

UCAS Keynote

Ellie Rowley, Fair Access Programme Lead

UCAS



January Equal Consideration Deadline Stats



594,940 total applicants (-0.3%)



479,210 total UK applicants (-0.5%)



316,850 18 year old applicants (+0.7%)



65,450 21 year old+ applicants decline (-5.2%)

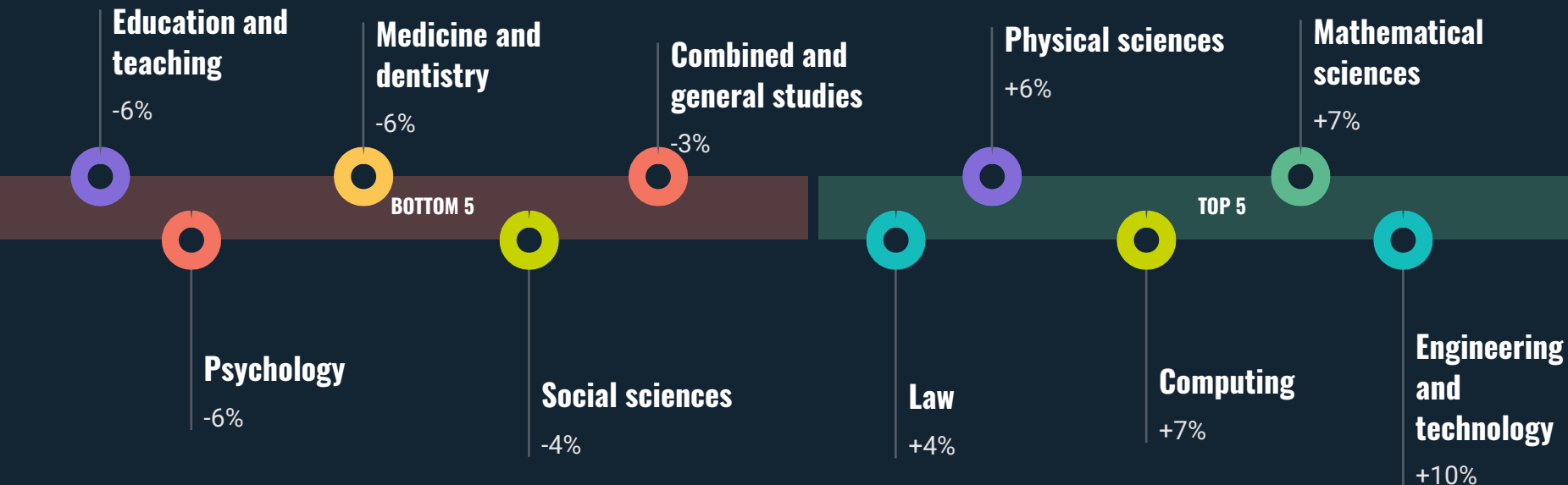


115,730 International applicants (+0.7%)

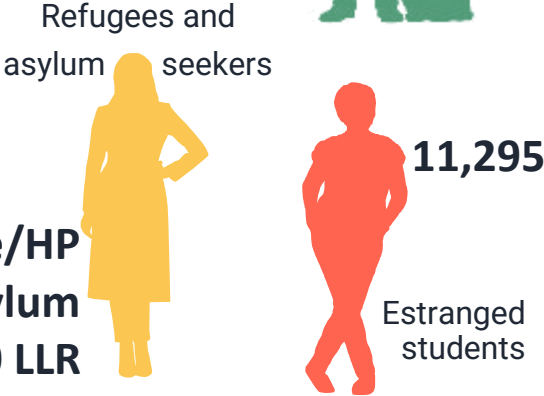
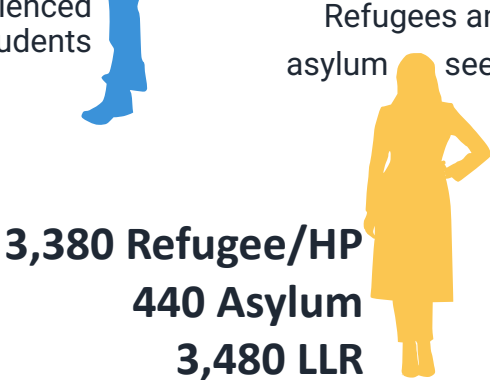
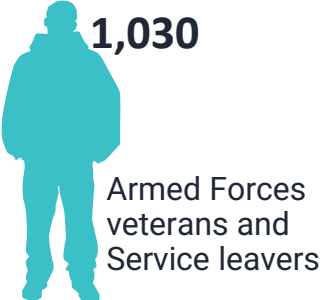
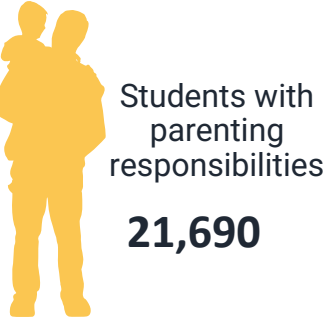
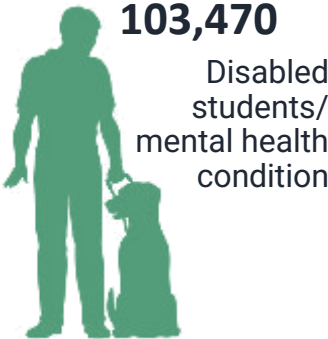
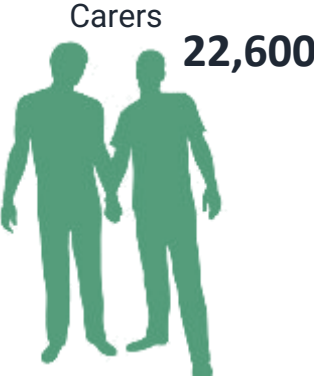
Second highest number of UK 18 year old applicants on record apply

