



Year 12 Parent Information Evening

A. Blake - Assistant Principal - Post-16
Education

- First, we want to congratulate our year 12 students for an impressive start to their sixth form studies.
- We are here to talk about how we will be supporting the students through the next twelve months and their choices for post 18.



A few key differences that you might have noticed this academic year:

- More challenging content, greater range of skills required, more homework and research required.
- Motivation and self-discipline are essential to keep up with the demand of independent learning from their subjects.



Elevate: Preparing for What's Next

We have now moved into the Elevate phase which involves focused sessions on exploring their options, setting up UCAS Hub, opening a UCAS application and writing personal statements.

As well as these lessons, students have access to Unifrog.



Work Experience week – 15th to 19th June

- All Year 12 students now have work experience
- As this is a school week, anyone who is absent has to be marked with an unauthorised absence, and anyone who is ill that week will need to provide a medical note.

For those on work experience, the following should be noted:

- For safeguarding purposes, it is vital that if your child does not attend on any of the days, then you notify both us and the contact at the placement.
- **We must know where your child is at all times.**
- We will do two checks that week, by phone.
- Each student will complete an evaluation form at the end which will be an online form and will take with them a log to complete.
- We hope that they get a lot out of their experience.

What is UCAS?

UCAS is an **independent charity** providing information, advice and admissions services. We're there to help people **discover** what their next step might be.

UCAS **does**:

- provide information, advice, and support
- process applications
- complete fraud and verification checks
- take part in education sector engagement

UCAS **doesn't**:

- make decisions or offers
- set entry requirements
- advise on finance
- advise on immigration or visas



UCAS Discovery 23rd June

- This is on Tuesday 23rd June a letter we will send out to you.
- UCAS Discovery exhibitions bring together the experts to help you shortlist your options, all under one roof.

At a Discovery exhibition you will be able to:

- meet over 100 unis, colleges, and apprenticeship employers face-to-face
- find out about different options and pathways
- listen to live expert talks
- get the latest advice and information on different career choices. Students will meet us at the NEC by the designated time to be registered but they are free to leave after they have been round the event.
- There are no lessons that day and so students do not return to school. This is not an optional visit – all students need to attend.

What Next?

Discovery with UCAS

UCAS

Security marking: PUBLIC

30 April 2026



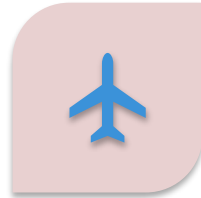
Discover options



HIGHER
EDUCATION



APPRENTICESHIPS



STUDYING
ABROAD



GAP YEAR



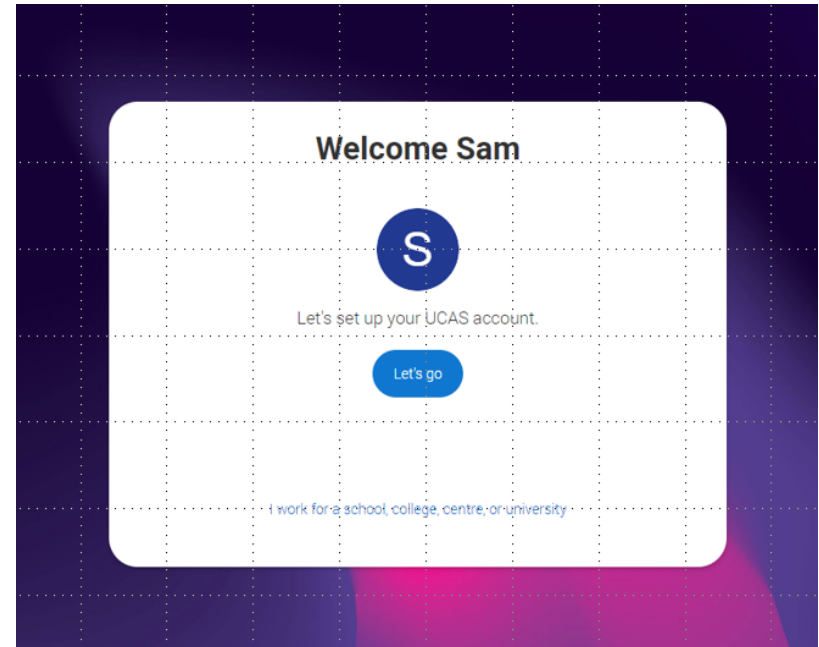
GETTING A JOB

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

Discover options

Register with the UCAS Hub to:

