

## Applying for university - The basics

### UCAS

UCAS is the online application that students complete to gain entrance to university. It consists of a number of sections including Personal Details, Education and the Personal Statement. There is a small admin charge of £27 to send off a UCAS application.

### The Personal Statement

The Personal Statement is a student's chance to 'sell' themselves to prospective universities. They should talk about their enthusiasm for the subject, their skills and qualities, their experiences to date and any future plans they have. They have 47 lines or 4000 characters to do this in, whichever is shorter.

### Choices

Students can select up to 5 choices. Ideally, students should choose one 'aspirational' choice that asks for higher grades, two 'appropriate' choices that ask for grades around the same as those that the student has been predicted and two 'safety' choices that ask for grades just below their predictions.

### Offers

Once universities have considered an application they will either reject the application or make an offer. Common offers are **Conditional**, which means that students need to achieve certain grades, or **Unconditional**. Students then choose one offer to accept as a **Firm** choice and one as an **Insurance**. The Insurance choice should ideally require lower grades than their Firm choice.

## Useful Resources

[www.asfc.ac.uk/student-life/support#Careers](http://www.asfc.ac.uk/student-life/support#Careers)  
[www.unifrog.org](http://www.unifrog.org)  
[www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)  
[university.which.co.uk](http://university.which.co.uk)  
[www.opendays.com](http://www.opendays.com)  
[www.russellgroup.ac.uk](http://www.russellgroup.ac.uk)  
[discoveruni.gov.uk](http://discoveruni.gov.uk)  
[www.theguardian.com/education/universityguide](http://www.theguardian.com/education/universityguide)  
[www.gov.uk/student-finance/overview](http://www.gov.uk/student-finance/overview)

## Applying for Apprenticeships - The basics

### Apprenticeships?

Apprenticeships are a great option for college leavers as they offer the chance to combine practical training in a job alongside gaining nationally recognised qualifications. They are available at **Degree and Higher** level (equivalent to university study), **Advanced** level (equivalent to A Levels) and **Intermediate** level (equivalent to GCSE level)

### School Leaver Programmes

Like apprenticeships, School Leaver programmes are work and study schemes during which trainees work towards a university degree and/or professional qualification, as well as working for an employer and earning a wage. Examples of employers who have previously offered School Leaver programmes include Accenture; National Grid; Ernst & Young; Mazars and IBM.

### Standards

Each apprenticeship occupational sector has its own 'standards' or qualification frameworks. These cover a huge range of subjects from Health to Engineering, from Business to Policing, from IT to Law and many more. Standards are due to increase in range even further in coming years.

### Applying

Some higher profile employers start to advertise their Degree Apprenticeships and School Leaver Programmes from the September of a student's A2 year. The majority of apprenticeship vacancies are, however, advertised through the National Apprenticeship Service from January of the year you want to start.

## Useful Resources

[www.asfc.ac.uk/student-life/support#Careers](http://www.asfc.ac.uk/student-life/support#Careers)  
[www.unifrog.org](http://www.unifrog.org)  
[www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk](http://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk)  
[www.ucas.com/understanding-apprenticeships](http://www.ucas.com/understanding-apprenticeships)  
[www.notgoingtouni.co.uk](http://www.notgoingtouni.co.uk)  
[www.amazingapprenticeships.com](http://www.amazingapprenticeships.com)  
[www.allaboutschoolleavers.co.uk](http://www.allaboutschoolleavers.co.uk)  
<https://topapprenticeshipemployers.co.uk/>



# Information for Parents & Carers of A Students

# PROGRESSION TIMELINE

