

Year 13 Parent Information Evening

Post 18 options



Introductions

- Chris Stead –University of Sheffield
- Eileen Hill - York College



An introduction to UCAS



Chris Stead -
University of Sheffield



University of
Sheffield



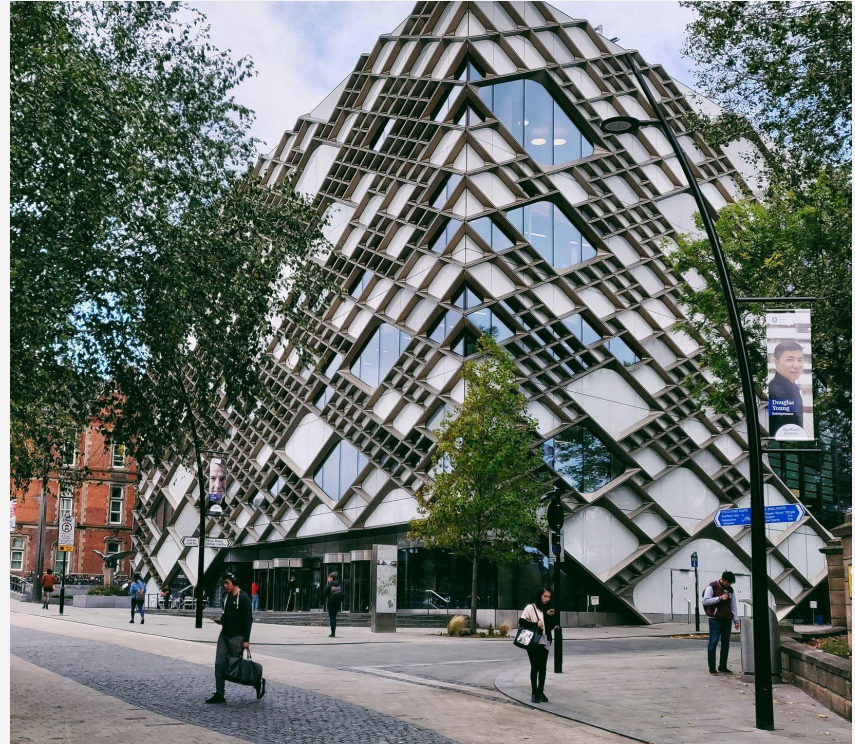
THE UCAS PROCESS

**MADE FROM
EVERY
EXPERIENCE**

WHAT IS UCAS?

- The Universities and Colleges Admission Service
- You will make your application for Higher Education through their website using their common application form
- It costs £34.50 to send this application form*

*for students who have received free school meals in the past six years this fee is waived

