



# (Almost) everything you need to know about university

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Why go to university?

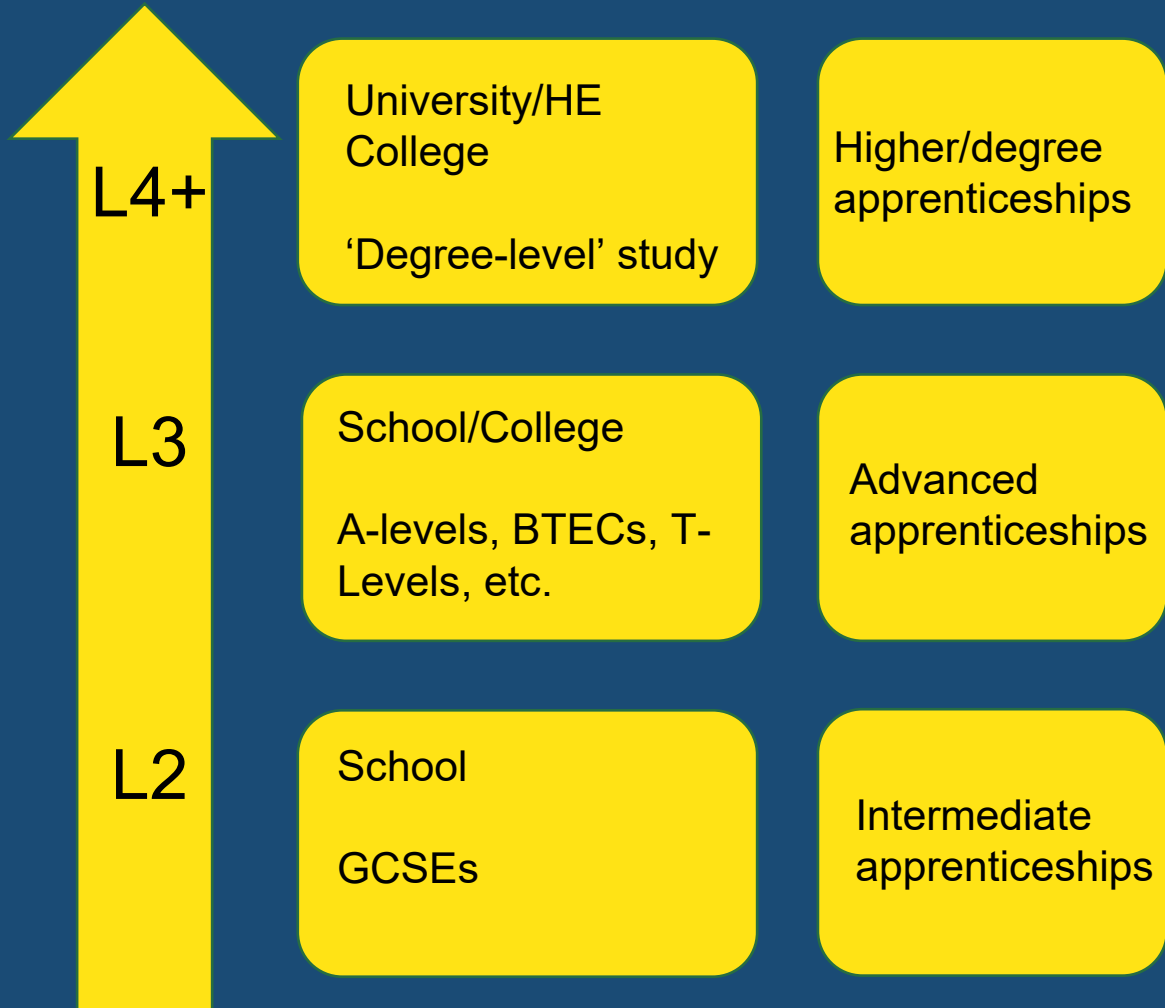
Choosing a course and a university

UCAS and Personal Statements

An introduction to Student Finance



# What is University?





# What are the differences between school and university?

- Subjects
- Teaching
- Timetable
- Homework
- Social Life
- Sports and activities
- Support
- Living away from home(?)





# Why go to University?

Study a subject that you love

- Continue with your favourite subject
- In-depth study of a subject you're passionate about
- An opportunity to build on your current subject choices & study something new

Enhance your degree with a work placement or study abroad period





# Why go to University?

## Career choices

- While only 5% of job listings mention having a degree, 61% of UK employers look at degrees when screening candidates
- Some careers require a specific degree subject (medicine, pharmacy, social work, etc.)
- Many more don't require a specific subject (marketing, PR, accountancy, law, etc.)

