

UCAS

# TICK THE BOX: THE UCAS APPLICATION

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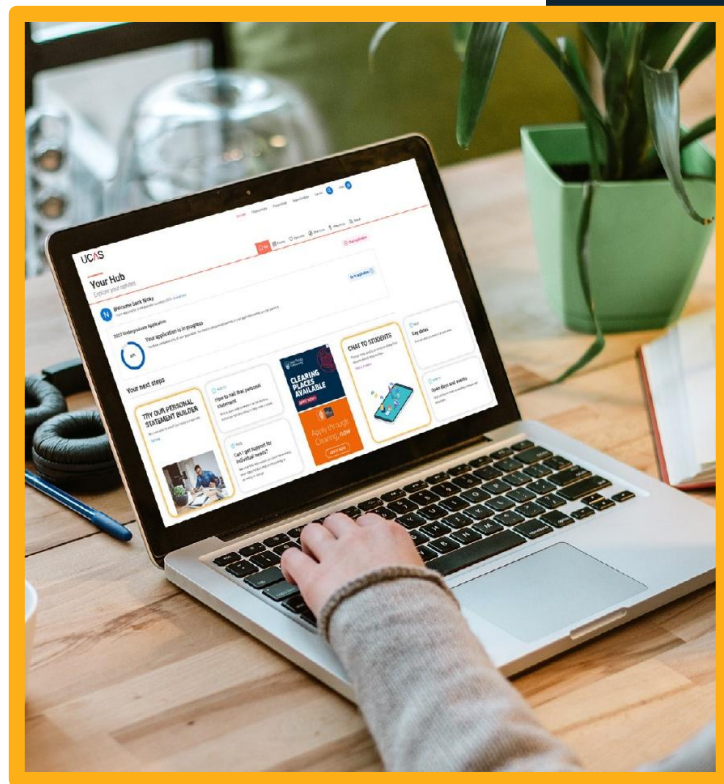
# DISCOVER YOUR OPTIONS ... ON THE UCAS HUB

It's where students can:

- **Research** different subjects and courses, careers, industries, employers and pathways
- **Find** open days, UCAS Discovery events, and virtual tours
- Find **personalised tools** to help decision making
- **Search** for undergraduate courses and providers
- Explore **apprenticeship** opportunities
- Complete their higher education **application**
- **Track** offers and decisions

## TOP TIP


Create your own student Hub account and explore the tools for yourself



# TOOLS TO HELP STUDENTS DISCOVER OPTIONS AND PLAN NEXT STEPS

CV BUILDER

Need help structuring your CV?  
Try our CV builder.



Go to CV builder

TARIFF POINT CALCULATOR

A*	A	B	CLEAR
C	D	E	DELETE
-	-	-	BACK
-	VIEW SAVED		FORWARD

WHAT TO STUDY NEXT?

Art and design 31.05%

Business, management, and administrative studies 27.22%

Publishing, media, and information management 19.05%

Marketing 15.38%

Architecture, building, and planning 7.4%

CHANGE SUBJECTS

YOUR CAREERS QUIZ

View my matches

BROWSE CAREERS

SUBJECT SPOTLIGHTS


POWERED BY Springpod

VIRTUAL WORK EXPERIENCES

POWERED BY Springpod

PERSONAL STATEMENT BUILDER

4000 characters of 4000 remaining



View personal statement guides

CONTINUE WRITING

YOUR EVENTS

AT YOUR FAVOURITE UNIS

UCAS Discovery Exeter 2025  
11 Mar 2025, 09:30

UCAS Discovery Lisburn 2025  
19 Mar 2025, 09:30


UCAS Discovery London 2025  
26 Mar 2025, 09:30

UCAS Discovery Worcester 2025  
27 Mar 2025, 09:30

UWS - UCAS Late Application Workshop

HUB LIVE

UCAS



HOW TO APPLY FOR AN APPRENTICESHIP

Hear from employers and apprentices on what the application process involves, what you should include and common mistakes to avoid.

ALL HUB LIVE VIDEOS

YOUR NOTES

OPEN NOTES

DATES & DEADLINES

UP NEXT

9 Apr 2025 - Conservatoires Conservatoires 2025 entry: if you receive all decisions by 12 March, reply by 9 April

20 Apr 2025 - Undergraduate 2026 entry undergraduate and conservatoire courses live in UCAS' search tool

13 May 2025 - Undergraduate 2026 entry undergraduate applications open

14 May 2025 - Undergraduate 2025 entry: Uni/college decisions due on applications submitted by

VIEW TIMELINE

GOT A QUESTION?

How do I apply?

Lost or forgotten your UCAS password?

How can I make a change to my application?

What will happen when I've sent my application?

