

Next Steps



Pathways following Sixth Form

What do you intend to do from Summer 2023?



Higher
education



Apprenticeships/
traineeships



Studying
abroad



Gap year



Employment



Understanding University



What is UCAS?

The Universities and Colleges Admissions Service

Their main role is to operate the application process for British universities.

<https://www.ucas.com/>

UCAS



What is UCAS?

350+ universities and colleges:

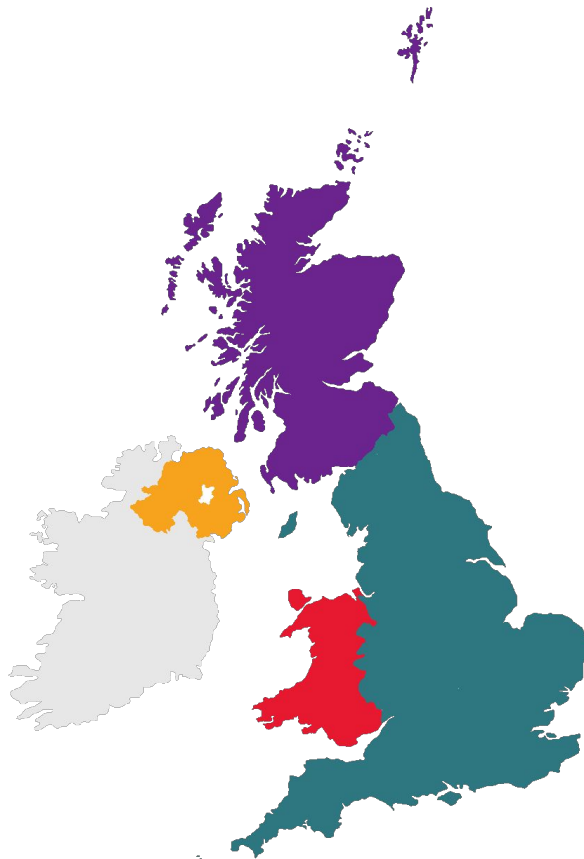
4 in Northern Ireland

15 in Wales

19 in Scotland

324 in England

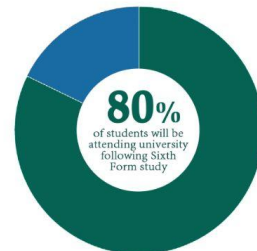
35,000+ courses available





Simon Balle All-through School Exam Outcomes

Sixth Form Destinations - August 2021



University courses include:

Accounting and Finance
Accounting and Financial Management
Acting and Performance
Aeronautics and Astronautics
Aerospace Engineering
Archaeology
Arts and Sciences with Study Abroad
Banking & Finance- 4 years with sandwich year
Biochemistry
Biological Sciences with Spanish for Science
Film
Biology
Biology (With Professional Placement)
Biomedical Science
Business Management
Business Management and Economics
Business Management and Marketing
Buying & Merchandising for Fashion
Chemistry
Chinese and Economics
Cognitive Neuroscience and Psychology
Computer Science
Computer Science with Artificial Intelligence
Construction Management
Contemporary and Popular Music
Contemporary Media Practice
Creative Writing and English Literature
Criminology
Criminology with Psychology
Digital Film Production
Economics
Economics and Business Management
Economics and International Relations

Economics and Politics
Economics with International Finance and Banking
English (with a study abroad year)
English and Film Studies
English Literature with Creative Writing
Environmental Geoscience
Environmental Sciences
Fashion Design
Fashion Management
Film
Film Production
Film Studies/Filmmaking
Finance (International Business)
Finance, Accounting and Management
Fine Art with Contemporary Cultural Theory
Geography
Graphic Communication
History
Human Geography
Humanities Foundation Year
Illustration and Visual Media
Industrial Economics
Journalism
Landscape Architecture
Law
Management
Marketing
Marketing and Management
Mathematics
Mathematics with Actuarial Science
Mechanical Engineering
Media and Communication
Media Production

Music
Music (Popular Music)
Music Marketing, Media and Communication
Natural Sciences
Paramedic Science
Photography
Physics
Physiotherapy
Policy, Politics and Economics with Year Abroad
Politics
Politics and Modern History
Primary and Early Years Education
Primary Education 3-7 with QTS
Primary Education,
Product Design
Property Finance and Investment
Psychology
Psychology and Child Development
Social Policy and Sociology
Sociology
Sociology and Psychological Studies
Sociology/Criminology
Sport and Exercise Science
Sport and Exercise Science (with placement year)
Sport and Exercise Therapy
Sport Business Management
Sport with a Foundation Year (Elite Athlete Pathway)
Sports Therapy
Veterinary Medicine and Science
Microbiology with a Year in Industry
Midwifery Practice
Modern Languages



Most popular universities chosen by
Simon Balle Sixth Form students
following A Level study in
September 2021



3 students studying at
the University of
Cambridge.

33% of students attending university will
join a Russell Group university.

**RUSSELL
GROUP**

94% of students gained a place on
their 1st choice university
course from September 2021

UCAS

www.simonballe.herts.sch.uk
Creating tomorrow's citizens today



Opportunities available

- Contemporary and Popular Music
- Criminology and Sociology
- Economics with International Finance and Banking
- Animal Management and Zoology
- Speech and Language Therapy
- Motorsport Technology
- Archaeology
- Planning and Property Development
- Human Resource Management & Business
- Landscaping and Garden Design
- Mental Health Nursing
- Civil Engineering



Opportunities available

- Physiotherapy
- Sports Journalism
- Fashion Management
- Ancient History
- English and Creative Writing
- Photography
- Marine Biology
- Film and Television (Production)
- Graphic Communication and Illustration
- Events Management
- Neuroscience
- Midwifery



University is an AMAZING experience!



Why University?

Opportunities while studying:

- Chance to study a subject you are passionate about.
- Achieve a qualification that could lead to your chosen career.
- Grow in confidence, make lifelong friends, and gain independence and important life skills that will widen your prospects.

With a degree, you'll have:

- the opportunity to follow your career path
- better job prospects, as many employers target graduates
- higher earning potential



University Mythbusting - True or False?

It's not just A-levels, there are lots of different qualifications that will get you in to university

True

There are many qualifications that are accepted by universities

- AS
- A2
- EPQ
- BTEC
- Cambridge Technicals
- Access courses
- Music Grades
- ESOL Examinations
- LAMDA Level 3 Certificate in Speech & Drama: Performance Studies
- Free-standing Mathematics Qualification



University Mythbusting - True or False?

You can live at home and still go to university

True

Living in halls of residence can provide an opportunity to become immersed in student life and live independently away from home.

An increasing number of students attend universities and colleges that are close enough to allow them to remain at home. It is usually cheaper to live at home.



University Mythbusting - True or False?

You have big exams at the end of each year but only the ones in the final year count

False

Most courses spread marks that contribute to your final grade across two or more years.

Very few degrees are awarded on 'Finals' alone.



University Mythbusting - True or False?

If you find you have chosen the wrong course you can automatically change to another subject

False

While at most universities it is possible to change courses early in the first year, you have to fulfil the entry requirements of the new course, and there has to be space available.



University Mythbusting - True or False?

There is no one to turn to if you are finding it difficult to cope

False

There are a whole range of support networks.

The Student Union/Guild has dedicated welfare teams with expertise in finance, academic support and accommodation. There are counselling services that offer confidential advice and support.

Each academic department will have tutors responsible for the progress of students and they can often help with both academic and non-academic difficulties.



University Mythbusting - True or False?

Only rich people go to university. Students loans will put you in debt for life.