Subject applications – Stem in demand

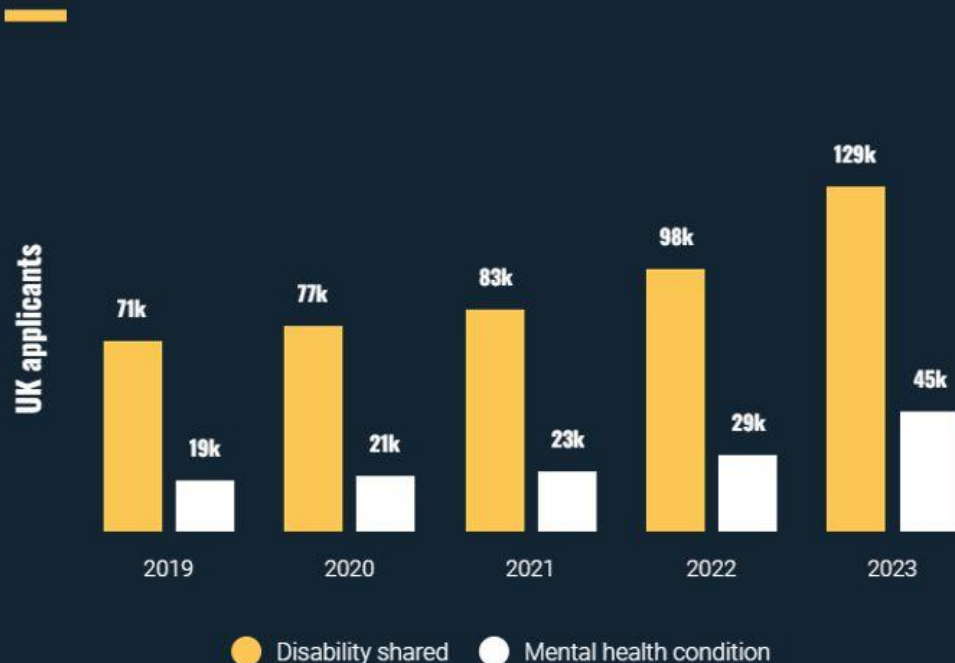
Top 5 and bottom 5 percentage changes in applications by CAH1 subject grouping



Questions in the application to identify:



DISABILITY AND MENTAL HEALTH INCREASE



The wording of the disability and mental health question was updated for the 2023 cycle.

- **Visual impairment: +197%**
- **Long-term illness or health condition: +98%**
- **Hearing impairment: +57%**
- **Mental health condition: +56%**
- **Other condition or impairment: -20%**

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NEXT STEPS

WHAT IS THE EXPERIENCE OF DISABLED STUDENTS IN EDUCATION?

In collaboration with
 Pearson



NEXT STEPS

WHO ARE THE 'FUTURE NURSES'?



UCAS

WHERE NEXT?

WHAT INFLUENCES THE CHOICES INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS MAKE?

CollegeBoard



NEXT STEPS

WHAT IS THE EXPERIENCE OF LGBT+ STUDENTS IN EDUCATION?



WHERE NEXT?

IMPROVING THE JOURNEY TO DESCRIBING AN APPRENTICE



WHERE NEXT?

What influences the choices school leavers make?



WHERE NEXT?

WHO DOESN'T PLAN TO START A FULL-TIME UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE IN AUTUMN?



 myriad
ucas

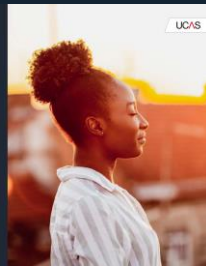
WHERE NEXT?

THE EXPERIENCE OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS CONNECTING TO UK HIGHER EDUCATION



STARTING THE CONVERSATION

UCAS REPORT ON STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH



WHAT HAPPENED TO THE COVID COHORT?



Lessons for levelling up in 2021 and beyond



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NEXT STEPS:

WHAT IS THE EXPERIENCE OF STUDENTS FROM A CARE BACKGROUND IN EDUCATION?

In collaboration with
 Unite
 Foundation



Read all our reports here:
www.ucas.com/about-us/news-and-insights/ucas-reports

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WHERE NEXT?

WHAT INFLUENCES THE CHOICES OF WOULD-BE APPRENTICES?

What's About Us

JOURNEY TO A MILLION

UNITE STUDENTS Knight Frank

UCAS projects that there could be up to a million higher education applicants in a single year in 2030, up from almost three quarters of a million today.

In response to its projections, UCAS, in collaboration with Unite Students and Knight Frank, is launching a national debate - highlighting the key challenges and opportunities created by increased demand during this potential Journey to a Million.

About the essay collection



What is the Journey to a Million?

See all our projections for 2030.



Why are we obsessed with the Journey to a Million applicants?

Clare Marchant, Chief Executive, UCAS



The view from the nations

Read essays from education leaders across the UK

PROJECT NEXT GENERATION

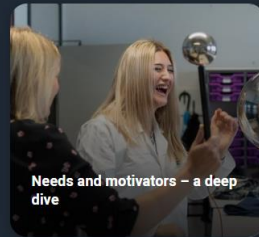
Students are mapping out their futures earlier than ever. But younger audiences often lack the guidance they need to make informed choices. That's where Project Next Generation comes in.

This in-depth study of 13 - 17 year olds delves into how young people shape their futures, from subject choices to career paths. Our goal? To empower universities, colleges, and employers with the insights they need to deliver support and inspire young decision-makers across the UK.