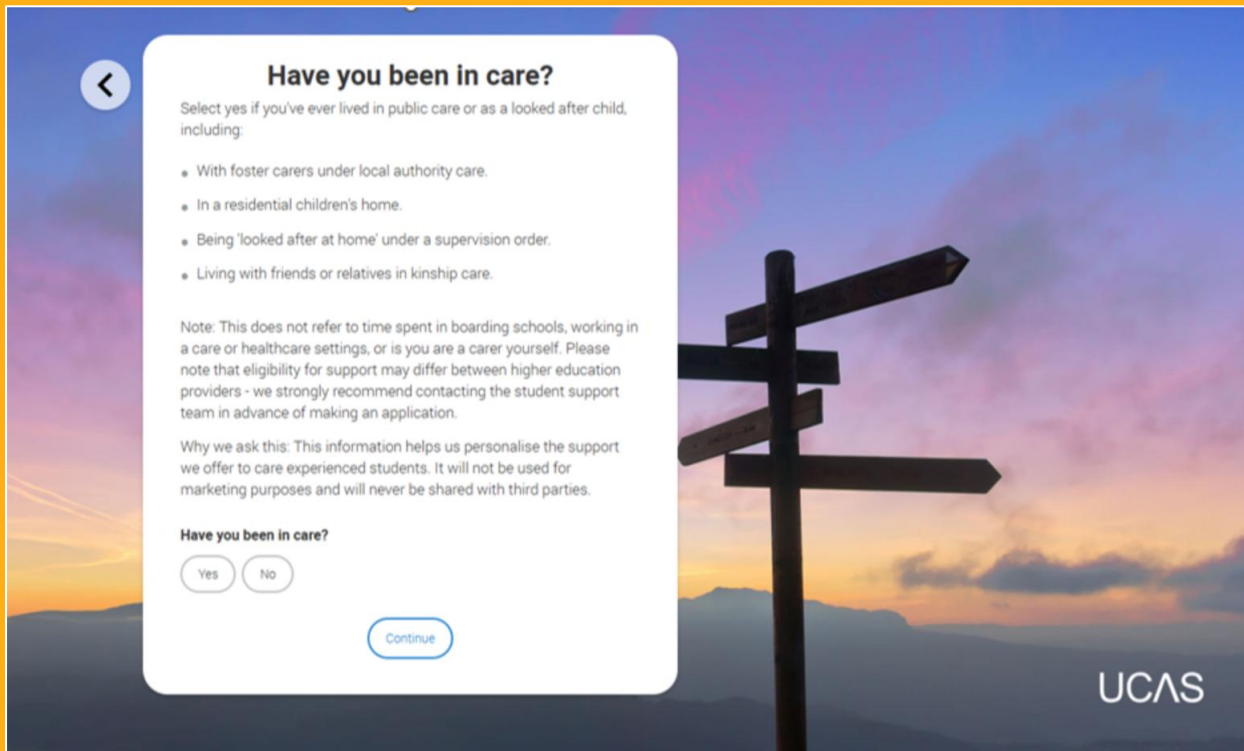
How do I get a reference?

What should I include in my personal statement?

SEE ALL

# SHARE CARE EXPERIENCE FROM THE START

UCAS



**Have you been in care?**

Select yes if you've ever lived in public care or as a looked after child, including:

- With foster carers under local authority care.
- In a residential children's home.
- Being 'looked after at home' under a supervision order.
- Living with friends or relatives in kinship care.

Note: This does not refer to time spent in boarding schools, working in a care or healthcare settings, or is you are a carer yourself. Please note that eligibility for support may differ between higher education providers - we strongly recommend contacting the student support team in advance of making an application.

Why we ask this: This information helps us personalise the support we offer to care experienced students. It will not be used for marketing purposes and will never be shared with third parties.

**Have you been in care?**

☐ Yes ☐ No

[Continue](#)



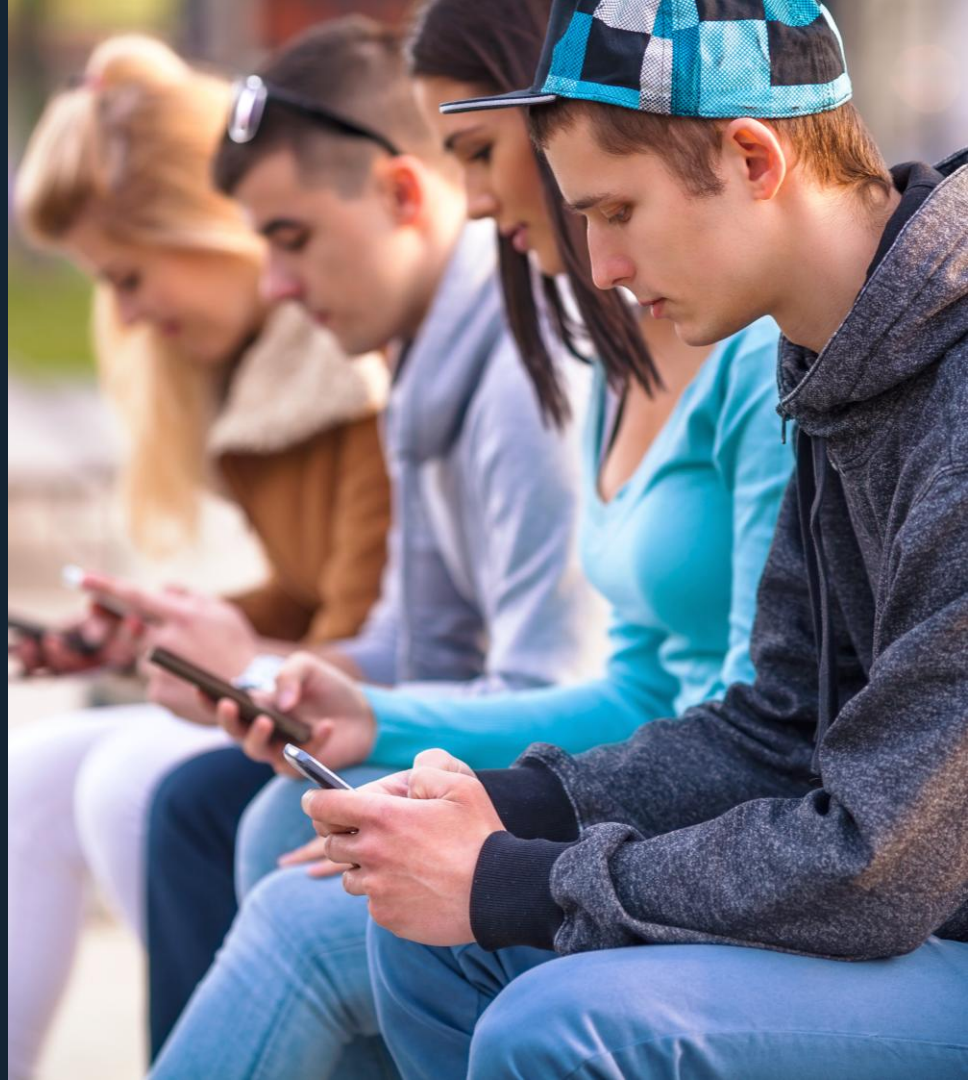
- New question when registering for the UCAS Hub
- See relevant content in the Hub
- Change this information any time



