

A background photograph of three students sitting on a concrete ledge outdoors. On the right, a young man with a beard and a denim vest over a grey shirt is smiling and looking towards the left. He is holding a blue folder and a basketball. In the center, a young woman with long pink hair is also smiling and looking towards the left. On the far left, the back of a student's head wearing a black beanie is visible. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting daytime.

YEAR 12 Destinations Evening

Wednesday 4th June 2025 6pm



Sharnbrook
Sixth Form



Direction determines
destination.

Jim Rohn

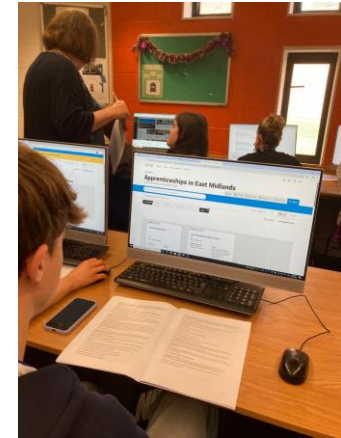
Key dates

- 17th to 21st March – Destinations week
- 19th March – Careers Fair
- 4th June – Destinations drop down day
- 4th June – Parents information evening
- 16th June – UCAS fair – University of Bedfordshire (book places tonight!)
- 25th June to 3rd July – Year 12 mock exams (predicted grades)
- 7th to 11th July – work experience week

**Career appointments are
always available – ask 6th
form team or tutor for
details**

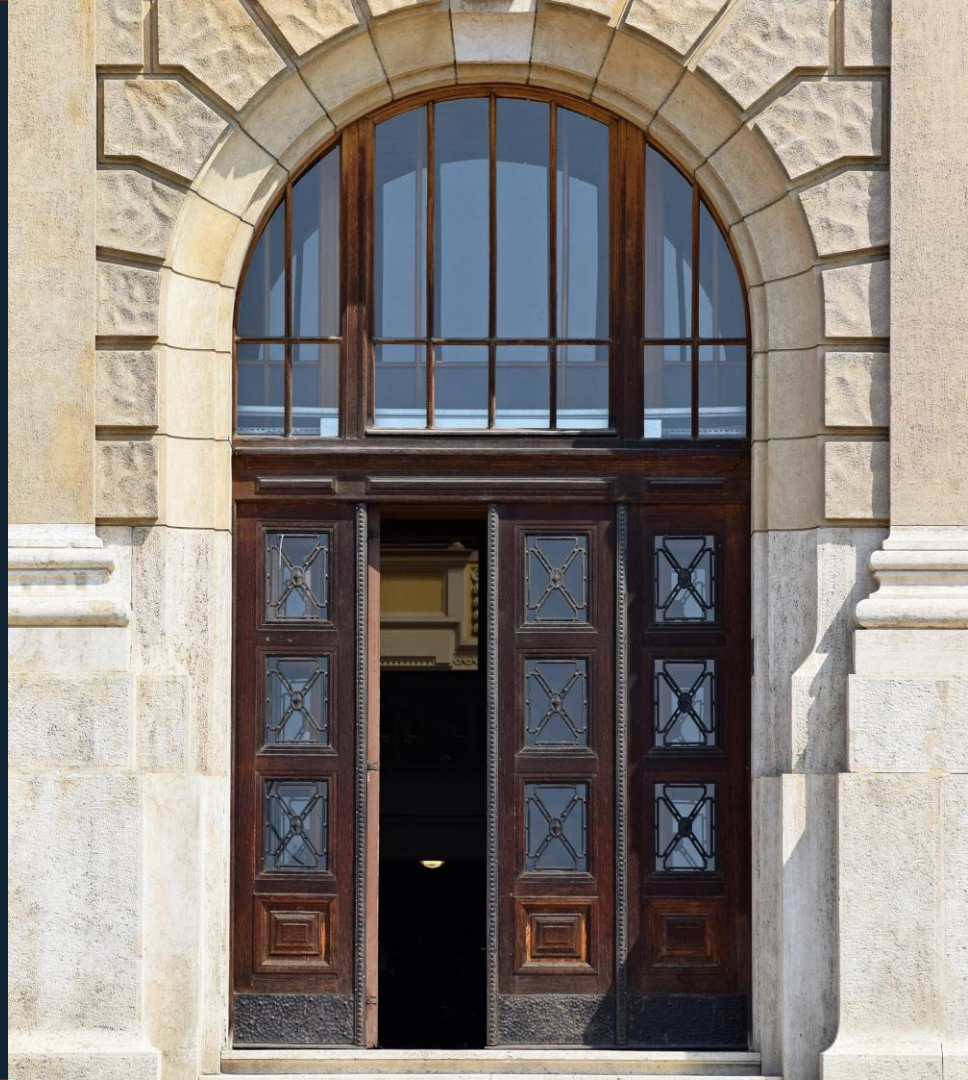
Today

- Destinations drop down day
- Sessions and workshops led by outside speakers
- **EVERY STUDENT** will now be registered with UCAS
- Split into 2 key groups – University / Apprenticeships
- Students were split : **58%** university to **42%** apprenticeships
- University students – researching courses / Personal statement workshops
- Apprenticeship students - register and research degree apprenticeships / CV writing and cover letter workshop



UCAS IS THE FRONT DOOR TO UK HIGHER EDUCATION

Universities and Colleges Admissions Service



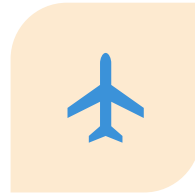
Using UCAS to discover options it is not just for University



HIGHER
EDUCATION



APPRENTICESHIPS



STUDYING
ABROAD



GAP YEAR



GETTING A JOB

Register for the UCAS Hub to understand all your options and make the right choices for you: ucas.com/hub

ALL students registered today

Unsure? - Discover pathways Side by side

You can see apprenticeship opportunities alongside undergraduate courses.

