

UCAS and University Applications

Year 12 Parent Consultation Evening
Tuesday 5th July

UCAS



What is UCAS?

UCAS is an independent charity providing information, advice and admissions services. They process university applications in the UK.

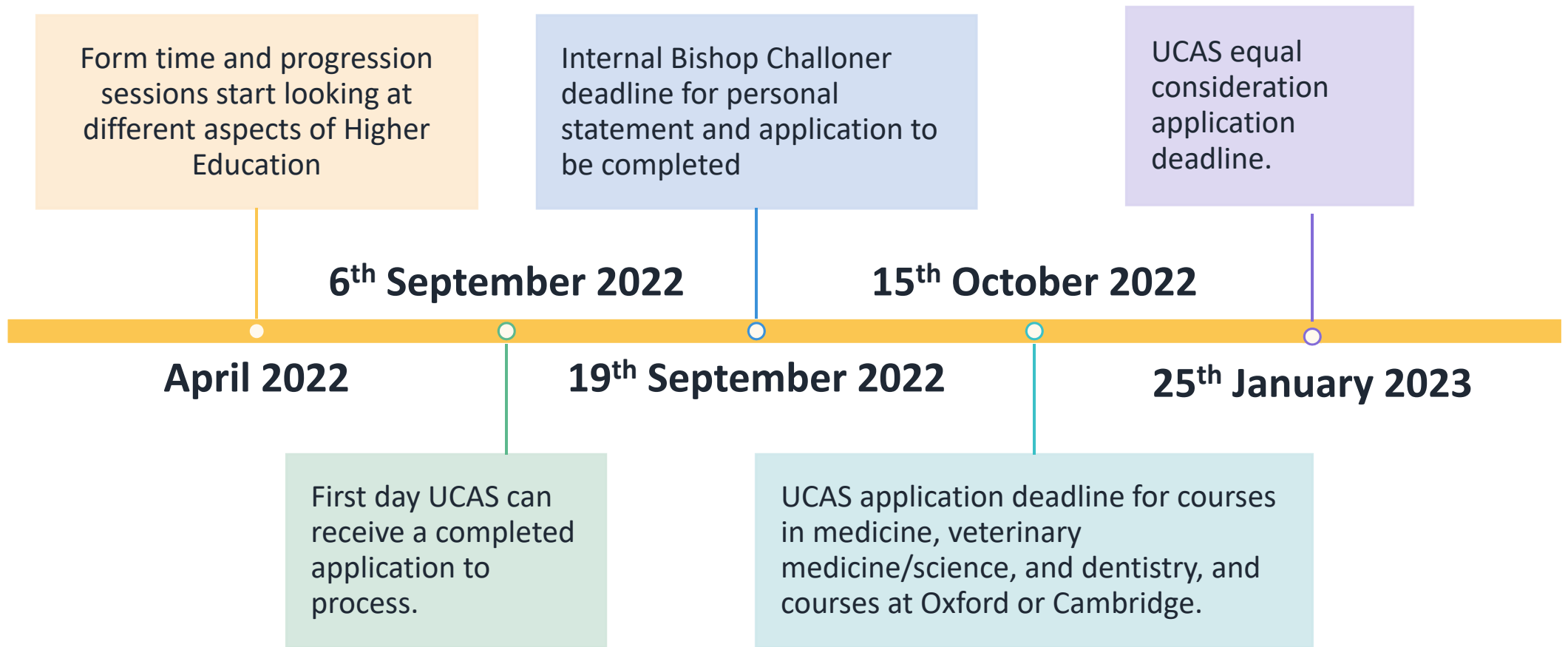
UCAS does:

- provide information, advice, and support
- process applications
- complete fraud and verification checks
- take part in education sector engagement

UCAS doesn't:

- make decisions or offers
- set entry requirements
- advise on finance
- advise on immigration or visas for individuals

When to apply for 2023 entry



What have Year 12 students covered so far?

So far this year, students in Year 12 students have had sessions looking at the following aspects of careers and higher education:

Degree Apprenticeships

Career Mapping

Acing your Personal Statement

Intro to Higher Education

Living away from home

Goal setting

Pathway Planners

The UCAS Process

Thinking outside the box

Linking A-Levels to careers

Choosing universities

Student Finance

Post-18 Options

Accommodation

**Students that missed any sessions can access them on Unifrog.
Parents can view all sessions on the school website.**

Completing the UCAS application



Student registers for a UCAS Hub account to carry out research and start application.