UCAS

# THE UCAS APPLICATION PROCESS

Some important things for you to be aware of when supporting an applicant with care experience




# GETTING STARTED


## Your Hub

Your personalised homepage

Hub For you Favourites

**Welcome back Becca**

You will be applying in 2024 - [Change year](#)




2023 UNDERGRADUATE APPLICATION  
**Start a new application**  
Apply to universities and colleges to study Degrees, HNDs, and HNCs

## Your Hub

Your personalised homepage and discovery hub

Hub For you Favourites What to do Where to go Search


**Welcome back Nicola**

You're applying for Undergraduate courses in 2025 - [Change year](#)

Start application

2025 Undergraduate Application

Go to application

**Your application is in progress**


You have completed 50% of your application. You need to complete all sections of your application before you can submit it.

### Application status


**Centre information**

If you are applying through a school, college or centre, and have been given a buzzword, please enter it here (optional)


Add buzzword

**5/5**


CHOICES

**64%**


PROFILE

**IN PROGRESS**

PERSONAL STATEMENT

**ADD REFEREE**

REFERENCE

**50%**

Review and submit

## Personal details

Name, age, title and gender

✓ Section complete

## Nominated access

**Do you want someone else to be able to act, or speak on your behalf, about your application? e.g. A parent, teacher, other relative or guardian. If you are using an agent, you can choose to enter their details.**

You're able to enter details of someone you're happy to help manage your application - this is called nominated access.

☒ Yes ☐ No

### Full name of nominee \*

The first and last name of your nominee. They will be asked this information when speaking to UCAS on your behalf.

### Relationship to you \*

How you know your nominee. They will be asked this information when speaking to UCAS on your behalf.

# PROFILE WHERE YOU LIVE

## Where you live

Tell us about your address history

✓ Section complete

### Where you live

We need to collect the addresses where you have been living since 1 September 2022. By giving us this information, universities and colleges can determine where you have been living for the three years prior to your course.

If you split your time between two addresses, for example, your parents live apart, please tell us about the address you spend the most time at.

The addresses in this section will not be used to contact you. You can add your postal address in the contact details section.

↔ Add new current address



You can use the address of the **local authority** here



# THE MORE ABOUT YOU SECTION

## More about you

Tell us about any circumstances that you might need support for during your studies.

Start this section

UCAS

Further education

Undergraduate

Postgraduate

## MORE ABOUT YOU

2023 Undergraduate application

🏠 / UCAS application / More about you

← Return to application overview

Personal details

✓ **Contact and residency details**

Nationality details

Supporting information

English language skills

Finance and funding

Diversity and inclusion

More about you

Education

Here, you can tell us about any circumstances that you might need support for during your studies. You might feel uncertain about sharing your personal circumstances but we want to reassure you that this information is confidential and will not negatively impact your application.

We don't need you to give details – this information will be shared with those involved in making arrangements to support you at the university or college (e.g. the student support team, admissions staff), and they may get in touch to tell you more.

Note: Not all universities and colleges offer the same support, so contact them directly to discuss your requirements and questions before you apply.

These questions are optional. Use the ? icon to get more help with answering the question and visit the FAQs pages if you need more information.

**Every year, over 60,000 students with a physical and/or mental health condition, long-term illness, or learning difference apply through UCAS to study at a university or college in the UK, and access a range of support available to help with their studies, day-to-day activities, travel, or lifestyle. Would you consider yourself as living with any of the following: \***

# THE MORE ABOUT YOU SECTION

## More about you

Tell us about any circumstances that you might need support for during your studies.

Start this section

Would you consider yourself estranged from your parents (i.e. you're not in contact with and supported by your parents)?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you have any caring responsibilities?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Are you a parent or do you have parenting responsibilities?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you have official refugee status or limited leave to remain, or are you seeking asylum?

☐ No ☐ The UK government has granted me refugee status or humanitarian protection in the UK

☐ I have limited or discretionary leave to remain in the UK ☐ I'm currently seeking asylum in the UK

Do you have a parent or carer who currently serves in the UK Armed Forces, or who has done so in the past?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Have you ever served in the UK Armed Forces?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Are you currently receiving free school meals, or have you been in receipt of free school meals during your secondary education?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know

☐ Mark this section as complete \*

You must complete all mandatory fields in this section before you can mark it as complete. All sections must be marked as complete before you can send your application.

