



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

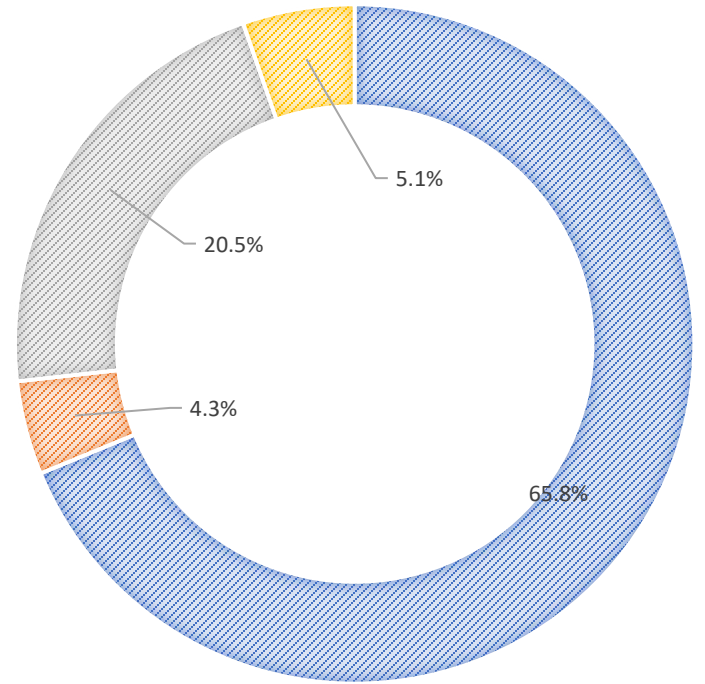
Answers: **12.9% 18.5% 26% 35.8% 73.3% 341 14760 33280 35200 554465**

Number of students placed on courses by UCAS in 2023 554 465	Percentage of 18 year olds who progress to University 35.8%	Number of courses available in the UK through UCAS in 2023 35 200	Number of HEI's in the UK 341
Percentage of students achieving AAA grades who identified themselves as white (2022) 26.0%	Percentage of students achieving AAA grades who identified themselves as black (2022) 18.5%	Percentage of students on Free School Meals applying in 2023 12.9%	Percentage of students <i>not</i> receiving Free School Meals applying in 2023 73.3%
Number of students placed via Clearing in 2022 33 280	Number of students who changed their mind via Clearing in 2022 14 760		

Our students gained places at universities including:



Destinations 2025



Our students gained higher and degree apprenticeships with...



Our students went on to study:



	2023	2023	2024	2024	2025	2025	TOTAL	AVERAGE
University	78	79.6%	77	74.8%	77	65.8%	689	75.9%
Other Route	20	20.4%	26	25.2%	40	34.2%	219	24.1%
Russell Group Universities	26	33.3%	24	31.2%	36	46.8%	244	37.7%
Other HEIs	52	66.7%	53	68.8%	41	53.2%	389	62.1%
Firm Choice	53	67.9%	58	75.3%	61	79.2%	488	72.2%
Insurance Choice	4	5.1%	10	13.0%	8	10.4%	67	10.2%
Offered alt course	3	3.8%		0.0%	4	5.2%	7	0.5%
Clearing Place	18	23.1%	9	11.7%	8	10.4%	77	11.9%
	98		103		117		908	

	2023	2023	2024	2024	2025	2025	TOTAL	AVERAGE
University	78	79.6%	77	74.8%	77	65.8%	689	75.9%
Gap Year	3	3.1%	12	11.7%	5	4.3%	67	7.4%
Degree Apprenticeships	1	1.0%	3	2.9%	6	5.1%	16	1.6%
Apprenticeship	11	11.2%	10	9.7%	24	20.5%	95	10.2%
Employment	3	3.1%	1	1.0%	3	2.6%	25	3.0%
Conservatoires							7	0.8%
Access/Foundation course					2		5	0.4%
Military	2	2.0%					3	0.3%
NEET							1	0.1%
	98		103		117		908	

Which route is right for you?

Uni Route

HE Fayre

24th Sept

Deadlines are fixed - Oct & Jan.

NGTU

Apprenticeships Fayre

11th Feb

Deadlines vary by provider –
most open in the new year.

Some students were still juggling both a week after results!

Next Steps



What are apprenticeships?



