

Applying through UCAS



UCAS

Before you apply



Go

Go to www.ucas.com



Find out

Find out the UCAS deadlines – make sure you know which is relevant to you.



Research

Research – career options, universities, courses you're interested in, and minimum entry requirements.



Learn

Learn from others – watch student videos at www.ucas.com/tv.....

Choosing the right university



STYLE – FROM TRADITIONAL WITH A FOCUS ON SUBJECT-BASED COURSES AND RESEARCH, TO MORE MODERN UNIVERSITIES THAT MAY HAVE A GREATER FOCUS ON VOCATIONAL COURSES.



LOCATION – SOME ARE BASED IN LARGE CITIES, OTHERS IN SMALLER TOWNS. THIS CAN HAVE A MAJOR INFLUENCE ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND LIFESTYLE ON OFFER.



SIZE – LARGER UNIVERSITIES CAN HAVE MORE THAN 20,000 STUDENTS, WHEREAS SOME OF THE SMALLEST HAVE ONLY A FEW THOUSAND.



CULTURE AND FACILITIES – INFLUENCED BY A RANGE OF FACTORS, INCLUDING THE DIVERSITY OF STUDENTS WHO ATTEND.



WHAT GRADUATES DO – ALL UNIVERSITIES COLLECT DESTINATION STATISTICS. IT CAN BE INTERESTING TO FIND OUT THE TYPES OF JOBS OR FURTHER STUDY STUDENTS GO ON TO.



TUITION FEES – CAN VARY BETWEEN COURSE PROVIDERS. CHECK IF THERE ARE ANY SCHOLARSHIPS/BURSARIES AVAILABLE.



LIVING COSTS – ACCOMMODATION, TRANSPORT, AND FOOD CAN VARY ENORMOUSLY.

Choosing the right course

- What does the course cover?
- Courses with the same title may be very different.
- Look carefully at the core course content, and the range of optional studies/modules available.
- Which modules are the most interesting and relevant to career aspirations?
- See if the course or university/college offers any internship, placement, or study abroad opportunities.
- How is the course taught – structured teaching, or more independent research? How many lectures are there, and how much group work will be done in seminars?
- How is the course assessed?

Apply key facts

- Application is entirely online.
- Maximum of five choices.
- Some choice restrictions:
 - medicine, veterinary medicine/science, dentistry
(maximum of four)
 - Oxford **or** Cambridge
- Simple application cost:
 - one choice – £21
 - two to five choices – £26
- Equal consideration.
- ‘Invisibility’.



UCAS

When to apply for 2023 entry

6 September

Completed applications can be submitted to UCAS.

15 October*

Deadline for courses in medicine, veterinary medicine/science, and dentistry, and courses at Oxford **or** Cambridge.

25 January*

Equal consideration application deadline.

23 February

Extra opens.

30 June*

Last date to submit an application before Clearing.

*** 18:00 (UK time)**

Required External Examinations



- 1) **LNAT** - The LNAT is a computer-based law entrance exam. You will need to get a good score if you want to study an undergraduate law degree at one of 10 UK-based LNAT universities or 2 international LNAT universities.
 - University of Bristol
 - University of Cambridge
 - Durham University
 - University of Glasgow
 - King's College, London (KCL)
 - London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)
 - University of Oxford
 - University College London (UCL)
 - SOAS University of London

Required External Examinations

Medicine & dentistry



- 1) UCAT – The University Clinical Aptitude Test (UCAT) is an admissions test, used by a consortium of UK Universities and non-UK associate member universities to help select applicants for their medical and dental degree programmes.

Required External Examinations

Medicine & dentistry



2) BMAT:

- Cambridge University.
- Oxford University.
- Imperial College London.
- University College London.
- University of Leeds.
- Brighton and Sussex Medical School.
- Lancaster University.

Making a UCAS application

- Begin your application at www.ucas.com/apply.
- These sections need to be completed:
 - Personal details
 - Additional information (UK only)
 - Student finance (UK and EU only)
 - Choices – make up to five choices
 - Education
 - Employment
 - Personal statement
 - Reference

Personal statement

- The only section you have total control over.
- Your chance to sell yourself as an individual.
- One personal statement for all your choices.
- Maximum of 4,000 characters, or 47 lines.
- Minimum of 1,000 characters.
- No spelling or grammar check.
- No formatting, e.g. bold, italics, or underline.

UCAS' similarity detection service:
Remember, every personal statement is
run through software to check for
plagiarism.

