





• Useful websites / guidance / tips and information regarding the UCAS / Apprenticeship Application process.

Understand the tariffs / UMS points and know the key dates.

### Consider these questions when researching courses:

- Why do you want to study this course?
- Do you know the course structure?
- Have you looked at the course modules?
- Have you seen the reading lists?
- Do you know how the course is assessed? Is it exam or coursework based?
- What is the graduate employment rate for this course?
- Will you have to take part in any field trips?
- Is there a placement year or opportunities for Internships?
- Are there opportunities to study abroad?



# Consider these questions when researching universities:

- Do you want to live in a big city?
- Do you want to live in a quieter location?
- Do you want a campus university?
- Do you want an inner-city location?
- Do you want access to the outdoors / countryside or a beach?
- Do you want excellent sporting facilities?
- What courses does the university really specialise in?
- Have you looked at ALL the university guides for a broad view?
- Have you researched the status of a specific course and not just the university? There is variation across subjects.



# Consider these questions when researching Apprenticeships:

- What are the entry requirements?
- How many Apprentices are taken on each year?
- What stages are there for you to go through as many as 6 stages - from phone interviews, to formal interviews, to group tasks, to role plays .....
- Are there degree opportunities? Which university and does this involve 'day release'?
- How well established is the Apprenticeship scheme?
- When are the dates one annual date or numerous application points throughout the year?



#### University Advice and Guidance:

Your journey to uni starts here.

This website is incredibly useful – with advice on personal statements, courses, university choices, student budgeting, moving to university and much more. Do take a look!

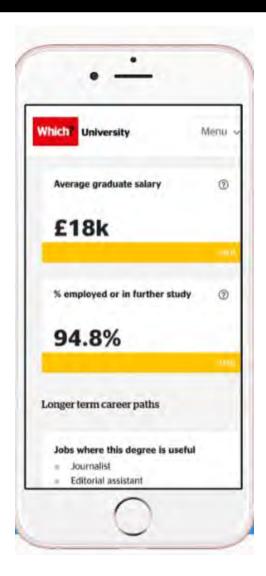


https://university.which.co.uk/



 Use their 'A Level Explorer' tool to match your A Levels to degree possibilities in seconds.

 Browse through their 'Subject Guides' and read key stats, course options, graduate prospects and more.





Their website is very informative – with advice on going to university, exploring your options, open days, studying at Conservatoires and finance.

It also advises on alternatives to higher education and gives careers, advice:

https://www.ucas.com/

#### Explore your options here

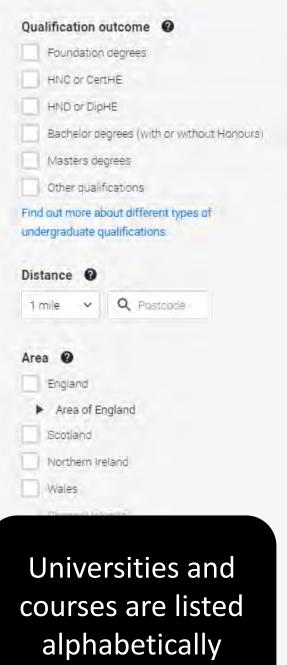
Confused about your options after school, college, or sixth form? Here's all you need to know about the routes available to you, to help you decide what to do next. You could apply to university, go on a gap year, take on an apprenticeship, find an internship, or start your working career. Whichever option is right for you, this page will help you find the answers to all your questions about your next step in life.

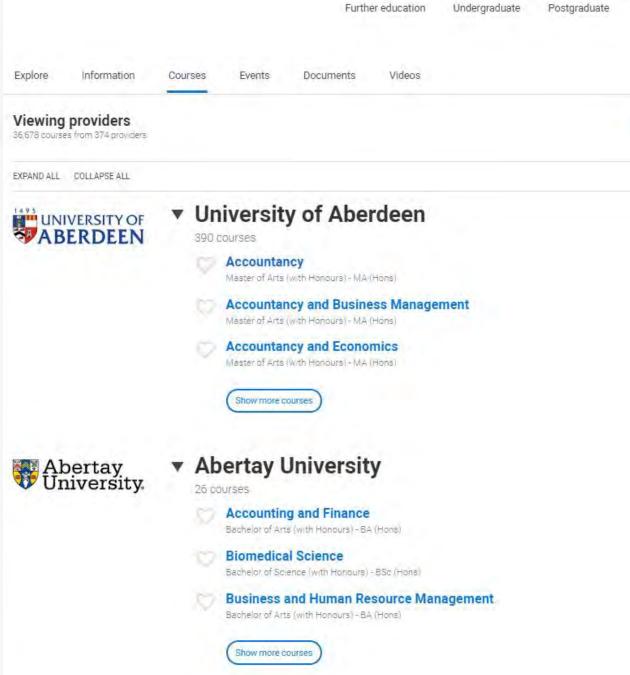
Get everything you need to know direct to your inbox