False





HIGHER EDUCATION

STUDENT FINANCE

KEY FACTS SESSION



Department
for Education

ems THE
ROADSHOW
EXPERTS

STUDENT LOANS

What are Student Loans?

Funds loaned to you by the government, to help you cover the costs of going to university.

There are two types of loan:

- A **Tuition Fee Loan** - paid to your university to cover the costs of your tuition
- A **Maintenance Loan** - paid to you to help with living costs - like rent, bills, books and socialising

These loans are very different to commercial loans offered by banks. They are designed to make sure your repayments don't start until a year after you've graduated, and are always manageable and affordable.

TUITION FEE LOAN



Department
for Education



TUITION FEE LOAN

What is a Tuition Fee Loan?

- A Tuition Fee Loan is there to cover the costs of your tuition.
- It's paid directly to your university or college, in three instalments per year.
- If you attend a publicly-funded university or college and it's your first degree (it is for the vast majority of students) you will be eligible for a loan that covers all of your tuition fees

TUITION FEE LOAN

How do Student Loans work?

- Once you've decided to study a higher education course, you can apply for a Tuition Fee Loan of up to £9,250 per year to cover the cost of your course fees.
- You apply through Student Finance England and the money is paid directly to your chosen university or college, so you don't need to worry about making any payments yourself.

MAINTENANCE LOAN



Department
for Education



MAINTENANCE LOAN



Rent, books, food and socialising are all a big part of university life - and they all cost money.

The government also provides a maintenance – or living costs - loan that is designed to **help towards** your living costs.

The amount of support you can access for living costs depends on your circumstances, including your **household income and where you live and study**.

Once you have applied for the loan, it's paid into your bank account in three instalments - then it's up to you to plan your budget and be smart about spending!

MAINTENANCE LOAN



MAINTENANCE LOAN SUPPORT FOR 2020/21

HOUSEHOLD INCOME	LIVING WITH PARENTS (£)	LIVE AWAY FROM HOME AND STUDYING OUTSIDE LONDON (£)	LIVE AWAY FROM HOME AND STUDYING IN LONDON (£)
£25,000 or less	7,324	8,700	11,354
£30,000	6,707	8,076	10,719
£35,000	6,090	7,452	10,084
£40,000	5,473	6,828	9,449
£42,875	5,118	6,469	9,083
£45,000	4,885	6,204	8,813
£50,000	4,238	5,579	8,178
£55,000	3,621	4,955	7,543
£58,212	3,224	4,331	6,907
£60,000	3,224	4,054	6,272
£65,000	3,224	4,054	5,654

REPAYING



Department
for Education



REPAYING



When do you start repaying your loan?

So, you've sorted out your tuition fee and maintenance loan - but how will you repay them? And when?

Good news! You will only be required to start making any repayments

- From the April after you've graduated - and
- If you're earning above the threshold of £25,000 per year - and
- You only ever repay a percentage of what you earn above that threshold

Your Tuition Fee Loan and Maintenance Loan are combined for repayment purposes, to keep it simple. And the student finance system is designed to ensure your repayments are always affordable.

REPAYING



How much will you pay back?

Once you're earning over the £25,000 threshold:

- You'll pay 9% of anything you earn **above that £25,000 per year**.
- Your employer will deduct this from your salary automatically, like taxes.

So, let's say your salary is £27,000 a year - you'll pay 9% of £2,000.

That's just **£15 pounds a month**.

If you're **self-employed**, you'll make repayments as part of your self-assessment return to HMRC, in the same way you'd pay self-employed taxes.

REPAYING



Key messages

- Interest rates and repayments are dependent on your income – so they should always be manageable
- After 30 years, if you don't pay your loan off in full, any remainder will be written off.
- The Government expects that **25%** of current full-time undergraduates who take out loans will repay them in full
- If you decide to leave university before graduating you'll still have to repay what you've been loaned – but again, only once your income is above the threshold.

University Mythbusting - True or False?

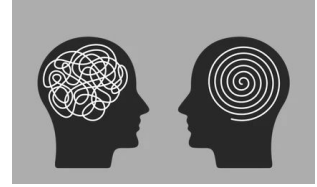
If you move abroad after university you don't have to pay your student loan back