**A job with
training**



Employed



**Level 2-
degree level**



Paid a salary



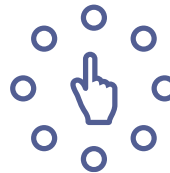
**Typically 1-6
years**



**Minimum 6
hours off-the-job**



**English/Maths
if required**



**700+
standards**



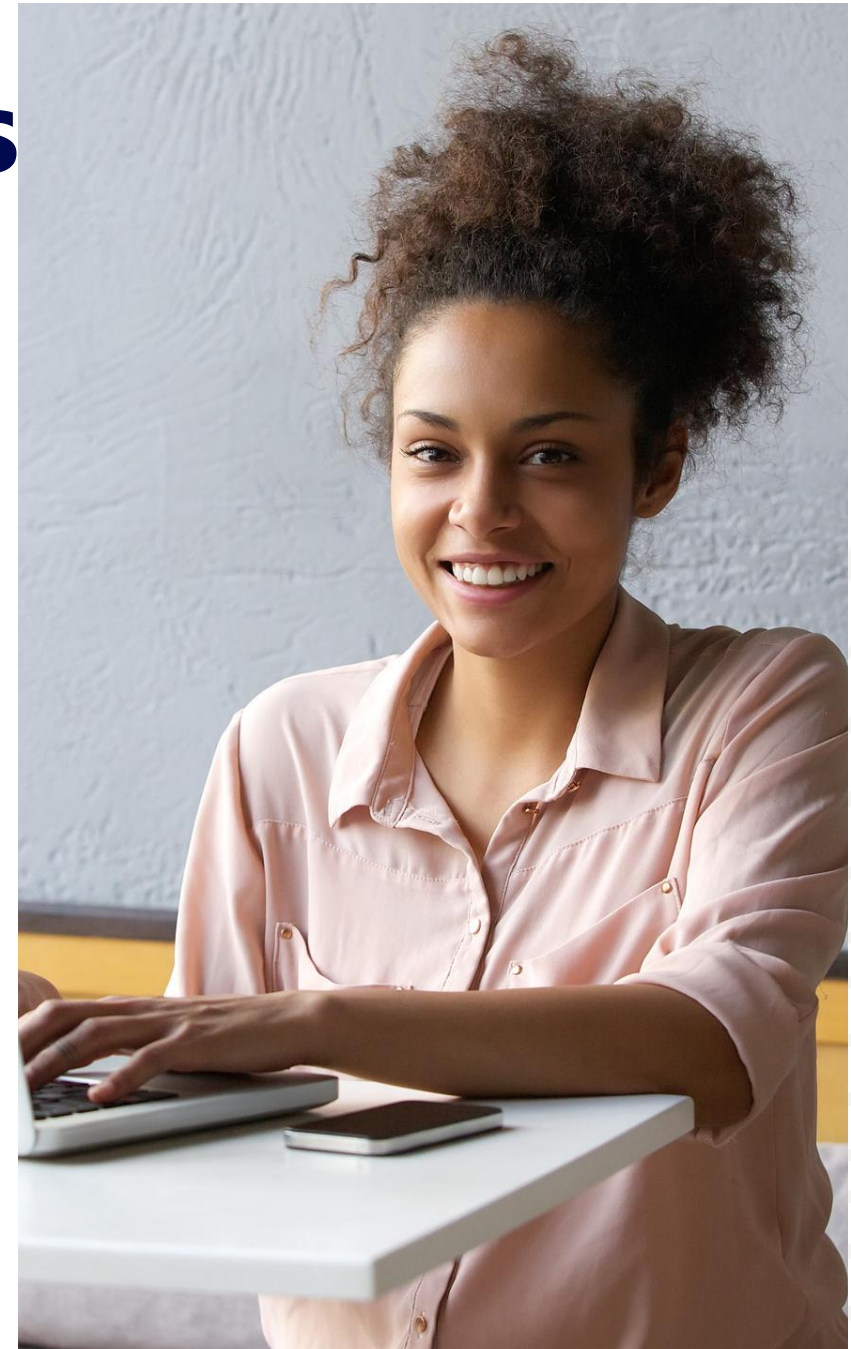
**Real
responsibilities**



**Not the easy
option**

Apprenticeships - Key facts

- ✓ Levels not linear - dependent on role and experience
- ✓ Majority of starts in U19s were Intermediate & Advanced
- ✓ Employer led - apply to employer, they select the provider
- ✓ Different recruitment methods
- ✓ Entry requirements vary
- ✓ Employer decides when they advertise



Levels of apprenticeships

Intermediate

Equivalent to:

5 GCSE passes at grade 9-4 (A*-C)

Level 2

Advanced

Equivalent to:

2 A levels /
T-level/Level 3
BTEC

Level 3

Higher

Equivalent to:

Foundation
degree and
above

Levels 4-5

Degree

Equivalent to:

Bachelors or
masters degree

Levels 6 & 7

Levels of apprenticeships

Intermediate (L2)

- Furniture maker
- Security operative
- Barber
- Aviation ground handler
- Dog groomer
- Florist
- Accounts assistant
- Pharmacy assistant
- Marina operative
- Junior estate agent

141 standards

Advanced (L3)

- Engineering technician
- Pastry chef
- Multi-channel marketer
- Fundraiser
- Scenic artist
- Electrician
- Community wellbeing worker
- Data technician

239 standards

Higher

- Visual effects artist
- Town planning assistant
- Sports coach
- Space engineering technician

**115 standards
(L4)**

- Vet technician
- Nursing associate
- Rail engineer
- Marine pilot
- Nuclear technician

41 standards (L5)

Degree

- Geoscientist
- Accounting manager
- Midwife
- Pilot
- Social worker
- Civil engineer

**110 standards
(L6)**

- Doctor
- Game programmer
- Play therapist
- Solicitor
- Economist

66 standards (L7)

Are they a good option?



