



CLAIRES COURT  
SIXTH FORM



# Higher Education Application *Process*

2025-2026

# Higher Education Guide

## 2025/2026

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# Higher Student Destinations

## 2023 / 2024

**1 – UNIVERSITY OF KENT**  
Business & Management

**2 – RAVENSBOURNE UNIVERSITY, LONDON**  
Fashion

**3 – CITY, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON**  
Media, Communication and Sociology

**4 – UNIVERSITY OF WEST LONDON**  
Future Food and Culinary  
Management

**5 – UNIVERSITY OF GREENWICH**  
Criminology and Criminal Justice

**6 – UCL (UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON)**  
Psychology and Language Sciences

**7 – POINT BLANK MUSIC SCHOOL**  
Music Production

**8 – ST MARY'S UNIVERSITY, TWICKENHAM**  
Sports Coaching Science

**9 – UNIVERSITY OF BRIGHTON**  
Creative Writing  
Philosophy, Politics, Ethics  
Social Science

**10 – UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX**  
Politics and International Relations

**11 – UNIVERSITY OF CHICHESTER**  
Sport and Exercise Science  
(Performance Sailing)

**12 – UNIVERSITY OF SURREY**  
Sport and Exercise Science  
(with Foundation)  
Psychology

**13 – ROYAL HOLLOWAY**  
Management with Human Resources  
Biology with Integrated Foundation Year  
Business and Management (Year in Business)  
History  
Management with International Business

**14 – UNIVERSITY OF READING**  
Law  
Applied Psychology (Clinical)  
Business and Management  
Philosophy Business & Ethics

**15 – UNIVERSITY OF PORTSMOUTH**  
Environmental Science

**16 – UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHAMPTON**  
Psychology  
Aeronautics and Astronautics  
Business Management  
Law  
Business Management (with Placement)  
Biomedical Sciences

**17 – AMERSHAM & WYCOMBE  
COLLEGE / PINWOOD**  
Set and Prop Making

**18 – BOURNEMOUTH UNIVERSITY**  
Events Management with  
Foundation  
Television Production  
Sport Management  
Media Production  
Television Production

**19 – ARTS UNIVERSITY BOURNEMOUTH**  
Interior Architecture and Design

**20 – UNIVERSITY OF PLYMOUTH**  
Product and Furniture Design

**21 – UNIVERSITY OF EXETER**  
Mechanical Engineering  
Medical Sciences  
Neuroscience  
Exercise and Sport Sciences  
Flexible Combined Honours  
Communications  
Accounting and Finance

**22 – BATH SPA UNIVERSITY**  
Acting  
Geography (Human)

**23 – UNIVERSITY OF BATH**  
Computer Science & Artificial Intelligence MComp  
International Development with Economics  
Physics  
Sport (Sports Performance)  
Sport Management and Coaching

**24 – NORLAND**  
Early Childhood Education and Care

**25 – UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL**  
Environmental Geoscience

**26 – UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST OF ENGLAND**  
iBusiness (Team Entrepreneurship)  
Drama and Acting

**27 – OXFORD BROOKES UNIVERSITY**  
Art Foundation  
Computing Foundation  
Law  
Psychology  
Real Estate

**28 – ROYAL AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY**  
Real Estate with Foundation Year

**29 – UNIVERSITY OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE**  
Music Business (with Placement)

**30 – CARDIFF UNIVERSITY**  
Business Management (with Placement)  
Financial Mathematics  
Media, Journalism and Culture  
Psychology (with Placement)

**31 – CARDIFF METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY**  
Sports Coaching (with Foundation)  
Sport and Exercise Science

**32 – SWANSEA UNIVERSITY**  
Chemistry (with Foundation)  
Geography (with a Year in Industry)  
Mechanical Engineering (with Placement)  
Sport & Exercise Science (with Year Abroad)

**33 – UNIVERSITY COLLEGE BIRMINGHAM**  
Marketing Management

**34 – UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM**  
History and Politics  
Economics and Politics  
Physical Sciences

**35 – ASTON UNIVERSITY, BIRMINGHAM**  
Logistics with Supply Chain Management

**36 – UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER**  
Biological Sciences (Neuroscience)

**37 – LOUGHBOROUGH UNIVERSITY**  
Sport and Exercise Psychology  
(with placement)

**38 – UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM**  
Electrical and Electronic Engineering  
Religion, Philosophy and Ethics  
Geography BA  
Mathematics  
English and French