False



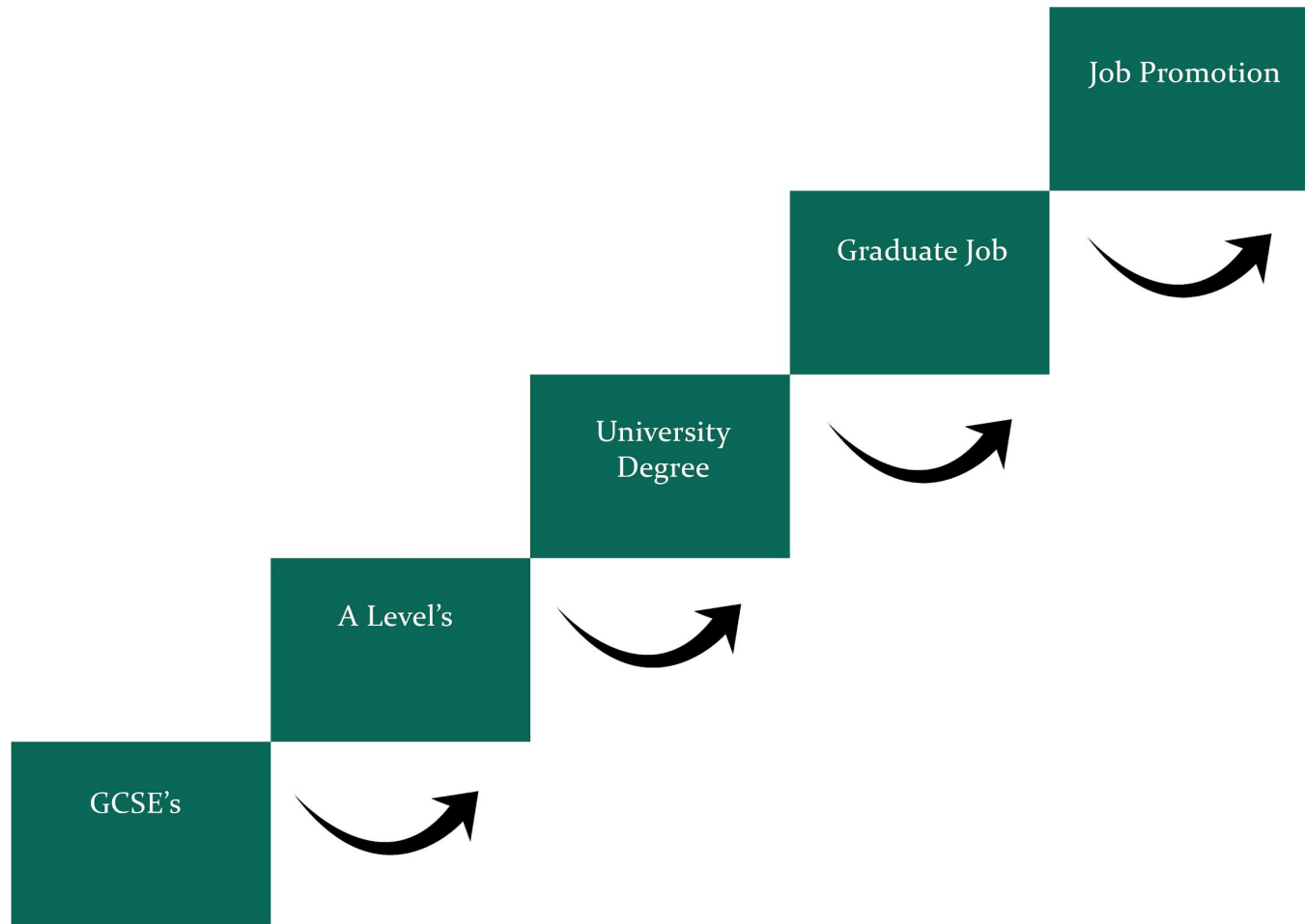
University *is not* a destination

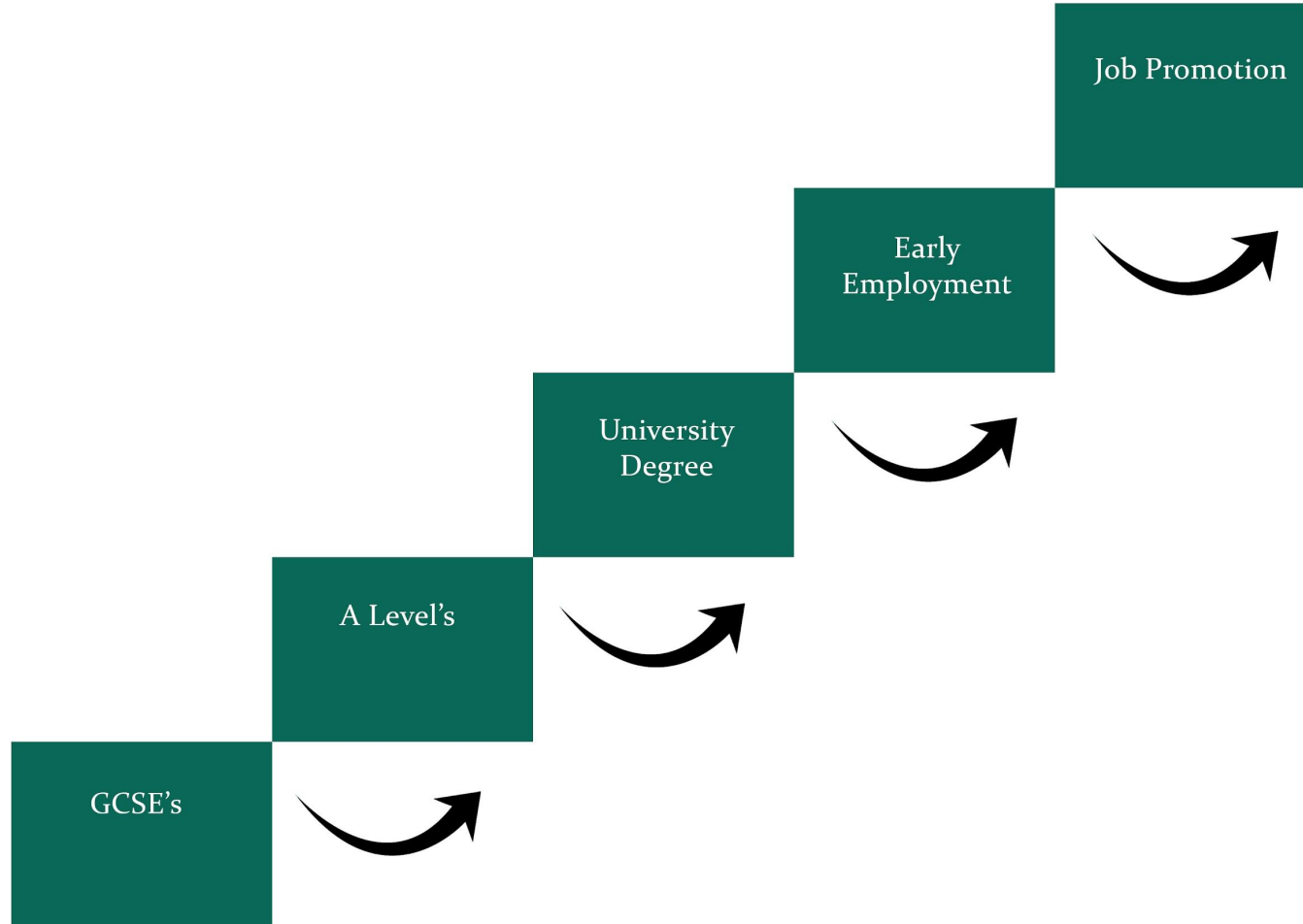


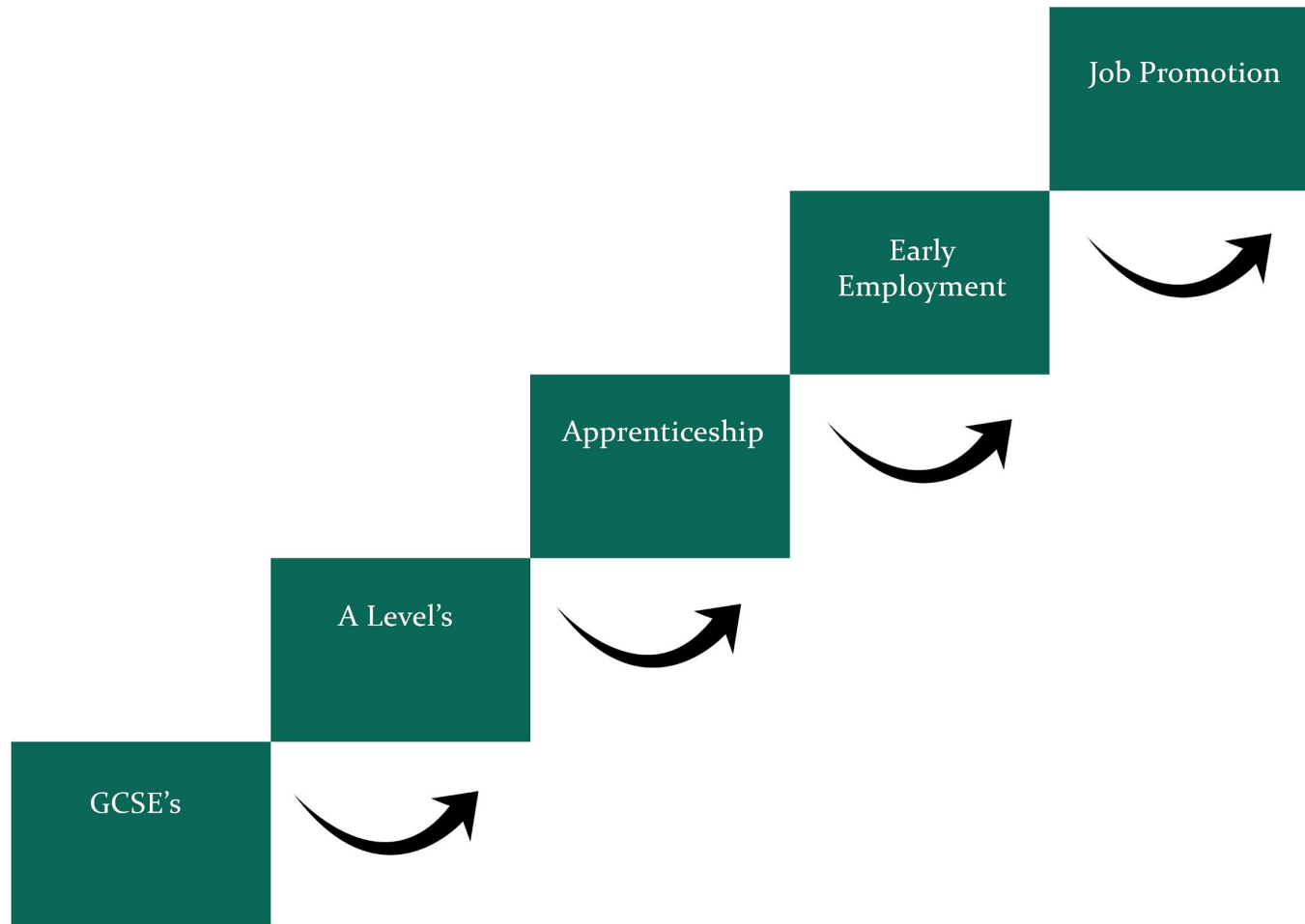
Consider where gaining a degree could help you reach!

