

UNIVERSITY

A GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

September 2024



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What you need to know to prepare you and your child for university



Is university right for them?

Sitting down with your child to discuss their post-school plans can be challenging, especially if they aren't sure what they want to do next. You can help them by being a positive sounding board and asking questions that'll help them come to a decision that is right for them.

We have designed this guide so you have the information you need to chat through the options with your child.

Is it the best next step for your child?

A good place to start is to consider their career plans, motivation level and how they like to learn. If they answer yes to any of the below, then university would be a good option to research further.

Does your child want to explore different careers or passions?

If they go to university, several career options will be open to them regardless of what subject they study.

If your child is unsure of their career direction or wants to explore many different potential paths through work experience, placements and extracurricular activities, a university degree may be a great option for them. They can take advantage of clubs, societies and positions of responsibility to get experience that relates to the world of work e.g.

sponsorship officer or treasurer for the charity society or a journalist for the student radio station. They can also learn and explore within their degree subject by choosing specific modules or projects to discover their interests or develop specific skills and competencies.

Do they have their heart set on a specific career?

It is important to keep in mind that for some careers it is essential to go to university. Your school's careers teacher will be able to advise you and your child about these careers, their degree requirements and if your child needs to study any specific subjects at GCSE or A Level in order to secure a place on that degree programme.

Is your child a self-motivated learner and comfortable with independent study?

Motivation is very important in achieving success, and for most university courses, being able to

study independently without close supervision is essential.

Although this is a general expectation of students, course programs will include a mix of self-study and collaborative working. Personal tutors and support staff will also be on hand to help and guide students. When researching universities and courses, spend time reviewing the styles of teaching and assessments to choose the structure that is best for your child, as well as those which have a reputation for strong pastoral care.

At university, there are endless opportunities for them to broaden horizons and get work experience and awards outside of their academic studies, and they must be motivated to make the most of these.

Do they want the freedom to choose what to study?

At university, students usually get the freedom to choose the course, modules and projects that best match their interests and aspirations.

If the following is important to your child, then university could be a good fit:

- Studying a subject that really interests them
- Pursuing a specific career which requires a university degree
- Being able to choose the modules and projects that most appeal to them
- The option to move away from home and live independently
- Meeting new people, making new friends and having new experiences
- Getting involved in activities such as sport, theatre or politics
- Having time to explore interests, values and career options before any big decisions about jobs must be made

Getting them career ready

A university degree improves career prospects and earning potential. On average, people with higher education qualifications earn more over their working lives than non-graduates.

Going to university can give your child a head start as they develop transferable skills valued by employers, such as the ability to work with others, critical and analytical thinking, research skills, problem-solving and communication skills. These skills, together with an academic qualification, will give them an advantage in the ever-competitive world of employment.



Alternative training options to university

There are a range of options available for your child to further their training. These include employer and apprentice programmes where your child could earn money whilst acquiring job skills. Options include:

- degree apprenticeships
- Higher Level Apprenticeships (HLA)
- school-leaver programmes

You can find out more information about these programs including how to apply at

[ucas.com](https://www.ucas.com)

[theuniguide.co.uk](https://www.theuniguide.co.uk)

[nidirect.gov.uk](https://www.nidirect.gov.uk)

Your child may also be interested in studying a foundation degree at a regional college. You can find out more from each regional college.

Choosing the best university for your child

If university is likely to be the next step for your child, this is when the research phase begins in earnest and can be the most daunting.

The end goal of the research phase is to agree the five courses that students will add to their UCAS form. Before deciding on “The Final Five”, they will need to shortlist their potential places.

This shortlisting phase may include reviewing the prospectus together, visiting the universities at Open Days, or other events. Visiting universities is the best way to get a feel for how your child will fit in that environment. Make sure you talk to current students and ask them why they chose to study there.

We recommend that together with your child, you agree the criteria you will use to shortlist the courses and

universities and identify those criteria which will ultimately decide “The Final Five”.

Make sure these criteria reflect the specific needs of your child and family. For example, if your child is a practical learner, you might want to consider those courses that are highly applied and include hands-on assessments and work experience.

Top Tip: Make a checklist of your negotiables and non-negotiables when choosing where to go.



Choosing their subject

Things to consider when choosing a degree:

- Do they have a current subject that they love and do well in? Will they still be interested in it in years to come and the potential careers associated with it? Whilst some subjects lead to very specific career options, others can provide varied options or the opportunity to specialise at postgraduate level.
- Do they have specific vocational aspirations? If so, is a particular degree subject required or are the options flexible? Universities and colleges set their own entry requirements for higher education courses so they may vary widely. You can find the entry requirements for Ulster undergraduate degrees on the course finder online

ulster.ac.uk/courses



- Are they interested in exploring a completely new subject? There are many degree subjects they won't have encountered before. When choosing, they should relate it back to what they enjoy and how they learn best. Some courses have very high contact time i.e. lots of lectures, tutorials, workshops etc., whilst others have low contact time and more self-directed study.
- Look beyond the course title - remember courses with the same name can differ greatly in content between universities. Spend time looking at the course content and the modules. This will give you an idea about the areas covered by the course and what the university's specific area of expertise is.