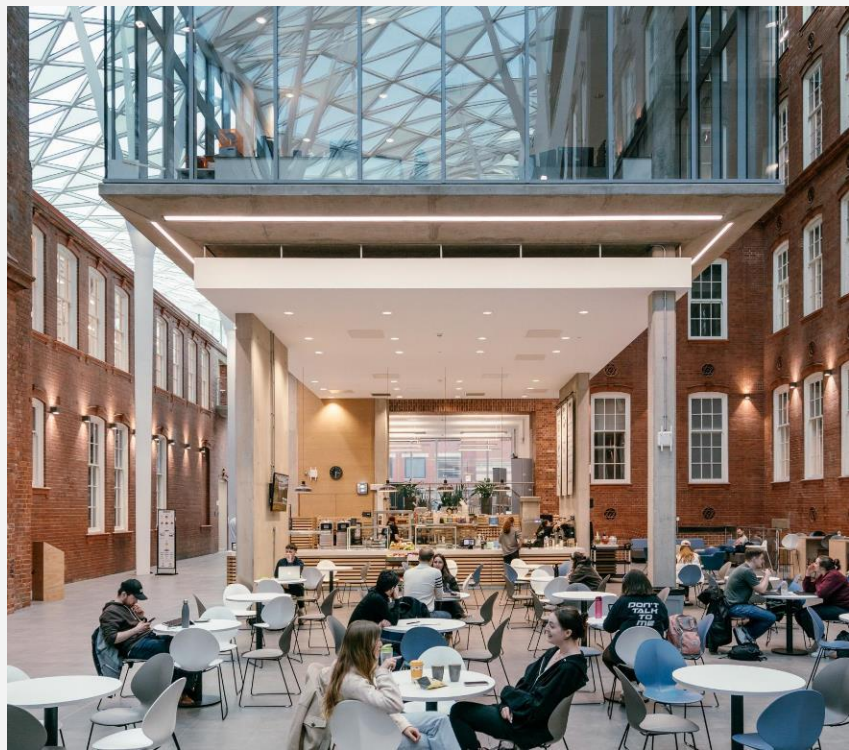




THE APPLICATION FORM

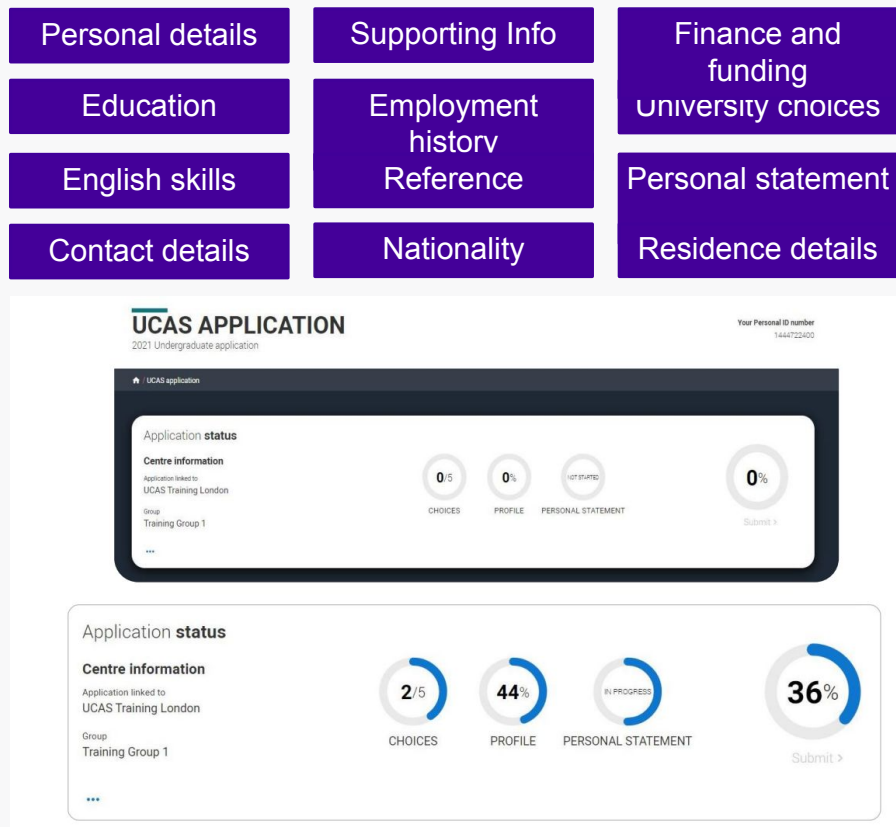
GETTING STARTED

- Create an account on the UCAS website
- Use your School/College 'buzzword'
- This links your application to your school/college
- Teachers and advisors can then support your application



WHAT TO EXPECT

1. Create an account on the UCAS website
2. Use your School/College 'buzzword' to link your application (teachers can now support your application)
3. Fill in each application section
4. Apply to 5 courses



PERSONAL DETAILS

- Check your **email address** is correct
- If you have a **disability** or **additional learning need**, please declare it
- There are lots of ways for you to **stay informed** - make sure you do!



ADDITIONAL DETAILS

- Activities in preparation for higher education - you will know if you've done these - these are not open days!
- If you have been in care, please say so - there is extra support available for you

FINANCE AND FUNDING

- All you have to do in this section is indicate you have read the information
- Your student finance application is separate to UCAS, and will be completed in the spring of Year 13

EDUCATION

- Add all schools/colleges that you have achieved qualifications at
- Be as accurate as you can when inputting qualifications, including exam boards - use your certificates
- For your Y13 qualifications, select that your grade is 'pending'



EMPLOYMENT

- Only include information about paid work - volunteering and work experience can be talked about in your personal statement
- You can give details of 5 roles - if you have had more than this, pick your most relevant



CHOICES

You can apply for up to 5 courses

These are not in any preference order

All your choices should be similar courses

Choose a range of entry requirements (based on your predicted grades)

Some choices will require an interview, portfolio, submission, or a UCAS test

You need to select deferred entry on each choice separately if taking a gap year

CHOICES

Create a long list



Apply for 5 Courses
on UCAS



Receive your offers



Choose your firm and
insurance



Results day



YOUR SELECTION PROCESS

Predicted Grades

This is your starting point – your teachers' professional opinion

AAB

Be Realistic

Your insurance choice needs to have lower entry requirements than your firm, so bear this in mind

