

# Parents' evening presentation Monday 9th September 2019



A background image showing a group of students in a classroom. In the foreground, a young man and woman are looking at a computer monitor. The man is pointing at the screen with his finger. The woman is looking at the screen with a focused expression. In the background, another student is visible, looking towards the camera. The entire image has a red overlay.

# The role of UCAS

UCAS processes applications for full-time courses at higher education providers in the UK.

We guide students through the whole process, providing valuable information and supporting services for applicants and their parents.

# Choices available

- Higher education.
- Apprenticeships and traineeships
- Studying abroad.
- Gap year.
- Getting a job.

Understand the options available at [www.ucas.com/alternatives](https://www.ucas.com/alternatives)



# Apprenticeships advice

UCAS has launched [apprenticeships advice](#) to help students make informed decisions about their post-16 and post-18 opportunities.

Find out about:

- the different types of apprenticeships
- how to find and apply for apprenticeships
- preparing for the application and interview process

With the predicted growth of higher and degree Apprenticeships you'll also find a dedicated [degree and professional apprenticeships section](#) on [ucas.com](https://ucas.com) which profiles current programmes in more detail.

# Why higher education?

## **Opportunities while studying:**

- chance to study a subject they are passionate about
- achieve a qualification that could lead to their chosen career
- gain confidence, independence, and important life skills that will widen their prospects
- make lifelong friends

## **With a degree:**

- the opportunity to follow their career path
- better job prospects
- many employers target graduates
- higher earning potential

# Things to consider

There are a number of things for an applicant to consider when applying for higher education, such as:

- the subject they enjoy – investing time, money, and effort
- if it is right for their career path – check with employers
- location – city/rural, transport links
- the study style that suits them
- finances – course fees, travel, and living costs
- extracurricular activities





# Research – it's free

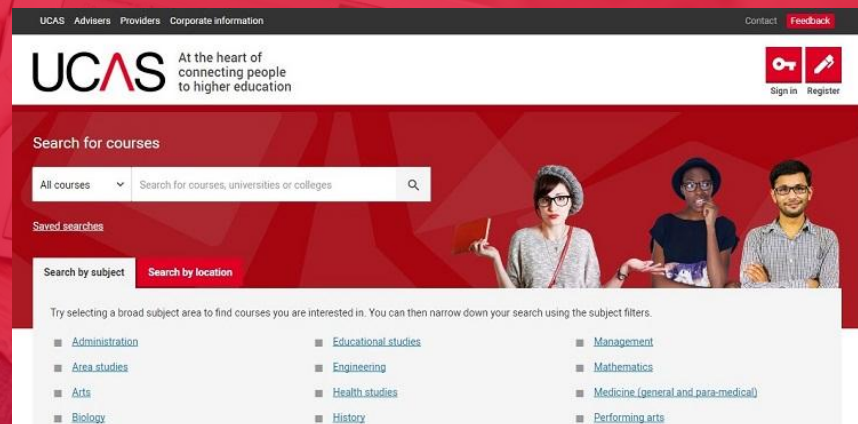
- Search tool – to look for providers, courses, and minimum entry requirements.
- Open days and virtual tours – a great way to explore campuses and facilities.
- UCAS Higher Education Exhibitions – useful to see different universities and colleges, and explore options. We are going on Tuesday 24th September at Inverness College.
- Learn from others – student videos, blogs, and case studies.
- Career options – our career finder tool is ideal for considering the options after education.

# Researching courses

Your son or daughter can use the UCAS search tool at [search.ucas.com](https://search.ucas.com).

Key features include:

- mobile-friendly design
- advanced filtering and sorting options
- ability to shortlist and save course searches
- free text search
- suggestions for misspelt searches





# Open days and virtual tours

The screenshot shows the UCAS website interface. At the top, the UCAS logo is on the left, and navigation links for 'Further education', 'Undergraduate', 'Postgraduate', 'Alternatives', 'Careers', 'Account', and a search icon are on the right. Below the navigation bar is a blue banner with the text 'Applying through Clearing?'. The main section is titled 'Choose your future' with the subtitle 'Explore your options, apply to university, and more'. A search bar contains the text 'Events and key dates' and 'Open days', with a 'Find open days' button. A red box highlights the 'Open days' dropdown menu, which lists 'Open days', 'Exhibitions', 'Conferences', and 'Key dates'. Below the search bar, there are three promotional tiles: 'Clearing 2018' with a photo of students, 'CLEARING' with a robot icon and 'Becky, our chatbot, can make offers 24/7', and 'UK TOP 10 Graduate Prospects' with a photo of a student. At the bottom, there are four small images showing students in various settings.