If you don't know what you want to do in future – don't worry! A degree will open masses of doors for you





# Why go to University?

## Earning potential

- In 2023, the median salary for working-age graduates – those aged 16-64 – was £40,000. This is £10,500 higher than for non-graduates (£29,500)
- The employment rate for working-age graduates was 87.7%, and for non-graduates 69.7%

Graduates  
earn £100,000  
more over the  
course of their  
working life





# Why go to University?

## Develop new skills

- Going to university helps students to develop a range of new skills
- Academic skills include: research skills, communication, team working & problem solving
- Life skills include: independence, time management, domestic skills & budgeting

Universities have many support services to help you develop your skills

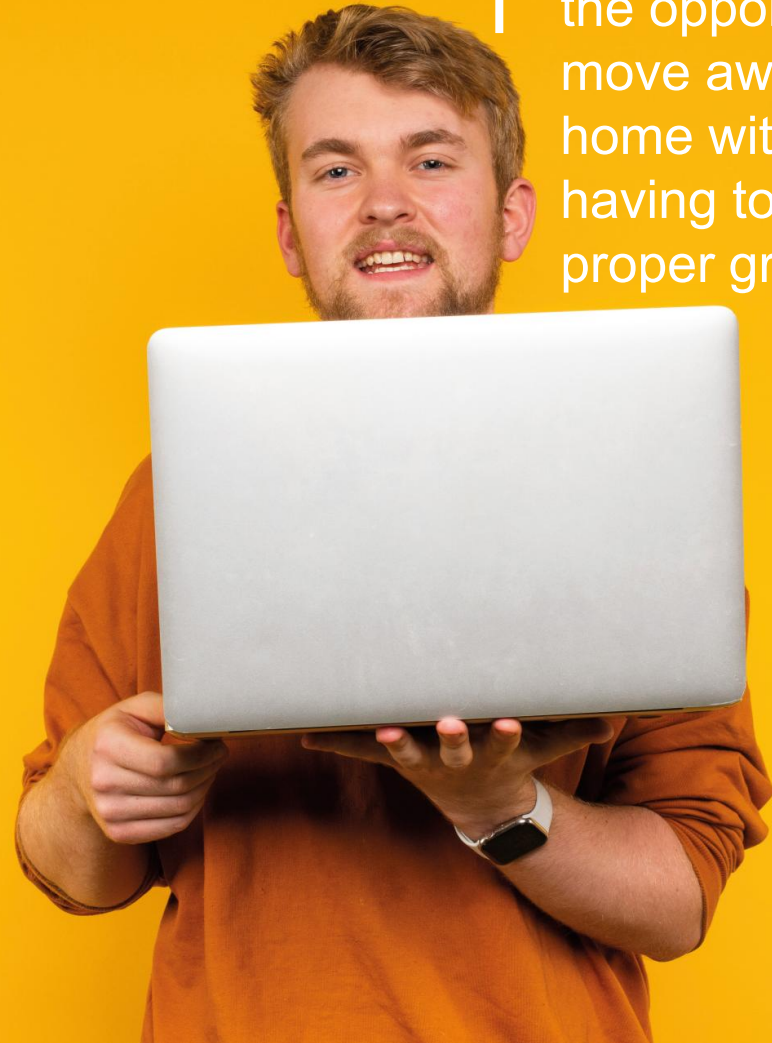




# Why go to University?

## Social life

- Many former students (65%) describe university as the best time in their lives
- Experience somewhere new
- Lots of potential for social activities, from nights out to joining clubs and societies



University gives you the opportunity to move away from home without having to be a proper grown-up