AB
↓
B

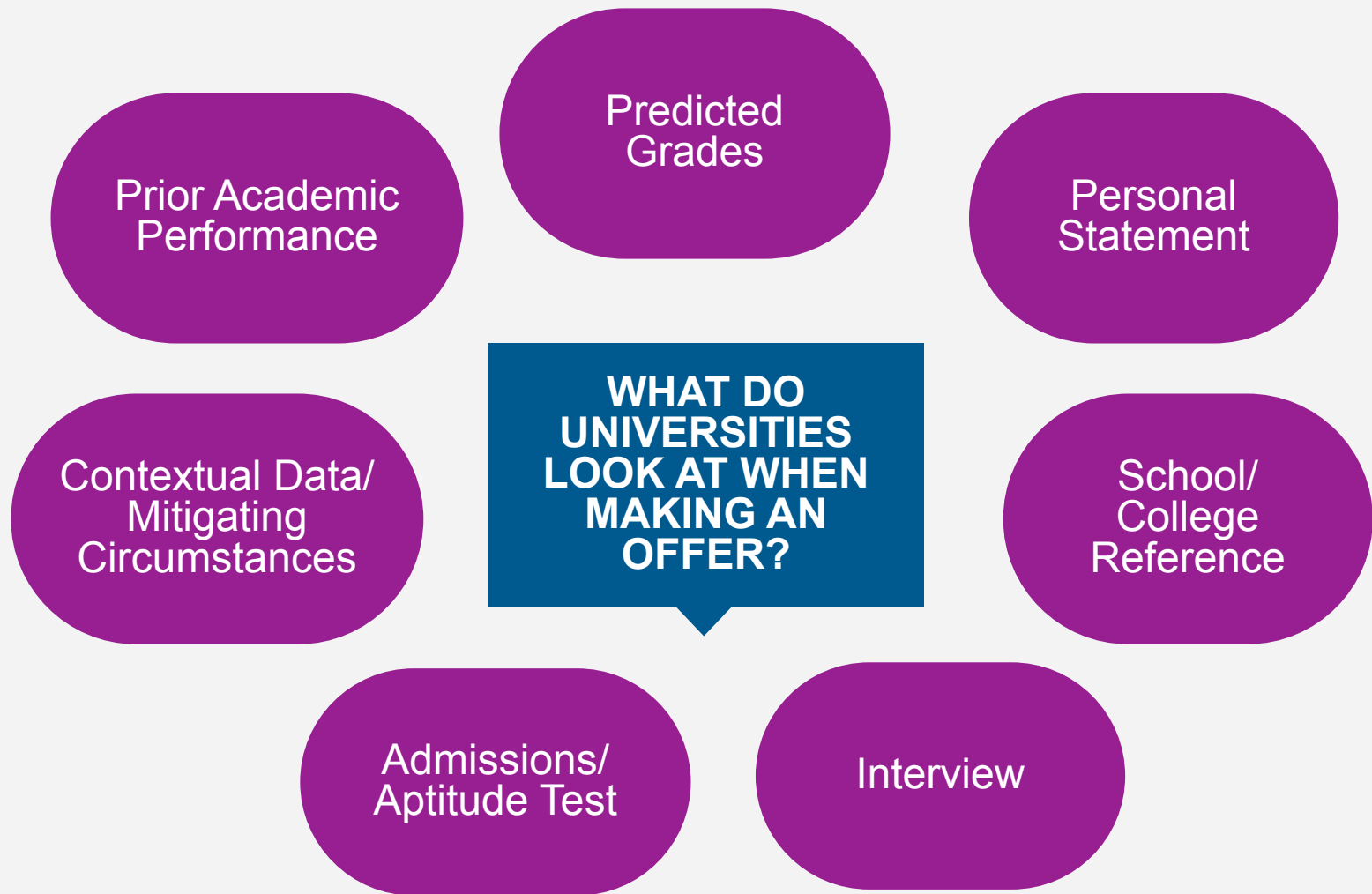
Be Aspirational

If there is a course that is perfect but above your predicted grades – apply! However, be prepared to meet their requirements

↑
AA
A

A man in a blue shirt and black pants is standing in front of a large industrial machine, possibly a lathe or mill. He is holding a tool or a small component, looking at it intently. The machine is white and metallic, with a large cylindrical workpiece in the center. The background is a clean, industrial setting.

PERSONAL STATEMENT



PERSONAL STATEMENT STRUCTURE

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

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

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

You are limited to **4000 characters**, but each section will have a minimum of **350 characters**



REFERENCES

REFERENCE

- Once you have finished your application, paid and sent it, it does not go to UCAS!
- Your teachers/careers staff will then be able to check your application and add your reference with your predicted grades
- It can still be sent back to you!