Student completes all sections of the application and sends it to their school/college.



Teacher or adviser reviews the application and adds reference and predicted grades.



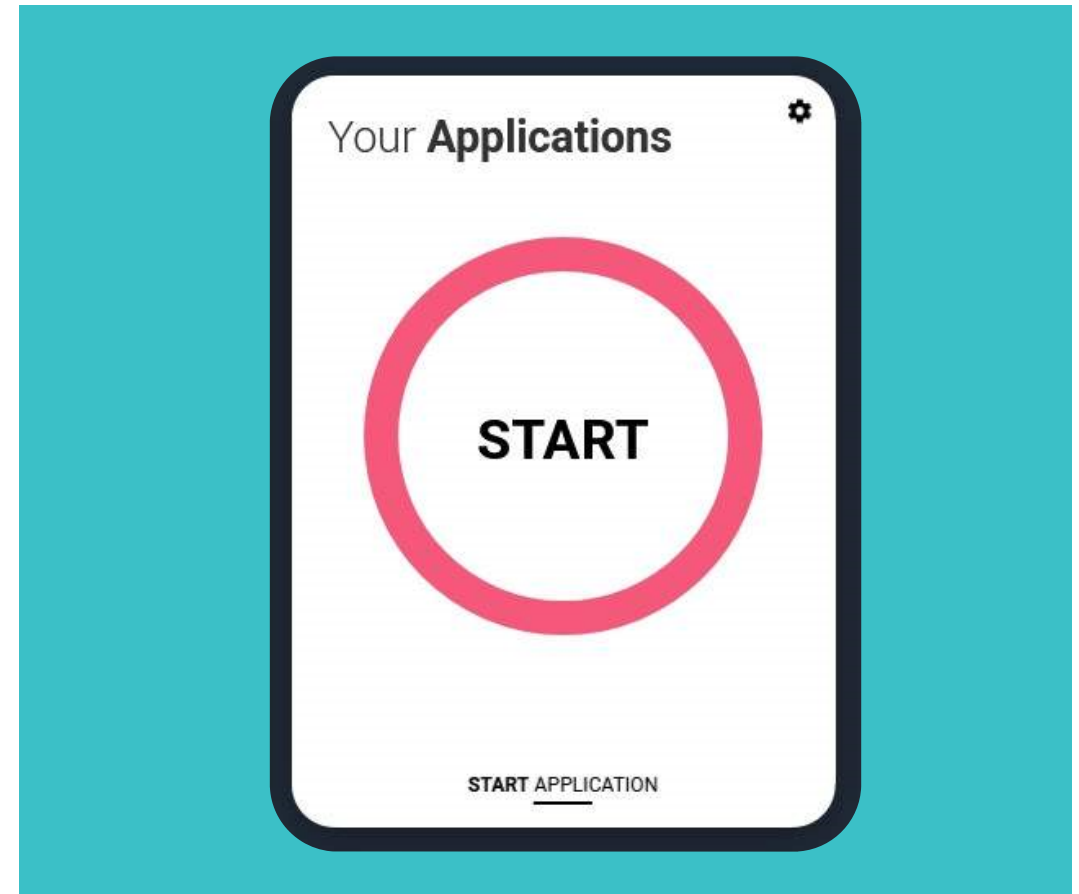
Applications are sent to UCAS by the school or college on behalf of the student.



Universities and colleges make their decisions on the application.

Key facts

- Students have up to **five choices**, unless applying to study medicine, veterinary, medicine/science, dentistry – then it's **four choices** (plus one non-med/vet/dentistry course).
- You **can't apply to BOTH** Oxford and Cambridge.
- Applying **costs** £22.50 for 1 choice, or £27 for multiple choices.
- Apply by the **equal consideration date**.
- Universities and colleges **can't see** other choices applied to.



Application

Profile:

- Personal details
- Contact and residency details
- Nationality details
- Supporting information
- English language skills
- Finance and funding
- Diversity and inclusion*
- More about you

Experiences:

- Education
- Employment
- Extra activities*
- Personal statement
- Reference**
- Add choices – up to 5

* (for students with a UK home address)


Students will begin registering with UCAS in school this half term!


