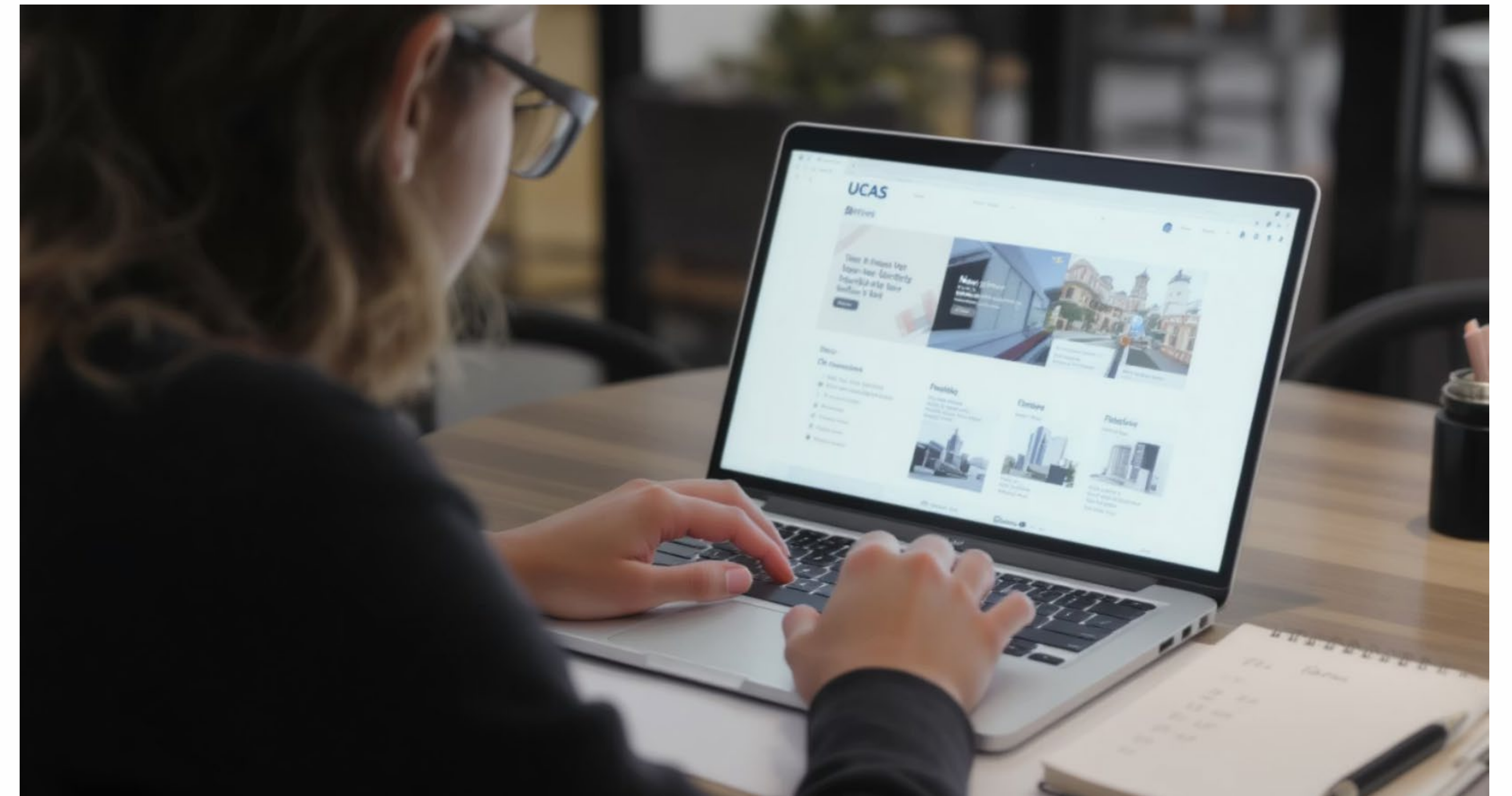


Finding Your Match: University Research

Research Steps

1. Calculate potential UCAS points
2. Search UCAS.com for course requirements
3. Check university websites for specifics
4. Consider aim slightly above predicted points