Vacancies

**97,150 on Faa Aug
2023 - Jun 2024**



Retention

**90% of apprentices
stay in employment**



Progression

**Progression
opportunities**



Real job

**Developing vaccines
Interviewing politicians
Designing goal-line technology**



Employer value



Relocation



Support

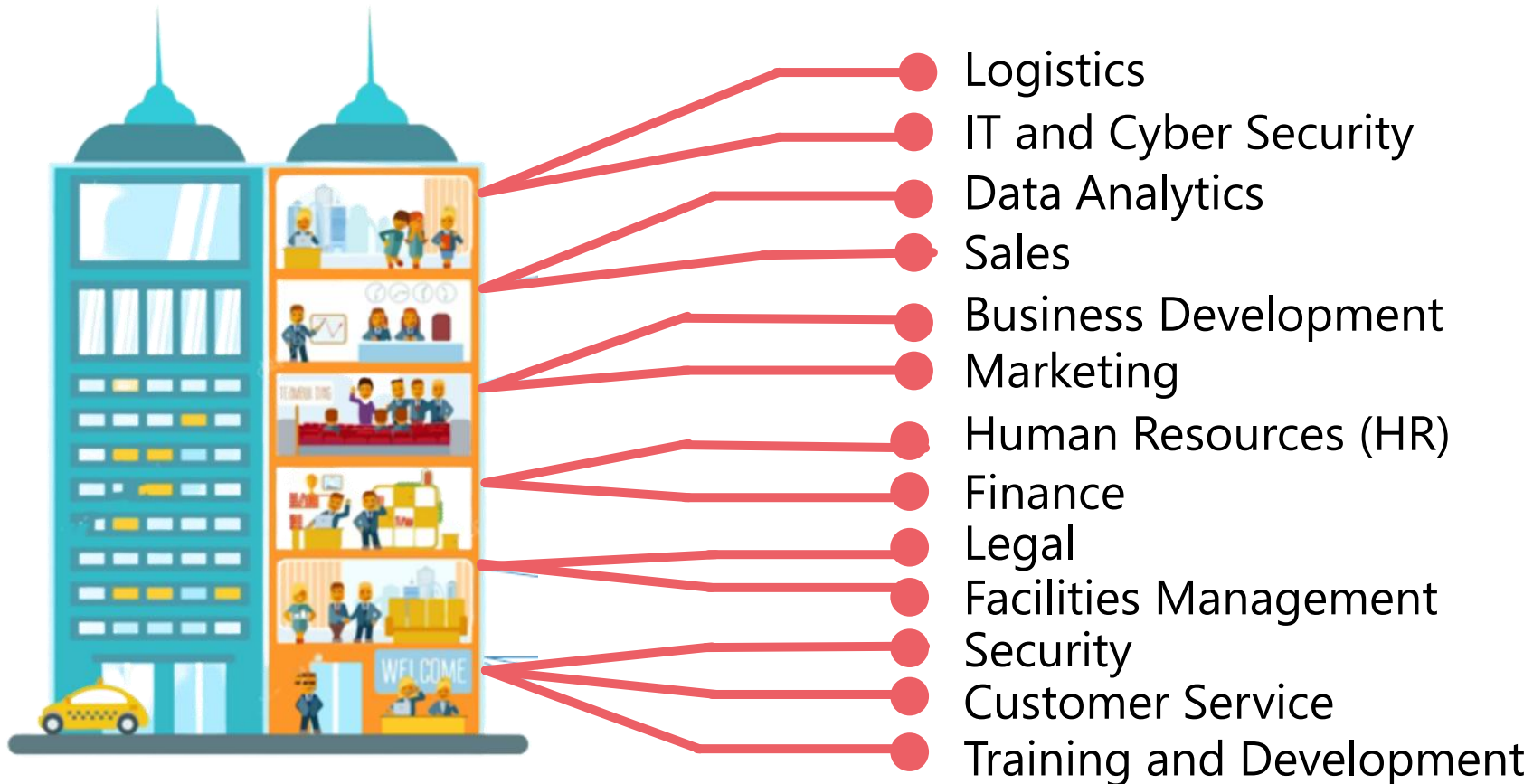


Competitive

Range of employers

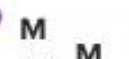
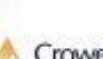
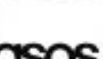


Look inside the company

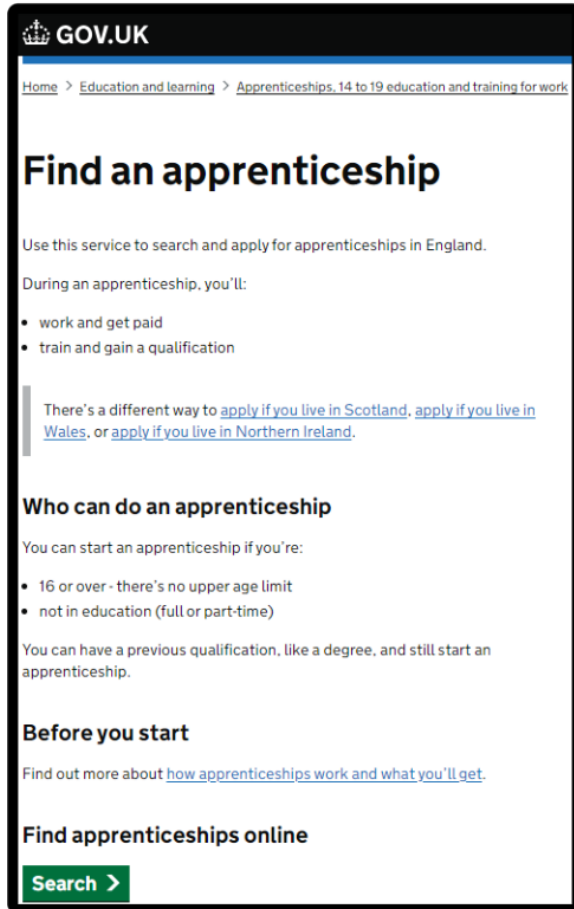


BEST 100 APPRENTICESHIP EMPLOYERS

2024 - 2025

1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8		9		10	
11		12		13		14		15		16		17		18		19		20	
21		22		23		24		25		26		27		28		29		30	
31		32		33		34		35		36		37		38		39		40	
41		42		43		44		45		46		47		48		49		50	
51		52		53		54		55		56		57		58		59		60	
61		62		63		64		65		66		67		68		69		70	
71		72		73		74		75		76		77		78		79		80	
81		82		83		84		85		86		87		88		89		90	
91		92		93		94		95		96		97		98		99		100	

How do you find apprenticeships?



WHAT IS FAA?