# Choosing a course & university

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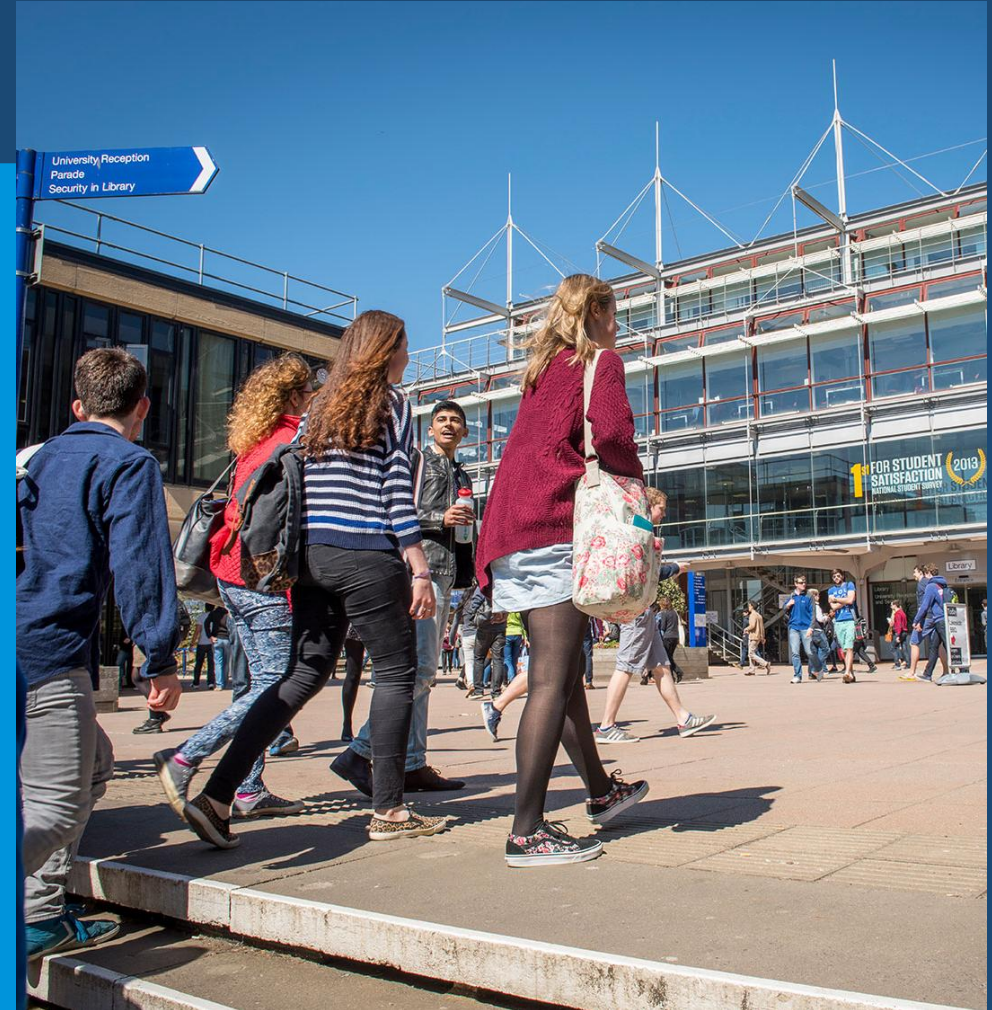
# Your choices

In the UK:

**30,000+** courses

**400+** providers

- Bachelor's Degrees
- Undergraduate masters
- Foundation degrees
- Degree apprenticeships



A young woman with dark hair tied back, wearing a white off-the-shoulder top, blue jeans, and white sneakers, is walking on a paved path in a park-like setting. The background is filled with lush green trees and a building in the distance. A blue rectangular text box is overlaid on the image, containing the text "What could I study?".

What could I study?



# Choosing a course

Where to start?

- Your favourite subject at school
- Your most successful subject
- What interests you most
- Plans after university



# What can you study?

One of your A-Levels?	Something new or interdisciplinary?	A vocational course?
History	American Studies	Heritage Studies
Biology	Natural Sciences	Wildlife Management
Chemistry	Pharmacology	Medicine
Physics	Mechanical Engineering	Construction Engineering Management
French	International Management and Modern Languages	French and Translation
Sociology	Gender Studies	Social Work



# What can you study?

Pretty much any course you can think of is on offer somewhere, including:

- Applied Golf Management Studies (University of Birmingham)
- Cartoon & Comic Arts (Staffordshire University)
- Equine Behaviour, Health and Welfare (Nottingham Trent University)
- Viking and Old Norse Studies (University College London)



## Search for **Courses**

 e.g. history

### Study level

Undergraduate ▾

### Entry year

2024 - 2025 ▾

Go

Search by **Location**

[Undergraduate study](#)[Accommodation](#)[Fees and funding](#)[Apply for a course](#)[Support and information](#)[Experience Bath](#)[Other study](#)

# Undergraduate study 2024

Find out what it means to belong at Bath. Discover our courses, campus, and a welcoming community where you'll be supported during your student experience.

[Undergraduate - 2024 courses](#)

## Search by subject





Choose from over 190 undergraduate degrees in subjects including engineering, humanities, management, science and social science.