Choosing their university

What does a good university mean to you and your child? Here are some things to think about when researching where to go.

Most information can be found in university prospectuses or online course pages but we have included other sources below where relevant.

What to research

Cost: Tuition fees are not the only university cost. You should also consider accommodation costs and cost of living (including any travel required), which vary across the UK. Visit numbeo.com/cost-of-living to compare cost of living.

Course provision: Which universities offer the subject area or specific course they are interested in? Do they carry accreditation needed for jobs in industry?

Teaching, assessment and facilities: Does the course involve a lot of practical work? Is it 100% coursework? Is there a lot of group work involved? Are there bespoke facilities? Is there online or interactive learning provision?

Entry requirements: What grades are needed for the course? These can vary across institutions. Specific subjects and at what level they are required e.g. GCSE/A Level/ BTEC /Leaving Cert will be listed in course entry requirements.

Not all universities and colleges use qualifications and grades for entry requirements, some use UCAS Tariff points instead. UCAS has an online calculator to help you work out how many points your qualifications are worth ucas.com/ucas/tariff-calculator

Check with the university for precise equivalencies as these may vary.

Other selection criteria: Is entry dependent on submitting a portfolio of work? Do they have to attend an interview? Do they require a medical or Access NI check?

Duration: How many years will it take them to get their degree? Does this include a work placement?

Employment/career prospects: Are there opportunities to enhance their CV by undertaking a paid work placement or studying abroad? Does the university have good connections with industry? Do students get real-world experience on their course? Are there opportunities to include a year out in industry as part of their degree?

Research: Does the university have a good research focus? Are they linking with industry to solve problems, or leading innovation in certain areas? This often positively impacts on the teaching and what they deliver.

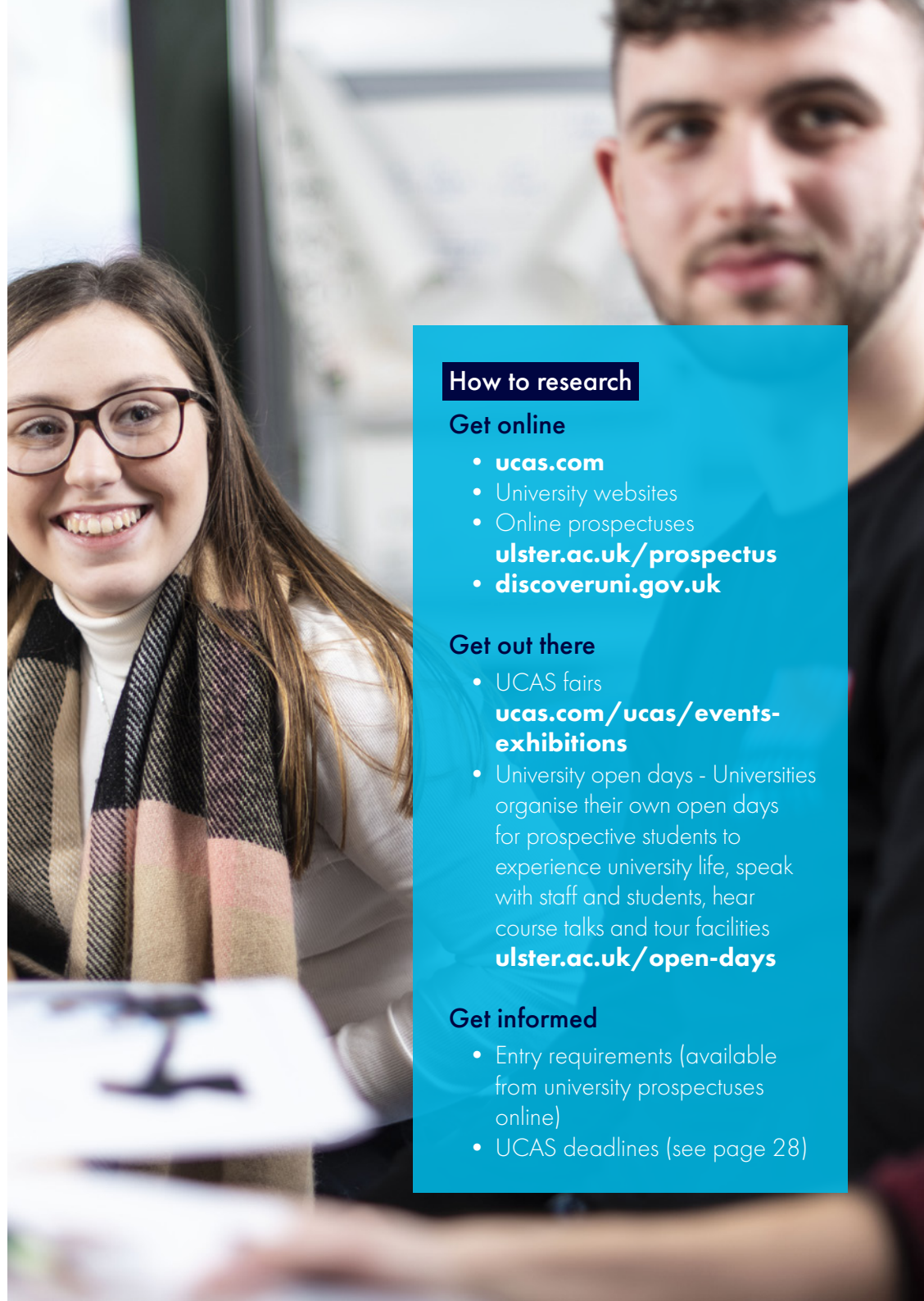
Location: Where do they want to study and where will they best thrive? Will they live at home and commute or live with other students near the university?