Showcasing live apprenticeship jobs



20,000+ vacancies
over the year



Free to use

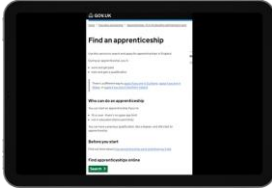


Secure site



Apply quickly

Where else to look



Find an apprenticeship

Local websites



Company websites



Careers websites



Social media



Friends and family



Higher and Degree listing

Find out more

THE CAREERS &
ENTERPRISE
COMPANY

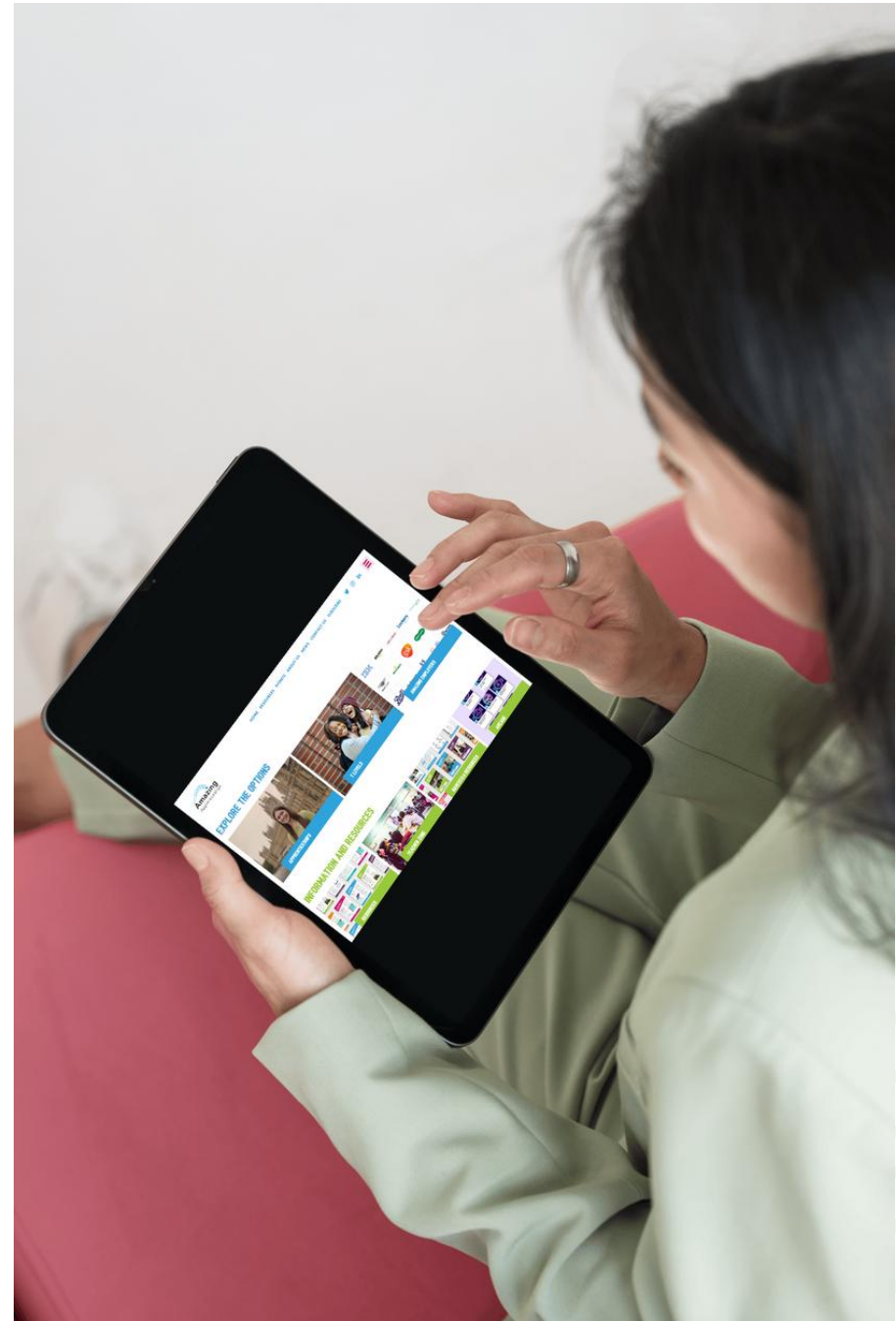
www.careersandenterprise.co.uk

National
Careers
Service

www.nationalcareers.service.gov.uk

Amazing
Apprenticeships

www.amazingapprenticeships.com





Applying for a place in Higher Education in 2026

Mr L Craggs Oct 2025



Business & Econom

Education

This article is more than 8 months old

Every year spent in s improves life expect

Analysis also says not attending sc smoking or heavy drinking



Completing primary, secondary and tertiary ed healthy diet, lowering the risk of death by 34%, t

Every year spent in school or university not attending school is as deadly as sm the first systematic study directly linki

Using evidence from industrialised cov

The trends shaping graduate recrui

First-time jobseek vacancies fall



© FT montage/Dreamstir

Andrew Jack SEPTE

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For graduates e

The technology

NEWS

We ask the experts: does it still pay to go to university? 'It's complex' | University guide | The Guardian

News Opinion Sport Culture Lifestyle

Guardian

Education Schools Teachers Universities Students

University Guide 2026 University guide

Richard Adams

Sat 13 Sep 2025 08.01 BST

Share

We ask the experts: does it still pay to go to university? 'It's complex'

The time and money you invest in education should be repaid by a rewarding career, but is that always the case?



Licence to print money? Graduates do earn more over a lifetime, but not all degree subjects are created equal. Photograph: Olga Dobrovolska/Getty Images

Is a university degree still worth it? That question has been asked for decades but with increased frequency over the last 10 years, as the cost of taking a degree has shifted from government to graduates.

The short answer is: yes it is, according to experts such as the Institute

Advertisement

Find out m

uel.ac.uk

University of East London
Pioneering Futures since 1969

Headlines from this year's university enrolments

From UCAS:

UCAS reports that record numbers of UK 18 year-olds have secured a place at university or college – 255,130 have been accepted, compared to 243,650 in 2024. Overall 82% of those holding an offer who received their decision this morning have been placed on their first choice.

Headlines from Whitburn:

- we are seeing a drop in those heading to uni. We think this is due to the costs associated with uni study and the cost of living crisis more widely.
- We saw an increase in students being placed at Russell Group universities. This may be due to them accepting more 'home' students with uncertainties over numbers of overseas students, but also likely our students are targeting 'top unis' for 'value for money' and employability.
- More students are opting to drop themselves into Clearing to essentially change their mind and pick a new course and/or destination. It's not like in my day when being in Clearing was for those who had missed their grades. Of 8 in Clearing, 6 were by choice with four of these having been offered their firm, and two offered their insurance. They declined and dropped themselves into Clearing.

