



# Next Steps 2026

A large orange circle is positioned on the left side of the slide, partially overlapping the text.

# WHAT ARE THE OPTIONS....

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**Higher Education**

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**Sponsored Degrees**

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**Art and Design Foundation courses**

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**College**

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**Study Abroad**

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**Apprenticeships**

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**Gap Years**

# “GAP” YEARS



# yipiyap

IN-SCHOOL TUTORS



**UMPHAF A**  
Private Nature Reserve

• What will you do with a “GAP YEAR”?

• DEFERRED ENTRY

• EARN

• TRAVEL

• SEASONAL WORK

• SUMMER CAMPS

• VOLUNTEER

• COURSES

• EXPEDITIONS

• WORK PLACEMENT

[Yipiyap - Inspiring Young People](#)

[Gap Year & Adventure Travel Experts for 18-30's | Gap 360](#)

[Home - UmPhafa](#)

[Operation Wallacea | Conservation Research Expeditions \(opwall.com\)](#)

# APPRENTICESHIPS


- **Earn while you learn**
- **Work based and also study for nationally recognised qualifications**
- **Level 1, 2, 3 – Accessed post GCSE (although sometimes a level 3 is appropriate post A level as long as it has a progression route)**
- **Level 4, 5, 6, 7 (Higher, Degree) – Accessed post Level 3/A Level**

Level	Qualification / educational routes				
8	Doctorate (PhD)		NVQ 8		
7	Masters degree (MA)		Degree apprenticeship / NVQ 5, 6, 7		
6	Bachelors degree BA or BSc				
5	Foundation degree FdA or FdSc	Higher National Diploma (HND)			
4		Higher National Certificate (HNC)	Higher apprenticeship / NVQ 4		
3	A levels Grades A-E	International Baccalaureate	T Levels	BTEC (extended) diploma BTEC certificate	Advanced apprenticeship / NVQ 3
2	GCSE Grades 4-9 (C, B, A or A*)			BTEC first diploma	Intermediate apprenticeship / NVQ 2
1	GCSE Grades 1-3 (D,E,F or G)			Foundation diploma / entry level qualifications	Traineeship / NVQ 1
	Academic route		Vocational route	Applied / work route	



Apprenticeships

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**AIRBUS**

# APPRENTICESHIPS

- **No set application time, or deadline**
- **National/international – Often earlier in Year 13**
- **Local/regional – Often from January of Y13 onwards**
- **Application procedure varies – Letter/CV, interview, staged testing**
- **Being ready - Produce a CV - Create a covering letter**
- **Research**
- **Individual websites**
- **Gov.UK – [Find an apprenticeship - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)**
- **UCAS - [UCAS | At the heart of connecting people to higher education](https://www.ucas.com)**
- **Direct - [Apprenticeships - Early Careers - United Kingdom \(siemens.com\)](https://www.siemens.com)**





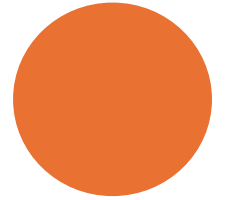
# FURTHER EDUCATION

- **Local route**
- **Often vocational in nature**
- **HNC → HND → Degree**
- **Cheaper!**

**Bishop Burton**  
COLLEGE

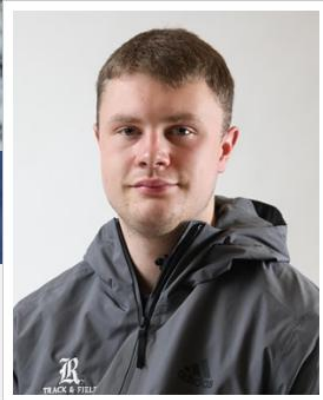
# ART AND DESIGN FOUNDATION COURSES

- Intensive One Year courses at a local college
- Builds your portfolio
- Prepares you for Higher Education
- No fees, no student loans
- Apply directly to the establishment in January of Year 13
- You may need to present a portfolio





**STUDY ABROAD**



## SHAUN KERRY

HEIGHT: 6-0

CLASS: Sophomore

HOMETOWN: Driffield, East Yorkshire (England)

HIGHSCHOOL: Driffield School & Sixth Form

# HIGHER EDUCATION

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- **My career route demands further study**
- **I want to move away from home and Driffield**
- **I want to be even more independent**
- **There is a great social life**
- **I'll get a chance to meet a wider range of like-minded people**
- **I'm not ready to get a job**
- **I don't know what I want to do yet**
- **I want to study a subject I really enjoy**



# Where to go and what to do?

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## Decision 1

- Home or away
- Away (1-3) hours or really away (Exeter!)
- City University? Town? Rural?
- Campus? City? Size?