Save this section

## Help for estranged

An estranged person is someone who no longer has the support of their parents, and often also other family members, due to a permanent breakdown in their relationship which has led to ceased contact. This might mean your biological, step or adoptive parents or wider family members who have been responsible for supporting you in the past. Select Yes if you feel this description applies to you. [Find out more](#) about applying to university if you are estranged from your family. If you select Yes, your information will be treated in confidence, to help the university or college provide support for you. It may also be used for monitoring purposes to inform and improve support for future students who are estranged from their parents. If you have been in local authority care, you may be considered 'care experienced'. [Find out more](#) about applying to



**Where can I get more information about applying to university or college if I am estranged from my family?** [show answer](#) ⓘ

- Find out more about applying to university or college if you're estranged from your parent.

**I have been in care in the past – am I care experienced or estranged?** [hide answer](#) ⓘ

If you've been in local authority care at any time in your past, you may be considered 'care experienced' – there's a separate question on the application to share information about this.

You're free to choose 'Yes' for both questions – the university or college may get in touch to find out more so they know how to help you the best they can.

[Find out more about applying to university or college if you have been in care.](#)

**Related topics** [Applying to study in 2022 – estranged](#)

[direct link](#)

**Should I mention my circumstances in the personal statement?** [show answer](#) ⓘ

Although this question was introduced so estranged students didn't have to use their personal statement to explain their circumstances, you may want to use this space to talk about any relevant skills and qualities you've developed as a result.

**I am an international student, so I will be studying away from my family – is this the same thing?** [show answer](#) ⓘ

No – an estranged student's relationship with their parents has broken down and they have removed themselves from their family home or been disowned.

**How is information about estrangement used?** [show answer](#) ⓘ

This information is shared (securely) with those who are responsible for supporting you at university or college (e.g. the student services team).

**Why would a university or college want to know if I am estranged from my family?** [show](#)

[answer](#) ⓘ



**Extended FAQ-style  
help text**

# THE DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION SECTION

## Diversity & inclusion

Additional equality information

Section in progress

### Care support information

#### Have you been in care?

Select yes if you've ever lived in public care or as a looked-after child, including:

- with foster carers under local authority care
- in a residential children's home
- being 'looked after at home' under a supervision order
- living with friends or relatives in kinship care

Note: This does not refer to time spent in boarding schools, working in a care or healthcare setting, or if you are a carer yourself. Please note that eligibility for support may differ between higher education providers – we strongly recommend contacting the student support team in advance of making an application

☒ Yes ☐ No

#### Duration in care \*

▼

☒ Less than 1 week

☐ 1 week - 3 months

☐ 3 months - 1 year

☐ 1 year - 3 years

☐ 3 years or more

Parent

Do all

or ce

☐

Occu

Plas

retire

not to

give the

information

please

provide

the year

and your

time if

you

can't

find a

match

for the

job title

you want

to enter,

please

choose

the one

closest

to it. **This information will only be**

**shared with a provider once you have a place or your application is archived.**

# THE PERSONAL STATEMENT

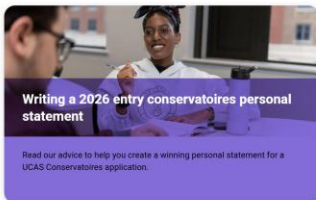
## A new scaffolded approach:

[Link to the personal statement resources](#)

- ▶ Question 1: Why do you want to study this course or subject?
- ▶ Question 2: How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?
- ▶ Question 3: What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?

### Applying for 2026 entry

If you're applying to start university in 2026, the personal statement is changing from one long piece of text to three questions. Find out what to include in your answers, plus subject-specific personal statement guides to help you understand what admissions staff are looking for.



#### ▼ Question 1: Why do you want to study this course or subject?

This is the opportunity for students to showcase their passion, curiosity, interest, and knowledge of their chosen subject area and to demonstrate to universities and colleges why it's a good fit for them and their future ambitions.

Examples of what they might talk about here are:

- **Their motivations for studying this course(s):** Have they been inspired by a key role model or moment in their life? Maybe it's a subject they love and want to pursue further. We're all driven by something and it's important for students to talk about how their path has led them to this course or subject area.
- **Their knowledge of this subject area and interests:** Perhaps there's a particular subject area they've researched and can't wait to learn more about, or a book or subject expert doing great things that have sparked their interest? Universities and colleges want to see students have done their research so they can be confident this is something they will enjoy and excel in. This is a great place to highlight super-curricular activities as evidence of curiosity and interest in the subject outside of the classroom.
- **Future plans and why this course/subject is a good fit:** If they already have a particular profession in mind, they could talk about how they'll use their studies to launch their career. If they don't, think about what's important to them and their future, and how the knowledge gained from their chosen course(s) will help them to achieve this.

Here are some more examples for this section:

- Personal life experiences e.g. being a carer, the environment where you grew up or lived, an inspirational friend, colleague or family member, a book you read, a news article or blog/vlog, a YouTube video, a podcast, a show you saw, [subject tasters](#)
- Understanding of the area and the qualities you might need to succeed in it – research into the course/area



# NEED MORE HELP?

**UCAS Customer Experience Centre:**

**0371 468 0 468**

Mon to Fri, 08:30 – 18:00 GMT

Follow us on social media:



[www.facebook.com/ucasonline](https://www.facebook.com/ucasonline)



[@ucas\\_online](https://twitter.com/ucas_online)



[www.instagram.com/ucas\\_online](https://www.instagram.com/ucas_online)



[ucas\\_online](https://www.tiktok.com/ucas_online)



[@ucasonlineofficial](https://www.youtube.com/ucasonlineofficial)



[@ucas\\_online](https://www.snapchat.com/add/ucas_online)



# RESOURCES TO HELP YOU SUPPORT YOUNG PEOPLE WITH THEIR NEXT STEPS

All you need to help someone to make  
informed decisions and get the right support



UCAS

[Link to our pages for care-experienced applicants](#)

## UCAS UNDERGRADUATE: CARE EXPERIENCED STUDENTS

## What's on this page?

- What do we mean by care experience?
- What support can care experienced students get at uni?
- Do your research – we're here to help
- The UCAS application – sharing your circumstances
- Care experienced students in Scotland

### What do we mean by care experience?

Being care experienced means you will have spent time living with foster carers under local authority care, in residential care (e.g. a children's home), looked after at home under a supervision order or in kinship care<sup>1</sup> with relatives or friends, either officially (e.g. a special guardianship order) or informally without local authority support.