### OTHER DESTINATIONS

- Gap Year – 14
- Apprenticeship – 4
- College – 1
- Full-Time Employment – 4
- Overseas Education – 2

 Russell Group Universities

**53 – QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY, BELFAST**  
Philosophy

**52 – STIRLING UNIVERSITY**  
GSK Degree Apprenticeship  
Sport Business Management

**51 – UNIVERSITY OF STRATHCLYDE**  
Business Enterprise & Finance

**50 – NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY**  
Psychology

**49 – LANCASTER UNIVERSITY**  
English Literature and Creative Writing

**48 – UNIVERSITY OF YORK**  
Chemistry

**47 – SHEFFIELD HALLAM UNIVERSITY**  
Business and Management

**46 – LEEDS ARTS UNIVERSITY**  
Art Foundation

**45 – UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD**  
Mechanical Engineering (with Industrial Placement)

**44 – MANCHESTER METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY**  
Sports Business Management

**43 – LIVERPOOL INSTITUTE FOR  
PERFORMING ARTS**  
Sound Technology

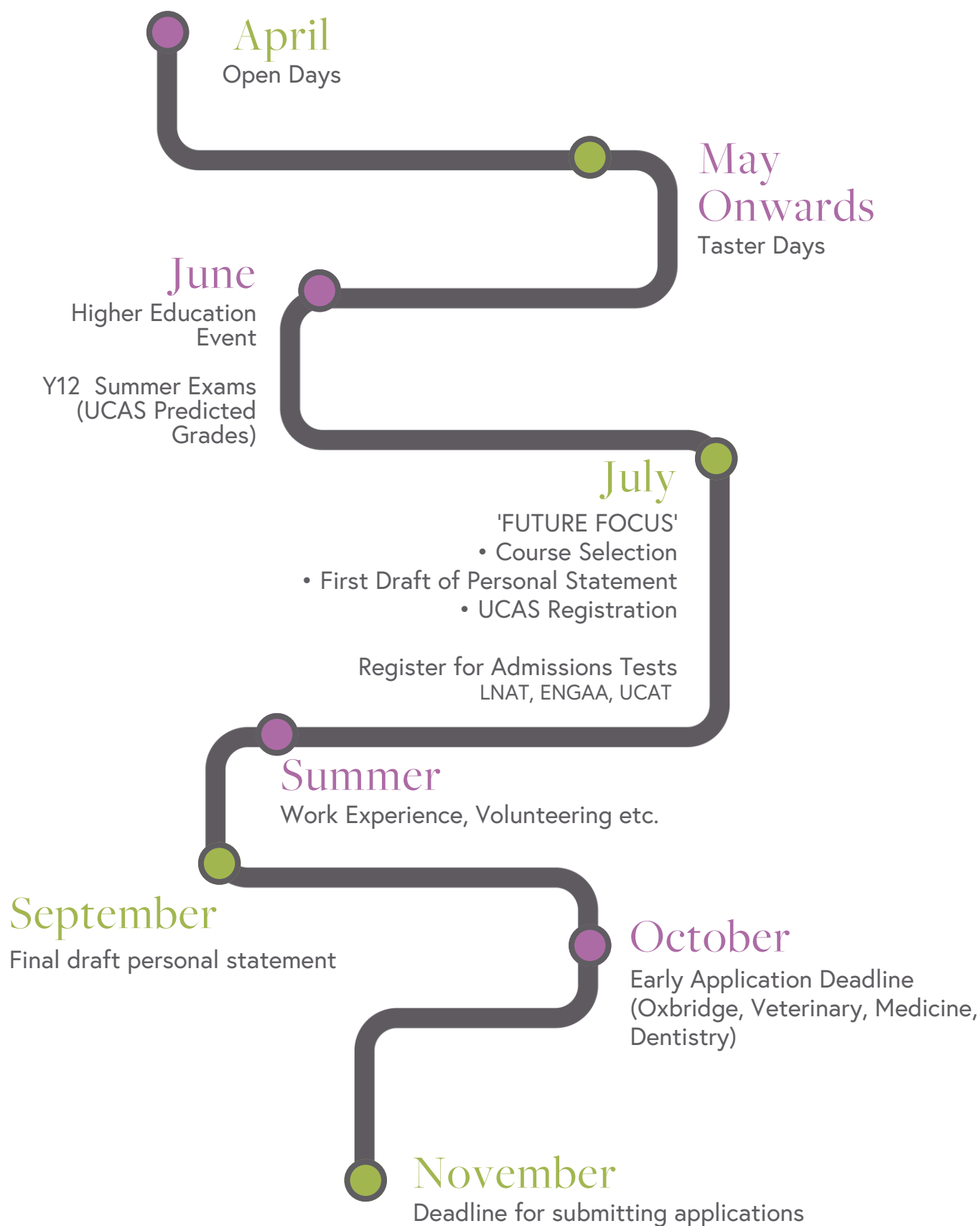
**42 – UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL**  
English  
Philosophy