The UCAS Hub enables you to explore all your options and build your profile in one place.



Dental Nurse Apprentice

MR DEVANAND ISUKAPATLA

📍 South Shields

Apprenticeship level

England - Advanced
Apprenticeship - Level 3

Industry

Medicine, dentistry and
nursing

Start date

30/10/2023

Duration

18 Months

Date posted

06/03/2023

Closing date

29/10/2023

Salary

£10,982.40



AAT Apprenticeship - Audit, Accounts and Tax (March 2024)

MOORE KINGSTON SMITH GROUP SERVICES LIMITED

📍 LONDON

Apprenticeship level

England - Higher
Apprenticeship - Level 4

Industry

Accounting and Finance

Start date

04/03/2024

Duration

2 Years

Date posted

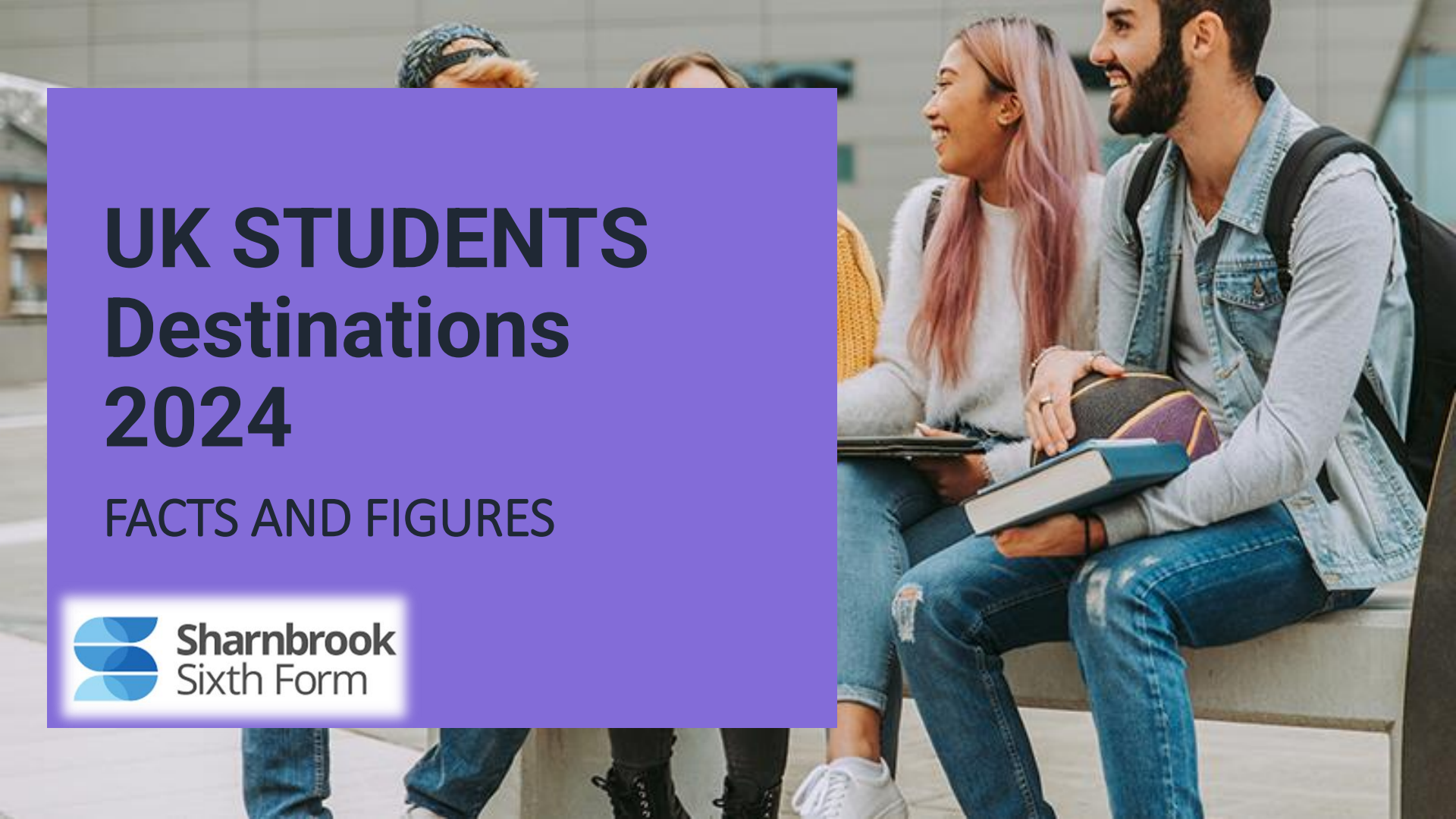
05/07/2023

Closing date

30/10/2023

Salary

£25,000.00

A background photograph of three students sitting on a concrete ledge outdoors. On the right, a young man with a beard and a denim vest over a grey shirt is smiling and looking towards the left. He is holding a blue folder and a purple and yellow striped ball. In the center, a young woman with long pink hair is also smiling and looking towards the left. On the far left, the back of a student's head wearing a black beanie is visible. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

UK STUDENTS Destinations 2024

FACTS AND FIGURES



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University still the most popular choice

- 2024 UK university admission for 18–19-year-olds – **36.4%**
- 2024 Apprenticeship starts up by **7%** to 130,830 with **32.7%** of those starts being under 19-year-olds.
- Apprenticeships are experiencing growth and are increasingly recognised as being a viable alternative to university, especially with the rise of degree apprenticeships.