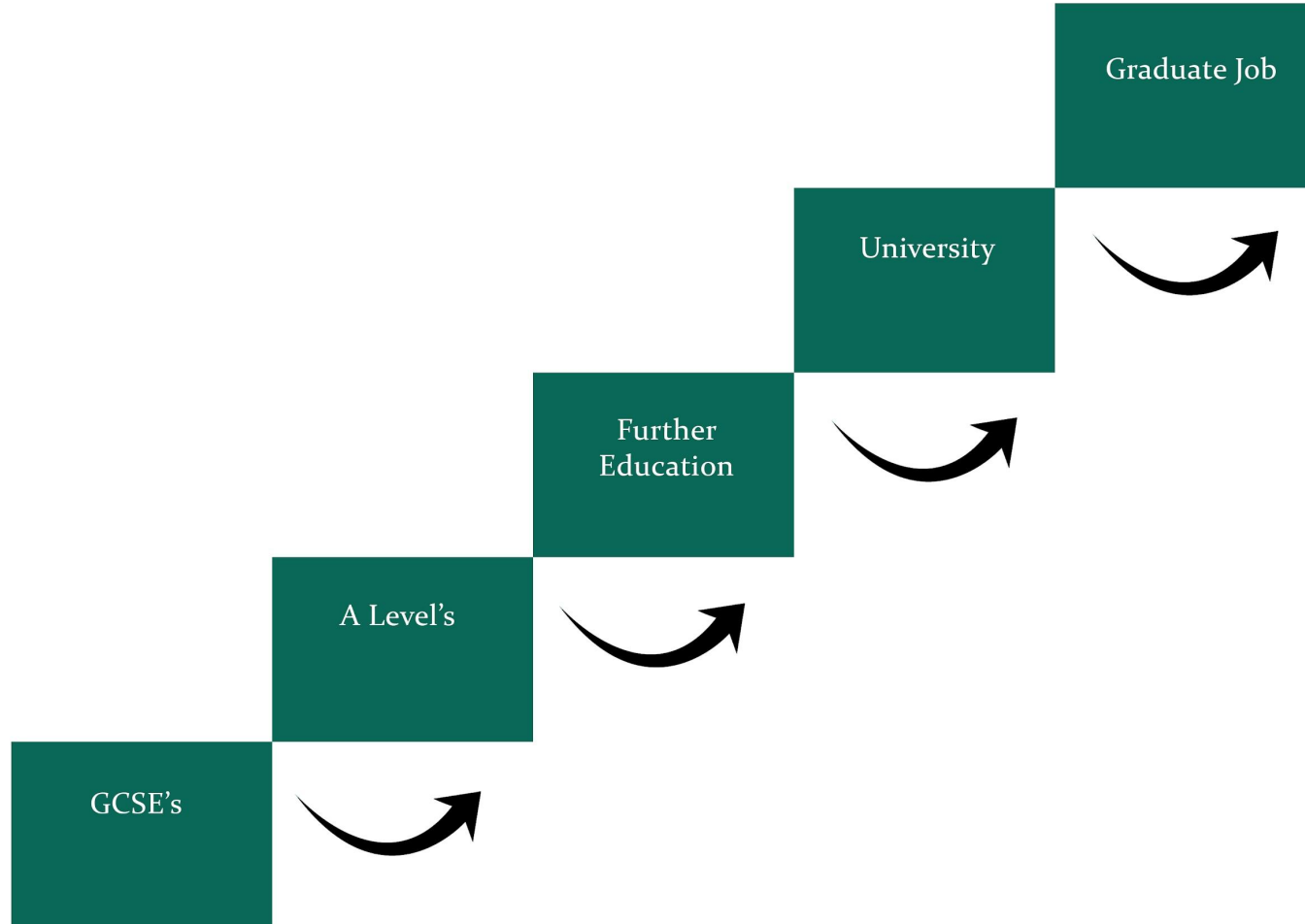


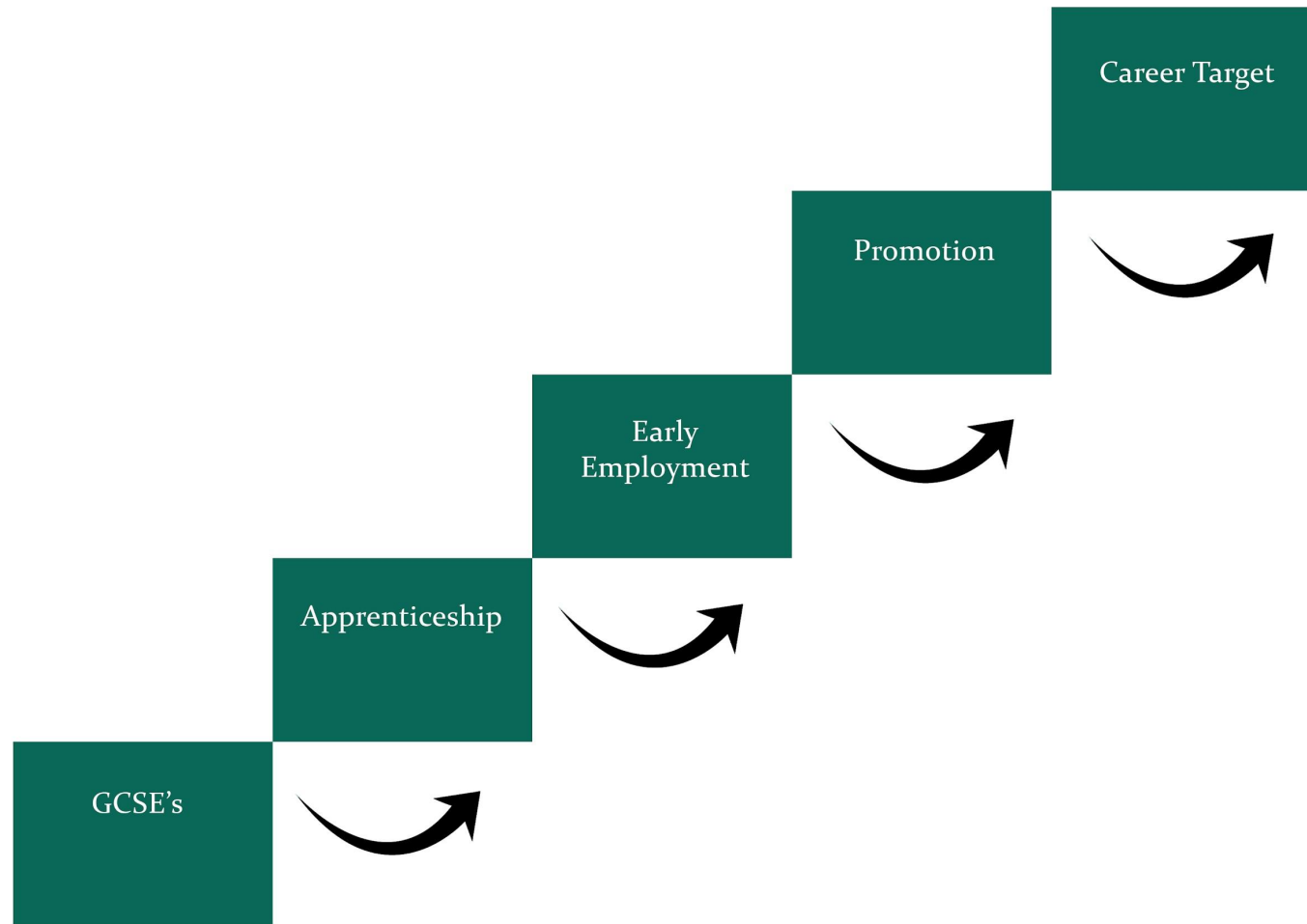


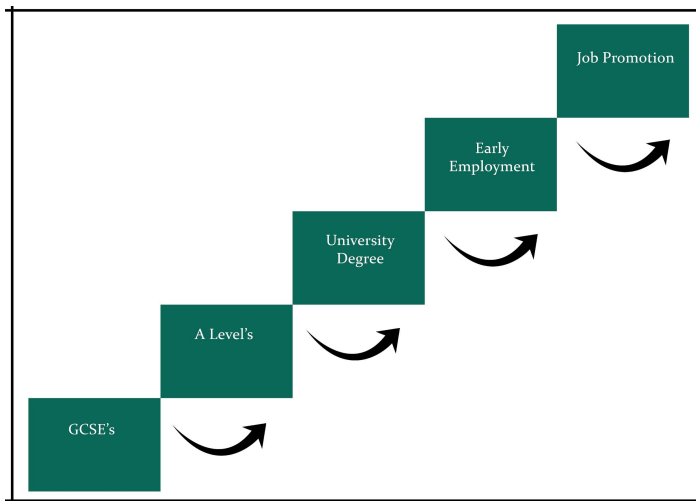
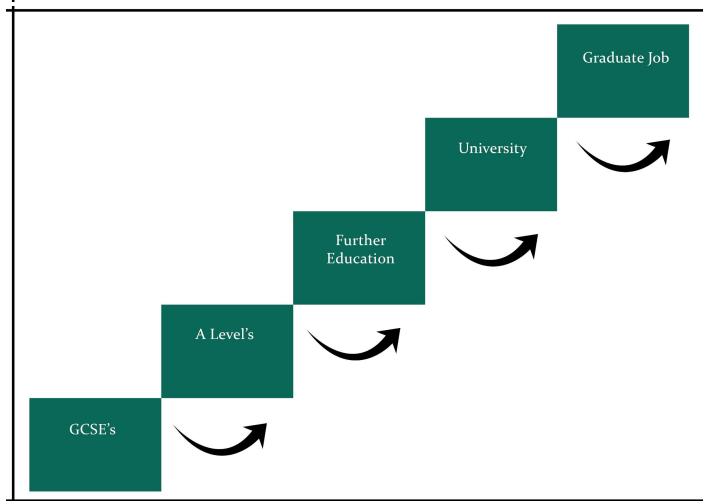
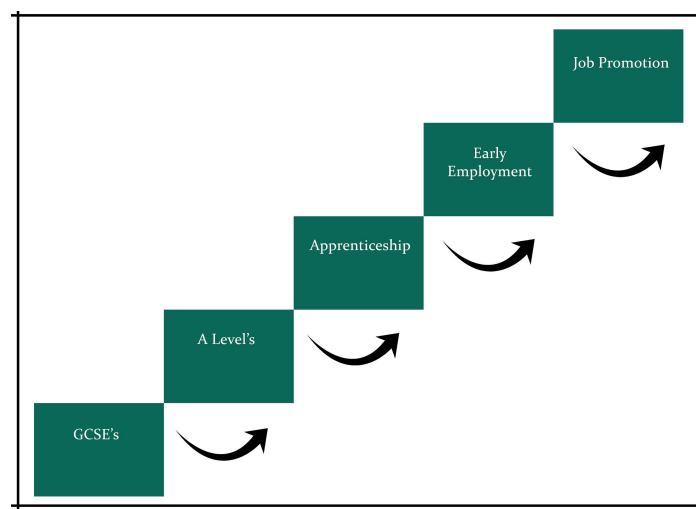
