

UCAS

Tuesday 27th January 2026

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The Process Starts Now!

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Why University?





Why University?

- **Increases earning potential**
- **An opportunity to develop and learn**
- **Gain transferable skills**
- **New personal experiences**








Why Not?

- **Delay to earning**
- **Parents' financial pressures**
- **Long term financial considerations (£28K = £5pcm)**
- **Academic fatigue - gap year?**



Alternatives

Apprenticeships – www.targetcareers.co.uk

	Level 6 R&D Packaging Degree Apprenticeship Programme Unilever	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Degree apprenticeship5+ yearsDegree qualification	<ul style="list-style-type: none">09/02/2019Competitive
	Apprentice Chartered Surveyor	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Degree apprenticeship	<ul style="list-style-type: none">13/02/2019£350.00 per week
<small>ADVERTISE HERE</small>			
	Service Desk Analysis Apprenticeship GVC Holdings	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Advanced apprenticeship2 yearsProfessional qualification	<ul style="list-style-type: none">14/02/2019£18,000
	School Leaver Management Degree Apprentice McDonald's Restaurants Ltd	<ul style="list-style-type: none">School leaver programme/scheme5+ yearsDegree qualification	<ul style="list-style-type: none">15/02/2019£16,000
	Marketing 2019 (Osterley, West London) Sky	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Higher apprenticeship3 yearsProfessional qualification	<ul style="list-style-type: none">15/02/2019£19,000



Which Course?

- **THE MOST IMPORTANT DECISION!**
- **Choose something that interests you and you're good at**
- **Enjoyment v Employability**
- **With v And**
- **Contact time**
- **How will it be taught?**
- **How will it be assessed?**
- **Student satisfaction & employment rates**
- **A year in industry**

<https://www.whatuni.com/advice/ultimate-guides/how-do-you-pick-degree-subject/44207/>

<https://www.whatuni.com/degrees/courses/>

UCAS Which University?

- **Entry requirements**
- **Location - distance & transport**
- **Campus / town / city**
- **Facilities**
- **Accommodation**
- **Student satisfaction**
- **Student support**

UCAS Which University?

unifrog



www.unifrog.org www.whatuni.com

UCAS

Home v Abroad



The University of Hong Kong



UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM



Trinity College Dublin

Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath

The University of Dublin

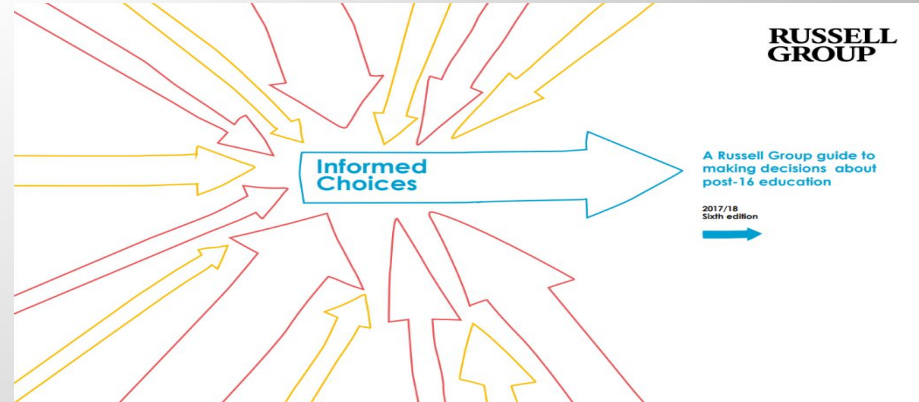
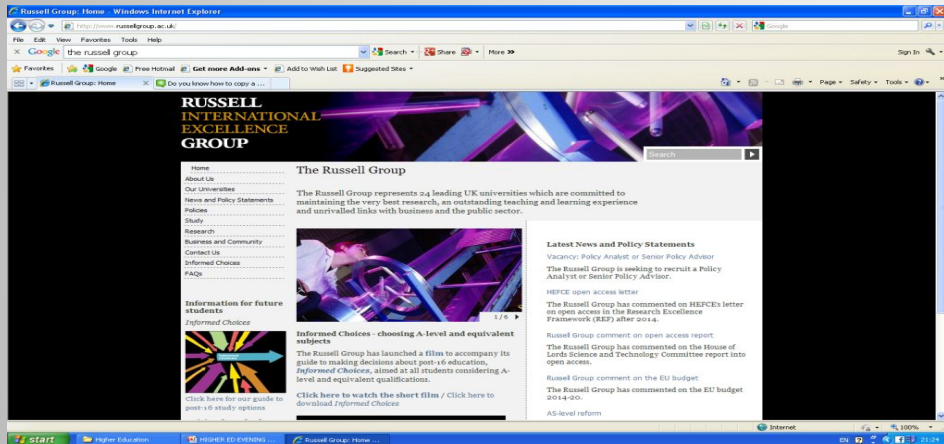