## Decision 2

- Could I live here for 2-4 (or more) years?
- Does it offer the right opportunities?
- There are 500+ institutions



# Where to go and what to do?

## Decision 3

- Which subject ? Following on from A level?
- Something new? Anthropology; Gambling Studies; Wine studies; Cybernetics; Horse Studies (they all exist!).
- What are the offers like?
- Can I fulfil their entry requirements?
- Reputations; Ratings; and League Tables (use the Guardian League table online)?
- What do Graduates do? [What do graduates do? 2024/25 | illuminate](#)
- What are the assessment methods?
- Degrees – Honours/Foundation/sandwich



# How competitive are courses?

- Some are extremely competitive - Oxbridge, Medicine, certain institutions like London School of Economics
- Often courses with placement requirements are also competitive - nursing, social work, primary education
- The majority of courses each year, don't fill and as such are less competitive



# Testing and interviews

- Some courses require aptitude tests/entrance exams

Eg - UCAT, LNAT, MAT

- Some courses require an interview

Medicine/Oxbridge

Public facing courses/careers

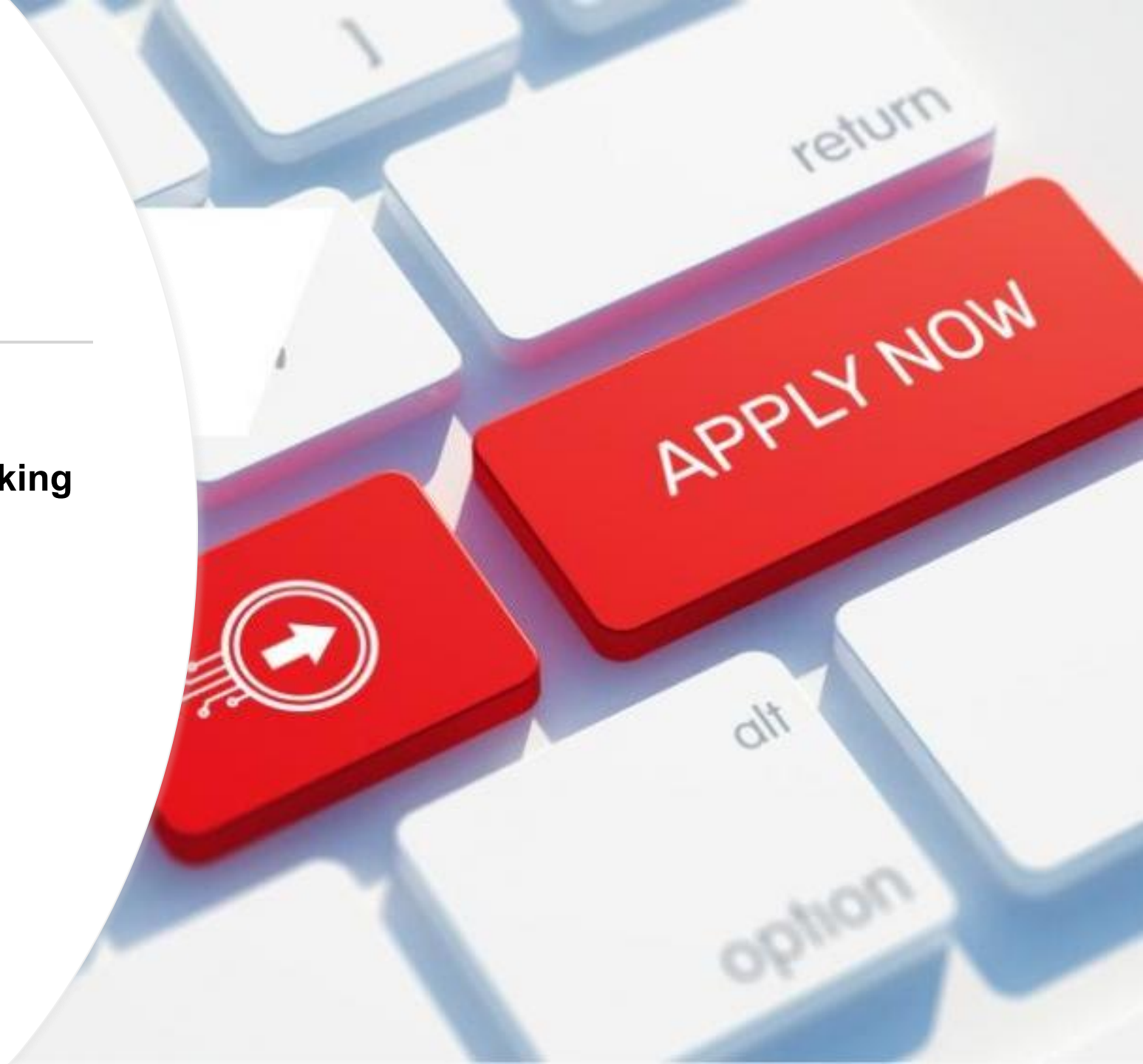
Generic subject interviews



# The application process - Support

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- **Research, open days**
- **Preparation for application and making choices**
- **Completion of application**
- **Entrance exams**
- **Dealing with replies**
- **Interviews**
- **Student finance**
- **Results day and getting a place**





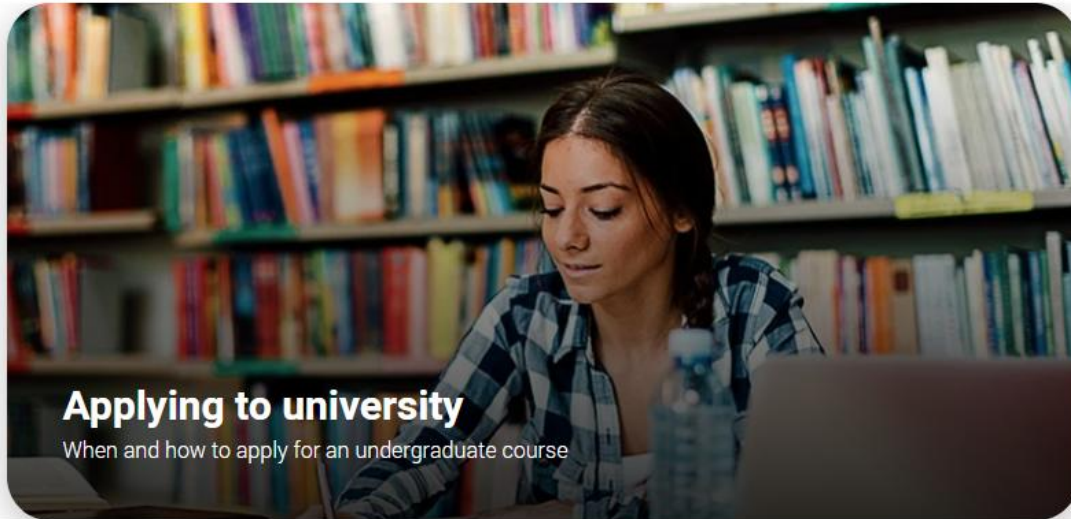
# Research

- **Institution and course analysis**
- **New course?**
- **Entrance Requirements**
- **Bursary/scholarship opportunities**
- **Type of learning**
- **Costs**
- **Graduate Employment**
- **Quality**
- **Year out? (To defer or not to defer?)**



# UNDERGRADUATE

Studying a course at university, college, or a conservatoire.