#### Research – it's free!

- <u>Search tool</u> look for providers, courses, and minimum entry requirements. Use the <u>subject</u> guides to find more information.
- Open days and virtual tours a great way to explore campuses and facilities.
- <u>UCAS' higher education exhibitions</u> useful to meet different universities and colleges, and explore options. It is important to register, and encourage your students to register in advance.
- Learning from others <u>student videos</u> and <u>blogs</u>.
- <u>Career options</u> use the <u>job profiles</u> to explore different career roles and pathways, or take the <u>Buzz quiz</u> to find out more about individual strengths, and what roles they may suit.
- The <u>career finder tool</u> is ideal for considering options after education, including searching for <u>apprenticeships</u>.



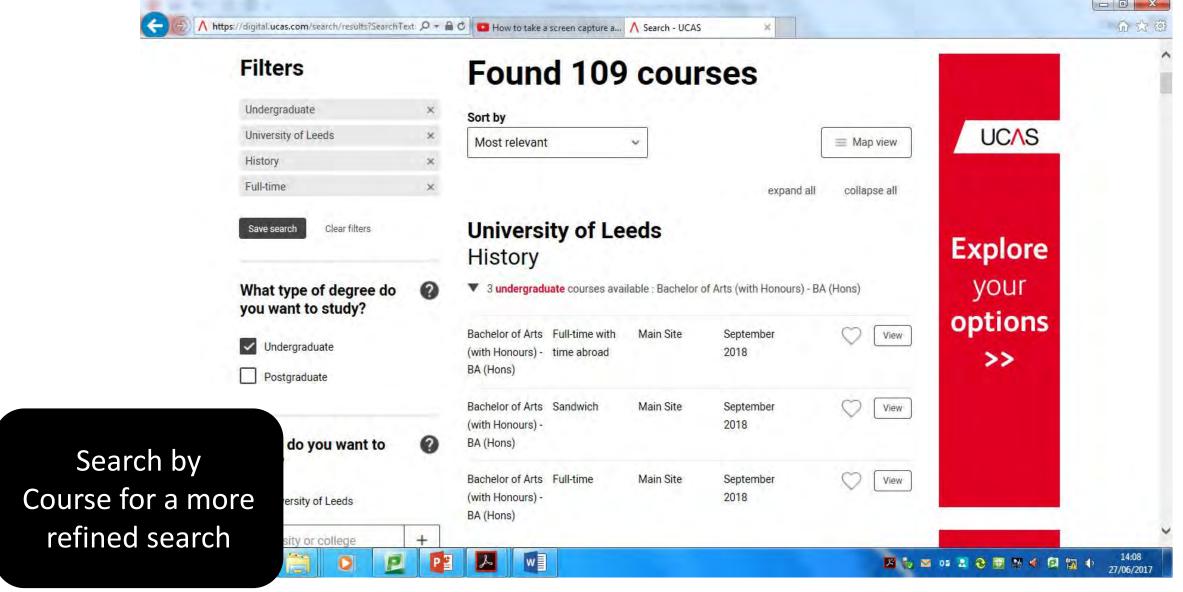


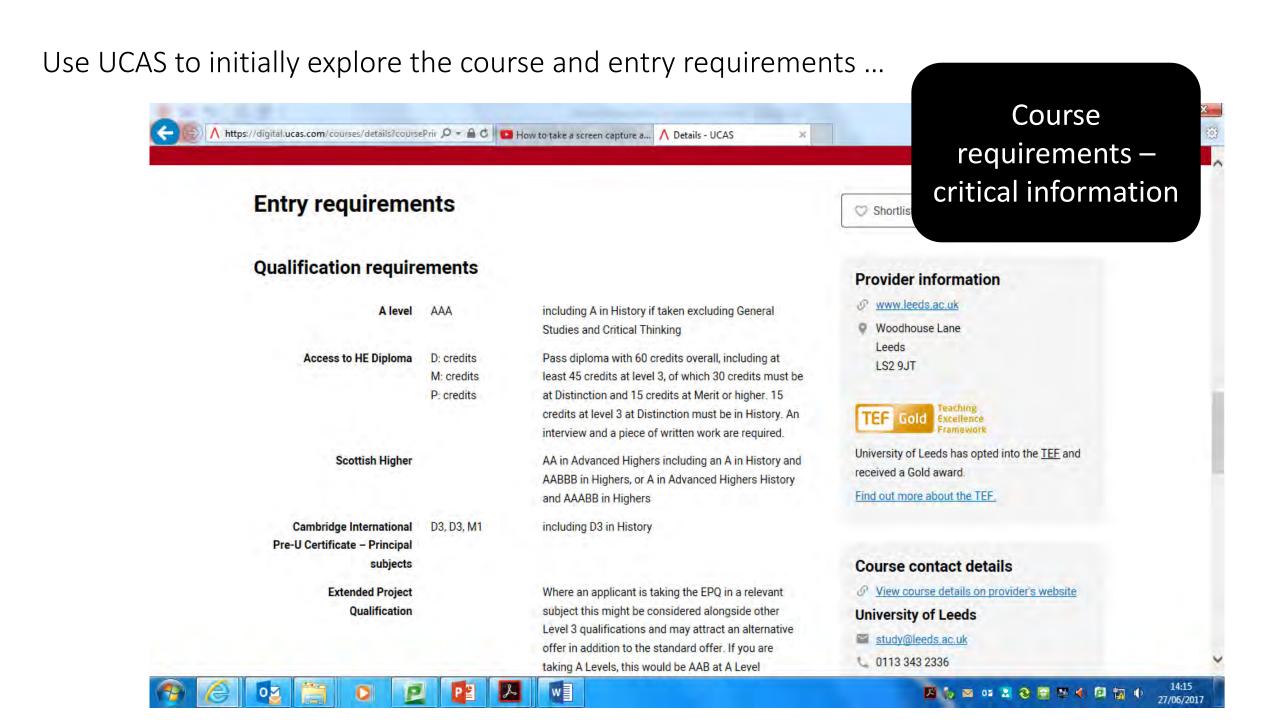




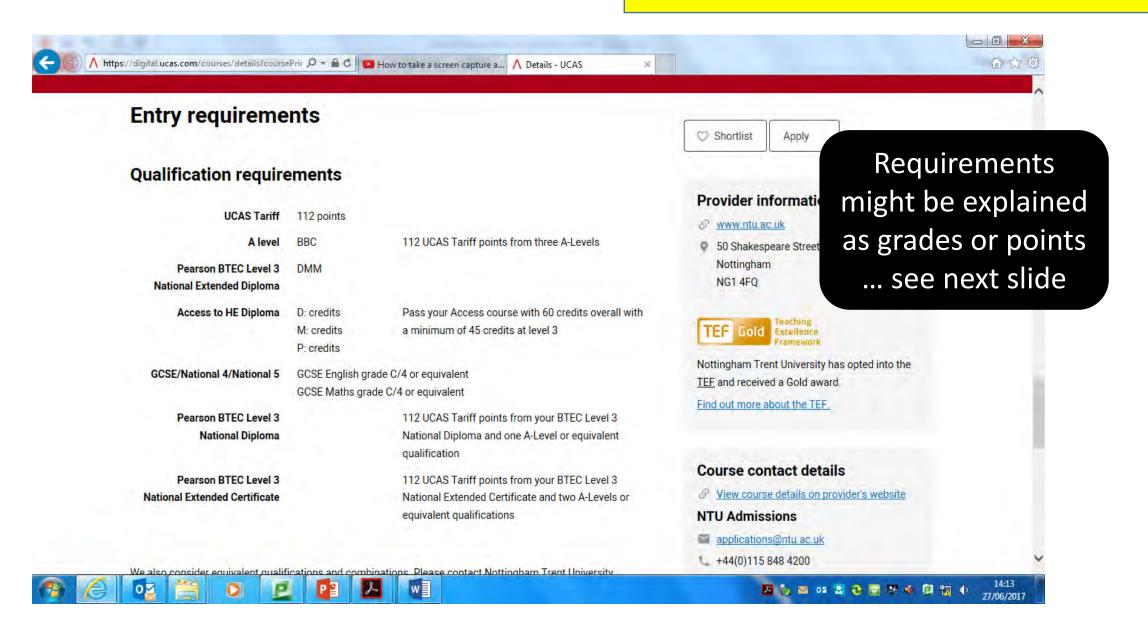
Alternatives

Narrow vour choices down





#### Courses requiring 'POINTS'

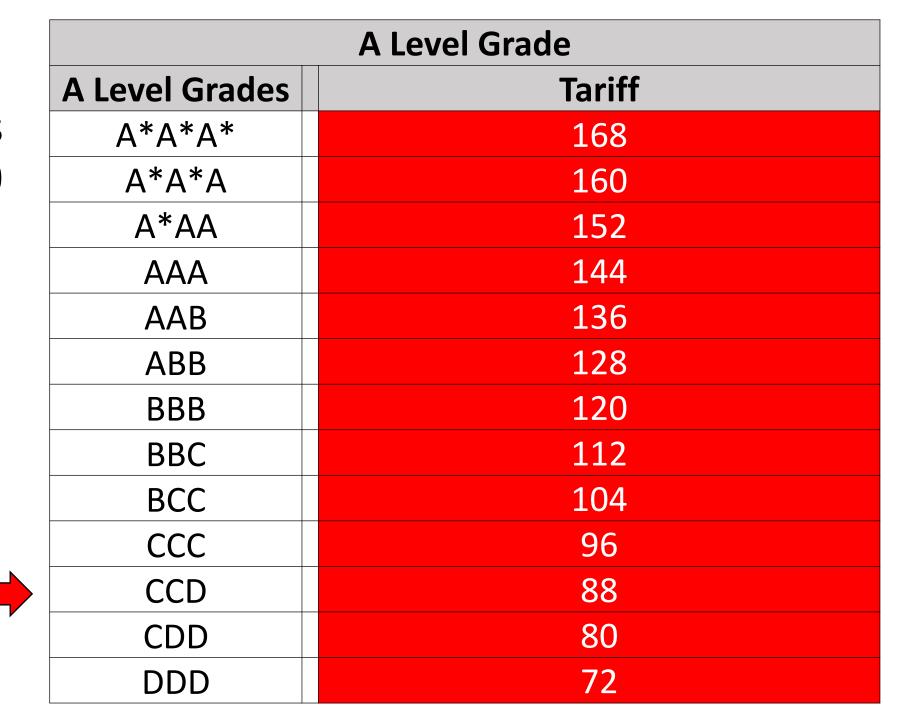


# UMS / Grade Tariff Point Guide

Grade	Tariff points	
A*	56	
A	48	
В	40	
С	32	
D	24	
E	16	

When a university says they want 120 UMS points – those points equate to particular grades.

Here is a Grade Guide



# Russell Group Universities:

The Russell Group is a 'catch-all term' for a group of universities with a shared focus on research and a reputation for academic achievement. These institutions usually top the university league tables. They are sometimes referred to as 'red brick universities':

University of Birmingham	University of Edinburgh	London School of Economics	Queen's University, Belfast
University of Bristol	University of Glasgow	University of Manchester	University of Sheffield
University of Cambridge	Imperial College, London	University of Newcastle	University of Southampton
University of Cardiff	King's College, London	University of Nottingham	University College, London
University of Durham	University of Leeds	University of Oxford	University of Warwick
University of Exeter	University of Liverpool	Queen Mary, University of London	University of York

# When to apply

May
UCAS Undergraduate Apply opens for 2024 entry.

September First day for receipt of completed applications.

16 October\*

Application deadline for courses in medicine, veterinary medicine/science, and dentistry, and courses at Oxford or Cambridge.