HEI	2025 Entry	TOTAL
Northumbria	20	134
Newcastle University	23	118
University of Sunderland	13	105
Leeds Beckett	1	37
University of Leeds	3	31
University of York	2	28
York St John University	4	22
Manchester Metropolitan	1	19
Durham University	1	17
University of Manchester		16
University of Nottingham	1	11
Heriot-Watt, Edinburgh		10
Sheffield Hallam		8
Teesside University		8
University of Liverpool	1	8
University of Sheffield	1	8
Lancaster University		7
Nottingham Trent		6
University of Glasgow		6
University of Cambridge		5

HEI	2025 Entry	TOTAL
Newcastle College Uni. Centre		4
University of Hull		4
Leeds Trinity		4
Cumbria		4
Liverpool John Moores		4
Loughborough		3
Edge Hill		3
UCFB		3
University of Birmingham		3
University of Exeter		3
University of Stirling		3
University of Leicester	1	3
University of Lincoln		2
Edinburgh Napier		2
Hull-York Medical School		2
Liverpool Hope		2
University of Bristol		2
University of Oxford		2
University of St Andrews		2
Queen Mary, UoL		2
University College London (UCL)		2

HEI	2025 Entry	TOTAL
Central Lancashire (UCLAN)		2
University of East Anglia		2
University of Edinburgh	1	2
Cardiff University	1	2
Imperial College London	1	2
Kings College London		1
Aston University, Birmingham		1
City, University of London		1
Coventry University		1
Essex		1
Kingston University		1
New College, Durham	1	1
Leeds Arts University		1
Norwich University of the Arts		1
Oxford Brookes		1
Reading		1
SOAS		1
Swansea		1
The Northern School of Art		1
University of Bath		1
University of Derby		1

HEI	2025 Entry	TOTAL
University of Gloucester		1
University of Kent		1
University of Warwick		1
University of Winchester		1
University of Westminster		1
Askham Bryan		1
UWE, Bristol		1
Strathclyde		1
Wolverhampton		1
University of Bradford	1	1
University for the Creative Arts	1	1
University of Surrey	1	1
Queen's University, Belfast	1	1
University of Dundee		0
University of Chester		0
St George's, Uni of London		0
London School of Economics & Politics		0
University of Southampton		0

80 702

RUSSELL

[University of Birmingham >](#)
[University of Bristol >](#)
[University of Cambridge >](#)
[Cardiff University >](#)
[Durham University >](#)
[University of Edinburgh >](#)
[University of Exeter >](#)
[University of Glasgow >](#)
[Imperial College London >](#)
[King's College London >](#)
[University of Leeds >](#)
[University of Liverpool >](#)
[London School of
Economics and Political
Science >](#)
[University of Manchester >](#)
[Newcastle University >](#)
[University of Nottingham >](#)
[University of Oxford >](#)
[Queen Mary University of
London >](#)
[Queen's University
Belfast >](#)
[University of Sheffield >](#)
[University of
Southampton >](#)
[University College
London >](#)
[University of Warwick >](#)
[University of York >](#)

GROUP

*“..but I want to go to a
Russell Group University”*

[University Rankings and League Tables
\(thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk\)](#)

Do we over-focus on the Russell Group?

The Russell Group describes a group of 24 ‘research-intensive’ universities that receive greater funding. We often hear from parents that they want their young person to go to a Russell Group university.

TEF 2023	TEF 2023	TEF 2023	TEF 2023	51	22%
Gold	Silver	Bronze	Requires improvement	125	55%
				48	21%
				3	1%

[TEF 2023 ratings dashboard - Office for Students](#)

[Complete University Guide - University Rankings, Guides and Courses](#)



	Durham	Cambridge	St Andrews	Newcastle	LSE	Aston	Lancaster	Loughborough	YSJ	Man. Met	Uni Arts London
Russell Group?	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No
TEF Rating	Silver	Gold	n/a	Silver	Silver	Gold	Gold	Gold	Silver	Gold	Bronze
Completeuniversityguide.co.uk ranking 2026	5	1	4	31	3	44	10	7	105	50	33
Student Satisfaction	78%	79%	83%	76%	78%	77%	79%	78%	79%	79%	77%
Graduate Prospects	88%	90%	87%	81%	91%	81%	80%	85%	66%	70%	59%
UCAS Points 3xA = 144	181	206	215	151	187	133	150	157	119	135	145
Top Ten for...	28 incl. [whole range]	42 incl. [whole range]	25 incl. [whole range]	12 incl. [whole range]	13 incl. [whole range]	2	13 incl. [whole range]	16 incl. [whole range]	[none, but...] 5 x Top 30	4	[none, but...] 5 x Top 30

Top 24 but NOT Russell Group:

4 St Andrews

7 Loughborough

8 Bath

10 Lancaster

19 Surrey

Russell Group but NOT top 24 :

26 Nottingham

28 Manchester

=31 Newcastle

=31 Glasgow

41 QMUL

Top for student satisfaction:

- 1 St Andrews
- 2 Lincoln Bishop
- =3 Wrexham and Plymouth Marjon
- 5 Arts University Plymouth
- 6 University of Wales Trinity St David
- =7 **Sunderland**, Birmingham
Newman
and University East London

Top for Graduate Prospects:

- 1 ICL
- 2 LSE&P
- 3 Oxford
- 4 Cambridge
- 5 Durham
- 6 Bath
- 7 **St Andrews**
- 8 UCL
- 9 Queen's Belfast
- 10 **Loughborough**

Useful facts about UCAS

- The 2025 applicant fee is £28.95 for (up to) five choices.
- ‘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



2026 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 th October	Medicine, dentistry, veterinary sci/med and Oxford <u>or</u> Cambridge.
14 th January	Application deadline for most courses.
30 th June	Applications after this date held for Clearing.
24 th September	Final date for 2026 Applications.



Since May we have been researching our options...

- ✓ Comparing courses - their content & delivery.
- ✓ Looking at fees and other costs. Checking out bursaries and scholarships.
- ✓ Reading the prospectus information.
- ✓ Discussing choices – teachers, parents & friends.
- ✓ Attending Open Days.