UCAS

Further education Undergraduate Postgraduate Alternatives Careers Account

Applying through Clearing?

## Choose your future

Explore your options, apply to university, and more

Events and key dates Open days Find open days

Open days  
Exhibitions  
Conferences  
Key dates

**Clearing 2018**  
Find out how you can still get a place on a course starting this year.

**CLEARING**  
Becky, our chatbot, can make offers 24/7  
COURSES AVAILABLE  
LEEDS BECKETT UNIVERSITY

**UK TOP 10 Graduate Prospects**  
JULY 2017  
0800 094 9071

Establishing secure connection...

# Open days search tool

The screenshot shows the UCAS website's 'Find open days' search tool. The browser address bar shows the URL: <https://www.ucas.com/ucas/events/find/type/open-day?keywords=>. The page features a navigation bar with links for 'Further education', 'Undergraduate', 'Postgraduate', 'Alternatives', 'Careers', and an 'Account' button. A large banner image shows students sitting on a couch, with the text 'Find open days' and a subtext 'Search for exhibitions, conferences, open days and key dates in your area.' Below this is a search bar. On the left side, there are filters for 'Current search' (showing 566 items), 'Filter by event type' (with 'Open day' selected), and 'Distance' (set to 100 miles). The main content area displays a list of search results. The first result is 'LCCM - Clearing drop-in sessions' on 1 AUG, with a link to <https://www.ucas.com/events/lccm-clearing-drop-sessions-307436>. The second result is 'Heriot-Watt University - Clearing 2018 Campus Tours' on 17 AUG, with a link to <https://www.ucas.com/events/heriot-watt-university-clearing-2018-campus-tours-336201>. The third result is 'Clearing Opportunities at Newcastle College: 2018 Entry' on 20 AUG, with a link to <https://www.ucas.com/events/clearing-opportunities-newcastle-college-2018-entry-331481>. The page also includes a pagination indicator 'Displaying 1 - 56 of 586. Page 1 of 12.'

UCAS

Further education Undergraduate Postgraduate Alternatives Careers /account

## Find open days

Search for exhibitions, conferences, open days and key dates in your area.

Current search  
Search found 566 items  
**Open day**  
Reset

Filter by event type:  
☒ Open day

Distance  
100 miles from  
i.e. Town or postcode  
**Update**

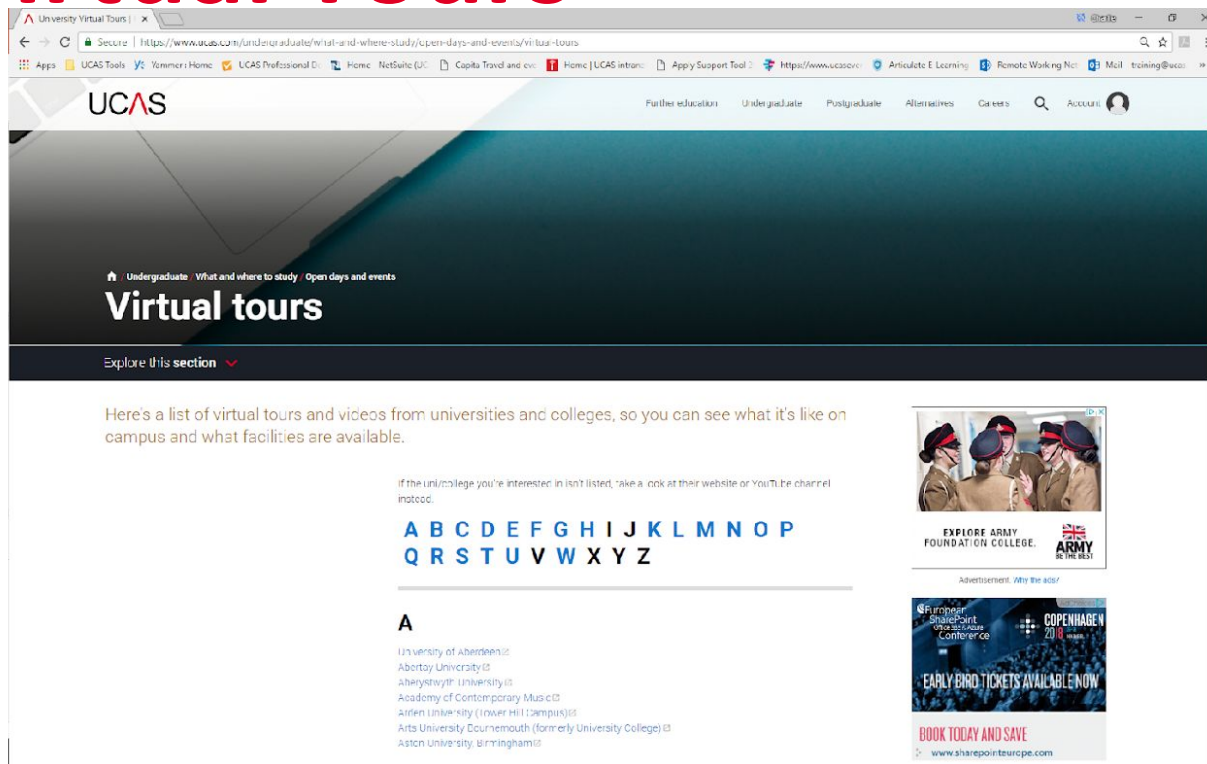
Displaying 1 - 56 of 586. Page 1 of 12.

**1**  
AUG  
**LCCM - Clearing drop-in sessions**  
<https://www.ucas.com/events/lccm-clearing-drop-sessions-307436>  
Get your results? Apply now to join us this September. Still waiting? Speak to a member of the admissions team. We are open from Monday to Friday - 9.00AM-5.30PM  
Open day • Southwark • 1 - 31 August 2018 • **Undergraduate** • **Postgraduate**

**17**  
AUG  
**Heriot-Watt University - Clearing 2018 Campus Tours**  
<https://www.ucas.com/events/heriot-watt-university-clearing-2018-campus-tours-336201>  
Campus Tours provide you with the opportunity to meet some of our current students and staff and hear about how exciting and rewarding the student experience is at Heriot-Watt University.  
Open day • Edinburgh • 17 - 24 August 2018 • **Undergraduate**

**20**  
AUG  
**Clearing Opportunities at Newcastle College: 2018 Entry**  
<https://www.ucas.com/events/clearing-opportunities-newcastle-college-2018-entry-331481>  
If you are interested in what Newcastle College has to offer through Clearing, we would encourage you to come and visit us here at Fife Hill Campus on these dates:  
Monday 20 August - 10am - 4pm • Tuesday 21 August - 10am - 2pm • Wednesday 22 August - 10am - 2pm • Thursday 23 August - 10am - 4pm • Friday 24 August - 10am - 4pm • Saturday 25 August - 10am - 2pm • Monday 27 August - 10am - 2pm • Tuesday 28 August - 10am - 4pm • Wednesday 29 August - 10am - 4pm

# Virtual Tours



The screenshot shows the UCAS Virtual Tours page. The header includes the UCAS logo and navigation links for Further education, Undergraduate, Postgraduate, Alternatives, Careers, and Account. The main heading is 'Virtual tours' with a sub-link 'Explore this section'. Below this, a paragraph states: 'Here's a list of virtual tours and videos from universities and colleges, so you can see what it's like on campus and what facilities are available.' A note mentions that if a university isn't listed, users should check its website or YouTube channel. An alphabetical index (A-Z) is provided, with 'A' selected. Under 'A', a list of institutions is shown: University of Aberdeen, Abertay University, Aberystwyth University, Academy of Contemporary Music, Arden University, Arts Universityournemouth, and Aston University. On the right, there are two featured tour thumbnails: 'EXPLORE ARMY FOUNDATION COLLEGE' and 'Pioneer SharePoint Conference'.

University Virtual Tours | x

Secure | <https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/what-and-where-to-study/open-days-and-events/virtual-tours>

Apps UCAS Tools Yammer Home UCAS Professional Dev Home NetSolve UC Capita Travel and events Home UCAS Intranet Apply Support Tool <https://www.ucas.com> Articulate E Learning Remote Working Net Mail training@ucas.com

UCAS

Further education Undergraduate Postgraduate Alternatives Careers Account

Undergraduate What and where to study Open days and events

## Virtual tours

Explore this section

Here's a list of virtual tours and videos from universities and colleges, so you can see what it's like on campus and what facilities are available.