**41 – BANGOR UNIVERSITY**  
Professional Policing

**40 – KEELE UNIVERSITY**  
Medicinal Chemistry and Neuroscience

**39 – NOTTINGHAM TRENT UNIVERSITY**  
Sport and Exercise Science  
Journalism  
Real Estate  
Media Production  
Business Management and Economics  
Economics with International Finance and Banking  
Aerospace Engineering  
Paramedic Science  
Sport Science and Management  
Politics and International Relations  
Economics with International Finance and Banking  
Sport Science and Management  
Business

# Higher Education Application Process







# Things for You To Consider

- 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

### **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 15 October 2025 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 28 November 2025.**

The UCAS deadline is 29 January 2026. If you send in your application after the deadline but before 30 June 2026, the university may still consider your application.

### **The standard application fee is £28.95 for a maximum of 5 choices.**

You can visit the UCAS Higher Education Exhibition in June 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](http://www.ucas.com) 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

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

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 Diploma (QCF)

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

### 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



Level Grade	UCAS Tariff Points	Extended Diploma	UCAS Tariff Point	Diploma	UCAS Tariff Point	Extended Certificate	UCAS Tariff Point
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

## Your application

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 4,000 characters on 47 lines answering three questions.

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 helpful?

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.

Find the "Writing a Personal Statement Guide" [here](#)



# Selections and Interviews

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 offered

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

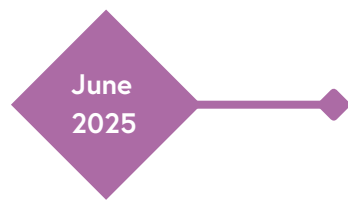
You may accept a maximum of two offers (one firm and one insurance).





# UCAS Timeline

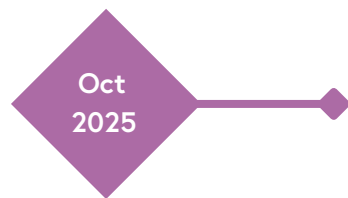
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Choose courses and universities.  
Register online with UCAS.  
Faculty workshops on writing personal statements.  
First draft of the personal statement submitted.  
Study abroad.  
Work experience.



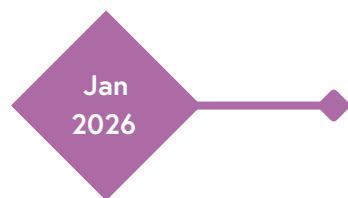
Continue attending Open Days.  
Update UCAS application with course choices.  
Refine personal statement.



15 October deadline for all applications to Oxbridge, Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Medicine.  
University Interviews – presentation by Jane Marshall.  
Finalise personal statement.



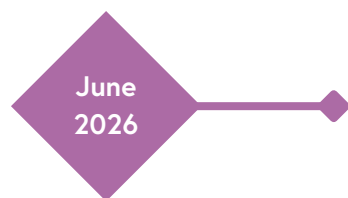
Mock interviews.  
End of November deadline for Claires Court applications.



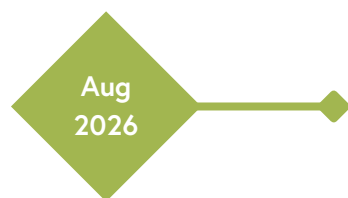
29 January UCAS deadline for all applications.



Accept offers (firm and insurance).  
Complete student finance.  
Complete accommodation.



Applications received after 30 June are entered into Clearing.



A Level and BTEC results and confirmation of university place.