Useful Resources:

- Mr Moore, SF Staff, subject staff
- HE Fayre 24th Sept
- [Unifrog](#)
- [UCAS](#) 'Course search'
- prospects.ac.uk
- [Discover Uni Home](#)
- [The Uni Guide](#)
- completeuniversityguide.co.uk

UCAS



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

2 course(s) selected

☆☆☆ BSc (Hons) Biology Newcastle University	X	☆☆☆ BSc (Hons) Biology University of Sheffield
---	---	--

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 indicate 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

☆☆☆ BSc (Hons) Biology Newcastle University	X	☆☆☆ BSc (Hons) Biology University of Sheffield
---	---	--

National Student Survey results		
Overall, I am satisfied with the quality of the course	61%	63%
Data from (# of people)	30	25
% of those asked	57%	67%
The data displayed is from students on	This course	This course
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%

Visit if possible!...

UCAS

↑ / Undergraduate / What and where to study / Open days and events
VIRTUAL TOURS

<https://bit.ly/3qHc9fX>



UCAS



opendays.com

university and college open days

<https://www.Opendays.com>



UCAS Deadlines...

- Applications open on 2nd September.
- The first UCAS deadline is **Wednesday 15th October** for Oxford, Cambridge, Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Medicine
- The second UCAS deadline is **Wednesday 14th January**

44
school
days

NB Some universities require additional tests e.g. the UCAT (Medicine), LNAT, TMUA, STEP etc...there are others

Whitburn Sixth Form Deadlines:

First sixth form deadline is **Wednesday 8th October**

Second sixth form deadline is **Tuesday 6th January**

<9
school
weeks



UCAS Points

Grades-based Universities

- Typically 'Russel Group'
- Offer will be made up of three grades
- Other quals will be useful in Personal Statements but will not contribute to meeting the offer

Points-based Universities

- Typically newer universities
- Offer will be a points target, or range
- Other quals will contribute points towards this target
- WP schemes may offer points for participation
- More flexibility
- May be useful as a 'safe' or back-up option



University of Sheffield
Degree level: Undergraduate

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Entry requirements

Qualification requirements

► UCAS Tariff - Not accepted

▼ A level - AAA

including Biology* and a second science (second science subjects include Chemistry, Maths, Further Maths, Physics, Psychology, Environmental Science, Geology or Geography). *Human Biology accepted in lieu of Biology, but Biology and Human Biology cannot be accepted in combination as the two sciences.



Sheffield Hallam University
Degree level: Undergraduate

BIOLOGY

Entry requirements

Qualification requirements

▼ UCAS Tariff - 112 - 120 points

From A levels (including at least 32 points in Biology) or equivalent BTEC national qualifications in Applied Science to include suitable Biology modules. We do not accept General Studies. We will consider a combination of qualification types. For example: BBB-BBC at A Level including grade C in Biology. DDM in BTEC Extended Diploma in Applied Science will be considered (please include units on application). BTEC Diploma in Applied Science D*D with relevant biology modules (please include units on application) alongside other level 3 study. Merit overall from a T level qualification from T level Science: Laboratory Technician Pathway only. A combination of qualifications including relevant subject(s), which may include AS levels or EPQ.

The UCAS Tariff...

A Levels Grade:	A-Level UCAS Points	AS-Level UCAS Points	EPQ UCAS Points	L3 Core Maths UCAS Points
A*	56	n/a	28	n/a
A	48	20	24	20
B	40	16	20	16
C	32	12	16	12
D	24	10	12	10
E	16	6	8	6

BTEC Health & Social Care Grade:	UCAS Points
Dist.*	56
Dist.	48
Merit	32
Pass	16

Music Practical Exams Grade:	UCAS Points	Music Theory Exams Grade:	UCAS Points
8 Dist.	30		
8 Merit	24	8 Dist.	10
8 Pass	18	8 Merit	9
7 Dist.	16	8 Pass/7 Dist.	8
7 Merit	14	7 Merit	7
7 Pass/6 Dist.	12	7 Pass/6 Dist.	6
6 Merit	10	6 Merit	5
6 Pass	8	6 Pass	4

See full UCAS tariff here: [Calculate your UCAS Tariff points](#)

No points for DofE

UCAS



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 and Insurance Choices...

When you have received responses from all of your choices you then have to choose a **firm** and an **insurance** choice by the deadline! This is all done on UCAS Track.

- **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!



What if...

I get no offers?

I don't get the required grades?

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

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

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

Insurance Choice

Clearing Process
(From early July)

Clearing Process
(results day)