[UNDERGRADUATE SUBJECTS](#)




# BSc (hons) Economics at UCL

Year 1      Year 2      Year 3

## Compulsory modules

-  [Economics](#)
-  [Applied Economics](#)
-  [Statistical Methods in Economics](#)
-  [Mathematics for Economics](#)

## Optional modules

-  [History of Economic Thought](#)
-  An Introduction to Economic Thinking
-  [The World Economy](#)

# BSc (hons) Economics at Bath

## Compulsory units

### Macroeconomics 1

15 credits

### Mathematics for economists

10 credits

### Microeconomics 1

15 credits

### Probability and statistics

10 credits

### Programming and computational methods for economists

10 credits



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Job profile

## Music therapist

[View all healthcare vacancies >](#)

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### On this profile

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**Music therapists use music creatively to help clients address their**

Together, we can shape  
the future of our University.

Find out how to get involved:

[bath.ac.uk/our-university-our-future](http://bath.ac.uk/our-university-our-future)

Where can I study?



# Where will you be happiest?

- Home or away?
- Campus or city?
- University facilities & accommodation



# Where will you be happiest?

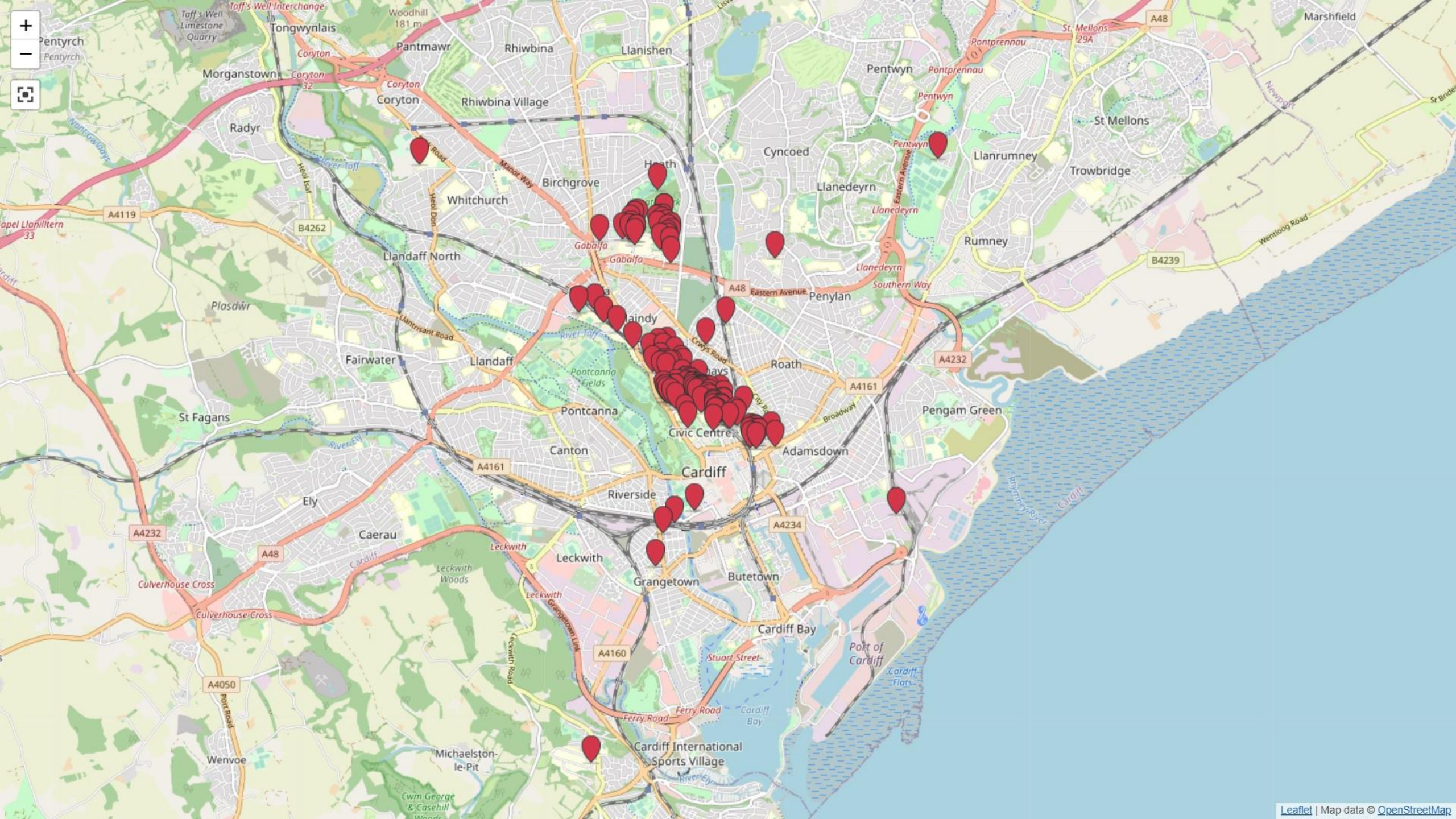
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- Students in the UK typically move away from home to attend university
- Majority will attend a university between 1-3 hours away
- More than 10,600 courses within 100 miles of the college



