

Caludon Castle Sixth Form

**Parents' UCAS Support Evening
July 2023**

Welcome

UCAS – What's it all about?

The Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) is the central organisation that processes applications for courses at UK universities and colleges.

It is an online application system and is the main way of applying for a degree course.

Students who are interested in degree apprenticeships should also register.



At the heart of
connecting people
to higher education

UCAS Website

- ▶ Schools, parents and student information area.
- ▶ A comprehensive course and institution search facility.
- ▶ Access for students to the online application.
- ▶ UCAS hub also gives students information about apprenticeships.
- ▶ www.ucas.com

Key dates for UCAS 2024

- ▶ Registration for UCAS has opened and most students have already registered.
- ▶ Applications can be sent in early September.
- ▶ Students should be starting their personal statements from now, and tutors will expect to see a first draft in the first week of September.
- ▶ Final deadline for ***Oxford*** or ***Cambridge, Dentistry, Medicine, Veterinary Science*** and ***Veterinary Medicine*** is **16th October 2023**.
- ▶ School internal deadline for completing application is **Friday 24th November 2023**. This allows for the required checks to be made, before submission.
- ▶ For most other courses, the final deadline is the **26th January 2024**.

Parents' area

- ▶ UCAS Parents' link
- ▶ The application process explained.
- ▶ Advice on supporting course choices: where?
Which subject? Which course?
- ▶ Advice about finance!
- ▶ Key dates.

How to support your son/daughter...

- ▶ Discuss what they enjoy and what further education plans they have?
- ▶ Discuss moving away from home or staying at home whilst studying.
- ▶ Discuss finance: your support, jobs, budgeting.
- ▶ Encourage them to use the course and institution search
Research the institution.
- ▶ Research job opportunities in the subject area and destinations.
- ▶ Visit universities both physically and virtually.
- ▶ www.unitasterdays.com

Support from school

- ▶ Sixth Form tutors will help students with their personal statements.
- ▶ Sixth Form admin team check all applications.
- ▶ Final check by a member of the Sixth Form team before the application is sent to UCAS.

Cost

- It costs £27.50 for 1-5 choices.
- Most students will use all 5 choices to maximise their chances of getting onto a course.
- Paid online with a credit/debit card.

Offers

Some universities ask for **specific grades** for the subjects being studied at A level.

Others will ask for a certain amount of **UCAS points**.

A levels

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

AS levels

AS and AS VCE

Official title: Advanced Subsidiary GCE and Advanced Subsidiary VCE

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

- ▶ AS grades are worth 40% of A level grades.
- ▶ If a student has an AS and A level qualification in the same subject, they don't both count towards the overall points.
- ▶ EPQ is an AS qualification and, it is possible to get an A*.

Level 3 BTECs

Pearson BTEC Subsidiary Diploma (QCF)

Grade	Tariff points
D*	56
D	48
M	32
P	16

Offers with grades

Entry requirements

Qualification requirements

UCAS Tariff	Not accepted	
A level	ABB - BBB	Including A-Level Mathematics at minimum grade B.
Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma (first teaching from September 2016)	DDM	Plus an additional A-Level Mathematics at grade B. For other BTEC combinations please see Aston's web pages.
Access to HE Diploma	Not accepted	
GCSE/National 4/National 5	English Language Grade C/4 and Mathematics Grade C/4	
International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme	31 points	achieving 5, 5, 5 at Higher Level subjects including grade 5 in Mathematics.

Offers with points

Entry requirements

Qualification requirements

UCAS Tariff 112 points

Your Level 3 subjects must include mathematics; for instance, A-level Mathematics or IMA Polymaths Certificate (with a score of at least 900 out of 1200 points). Preference will be given to applicants with grade B or above in A-level Mathematics and to candidates who have successfully completed Further Mathematics at A-level.

To help you understand what UCAS points are equivalent to, in terms of grades, please visit the University of Bolton's webpage below for some examples of grades from popular qualifications:

<https://www.bolton.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/apply/ucas-tariff/>

You should also have five GCSEs at grade C or above or grade 4 to 9 (or equivalent) including English.

Predicted grades

- ▶ These will be based on a combination of how students have performed in their AS exams/end of year assessments and other assessments taken throughout the year.
- ▶ Students are advised to choose their courses wisely and be realistic about the grades they are likely to achieve.
- ▶ Unrealistic predicted grades do not do the students any favours.
- ▶ UCAS advice is that predicted grades should be ***aspirational*** but ***achievable***.