Match your academic profile to appropriate universities

Application Strategy: Balancing Ambition and Reality



Aspirational Choice

One university slightly above your predicted points



Target Choices

Two-three unis matching your predicted points



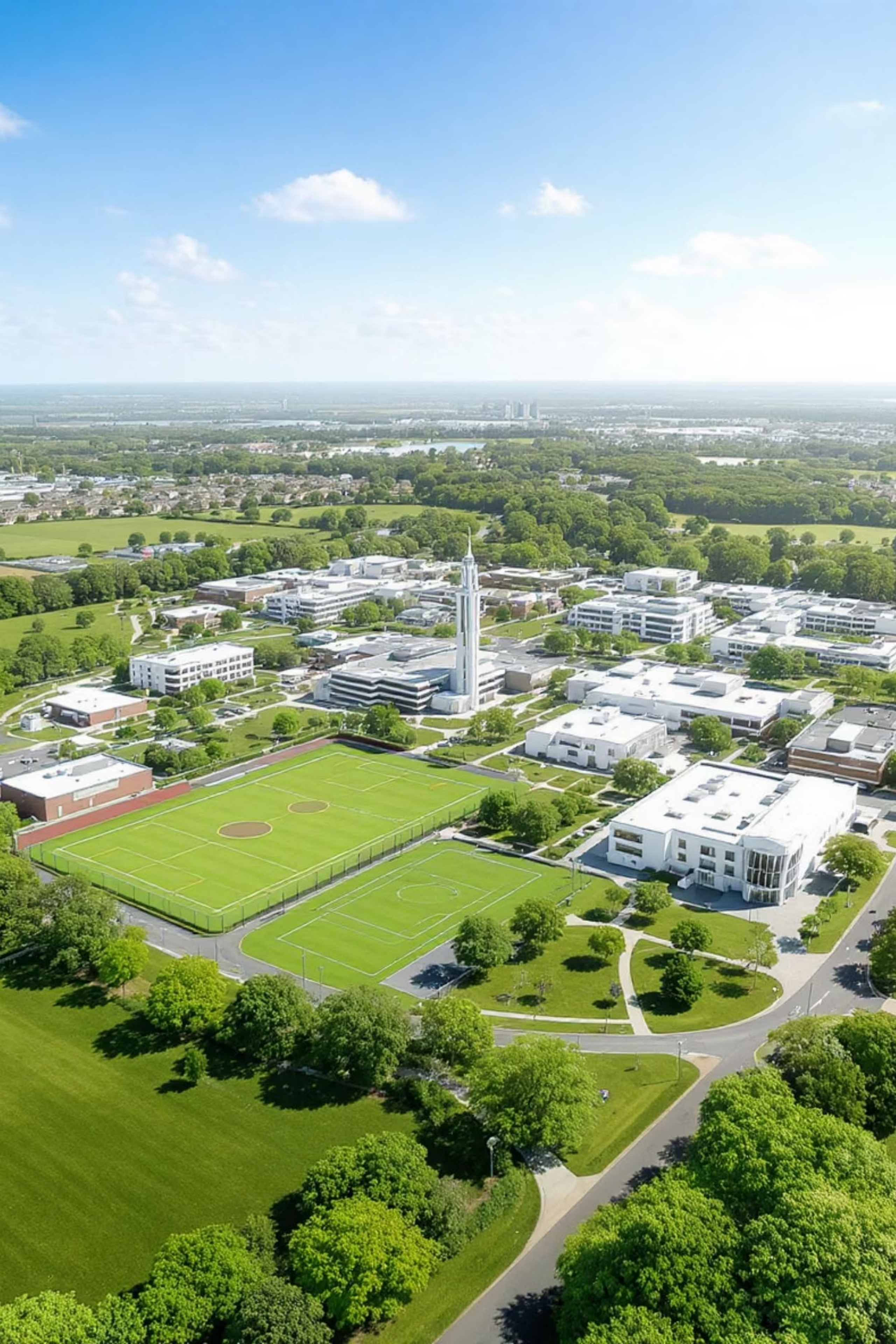
Insurance Choice

One university below your predicted points

UK University Types: Finding Your Perfect Fit

Explore the distinctive university experiences across the United Kingdom





Campus Universities

- Everything in one placelectures, accommodation, facilities
- Strong community atmosphere
- Often located outside city centres
- Examples: Lancaster, Warwick, Sussex