**Applying to university**  
When and how to apply for an undergraduate course



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Feedback

# UCAS Tariff

UCAS

# UCAS Tariff

Qualification and grade	Tariff points
A level grade A*	56
A level grade A	48
A level grade B	40
A level grade C	32
A level grade D	24
A level grade E	16

[www.ucas.com/tariff-calculator](http://www.ucas.com/tariff-calculator)



The image shows two screenshots from a mobile application. The left screenshot displays the course 'Global Affairs, Politics and International Relations with Geography' at the University of Chester. It lists the qualification as 'BA (Hons)', duration as '3 years', and start date as '06/10/2025'. The UCAS Tariff Points are shown as '112'. The right screenshot displays the course 'Geography' at the University of Leeds. It lists the qualification as 'BA (Hons)', duration as '3 years', and start date as '24/09/2025'. The UCAS Tariff Points are shown as 'AAA' for 'A Levels'. Both screenshots include a 'Related courses' button at the bottom.

# Work undertaken in the summer term

- **Long Listing: May - July**
- **Beginning the personal statement**
- **Working on your reference**
- **Visiting university campuses**
- **Short listing – places and courses: Aug – Oct**



# Applications - The school role

- **Apply 2026 already open**
- **Monitoring progress**
- **Monitoring quality**
- **Helping to write the personal statement**
- **Preparing an academic reference**
- **Interview Preparation (Oct – March)**
- **Ensuring it's all done on time (Oct 15<sup>th</sup>/ End of December)**



# Dealing with replies

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- **Arrive from October onwards. Most in by 31<sup>st</sup> March**
- **Rejection**
- **Conditional Offers**
- **Unconditional Offers**
- **Firm and Insurance Offers - June**
- **UCAS Extra/5<sup>th</sup> choice**





## Results day

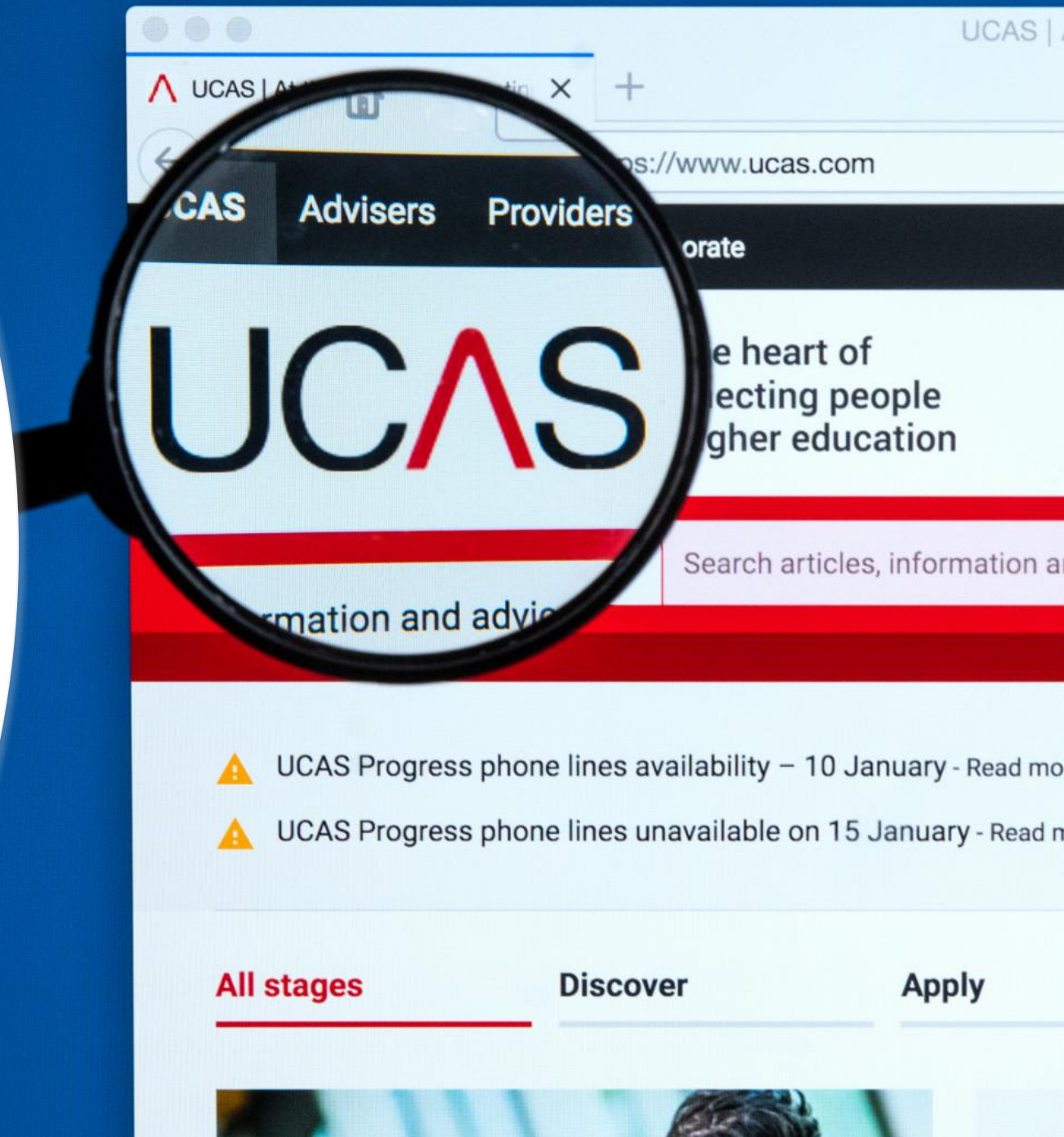
- **Celebrate**
- **Clearing – Open until September**
- **Adjustment**
- **Accommodation**
- **Visit IKEA**