Home v Abroad

- **Cost of Tuition**
- **Living Costs**
- **Transport**
- **Language**
- **Start point**
- **Qualifications**
- **Visas**
- **Student loans**

- **University league tables are all different**
- **For independent information visit www.qaa.ac.uk www.ucas.com and <http://unistats.direct.gov.uk/> <http://unistats.direct.gov.uk/> www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/**
- **Look at ‘new’ universities – for many subjects, they offer excellent courses and teaching**

UCAS The Russell Group





University Info

www.russellgroup.ac.uk

Informed Choices - useful information including subjects required for different degree courses

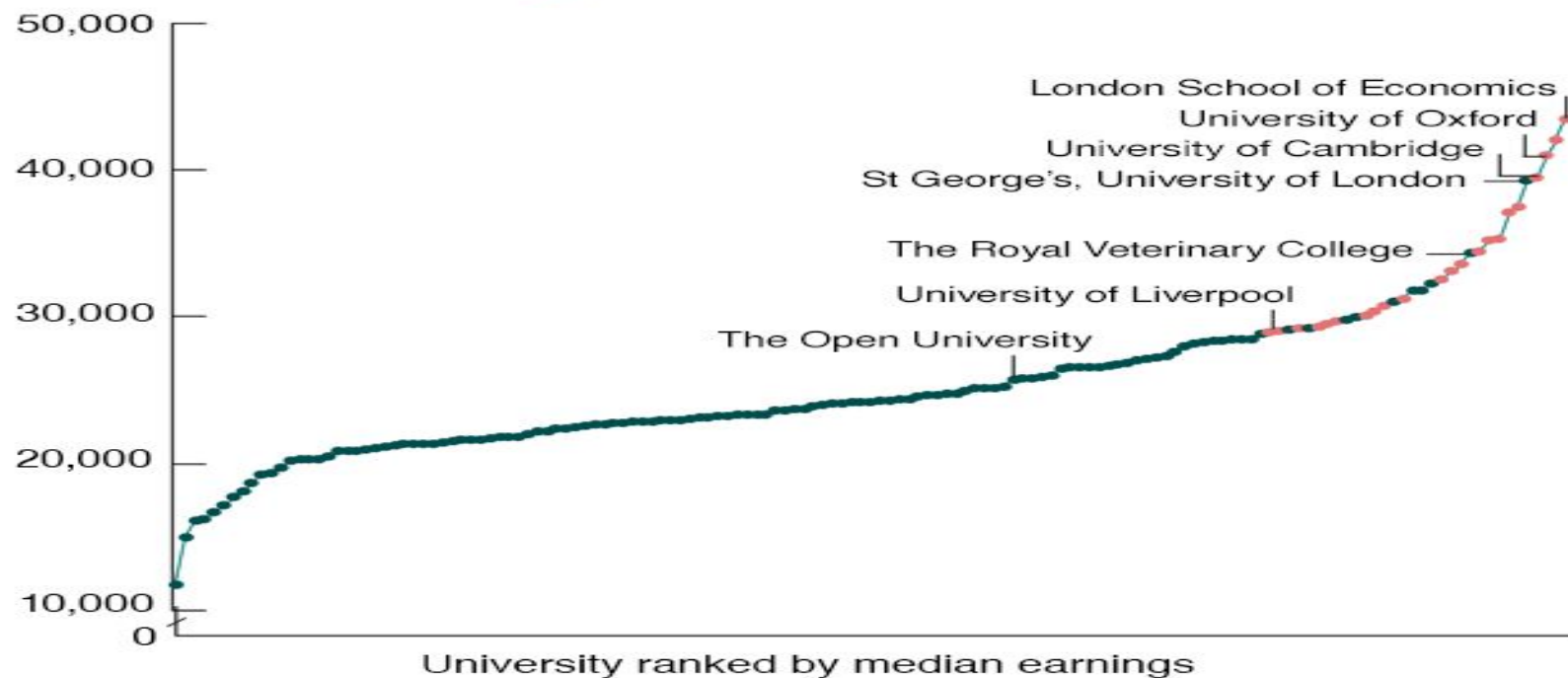
www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk

has information on careers, university profiles, league tables by region, course, further advice on choosing the right course/university for you

