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Research

Research chosen course(s) and key skills required

University prospectuses, course leaflets, websites

Higher Education Exhibitions

Work experience/ shadowing

Open Days

Careers library

Email universities with questions if necessary





Entry requirements

Check entry requirements carefully...

Minimum requirements:

- Minimum grades (by end of S5 or S4-S6)
- Any specific subjects?

Level of competition? ('Standard' offer level?)

Work experience? Additional tests or interviews?

If in doubt - check with universities directly before applying





The UCAS system

Apply to:

- Universities
- Some college courses
- Conservatoires

One application, 5 choices

- Maximum 4 for medicine, dentistry or veterinary medicine
- Back up choices

UCAS Deadlines:

15 October 2024 18:00

- Medicine
- Dentistry
- Veterinary medicine
- Oxford/Cambridge

29 January 2025 18:00

All other courses

Follow your school's deadlines!





The UCAS application

Information required:

Personal information – name, address, email

Year of entry

Educational history and qualifications

Employment history

Subject & university choices

Personal statement

School reference







UCAS: The next steps

- UCAS distributes applications to universities
- Monitor progress of application through 'UCAS Track'
- The University response:
 - Conditional offer
 - Unconditional offer
 - Unsuccessful application
- Only have to respond after all offers have been made
- Hold a maximum of 2 conditional offers (Firm or Insurance)
- Much thought required before responding to offers insurance choice should be realistic





Why is it important?

- Growing applicant numbers
- Competition for places
- Most options won't interview
- Your opportunity to tell us why you would be a great student

A good personal statement can be the difference between a successful and unsuccessful application.







Before you start - be aware

- One personal statement for five choices
- Aim for all choices to have a common theme (avoid 50:50 statements)
- Max 4,000 characters or 47 lines stay focused and relevant
- Limit includes punctuation, spaces and blank lines
- Plagiarism check (Copycatch) and beware of chat GPT





What are universities looking for?

Why did you make this choice?

Show us:

- Motivation, commitment, enthusiasm
- Research and preparation
 - understanding of the subject
 - understanding of the profession







Work or voluntary experience

Any work or voluntary experience can be relevant

- What did you gain?
 - Knowledge
 - Skills
 - Understanding
 - Experience

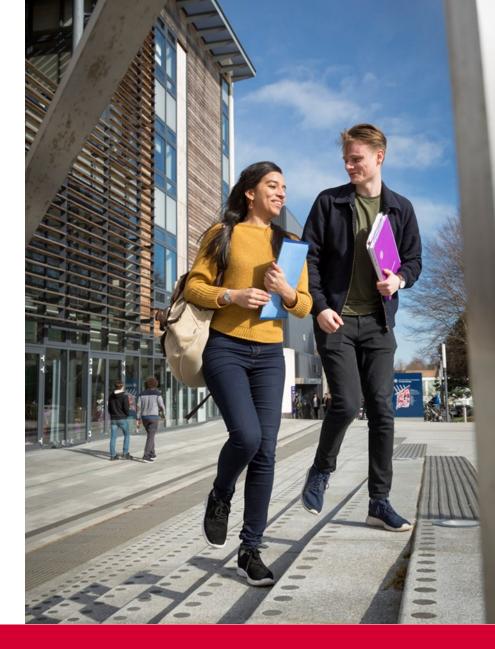




Qualities and Achievements

How will you contribute to university life?

- Include:
 - Additional achievements
 - Awards gained
 - Positions of leadership and responsibility
- Relate back to your application







Quick recap!

- Do your research first be clear about motivation for study
- One statement for up to five choices
- Avoid lists
- Try to relate achievements and experiences back to your application
- Make sure it reads well (Draft and redraft!)
- Use the support your school offers
- Write the first line last







Personal statements - 2026 entry

Format is changing for 2026 entry – so framed around 3 questions, not free text

- 1. Why do you want to study this course or subject?
- Motivation for choosing this course / Knowledge of subject area
- 2. How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?
- How are your current and previous studies relevant to your chosen course?
- What transferable/core skills do you have?
- 3. What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?
- Work experience/volunteering/ employment plus personal experiences/achievements







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UCAS ucas.com



The University of Edinburgh ed.ac.uk