- explore careers, subjects, places, and apprenticeships in one place
- find and favourite over 35,000 courses
- search for open days, events and virtual tours
- turn predicted grades into UCAS Tariff points
- speak to those in the know using [Unibuddy](#)
- try before you apply with [Subject Spotlights](#) from Springpod.
- take the [UCAS Quiz](#) to find career matches
- start your application



Your next steps | [Open legacy to do list](#)

DISCOVER WHAT TO DO

Browse subjects and careers with related courses and apprenticeships.

[Discover more](#)

FAQS

What subject should I take?

Read our subject guides to see what might be right for you.

HOW TO

How to apply

All you need to know about applying to university, college or an apprenticeship.

DISCOVER CAREERS

Try our quiz and get recommended careers that match your skills and personality traits.

[Take the quiz](#)

FAQS

Key application dates

Find out what you need to do and when.

HOW TO

How to nail that personal statement

Writing a personal statement can be daunting. Follow our tips and advice to help make it easier.

DISCOVER WHERE TO GO

Browse universities, colleges and employers and learn more about cities and regions in the UK.

[Find out more](#)

What's happening

Replying to your offers - your questions answered

Getting ready to reply to your offers? We've got all your questions answered

[More info](#)

Chat to students

Chat with UK and international students who are already studying the courses you've applied for at universities and colleges across the UK, on Limbuddy

[More info](#)

University course tasters

Experience what a university course would be like with Springpod's Subject Spotlights. These interactive, virtual university course tasters feature real-life lectures, seminars, and academics.

[More info](#)

Live now: Studying in the UK

There's a lot to consider when moving to a new country. We explore accommodation, visas, scholarships and everything in between.

[More info](#)

Discover pathways

- **Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE) and Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE):** first and second year of a degree course.
- **Higher National Certificate (HNC) and Higher National Diploma (HND):** HNC is a one-year industry specific course, and the HND is a two-year industry specific course.
- **Higher apprenticeships:** provide an opportunity to gain Level 4 qualifications or above, e.g. HND, or foundation degree while you work. Can take from one to five years to complete, depending on the course level.
- **Foundation degree:** flexible vocational qualification, combining both academic study and workplace learning. It usually takes two years to complete.
- **Bachelor's or undergraduate degree:** a three to four-year course which can also be available as a part-time option, allowing you to study and work.
- **Degree apprenticeships:** enable you to gain a full undergraduate or master's degree while you work. Degree apprenticeships take three to six years to complete, depending on the course.





Is it **right** for you?

There's things to consider with your next step
something you enjoy – you're investing time
and effort

whether it's right for your career path –
check with employers and professional
organisations

location – city or rural, transport links

a study and assessment style that suits you
environment including extracurricular, clubs,
and societies

finances



Build your profile. Favourite as you go.

Browse by

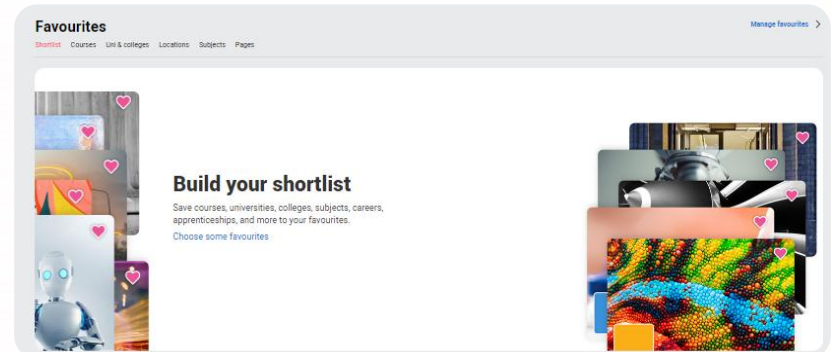


Explore your future

What to do? Where to go? **Discover** all the options with our subject, industry, and career guides. **Explore** city, employer and accommodation information. **Compare** apprenticeships and course opportunities for you.