University gives you the opportunity to move away from home without having to be a proper grown-up





# Accommodation

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- Is there accommodation?
- First year or entire degree?
- En-suite vs shared bathrooms
- Self-catering or fully catered?
- Does the accommodation contract include university holiday periods?



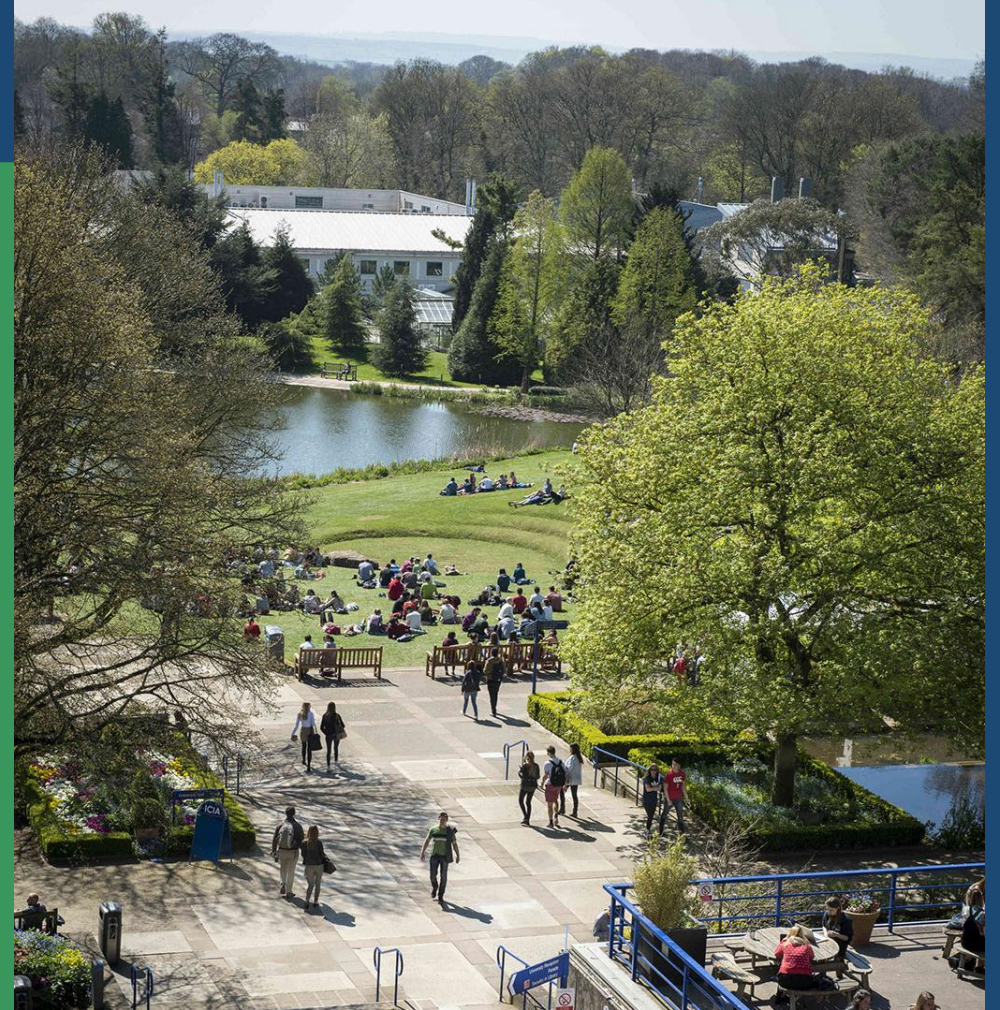
# Where will you be happiest?