Personal statement – start early

Include:

- academic achievements, past and present
- why you're interested in the subject area
- your knowledge of the subject area
- your enthusiasm to go beyond the syllabus
- what you enjoy about studying
- details of your independent study skills

Personal statement – top tips

Universities and colleges will ask:

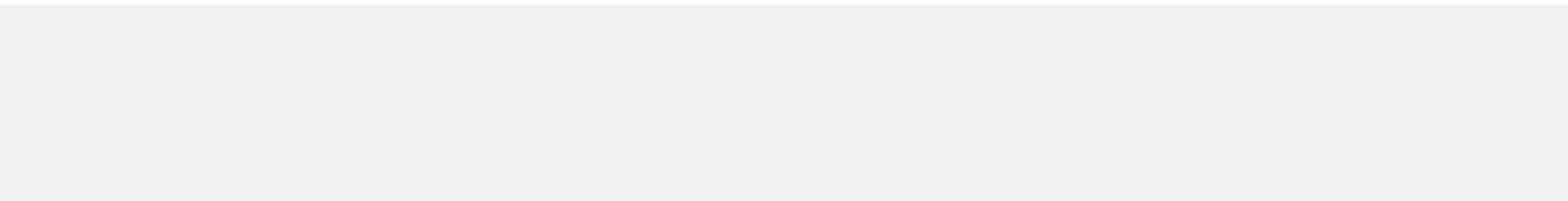
- Have you chosen the right subject for the right reasons?
- Can you survive in an intense and pressured atmosphere?
- Do you have a range of interests and aptitudes?
- Do you have a depth of interest in the subject?
- Have you studied independently?
- Do you appear motivated and committed?
- Do you possess good numeracy and literacy skills?

Average Personal Statement

- I want to do X at University because I like it at A level....
- 6-8 lines about the subject of study
- 'I have Gold award Duke of Edinburgh'
- Lists the 20 sports played and 15 positions of responsibility held at school
- I like socialising with friends, reading and films...



**Turning an average
Personal Statement into
an excellent one...**



Excellent Personal Statement

- Clever, high impact opening sentence
 - this is usually written last to avoid getting a 'block' about it
- Over half about the subject area
 - shows real passion for the subject area
 - academics are passionate about their subject!
- Work experience/career aspirations
- Explain context of social life/achievement
 - why? NOT what?, skills learnt and challenges/setbacks
- Shows real personality

Remember...

- You have one chance to get noticed!
- Deadlines are not a target – earlier is better!
- Check carefully to avoid silly mistakes
- Show your personality and your passion
- Be reflective not just descriptive
- Get help but make it your own authentic voice
- Show you have researched your course choice

Decision-making

- After receiving your application, a university or college will make one of three decisions:
 - **unconditional** offer
 - **conditional** offer
 - **unsuccessful**
- Or, they can offer a place on an alternative course.
- Universities and colleges can also:
 - request an interview
 - ask to see your portfolio
 - ask you to take an admissions test

Tracking applications

Track allows applicants to:

- follow the progress of their application 24/7
- see their choices and personal information
- view their offers
- reply to offers online



In Track, a student can hold up to two offers:

- **firm** – their first choice. If they meet the conditions of the offer they will be placed
- **insurance** – acts as a back up choice if they are not placed with their firm choice