If the uni/college you're interested in isn't listed, take a look at their website or YouTube channel instead.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P  
Q R S T U V W X Y Z

**A**

- [University of Aberdeen](#)
- [Abertay University](#)
- [Aberystwyth University](#)
- [Academy of Contemporary Music](#)
- [Arden University \(Tower Hill Campus\)](#)
- [Arts Universityournemouth \(formerly University College\)](#)
- [Aston University Birmingham](#)

**EXPLORE ARMY FOUNDATION COLLEGE.**

ARMY  
BE THE BEST

Advertisement. [View the ad?](#)

**Pioneer SharePoint Conference**

**COPENHAGEN 2018**

**EARLY BIRD TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW**

**BOOK TODAY AND SAVE**

[www.sharepointeurope.com](http://www.sharepointeurope.com)



# Apply key facts

- Application is entirely online.
- Maximum of five choices.
- Some choice restrictions:
  - for medicine, veterinary science/medicine and dentistry there is a maximum of four choices
  - can only apply for either Oxford or Cambridge
- Simple application cost:
  - one choice – £18
  - two to five choices – £24
- Equal consideration if deadlines are met.
- Invisibility – universities cannot see where else someone has applied.



# When to apply

5 September – completed applications can be submitted to UCAS.

1 October - deadline for application to Conservatoires to do music.

15 October (18:00 UK time) – deadline for Oxford or Cambridge, and most courses in medicine, dentistry, or veterinary medicine/science.

6 December - internal deadline for completion of all applications including personal Statement. All applications to be submitted before the Christmas holidays.

**15 January (18:00 UK time) – deadline for the majority of undergraduate courses.**

## Dingwall Academy Deadlines

By October holidays - First draft of Personal Statement to Guidance Teacher

Fri 6th Dec – Final draft of Personal Statement to GT and completed UCAS application form

By Christmas holidays – all UCAS applications completed and sent off.





# The personal statement

- The only section your son or daughter has control over.
- Their only chance to market themselves individually.
- One personal statement for **all** choices.
- Max. 4,000 characters, 47 lines.
- Min. 1,000 characters.
- No formatting.
- Use word document to spell check then import onto UCAS site.  
GT will offer advice and guidance for drafts.

## Applying for UCAS or an Apprenticeship

- Think about what makes them stand out in an exciting and positive way.
- Show enthusiasm for the course they are applying for and list supporting evidence to back this up.
- Extracurricular activities and relevant work experience.
- Skills they can use on the course – leadership, communication, teamwork for example.
- Encourage them to ask you for more ideas.
- Allow plenty of time.

# Tracking applications

UCAS Track will allow your son or daughter to:

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



# Decisions and replies

## Provider decisions:

- unsuccessful
- unconditional offer
- conditional offer – qualifications and achievements and/or UCAS Tariff points

Once all decisions are received, they can hold up to two offers:

- one as their **firm** choice
- one as their **insurance** choice (if they want to)
- all other offers are declined

Track will show their **reply date**.

# Other options

## **Extra** (25 Feb – 4 July)

If all five choices have been used and they have no offers/rejected all offers.

## **Clearing** (from early July)

If there are no offers, or have applied after 30 June deadline.

## **Adjustment** (from A level results day)

If they've gained better results than the conditional offer they hold, they could apply for a different course or university.

A background image showing a group of diverse students sitting at a table, smiling and engaged in a study session. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent red filter. The students are of various ethnicities and are dressed in casual attire. They appear to be in a modern, well-lit study environment with large windows in the background.

# What should your son/daughter be doing now?

- Research
- Extracurricular activities
- Work experience
- Go beyond the syllabus
- Focus on this year's studies



# How can you support them?

- Use the parents/guardians' section of the UCAS website – [www.ucas.com/parents](https://www.ucas.com/parents) – and sign up for the newsletter.
- Use the parent information tool for advice, hints, and tips to help someone you care for through the application process.
- Offer to attend open days; you may have a different perspective.
- Don't book family holidays at key times.
- Make sure they read everything carefully that is sent to them.
- Support your son/daughter's management of their application.

**Google Classroom S5/ S6 Opportunities** – this gives details of all the career, work experience, apprenticeship opportunities that the school is made aware of.

[www.apprenticeships.scot](http://www.apprenticeships.scot) – all apprenticeship opportunities available in Scotland.



UCAS Customer Experience Centre

0371 468 0468

Monday to Friday, 08:30 – 18:00 (UK time)



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