# What should you be doing now?

- **Research – now**
- **Institution and Course Analysis - now**
- **Making a list of possible areas of study – UCAS; Discussion with teachers, family, friends - now**
- **Making a list of possible Institutions - now**
- **Check if you need an admissions test for your institution - now**
- **Having a long list - summer holidays**
- **Visiting Open Days and Cities – between now and Y13 October half-term**
- **Preparing the Personal Statement in draft - between now and Y13 October half-term**
- **Look for relevant work experience etc that may help applications - now**

# What does the application comprise?

- **Personal details**
- **Additional information**
- **Choices**
- **Education**
- **Employment**
- **Personal statement**
- **Reference**
- **Predicted grades**




# Making your choice

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- Up to 5 choices
- Why should I choose 4?
- Why choose so many?
- Can I choose 1?
- There's a long way to go before results!!  
Make sure there is a RANGE

Your **choices**



**Add** choice

You can add up to 5 choices to your application. You can change your choices until you send your application to us. All sections must be marked as complete before you can send your application to us.

Mark complete

# Personal statement

- 4000 characters (including spaces)
- Only one gets sent off
- Key words
- Draft, re-draft, re-draft
- Take advice
- Samples – School system and Internet
- Plagiarism
- 70/30 get the balance right
- Not a list of what you've done
- “Ever since I was young I wanted to be an engineer”

## Personal statement top tips...

- 1: use evidence** – show you'd be a great student by linking experience from your studies and other activities to the course.
- 2: be honest** – don't be tempted to exaggerate. Admissions tutors often refer to personal statements during interviews.
- 3: start early** – you'll probably redraft it several times before you're happy with it, so allow yourself plenty of time.
- 4: let friends and family read it** – they may have suggestions you haven't considered and can tell you whether it makes sense.
- 5: proofread it several times** – reading it out loud will help you to spot bad punctuation and messy wording.

There's more advice on personal statements at [www.ucas.com/personalstatement](http://www.ucas.com/personalstatement).

# School reference

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- **Written by your subjects staff and form tutor**
- **Will carry “PREDICTED GRADES”**
- **Will generally have a comment about any subject you did at exam**
- **An opportunity to negotiate on content**
- **Will be positive – all go through me**



# N E X T   S T E P S



## Support material

[Next Steps 2026.pdf](#)

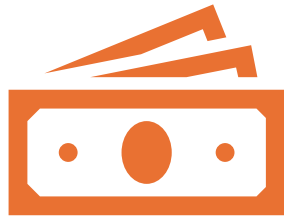
ANY  
QUESTIONS?