- Home or away?
- Campus or city?
- University facilities & accommodation



# Researching Universities

- League tables & NSS
- Entry requirements
- Placements and study abroad



# League Tables

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Three main university rankings in the UK:

- The Complete University Guide (June 2026)
- The Guardian University Guide (September 2025)
- The Times & The Sunday Times Good University Guide (September 2025)

There are no official, government rankings of universities

Subject rankings  
are more useful  
than overall  
rankings



# Entry Requirements

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Universities express entry requirements as either:

- Grades (e.g. BBC in 3 A-levels)

Or

- UCAS points (e.g. 112 UCAS points)

When choosing courses look to have:

- 1/2 aspirational choices
- 2/3 realistic choices
- 1 back-up option (?)

A\* = 56 points

A = 48 points

B = 40 points

C = 32 points

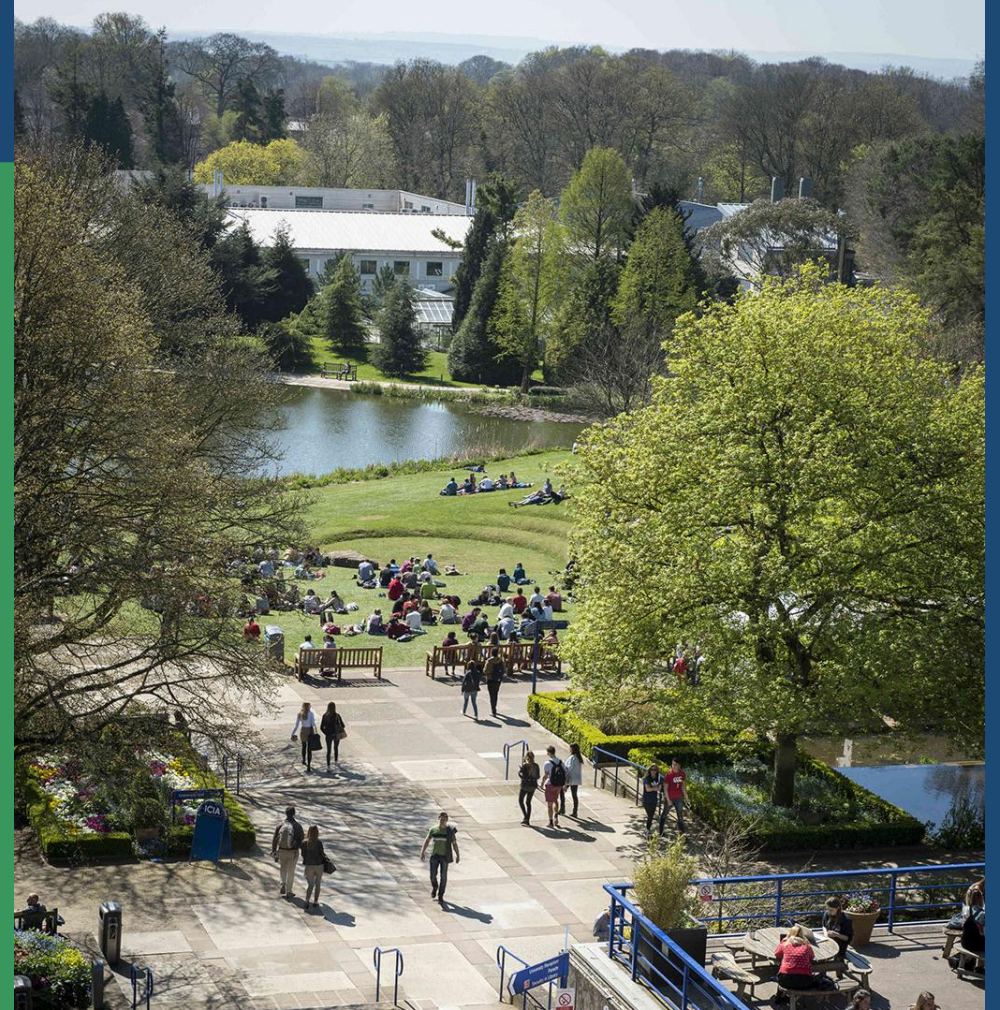
D = 24 points

E = 16 points



# Researching Universities

- League tables & NSS
- Entry requirements
- Placements and study abroad



## A final tip

Be sure to visit any universities you are interested in

Open Days and Applicant Visit Days are a great way to get a taste of life at that university

