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# UCAS EVENING 2021

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SUPPORTING YOUR SON/DAUGHTER  
THROUGH THE UCAS PROCESS



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# What's right for you?

THINGS TO CONSIDER

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# Think about:

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Course content - very important

- University websites
- Which? University (as it gives a student's opinion on a variety of factors)

Teaching

- Research ratings move universities up league tables but what about the teaching
- Importance of student-staff relationship

Engagement and extra opportunities – start building habits now

- Sense of community
- Opportunities to engage
- Placement/Study abroad



# UCAS

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Universities and Colleges Admissions Service

Manages centralised system for applications to  
Higher Education in the UK

£26.50 to apply



# Single online UCAS application contains:

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Personal details (contact details, residency status\*)

School(s) attended

Details of qualifications already gained

Details of pending qualifications (currently being studied)

University choices

Personal statement

Reference (includes predicted grades)

\*Residency status makes a difference to fees and can affect applying for student loan

# University choices

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Maximum 5 choices

Universities do not see other choices

Alphabetical order (no order of preference)

Range of entry requirements

Same or similar course at each university



# Entry requirements

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Be aspirational but realistic – take advice

Entry requirements vary between courses and universities – choose a suitable range

Research carefully, especially individual IB subjects (not just overall points score) eg

## Required grades

35 points overall (including TOK/EE) and three Higher Level subjects at 766

# Timescale- What to do now...

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1. Begin research now
2. First Draft of Personal Statement to reference writer before October half term...preferably earlier!
3. Long-list universities in July/August
4. Parents Evening and Predicted grades in October/November these will go on your UCAS Application
5. Finalise choices October/November
6. Complete application October/November and send ASAP!
7. Final Deadline- Power Day November



# Timescale – Oxbridge/Medicine

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Different for these students

Email Mrs Stoddard or check the Top Universities  
Google Classroom.

# Timescale... After you've applied

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1. Universities make 'conditional' offers
2. Visit universities Jan-Mar (some interviews)
3. UCAS Extra opens at the end of February
4. Reply to offers by early May (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> choice only)
5. Apply for student finance on Power Day next March
6. IB results in July
7. First choice university place confirmed if gained necessary grades
8. Otherwise perhaps second choice university place or clearing

# Do students have to choose now?

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## No

- If uncertain, research university, apply – no commitment to taking up a place
- Support for those looking at alternatives:
- Speak with Mrs Caley-Gardiner
- Workshops in October (Power day)
- Join Alternatives to University Google classroom
- Check school email address regularly

# Different routes

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Art and design – foundation year

Apply direct, prepare portfolio

Music, drama and dance

Some courses through UCAS

Most music performance courses through CUKAS (early deadline)

Some direct application

Ask advice!



# What can I do to support my son/daughter?

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- Encourage extra-curricular events
- Encourage volunteering/ CAS opportunities
- Link to interests/course they are applying for

# UCAS Website for Parents/Guardians & Students

The screenshot shows the UCAS website interface. At the top left is the UCAS logo with the tagline "At the heart of connecting people to higher education". To the right are "Sign in" and "Register" buttons. Below the logo is a navigation bar with a dropdown menu for "Information and advice" and a search bar. The main content area features a large article titled "UCAS Undergraduate: parents and guardians" with a sub-headline "Find advice to help you support your son or daughter throughout the UCAS application cycle, including videos and tips for getting started." Below the article is a "Relevant to" section with a red button labeled "Undergraduate". To the left of the main content is a sidebar with a video player and a list of related topics: "UCAS for parents – open days", "UCAS for parents – funding and finance", "UCAS for parents – applying", and "UCAS for parents – Clearing". To the right of the main content is a "You may also like to read" section with three links: "The UCAS Undergraduate application process", "Money advice for parents", and "UCAS Undergraduate: when to apply". Below that is a "Related topics" section with three categories: "Apprenticeships and jobs", "Finance and funding", and "Student support". At the bottom right is an advertisement for Justin Craig Education with the text "EXAM PANIC?" and an image of a woman's face.

**UCAS** At the heart of connecting people to higher education

Sign in Register

Information and advice Search articles, information and advice by keyword

## UCAS Undergraduate: parents and guardians

Find advice to help you support your son or daughter throughout the UCAS application cycle, including videos and tips for getting started.

Relevant to **Undergraduate**

UCAS for parents – open days

UCAS for parents – funding and finance

UCAS for parents – applying

UCAS for parents – Clearing

You may also like to read

- [The UCAS Undergraduate application process](#)
- [Money advice for parents](#)
- [UCAS Undergraduate: when to apply](#)

Related topics

- Apprenticeships and jobs
- Finance and funding
- Student support
- The application process

Advertisement

Justin Craig Education  
The Exam Experts  
**EXAM PANIC?**

# Personal statement

You and your subject(s) - this is the single most important element!