Sometimes you will see the term 'care leaver' used. Although this has a slightly different meaning, it is often used interchangeably with 'care experience'.

# UCAS ALL STUDENT PAGES FOR SUPPORTING INDIVIDUAL NEEDS

[Link to the individual needs  
student pages](#)

## Students with individual needs



### Disabled students

Course providers welcome over 45,000 disabled students each year, meaning there's already lots of on-campus support available.

If you have a physical or mental health condition, learning difference or long-term illness, you can let the course provider know on your application. However, it's a good idea to contact them directly to discuss your support needs as early as possible – even before sending your application.



### Care-experienced students

There's plenty of support in higher education for care-experienced students – with finances and accommodation, as well as help with settling in to your new surroundings.



### Student carers

Higher education can give students with caring responsibilities the independence and skills they need for their chosen career through financial and academic support during their studies.



### Students with parenting responsibilities

Universities and colleges are aware that if you are balancing your studies with family life, you may experience challenges from time-to-time. However, extra support may be available to help you manage, such as on-site childcare, academic support, and help with finances.



### Students with a previous criminal conviction

Many people with previous criminal convictions enter higher education. Depending on the course you want to study, you may need to disclose your criminal record – universities and colleges will be able to support you through this process and offer guidance.



### Students not supported by their parents (estranged)

Support is available for students who are no longer supported by their parents due to a breakdown in the relationship (known as estranged). This can include help with accommodation and finances, as well as health and wellbeing.



### Refugees, asylum seekers, and those with limited leave to remain

Refugees, asylum seekers or those with limited leave to remain who are considering applying to higher education, should always speak to the



### Students from Armed Forces families (service children)

Young people with one, or both, parents serving in the UK Armed Forces, should let the university or college know about their circumstances and



### Armed Forces veterans and service leavers

For those who have served in the UK Armed Forces, or are preparing to transition into civilian life, there are a number of resources and initiatives available to help with applying for a higher education course.



# THE UCAS SUPPORTERS TOOLKIT

UCAS

**THE UCAS APPLICATION:**

## THE SUPPORTER'S TOOLKIT: CARE-EXPERIENCED APPLICANTS

A step-by-step guide to the UCAS process for anyone helping care-experienced students to research their options and apply to higher education

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**THE UCAS HUB: WHAT IS IT?**

This is where applicants can access tools and information to:

- explore and research their options
- shortlist choices
- apply to courses
- track and reply to decisions

**Register for the Hub any time!**

Applicants don't have to be ready to apply, or even apply at all – it's a great place to explore all options and pathways, whether they:

- have a clear idea of what they want to do and how to get there
- have some ideas but need more information
- don't have a clue where to start!

**UCAS EXHIBITIONS**

These free events happen all over the UK from spring through to autumn to help young people consider their options – students need to register in advance.

**Discovery events:** talk to universities, colleges, employers and apprenticeship providers all under one roof. Find out more about traditional degrees, apprenticeships, careers and more.

**Read UCAS's Ultimate Guide to Discovery Exhibitions** to make the most of the visit.

**UNIVERSITY OPEN DAYS**

These happen all year round and are free to attend. They are a great opportunity to visit the campus and decide if it is the right fit. Students usually need to book a place in advance.

**Discovery events:** talk to universities, colleges, employers and apprenticeship providers all under one roof. Find out more about traditional degrees, apprenticeships, careers and more.

**Read UCAS's Ultimate Guide to Discovery Exhibitions** to make the most of the visit.

**CREATE YOUR FUTURE EVENTS**

Exciting exhibitions dedicated to creative careers. Talk to universities, colleges, conservatoires, employers, and industry experts – and watch live performances from current students.

SEARCH FOR ALL EVENTS AND OPEN DAYS ON UCAS.COM

**HOW TO SEARCH**

Once the applicant has researched their options, the next step is to search and finalise their course choices.

To find courses, you can either:

- Click Start on the Year Applications tile in the Hub dashboard.
- Link to your school or college using the Buzzword provided. If you are not applying from a school or college, skip this step.
- Enter the Buzzword from your school, college, or centre.

Add up to five courses using the Add Choice box.

Enter the required information for each section and mark as complete.

You can save the application at any time and complete it later. You can't mark the section as complete until all required information is added (marked with an asterisk).

Mark the section as complete?

You must complete an affidavit. Refer to this section before you mark it as complete. All sections must be marked as complete before you can send your application.

**HOW TO COMPLETE THE UCAS APPLICATION**



**FINANCES**

If the applicant has applied for student finance, make sure their university and course details are correct with their student finance provider. Also check all bank details are up to date.

The first instalment is paid into the student's bank account once all documentation has been received and the university has confirmed attendance with the Student Loans Company.

Now is a good time to shop around for a student bank account and think about budgeting and money management – we have some resources to help.

**ACCOMMODATION**

Those who are moving away may have already secured accommodation, or be starting to look now.