A background photograph of three students sitting on a concrete ledge outdoors. On the right, a young man with a beard, wearing a denim jacket and jeans, holds a basketball and a book. Next to him, a young woman with long pink hair, wearing a white sweater and jeans, also holds a book. A third student is partially visible on the left. A large purple rectangle is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing the title and logo.

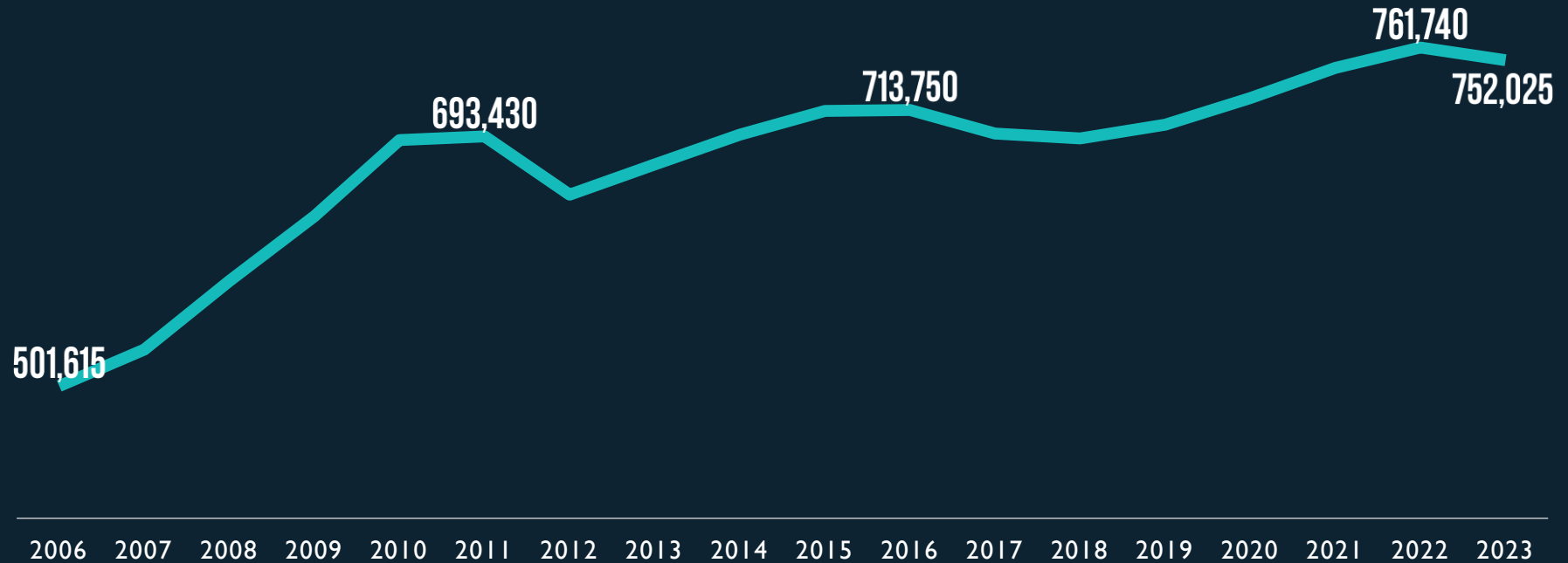
UNIVERSITY APPLICATIONS

Facts and Figures



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OVERALL DEMAND FOR UK HE HAS RISEN BY 50% SINCE 2006



KEY FIGURES 2024 END OF CYCLE

564,940 placed applicants (+1.9%)

UK
495,040
(+2.5%)

UK 18-year-olds
279,550
(+2.9%)

Mature
109,780
(+3.4%)

International
69,905
(-2.3%)

36.4%
UK 18-year-old
entry rate
35.7% in 2024

REGIONAL ENTRY RATE



THE EAST OF ENGLAND

42,240 placed applicants (+3.3%)

18 year olds

26,300

(+2.9%)

36.3%

18 year old
population
entering HE
(+0.8ppt)

Mature

7,530

(+8.3%)