Build your shortlist

Save for courses, universities, colleges, subjects, apprenticeships and more! Use to shortlist your top 5 choices, manage, keep those favourite information pages to hand.



Subject Spotlights

Learn from some of the UK's finest academics as they give you a genuine, insightful, and engaging experience of studying their courses at their universities.

- On-demand interactive video **experiences**
- Have a go at **interactive quizzes** and **activities**
- Get **feedback** on how you've done.
- **Try** university degrees before you apply.
- **Certificate** of completion

University course tasters

Experience what a university course would be like with Springpod's Subject Spotlights. These interactive, virtual university course tasters feature real-life lectures, seminars, and academics.

More info



Explore more Springpod [Subject Spotlights](#)



Chat to students



A peer-to-peer chat facility hosted on ucas.com powered by Unibuddy.



An opportunity to connect with current students, ask questions and learn about their experiences



Over 4,900 active ambassadors, with unlimited chats available

Chat to students

Chat with UK and international students who are already studying the courses you've applied for at universities and colleges across the UK, on Unibuddy

[More info](#)

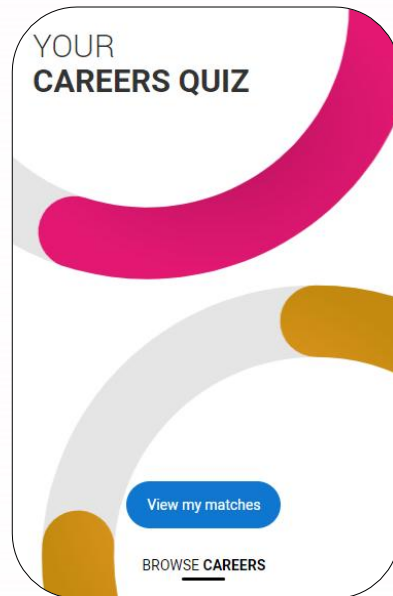


Personalised tools to help

UCAS Quiz

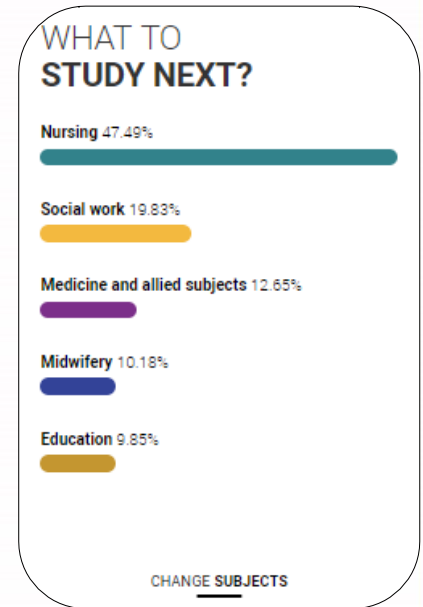
Find job and career ideas matched to your personality.

Plus a list of courses previous students studied in order to get there.



What to study next?

Broaden your horizons by exploring another subject area, that student's who did your qualification went on to study.

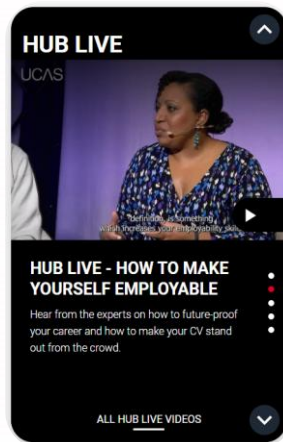


Advice and events

Hub lives

Watch expert interviews [on demand](#).