Lifestyle: Would they prefer urban or rural? A small or large institution? Campus based or town/city based? One campus or multiple? Are there good transport links? All these things will affect their experience and are important to think about.

Accommodation: Is living in halls of residence or shared accommodation important to them? Is it available on campus? What are the accommodation costs? What are the private accommodation costs for future years? Are there self-catered and catered options available?

Support: Does your child need specialist support? What support is available? Do they have any disabilities, long-term medical conditions, or specific learning difficulties they need support with? If so, what support is available from the university? Will they get guidance and advice on academic matters, wellbeing issues, money matters?

Clubs & societies: Opportunities to socialise play a huge factor in student satisfaction. Clubs and societies are great ways to meet new people, stay connected and have fun. What social facilities are there outside of university, such as live music venues, cinemas or sports facilities?



How to research

Get online

- [ucas.com](https://www.ucas.com)
- University websites
- Online prospectuses
ulster.ac.uk/prospectus
- discoveruni.gov.uk

Get out there

- UCAS fairs
[ucas.com/ucas/events-exhibitions](https://www.ucas.com/ucas/events-exhibitions)
- University open days - Universities organise their own open days for prospective students to experience university life, speak with staff and students, hear course talks and tour facilities
ulster.ac.uk/open-days

Get informed

- Entry requirements (available from university prospectuses online)
- UCAS deadlines (see page 28)

Fees and finance

It's difficult to put an exact figure on the price of going to university, as everyone's expenditure will be different depending on:

- where and what they study
- whether they live at home, halls of residence or private accommodation
- their travel arrangements
- their lifestyle



Things to consider

Location

Where you study in the UK will have an impact on how much you pay in tuition fees, accommodation and cost of living each year. Two of the biggest expenses for any student are fees and rent. Students from Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland pay £4,630^[1] in fees, compared with at least £9,000 in England, Wales and Scotland. Student rents in Northern Ireland are the cheapest in the UK.^[2]

As a guide we estimate you should allow for a sum in the region of £7,000-£9,000 to cover your expenses at Ulster University for one academic year.

Student rent in the UK^[2]



Tuition Fee^[3]

Ulster University	£4,630
English University	£9,250
Scottish University	£9,250

[1] Fees correct at time of print. Full-time undergraduate tuition fee per year. (NI / ROI students only)

[2] National Student Accommodation Survey 2023

[3] Full-time undergraduate tuition fee per year, NI/ROI students.



TIMES GOOD UNIVERSITY GUIDE
(2023)



TIMES GOOD UNIVERSITY GUIDE
(2023)



GUARDIAN UNIVERSITY GUIDE
(2023)

ulster.ac.uk/ug-fees

Loans, Grants and Scholarships

Students shouldn't rule out university study based on finance. There are loans available to cover tuition fees and help towards the cost of living.

Tuition Fee Loans

Fees do not have to be paid up-front. Students can avail of a tuition fee loan from Student Finance NI which will cover the cost of fees until graduation. Students start paying these back when they have graduated and are earning more than the salary threshold for repayment (this is dependent on which type of tuition fee loan they apply for).

NI/ROI/EU:

studentfinance.ni.co.uk

studentfinance.ie

England:

direct.gov.uk

Scotland:

saas.gov.uk

Wales:

studentfinance.wales.co.uk

Maintenance Loans & Grants

Northern Ireland students can apply for help with day-to-day costs whilst studying.

- **Maintenance loan** - Varying maintenance loan amounts are available depending on study destination and living arrangements. You can apply for a maintenance loan on its own or alongside any other available finance, including a tuition fee loan. The maintenance loan must be paid back.
- **Maintenance grant** - Available for those in households earning below a certain income and does not need to be paid back if terms and conditions are met.