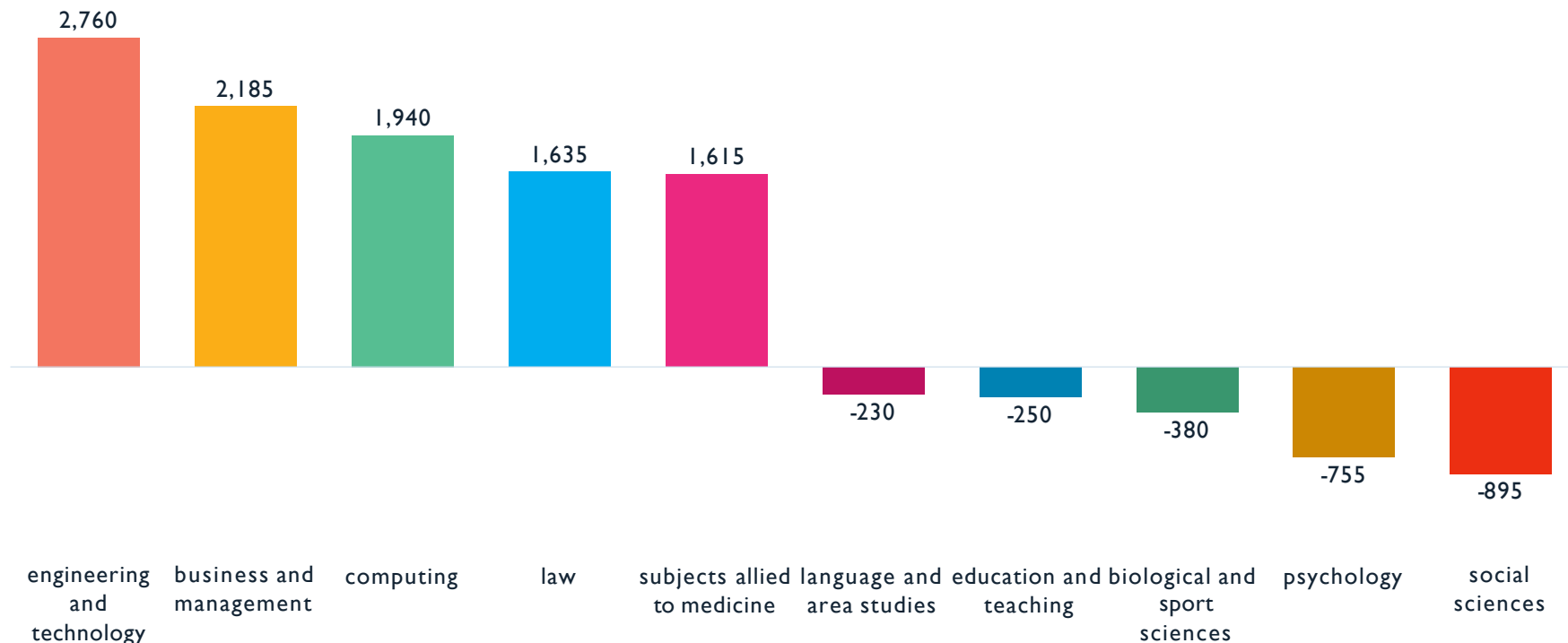
Clearing

5,850

(-0.6%)

LARGEST GROWTH AND DECLINE SUBJECT AREAS

Top 5 and bottom 5 numeric changes in acceptances by subject grouping



VARIATION IN SUBJECT TRENDS

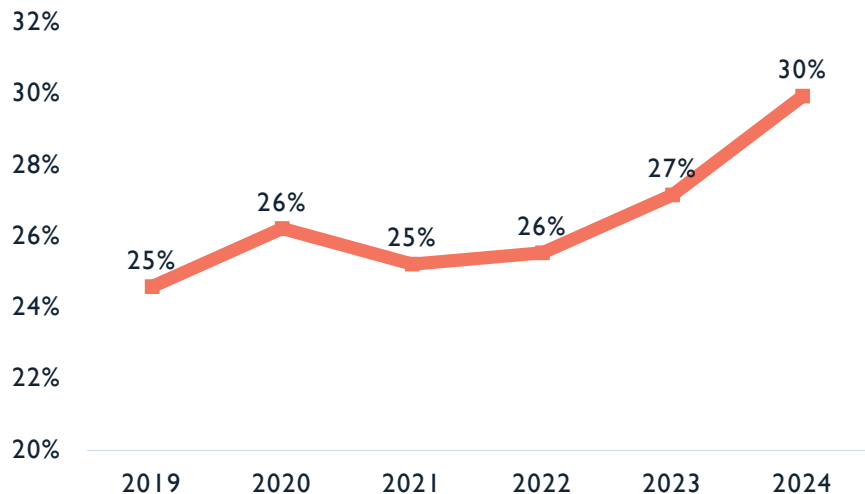
Acceptances for UK 18-year-olds vs mature

UK 18-YEAR-OLDS	UK MATURE
• Growth in veterinary and medicine/dentistry • Computing and law show long-term growth	• Growth in architecture, engineering and technology, and geography • business and management and veterinary sciences show long-term growth
• Declines in psychology and social sciences • Long-term drop in languages and area studies	• Declines in agriculture and education and teaching • Long-term drop in geography and social sciences



HOME LIVING

Proportion of UK 18-year-old accepted applicants living at home to study



Source: 2024 end of cycle analysis

30%
UK 18-year-olds
(increasing)

17%
UK 18 IMD
Q5
(increasing)

44%
UK 21+
(decreasing)

51%
UK 18 IMD
Q1
(increasing)

Funding University



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Student Finance

- Student Finance England (SFE) provides financial support on behalf of the UK Government to students from England entering higher education in the UK.
- 2 main costs while studying – tuition fees and living costs
- There is student finance available to help with both
- Depending on circumstance you could also get extra financial help while you study from bursaries / scholarships and sponsorships