# Student Finance 2026



# Package of support for 2025/26 for Full Time Study.



Tuition fee loan



Maintenance (student)  
loan = Living cost loan



National Scholarship  
Programme

# Tuition Fee Loans

Universities charge up to **£9535\*** per year

Contribution towards your teaching and facilities

## Tuition Fee Loans:

- Fully cover this cost
- Are paid directly to your university
- Are accessed by almost all students



Sandwich course or study abroad – often reduced fee

\*UK students and EU students with settled or pre-settled status

# Maintenance Loans

## Common living costs:

- Accommodation
- Travel
- Food
- Books
- Entertainment
- Clothing

You don't have to take every loan, or all of it



# Maintenance Loan

## How much Maintenance Loan will I get?

You can check your entitlement here:

[www.gov.uk/student-finance-calculator](https://www.gov.uk/student-finance-calculator)

These rates apply to full-time students aged under 60.

London students receive a higher rate of loan.

Household income – Total earnings of the responsible adults in the home the student is registered at.

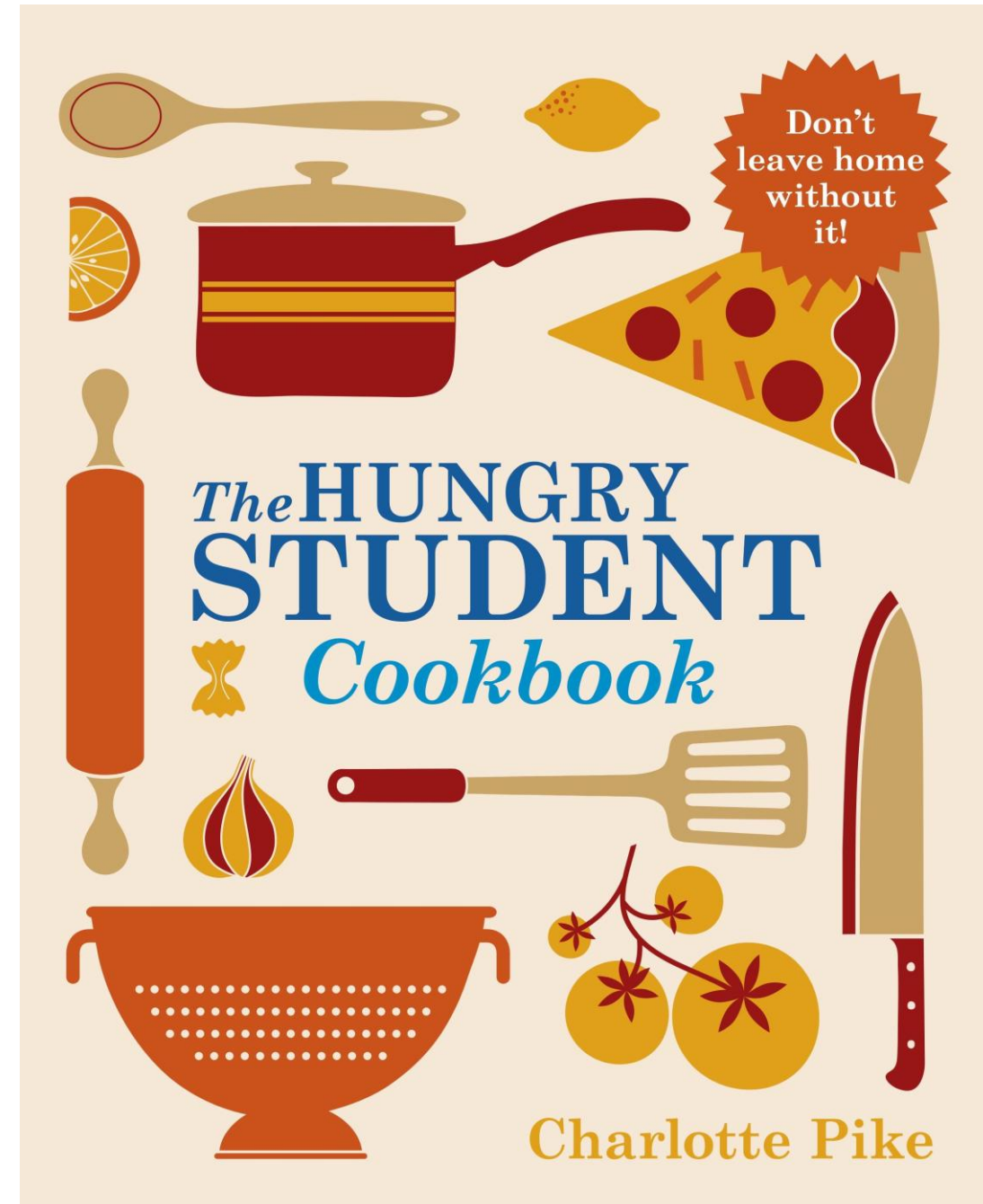
Taken from the previous tax year (ending April 2025)