Collegiate Universities

University divided into semi-autonomous colleges

Each college provides accommodation, dining, social life

Small communities within larger institution



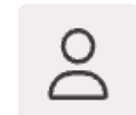
Living

College accommodation for most years



Dining

Formal halls and cafeterias



Social

Collegespecific events and societies



Support

Tutorial system and pastoral care



City Universities



Urban Integration

Buildings spread throughout city centre



City Living

Independent accommodation options



Cultural Access

Museums, theatres and businesses nearby

- University of Bristol
- University of Cambridge
- Cardiff University
- Durham University
- University of Edinburgh
- University of Exeter
- University of Glasgow
- Imperial College London
- King's College London
- University of Leeds
- University of Liverpool
- LSE (London School of Economics & Political Science)
- University of Manchester
- Newcastle University
- University of Nottingham
- University of Oxford
- Queen Mary University of London
- Queen's University Belfast
- University of Sheffield
- University of Southampton
- UCL (University College London)
- University of Warwick
- University of York

24 Russell Group Universities

Benefits of applying to Russell Group universities



World renowned research



Reputation for academic
excellence



Student satisfaction



First rate libraries and facilities



10 Russell group universities
are ranked in top 30 worldwide



Graduates typically receive 10%
salary top up over others



Specialist Institutions



Arts

Royal College of Art, Glasgow School of Art



Music

Royal Academy of Music, Trinity Laban



Medicine

St George's, London School of Hygiene



Business

London Business School, Cranfield



Making Your Choice

1

Consider your learning style

Structured support or independent study?

2

Visit different types

Experience the atmosphere firsthand

3

Think about lifestyle

City buzz or campus community?

4

Research course specifics

Same subject taught differently across institutions

Your university choice shapes more than your education—
it's about finding your perfect home for 3+ years

OPEN DAYS

Don't let travel costs stop you from visiting a university!

University Open Days

Help with Travel Costs

- **Travel bursaries or free/discounted travel** - EG. around **£40–£100** towards travel costs,
- **Who may qualify?** students from **low-income households, FSM, care-experienced students**, or those meeting widening participation criteria.
- **Other support:** Universities may offer **free parking, shuttle buses or discounted/free train travel**.

Check before you book:

- **Open Day/Widening Participation webpage** and search for *Travel Bursary* or *Travel Fund*.
- **Apply early:** apply **before the Open Day** and may need to keep your tickets/receipts.
- **Ask!** If you cannot find information online, contact the university's **Admissions or Outreach Team** and ask what financial support is available.

SBU Sixth Careers Tip:

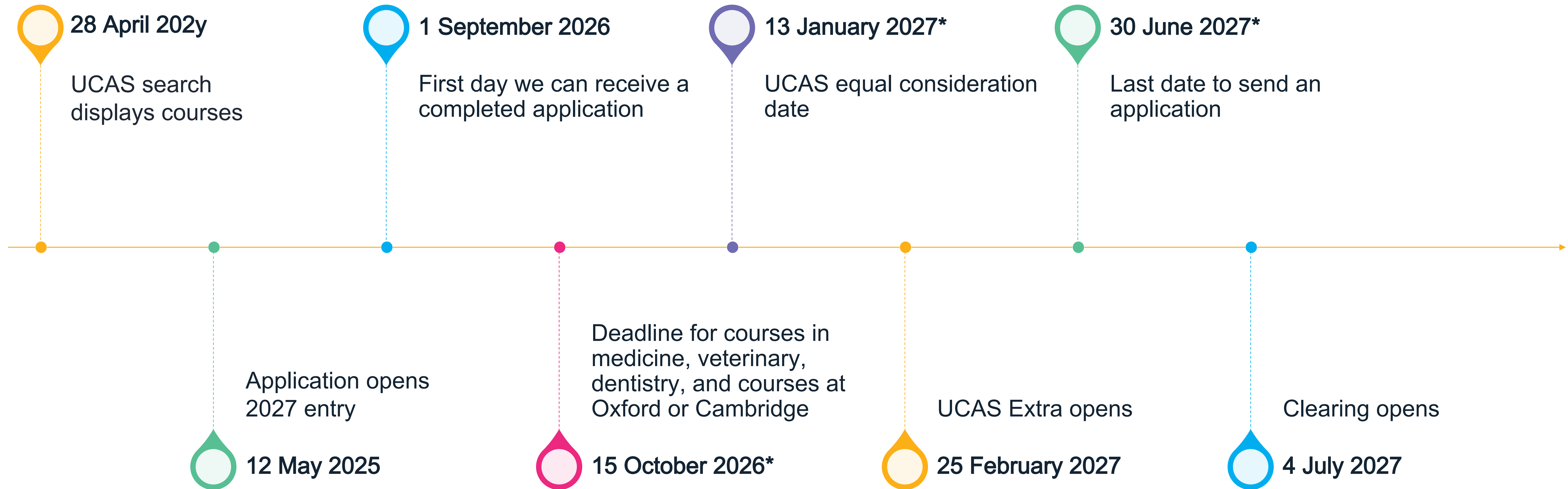
👉 Try to attend **several Open Days** before making your final UCAS choices. Seeing the campus, accommodation and facilities can help you decide if the university is right for you. Useful starting point: [UniTasterDays – university visit incentives and travel support](#)