Student Finance

- You can get two loans from the SFE
- 1. Tuition Fee Loan – this currently is a maximum of £9250 per year. (no upfront payment needed)
- 2. Maintenance Loan – this varies depending on whether you live at home whilst studying: Study in London and don't live at home and not living at home and study outside of London
- Maintenance Loans are **MEANS** tested

For the academic year 2024/2025 maximum amounts are

Parental home

Live at home while you study

Up to
£8 400

London

Live away from home & study in London

Up to
£13 022



Living away from home

Outside of London

Up to
£9 978

Student loan repayments

Income each year before tax	Monthly income before tax	9% will be deducted from	Monthly repayment (Approx)
£25 000	£ 2083	0	£0
£28 000	£2333	£250	£22.50
£29,500	£2458	£375	£33. 75
£31,000	£2583	£500	£45
£33,000	£2750	£667	£60

Promotions and pay increases are dealt with at source

University Applications

The Process

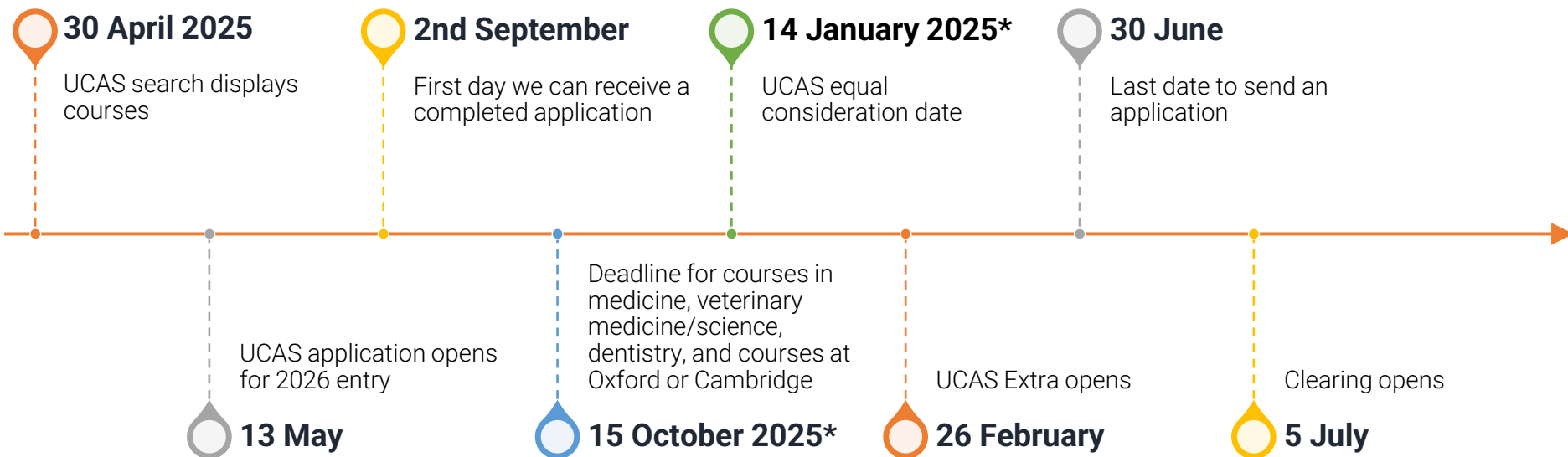


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When to apply university

For 2026 entry



* 18.00 UK time

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?

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.

Application **profile**

- Personal details
- Nationality details
- Where you live
- Contact details
- Supporting information
- Finance and funding
- Diversity and inclusion*
- More about you

Personal details

Name, age, title and gender

Start this section

Nationality details

Birthplace and nationalities

Start this section

Where you live

Tell us about your address history

 Section in progress

Contact details

Address, email, and telephone

 Section in progress

Supporting information

So that providers know how to support you during your studies

Start this section

Finance & funding

Tell us how you'll fund your study

Start this section

Diversity & inclusion

Additional equality information

Start this section

More about you

Tell us about any circumstances that you might need support for during your studies.

Start this section

* (for students with a UK home address)

Your experiences

- Education
- Employment
- Extra activities*
- Personal statement
- Reference**

*(for students with a UK home address)

** (not visible if linked to your school/college)

Experience

Education

Qualifications and periods of study

🕒 Section in progress

Employment

Paid employment

✓ Section complete

Extra activities

Taken part in any activities to prepare you for higher education?

Start this section

Your personal statement

Personal statement

Why do you want to study this subject?

