



## *Higher Education Application Process*

# Claires Court

Sixth Form 2023/24



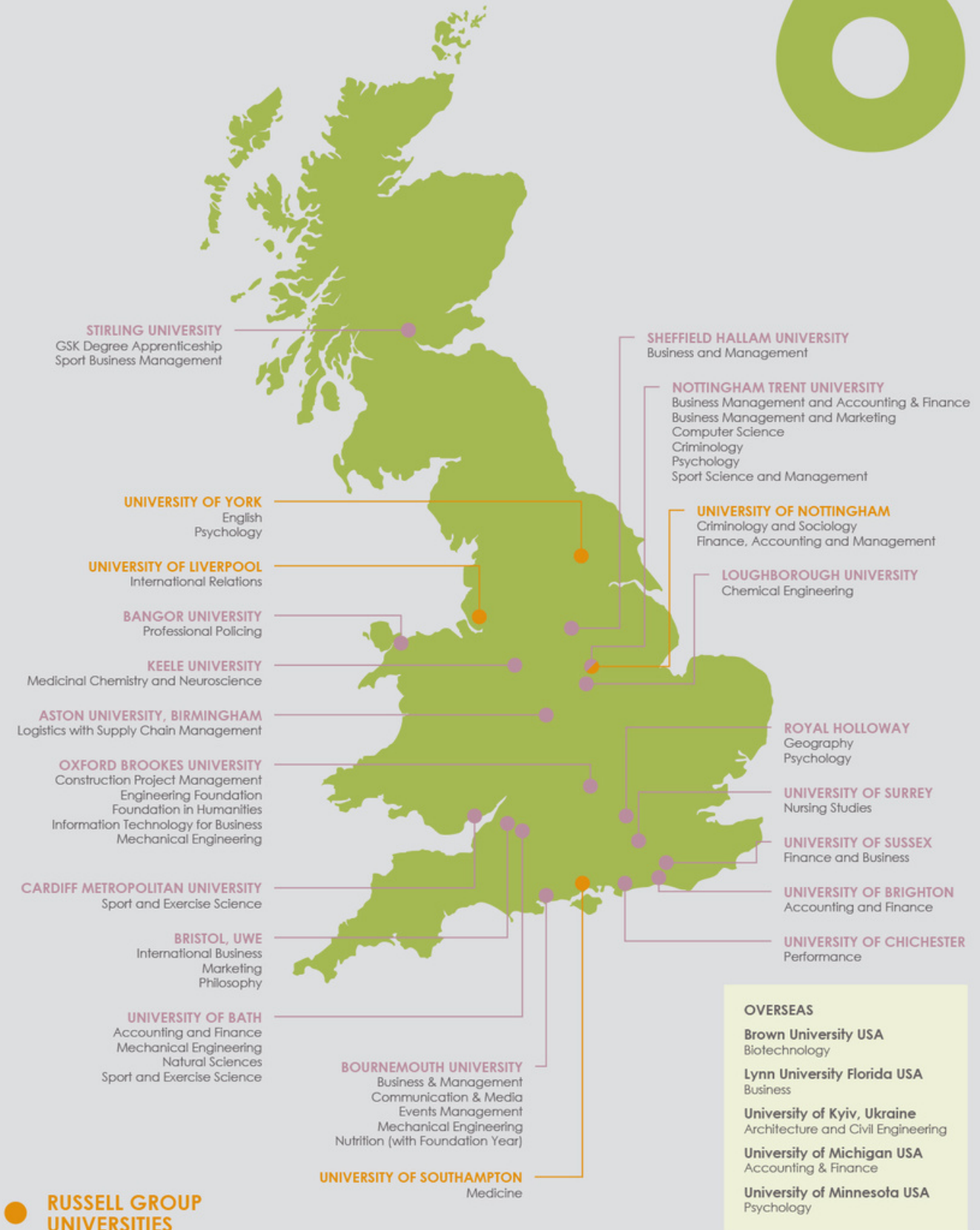
# Higher Education Guide 2023/2024

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# CLAIRES COURT SIXTH FORM STUDENT DESTINATIONS 2022



# HIGHER EDUCATION APPLICATION PROCESS

UCAS AND ART FOUNDATION

## MARCH

UCAS HIGHER EDUCATION EXHIBITION

## APRIL ONWARDS

OPEN DAYS

## MAY ONWARDS

TASTER DAYS

## JUNE

HIGHER EDUCATION EVENT

## JULY

'FUTURE FOCUS'