The report spotlights six key themes: happiness, empowerment, inspiration, confidence, experience, and control. Stay tuned for more reports landing between November and May.



Key themes impacting student decision-making



Needs and motivators - a deep dive



Early careers and apprenticeships

UCAS

Discovery phase updates

Student-facing information and advice

UCAS

UCAS UNDERGRADUATE: CARE EXPERIENCED STUDENTS

STUDENTS FROM A UK ARMED FORCES BACKGROUND

TICKING THE BOX – HOW WE USE THE INFORMATION ABOUT CARE EXPERIENCE AT KINGSTON UNIVERSITY.

Tuesday 10 November 2020, UCAS advice by Beth Taswell

Ticking the Box – How we use the information about care experience at Kingston University.

STUDENTS WITH CARE EXPERIENCE: THREE REASONS TO TICK THE BOX

Wednesday 29 September 2021, UCAS advice by UK

SHOULD I MENTION MY CARE EXPERIENCE IN MY PERSONAL STATEMENT?

Tuesday 22 September 2020, UCAS advice by UCAS

Should I mention my care experience in my personal statement?

In this guest blog, Sam Turner from *Become* (a charity that helps current and former care-experienced students) talks through the considerations for care leavers writing their personal statements. *Become* is the national charity for children in care and young care leavers and run the *Prospect* website for care-experienced learners interested in higher education.

Personal statements are exactly what they say on the tin – personal! The decision to mention your relationship (known as *estranged*), if it is a care experience, can be a difficult one. Universities and colleges will be able to help with accommodation and finances, as well as before they apply, to see whether they can offer new

SCHOLARSHIPS, GRANTS, AND BURSARIES: CARE EXPERIENCED STUDENTS

DISABLED STUDENTS' ALLOWANCE (DSA)

Explore this section

UCAS @ucas_online · Nov 30, 2022
There's lots of support available in higher education to help with finances, housing, and settling in for care experienced students. You can tell the uni/college about your care experience by ticking the box on your application.

UCAS @ucas_online · Dec 5, 2022
Meet Rosie, a care experienced uni student from Fife. Here to share her thoughts on sharing her care experience in her application. Learn more about the support available for care experienced students in Scotland
#bit.ly/3G0ZSK

#CareMeAndHE



Support can be the difference for some young people from care in applying to university
AIT or not.

"I would say to anyone else with a care background to just be open and speak to people. Speak to AIT admissions teams and see what support there

MAKE THE RIGHT DECISION FOR YOU

Get in for the full story >

Advertisement

UCAS @ucas_online
Estranged student Harvy shares her story, from the breakdown of her relationship with her family, to feeling like she belongs. For information and advice on applying without support visit ucas.com/estranged-stud...
#withtheestrangedstudents



www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/undergraduate-individual-needs

www.ucas.com/apprenticeships

APPRENTICESHIPS

Interested in an apprenticeship? Find out everything you need to know.

Considered an apprenticeship? An undergraduate degree isn't the only option – discover apprenticeships, and you could learn and earn at the same time.



Find an apprenticeship
Try our new search - BETA



Find an apprenticeship
Search using Career Finder



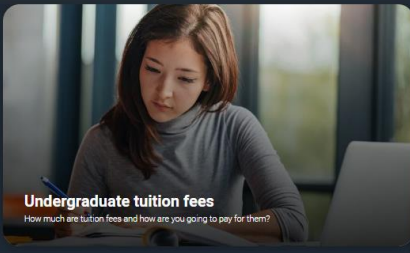
Listen to our new podcast
Find out all about degree apprenticeships in our brand new podcast series.




What's new
Get the latest news and updates.

FINANCE

Find out what financial support you're eligible for



Undergraduate tuition fees
How much are tuition fees and how are you going to pay for them?



Student finance in Northern Ireland
Financial help you can get, and how to apply to Student Finance Northern Ireland.



Student finance in Northern Ireland
Financial help you can get, and how to apply to Student Finance Northern Ireland.

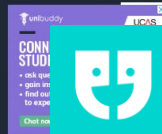
Student-facing information and advice

UCAS

www.ucas.com/money



NOT SURE UNI IS RIGHT FOR YOU?
Talk to current students online
Chat now



CONN STUDY!
Look up a topic, get an answer, find out to expect
Chat now

UNIBUDDY

SUPPORT WITH THE COST OF LIVING

Is the cost of living making your next steps harder? Whether you're interested in a traditional degree or becoming an apprentice, we're here to support you on your higher education journey.

Tools and resources from trusted sources



Tools to set a budget
A list of handy resources to help you make the right financial choices for you.



Tools to calculate your finances
Calculate how much money you'll pay back in student loans and find more interactive financial tools.



Tools to give you money guidance
Backbution offers free financial education for those looking to go into higher education and current students.



The Ultimate Guide to making smart financial decisions
How to make good financial decisions, including saving money and how much you might need for higher education.

www.ucas.com/discover/support-cost-living

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Whatever stage of life you're at, there will be excitement and challenges. There's a wealth of resources out there to help you through every stage. Simply click on the links in this article, call or text the helpline numbers or speak to a friend or trusted adult.



University support
How to find out what mental health and wellbeing support is available to you – and how to access it.