Start this section

Start early

Include:

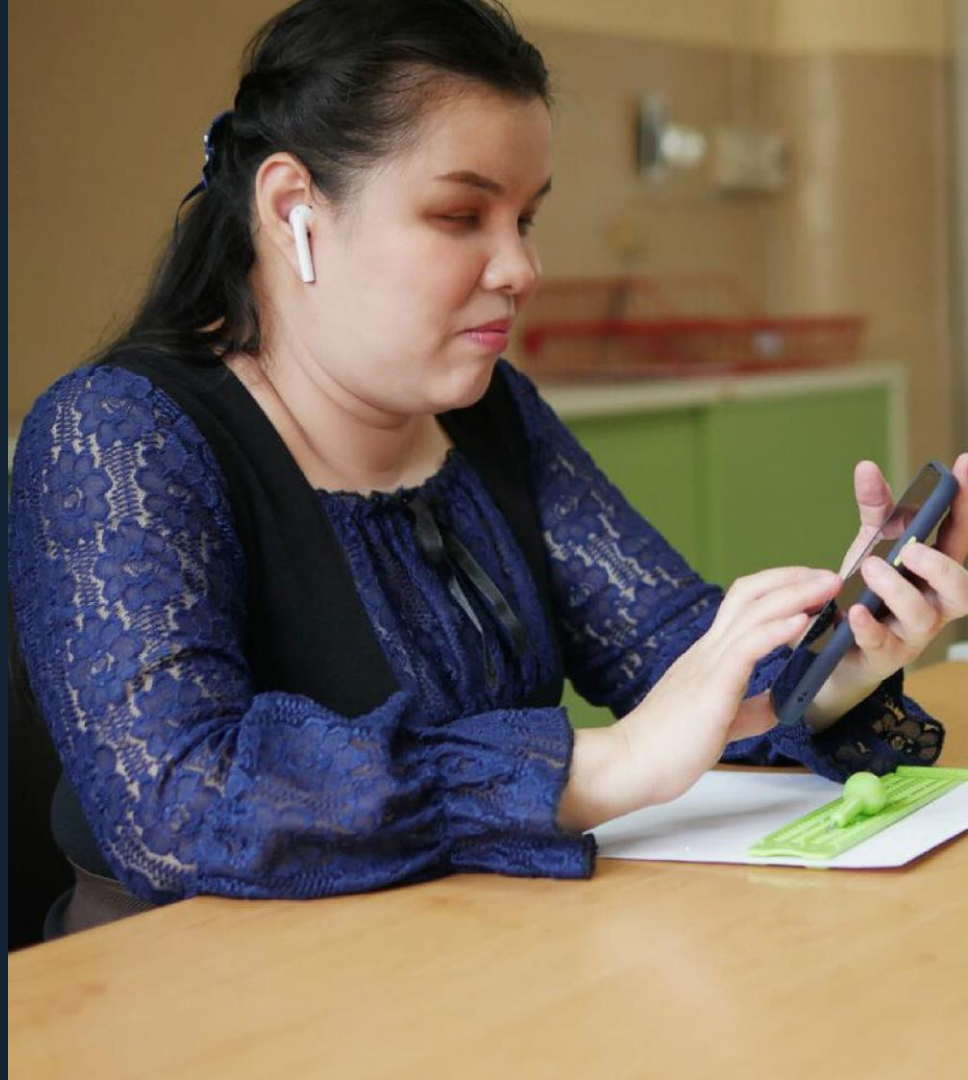
- academic achievements, past and present
- interest in the course area
- knowledge of the subject area
- enthusiasm to go beyond the syllabus
- details of independent study skills





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PERSONAL STATEMENT 2026 CYCLE



PERSONAL STATEMENT WHAT'S CHANGING FOR 2026 ENTRY

Format & structure

- Move from one long piece of text to a scaffolded approach.
- Three sections with question prompts.

Character Count

- 4000 total character count remains; includes spaces.
- Minimum character count of 350 per section.

Support & advice

- Clear links to guidance in the application for students.
- Ongoing support ahead of the 2026 entry cycle going live.

PERSONAL STATEMENT FOR 2026

1

Why do you want to study this course or subject?

2

How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?

3

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

PERSONAL STATEMENT THE PURPOSE REMAINS CLEAR

It's their opportunity to:

- show passion, curiosity and knowledge.
- evidence relevant skills and potential.
- communicate genuine interest and a desire to learn more.

Structure to encourage

- by providing a scaffold
- prompts to link academic, extra-curricular and other experiences to their chosen area(s) of study.

Examples can fit across sections

- the important thing is to explain why they're including it and what they've learned from it.
- the statement will still be reviewed as one piece.
- there's no right or wrong.

Q1: WHY DO YOU WANT TO STUDY THIS COURSE OR SUBJECT?

Students will want to show **evidence** of passion, curiosity and interest, this could include:

Motivations for studying this course(s):

- Have they been inspired by a key role model or moment in their life?
- Is it a subject they love and want to pursue further?
- What is their drive?
- How has their path led them to this course or subject area?

Knowledge of this subject area and interests:

- Is there a particular subject area they've researched?
- Something they can't wait to learn more about?
- What about a book or subject expert doing great things that's sparked their interest?

Future plans; demonstrate why this course/subject is a good fit:

- Do they already have a particular profession in mind?
- How might they use their studies to launch their career?
- What's important to them and their future, and how might the knowledge gained from their chosen course(s) help them to achieve this?

Q2: HOW HAVE YOUR QUALIFICATIONS AND STUDIES HELPED YOU TO PREPARE FOR THIS COURSE OR SUBJECT?

Focus on what's most **recent** and **relevant** to the subject or course(s), examples could include:

How their studies or training relate to chosen course(s) or subject area:

- This could be current or previous studies.
- From any form of formal education – think school, college, training provider, or short online university course.

What relevant or transferable skills they have that make them a great candidate:

- Are there a couple of subjects that helped develop a core set of relevant skills required for their chosen course(s).
- Maybe a particular module or project helped them understand where their interests and strengths lie.

