



UCAS quiz! Enter the number that corresponds with each question.

Answers: **18.5% 20.3% 26% 38.2% 37% 341 14760 33280 35200 502710**

Number of students placed on courses by UCAS in 2022	Percentage of 18 year olds who progress to University	Number of courses available in the UK through UCAS in 2023	Number of HEI's in the UK
502 710	37%	35 200	341
Percentage of students achieving AAA grades who identified themselves as white (2020)	Percentage of students achieving AAA grades who identified themselves as black (2020)	Percentage of students on Free School Meals accepted in 2020	Percentage of students not receiving Free School Meals accepted in 2020
26.0%	18.5%	20.3%	38.2%
Number of students placed via Clearing in 2022	Number of students who changed their mind via Clearing in 2022		
33 280	14 760		



UCAS

Applying for a place in Higher Education in 2023

Mr L Craggs Oct 2022



Why higher education?

Opportunities whilst studying

- Chance to study a subject they are passionate about.
- Achieve a qualification that will lead to their chosen career.
- Gain confidence, independence, and important life skills that will widen their prospects.
- Making lifelong friends.
- The opportunity to follow their career path.
- Better job prospects.
- Many employers target graduates.
- Higher earning potential.

Useful facts about UCAS

- The 2023 applicant fee is:
 - £22.50 for one choice
 - £27 for (up to) five choices
- Applications received by the course deadlines are given equal consideration.
- ‘Invisibility’ – universities cannot see where else students have applied.
- Apply for max five courses
- Some choice restrictions:
 - Medicine, veterinary, dentistry – max. four
 - Oxford **or** Cambridge

In 2020...

- UCAS received **577 260** applications
- **???** were accepted

2023 Cycle Key Dates

Early May	Applicants can register and start to complete their application.
September	Schools can start to submit completed applications to UCAS.
15 October	Medicine, dentistry, veterinary sci/med and Oxford <u>or</u> Cambridge.
15 January	Application deadline for most courses.
24 March	Many art & design courses (check each course for deadline).
30 June	Applications after this date held for Clearing.

Since May we have been...

Researching your options

- ✓ Use Unifrog
 - ✓ Mr Moore
 - ✓ Subject staff
 - ✓ Prospects
 - ✓ Discover Uni
- ✓ Compare courses - their content & delivery
 - ✓ Look at fees and other costs. Bursaries and scholarships.
 - ✓ Read the prospectus information
 - ✓ 360° or virtual tours
 - ✓ Discuss your choices – teachers, parents & friends

Pre-application – information, advice & guidance services



- ✓ Us!!!
- ✓ [Unifrog](#)
- ✓ UCAS '[Virtual Tours](#)'
- ✓ UCAS 'Course search'
- ✓ [Discover Uni Home | Discover Uni](#)
- ✓ [Which? University](#)
- ✓ [completeuniversityguide.co.uk](#)

Job options

Jobs directly related to your degree include:

- Chartered accountant
- Chartered certified accountant
- Chartered public finance accountant
- Economist
- Financial risk analyst
- Investment analyst
- Statistician

Jobs where your degree would be useful include:

- Actuary
- Civil Service fast streamer
- Diplomatic Services operational officer
- Local government officer
- Management consultant
- Quantity surveyor

Remember that many employers accept applications from graduates with any degree subject, so don't restrict your thinking to the jobs listed here.

Work experience

In order to find out more about work in economics, you could consider applying for a place on the [Government Economic Service \(GES\)](#) summer vacation placement scheme, which offers work experience opportunities for 6-12 weeks. Individual government departments may also be able to offer work experience and you should contact the department directly to find out more.

You could also consider work experience or work shadowing in areas such as accountancy and finance. Contact local employers to see if they can help you.

Related case studies



Will Brooks

Web/digital insight analyst



What do economics graduates do?

More than 65% of economics graduates are in employment six months after graduating, while around one-in-five go on to further study.

Nine of the top ten occupations held by economics graduates employed in the UK are business, finance or HR professions, with more than 500 graduates in the top occupation of finance and investment analyst/adviser.