UCAS



The Personal Statement



UCAS



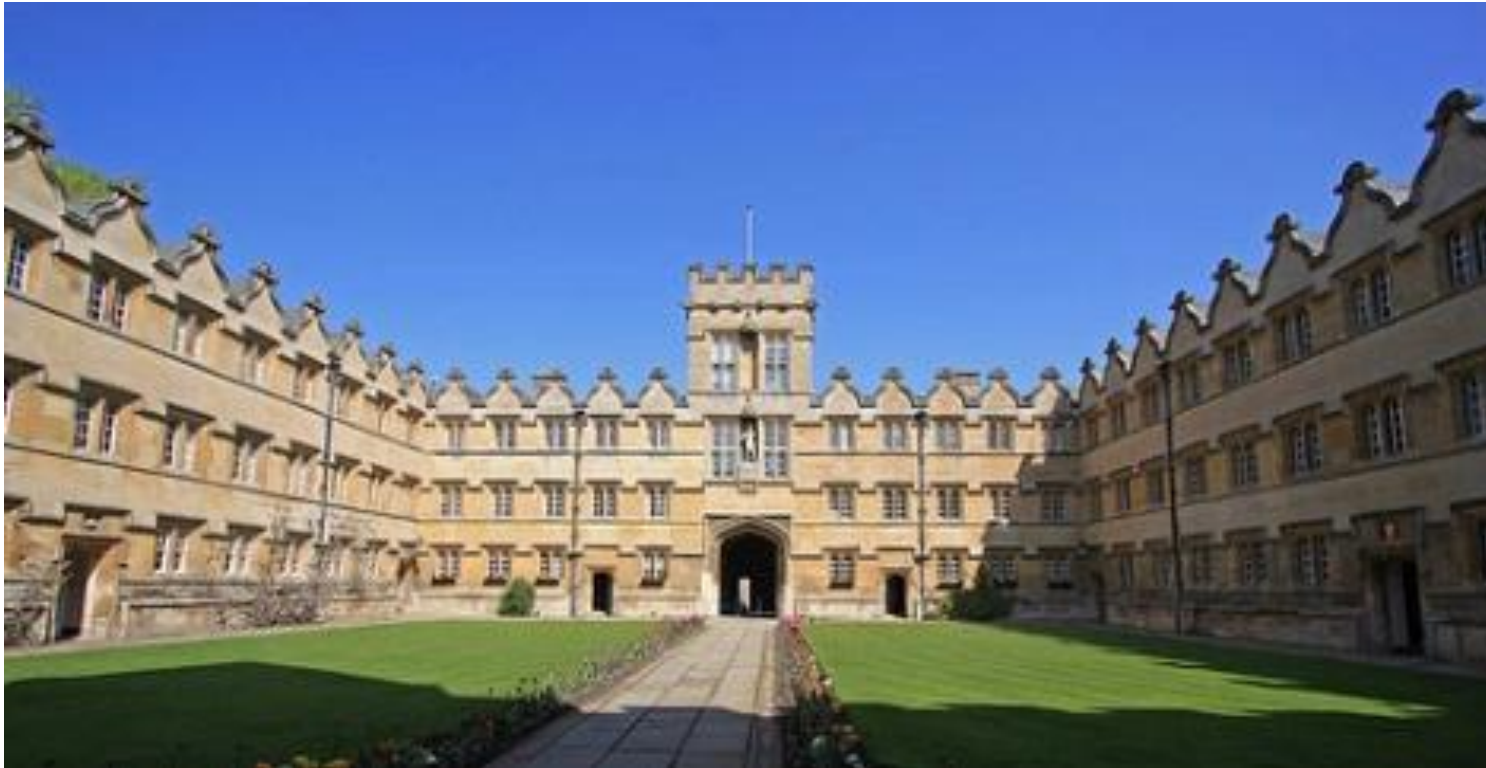
The Personal Statement

- 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. **NEW!** Split across three 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?*
- No spelling/grammar check on UCAS so prepare it in Word.



The Personal Statement

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



Three-part Structure

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

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?



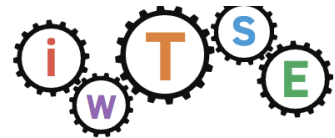
What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?

- Start with the 'lightbulb moment'
- interest in their chosen subject
- their knowledge of the subject and enthusiasm to go beyond the syllabus
- what they enjoy about study
- have they chosen the right subject for the right reasons?
- does the personal statement confirm their depth of interest in the subject?

- academic achievements, past and present
- has the candidate studied independently – include super-curricular activities like MOOCs, lectures and EPQs
- does the student appear motivated and committed?
- Any relevant work experience?

- can they survive in an intense and pressured atmosphere?
- How do they unwind and relax?
- What can they contribute to the wider life of the university.
- More about what you do rather than the standard to which you do it!

'Super-curriculars'



iWantToStudyEngineering
A website to help you compete for engineering places at top universities.



Podcasts



School of English @TUOS

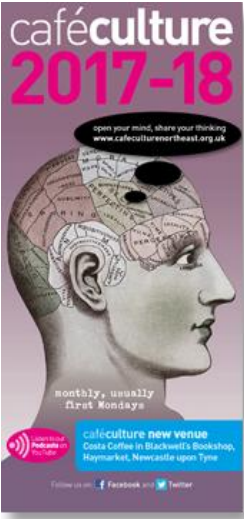
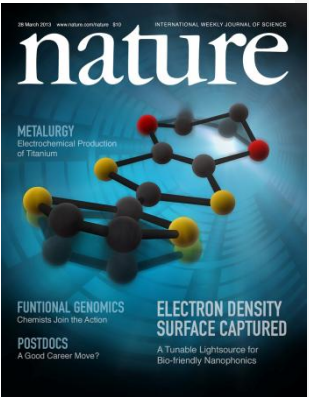
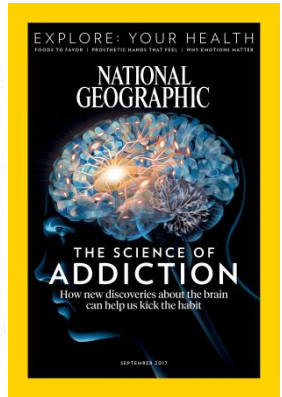
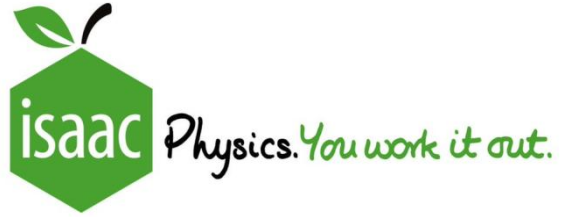
By School of English @TUOS

Get to know the School of English community! The School of English at The University of Sheffield explores the breadth and depth of the English language through the study of literature, language, linguistics and theatre.

See more

Listen on Spotify

Facebook Instagram Twitter



We advertise these online events and encourage attendance for several reasons:

1. *It will help develop interest in an area*
2. *It will help students master A-Level learning by giving an opportunity to make links between new info presented in these sessions and theory they are learning in class*
3. *It will help students decide if that subject is right for them at uni*
4. *It will help students decide if uni and lecture-style learning is right for them*
5. *It will enhance their Personal Statement when applying for a uni course*

Are you a subject rep? Book on to the lecture and host it in a spare classroom with other interested students joining you:

Events currently open for bookings are listed below. You might follow these in school with your headphones or Mrs Townsley would help you find a spare classroom if you want to do the session with some peers.