DISRUPTED STUDIES

- If there are any circumstances that have impacted your studies, we would encourage to refer to them in your personal statement, and for your referee to do the same in your reference
- However, we appreciate that these circumstances are often of a sensitive nature and you won't necessarily want to give full details in your personal statement

To give us more details:
sheffield.ac.uk/study/policies/disrupted-studies



DEADLINES

UCAS Timeline - 2027 Entry





NEXT STEPS

UCAS TRACK AND UPDATES

1. Universities will notify you of their decisions through Track, it will be

Conditional

Unconditional
Offer

Unsuccessful

2. You select your firm and insurance out of the offers you have received



3. Keep an eye on your emails for invitations to interviews/submit further information like picking your accommodation

4. **On Results day:** UCAS will update at 8am, you will find out if you got into your choices, and what courses have been released into Clearing

RESULTS DAY

EXAM RESULTS

Collected from your school/college
Often sent to UCAS automatically

UCAS HUB UPDATES

At 8am UCAS updates with whether you received your firm or insurance choice, or if you have been released into Clearing

CHANGE OF COURSE OFFER

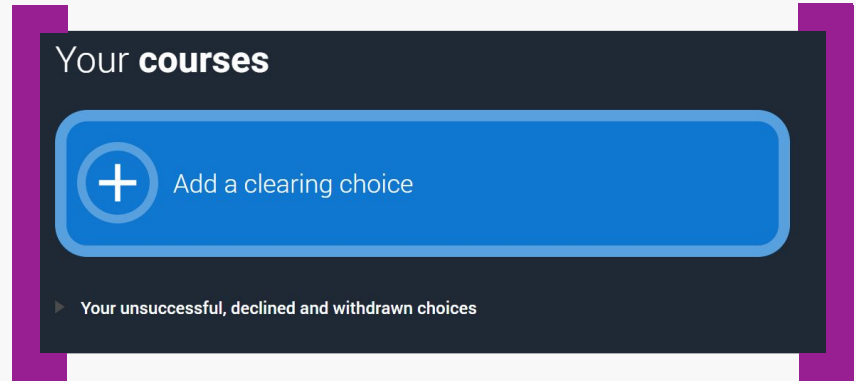
This may happen if you don't get the entry requirements and get offered an alternative course or foundation year



CLEARING

CLEARING - HOW DOES IT WORK?

- You can contact as many universities as you want and receive offers
- Once you know what offer you would like to accept you can add it onto your UCAS application
- You have 48 hours after an offer is made to decide, during this time you may be able to visit the university.





University of
Sheffield



UNIVERSITY
OF THE YEAR



STUDENT FINANCE AND
MANAGING YOUR MONEY

MADE FROM
EVERY
EXPERIENCE



GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

WHAT WILL IT COST?

Tuition fee (£9,790 per year):

Covers all essential course costs

Maintenance costs:

- Accommodation
- Study materials
- Food and drink
- Social activities

www.sheffield.ac.uk/new-students/tuitio



TUITION FEE LOAN

- The government will always cover the cost of your tuition fees each year.
- You won't pay anything upfront
- Not based on your household income
- You can borrow 'part' of the loan



MAINTENANCE LOAN

- Based on your **household income**
- Amount depends on location and whether you live with parents/carers.
- Paid directly into your bank account in 3 separate instalments



MAINTENANCE LOAN AMOUNTS 26/27*

Household income (HI)	Living at home <i>HI threshold for minimum loan amount= £58,348</i>	Living away from home <i>HI threshold for minimum loan amount = £62,358</i>	Living away from home (in London) <i>Threshold for min loan= £70,106</i>
£25,000 or less	£9,118	£10,830	£14,135
£35,000	£7,589	£9,285	£12,563
£45,000	£6,060	£7,739	£10,991
£58,348	£4,019 (minimum loan)	£5,676	£8,892
£62,358	£4,019	£5,056 (minimum loan)	£8,262
£70,106+	£4,019	£5,056	£7,043 (minimum loan)

*Based on 2026 entry, 2027 entry figures tbc

www.gov.uk/student-finance-calculator

HOW MUCH FUNDING WILL I GET?

Calculators:

- sheffield.ac.uk/funding/calculator
- www.gov.uk/student-finance-calculator

Your details

Year of entry
2025/26 ▼

Level of study
Undergraduate ▼

What is your fee status?
Home ▼

Which school will you study in?
You can find this out by looking on your course page in our [online prospectus](#)
Please Select ▼

Where do you live?
Please Select ▼

Your household income
£ 0

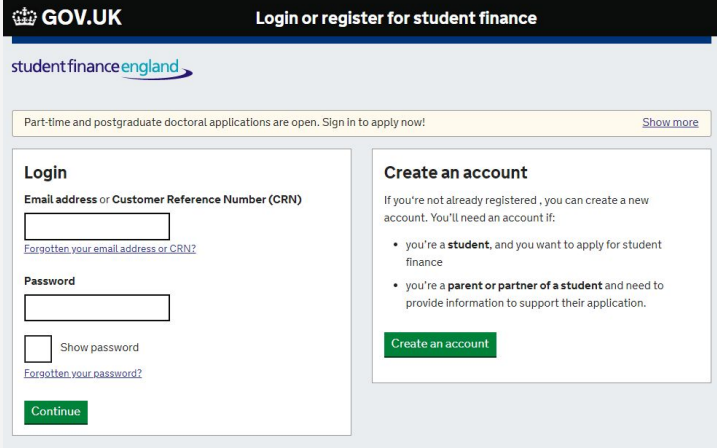
What are your top three predicted/achieved A Level grades?