Admissions Tests

- ▶ Some courses require students to take admissions test as part of their selection criteria.
- ▶ These include Medicine, some Dentistry, some Veterinary Science and some Law courses.
- ▶ Oxbridge also have admissions tests for specific subjects.
- ▶ UCAT (Medicine/Dentistry) and LNAT (Law) are sat externally; the others are sat in school.

Unconditional offers

- ▶ Some universities are now offering students **unconditional** offers in a bid to attract them to study at their university.
- ▶ This does not mean that students should stop working! To do so is likely to impact later-on in life. Bursaries and job offers are often dependent on A level results.

Getting offers!

- ▶ Students need to respond to their offers once they have had a decision from all of the universities.
- ▶ They can pick up to 2 of the offers they have received.
- ▶ Their first choice is their **firm** offer. This will usually have the highest grades.
- ▶ Their second choice is their **insurance** offer, usually lower grades than their firm choice. Students can choose not to do this, but they would be limiting their options if they don't make the requirements of their firm choice.
- ▶ If students have an unconditional offer, they only need to make **1** choice.

No offers?

- ▶ This can happen!
- ▶ However, if students get rejected from all the courses they have applied to, they can select a further course via UCAS Extra from the **28th February 2024**.
- ▶ If they are unsuccessful then they can apply for further courses.

Top ten tips

- 1 [Start research early](#) – there are a lot of higher education options to choose from!
- 2 Register in the UCAS Hub and [browse through courses](#) – so they can work out what they would enjoy or be interested in.
- 3 [Know the deadlines](#) – for some courses, the application deadline is almost a year in advance of when the course starts.
- 4 [Go to UCAS events and course provider open days](#) – speak to us and higher education staff to get answers to their questions.
- 5 [Check entry requirements](#) – make sure they can get the grades they need to get a place on a course.
- 6 [Redraft their personal statement](#) – get plenty of feedback and refine it until they're happy.
- 7 [Understand student finance](#) – so they can make the best arrangements to fund their studies.
- 8 [Be prepared for results day](#) – make sure they're prepared for all the possible outcomes.
- 9 Understand how [Extra](#) and [Clearing](#) work – different ways to apply for more courses.
- 10 Visit our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) regularly to get advice and ask questions.

Student Finance

- ▶ This usually opens in Feb/March.
- ▶ Twitter Link
- ▶ Student finance.gov.uk

Tuition fees by region for courses starting in 2023 to 2024

Student's home region	Studying in England	Studying in Scotland	Studying in Wales	Studying in Northern Ireland
England	Up to £9,250	Up to £9,250	Up to £9,000	Up to £9,250
Scotland	Up to £9,250	No fee	Up to £9,000	Up to £9,250
Wales	Up to £9,250	Up to £9,250	Up to £9,000	Up to £9,250
Northern Ireland	Up to £9,250	Up to £9,250	Up to £9,000	Up to £4,395
EU and other international*	Variable	Variable	Variable	Variable

Tuition Fee Loan

Your university or college sets your tuition fee, and the loan is paid directly to them. You have to pay it back.

If you're a full-time student, you can get up to £9,250.

If you're studying an accelerated degree course, you could get up to £11,100.

Maintenance Loan for living costs

You have to give details of your [household income](#) and your course start date.

The loan is paid directly into your bank account at the start of each term. You have to pay the loan back.

If you're a distance learning student, you can only apply for a Maintenance Loan if you cannot attend your course in person because of a disability.

How much you can get

The maximum amount you can get depends on where you live.

	2022 to 2023 academic year	2023 to 2024 academic year
Living with your parents	Up to £8,171	Up to £8,400
Living away from your parents, outside London	Up to £9,706	Up to £9,978
Living away from your parents, in London	Up to £12,667	Up to £13,022
You spend a year of a UK course studying abroad	Up to £11,116	Up to £11,427
If you're 60 or over on the first day of the first academic year of your course	Up to £4,106	Up to £4,221

What's available?

Most students won't have to pay for tuition fees up front – you can apply for a Tuition Fee Loan to pay your fees.

How much you can get depends on:

- how much your university or college charges
- whether you're studying at a publicly or privately-funded university or college
- when you started your course

You could get a Tuition Fee Loan of up to £9,250 if you're studying at an eligible uni or college. If you're studying an accelerated degree course, you could get up to £11,100.

If you're not sure if a course qualifies for student finance, check with the uni or college.

Eligibility

Whether you can get student finance depends on your:

- personal circumstances
- course
- uni or college

The best way forward...



**Any
questions?**