Apply



How to apply to universities and colleges for 2026 entry

Key dates 2027



* 18:00 UK time

The course matters

Teaching & learning

- ✓ Teaching hours, selfstudy, lectures, and group work.

Assessment & structure

- ✓ Coursework, exams, practical work, and module choices.

Entry requirements

- ✓ Grades, skills, interviews, or auditions.

Career links

- ✓ Placements, internships and study abroad.

Class size & experience

- ✓ Student numbers and learning environment

Select qualification

UK A-Level

Data from: This course

Date range: 2019–2023

Grades held by accepted students ?



ABB

Highest grades

CCC

Lowest grades

Rate of offers for UK school leavers



Students aged 17/18 who applied to this course were offered a place.

How do you compare?

Add three of your UK A-Level grades, predicted or those you've already achieved, to see how they compare to the grades previously accepted.

UK A-Level grades

B

B

C

By using 'Accept & show results' you acknowledge that the result indicates how you compare to previously accepted students. It is not an indication of success if you were to apply.

Accept & show results

Cancel



Invisibility - Universities and colleges **can't see** your other choices



Apply by the relevant **equal consideration date**



Five choices with some restrictions (medicine, veterinary, dentistry, Oxford and Cambridge).



Research is key to a successful application.



Applying costs £34.50 – FSM waiver.



Public

Completing the application



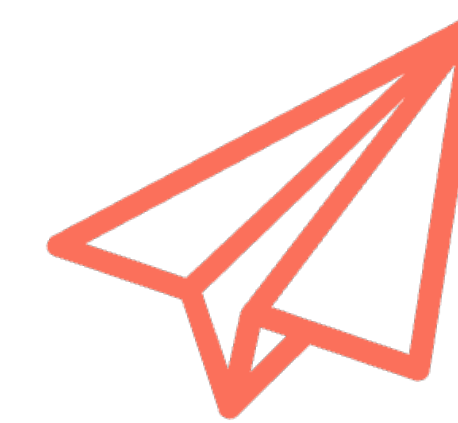
Student registers for a UCAS Hub account to carry out research and start an application.



Student completes all sections of the application and sends it to their school/college.



Teacher or adviser reviews the application and adds reference and predicted grades.



Applications are sent to UCAS by the school or college on behalf of the student.



Universities and colleges make their decisions on the application.

application profile

- Personal details
- Nationality details
- Where you live
- Contact details
- Supporting information
- Finance and funding
- Diversity and inclusion*
- More about you

* (for students with a UK home address)

Personal details Name, age, title and gender Start this section	Nationality details Birthplace and nationalities Start this section	Where you live Tell us about your address history Section in progress
Contact details Address, email, and telephone Section in progress	Supporting information So that providers know how to support you during your studies Start this section	Finance & funding Tell us how you'll fund your study Start this section
Diversity & inclusion Additional equality information Start this section	More about you Tell us about any circumstances that you might need support for during your studies. Start this section	

application experiences

- Education
- Employment
- Extra activities*
- Personal statement
- Reference**

*(for students with a UK home address)

** (not visible if linked to your school/college)

Experience

Education

Qualifications and periods of study

🕒 Section in progress

Employment

Paid employment

✓ Section complete

Extra activities

Taken part in any activities to prepare you for higher education?