Virtual Open Days may also be available

Don't be afraid to ask questions on the day



# Applying to university

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#BelongatBath





# What is UCAS?

- University and Colleges Application Service
- [ucas.com](https://ucas.com)
- Online system for applying to UK universities
- All applications go through UCAS
- Provides information for applicants, teachers/advisers, and parents/carers/guardians





# UCAS Application: course choices

- You have up to five choices
- Maximum of four choices for:
  - Medicine
  - Dentistry
  - Vet science/vet med
- You can only apply to one of Oxford or Cambridge
- You may be able to apply for deferred entry
- £34.50 application fee for 1-5 choices

You do not  
have to rank  
your UCAS  
choices





# UCAS Timeline

12<sup>th</sup> May: UCAS apply opens for 2026 entry

1<sup>st</sup> September: first day completed UCAS applications can be submitted

15<sup>th</sup> October: early application deadline

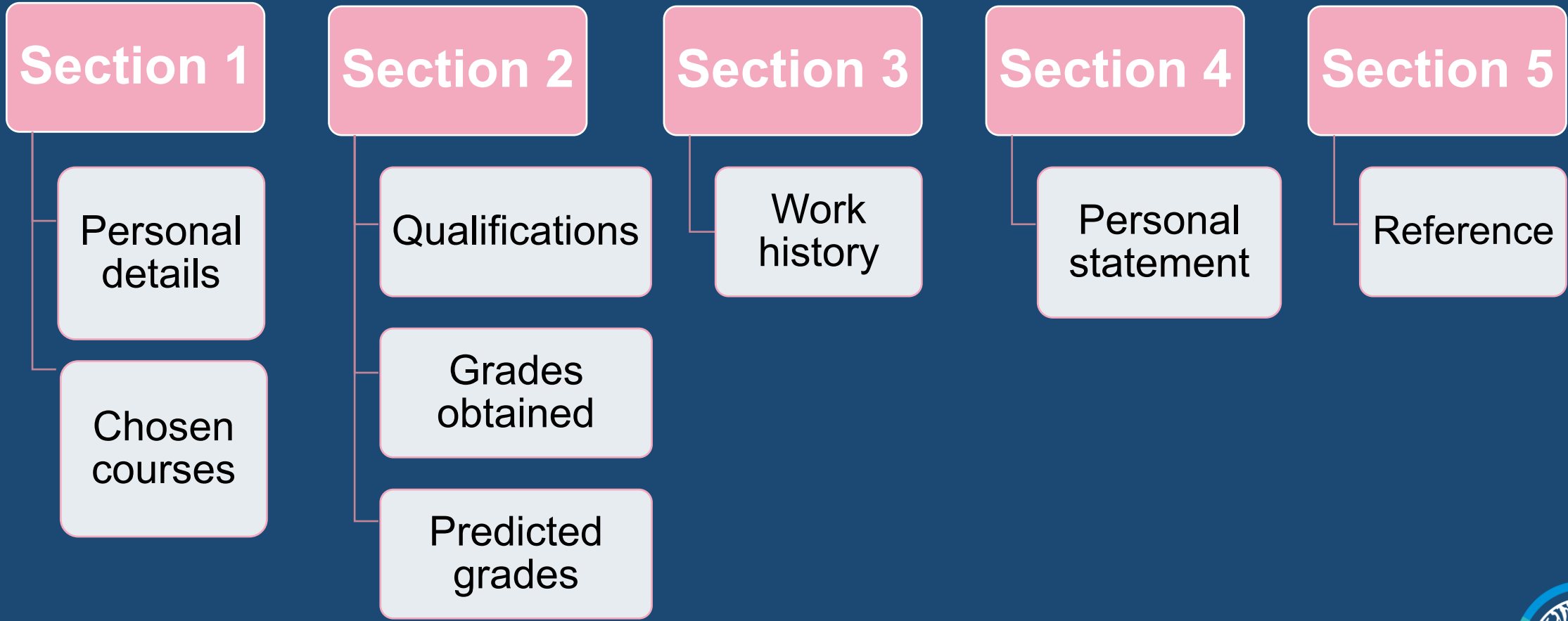
13<sup>th</sup> January: application deadline for all other courses

Remember:  
your school or  
college  
deadlines will be  
earlier than  
these!



# The UCAS Application

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# UCAS Application: Personal Statement

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## What is a Personal Statement?

The Personal Statement is the only place on the UCAS application where you can focus on your **skills and achievements**. Use your Personal Statement to demonstrate how these are relevant to your chosen course

## How much do I write?

A **maximum** of 4,000 characters, or 47 lines.



