



UCAS: A Guide to Applying to University

RESPECT

HONESTY

FAIRNESS

ACHIEVEMENT

Route-Map of this Session:

- UCAS Application
- Choices
- Personal Statements
- School References
- UCAS Track and Offers
- What Next?
- Planit Plus



UCAS 2022 Application

- UCAS is an independent charity that processes applications and sends **one** application to up to 5 universities/courses. It costs £26.50 to use.
- The application does take time, but we are pleased to say that we are well ahead of schedule.
- As pupils are applying through the school, Mrs Morgan can see everyone's application and can check that pupils are making good progress.
- Time is built in to check students' applications, make sure all sections have been filled in correctly, support those struggling with their application, and write and add references for all students, before sending to UCAS.
- Whilst the UCAS official deadline for equal consideration is 26th January, our aim is to have all applications sent off to UCAS **before Christmas holidays**.
- This gives pupils a much needed chance to relax and reduces stress before they sit their prelims in January.

Choices

- Making university choices can be tricky and it is really not unusual for students to be unsure.
- Degrees at university are usually modular and students can alter their choices when they arrive, so there is generally flexibility so they will never be “stuck” with something they are not enjoying.
- Our advice is for young people to do their research to decide what they would like to do next by reading course information on university websites and accessing the many virtual opportunities which are advertised on Pathways TEAMS.
- All S6 pupils have the option to access ICT to research Pathways options and are supported with their UCAS application too.
- We also have a full-time careers adviser (Kirsty Young) who can meet with students to help, plus students can make an appointment to chat with the S6 year team at a time that suits them.
- We **do** recommend spreading choices out across 4 or more institutions to widen the chances of being made an offer. Usually, using more than one choice at the same university is a waste, especially if it is within the same faculty.


Personal Statements

- Your child may find writing their personal statement the most difficult part of the application process – they're not alone, as everyone finds it hard.
- Once pupils firm up their ideas around what courses they would like to study, and make their choices, it makes writing their statement a bit easier.
- It must be under 4000 characters (about 650 words), so being succinct is key.
- The statement does have to be original as UCAS' software scans applications for plagiarism.
- Statements should outline the reasons for applying, relevant subject knowledge, and any personal development and skills which makes them suitable for the course.
- To help students get an idea for their personal statement, we have given time to plan in PSE and we have collated many successful personal statements (grouped by subject) for them to read over and get some ideas.
- These can be accessed on the Pathways TEAMS page, alongside other resources.
- UCAS www.ucas.com/personalstatement is also very helpful.


Personal Statement Resources

Microsoft Teams

Search

... Glow Scotland 

< All teams



S6 2021/22 ...

- General
- Mental Health and Wellbeing
- SQA
- 2 hidden channels

General Posts Files +

Meet

+ New Upload Sync Copy link Download Open in SharePoint All Documents

Documents > General > Pathways > UCAS > **Personal Statement Resources**

Name	Modified	Modified By
Personal Statements UCAS.pdf	September 12	Mrs Campbell
Personal-Statement-workbook (1).docx	September 12	Mrs Campbell
ucas-personal-statement-worksheet.pdf	September 12	Mrs Campbell

School References

- Once pupils finish all the sections on their application form, they should hit review and send.
- This sends the application to the school and the reference can be completed and the predicted grades added.
- UCAS Mentors (Guidance and SLT) are responsible for creating a school reference for pupils which is sent alongside their application.
- This is completed using knowledge of the pupils and using feedback from classroom teachers who know your child well. Teachers are given the chance to make specific comments about pupils' suitability for their chosen courses.
- Pupils will have the opportunity to read their statement with their mentor once it is completed.

UCAS Track

Students should head to ucas.com to track their application. They log in using the same information as before.

Here they can:

- follow the progress of their application 24/7
- see their choices and personal information
- view their offers
- reply to offers online

It is not uncommon for pupils to hear back from universities at different times – a long wait, **does not** mean they are unsuccessful.



Decisions universities and colleges can make

Either a conditional or unconditional offer is good news.

- A **conditional** offer means you still need to meet the requirements – usually exam results.
- A conditional offer means waiting for results day in summer to see if your exam results meet the conditions.

Provider name	CONDITIONAL OFFER	
University of Glasgow		
Course name	Date of offer	
Aeronautical Engineering	03 Nov 2021	
Provider code	Course code	Application reply deadline
G28	H410	-
Conditions for acceptance		
This offer is subject to you obtaining		
Scottish Qualifications Authority Advanced Higher		
Grade B		

Decisions universities and colleges can make

- An **unconditional** offer means you've got a place, although there might still be a few things to arrange.

Provider name	UNCONDITIONAL	
University of Dundee		
Course name	Date of offer	
History and Politics	23 Nov 2021	
Provider code	Course code	Application reply deadline
D65	LV21	-
Conditions for acceptance		
This offer is subject to you obtaining		
Completed Qualifications to be submitted by 31 August 2022		
This offer is based on Scottish Fee Status and your declaration that you do not require a Visa to study in the UK		

Replies to offers

- Once pupils have decisions from all their choices, they can hold a maximum of two offers:
- one as a 'firm' acceptance – their first choice
- the other as an 'insurance' acceptance. This acts as a back-up if they don't get into their 'firm' choice
- If they have unconditional offers (i.e. don't need any more grades to achieve the place) then they only have one choice to make.
- They must then decline any remaining offers.
- Once all decisions and replies have been made, if students aren't holding an offer, they may be able to use Extra or Clearing to find available places at other universities.

What Next?

Extra Service (Feb – Jul) (<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/after-you-apply/types-offer/extra-choices>)

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

Clearing (Jul – Oct)

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

College Applications (Mid-January)

- Students can apply online to colleges directly through college websites and places are given on a first-come, first serve basis.
- It is a great idea for pupils to apply to college, even if they are applying to university. Pupils can adapt their personal statement and can withdraw from the course if they are successful with UCAS application.
- We think it is essential for pupils to apply for college if they do not have the minimum entry requirements for a course already or if they are applying for a very competitive course e.g. Art School, Healthcare Professions, Social work, Primary Teaching etc.
- We will be running targeted workshops in school for some pupils, but pupils can also apply at home. We will send notification to parents when applications open so you can help support at home.

Planit Plus

- A great website to support you with University Choices and college places linked to the subject is Planit Plus (<https://www.planitplus.net/>)



- I will show you how to navigate it now by sharing my screen.

Thank You!

- We hope you have found this evening's session useful.
- We know that this is a difficult time for young people and we want to make your child's transition as easy as possible.
- If you have any questions or comments, please send to BOffice@boclair.e-dunbarton.sch.uk