Scholarships & Bursaries

University scholarships and bursaries are available for both undergraduate and postgraduate students as extra financial help. Each university has their own criteria and awards.

Students must meet the criteria and the money does not need to be paid back.

- **Scholarships** - usually reward students who are outstanding in their subject, sport or music. They generally need to be applied for and are often competitive.

- **Bursaries** - usually awarded to students based on their personal circumstances or if they come from a low-income family. Bursaries can help students who may face more barriers to attending full-time education, enabling them to access university.

Information is normally available via individual university websites. Find out more about what is available at Ulster University:

Bursaries:

ulster.ac.uk/study/bursaries

Scholarships:

ulster.ac.uk/study/scholarships





Support Funds

All higher education providers offer a hardship fund for students experiencing significant financial problems, and to support those coming to university in challenging circumstances. Conditions apply so you should contact your university directly for advice. Ulster University has a discretionary fund to support both UK/Home and International students. This discretionary fund can provide financial assistance for priority groups. Visit ulster.ac.uk/financial-support for more details.

Department of Health funded courses

Some courses (including Nursing and other Allied Health Profession courses) are funded by the Department of Health for those who have been resident in Northern Ireland for three years prior to the start of the course, and students from the Republic of Ireland. These are very popular courses and students need to

undertake additional assessment such as interviews. More information on this can be found at ulster.ac.uk/funded-courses

NI University Fees Students from NI and the Republic of Ireland

Full-time undergraduate fees for Home (NI) and the Republic of Ireland students are determined by the Department of the Economy and are normally increased annually.

Northern Ireland Universities charge you up to £4,630 a year for tuition (based on 2022/23 entry fees). Students don't have to pay this up front. They can apply online to Student Finance NI for a loan of up to £4,630 to help cover this fee.

Students from England, Scotland and Wales

Tuition fees for students from England, Scotland and Wales are £9,250 (based on 2021/22 entry fees).



Applying to university

UCAS is the admissions body that processes all applications to full-time courses at UK universities.