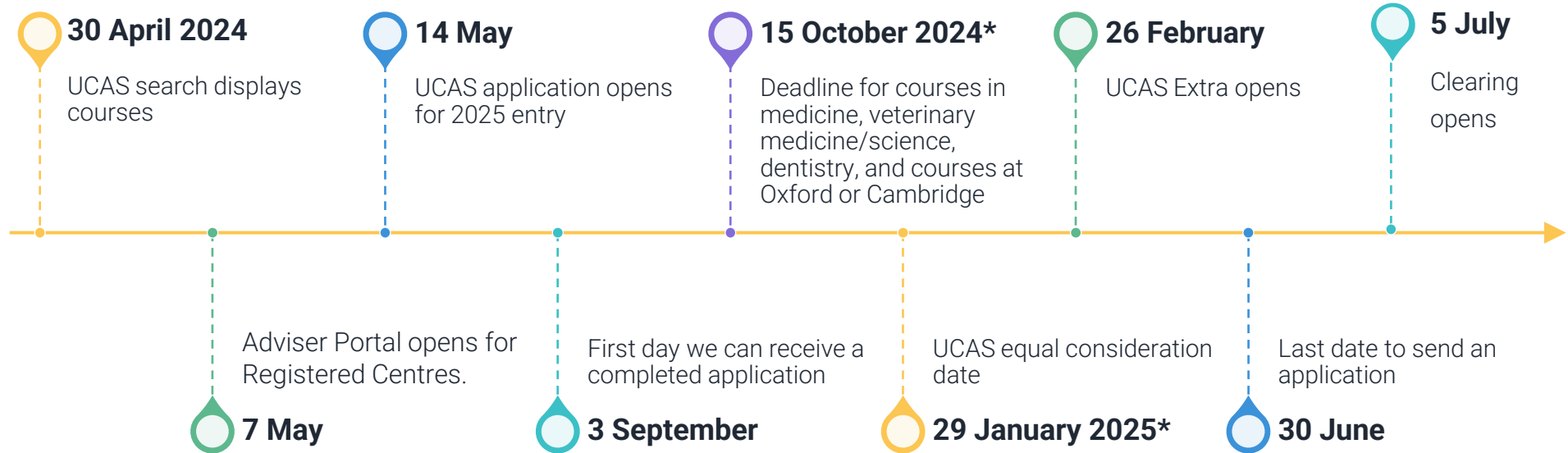
Sharing your mental health condition on your application
How to share a mental health condition with your uni or college and what happens after you do this.



Managing exam stress
Support your mental health through stressful periods like exams, starting a new job or making big decisions about your future.

www.ucas.com/undergraduate/student-life/mental-health-and-wellbeing

Key Dates – 2025 entry



* 18.00 UK time

Your Hub

Explore your options



Welcome Pippa

You're applying for Undergraduate courses in 2025 - Change year

[+ Start application](#)

2025 Application



Start an application

Apply to universities and colleges to study degrees, HNDs, and HNCs and dance, drama and music at conservatoires.

[Start application](#)

Your next steps

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 Apprenticeships

FIND AN APPRENTICESHIP

[Learn more >](#)

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DISCOVER CAREERS

Try our quiz and get recommended careers that match your skills and personality traits.

[Take the quiz](#)

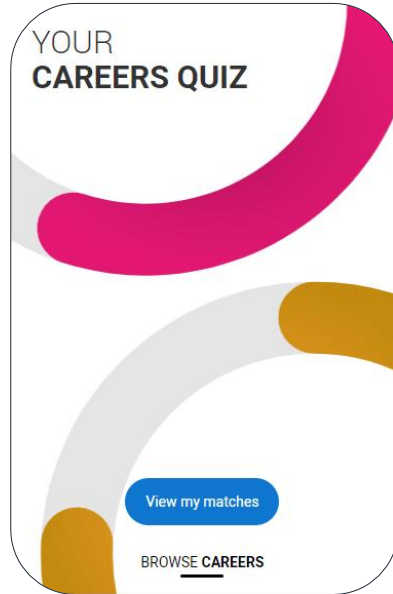


Personalised tools to help

UCAS Quiz

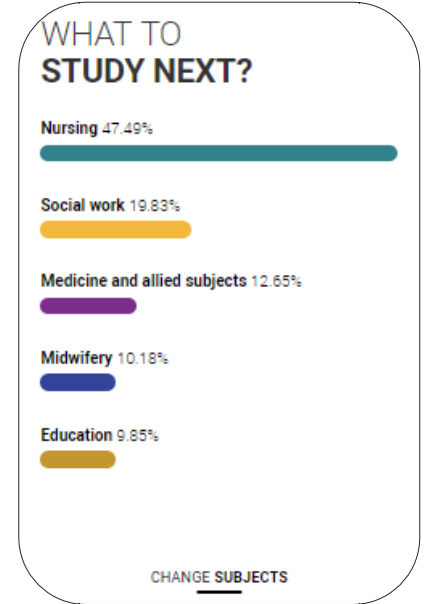
Find job and career ideas matched to a personality.

Plus a list of courses previous students studied, in order to get there.



What to study next?

Broadening horizons by exploring another subject area, that students who did a similar qualification, went on to study.

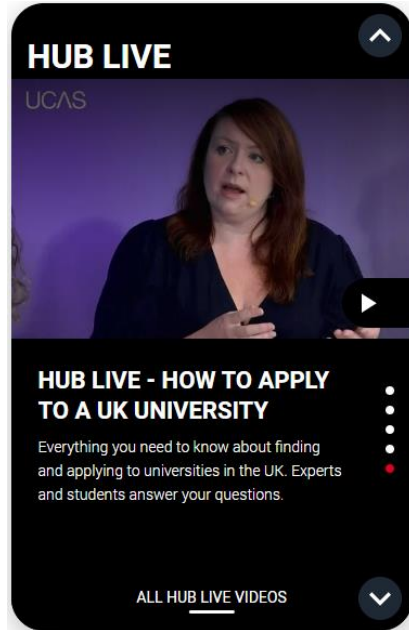


Hub Lives and Events

UCAS Hub lives

Live sessions hosted by expert panels.