Upcoming Online Lectures/Subject Enrichment Events

- October 15 @ 10:10 - 10:55** Media/Sociology: Understanding Gender & Work On Social Media - Surrey (16+) [Find out more »](#)
- October 15 @ 14:15 - 15:00** Biochemistry: Form & Function - Understanding Protein Structure - UEA (16+) [Find out more »](#)
- October 15 @ 13:00 - 13:45** Being University-Ready: Preparing Mentally & Academically - Warwick & Southampton [Find out more »](#)
- October 20 @ 14:15 - 15:00** Mathematical Modelling - Tutorial - UEA (16+) [Find out more »](#)
- October 21 @ 15:35 - 16:20** MFL/Spanish: 20th Century Hispanic Dictatorships - Surrey (16+) [Find out more »](#)
- October 22 @ 11:10 - 12:00** Graphic Communication: Driving Positive & Progressive Change - WSA at Southampton [Find out more »](#)
- October 22 @ 14:00 - 14:45** Extended Project Qualification: Crafting a Research Question - Southampton (16+) [Find out more »](#)
- October 23 @ 10:10 - 10:55** English Literature: Virginia Woolf - Modernism, Feminism & Literary Form - UEA (16+) [Find out more »](#)
- October 23 @ 13:00 - 13:45** Social Sciences Study Skills: How To Read Tables - UEA (16+) [Find out more »](#)
- November 6 @ 12:45 - 13:30** Business Analytics: Making Smart Decisions from Millions of Data Points - St George's [Find out more »](#)
- November 6 @ 16:30 - 17:15** HE Guidance: Writing A Standout Personal Statement - UEA [Find out more »](#)
- November 10 @ 14:15 - 15:00** Criminology: Exploring The Harms of Hate Crime - Surrey (16+) [Find out more »](#)
- November 11 @ 09:10 - 09:55** History: Challenging The Authority of Henry VIII - Portsmouth (16+) [Find out more »](#)
- November 11 @ 13:45 - 14:30** MFL/French: The Impact of Music on French Popular Culture - Surrey (16+) [Find out more »](#)
- November 12 @ 16:15 - 17:15** The Future of UK Farming - NFU & UEA [Find out more »](#)

Links in
Year 12
Team

FT Access Schools Digest is part of the free FT schools programme for students aged 16-19, teachers and schools around the world. Students of Economics, Geography, Politics and many other subjects would find this particularly useful and they can [create individual accounts](#) and [sign up for the newsletter](#) via these links.



[Gresham College](#). Gresham lectures provide stretch, challenge & support for the A Level curriculum. They can deepen your knowledge & develop new ideas, concepts & perspectives that can be used and referenced in exams, coursework (including EPQs), and at university interviews to help you stand out from the crowd.



[St Anne's College, Oxford](#) have curated an ever-growing set of resources to help prospective students enrich their learning and boost their applications.

Also check out [OU Podcasts](#). Search all 800+ podcast series in a range of subjects.



[www.theconversation.com](#). Informed commentary and debate on the issues affecting our world. All articles written by authors with expertise in the subject matter, so you will get your news directly from actual experts. Also on social media @ConversationUK



[myHE+](#). The HE+ website brings you exciting supercurricular resources created and written by Cambridge students and academics including challenging activities, engaging videos, reflective questions and much more.



[Oxplore](#) is an engaging digital resource from the University of Oxford. As the 'Home of Big Questions', it aims to challenge those from 11-18 years with debates and ideas that go beyond what is covered in the classroom. Big questions tackle complex ideas across a wide range of subjects and reflect the kind of critical thinking students undertake at university.



[The official website of the Nobel Prize](#). Find out about the recent Nobel Prize laureates in the subject you are interested in. What can you learn about their research?



****All Subjects****

These resources are suitable for all students whatever their main interests.

INSIGHTS Find a past lecture from [Newcastle University's INSIGHTS public lecture series](#) that looks interesting. Watch it. Note down a few interesting points to refer back to in your personal statement or at interview.



[Aeon](#). Launched in 2012, Aeon's mission is to explore and communicate knowledge that addresses the need we all share to make sense of ourselves & the world. We ask the big, existentially significant questions & find the freshest, most original answers, provided by leading thinkers on philosophy, science, psychology, society & culture.



[Wellcome Collection](#) a range of activities as enriching resources for post-16 students. Each resource includes activity sheets for & focuses students on a specific section of the recorded event (around 8 to 15 minutes long). The activities are designed to challenge A level Biology, Art, Sociology or Psychology, or BTEC Health and Social Care students.



[Google scholar](#). Google Scholar provides a simple way to broadly search for scholarly literature. From one place, you can search across many disciplines & sources: articles, theses, books, abstracts & court opinions, from academic publishers, professional societies, universities & other web sites.



[Broadcast Video Library - Speakers for Schools](#) Young people can hear from high-achieving professionals and world-famous names by joining live in-person and online events or watching recorded broadcasts to discover the secrets to career success.



[Home | The University of Sheffield Player](#) Internationally renowned researchers work for the University of Sheffield. They are leaders in their fields & their research is helping to tackle many of the problems that affect us all. From art to AI, climate change to cutting edge medicine, sustainable food to societal issues, there will be something on the Player to feed your curiosity



[Springpod subject spotlights](#) allow you to learn an interesting topic while researching your university options. They are a great, free way to get a representative impression of what pursuing a subject at university is actually like.



Are they even read?

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



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 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).

"Group assignments are completed with greater efficiency as a result of my compassion, which renders me an effective contender"

"I additionally possess good leadership and teamwork capabilities"





Open Evening.

Thursday 5th February 2026

- Do you have a child in Year 11?
- Friends with Year 11 children?
- Please encourage them to come along and visit us on Thursday 7th November 6-7.30pm