COURSE SELECTION

FIRST DRAFT OF PERSONAL STATEMENT

UCAS REGISTRATION

REGISTER FOR ADMISSIONS TESTS

LNAT, BMAT, UKCAT

## SUMMER

WORK EXPERIENCE

VOLUNTEERING

## SEPTEMBER

YEAR 13 INTERNAL EXAMS  
(INFORM UCAS PREDICTIONS)

## OCTOBER

EARLY APPLICATION DEADLINE  
(OXBRIDGE,  
VETERINARY, MEDICINE,  
DENTISTRY)

## END OF NOVEMBER

DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS



## What are my options?

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- Do I want to go to university?
- Should I consider taking a gap year?
- Would a degree apprenticeship suit me better?
- Do I want to continue with a subject I have studied in Sixth Form?
- Can I see myself continuing with study for the next 3 or 4 years?
- What am I good at and what do I enjoy?
- Would I prefer to begin studying something new?
- Do I hope to follow a career that requires me to take a specialised course?
- Will my expected academic performance match the likely demands of the course I am interested in?

If you do want to go to university you should now consider your course options.

- Career related subjects – e.g. medicine, veterinary science, dentistry, engineering, accountancy, law, architecture and pharmacy
- Familiar subjects – which you may have studied in Sixth Form
- New subjects which you have not studied at school, e.g. criminology, anthropology

Subjects may be studied as Single Honours, as Joint Honours in equal combination with another subject e.g. Law and French, or as part of a Combined Honours degree with several subjects. Degrees typically last three or four years full-time and allow you to enter graduate professions. On some courses, you can take up an industrial placement or option to study abroad.

You may take a Foundation Degree which takes one or two years and acts as a springboard onto a full degree course. Art foundation courses are especially popular.

## UCAS - All you need to know

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You should enter five course choices on your UCAS application.

If you are applying for medicine, dentistry or veterinary science you are limited to four course choices plus one additional choice of a course in another subject. You must apply by **16 October 2023** for courses at Oxford or Cambridge University, or for courses in Medicine, Dentistry or Veterinary Science.

The Claires Court deadline for all other courses is **30 November 2023**.

The UCAS deadline is **31 January 2024**. If you send in your application after the deadline but before 30 June 2024, the university may still consider your application.

The standard application fee is £27.50 for a maximum of 5 choices.

You can visit the UCAS Higher Education Exhibition in March which is held at a local university. There you can discuss courses of interest with university admissions representatives and gather prospectuses for further research. You will also be able to attend subject based lectures.

The UCAS Hub [www.ucas.com/dashboard#/](http://www.ucas.com/dashboard#/) is invaluable. Use the Hub to search for courses and apprenticeships. There are many informative videos on there to help with every aspect of the application process.

## Where to study

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You can apply through UCAS to over 300 Higher Education institutions and 50,000 courses across the UK.

Consider the following:

- Entry requirements
- Location
- Campus or non-campus
- Size of university
- Number of contact hours
- Facilities
- Accommodation
- Reputation
- Quality of course teaching – how the course is taught and assessed
- Status of university
- Employability of graduates
- Number of student places on particular courses
- Cost of living
- Financial support e.g. bursaries and scholarships
- Social life

## Academic requirements

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Entry requirements may be expressed as specific grades (e.g. BBC at A Level), or as a target number of UCAS tariff points (e.g. 112 points).

For BTEC students entry requirements will be expressed as Pass, Merit, Distinction or Distinction\* (a typical offer will be DDM).

The UCAS Tariff:

- Is a points system to report achievement for entry to universities
- Gives numerical value to qualifications
- Allows comparisons between applicants with different types of achievement

Here are a few general rules to help you calculate your tariff total:

- Points can be aggregated from different qualifications
- There is no double counting – students cannot count the same or similar qualification twice

A Level

Official title: Advanced GCE

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

AS Level

Official title: Advanced Subsidiary GCE

Grade	Tariff points
A	20
B	16
C	12
D	10
E	6

## Pearson BTEC Extended Diploma (QCF)

Grade	Tariff points
D*D*D*	168
D*D*D	160
D*DD	152
DDD	144
DDM	128
DMM	112
MMM	96
MMP	80
MPP	64
PPP	48