Start this section

Your **personal statement**

Personal statement

Why do you want to study this subject?

Start this section

the personal statement

 Your chance to show your passion, curiosity, interest.

 Three separate sections with question prompts.

 A maximum of 4,000 characters, minimum of 350 characters per section.

 The same for all your choices.

 There isn't a spelling or grammar check.

 No formatting allowed.

 Every personal statement is run through similarity detection software.

Why do you want to study this course or subject? *

This is your opportunity to showcase your passion and knowledge of your chosen subject area and to demonstrate to universities and colleges why they are a good fit for you and your future ambitions.

Please use a minimum of 350 characters in this section (350 needed)

How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject? *

This is your chance to shout about the relevant or transferable skills you've gained from your education and highlight your understanding of how they will help you succeed in this subject area.

Please use a minimum of 350 characters in this section (350 needed)

What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful? *

This is your chance to reflect on any other activities you have undertaken outside of your education, or personal experiences which further demonstrate your suitability for the course. This section is likely to be deeply personal to you, so anything you include should be meaningful and relevant to you.

Please use a minimum of 350 characters in this section (350 needed)



What are the questions



Why do you want to study this course or subject?

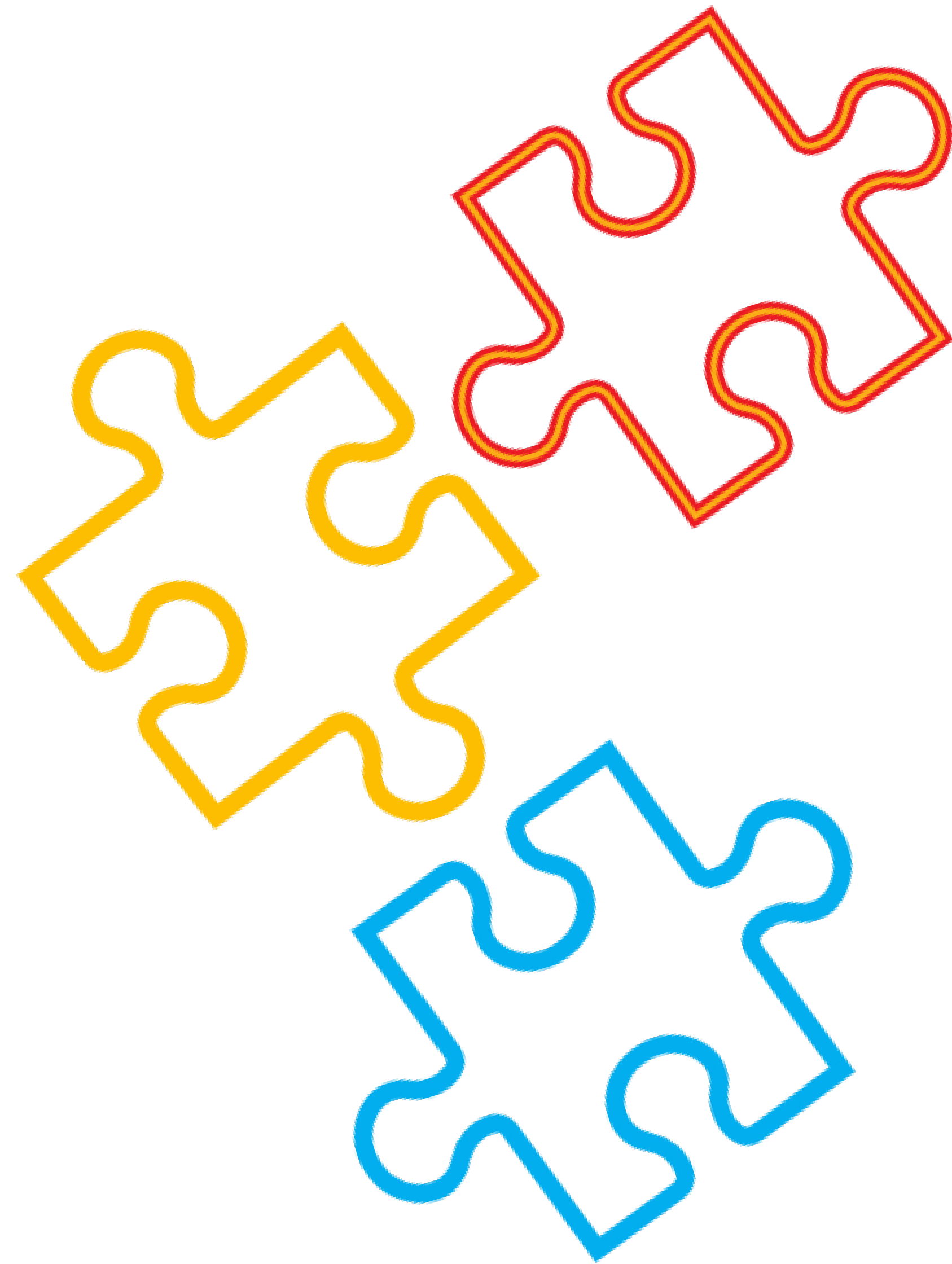


How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?



What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?

Build a personal statement



Ultimately, think of it like a jigsaw.

Each piece is reflective evidence.