Replying to offers

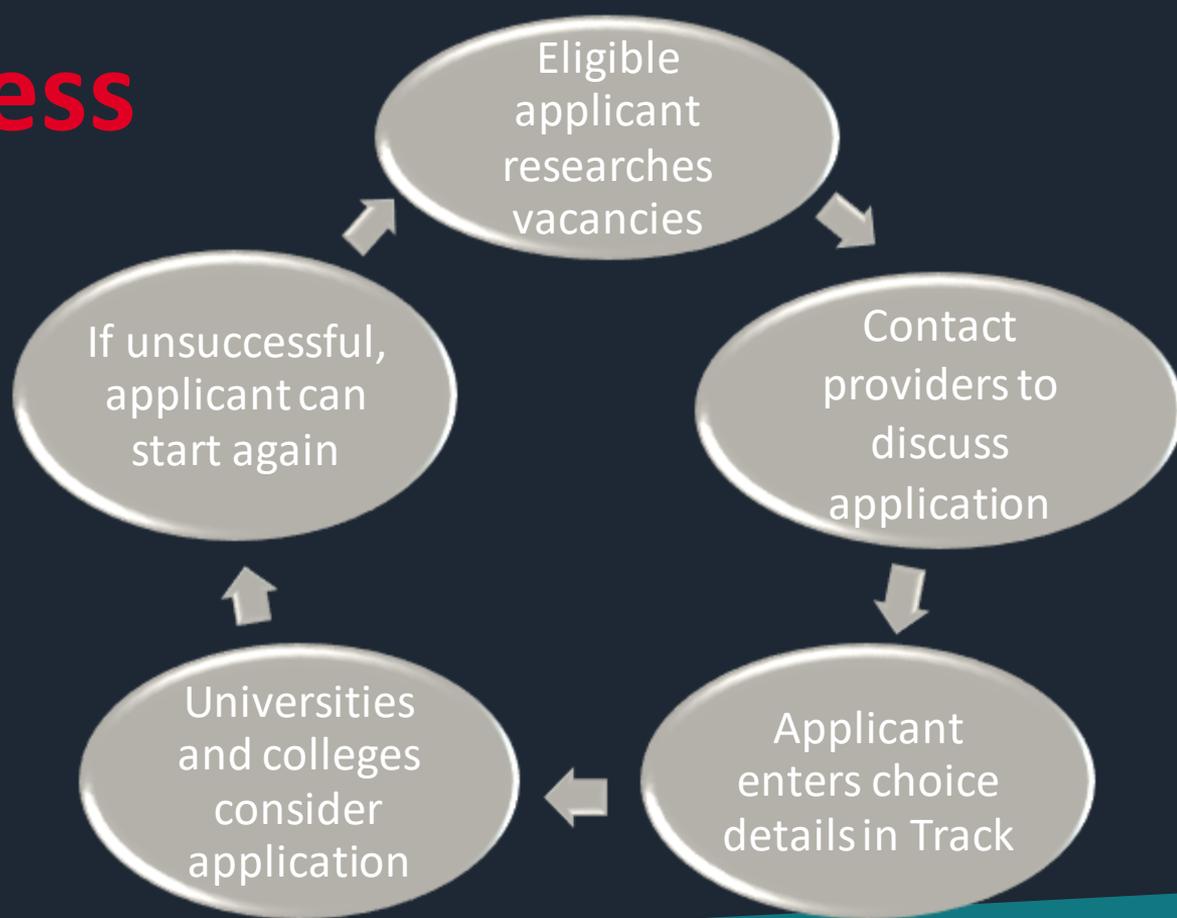
- Once you have decisions on all your choices, you can hold a maximum of two offers:
 - one as a 'firm' acceptance – your first choice
 - the other as an 'insurance' acceptance. This acts as a back-up if you do not get into your 'firm' choice
- You must then decline any remaining offers.
- Once all your decisions and replies have been made, if you are not holding an offer, you may be able to use Extra or Clearing to find available places.

Other options

- **Extra** (25 Feb – 5 Jul)
 - Used all five choices and had no offers (or declined all offers/withdrew).
 - Add Extra choices for consideration one at a time via Track.
- **Clearing** (6 Jul – Oct)
 - Apply after 30 June, receive no offers, decline all offers, or not met conditions.
 - Find vacancies from 6 July, and add one choice via Track.
- **Adjustment** (up to five days in Aug)
 - Placed with firm choice, and did better than conditional offer.
 - Register in Track, then find another university or college. The new university or college adjusts the record.

Clearing process

- Places secured via Track.
- A verbal agreement must be made between applicant and university.
- Eligible applicants will have a ten digit Personal ID number (PID) and a six digit clearing number.
- Should be able to quote both to the universities they contact.



Thank you



Common Application commonapp.org

- Largest college application platform
 - Other application platforms: Coalition and Common Black College Application
- Almost 900 schools participate – **use Common App to apply to multiple schools**
- Site is free to use – individual schools may charge an application fee



Before We Get Started

- Not every school will require the personal essay
- Most schools will require additional specific info
- You have to submit to each individual school in Common App
- Mobile friendly

- Schools will not know the other schools you have applied to
- Schools will not have access to your full info until you submit

Sections of the Common Application



DASHBOARD – LIST OF YOUR SCHOOLS, DEADLINES, AND THE STATUS OF YOUR APPLICATION



MY COLLEGES – SCHOOL SPECIFIC QUESTIONS, SUPPLEMENTS, SHORT RESPONSES,



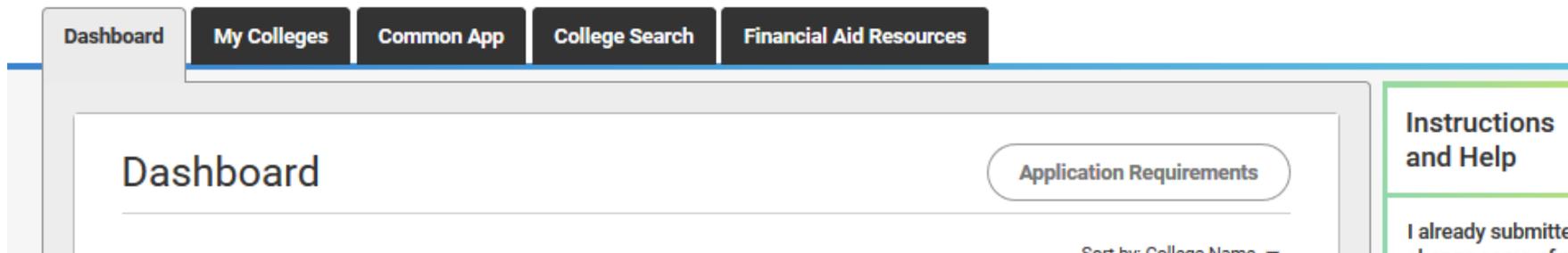
COMMON APP – THE GENERAL APPLICATION - COMPLETED ONCE