31 January\* Equal consideration application deadline.

February Extra opens.

June\* Last date for applications before Clearing.

# The Personal Statement: UCAS requirements

One personal statement for all choices.

• Maximum of 4,000 characters with spaces, or 47 lines.

Minimum of 1,000 characters.

No formatting.



#### Personal Statement Tips:

"A big 'don't' tends to be to try and be overly witty or humorous, as it doesn't always go down very well!"

Rachel, Graduate Ambassador (and English Literature and Language Graduate)

**AVOID LISTS!** 

DON'T LIE!

"Get the first sentence right. When I read a personal statement, the first sentence is really crucial to make that first judgement."

Simon Benson, Undergraduate Admissions Tutor for Marine Technology

"Avoid generalised statements. You've a limited amount of space on the application form, so try to stay clear of them. Instead, write things that set you apart from others and show why you want to study the subject."

Adam Behr, Undergraduate Admissions Tutor for Music

"Avoid any elaborate or pretentious language. Try to articulate yourself in a clear and concise manner."

Richard Glenton, Deputy Manager of the School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering)

#### Personal Statement Tips:

"Show your ambitions. Show what you plan for your career and how ultimately studying this programme will shape your future."

Tom Hill, Programme Director for the Food and Nutrition degree programme

RESEARCH THE COURSE!

KEEP A COPY!

"For me, I'm looking for interest and drive for the subject. I'm also quite keen to see that it's grammatically correct and doesn't have any spelling errors. You'll be surprised how many of them do, and that can give the wrong impression."

James, Undergraduate Admissions Tutor for Archaeology

"And finally, prove to us that out of all your A-Levels you really do want to do this one subject."

Andrew, Undergraduate Admissions Tutor for Chemistry

DON'T COPY

- MAKE IT

YOUR OWN!

### Use UCAS's online inspiration tool:

# Need to write your personal statement?

Not sure where to start?

Your personal statement is your chance to describe the ambitions, skills and experience that will make you right for your choices. We've developed this tool to get you thinking about what to include.

Get started >

Please view this web app in either Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, Safari or Internet Explorer 10 and above.





### Use Prospectuses and Admissions Teams

• Look at course descriptions and identify the qualities, skills, and experience it requires – you can use these buzzwords / terms to help you decide what to write about.

 It is very important that you show you have researched the course and have at least read the prospectus.

Ring University Admissions teams if you are unsure about anything —
 they are very helpful and advice is at the end of a telephone!





UCAS INFOGRAPHIC
TO ASSIST WITH YOUR
PERSONAL STATEMENT
WRITING



#### **TOP TIP**

Don't begin with a quote - overdone!

#### **TOP TIP**

Don't just reel off lists of what you have done – detail what you have learned / what skill you have developed.
Sell yourself!

- Introduce the passion you feel for your subject and why you wish to study it at University
- Be original, creative, passionate. Don't rely on cliches?!
  - Have a paragraph where you give **subject-specific experiences** which convey your engagement and enthusiasm for your University subject and for academic study.
  - Be specific: a specific vocational experience / a specific skill you acquired, wider reading examples, a specific extra-curricular experience which relates to your subject.
- Discuss each of your A Levels in turn. Start with your proposed University subject.
- For each A Level, give a specific example of a task / topic / piece of work which showcases the skills / specialist knowledge required for your University course / subject.
- Really emphasise what subject-related SKILL or ATTRIBUTE you have developed.
  - Discuss your extra-curricular experiences explain WHAT you have done but most importantly what SKILLS you have acquired and how these skills have prepared you for your subject / academic study / being independent / university life

TOP TIP
Leave Admissions
teams with
something to
remember you by!

- Conclude by succinctly summarising why the subject is inspiring to you.
- Explain why Undergraduate study is your chosen path.

**TOP TIP** 

Don't list grades – UCAS will know this

**TOP TIPS** Read the skills requirements for your course. What are they looking for? What attributes do you need to 'sell'? Make sure you 'hit' their criteria

TOP TIP
Your subject and
passion for it,
should be very
apparent!

#### Apprenticeship advice

UCAS has <u>apprenticeships advice</u> 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, which profiles current programmes in more detail.