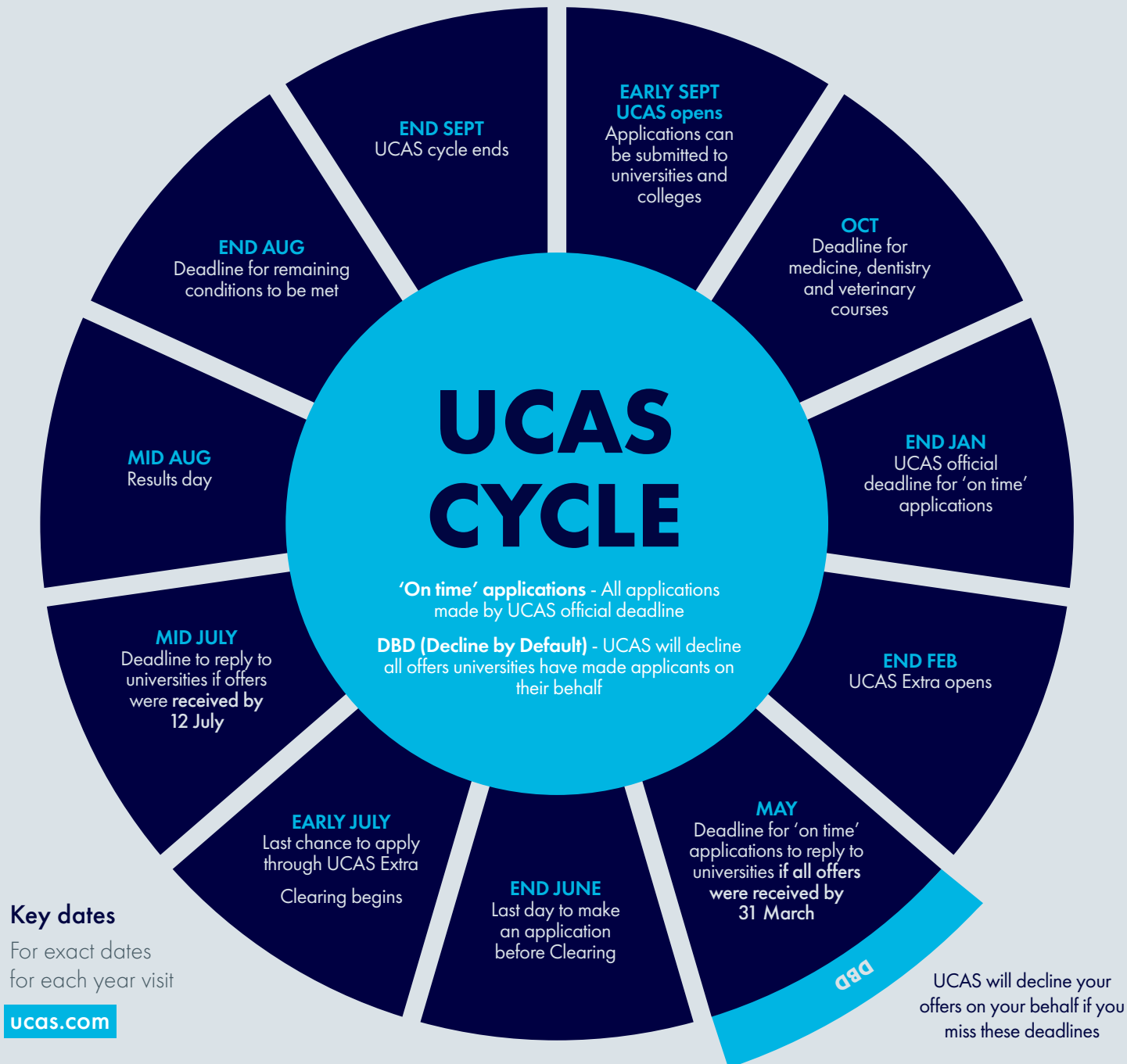
How to apply

Applying to university can be completed in five easy steps:

1. Create an account at **UCAS.com/apply**
2. Choose up to 5 courses from across over 120 UK universities
3. Write and submit a Personal Statement
4. Nominate a referee to write a character reference.
5. Pay the application fee (£22.50 for one course or £27 for multiple)

NB: Normally your child's school/college will oversee the submission of the application and advise how the application fee is to be paid.

UCAS will check the application and send it to all the universities the student has applied to. None of the universities will know where else they have applied, so they will be considering the application totally independently.



TOP TIP: Make sure to use a personal, rather than school email address. A school email address may no longer be accessible come results day.

The Personal Statement

The personal statement gives students the opportunity to promote themselves by covering their academic interests, work experience, relevant achievements, hobbies and interests which make them suitable for their course choices.

Tips on getting started and how to write a personal statement can be found at ucas.com/personalstatement

Tracking the application

- Once the application is submitted, your child will receive an acknowledgement from UCAS and often from the university you applied to.
- Each course will have its own entry requirements, and some may have additional selection requirements like a portfolio review or interview. This will be outlined in the course prospectus or can be found online on the university course pages.
- For some Department of Health funded courses for NI domiciled

students, your child may need to interview.

- If their course does have an extra selection step, they will be contacted by the university about what extra steps they will have to take and how it impacts on the timing of offer making.
- Upon receipt of the application, there may be a delay in an offer being made. This may be due to specific selection steps required for the course. Don't be alarmed.
- Universities will have their own approach to the timing of making their offer or application

decisions. Some may wait until all applications have been made and not begin decision communications until mid-January at the earliest.

- The status of an application can be checked via the UCAS Hub (formerly UCAS Track) system.
- Universities are unable to give applicants updates on their application directly over the phone, in person or via email. Any change in the status of a UCAS application will only be made available via UCAS Hub.

The offers process


Receiving offers

As universities may send their offers at different times, students will not be able to make their final decision in UCAS until they have received all decisions from the universities they applied to.

Students may receive communication or invitations to visit from universities that have extended offers. This is another great research opportunity.

Upon receipt of the student's final outstanding decision, UCAS will inform them of their decision deadline. The response your child will receive could be one of the following:

- **Conditional offer:** Students are offered a place subject to certain conditions, normally based on exam results.
- **Unconditional offer:** Students have already met the entrance requirements and the university would like to accept their application.
- **Reject:** There are several reasons why universities may decline an applicant, for example if the course is full.
- **Withdrawn:** Both your family member and the university can withdraw the application either because they didn't respond to any correspondence from the university or they didn't attend an interview etc.



Top Tip: Choosing a firm choice can be difficult. Talk to your child about what they want to get out of a course and their university experience. If they've already decided on firm and insurance choices, ask them why. Go back to your shortlisting criteria, check if your child seems unclear on anything and has considered all key factors.

Responding to offers

Once students receive their offers, they need to respond in the following ways:

- **Firm acceptance:** They can have only one firm acceptance, and this is their first preference out of all the offers they have received.
- **Insurance acceptance:** As well as their first choice, they can also have a backup, which is called their insurance.
- **Decline:** Once they have selected their firm and insurance choices, they then need to decline all other offers.

If they change their mind about what or where they want to study or if they do better than expected, Clearing may provide them an opportunity to explore alternative courses.

Alternatively, they may decide that they want to know their results before applying to university. Increasingly

some students are applying Direct to Clearing. You can find out more information about this at ucas.com

UCAS Extra

Competition can be very high for some courses which can mean that even the best performing students don't always get an offer. If all five applications have been rejected or all of the offers have been declined, an application to another course or university can be made through UCAS Extra.