The Drafting Process

First Draft

Get your ideas down

Refinement

Improve structure and content

Teacher Feedback

Receive comments and suggestions

Final Polish

Perfect your statement



Support Available



Personal Tutors

One-to-one guidance



Peer Review

Feedback from classmates



Resources

Example statements and guides



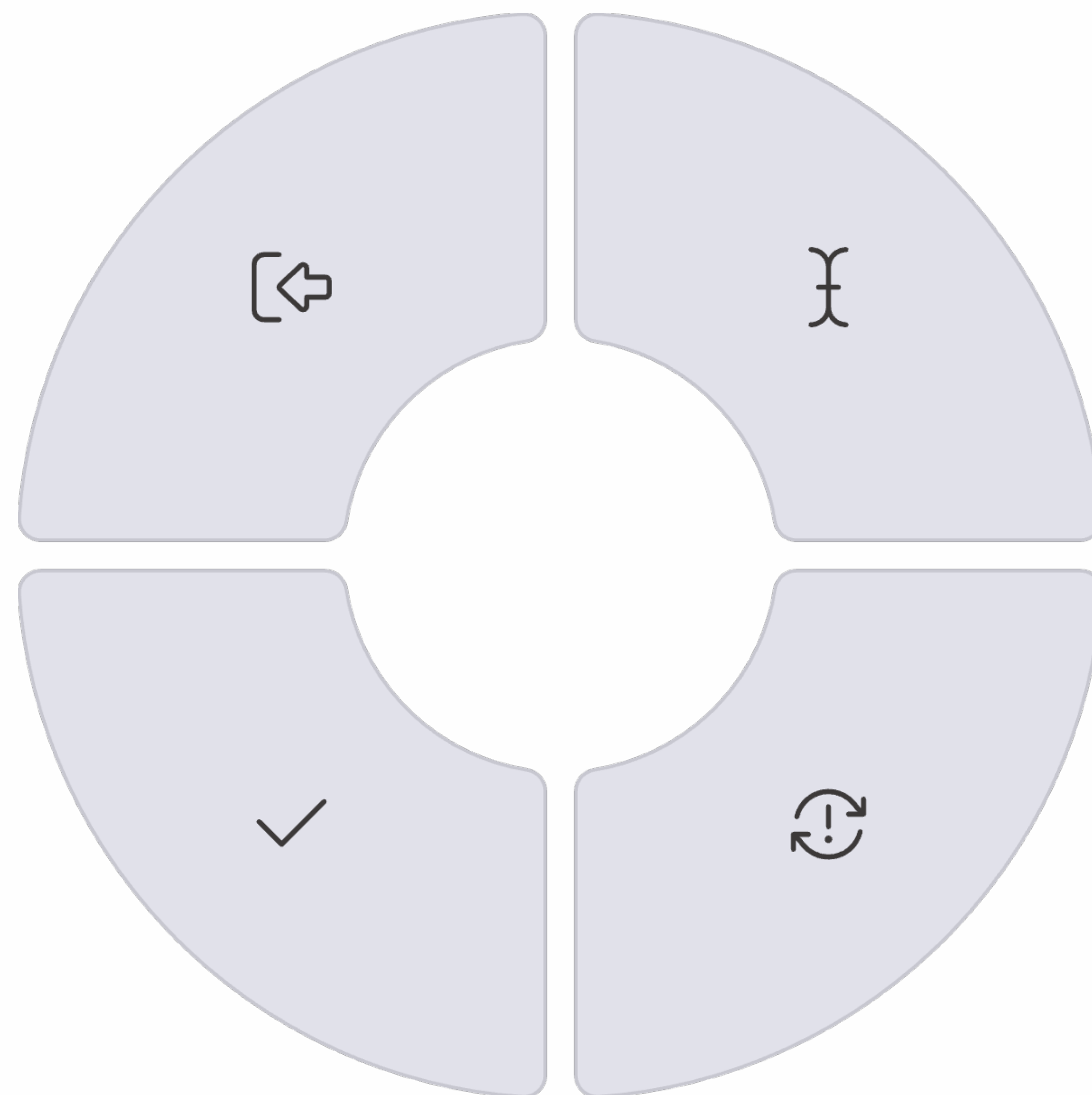
Workshops

Group sessions for extra help

Next Steps

Log in to Unifrog
Access your personal statement
workspace

Submit First Draft
Complete by 21st September



Draft Statement

Complete first version by end of
summer

Seek Feedback

Share with teachers September

Offers and Decisions



decisions

Universities and colleges will review the whole application including:



Qualifications



Personal statement



Reference

They may also require :



Admissions test



Interview



Portfolio / audition

Tracking your application

Follow your application to:

- check progress
- see your choices
- update contact information
- view and reply to your offers

One of three decisions:

- unconditional offer
- conditional offer
- unsuccessful



Submitted to your school or college

Your application has been sent to your school or college and is being checked by your adviser. Once they have approved it your application will be sent to UCAS.



Your application has been returned by your adviser

Your adviser has returned your application, go to your application to see what amendments they are recommending for you.



Waiting for decisions

Universities or colleges are considering your application.
Providers have until dd-mm-yyyy to respond to your choices.



All decisions received

You've received a decision from all of your choices. You can now reply to your offers at any time.
Reply by dd-mm-yyyy

Replies to offers

- Once you've made your decisions, choose a 'firm' and 'insurance' choice.
- Decline any remaining offers.
- If you're not holding an offer, use Extra or Clearing to find available places.

UCAS

Further educationUndergraduatePostgraduateAlternativesCareers

Becca