## Pearson BTEC Diploma (QCF)

Grade	Tariff points
D*D*	112
D*D	104
DD	96
DM	80
MM	64
MP	48
PP	32



Level Grade	UCAS Tariff Points	Extended Diploma	UCAS Tariff Points	Diploma	UCAS Tariff Points	Extended Certificate	UCAS Tariff Points
A*	56	D*D*D*	168	D*D*	112	D*	56
A	48	D*D*D	160	D*D	104	D	48
B	40	D*DD	152	DD	96	M	32
C	32	DDD	144	DM	80	P	16
D	24	DDM	128	MM	64		
E	16	DMM	112	MP	48		
		MMM	96	PP	32		
		MMP	80				
		MPP	64				
		PPP	48				

Here are a few dos and do nots to make sure that the final five courses you select are right for you:

### DO

- Carefully check the required entry grades, **including GCSEs** and qualifications on the UCAS website
- Be realistic about the grades you are likely to achieve
- Make sure you apply to courses with a range of required grades

### DO NOT

- Apply to five institutions that all demand high grades
- Apply for lots of different subjects – you will not be able to justify this in your personal statement

## UCAS application

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You will already have registered for the UCAS Hub. Applications are live on there from the end of May and you will be advised by school when you can begin your application.

### Writing your personal statement

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This section is crucial because it is the only part of the application where you have the chance to select and emphasise points about yourself and explain to admissions officers why you are interested in your chosen course.

Personal statements submitted via 'Apply' have a maximum of 4000 characters on 47 lines – so think carefully about what you want to say in the limited space provided.

Organise your statement into themed sections covering:

- Reasons for course choice including interest and knowledge
- Relate academic skills to chosen course
- Independent study (EPQ) and going beyond the curriculum
- Relevant work experience
- Extra-curricular interests, leadership and volunteering roles
- Details of achievements such as Duke of Edinburgh Award
- Career aspirations if vocational

Your personal statement must be written by you and not copied from another source. UCAS runs all applications through plagiarism software that looks for matches.

## Selection and interviews

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Admissions tutors are looking for students who:

- Have academic potential
- Are independent learners
- Are curious
- Can cope with the demands of the course
- Are aware of the level of work required
- Are likely to accept
- Will make a contribution

They may be able to glean much of this information from your personal statement but some will use interviews to help them decide which applicants to make an offer to.

What sort of questions might you be asked?

- Why this course?
- Why this university?
- What can you bring to the university?
- What particularly interests you?
- What additional reading and research have you done?
- Topical issues related to your chosen subject
- Anything you mention in your personal statement

It is wise to have considered how you might respond to such questions. Top tips for interviews:

- Dress smartly and smile
- Make eye contact and be attentive
- Show your genuine interest in your chosen course
- Always have one or two prepared questions of your own about the course
- Read your personal statement

## Offers

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Your UCAS application will be submitted by the end of November. UCAS will acknowledge your application and confirm the courses you have applied for – you must check the information is correct and contact UCAS immediately if it is not.

UCAS will forward your application to the relevant universities. Universities will then inform UCAS of their decisions. These decisions may be emailed to you directly but generally, they are visible in 'Track', so check this regularly.

Decisions will arrive in random order. There are three main decisions:

- U: **Unconditional offer** - no further qualifications are required. If you accept this offer then you are in
- C: **Conditional offer** - still some work to do... but if you accept the offer and achieve the grades a place is guaranteed
- REJ: **Unsuccessful** – sorry– no place for you

Once you have received decisions from all five institutions you will be asked to reply. You reply on 'Track' using one of the three options below:

- F: **Firm acceptance** – your first choice university
- I: **Insurance Acceptance** – this is your fall-back in case your grades are too low for your firm acceptance
- D: **Decline**: not for you
- W: **Withdraw**- before offer made

You may accept a maximum of two offers (one firm and one insurance).

## Finances

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There are two main costs of attending university:

1. Annual tuition fees remain at a maximum of £9,250 in 2024.
2. Living expenses which cover the cost of accommodation, food, clothes, travel and learning resources, as well as leisure and social activities.

However, financial support is available from the government to assist with paying your fees and your living costs.