Also start to plan around insurance, bills, shopping and equipment (e.g. bedding and kitchen utensils), as well as how they will move to their new location.

**GETTING SUPPORT AT UNIVERSITY**

Make sure students know where to get support if they need it. The student support team is often the best place to start.

Find out about support at university, and where to go for help.

**STUDY**

University study is different to school or college – students are expected to learn more independently.

We've created their study skills guides with the National Extension College (NEC) to help students prepare.

READ ALL ABOUT WHAT TO DO AFTER RESULTS DAY

**RECEIVED NO OFFERS? THERE ARE STILL OPTIONS!**

If the applicant is unsuccessful in all choices (or they have declined all offers), they may be able to find a place through Extra.

This service is available February to July and allows applicants holding no offers to apply to one additional course at a time. Eligible students will see the Extra option in their Hub.

When Extra closes, applicants holding no offers can still apply for vacancies through Clearing (see below).

Read more about Extra choices

**FINAL DECISIONS - CONFIRMATION**

Applicants awaiting results (e.g. A-levels, Scottish Highers, BTECs) for a conditional offer, can see if they have been declined all offers, they may be able to find a place through Extra.

This usually happens on results days in August.

**NOT BEEN SUCCESSFUL? THERE ARE STILL OPTIONS!**

It can be a difficult time for applicants who don't get the grades they need but it's not the end of the road.

Firstly, wait for the decision in the Hub – missing a grade doesn't necessarily mean the student won't be accepted. If they are unsuccessful, they can use Clearing (below) to find an alternative place or explore other options.

Top tip: check if there are any other conditions to meet before the place is offered (e.g. passing DBS checks)

**NOW IS A GOOD TIME TO THINK ABOUT...**

**FINANCIAL AND ACCOMMODATION**

With few loan options available, it's covered maintenance needs on where household details in our

If a young person has a bank, only start when they turn 16. Universities and colleges, and parents and guardians, need to be involved in the application. Read more

**ACCOMMODATION**

If the applicant is planning to move away, they should start to think about accommodation. There are lots of options, from halls to shared houses. The university can help, and you can read more about how to choose on our accommodation pages.

**ALLOWANCE (BESA)**

University-related costs. Diversity and Ability. The guide to BESA how to apply.

**THE REFERENCE**

This is a written recommendation from a teacher, career adviser, trainer, employer or other professional who knows the applicant well academically or professionally.

These applying independently (i.e. not in school or college) will be asked to send their reference details and UCAS will email them for the reference.

Once this is received, the applicant will be prompted to pay and send their application.

For applicants linked to a school or college, the reference will be requested once they pay and submit.

Read more about references

These are the 'general' pages

Link to the UCAS Supporters' Toolkits

# THE UCAS SUPPORTERS' TOOLKIT

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## THE UCAS APPLICATION:

## THE SUPPORTER'S TOOLKIT: CARE-EXPERIENCED APPLICANTS

A step-by-step guide to the UCAS process for anyone helping care-experienced students to research options and apply to higher education.

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## WHERE TO GET INFORMATION AND SUPPORT FOR CARE-EXPERIENCED APPLICANTS

UCAS RESOURCES FOR CARE-EXPERIENCED APPLICANTS

OTHER ORGANISATIONS SUPPORTING CARE-EXPERIENCED APPLICANTS

## HELPING CARE-EXPERIENCED APPLICANTS GET READY TO GO!

### GET THE PRACTICALITIES SORTED

- **Prepare to move to their accommodation.** Have they planned their move (where, when, how)? The local authority may be able to help with costs.
- **Check what equipment they need.** Find out what is provided and what they need to buy. Some universities offer starter packs (e.g. kitchen equipment and bedding) to care leavers, and the local authority may be able to help. If they are worried about the cost of books, the library will be able to help.
- **Know where to get help.** Universities have a dedicated care-experienced adviser (most are listed on [Propel](#)).
- **Get ready for independent living.** Cooking and budgeting skills are really helpful preparation for university life.

### MAKING FRIENDS

Universities are diverse and inclusive environments, offering a range of clubs and societies to help like-minded students connect. Check what's on offer via student services or the students' union. Some universities have groups just for care-experienced students to meet and support each other – they may also be interested in these groups.



**Uplift from the Rees Foundation**  
This free online programme is aimed at care leavers aged 16-25. It is designed to improve confidence and enhance life skills as they transition into independence.

## TOP TIPS TO HELP CARE-EXPERIENCED APPLICANTS DISCOVER THEIR OPTIONS

CHALLENGE	WAYS TO HELP
"Is this for me?" Student feels overwhelmed or daunted by the process or prospectives	Help the student feel this is possible by: • discussing plans with a care leaver's support (peer, personal) adviser, and checking what help is available • asking UCAS advice • looking for tips • connecting to
"I can't afford it!" Student is worried about the cost of going to university, or attending interviews and open days	Forward plans: • research what support is available and ask for it • ask the local authority (Scotland) or open days • check bursar
"My grades aren't good enough!" Student thinks their grades will prevent them getting a place	Some universities: • meet about it • in Scotland? • students in college, can care expert

## TOP TIPS TO HELP CARE-EXPERIENCED APPLICANTS SEARCH AND SHORTLIST

- **What to remember when shortlisting universities:**
  - The type and level of support offered from one university to another – check they can meet your needs before applying.
  - Check the university website for student support services (it might be called something else).
  - The student support team is always happy to answer questions and give information – not only when students start their course, but during their application, so get in touch. Find their contact details on the university website.
  - If you're unsure whether a university makes contextual offers, or if an applicant is eligible, contact the admissions team. Their details are available in the UCAS Hub.
  - If the applicant has other individual needs (e.g. a disability, learning difference or mental health concern), read our [advice pages](#) and check the university can support them.

