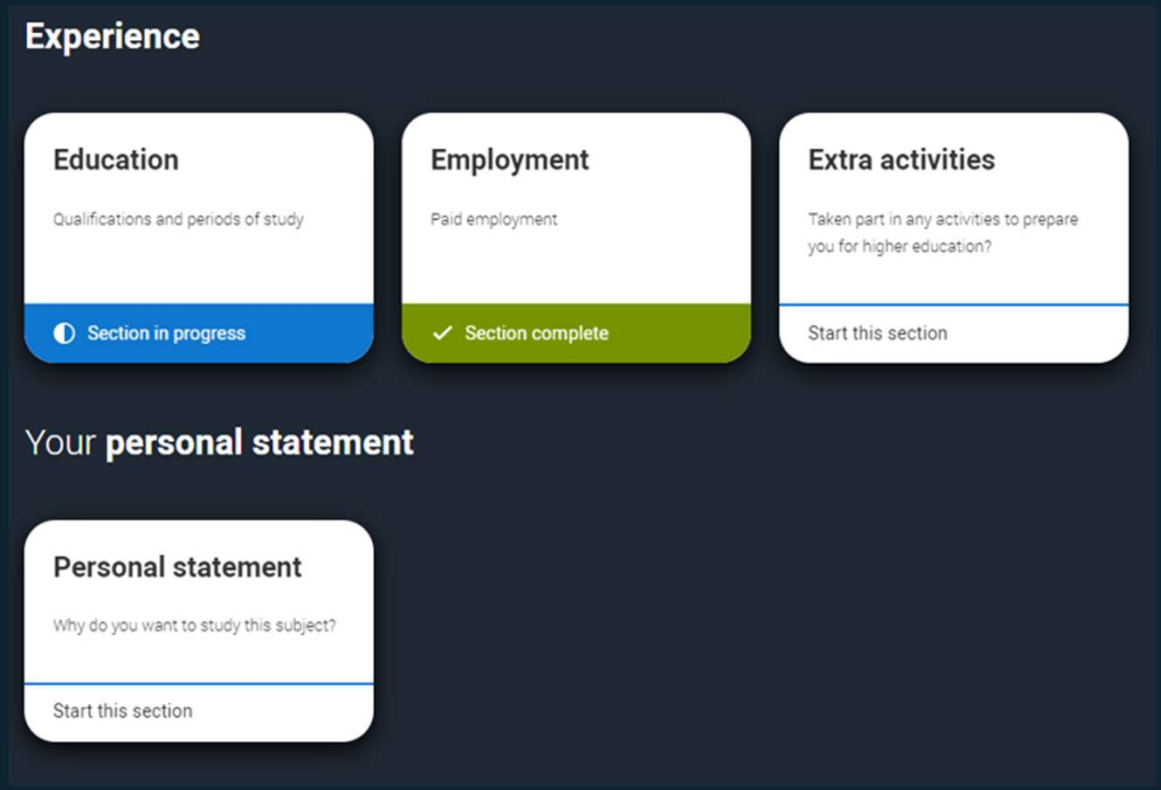
- Personal details
- Nationality details
- Where you live
- Contact details
- Supporting information
- Finance and funding
- Diversity and inclusion
- More about you