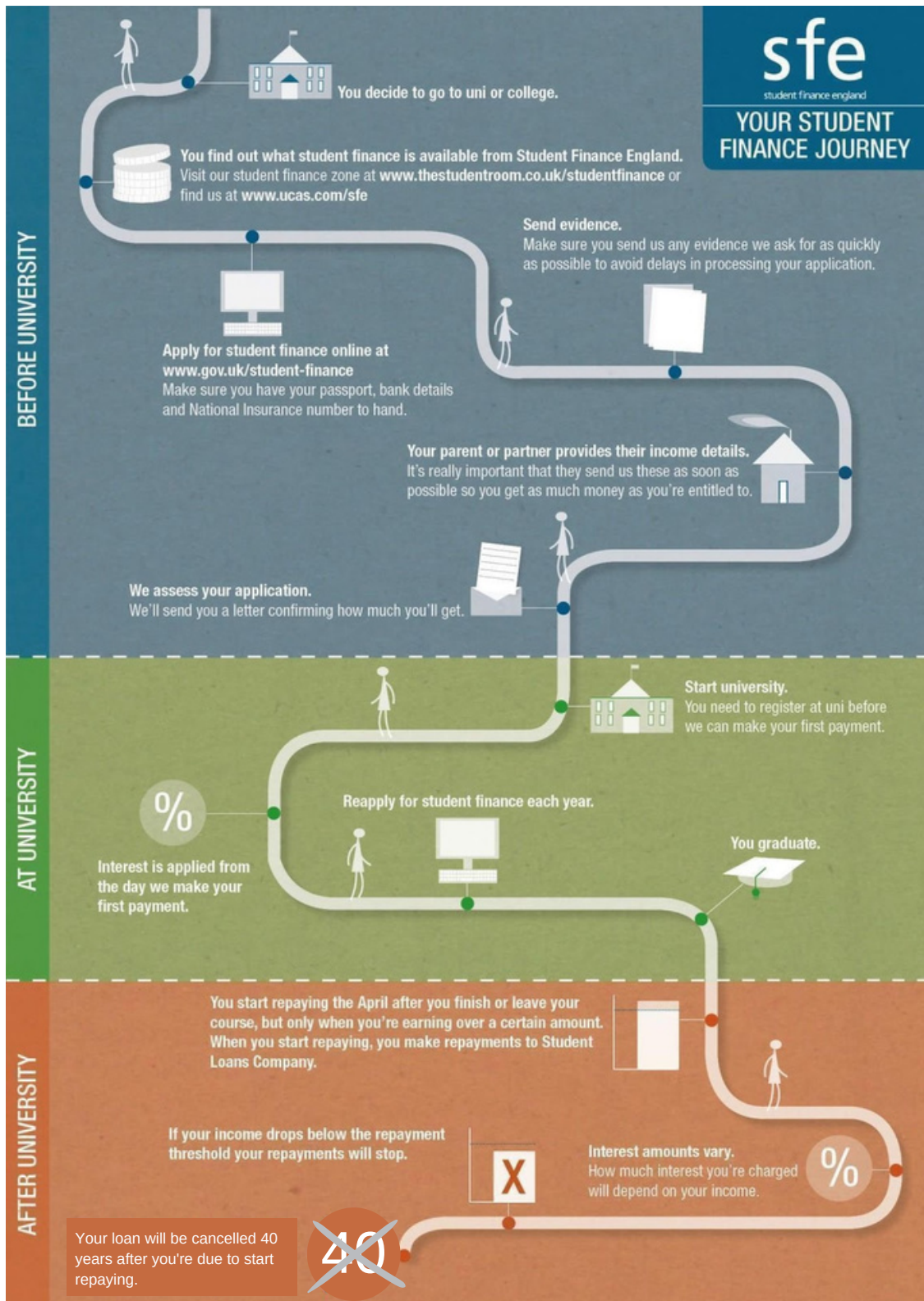
It is important to note that UK students do not need to pay their fees up front. Student loans can be used to pay for your tuition fees and a maintenance loan is available to cover your living costs while you are studying. You only have to start repaying the loans from the following April once you have graduated and are earning an annual salary of more than £25,000 (from April 2026). You pay 9% of your earnings over this figure. For example, the annual repayments on a salary of £30,000 would be £450pa. Any debt outstanding after 40 years will be written off.

The student loans company is wholly owned by the government and administers grants and loans. It also pays your tuition fee direct to the university when you apply for a tuition fee loan. Interest is charged on your loan while you are studying. Until you start repaying the loan, interest is charged at the rate of inflation plus 3%.