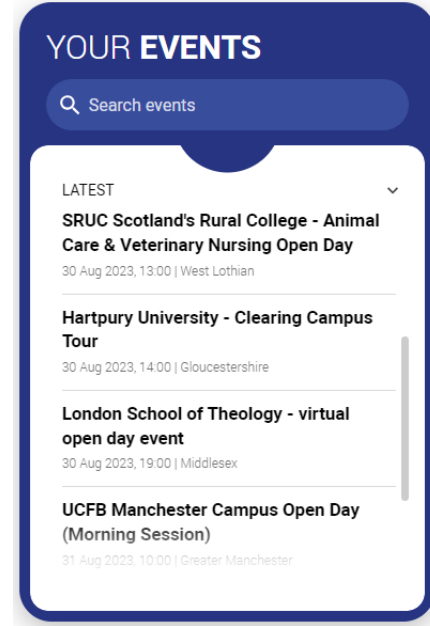
A Q&A on various subjects, to help students make an informed decision.



UCAS Events

Giving the opportunities for students to talk to subject and admissions experts, discover apprenticeships, find advice on applying, and more!

Discovering a world of opportunities with open days and exhibitions.



Uni Buddy



A peer-to-peer chat facility hosted on ucas.com



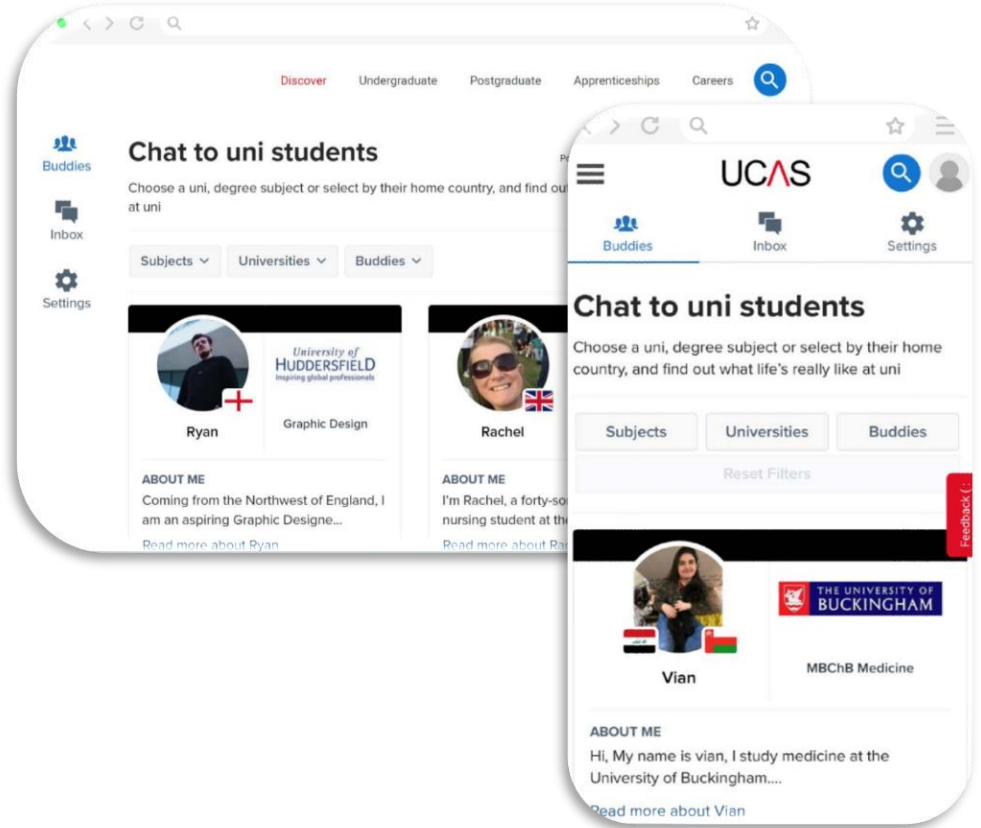
An opportunity to connect with current students, ask questions and learn about their experiences



A reliable source of information for prospective students to support decision making



Over 4,900 active ambassadors to gain insight from, with unlimited chats available



Springpod



Who?

Partnering with HE providers and employers, they have a mission to help young people secure their dream career or course through work experience to course taster experiences.

How?

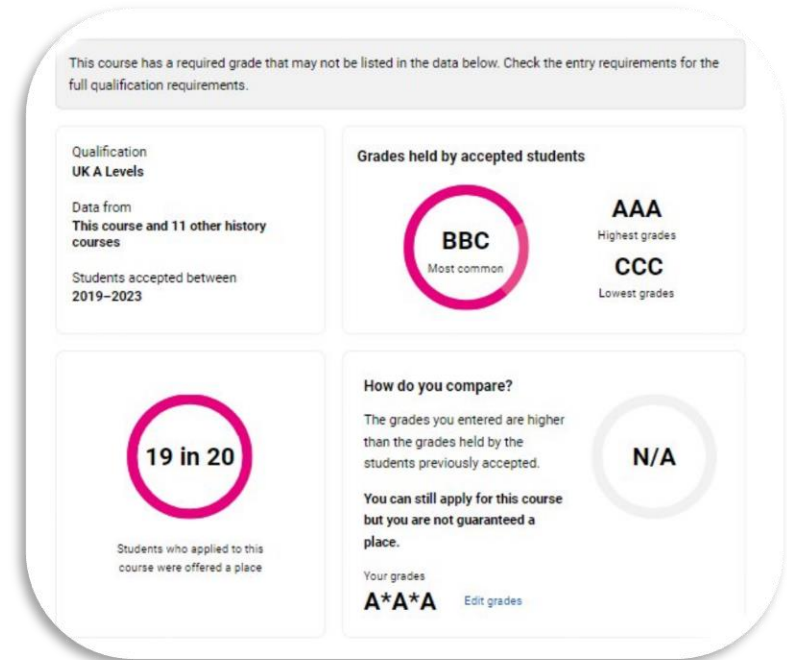
Springpod's growing experience library of Subject Spotlights is being integrated into the UCAS website.