### USEFUL TOOLS AND RESOURCES



- Use [Propel](#) to search for uni around the UK and see what they offer to care-experienced students.
- The [Care Leaver's Covenant](#) (only lists universities and colleges that have made a committed supporting care-experienced Apply the Higher/Further filter or search for a specific) to see what they offer and to contact.

## HELPING CARE-EXPERIENCED APPLICANTS PLAN THEIR ACCOMMODATION

## HELPING CARE-EXPERIENCED APPLICANTS HANDLE DECISIONS AND OFFERS

### INTERVIEWS AND AUDITIONS

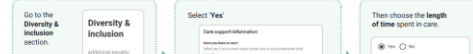
Check if there are any practical barriers to attending. Applicants may be able to get help with travel and accommodation costs from the local authority or the university. For virtual meetings, check they have the right equipment, quiet space, and time to prepare.



### APPLYING THROUGH CLEARING

Encourage the applicant to tell the university about their care background to ensure they get the right support. It may be harder to secure year-round accommodation in Clearing so, if this is important, speak to the university to see what they can offer.

## HELPING CARE-EXPERIENCED APPLICANTS SHARE THEIR CIRCUMSTANCES



## HELPING CARE-EXPERIENCED APPLICANTS SHARE OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES

### More about you

Use this section to share other circumstances that might need support to doing your studies.

- All information about personal circumstances will be treated sensitively and only shared with those who arrange support.
- Used positively – it is never used to decide whether to make an offer. Some applicants are worried about this so may need reassurance. This UCAS Hub profile video helps.

## HELPING CARE-EXPERIENCED APPLICANTS APPLY AND SEND

### The personal statement

This is where applicants explain their motivation for applying, and showcase the skills, strengths and characteristics they will bring to the course. They do not need to mention their care background unless they want to talk about how this has

The reference  
The reference is split into three sections, one of which is 'highlighting circumstances'. This is a good place to highlight anything which may have affected an applicant's attainment or performance (e.g. disruption as a result of changing school or placement).

## HELPING CARE-EXPERIENCED APPLICANTS APPLY FOR FINANCE AND FUNDING

### STUDENT FINANCE APPLICATIONS

Many universities offer additional financial support – some are listed. Speak to the university or check the [Propel](#) website.

Some charitable organisations offer additional financial support – some are listed. [Here](#), also check [www.barnardo.org.uk](#)

Those aged under 25 may be entitled to the Higher Education Bursary. This varies depending on where you live in the UK.

Ask your local authority if the applicant is eligible and how the bursary will be paid – check the [Care Leaver Local Offer website](#) and make sure any details are confirmed in writing.

Universities often promise care-experienced applicants for hardship funds – speak to the student support team.

Students in Scotland should apply for the [Care Experienced Students' Bursary](#) through SACS.

### CARE-EXPERIENCED STUDENTS

These are the pages specifically for helping care-experienced students

Link to the UCAS Supporters' Toolkits

# UCAS

# THE UCAS PEPS ACTION GUIDE

Helping you guide young  
people's career and  
education ambitions

[Link to the PEPs Action Guide](#)

Home / Advisers / Help and training / Toolkits / Adviser toolkit: Supporting students with individual needs

## SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE WITH THEIR PERSONAL EDUCATION PLANS (PEPS)

Explore this section ▾

If you are supporting a young person's Personal Education Plan (PEP), this guide suggests professional actions as they make their career and education choices – from Year 8 through to post-16 study. Content provided by Virtual School Sheffield.

This is not designed to be a comprehensive list, but gives you a starting point when helping a young person plan their next steps.

Please also see a more detailed [Step-by-step guide to supporting care experienced students \(10.12 MB\)](#)

### Actions which can be used in the PEP

- ▶ Year 8 and 9
- ▶ Year 10 and 11
- ▶ Post-16 Level 2 programme
- ▶ Post-16 Level 3 programme – first year
- ▶ Post-16 Level 3 programme – second year
- ▶ Final steps: Practical transition support

### More resources to help you support young people in care

- [Step-by-step guide to supporting care experienced students \(10.12 MB\)](#)
- [UCAS' adviser toolkit for supporting care experienced students](#)
- [UCAS' guidance for care experienced students](#) – student-facing information and advice
- [Propeel](#) – expert information about going to university as a student with care experience from [Become](#)



# ACTIONS TARGETED BY EDUCATION LEVEL

## ▼ Year 8 and 9

**Aim:** Students aiming for jobs or work areas that include study at higher apprenticeship will be aware of how their GCSE subjects support pathways.

**Timing:** Any term ahead of GCSE choices deadline.

### **Actions:**

- School to offer a careers interview so student can explore how GCSE subject choice supports A level and other advanced study choices. (Learning provider)
- Offer support to access the [UCAS Careers Quiz](#) to guide future choices. (Learning provider/carers)

## ▼ Year 10 and 11

**Aim:** Students will understand post-16 routes available to them (raising aspiration) and how programmes can be pathways into university and apprenticeships, and start to become aware of the types of support available.