Any relevant educational achievements

- Universities and colleges will see grades on their application - don't waste space talking about these.
- Focus on accomplishments like a competition, holding a position of responsibility or representing the school/college.

Q3: WHAT ELSE HAVE YOU DONE TO PREPARE OUTSIDE OF EDUCATION, AND WHY ARE THESE EXPERIENCES USEFUL?

Examples should be **reflective** and **demonstrate** further **suitability** for the subject or course(s), this could include:

Work experience, employment, or volunteering

- In-person or virtual work experience.
- Paid for work or volunteering.
- The key thing is reflection on the experiences and the skills gained relevant to their chosen course(s).

Personal life experiences or responsibilities:

- Is there a situation they've personally overcome that has influenced their decision?
- Are there personal experiences that have helped them develop essential qualities for the course?

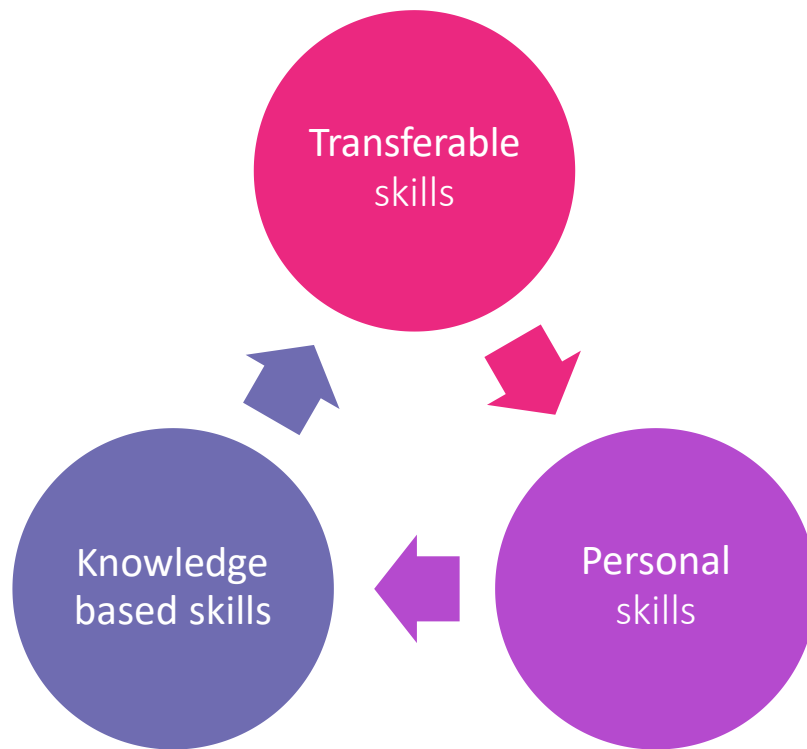
Hobbies and any extracurricular or outreach activities:

- Think sports, reading, community work, summer schools.
- Any activities outside of core studies that help further showcase why they'd make a great student.

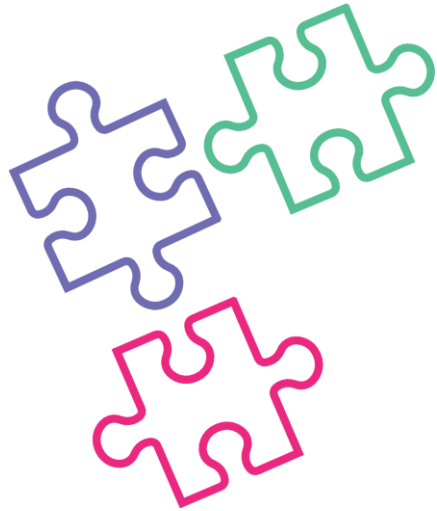
Achievements outside of school or college

- This could be a position of responsibility for local clubs or groups, competitions, or qualifications they've attained outside of the classroom.

SKILLS CATEGORIES



IT'S A JIGSAW



Ultimately, think of completing your personal statement as if it is a jigsaw, built of pieces of evidence.

WHAT ABOUT CHARACTER COUNT?



4,000-total character count split across sections.



Minimum character count 350 characters per section.



Character count will be clearly labelled on screen.



Don't waste characters listing grades and subjects.



Don't repeat information across sections.

Our aim is that ALL year 12 students would have completed a “first draft” personal statement by the end of term

Once UCAS form is complete

- Once complete – all sections / personal statement & university choices (up to 5)
- Checked by sixth form team
- Reference added
- Sent to UCAS (fee of £28.50)
- Wait for offers
- Exciting time – motivational for students

Replies to offers

Once you have decisions on all your choices, you can choose two:

- One as a 'firm' acceptance – your first choice.
- The other as an 'insurance' acceptance. This acts as a back-up if you do not get into your 'firm' choice.

Any remaining offers must be declined.

Once all your decisions and replies have been made, if you are not holding an offer, you may be able to use Extra or Clearing to find available places.



Other options

Extra (26 Feb – 4 Jul)

- Used all five choices and had no offers.
- Add Extra choices for consideration one at a time.

Clearing (5 Jul – Oct)

- Apply after 30 June, receive no offers, decline all offers, not met conditions.
- Find vacancies from 5 July and add a Clearing choice to your application.



Apprenticeship Applications

The Process



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Apprenticeships

What are
apprenticeships?