APPLYING

APPLYING FOR STUDENT FINANCE

- Apply in the spring before you start your course, or as soon as possible after that.
- Applications for 2026 entry are planned to open in March
- Apply as soon as possible
- You don't need a confirmed place to apply



The screenshot shows the GOV.UK website for student finance. At the top, there's a black header with the GOV.UK logo and the text "Login or register for student finance". Below this is a blue banner with the "student finance england" logo. A yellow banner below the banner says "Part-time and postgraduate doctoral applications are open. Sign in to apply now!" with a "Show more" link. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column is titled "Login" and contains a form with two input fields: "Email address or Customer Reference Number (CRN)" and "Password". Below the email field is a link "Forgotten your email address or CRN?". Below the password field is a checkbox labeled "Show password" and a link "Forgotten your password?". At the bottom of the login form is a green "Continue" button. The right column is titled "Create an account" and contains text explaining that if you're not already registered, you can create a new account. It lists two bullet points: "you're a **student**, and you want to apply for student finance" and "you're a **parent or partner of a student** and need to provide information to support their application." At the bottom of this column is a green "Create an account" button.

www.gov.uk/apply-online-for-student-finance



REPAYMENTS

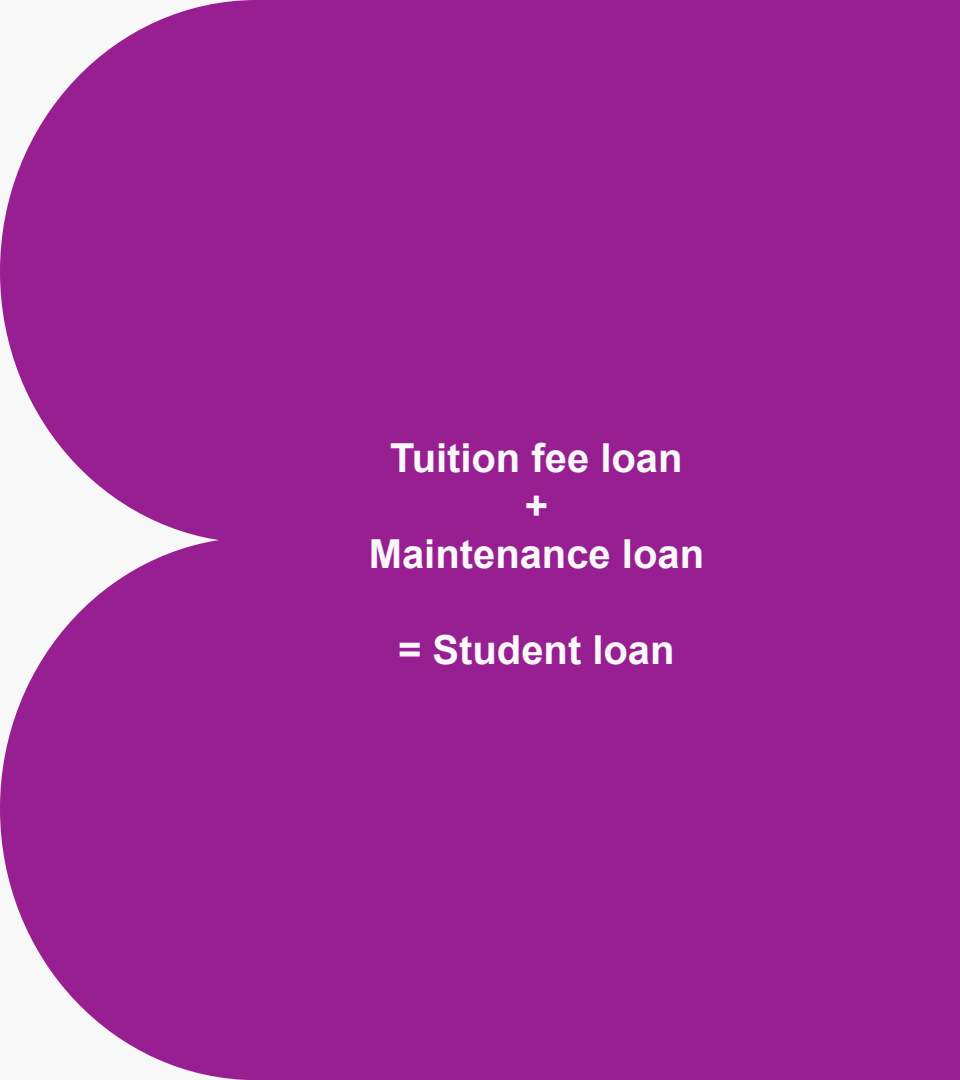
REPAYMENTS

- Students only start repaying after they graduate.
- Monthly repayments depend on what individuals earn, not what they have borrowed.
- Individuals don't pay anything until earnings exceed £25,000 a year.



REPAYMENTS

- Repayments start the April after individuals leave university
- When individuals earn over £25,000 a year
- Interest will be generated on a student loan when the first instalment is paid.
- Anything unpaid after 40 **years is written off**
- If income falls to £25,000 or below, **repayments stop automatically**
- Loan doesn't affect credit ratings
- Repayments can be made early



Tuition fee loan
+
Maintenance loan

= Student loan

INTEREST

- The interest rate is set at RPI (retail price index).
- Interest is charged on your student loan from when the first instalment is paid.
- The amount of interest you're charged doesn't affect the amount you'll repay each month.

HOW WILL I PAY?

- Monthly student finance repayments are managed by your employer.
- The money will **come out of your wages** before they even get to you.
- If you're self employed, HMRC will work out how much you need to pay from your tax return, and you'll pay at the same time you pay your tax.

REPAYMENT EXAMPLES

➔ 9% on earnings over £25,000 per year

Yearly income before tax	Monthly income before tax	Monthly repayment
£25,000	£2,083	£0
£27,000	£2,250	£15
£30,000	£2,500	£38
£32,000	£2,666	£53
£35,000	£2,917	£75



UNIVERSITY SUPPORT

SHEFFIELD BURSARY SCHEME

1. £250 - £1000 per year, if household income is less than £40,000

2. You may also receive £250 per year, if household income is less than £25,000 & postcode is in one of the country's most deprived areas
OR
You within the Sheffield City Region, in an area where it's not common for people to go to university, and you achieve ABB (or higher) equivalent, you'll receive £250 a year. This award does not take household income into account

Household income	Bursary per year
£0 – £25,000	£1,000
£25,001 – £30,000	£500
£30,001 – £40,000	£250

2025 entry

ENHANCED BURSARIES

- Instead of Sheffield bursary scheme
- Care leavers and students estranged from their families can apply for enhanced support of up to £10,000 per year (up to £5,000 for part-time students).*
- Students who have caring responsibilities can apply for enhanced support of £4,500 per year (£2,250 for part-time students).
- **Care leavers and estranged students **must be under 25** on the first day of their course.*



SHEFFIELD SCHOLARSHIPS

- International
- Sports
- Departmental
- Global summer experience





ADDITIONAL GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

ADDITIONAL GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

- Travel Grant
- Disabled Students Allowance (DSA)
- Dependents Grant
- Childcare Grant
- Parents' learning allowance



HEALTH CARE COURSES

NHS Learning support fund*:

- Dental Hygiene and Dental Therapy
 - Nursing
 - Orthoptics
 - Speech and Language Therapy
 - All eligible students will receive at least £5,000.
- Medicine & Dentistry supported via NHS Bursary

**Sheffield courses, additional courses are included elsewhere*



SUMMARY

- Budgeting is a skill for life, not just for student life, so the sooner you get good at it, the better!
- If you go to university without a plan for your money, it will more than likely catch up on you at some point
- **Student Finance England**
UK Students: +44 (0) 300 100 0607
- **NHS Learning Support Fund**
www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/nhs-learning-support-fund
- **Disabled Students Allowance**
www.gov.uk/disabled-students-allowance-dsa
- **Which – How much it costs to live at University**
which.co.uk/money/university-and-student-finance
- **UCAS Scholarships and Bursaries tool**
<https://www.ucas.com/explore/search/scholarships-and-bursaries?query=>



ACCESS+

As an **Access+** student, you'll have access to support such as:

- a contextual offer up to two grades below the standard A Level entry requirements for your course.
- our [Access+ Travel Bursary](#)
- a dedicated team on hand to answer your questions
- expert online help and guidance sessions to support you in your journey to higher education

You'll need to have made Sheffield your firm choice with UCAS for the opportunity to apply for:

- an [Access+ Transition Mentor](#)
- our [Access+ IT & Equipment Bursary](#)

ACCESS+

You may be eligible for additional support through Access+ if:

- You live in an area of disadvantage (2026 entry and beyond)
- You were entitled to free school meals

Your personal circumstances mean that:

- You're care experienced
- You're a care leaver
- You're a carer
- You're estranged from family



FOR MORE INFORMATION



@sheffielduni



@sheffielduni



The University
of Sheffield



@theuniversity
ofsheffield

SHEFFIELD LIVE

[sheffield.ac.uk/study/
online-events](https://sheffield.ac.uk/study/online-events)

TASTER SESSIONS

[Sheffield.ac.uk/
undergraduate/visit/
subject-tasters](https://Sheffield.ac.uk/undergraduate/visit/subject-tasters)

CHAT TO CURRENT STUDENTS

[Sheffield.ac.uk/study/
chat](https://Sheffield.ac.uk/study/chat)

DON'T FORGET TO...

Ask questions
Do your research
Find what's right for
YOU

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SCAN THE



University of Sheffield

ANY QUESTIONS?

MADE FROM EVERY EXPERIENCE



Apprenticeships

Your questions answered

What are apprenticeships?

Who are they for?

What apprenticeships are on offer?

How do I find one?

What are apprenticeships?

- Work-based learning in a full-time job
- A real job with pay and conditions
- Structured workplace and college training – day/block release
- Nationally-recognised qualifications

Apprenticeship Levels

Intermediate Level 2

Equivalent to 5 GCSEs grade 9-4

Advanced Level 3

Equivalent to 2 A levels

Higher Level 4 and 5

Equivalent to HND/Foundation Degree

Degree Level 6 and 7

Equivalent to Bachelor's or Master's

Who are they for?

- Age 16+
- No upper age limit
- Suited to those who learn by 'doing'
- Career head start
- Build employability skills
- Entry grades
- Not an easy option or a backup plan

How do I find an apprenticeship?

Employer websites (larger companies)

Contact employers directly

Look out for recruitment fairs

Start early

skillsengland.education.gov.uk

[UCAS.com/apprenticeships](https://ucas.com/apprenticeships)

<https://amazingapprenticeships.com/>

findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk

What's on offer at York College?

Construction
Engineering
Health
Motor Vehicle
Hospitality

Business
Hair & Beauty
Science
Early Years
Digital

Employers we work with



Sixth Form Support



Ongoing Support

Year 12

- Competitive Entry launched in the autumn term of Yr12
- Post 18 options launched in March Yr12
- Referees allocated summer term Yr12
- Predicted grades based on ongoing assessments - summer term Yr12 - aspirational but realistic

Year 13

- Form tutors are the first point of call
 - ICT research 3 mornings per week
 - Form tutors – UCAS advisers
- Meet referee to discuss personal statement, reference & predicted grades

October 15th

Applications – Support Programme

- Personal Statement advice
- Admission Test support
- Help with UCAS application
- Mock interviews
- Oxford Interview Workshop
- MMI event for Medics



Work Based Routes

- Advice with applications & CV writing
- Mock interview support
- Vacancy bulletin
- Careers Appointments



Googleclassroom Post 18 -resources /
Oxbridge

Post 18 Options - [suljt4hl](#)

Oxbridge - [gzp7fbg5](#)

Medics - [z7opxhd3](#)

Key UCAS Dates

- **Early October**- Conservatoire & admission test deadlines - vary
- **6th October**– internal deadline for early entry applications – Oxbridge, Medicine, Vet.Med
- **15th October** – UCAS deadline for early entry
- **Late October** – Admission Test Dates - vary
- **4th December** – Form Tutor Deadline to check UCAS application
- **13th January 2027** – UCAS deadline for all applications
 - 10 working days notice period for teachers



KS5 Results 2026

Grade	All Saints %	National %
A*	9.9	9.6
A*-A	32.9	28.5
A*-B	65.7	55.8
A*-C	84.5	78.4
A*-D	95.6	91.6
A*-E	99.4	97.5

The importance of effective studying

- Active Learning; not just reading and highlighting
- Effective note taking/condense notes
- Study schedule
- Use the study spaces
- Not see 'free' periods as 'free' periods
- Independent Study - 4-5hrs per subject per week
- Support available on effective study and revision skills



Attendance is key!

Educational research consistently demonstrate a **strong, positive correlation** between high attendance and stronger outcomes at KS5

Missing a single day can mean missing significant chunks of core knowledge

Students maintaining an attendance rate of **95% or above** achieve higher average grades and are far more likely to meet or exceed their target grades

Attendance dropping below **90%** sharply correlates with underachievement, missed coursework deadlines, and lower retention or completion rates for Level 3

Students in Yr13 can sometimes underestimate the importance of being in the classroom!

Progress Monitoring

Progress Evenings

- 19th October (in person)
- 18th March (virtual)

Progress Data

- 6 November
- 5 February
- 9 April

Mock Exams - 13th - 19th January

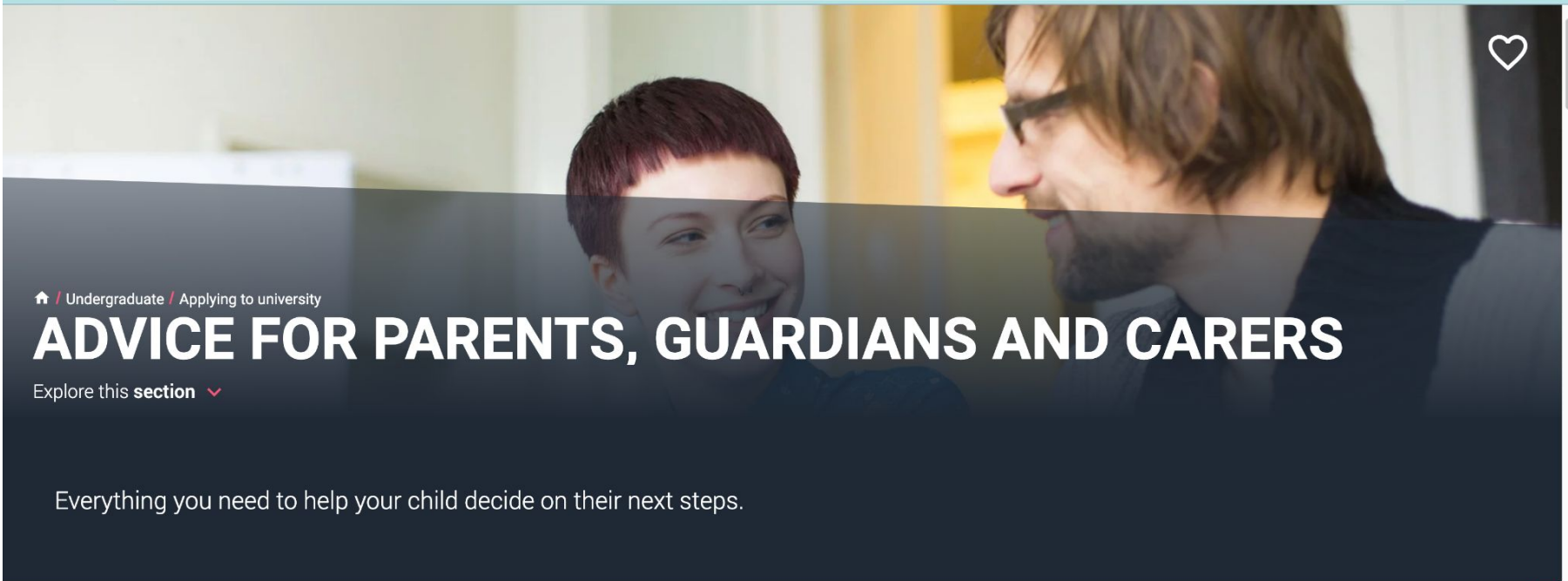
Useful contacts in school

- Form Tutor
- Sixth Form Team
- Mr Hill – Oxbridge/Medic Programme Coordinator
- Mrs Henderson – Head of Careers



Useful References





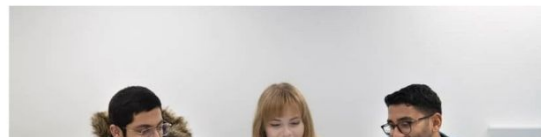
Undergraduate / Applying to university

ADVICE FOR PARENTS, GUARDIANS AND CARERS

Explore this **section**

Everything you need to help your child decide on their next steps.

Applying to university



Feedback

Sign up to hear about available courses through Clearing



Find a course

Where to study

Get advice

Log in

0

What to study, where to go and how to get there

Courses

Universities

Advice

Course name eg psychology

Location: city, town or county



Search for courses



All locations

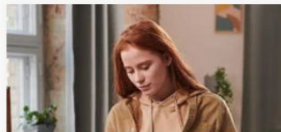
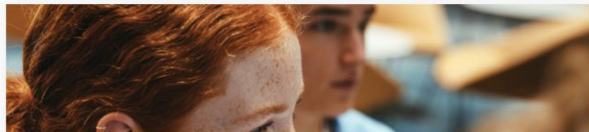
Search

FEEDBACK

Your journey to uni starts here

We'll keep you on track with the right advice, when you need it

Browse all advice



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OK

Learn more

University League Tables 2024

New for 2024! Our league tables rank the best universities in the UK, overall and in 74 subject areas. Knowing how best to choose your future university can be tough. Our league tables can help by showing you the top universities in the UK and allowing

+ [Learn more](#)

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QUICK LINKS

SUBJECT LEAGUE TABLES +

REGION +

UNIVERSITY GROUP +



FEATURED UNIVERSITY

Want to start a course this September? Graduate job ready at Leeds Beckett University

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Resources to support you in learning about apprenticeships



Application guides



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www.amazingapprenticeships.com

Thank you
for
listening

Tonight's
presentation will
be sent out to all
attendees