Where?

Students will be able to explore, interact and sample university subjects, course and work experience online through the UCAS Hub.

Student access to entry data

- From May 2024, entry grades data will be available on course details pages within our search tool.
- It shares course-level information about student grades upon entry into higher education.
- Students have told us that this information would help them make informed decisions about their future.
- Opening for **2025 entry**, students will see the grade profiles of students accepted onto courses, alongside offer rates.



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STUDENT PATHWAYS SIDE BY SIDE

For the first time students can now see apprenticeship opportunities alongside undergraduate courses.

The UCAS Hub enables them to explore all their options and build a profile in one place.



Dental Nurse Apprentice

MR DEVANAND ISUKAPATLA

📍 South Shields

Apprenticeship level
England - Advanced
Apprenticeship - Level 3

Start date
30/10/2023

Date posted
06/03/2023

Salary
£10,982.40



AAT Apprenticeship - Audit, Accounts and Tax (March 2024)

MOORE KINGSTON SMITH GROUP SERVICES LIMITED

📍 LONDON

Apprenticeship level	Industry
England - Higher Apprenticeship - Level 4	Accounting and Finance

Start date	Duration
04/03/2024	2 Years

Date posted	Closing date
05/07/2023	30/10/2023

Salary
£25,000.00

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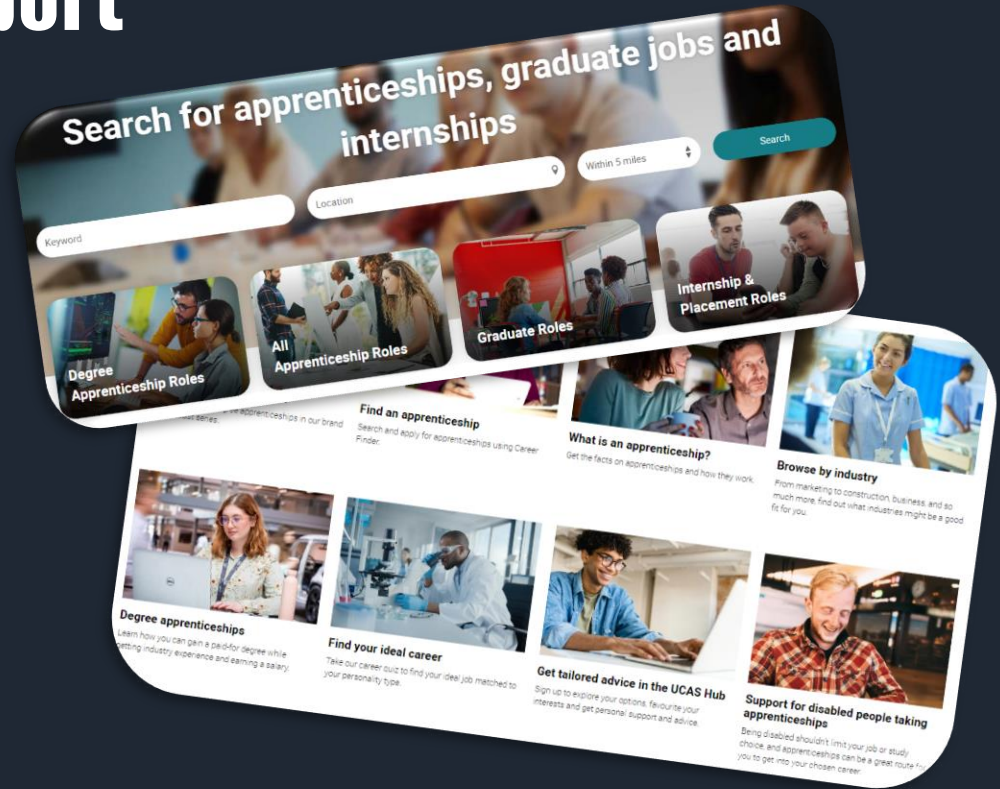
Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships support

- Support and guidance for students through our own apprenticeships page: ucas.com/apprenticeships

Including:

- What is an apprenticeship?** - Find out key info about apprenticeships.
- Industry Guides** – A chance to explore a variety of industries, to find the right fit.
- Degree Apprenticeships** – Support on what they are, how they work and what's available?
- UCAS Career Finder** – Search and find apprenticeship vacancies through UCAS



Resources for advisers: toolkits

UCAS

UCAS

Discover

Undergraduate

Postgraduate

Apprenticeships

Careers



Sign in



↑ / Advisers / Toolkits

ADVISER TOOLKIT: SUPPORTING STUDENTS WITH INDIVIDUAL NEEDS

Explore this section ▾

Feedback (0)

Exploring widening access and participation: supporting your students

0%

Home / Advisers / Exploring widening access and participation: supporting your students

Rate us:

★★★★★ 0.0 (0)

Like: ♡ 0

Bookmark: 📌

← Back to Advisers

What will I learn?

Our experience at UCAS is that students from under-represented backgrounds often need extra support when applying to HE. We know they often find it difficult to ask for help, and can feel that if they do, they may be discouraged from accessing education or training.