UCAS


The screenshot shows a 'Profile' dashboard with the following sections:


- Personal details >** Name, age, title, and gender. Status: Section complete.
- Contact & residency details >** Address, email, telephone, and where you live. Status: Start this section.
- Nationality details >** Country and nationality details. Status: Start this section.
- Supporting information >** Status: Section in progress.
- English language skills >** Is English your first language? Status: Start this section.
- Finance & funding >** Tell us how you'll fund your study. Status: Section in progress.
- Diversity & inclusion >** Only shared with a provider once you have a place or your application is archived. Status: Start this section.
- More about you >** Tell us about any circumstances that you might need support for during your studies. Status: Start this section.


The Personal Statement

 The only section students have full control over


 Students only chance to market themselves individually

 The same for all choices

 A maximum of 4,000 characters, or 47 lines

 A minimum of 1,000 characters

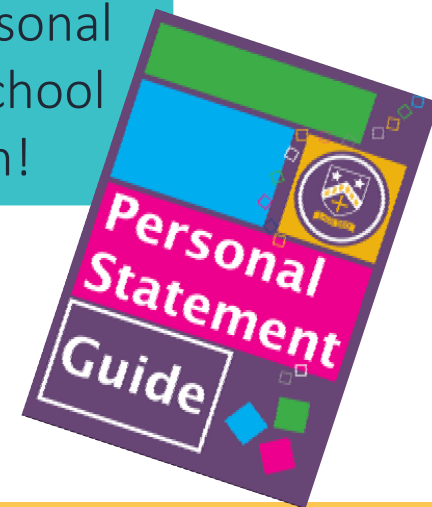
 There isn't a spelling or grammar check

 No formatting is allowed

There are great example personal statements on Unifrog, and available here: www.purepotential.org/personal-statements/

UCAS' similarity detection service:
every personal statement is run through software to check for plagiarism.

Students will start writing their Personal Statements in school this half term!



Decisions

Universities and colleges will review the:



personal statement



qualifications



reference

They may also ask for:



admissions test



interview



portfolio/audition

What can students be doing?

- Research, research, research
- Attend open days and events – including online
- Extracurricular and supercurricular activities
- Work experience
- Volunteering
- Independent learning outside the curriculum
- Focus on studies



Unifrog



- Unifrog is an online careers platform that we use at Bishop Challoner
- It allows students to research careers, university courses, apprenticeships and lots more!
- Year 12 students have completed lots of sessions on Unifrog and should be familiar with how to use it for university research
- Students will be writing their Personal Statements on Unifrog which allows staff to track their progress and provide live feedback. It also keeps their Statement in a secure place so it can't get lost!
- Want to see what Unifrog has to offer? You can view it as a parent here: <https://www.unifrog.org/code> using the code: BSCCparent

Choosing the right place

- **Style** – from traditional, with a focus on subject-based courses and research, to modern universities/colleges, with a greater focus on vocational courses.
- **Location** – some are in large cities, others in small towns, by the coast or in the countryside – it's all a major influence on the environment and lifestyle.
- **Size** – larger universities can have more than 20,000 students, whereas some of the smallest have only a few thousand.
- **Culture and facilities** – influenced by a range of factors, including the diversity of students who attend.
- **What graduates do** – all universities collect destination statistics; it can be useful to find out what jobs or further study students go on to.
- **Tuition fees** – can vary between universities and colleges; check if there are scholarships or bursaries available.
- **Living costs** – accommodation, transport, and food can vary enormously.

Choosing the right course

- What does the course cover?
- Courses with the same title may be very different.
- Look carefully at the core course content, and the range of optional studies/modules available.
- Which modules are the most interesting and relevant to your career aspirations?
- See if the course or university/college offers any internship, placement, or study abroad opportunities.
- How is the course taught – structured teaching, or more independent research? How many lectures are there, and how much group work will be done in seminars?
- How is the course assessed?

How can you support students?

Research

Use the parents/guardians' section of the UCAS website at www.ucas.com/parents

Sign up

Sign up for parent updates from UCAS and get everything you need to know about the application process direct to your inbox.

Open days

Attend virtual events and open days – you may have a different perspective.

Be proactive

Make sure they carefully read everything that is sent to them and don't book holidays at key times!

A young man with short, curly hair, wearing glasses, a grey hoodie, and a blue denim jacket, is looking thoughtfully to the right. He is in a library or study area with bookshelves and lights in the background.

Thank you

UCAS