UCAS Extra is available from mid-February until the end of June. Further information is available at ucas.com

Results Day

If your family member has met the university's conditions of their firm choice, they will receive confirmation that they have been accepted to that course. They will be asked to confirm that they will proceed with their firm choice and they can now begin their final university preparations.

The university may, at their discretion, accept students that fall slightly short of the entry conditions. They will contact those students who are eligible.

If your child hasn't met conditions of the firm choice but meet those of their insurance choice, then they will convert to their insurance offer.

There is plenty of support available if students need to make a different decision, or if their circumstances have changed between the making of their firm and insurance choices and results day.

What if they get higher grades than expected?

If students exceed the conditions for their firm choice and want to explore alternative options, they can use Clearing Plus to research and apply for other options. Visit ucas.com to learn more about Clearing Plus.

What if they get lower grades than expected?

If students receive lower grades than expected and they are not accepted to either their firm or insurance choice, they may find an alternative course through Clearing.

If the decision status in UCAS Hub appears as "pending" on results day, this means the university is yet to make a final decision on the application.

They may want to research other options on Clearing Plus whilst they wait for the decision from their offer-holding university.



What if they change their mind about where or what they want to study?

If students have a change of heart, they can release themselves from their firm choice via UCAS Hub. UCAS Hub will show them what courses or universities are available to them.

What is Clearing?

Clearing is a process which allows students to search and apply for courses that still have vacancies.

It is important not to panic but to carefully research options before selecting a course through Clearing.

Traditionally universities will advertise their Clearing options on their own websites from July and additional courses may be added up to and post results day.

Following the publication of results, Ulster University holds an advice day and contact centre for applicants to discuss their alternatives with admissions and academic staff.

Applicants can receive verbal offers from universities at these events or call centres and will be asked to apply to the university via UCAS Hub. Subject to conditions being met, an offer will be extended to the applicant which is then accepted and processed by the university once all checks are complete.

What is Direct to Clearing?

Your child may decide that they want to know their results before applying to university. Increasingly students are applying Direct to Clearing. Through this process, they will only be able to apply to those courses with Clearing Vacancies. You can find out more information about this at

ucas.com

Is Ulster University the right choice for your child?

We place ambition at the heart of everything we do to ensure our students excel and unleash their full potential. We do this by providing first-class resources and facilities within a supportive learning environment. We are career-focused, connected to industry and transformational in our research, ensuring your child is set up for success.



CAREER FOCUSED



2,500
STUDENT WORK
PLACEMENTS
EVERY YEAR



94%
OF UK GRADUATES
IN WORK OR
FURTHER STUDY
GRADUATE OUTCOMES (2019/20)

STUDENT FOCUSED



#1
**NORTHERN
IRELAND**
LARGE UNIVERSITY FOR
STUDENT SATISFACTION
NATIONAL STUDENT SURVEY (2022)



**NORTHERN
IRELAND**
ONE OF THE LOWEST
STUDENT COST
OF LIVING IN UK
NATIONAL STUDENT MONEY SURVEY (2021)

CONNECTED AND CONNECTING YOU



**OVER
225,000**
ALUMNI WORLDWIDE



WELCOMING
STUDENTS FROM
70+ COUNTRIES

TRANSFORMATIONAL



**SHORTLISTED
UNIVERSITY
OF THE YEAR**

**TIMES
GOOD UNIVERSITY
GUIDE
(2022)**

**ULSTER
UNIVERSITY**



**OVER
£45M**
INVESTED IN RESEARCH
EVERY YEAR

Careers - Setting them up for the future

Choosing Ulster means choosing a student experience focused on career success. Our graduates leave Ulster University with the skills, confidence and knowledge to be successful in a competitive job market.

We work with the private sector, government agencies and public bodies to design career-focused courses with many providing:

- Work-based learning from placements to real-life case studies.
- Professional qualifications or accreditation from industry bodies.
- Employability skills development embedded in the course.

Industry placements

Many of our courses offer local, national and international placement opportunities, getting students ready for industry.

- Most students can undertake industry placements between their second and third year of study.
- They will work with one of our industry connections, either locally or abroad, for between six and twelve months.
- Upon completion, they receive a separate qualification to their degree; a Diploma in Professional Practice (DPP).
- Placements are a great way for them to meet and impress future potential employers, as well as gain real-life experience.
- There are also opportunities for shorter internships or work experiences and some courses include rotating placements as part of the course e.g. clinical placements.

Career Planning

Our Employability and Careers team will:

- Offer face-to-face and online help and advice.
- Introduce students to top employers via recruitment fairs on campus.
- Help them create a winning CV and excel in interviews.
- Provide a range of work experience opportunities.
- Help students achieve The EDGE Award - formal recognition for extra-curricular activities recognised by employers.

ulster.ac.uk/careers



CareersAtUlster



@CareersAtUlster

“The first-hand experience gained working within an engineering environment alongside professional engineers encouraged and motivated me to strive in my final year of study.”