The core unit explores how to start those conversations with students as early as possible, so that they become a normal part of the wider education and careers provision. We look at who the under-represented groups are, and offer some ways in which they can be supported which meets their individual needs.

In the optional units, we focus on some of the individual groups and how they can be encouraged and supported through their applications to higher education. These have previously been stand-alone courses, but have been updated and brought together here to enhance your learning.

How long will it take me?

You can expect to spend 3 hours to complete all the units in this course.

Core units: Exploring WP



Option units



Care-experienced students



Students with mental health conditions



Exploring widening access and participation (WP): What is WP?

★★★★★ 0.0 (0)



Talking about the student's individual circumstances

★★★★★ 0.0 (0)



Resources for advisers: Professional Development Platform

[Sign up for the UCAS Professional Development Platform here](#)

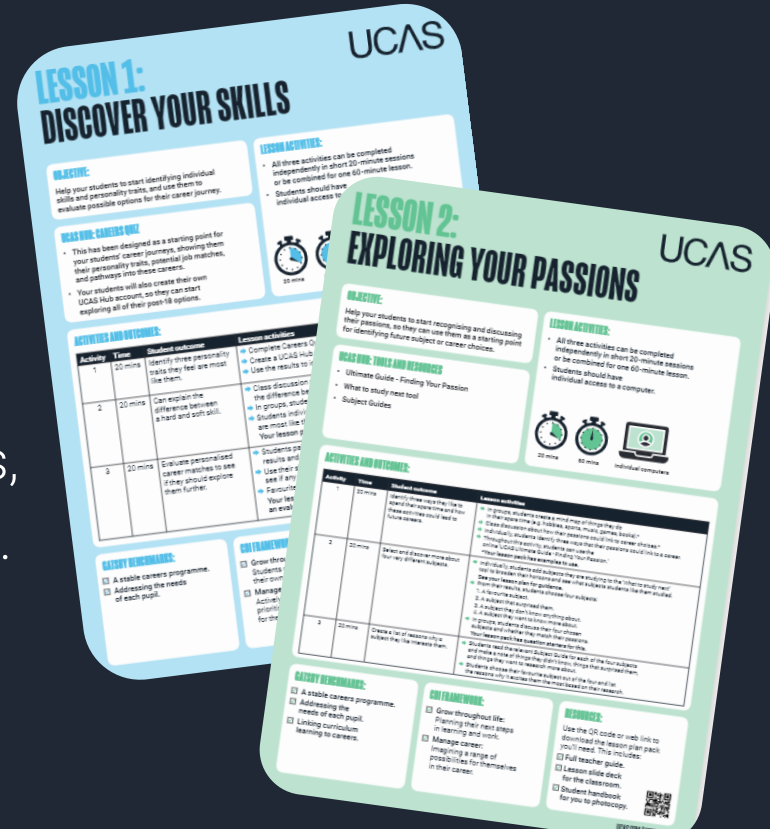
Bringing UCAS Hub to the classroom

To help you we've developed:

- lesson plans
- accompanying PowerPoints

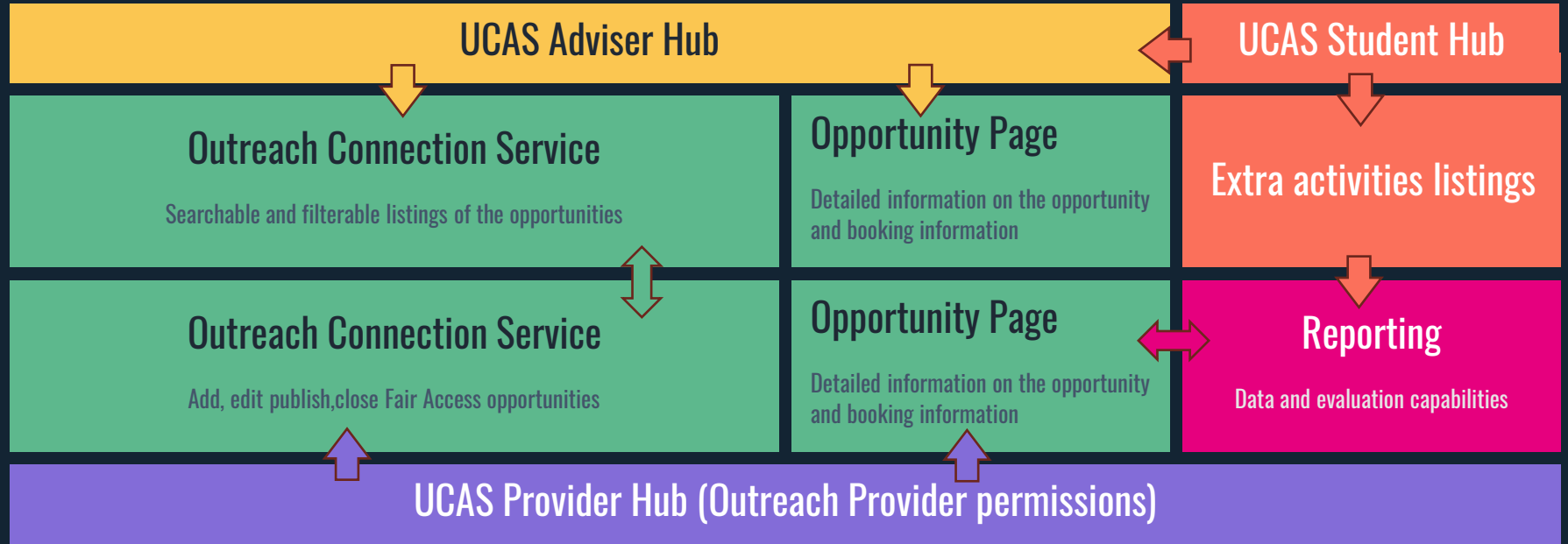
These can be combined with other resources, such as student packs and Hub live sessions.