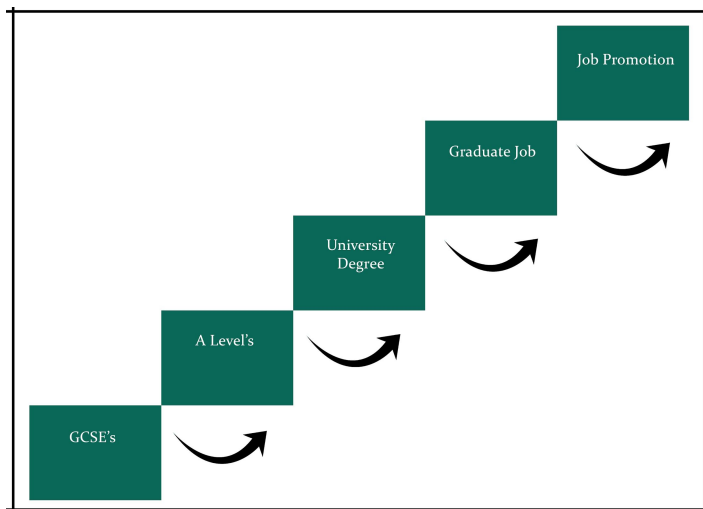












Average Potential Earnings

The average graduate debt – stands at more than £50,000 for a three-year degree.

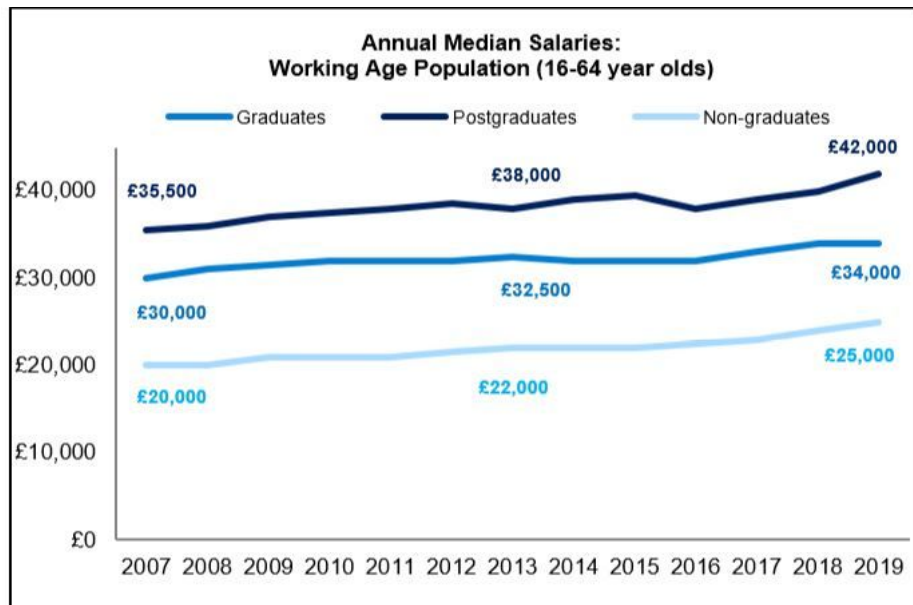
That said, a degree still pays off in the long run.