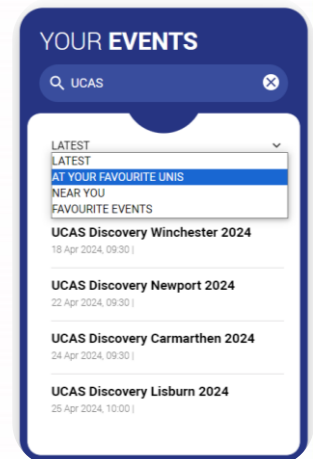
Make an informed decision about the right path for you. University, apprenticeships or the world of work.



Your events

Filter to explore events, open days and tours to suit your needs.

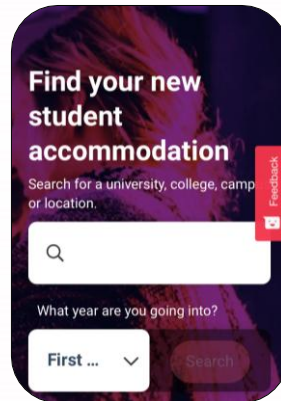
Register straight from the Hub for our UCAS Discovery events, with exciting new zones covering all pathways.



What else do you need?

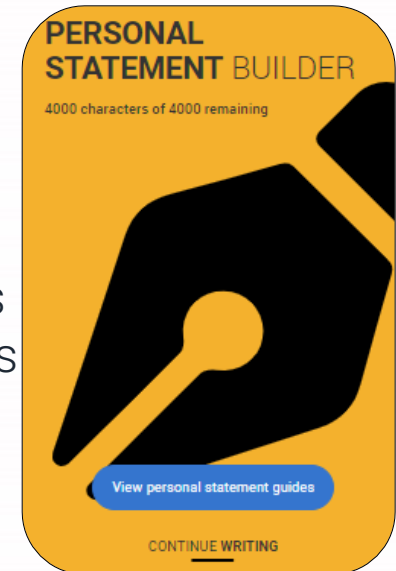
Accommodation

High on the list when considering where to study, but it's not always easy to compare what's on offer. Understand what options there are using our [accommodation search](#).



Personal Statement Builder

Designed to help you think about what to include, and how to lay it all out. It counts how many characters you've used, so it's easy to see when you're close to the 4,000 character limit.