ucas.com/hub-adviser



OUTREACH CONNECTION SERVICE

ENABLING UNIVERSITIES, COLLEGES AND CHARITIES TO SHOWCASE THEIR OPPORTUNITIES FOR UNDERREPRESENTED AND DISADVANTAGED STUDENT GROUPS TO UI SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES



References – themes and next steps



Continue to gather feedback from advisers and providers in 2024 entry cycle



No technical changes for 2025 entry



Enhanced adviser guidance



Decoupled IAG for independent referees



Best practice guidance for providers

Key updates to information and guidance

- The maximum 4,000 characters includes spaces, section headings, and line breaks, all of which take up at least one character. **This means that your entered text will need to be under 3,800 characters**
- **Extenuating circumstances (section 2)** – we have provided further guidance as to what should be included, including sharing complex or sensitive circumstances directly with universities or colleges
- **Other supportive information (section 3)** – short, concise, and factual sentences to demonstrate suitability for the course(s) applied for and add relevant context to the application.

Please read guidance on ucas.com/advisers/references.

Personal Statement

- Divided into three sections.
 - Motivation for course
 - Preparedness for course
 - Preparation through other experiences
- All sections will be mandatory.
- 4000 characters total, split flexibly across the three sections.
- Adviser pack out in June 2024.



UCAS ADVISER LIVES
**FREE WEBINARS TO
SUPPORT YOU**



Title	Date	
What you need to know to support students making applications for 2025 entry.		<u>Watch now</u>
Preparation for the 2025 cycle and what tools are available on the Adviser Portal.		<u>Watch now</u>
How to prepare for Confirmation and Clearing 2024 and the plan for results day.		<u>Watch now</u>
Expert voices: Personal statements		<u>Watch now</u>
Adviser Live: June UK update: advice on references	5 June	<u>Book now</u>

2025 Cycle Toolkit

ADVISER GUIDE 2025

FOR ENTRY TO UNIVERSITY OR COLLEGE IN 2025



www.ucas.com/advisers

Information and guidance for advisers



Monthly newsletters

Advisers can stay up-to-date with all the latest news and guidance by signing up at ucas.com/adviser-updates.



Adviser Live sessions

Our regular live studio sessions feature expert speakers from different sectors exploring all student pathways. Take a look at our upcoming events on ucas.com/adviser-lives.



Training and conferences

We host dedicated events, conferences, and professional development sessions for teachers and advisers right across the year – everything needed to help advisers help their students: ucas.com/advisers/training.



ucas.com/advisers

There is a dedicated area for advisers on ucas.com. Here you'll find all our latest news, events, and a variety of guides and resources to help plan career guidance sessions and provide support throughout the whole application cycle: ucas.com/advisers.

We Are Here

UCAS' Adviser Help Team

0345 123 8001

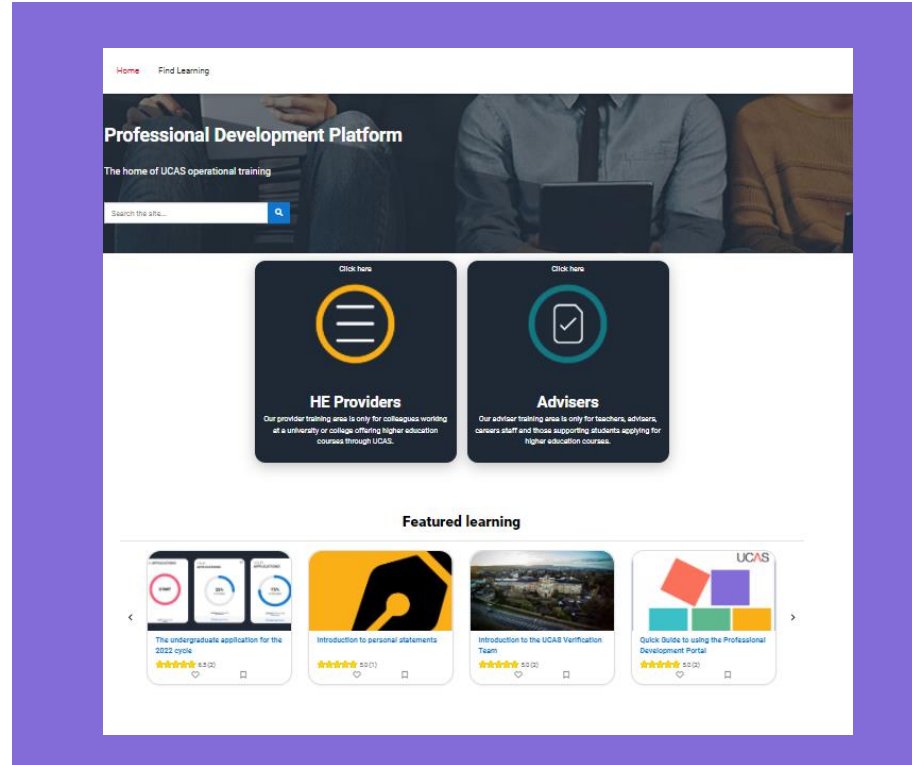
adviserhelp@ucas.ac.uk

Digital Learning Team

training@ucas.ac.uk

Professional Development Platform

<https://pdp.ucas.com>



Thank you

Contact us: access@ucas.ac.uk

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