# Student Finance

**There are two main costs of attending university:**

1. Annual tuition fees are at a maximum of £9,535 in 2026.
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.

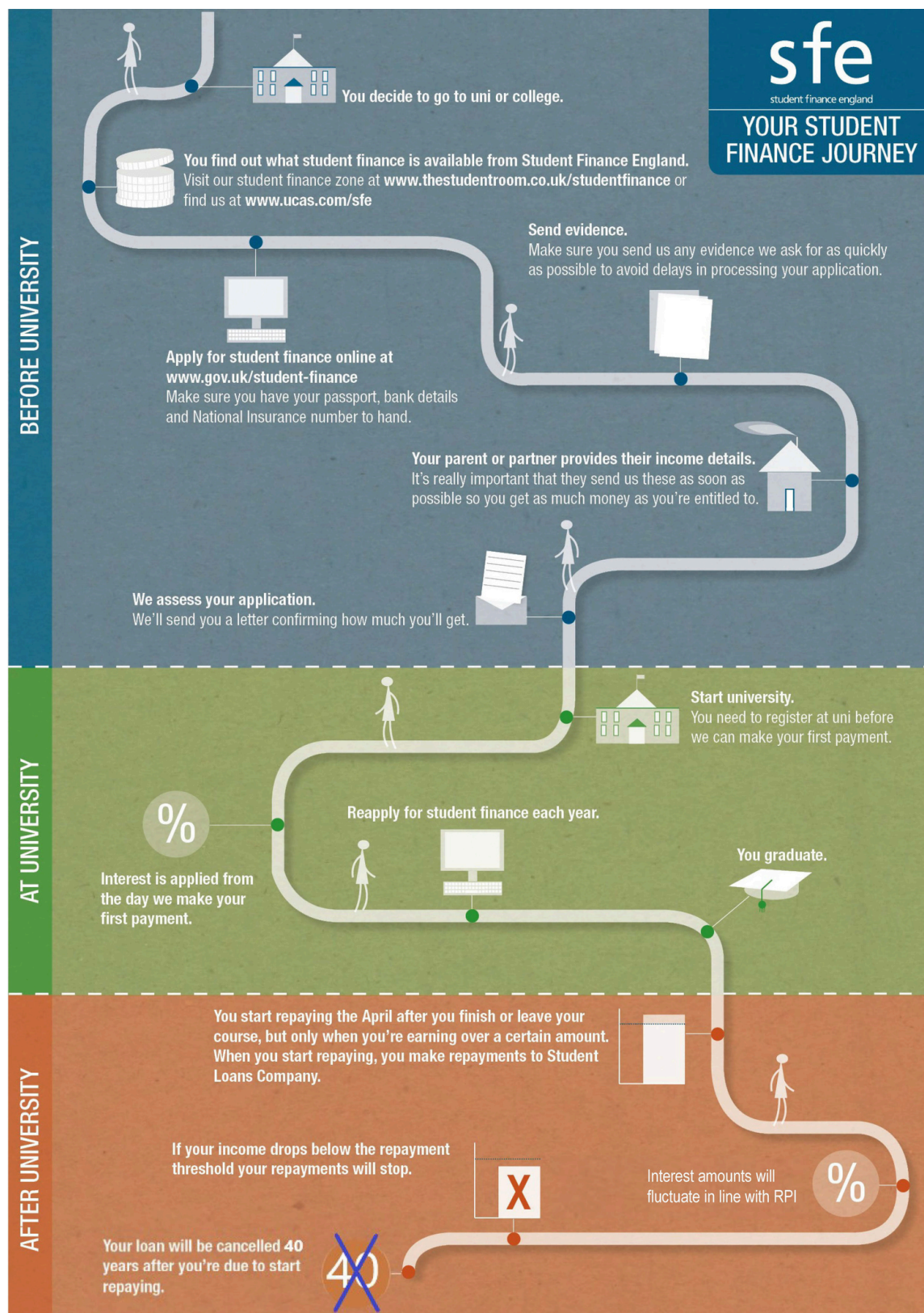
It is important to note that UK students do not need to pay their fees up front. Student loans can be used to pay for your tuition fees and a maintenance loan is available to cover your living costs while you are studying. You only have to start repaying the loans from the following April once you have graduated and are earning an annual salary of more than £25,000 (frozen until 2027/28). 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 known as RPI. 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 2025/6 is £10,554 outside London, £13,762 in London and £8,877 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.

# A guide to making your application





# Gap Year Information

## Why take a gap year?

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

- 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 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 think about:

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

### What to do now:

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



# Studying Abroad

## 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

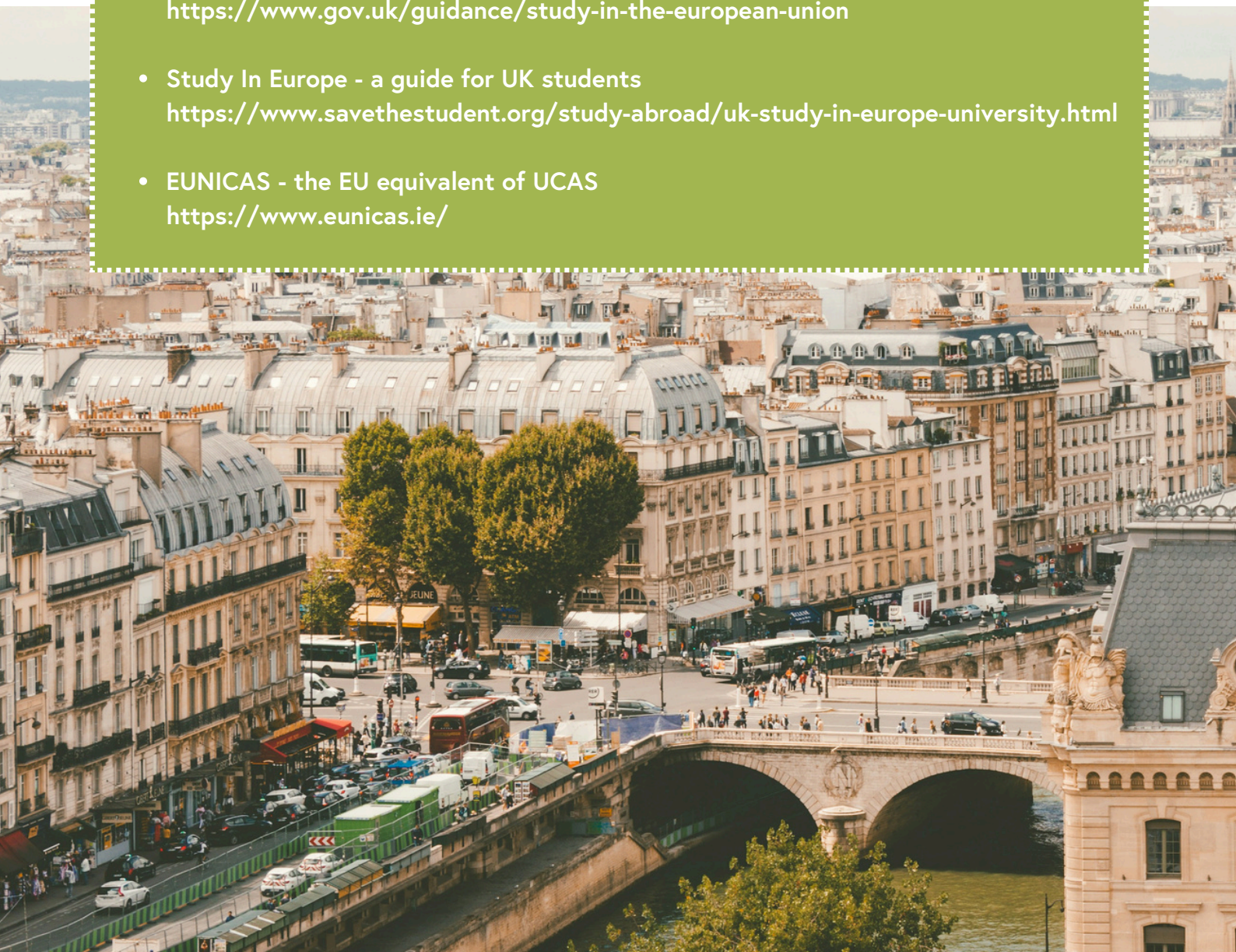
You may need to pay different fee rates as a non-EU third-country national if you're planning to study your whole degree course at a university in an EU member state.

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.savesthestudent.org/study-abroad/uk-study-in-europe-university.html>
- EUNICAS - the EU equivalent of UCAS  
<https://www.eunicas.ie/>







## Resources

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Here are some useful websites to help you get started:

- [www.whatuni.com](http://www.whatuni.com)
- [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.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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