Single personal statement goes to all choices

Must focus on subject and skills

Needs to include 'evidence'

Only 4000 characters (approximately one page)

Draft and redraft - but don't obsess: there are other much more important elements of the application. Seek advice - but only from ONE member of staff!

# Your Unique School Reference

A bespoke reference which tells the university why you are an excellent applicant

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Usually written by Form Tutor/Ms Stoddard or other member of the Senior Management Team

All subject teachers provide information; the EE is prominently referenced

Predicted grades are linked to IB Part 1 and 2 Exams/in-class assessment, formal IAs, quality of EE and ToK, and all-round commitment

The predicted grades to be finalised in October



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# Student Finance

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CAN WE AFFORD UNIVERSITY?



student finance **england**  
the student finance experts

The logo for Student Finance England is displayed within a white rectangular box. It features the text "student finance" in a dark blue sans-serif font, followed by "england" in a lighter blue sans-serif font. Below this, the tagline "the student finance experts" is written in a smaller, dark blue sans-serif font. A dark blue swoosh underline is positioned beneath the word "england".

# Finance

## Costs of university

- Tuition fees
- Living costs

## Money available:

- Loans – have to be paid back
  - Tuition fee loan (paid direct to university)
  - Maintenance loan (living costs, paid to student)
- Additional scholarships/bursaries from universities
- <https://www.thescholarshipuk.org.uk/>
- <https://www.grantfairy.com/>
- Certain restrictions apply to EU Nationals (must have lived in this country for the last 5 years) and non UK/EU nationals who do not yet have ILR (indefinite leave to remain)

Most universities charge £9,250 tuition fees (but not all). They will now be able to increase this in line with inflation

Tuition fees are not paid 'up-front' by the student

# Examples

<b>Household income £25K, studying outside London, living away from home, tuition fees £9,250</b>	<b>Household income £40K, studying outside London, living away from home, tuition fees £9,250</b>
<b>Money available each year:</b>	
<b>£9,250 tuition fee loan (to uni)</b>	<b>£9,250 tuition fee loan (to uni)</b>
<b>+ £9,203 maintenance loan  (the maximum)</b>	<b>+ £7,225 maintenance loan</b>
<b>+ further money from uni</b>	<b>+ maybe further money from uni</b>

**MAINTENANCE LOAN SUPPORT FOR 2021/22**

Household Income	Living at Home	Away from Home (Outside London)	Away from Home (London)
<£25,000	£7,747	£9,203	£12,010
£30,000	£7,095	£8,544	£11,340
£35,000	£6,442	£7,884	£10,670
£40,000	£5,789	£7,225	£10,000
£45,000	£5,137	£6,565	£9,330
£50,000	£4,484	£5,905	£8,659
£55,000	£3,831	£5,246	£7,989
£60,000	£3,410	£4,586	£7,319

# Repaying loan

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**9% of income over £19,390 e.g.**

- **Earn £25,000, pay back 9% of £4000=£360 per year**
- **Earn £30,000, pay back 9% of £9000=£810 per year**

**Deducted from earnings like tax – can be viewed as an additional tax**

**No deadline to repay and remaining debt written off after 30 years**

**Size of monthly repayments varies according to earnings, not according to size of loan**

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# Degree/Higher Level Apprenticeships and School Leaver Schemes

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THE ALTERNATIVE TO UNIVERSITY

# Alternatives to university

Three options of schemes available:

- Degree apprenticeships
- Higher level apprenticeships
- School leaver schemes



# DEGREE APPRENTICESHIPS

GET YOUR FEES PAID AND FAST TRACK  
YOURSELF TO A GRADUATE JOB

- Degree Apprenticeships are a relatively new option.
- These jobs are partnerships between employers and universities, some will be advertised on UCAS, but the majority directly with the employer.
- Applicants would work and study at the same time, and would receive a salary. The employer also funds their Degree so they wouldn't incur any debt.
- Russell Group Universities are offering the training for these now too.
- BGS students from our last year 13 are currently undertaking these types of roles at employers including:, TfL, Commerzbank, Goldman Sachs and EY.



# Higher Level Apprenticeships

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- Higher Level Apprenticeships give students the opportunity to gain a Higher Level qualification (ordinarily a Level 4 qualification which is equivalent to a HND or Foundation course) but not a Degree.
- In some cases they may gain a Degree level qualification but not a degree. An example of this would be in Accountancy with an ACCA or CIMA qualification.

# Other School Leaver schemes

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Some employers prefer to devise their own training scheme eg:

- Insurance Industry: AON, Lloyds and Hiscox all offer various school leaver roles.
- Investment/Asset Management: Investment2020 represent the Investment Management industry and offer school leaver training schemes (not an apprenticeship) one year fixed term contract (can also be a gap year) includes recognised industry qualifications

More information:

- For careers appointments with Mrs Caley Gardiner:
- [caley-gardiner\\_j@bexleygs.co.uk](mailto:caley-gardiner_j@bexleygs.co.uk)
- Alternatives to Uni Google classroom