Graduate earnings by university

Median annual earnings, five years after graduation (£)

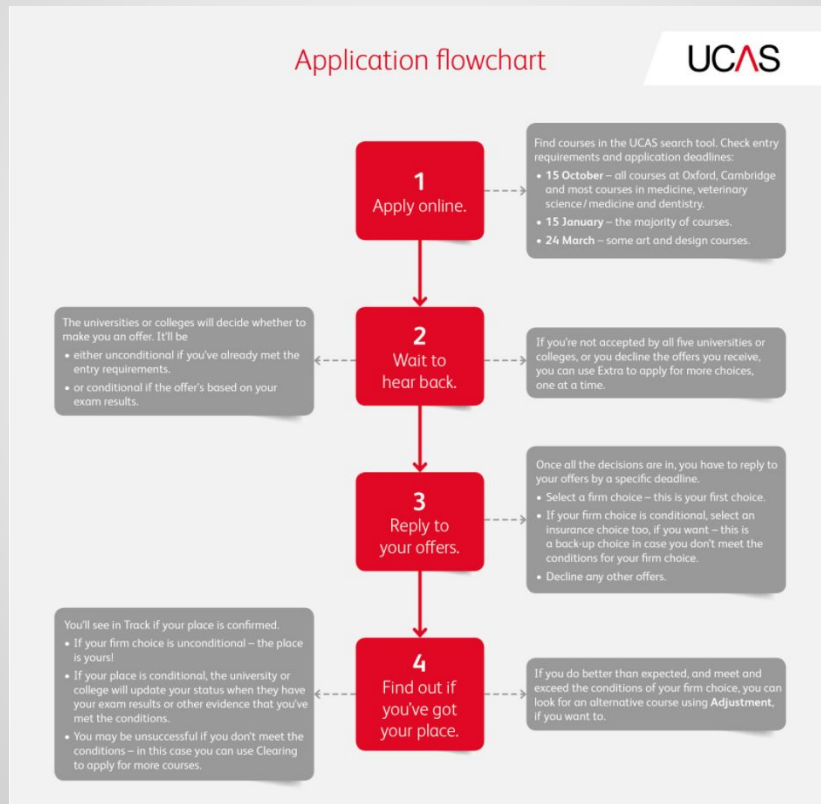
● Non Russell Group ● Russell Group



USEFUL WEBSITES

- <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/good-university-guide-in-full-tp6dzs7wn>
- <https://www.theguardian.com/education/universities>
- www.unistats.com
- www.studentbook.org
- www.push.co.uk

The Application Process



UCAS

'APPLY' – the UCAS Internet Applications System

- **Completed online with a password**
- **The student can work from any online device**
- **The UCAS referee can check on the student's progress at any stage**
- **The completed application is sent online to UCAS**



‘APPLY’ – the UCAS Internet Applications System

- **Students can follow the progress of their application through UCAS Track**
- **The UCAS form is the responsibility of the student; we will advise, but what goes on the form is up to the student.**



University Choices

- Five University choices
Universities do not see the student's other choices
- Payment to UCAS by debit / credit card for 2026 is £28.95 for up to five choices
- Medicine, Vet Med, Dentistry only 4 + 1 back-up



Predicted grades

- **Based on performance in the Summer Year 12 internal UCAS exams.**
- **Work throughout the year will be considered but the examination takes precedence**
- **Not based on what the student wants/needs**



Predicted Grades

- **Students must make sure that they apply for a spread of universities with a range of entry requirements – they should never focus only on the most prestigious ones, especially for the most competitive courses**



Additional Tests

**BMAT - for certain Medicine, Veterinary Medicine
and related courses**

UCAT - for Medicine or Dentistry

LNAT - for Law

STEP - for some Mathematics degrees



Admissions Tests

- Some universities may have additional admissions tests for certain courses or may require Portfolios of work to be produced.
- Both Oxford and Cambridge have additional admissions tests – MAT, HAT, PAT, ELAT, CAT, MLAT, TSA...
- *It is the student's responsibility to ensure they are registered for any additional tests they need to sit.*

UCAS Early Applications

Some universities and courses require an early application, with a deadline of 14th October.

Oxford and Cambridge, Medicine & Veterinary Medicine.

Students who are working towards the top grades should consider making an application to these top universities.