Like tuition fee loans, maintenance loans are available to help with living costs for each year of the course. The amount you get depends on where you live and study and your household income. All students are eligible for at least a partial maintenance loan. The current maximum maintenance loan entitlement for 2023/24 is £9,978 outside London, £13,022 in London and £8,400 if you live at home. It is paid in three instalments directly to you.

Other financial awards may be available including scholarships and bursaries. Contact the student advice centre at your chosen university for additional information, or look on their website. Sponsored degrees may also be of interest.

# Student Finance - A guide to making your application



## Gap year information

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A gap 'year' may last for a matter of weeks or months but should include a meaningful experience.

### Why take a gap year?

- To gain wider experience before going to university or entering the job market
- An opportunity for meaningful volunteering roles
- To develop further transferable skills

### What to do:

- Expeditions
- Structured work experience
- Voluntary work
- Educational courses

### What to think about:

- Funding
- Deciding when to start – some projects have specific start and finish dates

### What do you want to get out of the year?

- Enhance your education
- Experience different cultures
- Helping others
- Improve your chances of getting a job or university place

### What to do now:

- Research gap year providers
- Check for non-profit and profit making organisations
- Consider personal safety including vaccinations, visas etc

## Applying to American universities

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### Applying:

- Start this process early
- Plan adequately for the time and effort involved
- Make a calendar of deadlines to track what you need to do and by when
- Start early, plan ahead, and know the application requirements
- Application packages require a great deal of preparation and planning
- In the USA, application requirements can vary greatly from one institution to another. Check the specific requirements on the website of each institution's international admissions office
- Undergraduate applications are typically due between November and January to enroll the following autumn

### Things to know:

- Unlike UCAS, you apply to each US university separately
- Over 600 US institutions use the Common Application, an online portal to help you manage each application
- Universities will have their own application deadlines, fees and requirements
- You apply to the university, college or school as an undergraduate, not to a specific degree
- Offers of admission are not specifically conditional - if they admit you, they expect you to continue working towards your current level, but won't specify required grades

For further information follow this link: [www.fullbright.co.uk](http://www.fullbright.co.uk)



# Applying to universities in the European Union

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From 1 January 2022

You may need to pay different fee rates as a non-EU third-country national if you're planning to study your whole degree course at a university in an EU member state.

You should contact the relevant Higher Education provider in the EU member state you are going to so that you can check:

- What fees you may have to pay
- If there is any financial support available for students from the UK
- If there are any funding schemes, bursaries or scholarships you can apply for

Useful information can be found:

- Gov.uk - Study in the European Union  
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/study-in-the-european-union>
- Study In Europe - a guide for UK students  
<https://www.savethestudent.org/study-abroad/uk-study-in-europe-university.html>
- EUNICAS - the EU equivalent of UCAS  
<https://www.eunicas.ie/>

## UCAS timeline

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<b>June 2023</b>	Choose courses and universities. Register online with UCAS. Faculty workshops on writing personal statements. First draft of the personal statement submitted. Study abroad. Work experience.
<b>September 2023</b>	Continue attending Open Days. Update UCAS application with course choices. Refine personal statement.
<b>October 2023</b>	16 October deadline for all applications to Oxbridge, Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Medicine. University Interviews – presentation by Jane Marshall. Continue work on personal statement.
<b>November 2023</b>	Mock interviews with Jane Marshall. End of November deadline for Claires Court applications.
<b>January 2024</b>	31 January UCAS deadline for all applications.
<b>April/May 2024</b>	Accept offers (Firm and Insurance). Complete Student Finance. Complete Accommodation.
<b>June 2024</b>	Applications received after 30 June are entered into Clearing.
<b>August 2024</b>	A Level and BTEC results and confirmation of university place.

## Resources

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Here are some useful websites to help you get started:

- [www.opendays.com](http://www.opendays.com)
- [www.theuniguide.co.uk](http://www.theuniguide.co.uk)
- [www.push.co.uk](http://www.push.co.uk)
- [www.ucas.com/instit](http://www.ucas.com/instit)
- [www.prospects.ac.uk](http://www.prospects.ac.uk)
- [www.whatuni.com](http://www.whatuni.com)
- [www.timeshighereducation.com/student/best-universities/best-universities-uk](http://www.timeshighereducation.com/student/best-universities/best-universities-uk)
- [www.discoveruni.gov.uk](http://www.discoveruni.gov.uk)
- [www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk](http://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk)



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