Graduates last year earned a median salary of £34,000, while non-graduates earned only £25,000.



Headline facts and figures

- The employment rate for working-age graduates in 2019 was 87.5%
- Graduates are more likely to be in employment than non-graduates, although the gap has been narrowing since 2014
- In 2019 the non-graduate employment rate was 72%



**Annual median salaries
working age population;
2007-2019**



Alternatives to University

- University isn't for everyone.
- There are plenty of alternatives, Further education colleges offer **higher apprenticeships** and **foundation degrees**, which combine academic and vocational study from L1 - L4..
- Later in life you may consider **adult education, distance learning** and **online courses**, which can be done remotely and part-time.
- The newest option is a **degree apprenticeship**,



Degree Apprenticeships

- Degree Apprenticeships launched in 2015
- You are classed as an employee
- Follow the employers application process
- For three or four years, apprentices study for their degree while gaining paid industry experience
- Course costs are covered by the employer and the government, meaning degree apprentices often don't have to pay for their tuition



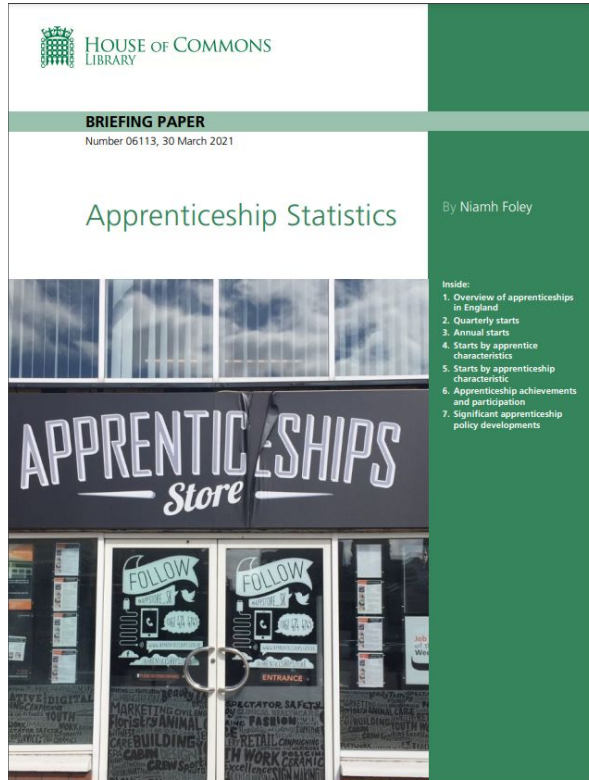
Very Competitive

- The entry requirements for each degree apprenticeship vary from programme to programme.
- Most employers set minimum entry requirements that are similar to traditional university degrees - that's typically **three A levels (A* to C)**

MINIMUM ENTRY
REQUIREMENTS!



The Facts and Statistics



- 146,900 apprenticeship achievements
- 19% higher apprenticeships
- 27,911 degree apprenticeships in the UK
- Apprenticeships are for all ages
- Number of under 19 years olds secured a degree apprenticeship - 2,800
- Down 18% on last year
- You are an employee - redundancy
- 2,270 apprenticeship ended



VACANCY DETAILS

Details

Level 6 Digital Technology Solutions Degree Apprenticeship (Bournemouth)

Vacancy type Apprenticeship

Employer J.P. Morgan

Scheme Technology Apprenticeship

Location Bournemouth

Intake year 2022

Description Our four-year apprenticeship programme starting in September 2022 offers a comprehensive introduction to the world of technology within financial services and the chance to obtain a full honours degree from the University of Exeter, alongside valuable work experience at our Bournemouth technology hub or in our London offices.

The roles in technology do vary between locations so please be aware when making your choice about the location –

London Technology Roles:

Software Engineering // Data Analytics // Business Analysis

Bournemouth Technology Roles:

Cyber Security // Software Engineering // IT Consultancy & Project Management // Data Analytics

Business Analysis // Infrastructure Engineering

The starting salary for this role is £19,000 per annum.

Requirements:

- Hold or predicted to achieve at least ABB in 3 A levels/BTEC or equivalent with all subjects at least grade B or equivalent and with at least one subject which is Mathematics, Computing or IT based.
- Have at least a grade C or 5 in Maths and English Language GCSE (4 will not be accepted) or equivalent.
- Been a resident of the UK for the past 3 years.
- Have the right to work and remain in the UK indefinitely.
- Spend at least 50% of your working hours in England over the duration of the apprenticeship.
- Not completed a qualification or apprenticeship at the same level or lower which provided you with substantially the same skills or training as you would gain through this apprenticeship with J.P. Morgan.

Please only apply once to one programme per year. Multiple applications may be rejected.

Closing date of post: 18 February 2022 but may be earlier if assessment centre places are filled.

Closing date

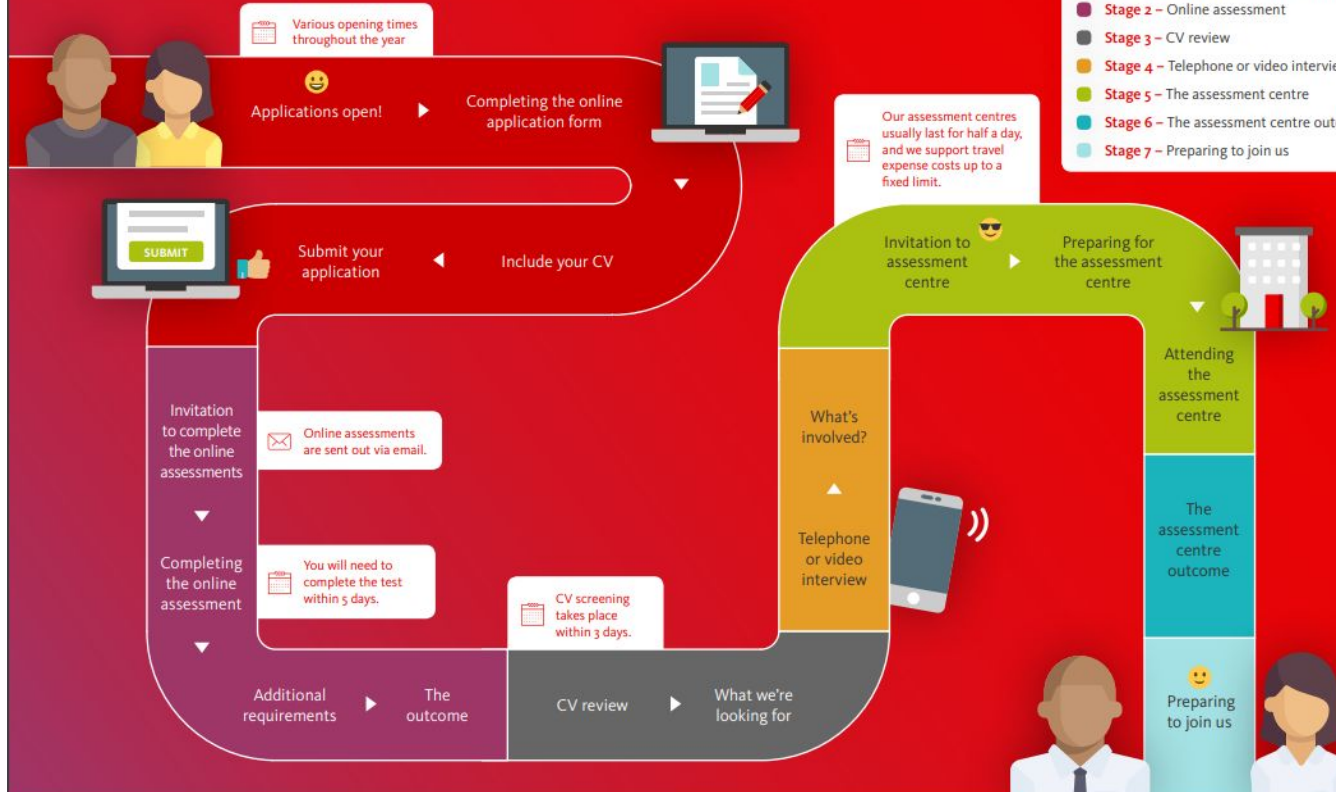
31 January 2022 23:59 (UK time)

