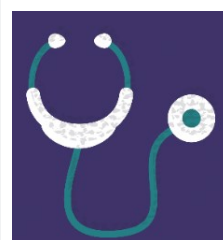


# Parent and Carer Guide to University Applications

## TAKE YOUR PLACE

### Jargon Busting

<b>Post-18</b>	Study pathways after the age of 18.
<b>HE</b>	Higher Education.
<b>UCAS</b>	University and Colleges Admissions System.
<b>Tariff Points</b>	A Level and BTEC grades are translated into points, which may make up the condition of a university offer.
<b>Undergraduate</b>	First degree studied at university.
<b>Bachelors Degree</b>	Qualification awarded upon completion of a degree programme.
<b>BA</b>	Degree awarded in the arts field.
<b>BSc</b>	Degree awarded in the science field.



In the Summer Term of year 12 / Level 3 year 1 schools & colleges will start talking about post-18 pathways. Encourage your young person to research the different pathways, using some of the prompts below:

- *Do you want to go straight into university or take a year out (Gap Year)?*
- *Do you want to move out or stay at home? Do you want to be close to home or far away?*
- *Do you want to study in a city or go to a campus university?*
- *Do you want to study a single subject, several subjects, spend a year abroad or a year working in industry?*
- *Do you have a specific career path that you are working towards?*



Visit universities & colleges to help answer these questions; talk to lecturers, talk to student ambassadors and help your young person know if it is the right choice for them. Most universities & colleges will offer virtual tours if you cannot visit in person.



Your young person has decided to apply to university, but what next? The school / college will help your young person to create an Apply account on UCAS, where they will be asked to complete the following sections:

- Personal Details
- Additional Information
- Choices
- Education
- Employment
- Personal Statement

The school/college will complete the reference section.



Your young person can choose to add up to **5 choices**. This can be the same course at five different institutions or a mixture of courses at a range of institutions. It is important to remind your young person that they can only write one personal statement so it is helpful to apply for the same or similar courses. The cost to apply is **£20 for one choice** or **£26 for multiple choices**.

As part of their application your young person will need to write a **Personal Statement**. This is their opportunity to showcase who they are, their passion and enthusiasm and what makes them stand out from the next application. You can use these prompts when helping your young person plan their personal statement:

- What makes you unique?
- Why do you want to study this subject for the next 3 years?
- Have you done any work experience, reading or seen anything that shows your passion for the subject / career pathway?
- What are your ambitions after your degree? Why did you choose this course?
- Are you taking a gap year? How will this enhance your course suitability?

The Personal Statement is the first opportunity for a University or College to learn about the student. There isn't a one size fits all statement; every student is unique and they are applying to different courses. Your young person can use the template below when planning their Personal Statement.

### **Section One: *What motivates you to study this subject?***

Remind your young person that their statement is likely to be read by someone teaching on the course they apply for so they should avoid clichés and generalisations.

### **Section Two: *What past experiences or skills do you have that make you especially suitable to study this subject ?***

Your young person can talk about their academic studies, projects they have worked on (i.e. EPQ), work experience & volunteering. Encourage them to talk about transferable skills and relate these to their course.

### **Section Three: *What additional skills & hobbies/ experiences do you have that makes you 'you'?***

Your young person could talk about extra—curricular hobbies, responsibilities and special achievements to provide a final insight into their personality. Remind your young person to include a strong concluding statement.

Once drafted encourage your young person to ask people to review what they have written, checking content, spelling and grammar.

### **The Technical Spec.**

**4000** characters / **47** lines of text. This includes spaces & blank lines. NB: It must be **1000** characters minimum.

The UCAS website will timeout after 35minutes.

Only **ONE** personal statement is submitted.



### **Important Dates for University Applications:**

- 1st October** Conservatoire deadline for students applying to study music.
- 15th October** Application deadline for students wishing to study at Oxford or Cambridge or study Medicine, Dentistry or Veterinary Medicine.
- 15th January** Main application deadline for all other subjects and institutions. Encourage your young person to check the internal school deadline which is often earlier. This is to allow staff to collate references and check the application. Students can expect to receive all decisions by 31st March **if** applications are submitted by this date.