Lauren Doherty
Technology with Design



Studying at Ulster

Academic year

The academic year is normally divided into two semesters. Some courses e.g. Nursing, have a longer academic year.

Semester One:

September - mid January

Semester Two:

End January - May

Each semester has 12 weeks of teaching followed by an exam period (January and May).

Full-time students will typically study three modules in each semester (18 modules of study make up a standard three-year degree).

Engaging and forward-thinking teaching

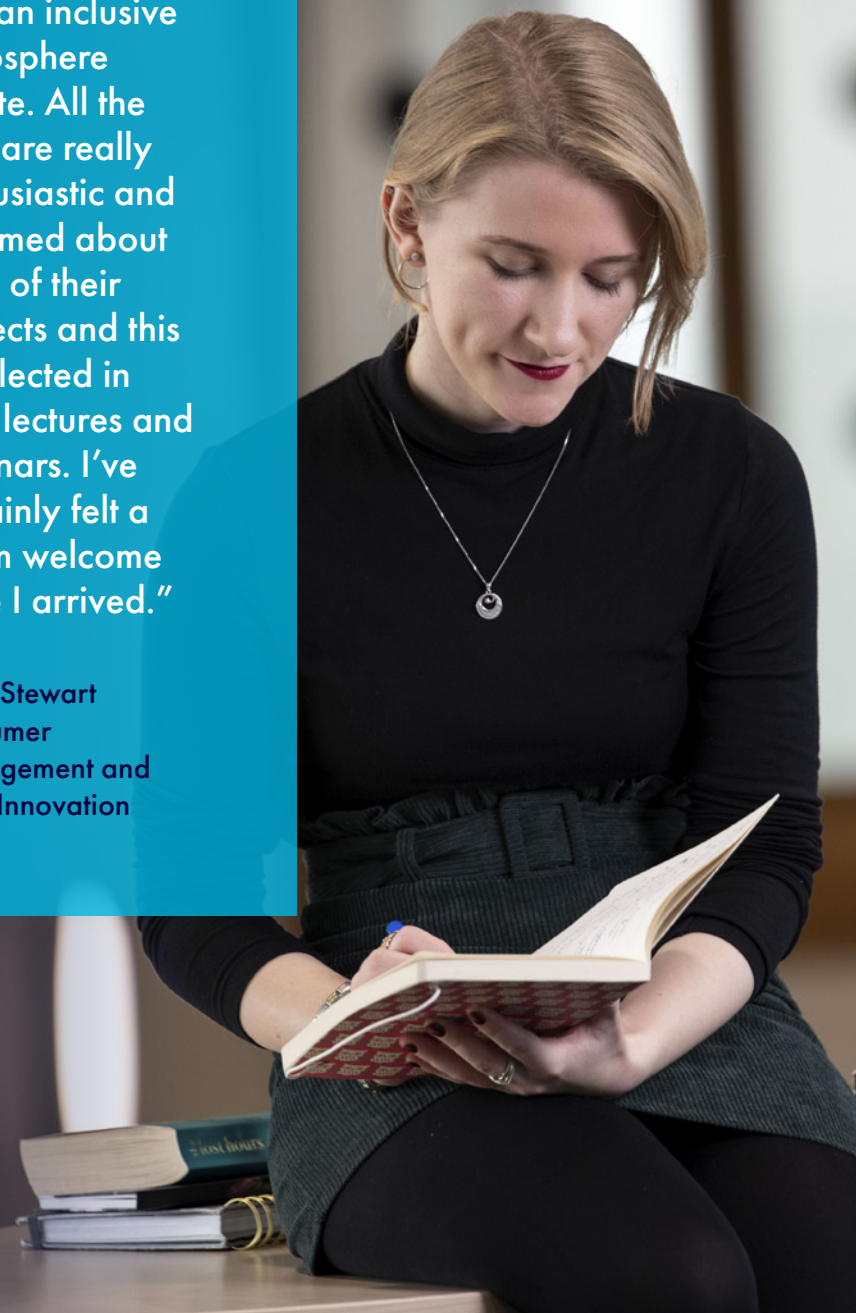
We are renowned for our supportive learning environment. Our teaching staff are passionate and approachable, ensuring students get to grips with the latest developments and are taught in ways that are relevant to the working world.

Teaching is delivered through:

- **Lectures** - formal teaching sessions, often with a larger group of students
- **Seminars** - smaller groups used to promote group discussion about a specific topic
- **Tutorials** - small group opportunities to meet with a tutor to discuss work and to raise points of particular interest or difficulty
- **Practicals and fieldwork** - where applicable to courses
- **Live industry projects**

"Ulster University has a real sense of community and an inclusive atmosphere on site. All the staff are really enthusiastic and informed about each of their subjects and this is reflected in their lectures and seminars. I've certainly felt a warm welcome since I arrived."