COLLEGE SEARCH – WHERE YOU ADD SCHOOLS TO YOUR LIST



FINANCIAL AID RESOURCES – HELPFUL INFO



Helpful Hints

- **PROOFREAD**
- **Be mindful of other deadlines for rolling admission schools (e.g. scholarship or program deadlines)**
- Explain your activities
- Pay attention to each school's testing policy
- Check your email regularly
- Follow directions/instructions
- Ask for help – use your resources

Dashboard Tab

- Shows all colleges on your list

The screenshot displays a web dashboard with a navigation bar at the top containing tabs: "Dashboard", "My Colleges", "Common App", "College Search", and "Financial Aid Resources". The "Dashboard" tab is active. Below the navigation bar, the page title "Dashboard" is centered. On the right side, there is a "Sort by: College Name" dropdown menu. The main content area features a list of three colleges, each in a light gray card with a "Show more details" button at the bottom. Each card includes the college name, a link to "Add your term or admission plan", and a progress indicator for an application.

Dashboard

Sort by: College Name ▾

SUNY College at Geneseo ⓘ ✕
[Add your term or admission plan](#)
✎ Application – *In progress*
Show more details ▾

University of Pittsburgh ⓘ ✕
[Add your term or admission plan](#)
✎ Application – *In progress*
Show more details ▾

University of Rhode Island ⓘ ✕
[Add your term or admission plan](#)
✎ Application – *In progress*
✎ Writing Supplement – *In progress*
Show more details ▾

es/101/about

Dashboard Tab

Expanded view includes
information about
application components
and supplemental writing
requirements

University of Rhode Island ⓘ ✕
[Add your term or admission plan](#)

- [Application](#) – *In progress*
- [Writing Supplement](#) – *In progress*

Show more details ▲

Application Status

- [Common Application](#) – *In progress*
- [Questions](#) – *In progress*
- [Recommenders and FERPA](#) – *In progress*

Writing Supplement Status

- [Writing Questions](#) – *Complete*

Writing Requirements

[Common App Personal Essay](#)

- Required

College Questions

- Additional Details

Writing Supplement

- 1 Optional Question
- Additional Details

Applicants who select the Talent Development Fee Waiver in the General section, or PharmD in the Academics section will be required to complete an additional writing question.

- The Common App opens on **August 1** each year, meaning this is the earliest date students can submit their application. Those looking to get a head start on the application process can create an account and complete all general components at any time before this date.
- [College application deadlines](#) vary depending on multiple factors. If you're applying [early action or early decision](#), most schools will require you to submit your application around **November 1**. Regular decision applications are generally due by **January 1**. These are the most common dates for each application window, but deadlines also vary by school, so be sure to check each of your prospective colleges.



When Is the Common App Due?

4 Essential Tips for Using the Common App

Before you begin applying to college with the Common App, read these critical tips to help keep you on track.

- **1. Start Early**
 - Although the Common App opens on August 1, students can start collecting materials and filling out information at any time prior to this date. Application components such as letters of recommendation and official transcripts can take considerable time to obtain, so make sure to collect these early on.
- **2. Familiarize Yourself With the Common App System**
 - Some application components can be confusing and may require additional help to fully understand. The financial aid section, for example, typically requires parental information, such as income levels and tax statements.

4 Essential Tips for Using the Common App

- **3. Prepare Your Personal Statement Ahead of Time**
 - The Common App lets you [view possible essay prompts](#) well before the application opens, giving you plenty of time to brainstorm, organize, and even draft your personal statement.

- **4. Be Aware of Application Deadlines**
 - Set aside ample time to submit your application, as waiting until the last possible day to gather your materials can make an already stressful process even more challenging. A calendar or planner can help you keep track of upcoming due dates for all your schools.

A few universities that don't need CommonApp applications

- University of Arizona
- Arizona State University
- Oregon State University
- Saint Louis University
- University of South Carolina
- Trine University
- Tulane University
- University of Central Florida
- University of Dayton
- University of Illinois at Chicago
- University of South Florida
- Washington State University
- Adelphi University
- Auburn University
- Baylor University
- Colorado State University
- George Mason University
- Hofstra University
- Johns Hopkins University
- Kent State University
- Louisiana State University
- American University
- UCs universities

Next Steps



Visit colleges websites



Finalize your list of schools



Continue working on applications



Write your college essay