Destination	Percentage
Employed	65.4
Further study	13.3
Working and studying	8
Unemployed	7.7
Other	5.6

Graduate destinations for economics

Type of work	Percentage
Business, HR and financial	54.2
Marketing, PR and sales	9.8
Secretarial and numerical clerks	8.4
Retail, catering and bar work	7.3

2 course(s) selected

☆☆☆

BSc (Hons) Biology
Newcastle University

X

☆☆☆

BSc (Hons) Biology
University of Sheffield

X

Course details

Study mode	Full time	Full time
Length	3 years	3 years

▼ Show more

National Student Survey results

What you need to consider when comparing courses

- **Number of people the data is based on** - more people mean it is more likely giving a clearer picture of student experience. Also consider the percentage of students who responded to the survey.
- **Some data may be for a course and some for a subject** - course data is more specific but subject data will still give an indication of students' views. Use caution when comparing the two.

[Read more about the National Student Survey](#)

Overall, I am satisfied with the quality of the course	61%	63%
Data from (# of people)	30	25
% of those asked	57%	67%

2 course(s) selected

☆☆☆

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Newcastle University

X

☆☆☆

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University of Sheffield

X

National Student Survey results

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The data displayed is from students on	This course	This course
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The teaching on my course

The data displayed is from students on	This course	This course
Staff are good at explaining things.	79%	88%
Staff have made the subject interesting.	59%	83%
The course is intellectually stimulating.	69%	88%
My course has challenged me to achieve my best work.	52%	63%

UCAS



Visit, visit, visit ...



Introducing the new UCAS open
days search tool – get some
dates in your students diaries:
www.ucas.com/open-days

[Home](#) / [Undergraduate](#) / [What and where to study](#) / [Open days and events](#)

VIRTUAL TOURS

Explore this **section** 

Here's a list of virtual tours and videos from universities and colleges, so you can see what it's like on campus and what facilities are available.

If the uni/college you're interested in isn't listed, take a look at their website or YouTube channel instead, or see if they're on Unibuddy.

[Speak to current undergraduate students on Unibuddy](#)

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P
Q R S T U V W X Y Z

What is 'Apply'?

[Hub | UCAS](#)

2022-23 UCAS Deadlines:

- Applications open on 2nd September.
- The first UCAS deadline is **15th October**
Oxford, Cambridge, Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Medicine
- The second UCAS deadline is **25th January**

NB Some universities require additional tests e.g. the BMAT or UCAT test (Medicine) or the LNAT test (Law) ...there are others

Whitburn Sixth Form Deadlines:

- The first sixth form deadline is **7th October**
- The second sixth form deadline is **13th January**

The UCAS tariff

A level and Advanced VCE

Official title: Advanced GCE and Advanced VCE

Grade	Tariff points
A*	56
A	48
B	40
C	32
D	24
E	16

Extended Project

Grade	Tariff points
A*	28
A	24
B	20
C	16
D	12
E	8

AS and AS VCE

Official title: Advanced Subsidiary GCE and Advanced Subsidiary VCE

Grade	Tariff points
A	20
B	16
C	12
D	10
E	6

Music qualifications

Certificate in Graded Examination in Music Performance

Grade	Tariff points		
	Grade 8	Grade 7	Grade 6
D	30	16	12
M	24	12	10
P	18	10	6

Size band: 3 (Grade 8), 2 (Grades 7 and 6)

Grade bands: 6-10 (Grade 8), 5-8 (Grade 7), 3-6 (Grade 6)

Offered by ABRSM, RSL, TCL and UWLQ

Dance qualifications

Graded Dance qualifications

Official title: Certificate in Graded Examination in (Theatre) Dance

Grade	Tariff points		
	Grade 8	Grade 7	Grade 6
D	20	16	12
M	18	14	10
P	16	12	8

Size band: 2

Grade bands: 8-10 (Grade 8), 6-8 (Grade 7), 4-6 (Grade 6)

Offered by BBO, GQAL, IDTA, ISTD, RAD and RSL

Certificate in Graded Examination in Music Theory

Grade	Tariff points		
	Grade 8	Grade 7	Grade 6
D	10	8	6
M	9	7	5
P	8	6	4

Size band: 1

Grade bands: 6-10 (Grade 8), 5-8 (Grade 7), 3-6 (Grade 6)

Offered by ABRSM, RSL, TCL and UWLQ

What happens next?

Mr Craggs will send the application to UCAS. There will be an anxious wait (end of March!) before applicants receive either...

- **Unconditional offer** - As long as you complete any stated examinations you have a place. These are quite rare again.
- **Conditional offer** - if you meet the set conditions, you have a place. This normally means that you have to meet certain grade/points requirements.
- **Unsuccessful** – your application for that course has been unsuccessful and you have not been offered a place.
- **Offer** of a place on a (usually *slightly*) different course

Firm choice (CF) and Insurance choice (CI)

When you have received responses from all of your choices you then have to choose a **firm** and an **insurance** choice by the deadline!

- ❑ **Firm** - your first choice of course. If you meet the grade requirements, you will attend this course.
- ❑ **Insurance** - your second or back-up choice. If you fail to meet the grade requirements for your firm choice, but meet the requirements for this course, you can attend this course.
- ❑ **Other offers are declined**
- ❑ **Important** – you must choose an insurance choice with a lower entry requirement and that you would be happy to go to!

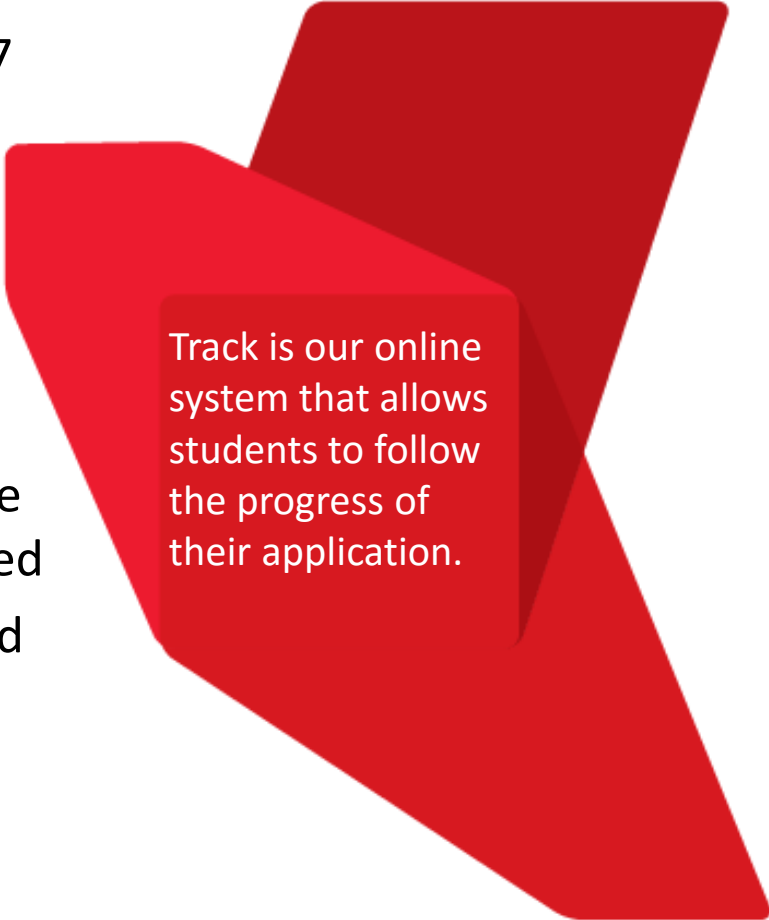
Tracking applications

Track will allow your son or daughter to :

- follow the progress of their application 24/7
- see their choices and personal information
- see their offers
- reply to offers online.

In Track, a student can hold up to two offers:

- **Firm** - their first choice. If they meet the conditions of the offer they will be placed
- **Insurance** – acts as a back-up choice and only comes into play if they are not placed with their firm choice.



Track is our online system that allows students to follow the progress of their application.

What if...

I get no offers?

..UCAS Extra
(24th Feb-4th July)

I don't get the
required grades?

Insurance Choice

I don't get grades for my
insurance choice either?

Clearing Process
(From early July)

I accepted a place that
asked for 3xBs and I
actually get 3xAs?

Clearing Process
(results day)

The Personal Statement



UCAS

@WhitSixthForm 



The personal statement

- The only section your son or daughter has control over.
- Their only chance to market themselves individually.
- One personal statement for **all** choices.



Max. 4,000 characters, 47 lines

Min. 1,000 characters

No spelling/grammar check

No formatting

Personal statement – top tips to pass on

Students need to tell institutions about their:

- academic achievements, past and present
- interest in their chosen subject
- their knowledge of the subject and enthusiasm to go beyond the syllabus
- what they enjoy about study
- independent study skills.

Universities and colleges will ask:

- have they chosen the right subject for the right reasons?
- can they survive in an intense and pressured atmosphere?
- do they have a range of interests and aptitudes?
- does the personal statement confirm their depth of interest in the subject?
- has the candidate studied independently?
- does the student appear motivated and committed?
- do they possess good numeracy and literacy skills?

Personal statements are checked against a library of those already in the system, and from a variety of websites and paper publications.

Where to start

- Think about what makes them **stand out** in an exciting and positive way.
- Show **enthusiasm** for the course they are applying for and list supporting **evidence** to back this up.
- Extra curricular activities and **relevant** work experience.
- **Skills** they can use on the course – leadership, communication, team work for example.
- Encourage them to ask you for more **ideas**.
- Allow plenty of **time**.



Avoid
online
'services'!

The context

- GCSEs
- A Level Predictions
- Interviews
- Admissions Tests
- **Personal Statement**



What are admissions tutors looking for?

Try to put yourself in their shoes! The following information which is based on the findings from a survey of:

- over 70 Admissions Tutors
- from over 20 subject areas
- from a wide range of universities

Admissions Tutors were asked 'WHEN DO YOU USE THE PERSONAL STATEMENT?'

1. Selection for an offer / rejection UCAS
2. Selection for an interview (if required)
3. Asking questions at interview
4. *Occasional* consideration of borderline cases (e.g. course requires grades 'BBB', you are predicted grades 'BBC')
5. Miss the required grade in August – tutors might look at your statement, if they have spare places

Write '*a love letter to your subject*' (University College, Oxford)



Structure

1. Why do you want to study the subject?
2. What have you done in the past that makes you particularly suitable to study the subject?
3. What can you offer the university? What can you contribute to the course and the institution?



Nothing GREAT
was ever achieved
without enthusiasm.

-EMERSON

PEE or ABC...

If there's one key point to remember when writing your personal statement, remember the letters ABC! Activity, Benefit, Course! Universities want to see examples of the transferable skills you have obtained and how you plan to develop these skills at university. So, this is where ABC comes into play:

Activity

Maybe you've volunteered in your local charity shop or played in a sports team

Benefit

What are the transferable skills you've acquired by doing this activity? For example, leadership, communication or self-motivation skills.

Course

So you've done the activity and reaped the benefits, how does this relate to the course you're applying for?

Conclusions

Equally as important is a **strong conclusion**. Bear in mind, this is the last couple of lines in which you have to impress the admissions tutor. So make it count! Try to summarise your personal statement in a few lines and finish with a positive outlook on your future.

What should applicants avoid?

Admissions tutors in the earlier survey were asked what students should avoid. Responses were...

- Waffle
- Swallowing a dictionary
- Statements with no examples or evidence
- Very ordinary interests e.g. going down the pub
- Lying (remember the interview!)
- Becoming somebody you are not
- Rushing - producing a poorly written statement
- Reducing all experiences to skills – stacking shelves in a supermarket provides an honest income – don't sell it for anything else

What should applicants avoid?

Clichéd opening lines!! Top 10 opening lines:

Of over 700,000 candidates who applied to university last year 1,779 began their personal statement: *"From a young age I have (always) been.."* and most of these continued "interested in" or "fascinated by".

"For as long as I can remember I have..." (1,451)

"I am applying for this course because..." (1,370)

"I have always been interested in..." (927)

"Throughout my life I have always enjoyed..." (310)

"Reflecting on my educational experiences..." (257)

"Nursing is a very challenging and demanding (career/ profession/ course)..." (211)

"Academically, I have always been..." (168)

"I have always wanted to pursue a career in..." (160)

"I have always been passionate about..." (160).

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-36101825>

91-8

VERY IMPRESSIVE!



CARTOONSTOCK.com

Search ID: jmp080818

Since college admissions officers might see his Facebook page, Mike used Photoshop to erase the beer cans in his hands, replacing them with books.

More Tips...

- Typically at any university an admissions tutor will have somewhere between **2 and 5 minutes to read** a personal statement. **Brevity** is a virtue!
- Make your statement **easy to read** (remember 2 minutes!). A page full of dense prose is not a good idea. Use **paragraphs** with **white space** between. Lists can be useful.
- Do NOT lie or embroider the truth. For example claiming that you did something in your work experience and then not knowing anything about it when asked is a pretty sure way not to get an offer. Make sure the statement really is your own.

What your son/daughter should be doing now?

- Research
- Extra curricular
- Work experience
- Go beyond the syllabus
- Focus on this year's studies



How can you support the application process?

- Use the parents/guardians section of the UCAS website/Parent Guide publication – www.ucas.com/parents and sign up for the newsletter. Check out their videos, blogs
- Offer to attend open days, you may have a different perspective.
- Don't book family holidays at key times.
- Make sure they read everything carefully that is sent to them.
- Support your son/daughter's management of their application.

The Personal Statement