Anna Stewart
Consumer
Management and
Food Innovation



State-of-the-art facilities

We are constantly updating our campuses with the latest facilities and technologies to aid the student learning experience and provide a platform for success. In addition to our many purpose-built spaces to encourage collaboration, we have interactive lecture theatres and modern, newly refurbished libraries. Just some of our facilities across our campuses include:

- Onsite clinics, wards and ambulances to create real-world environments.
- Sports Institute Northern Ireland, delivering expert advice to NI's top athletes.
- Research equipment to investigate diverse environments.
- Industry-standard television, music and radio studios, digital editing suites and Apple computer labs.
- Mock courtroom to simulate real life scenarios, award-winning Law Clinic and Transitional Justice



- Performance spaces, artist studios, fashion, textile and print workshops.
- Exciting new art and design shop showcasing talent within Belfast School of Art
- Onsite engineering labs with the latest technology and software.
- Pioneering cognitive robotics lab.
- NIBEC - one of Europe's leading research centres for medical engineering.
- Centre for Sustainable Technologies - an industry leader in sustainable energy research.
- Modern, well-equipped architecture design studios.
- Financial Innovation Laboratory to experience a real-life trading environment.
- Academy restaurant - an award-winning licensed training restaurant.
- Food and Consumer Testing Suite with product development kitchens and consumer research facilities.

International opportunities

Go Global

Whilst Ulster University is based in Northern Ireland, students will have the opportunity to get a global experience by taking a semester or year to work, study or volunteer abroad from year one.

International placement and internship programmes

- Students can choose between short term opportunities to year long placements.
- We can connect them with our international partners offering opportunities to work in Asia, America, Europe, New Zealand, Australia and UAE.
- Those who complete a placement year abroad will gain a Diploma in Professional Practice - International.

**Over 200
institutions
available
worldwide
for student
exchange**

Study Abroad

- Students can spend either a semester or a full academic year studying abroad at a partner university.
- They can choose to study in Europe, or further afield in North America, Latin America, Asia or Australia.
- Those who study abroad for a year will receive a Diploma in International Academic Studies (DIAS).
- A wide variety of academic summer schools at international universities are also available including the USA, China and India.

Volunteering

With lots of volunteering opportunities in between semesters, students could find themselves running activities with children and young people, helping with social work projects, developing business and enterprise initiatives, running climate change campaigns, supporting health promotion and more, anywhere in the world.



Student support

Life as a student is exciting, but it can also be demanding. Our Student Wellbeing team offer professional services that are free, confidential and inclusive for all Ulster students, to ensure your family member feels safe and supported at Ulster University.


They will help with:

- free and confidential advice
- academic concerns
- stress and personal challenges
- budgeting and money management
- financial support including bursaries and fees

Our AccessAbility team can advise students on support available if they have a disability or long-term medical condition.

All Ulster students have access to:

- face-to-face counselling support
- 24/7 confidential counselling helpline



"There's always somebody to confide in which is very reassuring. Everyone in student services is very helpful and welcoming and all the tutors have been great and very approachable."

Lucia Worth
Nursing (Adult)

"As an autistic person I thought I'd never be able to make it in university and while it is certainly challenging, everybody is so supportive that I am able to rise to the challenge and not only cope but thrive."

Ronnie Gomersall
Accounting with
Specialisms

Student experience

With three distinct campuses in four locations across Northern Ireland, it is the student experience we offer which sets us apart. Life at Ulster is exciting, entertaining and eye-opening, with countless opportunities to jump in and get involved.

**One university, three
unique campuses:
Derry~Londonderry
Coleraine
Belfast**

“Going to Ulster University was absolutely life changing for me. Before university I was a very shy individual but over the past year I have come out of my shell, resulting in myself running for course rep, being a mind your mood ambassador and being on the committee for the Photography Society.”

Caoimhe Clements
Photography with
Video

Sport for all

Whether they want to play social or competitive sport, they can make memories, find friends, break records and be part of something special during their time at Ulster.

- Excellent sport facilities across all campuses
- World-class indoor and outdoor facilities at our Jordanstown Sports Village.
- Clubs and classes for all abilities
- 70+ sports clubs to choose from
- Memberships at affordable student rates
- Entry Scheme opportunities for supporting talented athletes

ulster.ac.uk/sport

ulster.ac.uk/taes

Students' Union

Looking after their interests and organising social events, trips and activities for an unforgettable experience, all students automatically become members of the Ulster University Students' Union (UUSU).

- A great way for them to have fun and meet new people through our 90+ clubs and societies
- Ensuring their voice is heard on matters such as teaching and facilities
- Helping them to influence change by becoming an Academic Rep
- