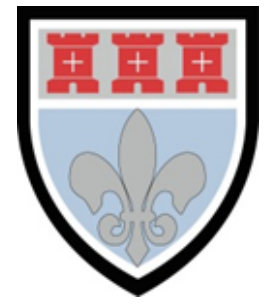


# **St. Mary's Sixth Form Parents and Carers Information Session: Introduction to UCAS**

**Wednesday April 1<sup>st</sup> 2026**





# Session Overview

This 'Sixth Form Parents and Carers Information Session' will consist of three main areas:

- Introduction to UCAS.
- How To Apply Through UCAS.
- How Parents/Carers Can Support Through This Process.

The aim of this session is to help parents/carers to understand UCAS and how their child can apply for post-18 courses through UCAS.

**This session is aimed at students who wish to enter university in 2027.**



# UCAS Information

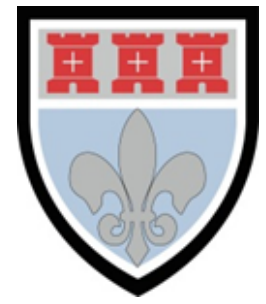
UCAS is an independent charity providing information, advice and admissions services. There are there to help people figure out what the next step in education might be.

## **UCAS does:**

- Provide information, advice, and support
- Process applications
- Complete fraud and verification checks
- Take part in education sector engagement

## **UCAS does not:**

- Make decisions or offers
- Set entry requirements
- Advise on finance
- Advise on immigration or visas for individuals



# UCAS Discover

UCAS Discover (<https://www.ucas.com/discover>) contains lots of information on:



HIGHER EDUCATION



APPRENTICESHIPS



STUDYING ABROAD



GAP YEAR



GETTING A JOB



# UCAS Discover

**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 technical qualifications (HTQs) in England are an example of these.

**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.

**Apprenticeships:** typically take between 8 months to 6 years to complete depending on their level. Apprenticeships are offered for levels 2-7 in N.I. and England, levels 2-6 in Wales, and SCQF levels 4-11 in Scotland. All nations offer degree level apprenticeships.



# UCAS Discover

## Your Hub

Your personalised homepage and discovery hub

- Hub
- For you
- Favourites
- What to do
- Where to go
- Search

**S Welcome back Sam**  
 You're applying for Undergraduate courses in 2027 - [Change year](#)

### Start an application



Apply to universities, colleges, or conservatoires to study degrees, HNDs, HNCs, masters degrees, postgraduate diplomas, and doctorates.

[Start an application](#)

#### 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.

#### FOUND A COURSE YOU LIKE?

[Find out more >](#)

UCAS

#### FIND AN APPRENTICESHIP

[Learn more >](#)

UCAS

#### 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](#)





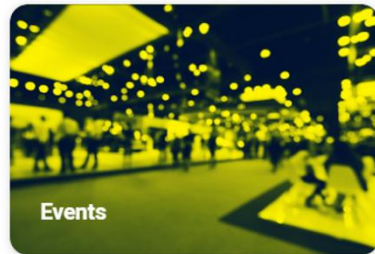
# UCAS Discover

## Search

Courses, apprenticeships, information guides and more

[Hub](#) [For you](#) [Favourites](#) [What to do](#) [Where to go](#) [Search](#)

Search for items





# UCAS Discover

All filters Subject University or College

Reset filters POWERED BY Springpod UCAS Media Service



Teaching: A Profession And A Passion with Damien Maguire from Liverpool Hope University

- Anglia Ruskin University (20)
- Canterbury Christ Church University (4)
- City St George's, University of London (3)
- Coventry University (4)
- Coventry University London (2)
- Durham University (1)
- Leeds Arts University (3)
- Leeds Beckett University (4)
- Liverpool Hope University (3)
- Manchester Metropolitan University (3)
- Middlesex University London (1)
- Queen's University Belfast (1)
- Teesside University (5)
- The University of Law (8)
- UCL (4)

Show more



Understanding... Manchester Metropolitan



And Breathe: The Respiratory System Explained with Charlotte Anderson from the University of Sunderland



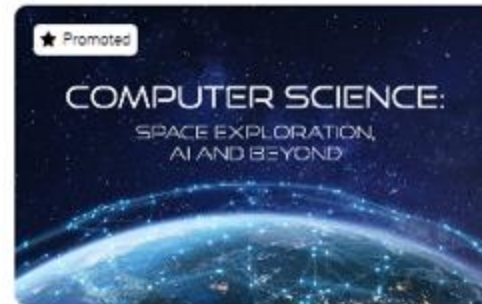
Biotechnology: The Rise Of Radical Healthcare with Prof. M. Safwan Akram from Teesside University



Cancer, Brain Tumours & Rogue Cells: The Science Behind The Killer Disease with Dr Shafiq Ahmed from University of Sunderland



Computer Science: Is Generative AI The Problem Or The Solution? with Dr Aminu Usman from the University of Sunderland



Computer Science: Space Exploration And Beyond with Dr Paul Sant from The University of Law

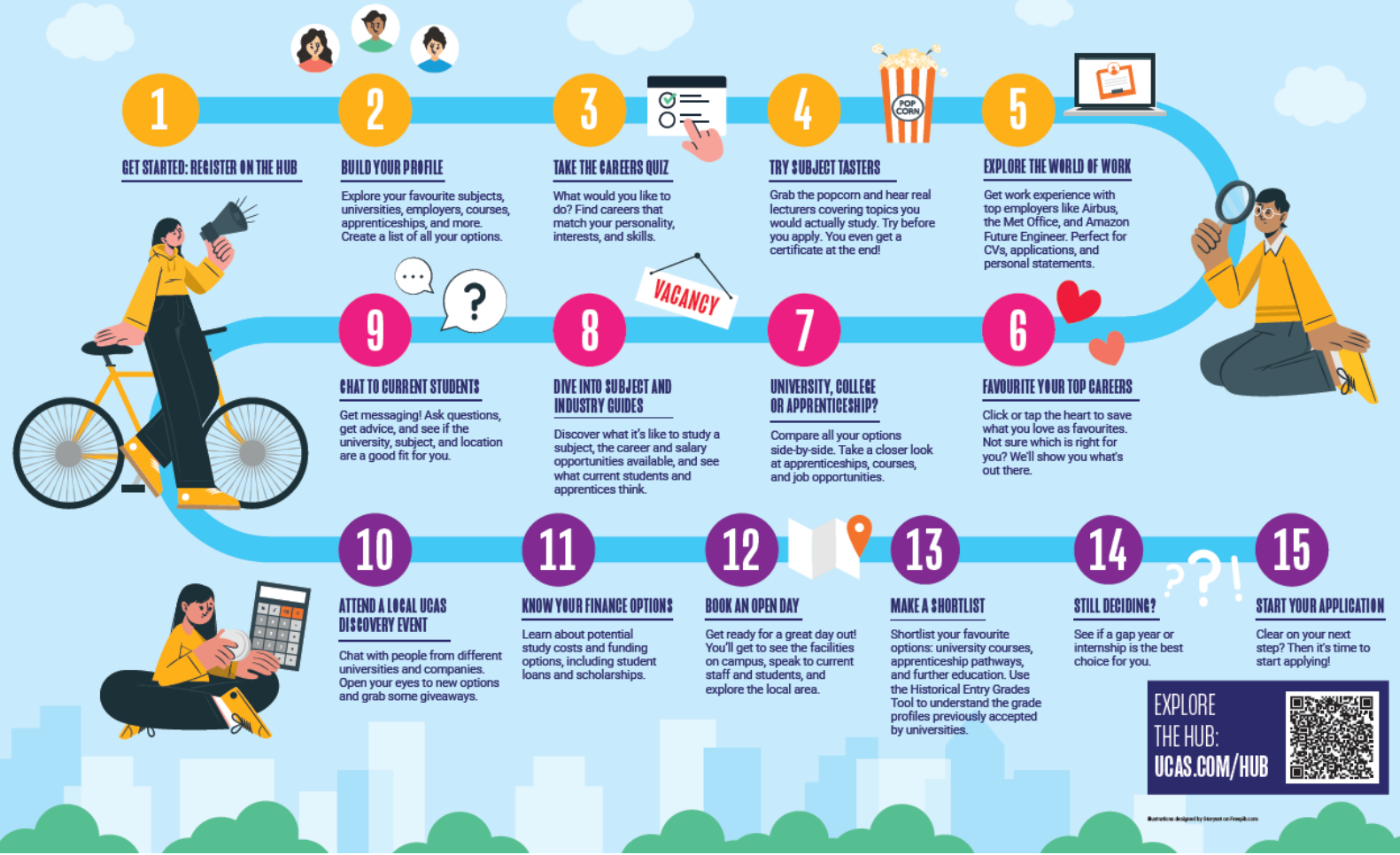


Covid: The Law And You with Mike Meehan from University of Law



# UCAS Discover

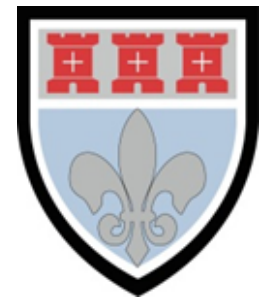
## YOUR HUB JOURNEY



EXPLORE THE HUB:  
[UCAS.COM/HUB](https://ucas.com/hub)



Illustration designed by Harriet at Freepik.com



# Apprenticeships

It's a real job where you learn, gain experience, study for a qualification and get paid.

An apprentice is an employee, with a contract of employment and holiday leave.

Over 600 different apprenticeships available, from Nuclear Engineer to Architect to Digital Marketer.

Check out [ucas.com/apprenticeships](https://ucas.com/apprenticeships) to find out more, including:

What apprenticeships are?

Degree apprenticeships.

How to find and apply for apprenticeships.

Preparing for application and interview.

Browse industry guides.



# Apprenticeships

The UCAS apprenticeship search tools has a range of apprenticeships in the local area:

## Accounts Apprentice

HMB ACCOUNTANTS LIMITED

📍 Billingham

Apprenticeship level  
England - Higher  
Apprenticeship - Level  
4

Salary  
15,000 a year

Industry  
Finance and  
accounting

Apply by | Start date  
01/05/2026 |  
18/05/2026

## Administration Apprentice

APM CLEANING & REPAIR LTD

📍 Gateshead

Apprenticeship level  
England - Advanced  
Apprenticeship - Level  
3

Salary  
19,500 a year

Industry  
Business and  
administration

Apply by | Start date  
25/04/2026 |  
27/04/2026

## Administration apprentice Level 3 advanced

JUDITH GRAHAM

📍 Hebburn

Apprenticeship level  
England - Advanced  
Apprenticeship - Level  
3

Salary  
15,392 a year

Industry  
Business and  
administration

Apply by | Start date  
07/04/2026 |  
20/04/2026

## Adult Care Apprentice

Barchester Healthcare - Meadowbeck Care Home -  
Osballdwick

📍 NE22 6LA

Apprenticeship level  
England -  
Intermediate  
Apprenticeship - Level  
2

Salary  
19,828 a year

Industry  
Care services

Apply by | Start date  
09/05/2026 |  
01/07/2026

## Adult Care Apprentice

Barchester Healthcare - Meadowbeck Care Home -  
Osballdwick

📍 NE31 2SL

Apprenticeship level  
England -  
Intermediate  
Apprenticeship - Level  
2

Salary  
19,828 a year

Industry  
Care services

Apply by | Start date  
09/05/2026 |  
01/07/2026

## Aon Apprenticeship Programme - Commercial Risk Broking 2026 - Newcastle

AON UK LIMITED

📍 Newcastle Upon Tyne

Apprenticeship level  
England - Higher  
Apprenticeship - Level  
4

Salary  
Competitive

Industry  
Finance and  
accounting

Apply by | Start date  
14/04/2026 |  
28/09/2026

## Apprentice (Business Administrator)

Durham County Council

📍 Co Durham

Apprenticeship level  
England - Advanced  
Apprenticeship - Level  
3

Salary  
15,392 a year

Industry  
Business and  
administration

Apply by | Start date  
07/04/2026 |  
07/09/2026

## Apprentice (Civil Engineer) Degree

Durham County Council

📍 Co Durham

Apprenticeship level  
England - Degree  
Apprenticeship - Level  
6

Salary  
24,796 a year

Industry  
Construction,  
architecture, and the  
built environment

Apply by | Start date  
07/04/2026 |  
07/09/2026



# University

Essential for some career paths.

Develop new transferable skills and subject knowledge.

Increase confidence and independence.

Broaden experiences.

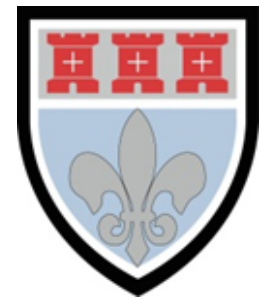
Meet new people.

Investment in the future.

Increased job prospects.

Higher earning potential.





# The University

## Style & focus

From research-intensive to practical, career-orientated learning.

## Location & size

Ranges from small campuses to large city-based universities with over 20,000 students.

## Culture & facilities

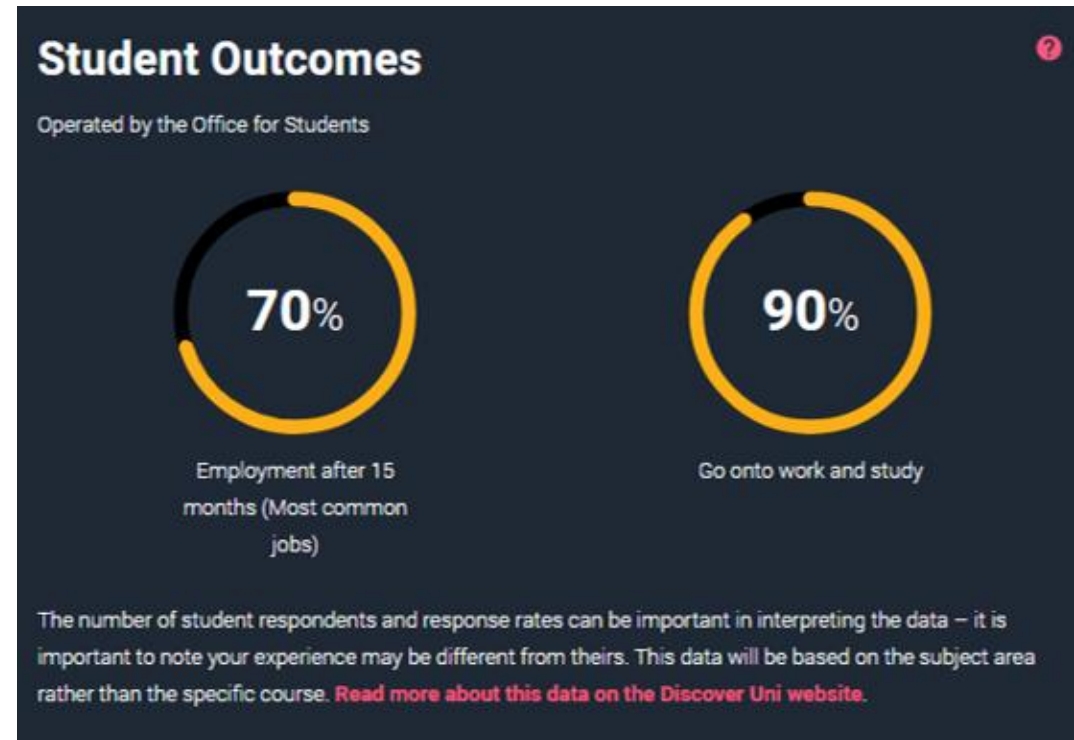
Environment, resources, student life.

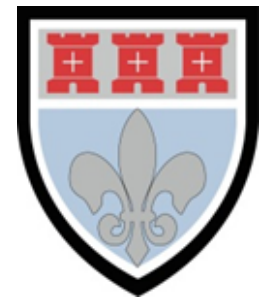
## Graduate outcomes

Careers recent graduates have gone on to.

## Cost

Include living costs, accommodation and transport.





# The Course

## **Teaching & learning**

Teaching hours, self-study, lectures, and group work.

## **Assessment & structure**

Coursework, exams, practical work, and module choices.

## **Entry requirements**

Grades, skills, interviews, or auditions.

## **Career links**

Placements, internships and study abroad.

## **Class size & experience**

Student numbers and learning environment



# The Course

Select qualification

UK A-Level

Data from: This course

Date range: 2019–2023

Grades held by accepted students ?



**ABB**  
Highest grades

**CCC**  
Lowest grades

Rate of offers for UK school leavers



Students aged 17/18  
who applied to this  
course were offered a  
place.

### How do you compare?

Add three of your UK A-Level grades, predicted or those you've already achieved, to see how they compare to the grades previously accepted.

UK A-Level grades

B

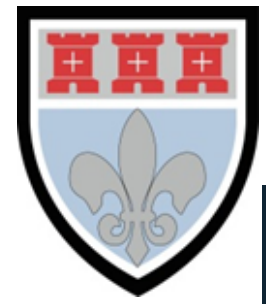
B

C

By using 'Accept & show results' you acknowledge that the result indicates how you compare to previously accepted students. It is not an indication of success if you were to apply.

Accept & show results

Cancel



# The Application

## THE UCAS APPLICATION





# The Application





# The Application

Invisibility – universities and colleges **can't see** the other choices.

Apply by the relevant **equal consideration date**.

**Five choices**, with some restrictions (medicine, dentistry, veterinary science, Oxford / Cambridge).

**Research** is key to a successful application.

Application costs **£34.50**.

**Free school meals application fee waiver:** Students who have received UK Government funded free school meals at any point during their secondary education may be eligible to have the application fee waived.

**Care leaver application fee waiver:** Students who are care leavers may also be eligible to have the application fee waived



# New for 2027

UCAS now allows students to upload additional documents to submit to universities in a secure way. These include: change of name certificates, care experience, international qualifications and visa/passports.

A refreshed 'More about you' section will make it easier for students to share any relevant conditions, disabilities, or learning differences.

Students will be asked to share their biological sex as it appears on their birth certificate, which will include the option to respond with 'Prefer not to say'. This is for equality monitoring and reporting purposes only. The existing separate question on gender identity will remain unchanged.

The equal consideration deadline date is **13 January 2027** – this is earlier than in previous years by approximately 2 weeks.



# Academic Reference

UCAS changed the academic (school) reference for 2024 undergraduate entry to help schools focus their references on the areas providers want to know more about.

UCAS are replaced the free text approach with three structured sections.



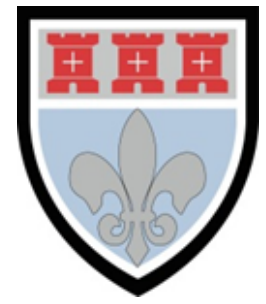
**Enter a general statement about your school/college**  
(mandatory for applications sent via a registered centre)



**Enter any information about extenuating circumstances which may affect this applicant's performance in examinations or other assessments** (optional)



**Outline any other circumstances specific to the applicant that you think universities/colleges should be aware of** (optional)



# Linking to St Mary's

As your child will be sending their application through St. Mary's they should enter their **'buzzword'** to link your application to them.

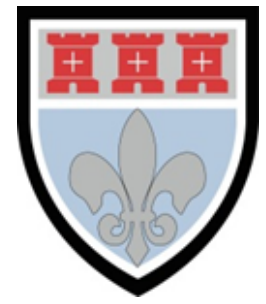
The buzzword is a unique code set by St. Mary's.

By linking their application, they are giving St. Mary's permission to view and track their application.

It also means we will provide your child with a reference and send the application to UCAS on your behalf.

The image shows three sequential screenshots from the UCAS website. The first screenshot is a question: "Are you applying from a school, college, or centre?" with two circular buttons: a teal "Yes" button and a pink "No" button. The second screenshot is titled "Link to a school, college, or centre using a Buzzword" and includes a paragraph of explanatory text and two buttons: a blue "Continue" button and a grey "Cancel" button. The third screenshot is titled "Enter the Buzzword from your school, college, or centre" and includes a text input field with the placeholder "Enter Buzzword here" and two buttons: a blue "Save Buzzword" button and a grey "Cancel" button.

Our buzzword is **StMarys2027.**



# Application Profile

## Profile:

Personal details

Contact and residency details

Nationality details

Supporting information

English language skills

Finance and funding

Diversity and inclusion\*

More about you

**Profile**

<b>Personal details &gt;</b> Name, age, title, and gender <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Section complete	<b>Contact &amp; residency details &gt;</b> Address, email, telephone, and where you live <input type="checkbox"/> Start this section	<b>Nationality details &gt;</b> Country and nationality details <input type="checkbox"/> Start this section
<b>Supporting information &gt;</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Section in progress	<b>English language skills &gt;</b> Is English your first language? <input type="checkbox"/> Start this section	<b>Finance &amp; funding &gt;</b> Tell us how you'll fund your study <input type="checkbox"/> Section in progress
<b>Diversity &amp; inclusion &gt;</b> Only shared with a provider once you have a place or your application is archived <input type="checkbox"/> Start this section	<b>More about you &gt;</b> Tell us about any circumstances that you might need support for during your studies <input type="checkbox"/> Start this section	

\* (for students with a UK home address)



# Application Profile

## Experiences:

Education

Employment

Extra activities\*

Personal statement

Reference\*\*

Add choices – up to five

\* (for students with a UK home address)

\*\* (not visible for students linked to their school/college)

## Experience

### Education >

Your qualifications and periods of study

Section in progress

### Employment >

Employment, paid or unpaid, or volunteer work

Section complete

### Extra activities >

Activities you have attended in preparation for higher education

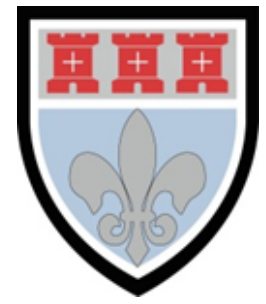
Start this section

## Personal Statement

### Personal statement >

Why do you want to study this subject?

Start this section



# Personal Statement



Three sections with question prompts



4,000-total character count split across sections



Minimum character count 350 characters per section



Don't waste characters listing grades and subjects



Don't repeat information across sections



# Personal Statement



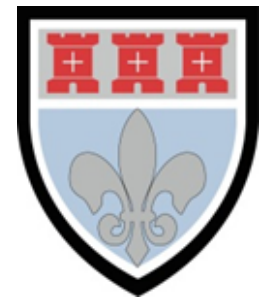
Why do you want to study this course or subject?



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?*



# Personal Statement

## Q1: Why do you want to study this course or subject?

You'll want to show **evidence** of passion, curiosity and interest, this might include:

### Motivations for studying this course(s):

- Have you been inspired by a key role model or moment in your life?
- Is it a subject you love and want to pursue further?
- What is your drive?
- How has your path led you to this course or subject area?

### Knowledge of this subject area and interests:

- Is there a particular subject area you've researched?
- Something you can't wait to learn more about?
- What about a book or subject expert doing great things that's sparked your interest?

### Future plans; demonstrate why this course/subject is a good fit:

- Do you already have a particular profession in mind?
- How might you use your studies to launch your career?
- What's important to you and your future, and how might the knowledge gained from this course(s) help you achieve this?

**Remember** these are just some examples, you don't need to include it all. The key is to research the course(s) to find out what might be most relevant.



# Personal Statement

## Q2: How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?

Focus on what's most **recent** and **relevant** to your subject or course(s), examples could include:

### How your studies or training relate to chosen course(s) or subject area:

- This could be your current or previous studies.
- This could be from any form of formal education – think school, college, training, or short online courses.

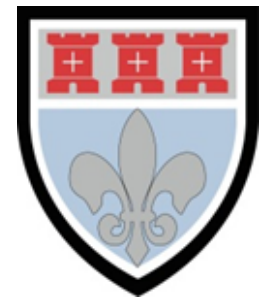
### What relevant or transferable skills have you got that make you a great candidate:

- Are there a couple of subjects that helped you develop a core set of relevant skills required for your chosen course(s).
- Maybe a particular module or project helped you understand where your interests and strengths lie.

### Any relevant educational achievements

- Universities and colleges will see your grades on your application - don't waste space talking about these.
- Focus on your other accomplishments like a competition, holding a position of responsibility or representing the school/college.

**Remember** these are just some examples, you don't need to include it all. The key is to research the course(s) to find out what might be most relevant.



# Personal Statement

**Q3: what else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?**

Examples should be **reflective** and **demonstrate** further **suitability** for your subject or course(s), this could include:

## Work experience, employment, or volunteering

- In-person or virtual work experience.
- Paid for work or volunteering.
- The key thing is reflection on the experiences and the skills gained relevant to your chosen course(s).

## Personal life experiences or responsibilities

- Is there a situation you've personally overcome that has influenced your decision?
- Are there personal experiences that have helped you develop essential qualities for the course?

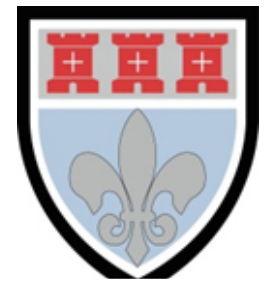
## Hobbies and any extracurricular or outreach activities:

- Think sports, reading, community work, summer schools.
- Any activities outside of core studies that help further showcase why you'd make a great student.

## Achievements outside of school or college

- This could be a position of responsibility for local clubs or groups, competitions, or qualifications you've attained outside of the classroom.

**Remember** these are just some examples, you don't need to include it all. The key is to research the course(s) to find out what might be most relevant.



Universities and colleges will review the:

 **personal statement**

 **qualifications**

 **reference**

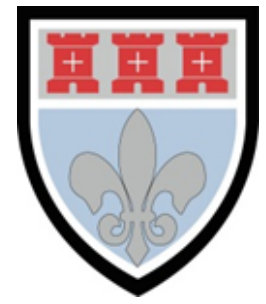
# Tracking

They may also ask for:

 **admissions test**

 **interview**

 **portfolio/audition**



# Tracking

Follow your application to:

Check progress

See your choices

Update contact information

View and reply to your offers

One of three decisions will be made:

**Unconditional offer**

**Conditional offer**

**Unsuccessful**



**Submitted to your school or college**

Your application has been sent to your school or college and is being checked by your adviser. Once they have approved it your application will be sent to UCAS.



**Your application has been returned by your adviser**

Your adviser has returned your application, go to your application to see what amendments they are recommending for you.



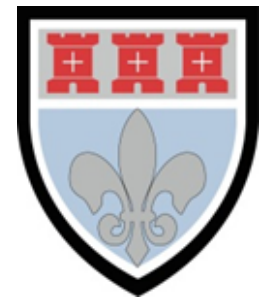
**Waiting for decisions**

Universities or colleges are considering your application.  
**Providers have until dd-mm-yyyy to respond to your choices.**



**All decisions received**

You've received a decision from all of your choices. You can now reply to your offers at any time.  
**Reply by dd-mm-yyyy**



# Deadlines

We have the following internal deadlines for the UCAS process.

## **Personal Statement – Normal Entry**

**19<sup>th</sup> June 2026:** First Draft (Submitted on Teams)

**6<sup>th</sup> November 2026:** Second Draft (Submitted on Teams)

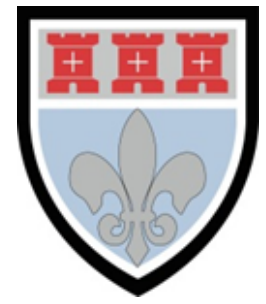
**4<sup>th</sup> December 2026 :** Final Draft (Submitted on Teams)

## **Personal Statement – Early Entry**

**19<sup>th</sup> June 2026:** First Draft (Submitted on Teams)

**18<sup>th</sup> September 2026:** Second Draft – Early Entry (Submitted on Teams)

**2<sup>nd</sup> October 2026 :** Final Draft – Early Entry (Submitted on Teams)



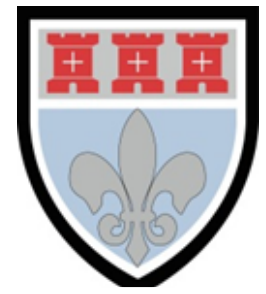
# Deadlines

We have the following internal deadlines for the UCAS process.

## Submissions

**9<sup>th</sup> October 2026:** Early Entry

**18<sup>th</sup> December 2026 :** All Other Entries



# Support

At St. Mary's Sixth Form, we have several ways to support students with their applications:

We have a dedicated set of form tutors who will work with our students to help with their applications.

The Heads of Year and the Head of Sixth Form will review **every** application before it is sent off to UCAS.

We have specialist members of staff who will provide bespoke UCAS workshops for students.

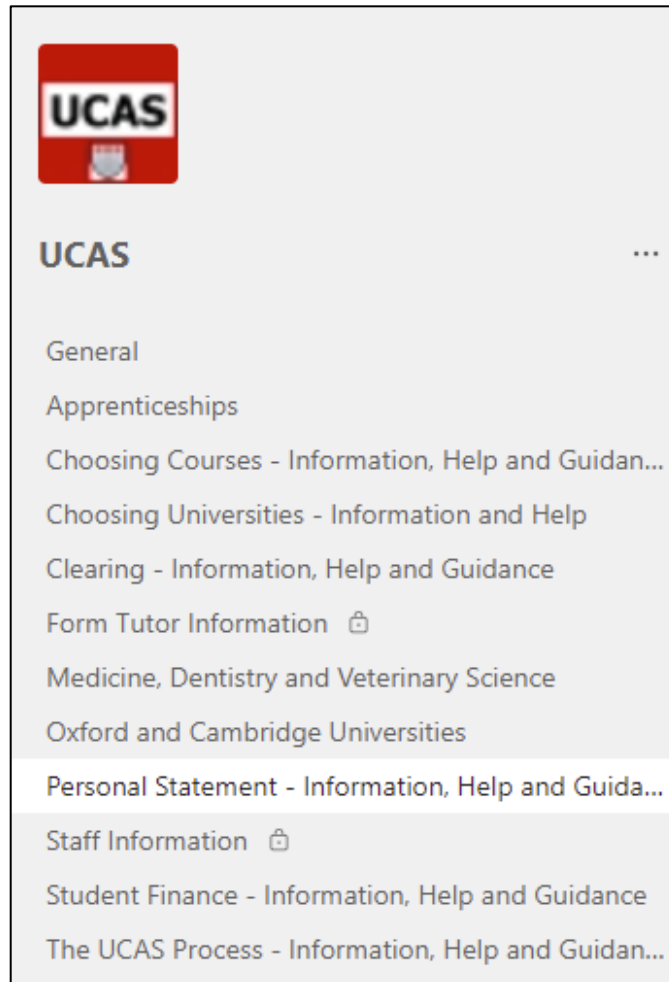
There is dedicated time in Personal Development lessons for students to be advised on the UCAS process.



# Support

We have a dedicated UCAS Teams channel which will include resources, information videos, guidance and much more to help the students through the process.

Students will be added to this Teams channel after the Easter.





# Support

We have a dedicated UCAS Teams channel which will include resources, information videos, guidance and much more to help the students through the process.

Students will be added to this Teams channel after the Easter.

The screenshot shows a Microsoft Teams chat window with two messages. The top message is from James Turnbull, dated 09/12/2022 at 16:37. It features a green header with the text "Personal Statements" and the Newcastle University crest. The message content is titled "Newcastle University - Personal Statements Help" and includes a link to a PDF document titled "Newcastle University Personal Statement e-Book.pdf". The bottom message is also from James Turnbull, dated 15/03 15:50. It features a similar green header with "Personal Statements" and the crest. The message content is titled "Information from the University of York" and includes a link to a YouTube video titled "Personal Statement Tips - YouTube".

Turnbull, James 09/12/2022 16:37

## Personal Statements

Newcastle University - Personal Statements Help

Hi UCAS

I hope this message finds you well.

Please find attached to this message, information from the Newcastle University regarding personal statements.

Many thanks.

[See more](#)

Newcastle University Personal Statement e-Book.pdf  
UCAS > Personal Statement - Information, Help and Guidance

15 March 2023

Turnbull, James 15/03 15:50

## Personal Statements

Information from the University of York

Hi all,

I hope this message finds you well.

The link below is a video from the University of York looking at your personal statements.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DYcptUVJ78>

Many thanks,

Mr Turnbull

[See less](#)

Personal Statement Tips - YouTube  
Student Recruitment Officer Vicki gives some top tips on how you can best approach writing your personal statement. For more



# Support

We have a dedicated UCAS Teams channel which will include resources, information videos, guidance and much more to help the students through the process.

Students will be added to this Teams channel after the Easter.

The screenshot displays a Microsoft Teams channel titled "Choosing Universities". The channel header features a green banner with the text "Choosing Universities" and the University of Sheffield crest on the right. The channel contains two messages:

- Message 1:** Sent by "Information from the University of Sheffield" on 18 October 2022. The message text reads: "Hi all. I hope this message finds you well. Please find attached to this message, information from the University of Sheffield regarding studying in Sheffield. Many thanks." Below the text is a "See more" link and an attached PDF file titled "St Mary's - Why Sheffield 2022.pdf" with a file path of "UCAS > Choosing Universities - Information and Help".
- Message 2:** Sent by "Turnbull, James" on 18/10/2022 17:43. The message text reads: "Hi all. I hope this message finds you well. Please find attached to this message, information from the University of Leeds regarding studying in Leeds. Many thanks." Below the text is a "See more" link and an attached PDF file titled "Why Choose Leeds Presentation- updated Aug 22.pdf" with a file path of "UCAS > Choosing Universities - Information and Help".

Each message includes a "Reply" button at the bottom left.



# Support

We have a dedicated section on the school website looking at applying for higher education. This is updated regularly with new information regarding the application process.

The screenshot shows the homepage of St Mary's Catholic School. The header includes the school's name, 'St Mary's Catholic School, DIOCESE OF HEXHAM & NEWCASTLE', and contact information: 'admin@st-marys.newcastle.sch.uk', '0191 215 3260', and '@StMarysNewc'. The navigation menu includes 'About Us', 'Key Information', 'Sixth Form', 'Parents', and 'Students'. The 'Applying for Higher Education' menu item is expanded, showing a list of links: '16 - 19 Study Programmes', 'Academic Achievement at Key Stage 5', 'A-Level Results Day 2025', 'Applying for Higher Education', 'Applying for the Sixth Form', 'Destinations & Retention', 'Examination Preparation', 'Information for Parents and Carers', 'Overview', 'Parent and Carer Information Sessions', 'Sixth Form 16-19 Bursary', 'Sixth Form Future Opportunities', 'Sixth Form Key Information', 'Sixth Form Subjects', 'Sixth Form Open Evening', 'Sixth Form Student Leadership', 'Sixth Form Student Views', 'Sixth Form Transition Work', and 'Student Testimonials'. The 'Applying for Higher Education' sub-menu is further expanded, showing: 'UCAS Information Presentation', 'Applying for Higher Education', 'UCAS Application Information', 'Accepting Courses on UCAS', 'University Open Days', 'How to Prepare for University', 'UCAS Points Conversion Tables', 'Clearing Advice and Guidance', 'Information on Student Finance', and 'University Support Programmes'. The main content area features a group of students in school uniforms and the text 'St Mary's Catholic School Shining together in faith, joy and hope'. A 'LEARN MORE >' button is visible at the bottom.




# Support

We have a dedicated section on the school website looking at applying for higher education. This is updated regularly with new information regarding the application process.

*St Mary's*  
**Clearing Advice and Guidance**

Many students use the UCAS Clearing process to obtain their places at university after they have received their A-Level and BTEC results.

For advice and guidance on the Clearing process, please see the article below.

St Mary's Catholic School 

---

**UCAS Clearing Advice**

**If you are in Clearing**

UCAS Hub will show if you are eligible for Clearing. If you are eligible for Clearing, your application status will say 'You are in Clearing' and a unique Clearing ID number will show on your account.

UCAS should be updated **by 8.30am on August 17<sup>th</sup>**. If your application hasn't been updated, you may need to contact the university directly to confirm the status of your offer (the university will likely contact you via e-mail regarding your offer outside of UCAS).

Your status on UCAS Hub will change depending on your results and the university's decision.

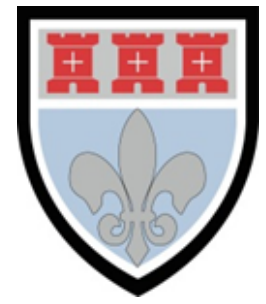
If your status changes to Congratulations - you've been placed at your firm choice [name of university] to study [name of course]! it's great news. This means that you have definitely been accepted and have a place at that university.

If your status changes to Congratulations - you've been placed at your insurance choice [name of university] to study [name of course]! - this means you missed the offer for your firm but have achieved a place at your insurance choice university.

If your status changes to You've not been placed at your firm or insurance choices. You are now in Clearing. it means you did not meet the offers from your firm and insurance universities. In this case, you can use Clearing to find an alternative course.

If your status changes to Waiting for confirmation. You're waiting for confirmation of your choices. it

[Download \(PDF, 89KB\)](#)



# Support

Students have a **free** subscription to Unifrog and SpringPod which they can use to help research opportunities and construct their applications.

unifrog

Springpod<sup>®</sup> 



# Support

We also have a series of workshops, seminars and talks run by different universities to help students with the UCAS process.

**4<sup>th</sup> April:** Bishop Bewick Trust 'Applying to Oxbridge' Conference

**1<sup>st</sup> May:** Writing a Strong Personal Statement by the University of Sheffield

**15<sup>th</sup> May:** Writing a Personal Statement by Durham University

**15<sup>th</sup> May:** How to Write a Winning Personal Statement by Newcastle University

**22<sup>nd</sup> May:** The Oxbridge Personal Statement by the University of Cambridge

**5<sup>th</sup> June:** Writing a Strong Personal Statements by the University of Cambridge

**5<sup>th</sup> June:** Personal Statement Workshop by Northumbria University

**3<sup>rd</sup> July:** Bishop Bewick Trust 'Applying for Medicine and Dentistry' Conference



# Support

We also have a series of workshops, seminars and talks run by different universities to help students with the UCAS process.

There will be bespoke St Mary's Personal Statement Workshops taking place as well.

**4<sup>th</sup> April:** Bishop Bewick Trust 'Applying to Oxbridge' Conference

**1<sup>st</sup> May:** Writing a Strong Personal Statement by the University of Sheffield

**15<sup>th</sup> May:** Writing a Personal Statement by Durham University

**15<sup>th</sup> May:** How to Write a Winning Personal Statement by Newcastle University

**22<sup>nd</sup> May:** The Oxbridge Personal Statement by the University of Cambridge

**5<sup>th</sup> June:** Writing a Strong Personal Statements by the University of Cambridge

**5<sup>th</sup> June:** Personal Statement Workshop by Northumbria University

**3<sup>rd</sup> July:** Bishop Bewick Trust 'Applying for Medicine and Dentistry' Conference



# Support

We also have a series of workshops, seminars and talks run by different universities to help students with the UCAS process.

There will be a parents information evening run by Newcastle University in October 2026 looking at applying for Student Finance.

**4<sup>th</sup> April:** Bishop Bewick Trust 'Applying to Oxbridge' Conference

**1<sup>st</sup> May:** Writing a Strong Personal Statement by the University of Sheffield

**15<sup>th</sup> May:** Writing a Personal Statement by Durham University

**15<sup>th</sup> May:** How to Write a Winning Personal Statement by Newcastle University

**22<sup>nd</sup> May:** The Oxbridge Personal Statement by the University of Cambridge

**5<sup>th</sup> June:** Writing a Strong Personal Statements by the University of Cambridge

**5<sup>th</sup> June:** Personal Statement Workshop by Northumbria University

**3<sup>rd</sup> July:** Bishop Bewick Trust 'Applying for Medicine and Dentistry' Conference



# Student Finance

**All applications for student finance for 2027-2028 are to be completed online from March 2027.**

Students need to log-in via [www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance](http://www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance)

They will receive a customer reference number and will be required to choose a password and secret answer.

Students (with help of parents) complete application with all the necessary information e.g. financial details.

**This is carried out independently of the school.**



# Employment

Support is provided for students not applying for university or apprenticeships.

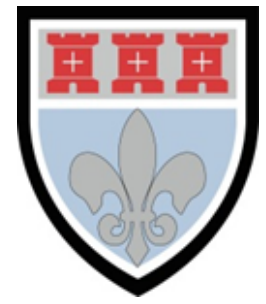
Weekly Employer Experience sessions take place in the Sixth Form with different employers / professionals.

Further opportunities for students advertised weekly on Teams and in Form Time.

Regular meetings with staff to discuss future opportunities including our school careers advisor.

Information is provided on the UCAS Teams Tile.

Support provided to help write CVs/covering letters.



# What Can Student Do?

Research, research, research.

Attend open days and events – including virtual events online.

There is St. Mary's Higher Education Fair in October 2026.

Extra-Curricular and Super-Curricular activities.

Enrichment activities from various universities.

Work Experience (taking place on July 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> 2026).

Student Leadership Scheme.

Volunteering (including the Mentoring and Volunteering Programme).

Independent learning outside the curriculum.

Focus on this year's studies.



# What Can I Do?

## **Start with exploration, not pressure**

Encourage curiosity about courses, careers and entry requirements

## **Support strong decision-making**

Discuss: course content, assessment style, location, costs, and student life

## **Help them build a balanced shortlist**

A realistic range: aspirational, solid, and secure choices (where appropriate)

## **Encourage super-curricular habits**

Reading, lectures, wider research, work experience, subject events

## **Keep them organised**

Key deadlines, documents, log-ins, and time each week for UCAS tasks

## **Personal statement support**

Proof-read, ask questions, keep it authentic — don't write it for them

## **Use the right sources and ask for help early**

School guidance first; contact Sixth Form/UCAS team with questions



# Further Information

For further information, UCAS produces a 'Parents Podcast' which is available at the following link: <https://www.ucas.com/discover/advice-for-parents-guardians-and-carers/ucas-parents-podcast>



## Episode 8 - Mythbusting the Apply Cycle

Think you know how the university application process really works?

In this episode of the UCAS Parents' Podcast, host Jon Smith is joined by Annie Bell from University Alliance to bust the biggest myths about applying through UCAS. From common misconceptions to what truly makes a difference, we'll help you separate fact from fiction and feel confident supporting your child every step of the way.

Tune in now for clear, practical advice to guide you through the application cycle with confidence.

[Watch now](#)



# Thank You

Thank you so much for attending this 'Sixth Form Parent and Carer Information Session' exploring the UCAS process. We really hope that the information shared has been helpful and informative.

If you do have any questions, please feel free to contact school anytime or pose a question in the chat facility. Please ensure questions do not mention any students or staff by name.

If you have a question regarding this important time for your child, please contact school. We are here to help. Thank you for your continued support.