UCAS Applications

How to apply

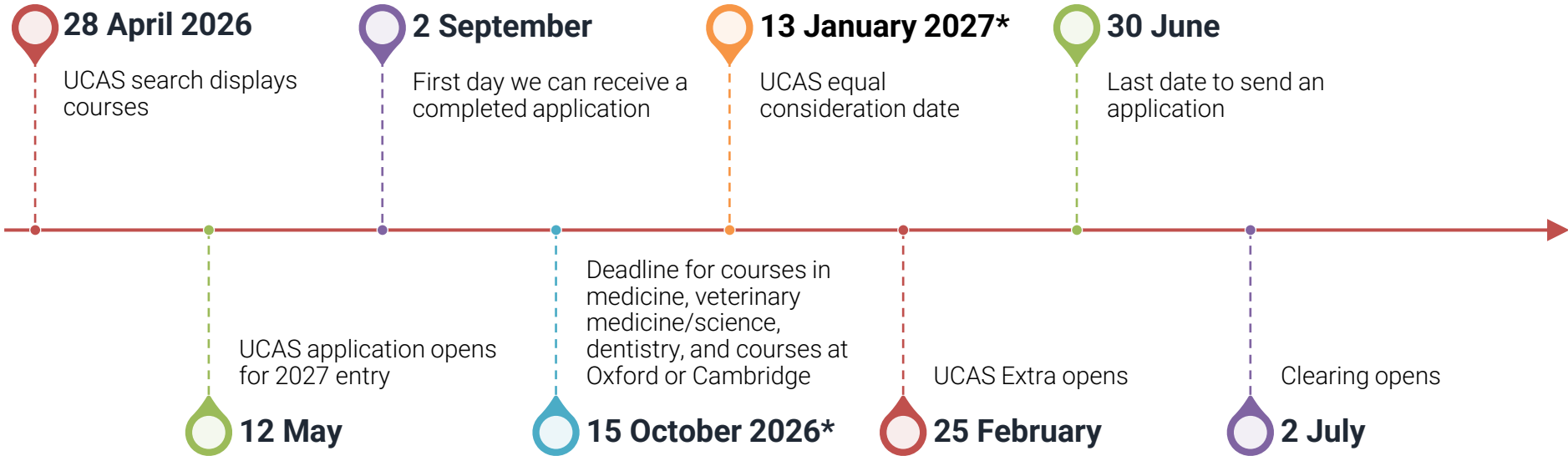
UCAS



30 April 2026

| 20

When to apply **2026** entry



* 18.00 UK time

Key facts



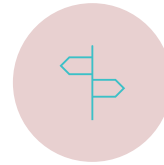
Start your application from
12 May 2025



Universities and colleges **can't see** your other choices when you apply.



Apply by the **equal consideration date**.



Five choices, unless applying to study medicine, veterinary, medicine/science, dentistry – then it's **four choices**.



You **can't apply to both** Oxford and Cambridge.



Applying costs **£28.50**.

Choosing the right **place** for you

- **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** for you

- 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.

Linking to a centre

- You must enter our 'buzzword' to link your application to Fairfax.
- The buzzword is a unique code set by your school, college or centre. This year it will be

FFXSUCCESS2027

- By linking your application you're giving us permission to view and track your application.
- It also means we'll provide you with a reference and send your application to UCAS on your behalf.

Are you applying from a school, college, or centre?

Yes No

Select Yes here.

START >

Application profile

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

* (for students with a UK home address)

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| 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 | |

Your experiences

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

*(for students with a UK home address)

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

The screenshot shows a dark blue background with the title "Experience" in white. Below the title are three white rounded rectangular boxes. The first box is titled "Education" and contains the text "Qualifications and periods of study". Below this box is a blue bar with a white play button icon and the text "Section in progress". The second box is titled "Employment" and contains the text "Paid employment". Below this box is a green bar with a white checkmark icon and the text "Section complete". The third box is titled "Extra activities" and contains the text "Taken part in any activities to prepare you for higher education?". Below this box is a white bar with the text "Start this section".

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

The personal statement



The only section you have full control over



Your only chance to market yourself as an individual



The same for all of your choices



No formatting allowed



A minimum of 1,000 characters



There isn't a spelling or grammar check

UCAS' similarity detection service:
every personal statement is run
through software to check for
plagiarism.
No changes to the personal
statement

The personal statement

The new personal statement questions

Question 1: Why do you want to study this course or subject?

+

Question 2: How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?

+

Question 3: What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?

+

- 1 Why this subject
- 2 Your suitability
- 3 Other interests

This is your opportunity to shine

The personal statement is your opportunity to demonstrate that you would be an excellent student for the courses you are applying to. It is primarily an academic statement and you must target it towards the subject in which you are interested.

Latest version of your statement for studying: [ADD SUBJECT](#)

Write

Add, edit and delete text

Preview

How it looks as one section



Section 1

Why do you want to study this course or subject?

Characters: 0 (Min 350. Our recommendation is about 1200)

Start >



Section 2

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

Character

Start >



Section 3

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

Characters: 0 (Min 350. Our recommendation is about 1400)

Start >

Footer

025 3

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



Consider...

Universities and colleges will consider:

- Have you chosen the course for the right reasons?
- Can you achieve in a new learning environment?
- Do you have a range of interests and aptitudes?
- Do you have a depth of interest in the subject?
- Have you studied independently?
- Do you appear motivated and committed?
- Do you have good numeracy and literacy skills?





Careers at Fairfax

Pauline Knowles

Dictionary Definition:

What is a Career?

a job for which you are trained and in which it is possible to advance during your working life, so that you get greater responsibility and earn more money:

Career provision here at Fairfax:

Mrs Knowles – Career Co-ordinator and Adviser

- Full time
- 1 day a week in 6th form
- Assemblies dedicated to careers
- School trips to uni's /the workplace

PSHE – allocated lessons for students

Form time – time with their form tutor to talk over personal statements

Career Events:

- Career fair in Autumn Term
- Subject specific guest speakers
- Assessment Centre and preparing for applying for Apprenticeships
- Mock interviews



Focusing tonight on:

- Applying for University
 - *Where to choose*
 - *How to choose*
 - *Pitching yourself to the right place*
- Applying for Apprenticeships
 - *Where to look*
 - *Ensuring you have a back up plan*



Finishing Year 12 AND Preparing for Year 13 and Beyond:

- Preparing for the Year 13 exams and how important they are
- UCAS applications
- When do I apply for apprenticeships?
- Making use of Unifrog
- Ensuring you are building on your Super -curricular
- Ensuring you have secured your work experience and making the most of it
- Dates: 15th – 19th June 2026



UCAS and Beyond

Over the coming months you will be starting to do your UCAS application.

Main stages:

- 1) The application
- 2) Your Choices
- 3) Personal statement

In order for you to know what and where to apply you need to do some

RESEARCH

This is where Unifrog, Open Days and doing Super-Curricular can help



Choosing your course and place to study

- Range of different universities
- Russell Group
- Red Brick
- Plate Glass

- Pitch yourself to the right place!

- All accept Alevels
- Majority accept Alevel and Btec grades – meeting the entry requirements set
- Majority accept UCAS Points
- Some won't accept UCAS Points they only want the grades

Uni of
B'ham



Uni of
Leicester



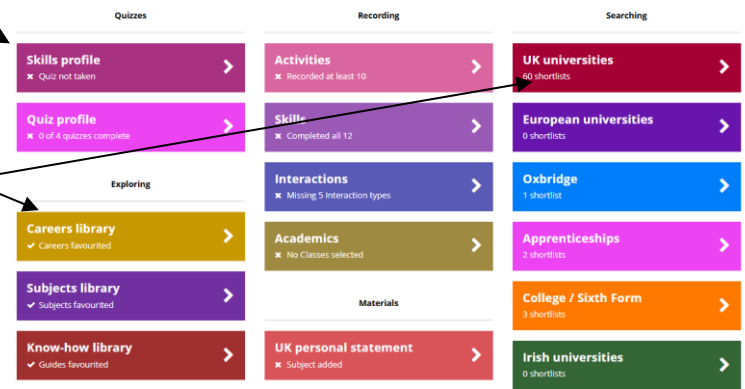
Aston
Uni



Making the most of Unifrog

You can:

- Do quizzes to narrow down your choice of careers you are interested in
- Search career ideas
- Compile short lists of universities
- Speak with universities via the Unifrog platform
- Once you have compiled your shortlist put it in your locker.
- It will automatically email it to your school email



Making the most of Unifrog

Increasing your chances of getting into university by using Unifrog.

SUPER CURRICULAR

NOT Extra Curricular

Super-curricular' activities are **educational activities which go above and beyond the school curriculum.**

They are often **self-directed**, focusing on **deepening knowledge of the subject** and engagement within a specific area of interest.

Other places to gain outside knowledge:

www.Gresham.ac.uk

www.channeltalent.co.uk

Ted Talks/Podcasts/Journals/Articles



Know-how library

✓ Guides favoured



Courses

✗ No courses added



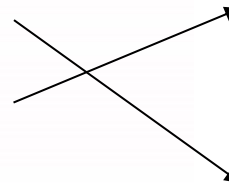
MOOCs

You have 1 shortlist

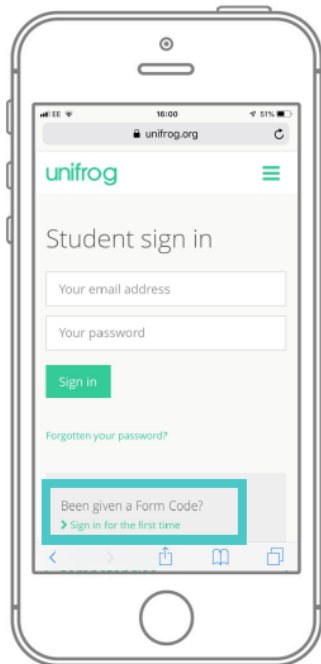


Read, Watch, Listen

✗ Profiles favoured



Parents & guardians, get signed up!



Scan this QR code or go to

www.unifrog.org/student and click 'Sign in for the first time'

You'll be asked for some details and a Sign up Code. This is what you need:

FAFSparent

After signing up, log into Unifrog using your email address and password via the student sign-in page!



But I want to do an apprenticeship?

Apprenticeships are on the increase – BUT –

The higher up the levels you go the shorter in supply they are
Competition is fierce

Make sure you have a back up plan in place

Level 4 - Higher or 5 / 6 equivalent to a Foundation or Bachelors Degree

Benefits:

- **Real life work experience** - with a company
- **Salary** - paid to do an apprenticeship
- **Qualification** - you'll get a degree
- **No university debt!**

Afterwards:

- You may be taken on by your employer
- You have the skills and experience to apply for jobs elsewhere



Degree apprenticeships - where to look

- **Training providers**

Training providers get paid to place you into an apprentice, so the more you sign up with, the higher the chances of you securing an apprenticeship = they do all the hard work for you!

- **Direct with companies**

A lot of companies advertise their apprenticeship vacancies directly on their own websites and on job boards. If there is a company you know you want to work for, keep checking their websites directly as a lot of the bigger companies run their own apprenticeship schemes.

- **Government website**

The .gov site advertise all apprenticeship vacancies. You can filter by sector and location.

www.apprenticeships.gov.uk



Degree apprenticeships - where to look

<https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk>

www.unifrog.org

<https://www.ratemyapprenticeship.co.uk/>

www.apprenticeships.co.uk

<http://www.notgoingtouni.co.uk>

<https://www.getmyfirstjob.co.uk>

<https://www.ucas.com/explore/search/apprenticeships?query=>

<https://www.milkround.com>

<http://www.student-jobs.co.uk>

<http://www.allaboutschoolleavers.co.uk>

<https://www.thebigchoice.com>

<http://www.indeed.co.uk> or <http://www.reed.co.uk/apprenticeships>

<https://www.glassdoor.co.uk>



SKILLS, SKILLS, SKILLS.....



Clear
Communication



Listening
Skills



Self-Control



Positive
attitude



Assertiveness



Conflict
Resolution



Empathy



Depersonalization



Taking
Responsibility




A sense
of humor



1

Explore and apply

Learn more about KPMG and explore the role you're applying for. Then tell us about your academic background.


 45 mins to complete



2

Online assessments

Complete two online assessments measuring your ability to apply the skills and reasoning required to be successful in your role.


 60 mins to complete



3

Video interviews

Record answers to six interview questions. Draw on your skills, experience and career motivations to demonstrate your strengths.


 40 minutes to complete



4

Launch Pad

Meet us in-person for a day of immersive activities and assessments. Learn more about life at KPMG from colleagues and showcase your skills in your final interview.

 1/2 day to complete

- Start applying from September – predicted grades

Top 12 Skills Employers Look For..👁️👁️

1. Integrity

Being honest, ethical, and doing the right thing—even when it's difficult.

2. Excellence

Striving for high standards and continuous improvement in your work.

3. Courage

Willingness to speak up, challenge ideas, and take on difficult situations.

4. Together (Collaboration)

Working effectively with others, building relationships, and valuing teamwork.

5. Drive (Resilience & Motivation)

Showing determination, energy, and the ability to stay focused under pressure.

6. Adaptability

Being flexible and open to change in a fast-moving business environment.

7. Communication

Expressing ideas clearly—both written and verbal—and listening effectively.

8. Leadership

Taking initiative, influencing others positively, and showing accountability (even if you're not in a formal leadership role).

9. Commercial Awareness

Understanding how businesses operate and the wider economic environment.

10. Problem Solving

Analysing information, thinking critically, and coming up with practical solutions.

11. Digital & Data Skills

Being comfortable with technology, data analysis, and digital tools.

12. Client Focus

Understanding client needs and delivering high-quality, tailored service.

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 your year's studies



ANY
QUESTION