Extra support is provided, including mock interviews, as well as specific interview preparation for Medicine & Vet Med.



The UCAS Form

This has sections on the following:

- **Personal Details**
 - **University and Course choices**
 - **Qualifications**
 - **Jobs and Work Experience**
 - **Personal Statement**
 - **School Reference inc. Predicted UCAS grades**
-
- **Most Universities will not interview you prior to giving you an offer, therefore this is all they will see!!**

UCAS The UCAS Process

- **Summer internal UCAS exams 1st-10th June**
- **Friday 12th June UCAS/Next Steps day. Advice on application process & writing Personal Statements.**
- **9th July – UCAS exam results & UCAS grades**
- **July - Sept - working on UCAS application so that the form is ready as early as possible in the Autumn term of Year 13**
- **UCAS forms checked and corrected and references added: 2- 3 week process.**

UCAS University Replies

- **Correspondence is through UCAS.**
- **Possible invitation to attend an interview, applicant day, audition or submit a portfolio.**
- **Most offers will be conditional on gaining certain grades or points at A level eg. AAB/136 points**
- **Follow the progress of application on UCAS Track.**
- **When all offers are received students choose a ‘firm’ and an ‘insurance’ offer. The insurance choice should be a sensible, back up choice with lower grade requirements.**

UCAS University Replies

- If students fail to get offers or fail meet offers they can go through 'EXTRA' and then 'CLEARING'.

UCAS The Personal Statement

Name: [REDACTED]
Course applied: Bsc Accounting for Management

TOO MUCH INFO OCCASIONAL WAFFLE

I am currently a final year student studying Accountancy, English Literature (AS and A2 in the one year). From my childhood I have always been interested in, and practised, dealing with numbers. Whether it was counting objects from my buggy, or calculating profit from sales of my drawings, I have always had a passion to learn more about and engage in numeracy. Studying accountancy, has been really exciting for me, as I love seeing how each figure affects the overall 'landscape' of the accounts, and how one misplaced item can ruin the whole balance. I know that if I put my head down, work hard and focus, I can achieve a good result from this subject. I have considered other numeracy careers such as banking, however, I feel the role of Accountants suit my passion more adeptly, and for this reason I have decided to choose Accounting as my university course. My ambition is to one day become a Chartered Accountant, and I believe that studying Accounting in university will be another stepping stone towards reaching this goal.

LISTING A LEVELS NOT NEEDED

FOCUSES ATTENTION ON NEGATIVE

DATED EXAMPLE

Outside of the Educational surroundings, I have partaken in many activities and tasks which have helped me become more responsible. One example is from a few years ago; I was part of a select board, which included a former Home Secretary, which was put together in order to familiarise ourselves with

SPELLING/GRAMMAR

UCAS The Personal Statement

The format changed last year

It now comprises of 3 questions that students answer:

- 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?

UCAS The Personal Statement

- The most important section of the form
- It should have an academic focus and be directly related to the chosen course
- Applicants should demonstrate enthusiasm, aptitude and suitability for chosen course
- Relevant further reading, research & work experience should be included
- This is an opportunity for applicants to ‘sell themselves’
- UCAS referees will give guidance



The Personal Statement

What can be done now?

- Further reading research
- Work experience
- MOOCs
- Courses, workshops, seminars & lectures



The Personal Statement

It's easy for admissions tutors to tell the difference between a personal statement that demonstrates preparation over a long period of time and one that has been done at the last minute.



The Personal Statement

- **Make sure you have the right experience, reading and focus for the course you apply for.**
- **Get on with your application - offers are finite**
- **Consider applying to Summer Schools**
- **Attend Open Days - is there are preference for a campus or a city-based university?**
- **Be realistic. Students should only apply for those courses with the grade requirements that they are predicted to achieve.**



Next Steps

- **Personal statement prep**
- **Research in to courses & universities**
- **UCAS/Next Steps day 12th June - post-exams**
- **University open days - June / October**
- **UCAS exam results & UCAS grades - 9th July**
- **Early applicants (Oxbridge / Medicine / Dentistry & Vet Med) deadline 14th October**
- **SRMS internal deadline - 27th November**



If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me by email m.stedman@srms.kent.sch.uk

The logo for UCAS (Universities and Colleges Admissions Service) is displayed. It consists of the letters 'U', 'C', 'A', and 'S' in a bold, sans-serif font. The 'U', 'C', and 'S' are black, while the 'A' is a vibrant red. The entire logo is set against a light gray rectangular background.

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