CONFIRM YOUR CHOICES

UCAS Application

Your Personal ID number
116-000-7564

< Previous
Select insurance choice

Cancel

Save choices

Selecting as your firm choice

Archaeology (V400)

University of UCAS (Z98) jh (E56)

Master of Arts (with Honours) MA (Hons)

Location: Main site

Start date: September 2020

OFFER

You have been offered a place subject to conditions

Your offer
Pass in Access Course with 45 credits at Level 3, of which 24 Level 3 credits must be at Merit or Distinction grade in Science, Social Science or Health related subjects and pass Functional Skills Maths. Subject to DBS and Occupational Health clearances.

[View full offer](#)

Selecting as your insurance choice

Geography (L700)

University of UCAS (Z98) jh (E56)

Master of Arts (with Honours) MA (Hons)

Location: Main site

Start date: September 2020

OFFER

You have been offered a place subject to conditions

Your offer
Pass in Access Course with 45 credits at Level 3, of which 24 Level 3 credits must be at Merit or Distinction grade in Science, Social Science or Health related subjects and pass Functional Skills Maths. Subject to DBS and Occupational Health clearances.

[View full offer](#)

Offers you are declining

Italian and History of Art (RV33)

University of UCAS (Z98) jh (E56)

Master of Arts (with Honours) MA (Hons)

Location: Main site

Start date: September 2020

OFFER

You have been offered a place subject to conditions

Your offer
Pass in Access Course with 45 credits at Level 3, of which 24 Level 3 credits must be at Merit or Distinction grade in Science, Social Science or Health related subjects and pass Functional Skills Maths. Subject to DBS and Occupational Health clearances.

[View full offer](#)

When will my UCAS form be sent?



First in, first done... second in, second done...



It is expected that there will be 4 weeks between the Sixth Form receiving this form and your application being processed



Students must inform their Tutor if there is something they would like included on their reference that they can't fit into their personal statement