APPLICATION EXPERIENCES

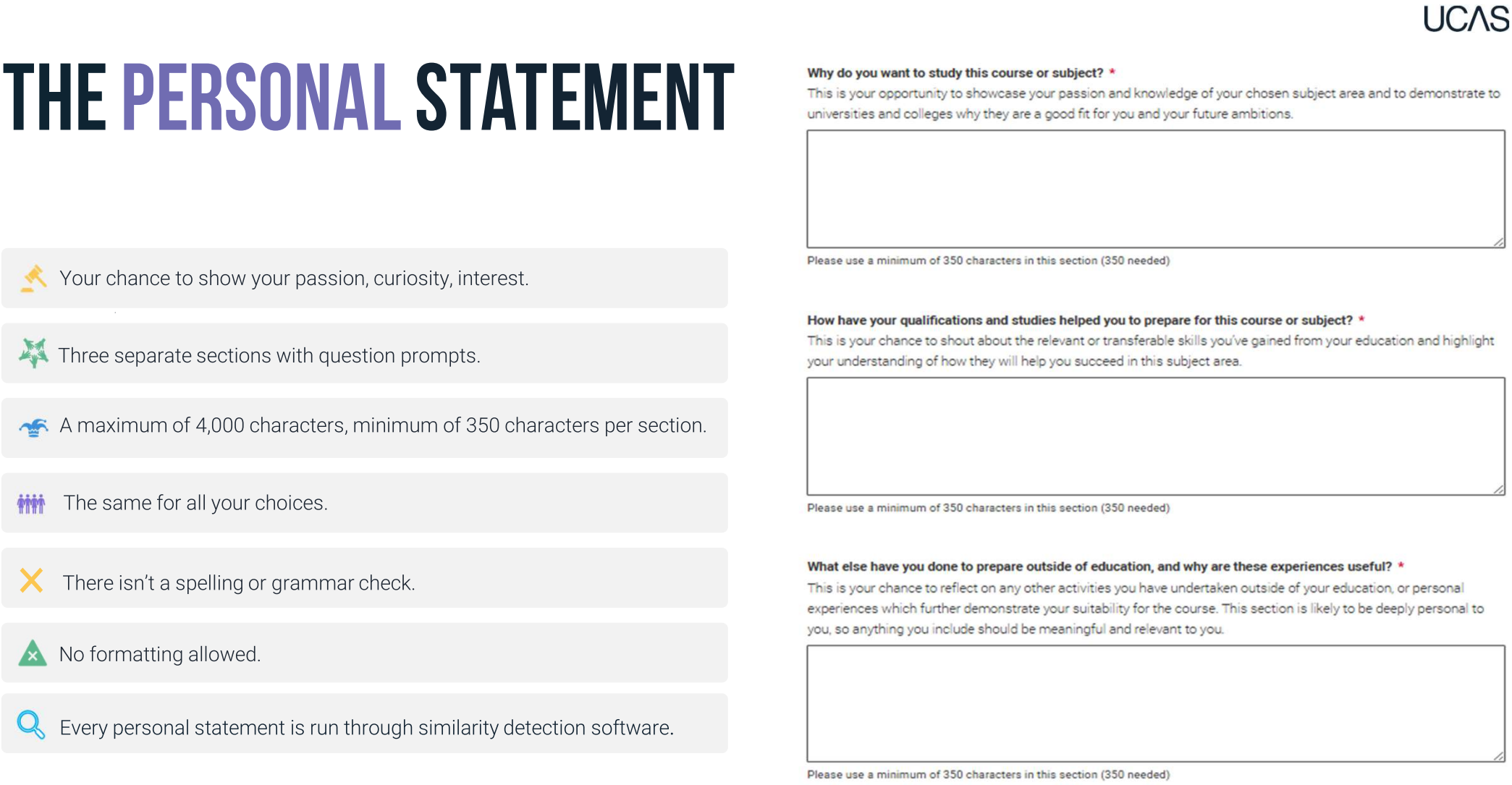
- Education
- Employment
- Extra activities*
- Personal statement
- Reference**

*(for students with a UK home address)
**(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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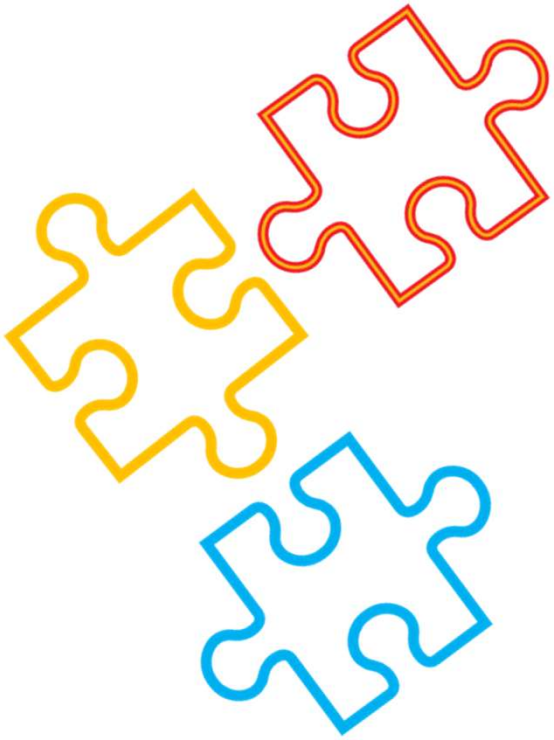
BUILD A PERSONAL STATEMENT



Ultimately, think of it like a jigsaw.

Each piece is **reflective evidence**.

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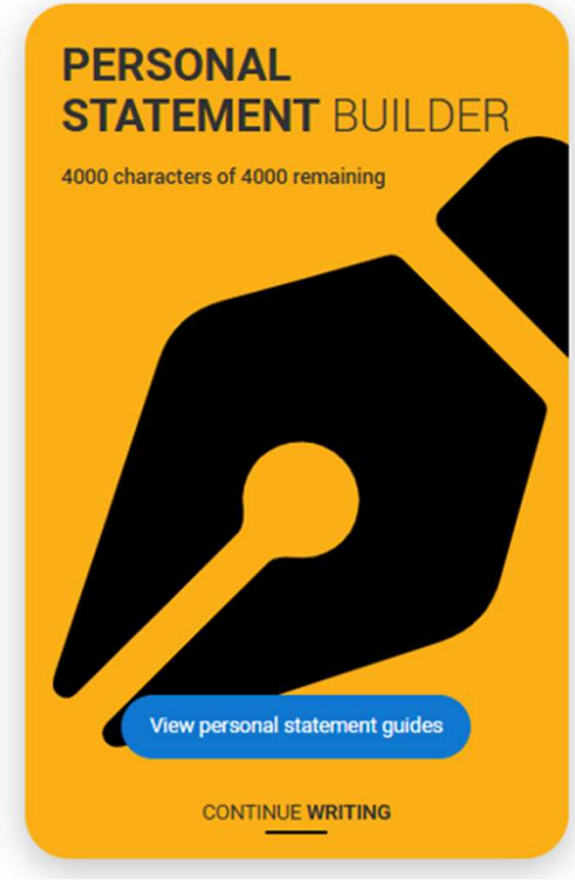
PERSONAL STATEMENT SUPPORT




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

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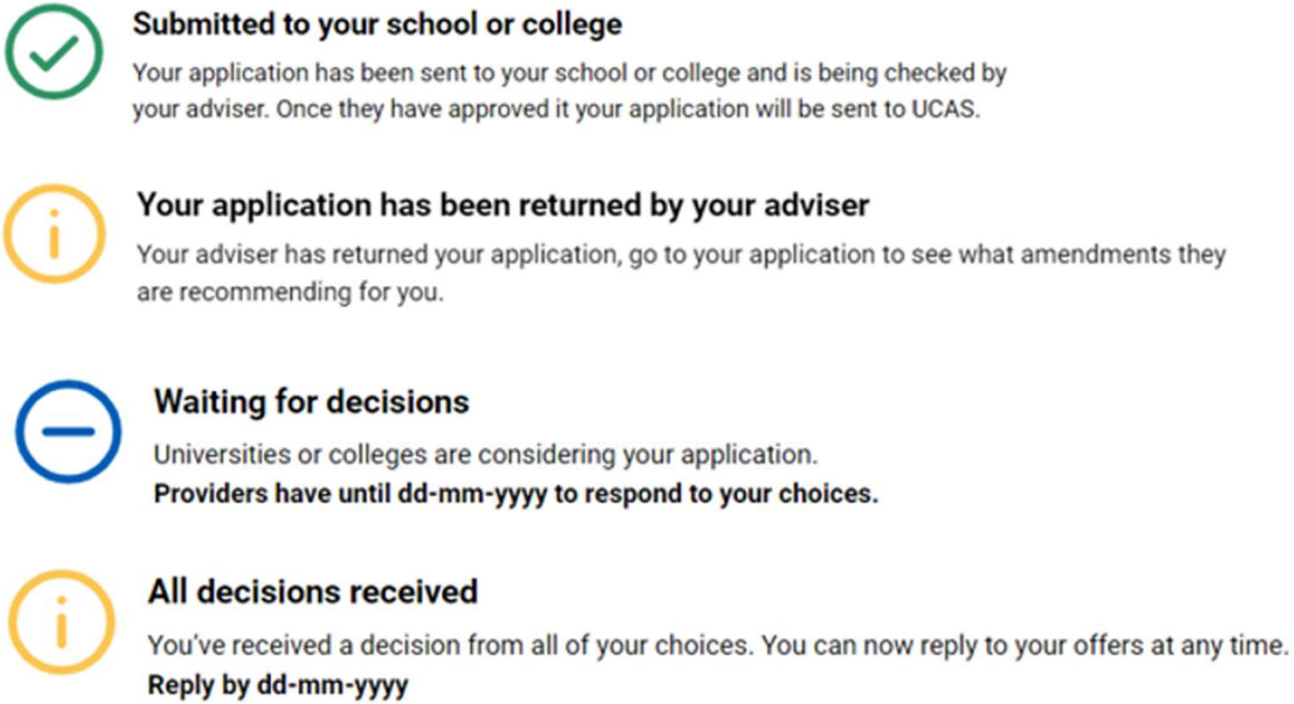
TRACKING YOUR APPLICATION

Follow your application to:

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

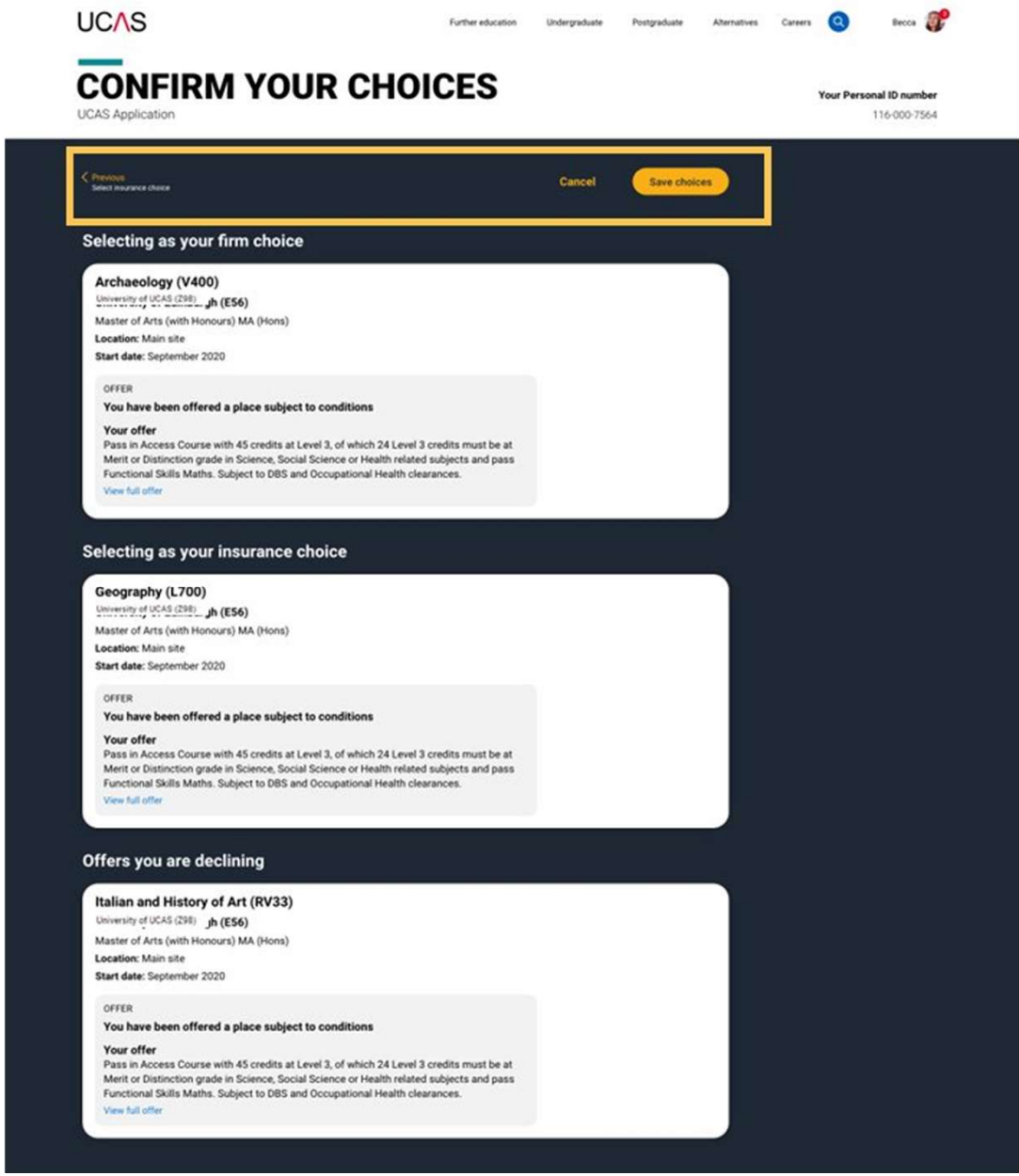
One of three decisions:

- 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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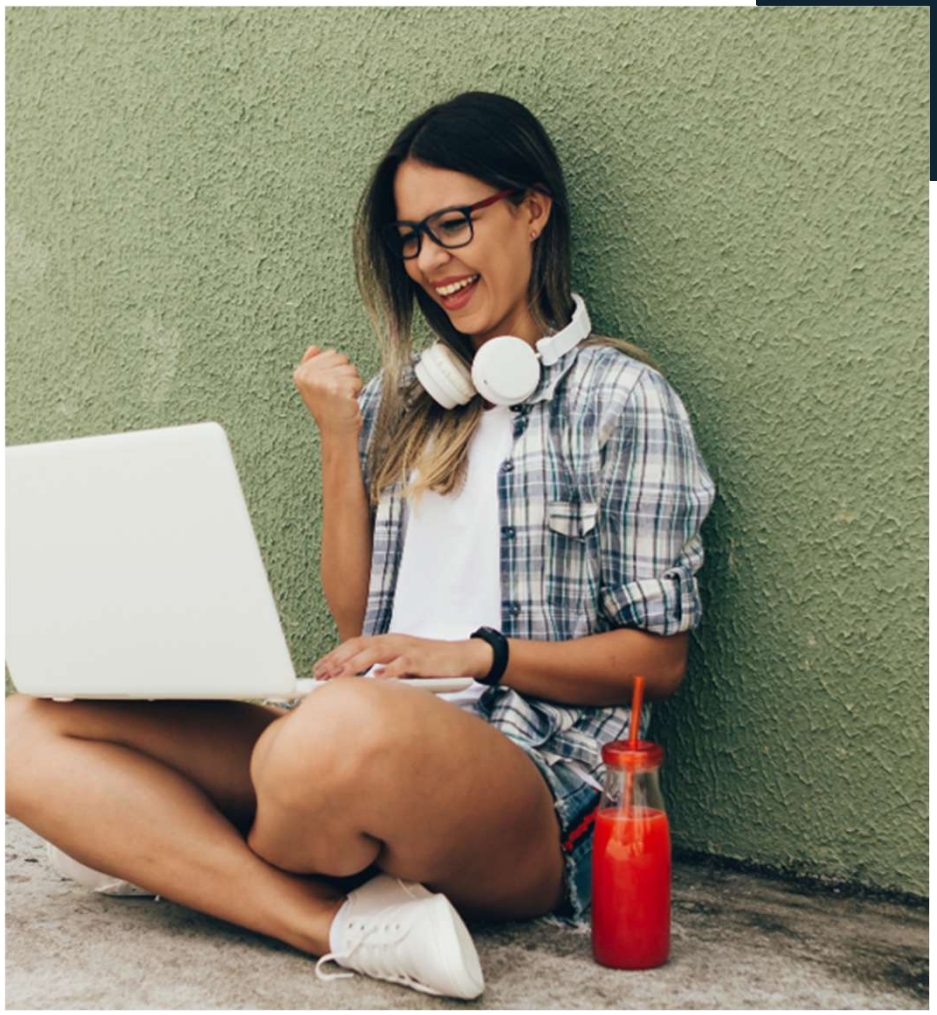
OTHER OPTIONS

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.