➤ Apply

Application flow – apprentice candidate

 Click on each step to view more

- Stage 1 – Completing the application form
- Stage 2 – Online assessment
- Stage 3 – CV review
- Stage 4 – Telephone or video interview
- Stage 5 – The assessment centre
- Stage 6 – The assessment centre outcome
- Stage 7 – Preparing to join us



★ RATEMYAPPRENTICESHIP
TOP 60
EMPLOYERS
 2015 - 2016



UCAS Specifics



Key Dates

15th September 2022 - University applications open for courses beginning September 2022.

15 October 2022, 18:00 (UK time) – deadline for any course at the universities of Oxford and Cambridge, or for most courses in medicine, veterinary medicine/science, and dentistry.

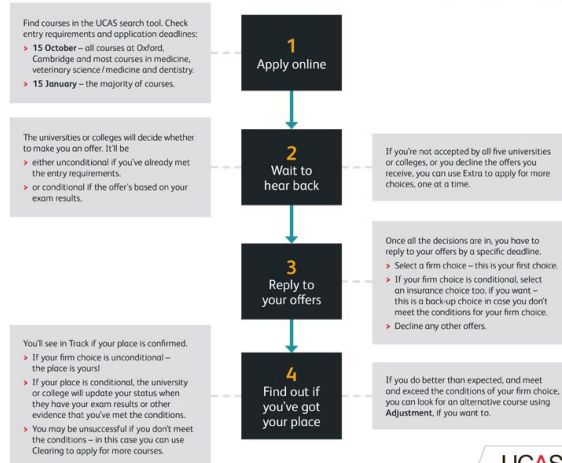
26 January 2023, 18:00 (UK time) – deadline for the majority of courses.

24 March 2023, 18:00 (UK time) – deadline for some art and design courses.



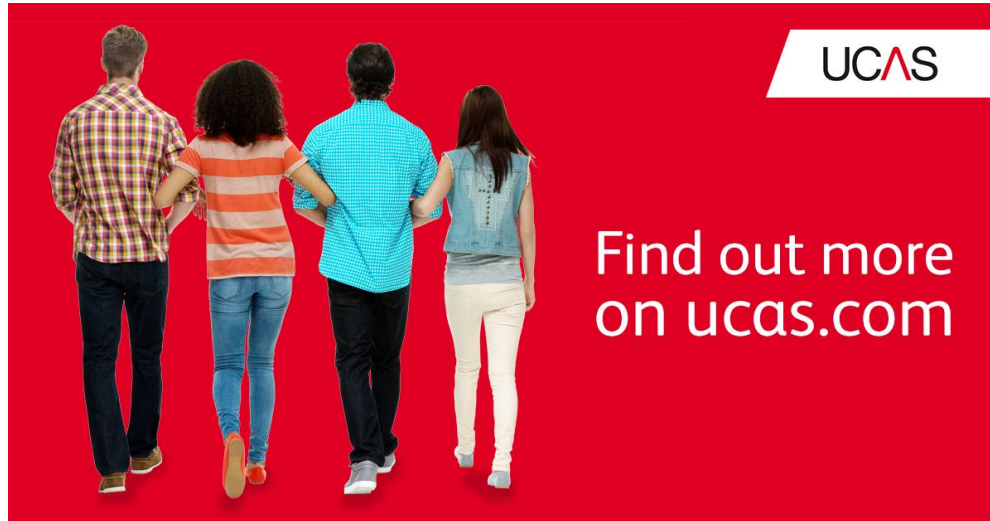
HOW IT WORKS:

Applying to a UK university or college



How many courses can I apply for?

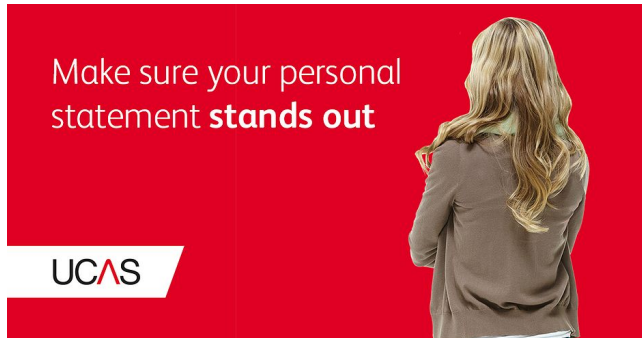
You can apply for as many as 5 courses. All UK Universities use the UCAS system.



Application to University - Personal Statement

The **personal statement** is an important part of the UCAS application. It's your chance to describe your ambitions, skills and experience. It's your chance to show what makes you unique, besides your birth name and UCAS ID.

The 'word' limit for your personal statement is 47 lines, or 4000 characters. This equates to (roughly) 500 words.



- Your predicted grades
- School reference (written by your form tutor)

Is also sent to UCAS as part of your application.



Grades/ Estimated UCAS point score

A level and Advanced VCE

Official title: Advanced GCE and Advanced VCE

Grade	Tariff points
A*	56
A	48
B	40
C	32
D	24
E	16

Size band: 4

Grade bands: 4-14

Offered by AQA, CCEA, OCR, Pearson Edexcel and WJEC



Entry Requirements



A level - AAA



UNIVERSITY OF
PORTSMOUTH

UCAS Tariff - 128 -
136 points



A level - ABB



UCAS Tariff -
112 - 120
points



UCAS Tariff -
112 - 120
points



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

A level -
AAA





Simon Balle All-through
School Sixth Form

Moving on

THE NEXT STEPS

YOUR GUIDE TO THE NEXT STEP PROCESS

2022/23

Deciding on your Next Step



What happens when?



All Year 12 students will begin to focus on their Next Step after Simon Balle Sixth Form following their return from January exam leave.

This can often overwhelm many students. However, it is essential that students begin to consider all possibilities and use their time to research potential opportunities after A-Level study.

The Sixth Form team have developed an established programme to help support students and parents in the decision making process. Our programme is split into phases with an encouraged timeline of events.

Phase 1 *Next Step Options*

All Year 12 students will attend an introductory Next Steps assembly. The Sixth Form team will detail the potential pathways available, discuss student myths about university and degree apprenticeships and highlight how students can begin effectively using their time to research opportunities.

ACTION:

From 26th January - 11th February students will be expected to use one Period 6 independent study session in school to begin shortlisting courses and employers they might be interested in.

Students and parents can use the following websites and resources for information and support.

- UCAS - www.ucas.com
- UNIFROG - www.unifrog.org

Phase 1 *Shortlisting*

From 22nd February, students will attend a small group coaching session with the Sixth Form team. Students will be guided through the process of how to begin shortlisting their chosen next step options.

Students will be recommended to begin taking into consideration a number of factors to ensure courses and institutions fulfill all needs and requirements.

Including

- Type of degree
- Course content
- Assessment
- Entry requirements
- Employability prospects
- Student satisfaction
- University/ Employer location
- Additional influences

Phase 1 *Interaction*

Students will be recommended to begin interacting with universities and employers. This could be attending a virtual university taster session, a university open day or an apprenticeship or careers fair.

We have arranged for Year 12 to visit the ExCel Centre on Monday 14th March 2022. The focus of the trip is to ensure our students have an opportunity to investigate courses and speak with representatives from universities, colleges and employment.

Phase 2 *Personal Statement*

From Tuesday 15th March students should begin writing a Personal Statement.

This is an important part of the UCAS application. It's your chance to describe your ambitions, skills and experience. It's your chance to show what makes you unique, besides your birth name and UCAS ID. Employers will ask for something similar.

Students will work with their form tutor and begin structuring a first draft of a Personal Statement. This first draft is due before the summer break.

Phase 3 *Application*

University applications open from 15 September 2022

Key dates for 2022 UK university entry

Before beginning your application it is important to familiarise yourself with key UCAS deadlines. Some universities (Cambridge and Oxford) and courses (medicine, veterinary medicine and dentistry) have much earlier deadlines and it is important you are fully aware of those which impact on your application.

Important UCAS Deadlines

- 15 October 2022 - All courses at Cambridge and Oxford and most medicine, veterinary medicine and dentistry courses at all other institutions.
- 26 January 2023 - All other undergraduate courses for EU students.



Researching Next Steps

The UCAS logo is displayed within a light gray square. It consists of the letters 'UCAS' in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The letter 'A' is replaced by a red upward-pointing chevron.The unifrog logo is displayed within a light gray square. It features the word 'unifrog' in a lowercase, rounded, green sans-serif font.

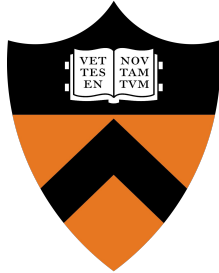
Dedicate at least ONE p6 session a week to Next Steps.
Begin generating a list of 20- 30 courses that possibly interest you!



February - Coaching Sessions

Gain further advice and guidance from the Sixth Form team in smaller groups.

“How to begin shortlisting your options”



UCAS Exhibition Trip

Monday 14th March 2022 - Coaches from SBAS to Excel Centre in London



How to write a Personal Statement

Simon Balle All-through School | How to write a personal statement



The personal statement is an important part of the UCAS application. It's your chance to describe your ambitions, skills, and experience. It's your chance to show what makes you unique, besides your birth name and UCAS ID.

What to write about:

The structure for your personal statement should be:

70% - Why you are applying – your ambitions and what interests you about the subject, course providers and higher education.

30% - What makes you suitable – skills, experience or achievements gained from education, work or other activities.

ABC
Activity. Benefit. Course.

Structure: If there's one key point to remember when writing your personal statement, remember the letters ABC!

Activity, Benefit, Course! Universities want to see examples of experiences, the transferable skills you have obtained and how you plan to develop these skills at university.

A.

Activity - Describe an area that you have taken part in. This could be academic, extracurricular, reading, work experience etc.

B.

Benefit - Explain what impact this has had on you. How has it improved you? What are the transferable skills you've acquired by doing this activity? For example, leadership, communication or self-motivation skills.

C.

Course - Relate the experience back to the course and how this will improve your appeal.

Remember: The word limit for your personal statement is 47 lines, or 4000 characters.

Phase Two

Structuring your personal statement.

1. Open with why you want to study the chosen subject

2. Demonstrate your interest in the subject. This section is **VERY** important.

3. Relate what you are currently studying to your chosen degree.

4. Show you have the qualities required to cope with the demands of studying at university.

5. Close with a final thought.

Introduction

Opening WOW!

An enthusiastic explanation of why you want to study the course.

Your career aspirations and how the course will help you to fulfill these.

You and the subject.

Detail aspects of the subject that particularly interest you. Examples of any work experience relative to the course you have applied for.

Subject related experiences you have gained outside of the classroom.

Highlight your further reading outside of the syllabus content.

The wider you.

Other interests. What do you do that you are proud of sharing with an admission tutor?

Detail experiences that highlight your personality, skills and commitment.

What are your recent achievements?

Where have you gone above and beyond to help or support others?

Why is university the correct next step for you?

Clear confirmation that you have the commitment and ability to achieve your programme.

What skills and qualities you can use to support your studies.

Evidence of being hardworking.

Summary.

Bring your statement to a conclusion.

What can you bring to that subject?

Why is this subject right for you?



Your Super-curricular

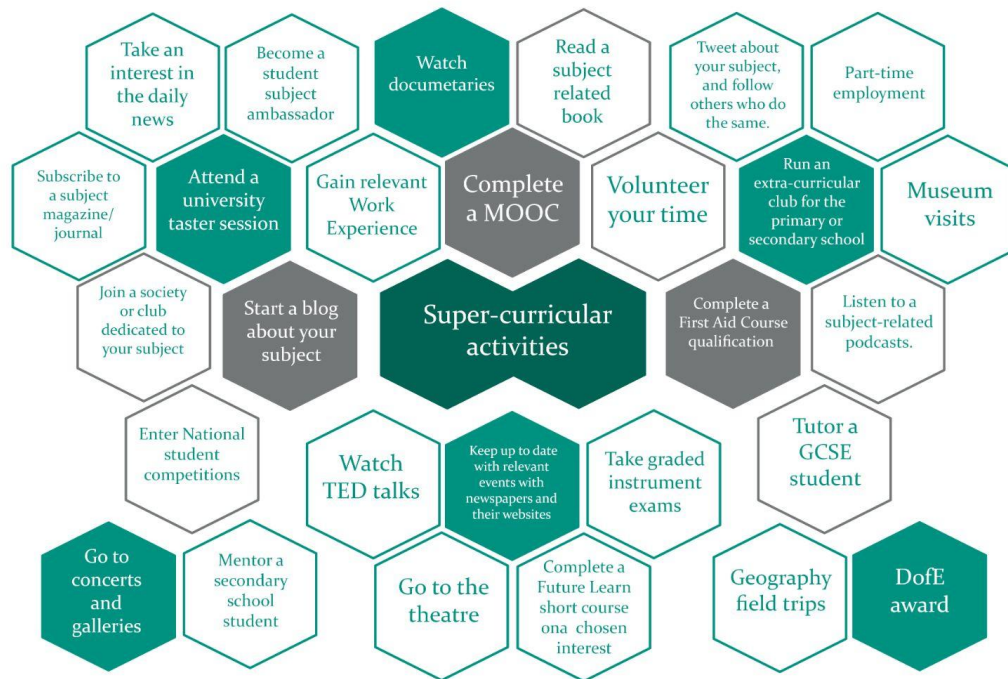
How do you spend your time?
What are your interests and passions?
What are your recent achievements?
What are you proud of?
What makes you interesting?

As an A Level student it is vital to not only progress academically but also to continue your personal and progression growth and development.

From January of Year 12, we recommend you engage with super-curricular activities that extend your learning and build further understanding of your chosen pathway outside of your course syllabus.

This involvement will help you gain new skills, shape your interests and offer you an opportunity to evidence experiences that can be shared with a university or employer in your personal statement.

We recommended you participate or experience at least 2 or 3 of the following super-curricular activities from January to September.



Work Experience

This will be completed by all Year 12 students on
4TH - 8TH JULY 2022



What can you start doing now?

1

**Research courses/
apprenticeships using
UCAS or Unifrog.**

**Explore all options.
Generate a list.**

2

**Begin seeking a Work
Experience placement**

3

**Talk to your parents/
guardians.**