**Timing:** Any term ahead of P16 application deadlines.

### **Actions:**

- Offer a careers interview so the student can explore post-16 entry requirements for HE programmes that interest them on the UCAS website. (Learning provider)
- Offer support to [register on the UCAS Hub](#) to explore pathways and range of helpful guides. (Learning provider/carers)
- Plan for the student to access [UCAS' guidance for care experienced students](#) so they know:
  - universities welcome applications from care experienced students and make offers of support
  - there is help and support – including financial support authorities (check detail nearer the time) provider/carers/social worker)

**Timing:** Any term ahead of open events.

### **Actions:**

- Plan support to identify and attend post-16 open events and questions about progression routes into HE and higher apprenticeships. (Learning provider/carers)
- Plan for support (e.g. school careers team) to identify inclusive open events held by universities (often in summer term) – may be aimed at Y10 upwards. The UCAS adviser can use the [Outreach Connection Service](#) in the UCAS adviser portal to find relevant opportunities. (Learning provider)

## ▼ Post-16 Level 3 programme – first year

**Aim:** Students aiming for a pathway towards HE and higher apprenticeships have plans in place for:

- knowing what support is available
- identifying programmes that may suit
- researching and visiting relevant universities
- understanding the benefit of sharing care experience

**Timing:** Autumn and spring terms, as ready.

### **Actions:**

- Ensure clarity about how many UCAS Tariff points a student can lead to – this informs HE pathways. (Learning provider)
- Ensure the student and home team know what support is available from provider/carers/social worker)
- Offer a careers interview so the student can explore HE pathways and give support with the UCAS process. (Learning provider)
- Offer support to [register on the UCAS Hub](#) where they can read industry guides, employer profiles, and take the [UCAS Career Quiz](#) to get inspiration about their next steps. (Learning provider)
- Plan for the student to access [UCAS' guidance for care experienced students](#) so they know:
  - universities welcome applications from care experienced young people and make offers of support that can include contextual offers (accepting care experience) and buddy schemes (connecting the young person with a peer)

## ▼ Post-16 Level 3 programme – second year

**Aim:** Students planning a pathway towards HE and higher apprenticeship will:

- finalise choices
- clarify support available in the year they attend
- make connections and applications

**Timing:** Autumn term

**Note:** Students make their final choices (maximum of five), start the UCAS application, and create their personal statement – an opportunity to highlight their skills, strengths, and characteristics.

### **Actions:**

- Revisit to ensure the student and home team know about the support available from the provider and are clear about deadlines. (Learning provider/carers/social worker/Leaving Care PA)
- Revisit offer of a careers interview, as needed, to help the student confirm their choices. (Learning provider)
- Ensure the team supporting the student have the link to the [step-by-step guide](#) to supporting young people in care through the UCAS application. (Learning provider/carers/social worker/Leaving Care PA)
- Ensure a plan to cover the UCAS application fee – if the student has been eligible for FSM in the last six years, ensure school/college knows this as they are [exempt from the UCAS application fee](#). (Social worker/learning provider)
- All who support to encourage aspirational choices – care experienced applicants may be considered for [contextual offers](#). In Scotland, they are guaranteed an offer if they meet the [minimum entry requirements](#). (Learning provider/carers/social worker/Leaving Care PA)
- All who support to encourage to share care experience and other circumstances (e.g. a disability, mental health condition or learning difference) on the UCAS application, reassure that information is treated sensitively and only used positively to connect them to support – including [contextual offers](#). Signpost to [UCAS blog article](#). (Learning provider/carers/social worker/Leaving Care PA)

[Access the PEPs  
Action Guide](#)

UCAS

# TRAIN THE TRAINER WORKSHOPS FOR SUPPORTING CARE-EXPERIENCED STUDENTS

[Sign up for a  
free workshop](#)



A free 2.5 hour workshop aimed at anyone supporting care-experienced applicants with no background knowledge of UCAS.

- What is UCAS?
- The UCAS Hub
- The UCAS application process
- Resources for students and their supporters
- Where to get help

## Comments from previous attendees:

*"I was very impressed by the amount of learning I got from this morning's training."*

*"Really enjoyed it, very informative and I am able to take a lot from it to share with Personal Advisers in our Leaving Care Team."*

*"... never had a clue there was so much on the UCAS hub"*

*"I feel more informed and confident to help our students in care"*

# UCAS

# KEEP IN TOUCH



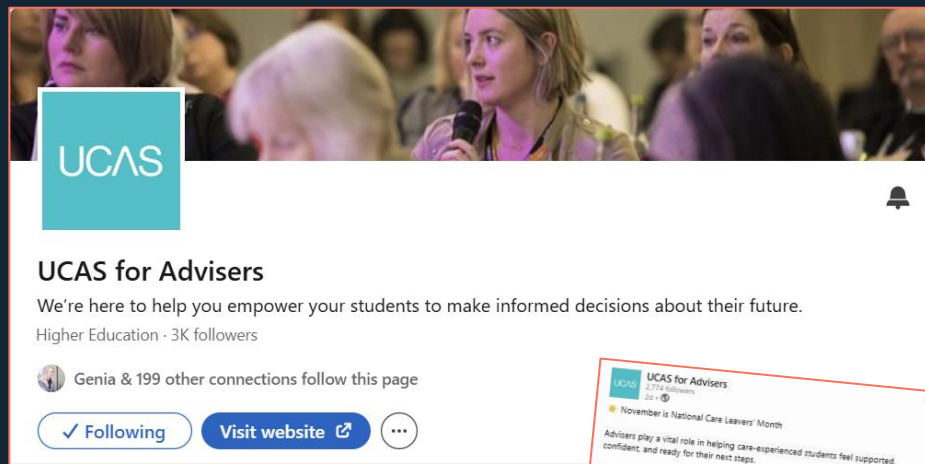
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