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* 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 England, Northern Ireland and Wales:

- GCSE grade 9-4 is a **Level 2 qualification**
- A level or T level is a **Level 3 qualification**

Did you know?

An apprenticeship offering a degree may also be called a Level 6 or Higher Apprenticeship

Apprenticeships work in levels too!

In England:

Level 2	Level 3	Level 4-7
Foundation or Intermediate Apprenticeship	Advanced Apprenticeship	Higher Apprenticeship

In Wales:

Level 2	Level 3	Levels 4-7
Foundation Apprenticeship	Apprenticeship	Higher Apprenticeship

In Northern Ireland:

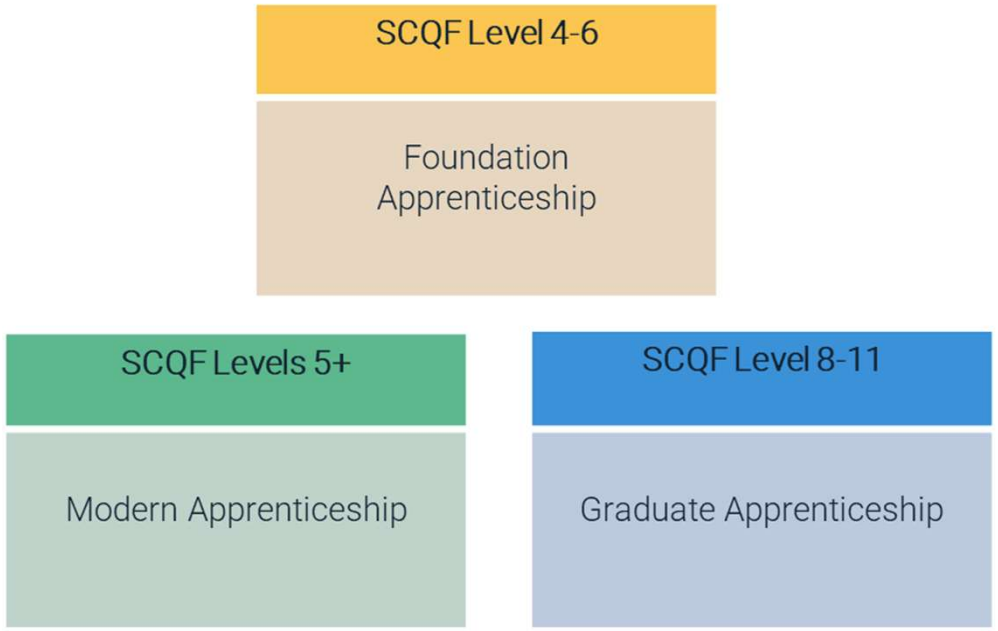
Level 2	Level 3	Level 4-7
Level 2 Apprenticeship	Level 3 Apprenticeship	Higher Apprenticeship

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



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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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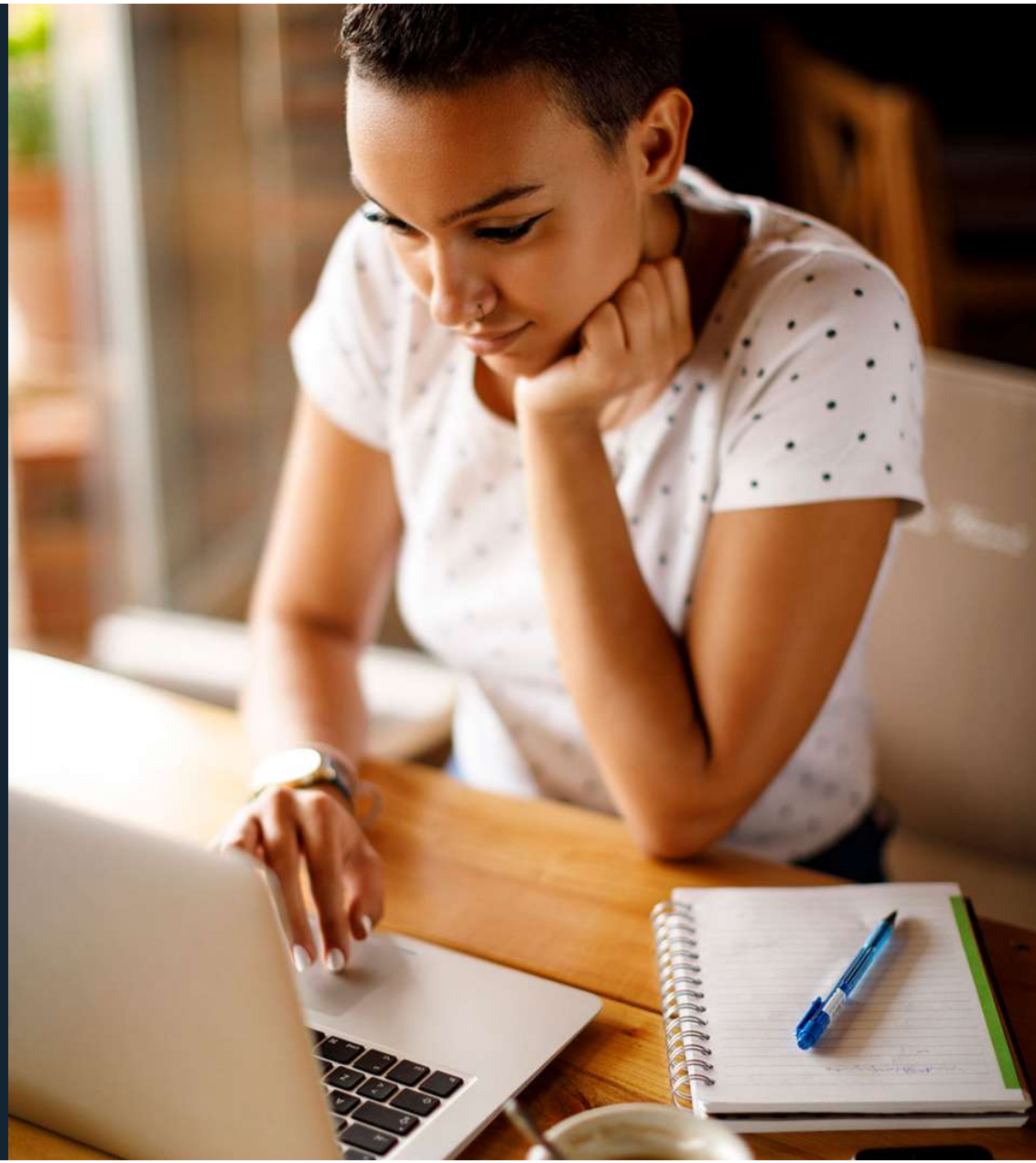
HOW DO I APPLY?

- 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



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

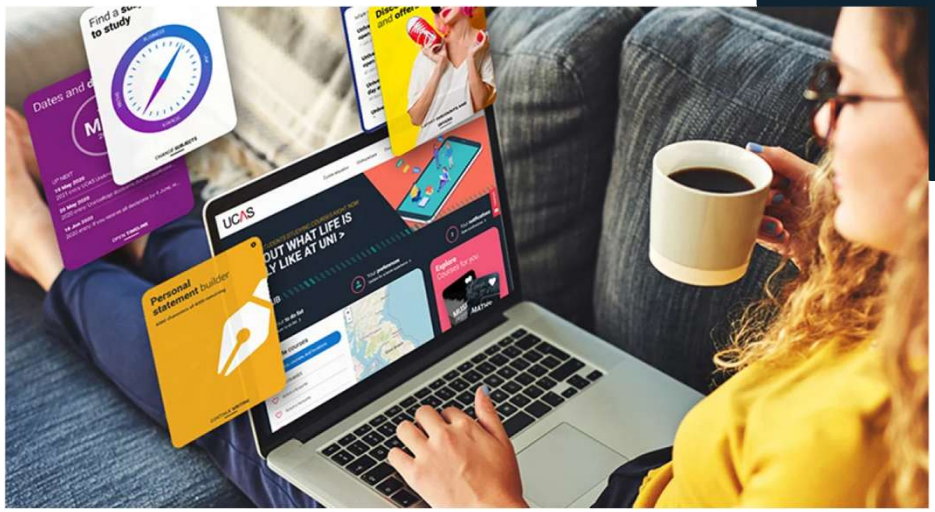

@UCASonline

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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