# Why is the Personal Statement important?

For most courses it is your **only opportunity** to speak directly to the person making admissions decisions

It can be used as the basis for an **interview**

It allows you to **provide evidence** of work experience and additional activities

It will be used when considering '**near-miss**' applications



# Personal Statement Changes

For 2026 entry: Personal Statement changing from one piece of text to three separate sections

Three questions to 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?

Each section has a minimum character count of 350 characters



# Wider Reading



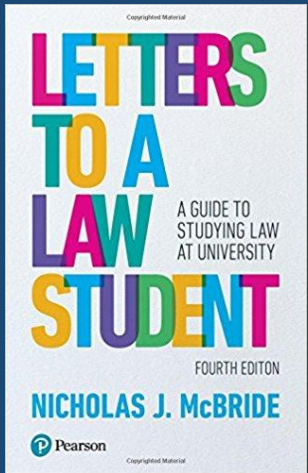
# New Scientist

# The Economist

# THE NEW YORKER



# NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC



# Psychology Today



# FINANCIAL TIMES



# History Today

## Online Resources



# Student Finance

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**Tuition Fees**

**Rent  
and  
bills**

**Living costs**

**What are the main costs at University?**



# The Facts: Tuition Fees

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Up to £10,050 per year

Full tuition fee loan available

Independent of household income

Paid directly to the university

Must be repaid

Tuition fee support is the same for England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland



# The Facts: Maintenance Support

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Help with living costs

Paid into your bank account in instalments, usually at the beginning of each term/semester

Payments are generally made in September, January and April

Maintenance support is different for each country within the UK



## The Facts: Maintenance Loan

The amount you could be entitled to depends on household income and whether you live:

- At home, studying at a local university
- Away from home, outside London
- Away from home, at a London university

This is a loan and must be repaid

# student finance england

Applications must be made through Student Finance England



# Maintenance Loans for 2026/27 academic year

Household Income	Living at home	Away from home (outside London)	Away from home (London)
£25,000 or less	<b>£9,118</b>	<b>£10,830</b>	<b>£14,135</b>
£30,000	£8,354	£10,058	£13,349
£35,000	£7,589	£9,285	£12,563
£40,000	£6,825	£8,512	£11,777
£45,000	£6,060	£7,739	£10,991
£50,000	£5,296	£6,967	£10,205
£55,000	£4,531	£6,194	£9,419
<b>£58,387</b>	£4,013	£5,700	£8,886
£60,000	£4,013	£5,421	£8,632
<b>£62,410</b>	£4,013	<b>£5,048</b>	£8,253
£65,000	£4,013	£5,048	£7,846
£70,000	£4,013	£5,048	£7,060
<b>£70,131+</b>	£4,013	£5,048	<b>£7,039</b>



# Your Income

Many students may have multiple sources of income:

- Maintenance Loan
- Scholarships
- Bursaries
- Sponsorships
- Family support
- Targeted support (e.g. Disabled Students' Allowance)
- Money earned (e.g. during your work placement year or with a part time job)
- Any savings you already have



When do I repay the loan?



**3 GOLDEN  
RULES**

**For repaying your student  
loan**



1

You only repay 9% of anything you earn over £25,000 a year

£25,000  
threshold

£1,000 over threshold  
9% of £1000 = £90  
Each month = £7.50



# 2

The size of your loan doesn't affect your repayments

Owe £30,000, earn £26,000 = £7.50 a month

Owe £50,000, earn £26,000 = £7.50 a month

Owe £70,000, earn £25,000 = £0 a month



3

After 40 years any remaining debt is wiped...

*Many students do not fully pay off their loan in 40 years.*

*Any remaining debt for these students is wiped.*



# Repayments by Income 2025/2026

<b>Yearly income before tax</b>	<b>Monthly income before tax</b>	<b>Monthly repayment</b>	<b>% of pre-tax salary</b>
£25,000	£2,083	£0	0%
£26,000	£2,167	£7.50	0.3%
£30,000	£2,500	£37.50	1.5%
£35,000	£2,917	£75	2.6%
£40,000	£3,334	£112.50	3.4%
£60,000	£5,000	£262.50	5.25%
£80,000	£6,667	£412.50	6.19%



# And finally

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- Start researching your post-18 options now
- Attend Open Days, and be sure to ask any questions you have
- Financial support is available for all home students attending university. This is in the form of a full tuition fee loan, and a means-tested maintenance loan
- Student Finance applications for students starting university in September 2027 will open in March, and close in May



**Thanks for listening!**

**Any questions?**