UCAS



Study



Job



Wage*

Applying for apprenticeships

6 steps to follow

— Step 1 ————— Step 2 ————— Step 3 ————— Step 4 ————— Step 5 ————— Step 6 ➔

Register on
UCAS Hub

Option to sign up to receive
alerts on opportunities that
match your profile

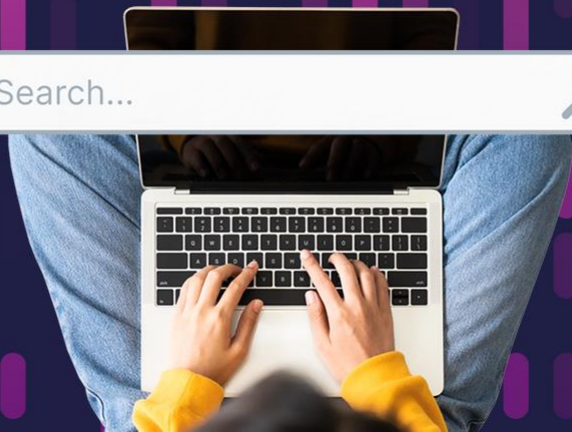
Explore subjects, courses,
industries, job roles

Build your
profile

Search
for vacancies

Make an
application

Search...



The A – Z of apprenticeships

There are **over 600** possible apprenticeship 'standards' (training programmes) which exist. It's probably easier to name an industry that doesn't have an apprenticeship than to list all that do. Here are just a few

- Accounting and Taxation
- Architect
- Boat Builder
- Building Surveyors
- Civil Engineer
- Cyber Security Technician
- Data Analyst
- Doctor (from 2023)
- Early Years
- Ecologist
- Farrier
- Food Technologist
- Game Programmer
- Geospatial mapping
- Harbour Master
- Historic Environment Adviser
- Internal audit professional
- Intelligence analyst
- Journalist
- Junior 2D artist (visual effects)
- Knitted product manufacturing
- Laboratory scientist
- Licensed conveyor
- Midwife
- Marketing Manager
- Nuclear Scientist and Engineer
- Nursing
- Operational firefighter
- Orthodontic therapist
- Paralegal
- Physiotherapist
- Quality practitioner
- Rail engineer
- Research scientist
- Social worker
- Software Developer
- Teacher
- Town planning assistant
- Utilities engineering
- Veterinary nurse
- Vehicle damage assessor
- Water process technician
- Workplace pensions consultant
- Youth worker

www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/#

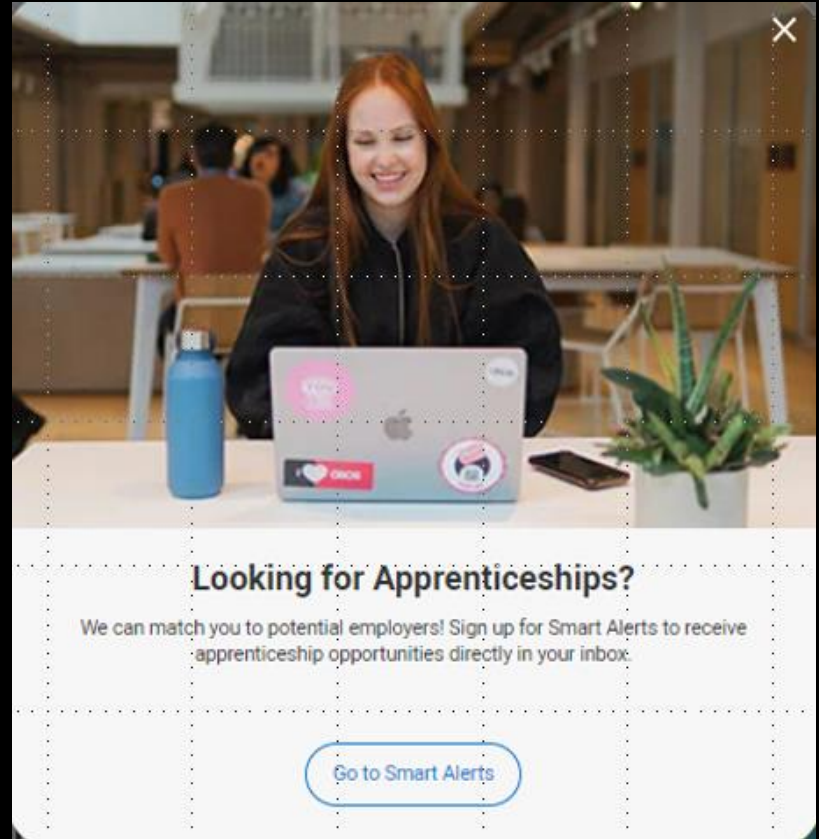
How can I apply?

- Applications are made directly through the company or the education provider.
- There is no limit on the number of applications you can make.
- The application process might vary across vacancies, you could be asked for:
 - CV and Covering Letter
 - Application Form
 - In App/Site application
- You can apply for universities and apprenticeships at the same time!



Your pathways Side by side

When you register on ucas.com, you can sign up to be linked to relevant apprenticeship opportunities that match your profile.



Next Steps



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What can students be doing?

- research, research, research
- attend open days and events
- extracurricular and super curricular activities
- work experience
- volunteering
- independent learning outside the curriculum
- focus on this year's studies



Contact us if you have any questions