Current income assessment available



# Maintenance Loans in England 2025/26

Household Income	Living at home	Away from home (outside London)	Away from home (London)
£25,000 or less	£8,877	£10,544	£13,762
£30,000	£8,132	£9,791	£12,997
£35,000	£7,387	£9,038	£12,231
£40,000	£6,642	£8,285	£11,465
£42,875	£6,214	£7,852	£11,025
£45,000	£5,897	£7,532	£10,700
£50,000	£5,152	£6,779	£9,934
£55,000	£4,407	£6,026	£9,168
<b>£58,349</b>	£3,907	£5,522	£8,655
£60,000	£3,907	£5,273	£8,403
<b>£62,377</b>	£3,907	£4,915	£8,039
£65,000	£3,907	£4,915	£7,637
£70,000	£3,907	£4,915	£6,871
<b>£70,116</b>	£3,907	£4,915	£6,853
£75,000	£3,907	£4,915	£6,853



# Extra funding sources for healthcare

- NHS Learning Support Fund - £5,000 per year for many health and social care courses\*
- Medicine/dentistry - bursary available from fifth year onwards
- Social Work – selective bursary available in second and third years



\*nursing, midwifery, dental therapy/dental hygiene, dietetics, occupational therapy, operating department practitioner, orthoptics, orthotics and prosthetics, paramedics, physiotherapy, podiatry/chiropractic, radiography, speech and language therapy

## FEATURED

### Chancellor's Scholarship

As our flagship programme, the Chancellor's Scholarship rewards 10 students with high academic achievement and potential with a scholarship covering the full cost of their undergraduate tuition.

New for 2024/25 entry, it encourages those with the potential to be excellent undergraduate students in and out of the classroom to study at Hull and is available per year to UK students across all subject areas.

**Value** Full tuition fee

**Eligibility** High academic potential

**Awarded by** University of Hull

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Residual household income	Cash Award
Up to £25,000	£2,000 each year
Between £25,001-£35,000	£1,000 each year

### Gillian Stead Scholarship

This a cash award worth £2,100 per year for UK undergraduate students studying a BSc or MMath degree in mathematics and have obtained 128 UCAS Tariff points from three A-Levels (excluding General Studies) including an A in A level maths or equivalent\*.

**Value** £2,100/year

**Eligibility** Students with 128 UCAS points, including an A in maths studying BSc or MMath degree in Mathematics

**Awarded by** University of Hull

📌 **Automatically applied**

### [Leverhulme Trade Charities Trust](#)

- For UK students whose parent or spouse is a commercial traveller, grocer or chemist.
- Up to £3,000 per year for undergraduates.
- Up to £5,000 per year for postgraduates.
- Visit the [Leverhulme Trade Charities Trust website](#) for more information on closing dates.

## Will I be able to afford it?

**Student Loan repayments are calculated based on what you can afford - *not what you owe***

You pay back tuition fee loans and maintenance loans, but not until you're earning above the repayment threshold.

- The repayment threshold is £25,000
- Repayments are 9% of your salary **OVER** the repayment threshold
- Repayments are taken directly from your wages if working in the UK



# How do I repay?

If your earnings drop below the threshold, your payments will pause

The loan is written off after 40 years, regardless of how much you've repaid

Interest is the Retail Price Index (a measure of inflation)

Annual income	Monthly repayment
< £25,000	£0
£30,000	£38
£40,000	£113
£50,000	£188

ANY  
QUESTIONS?

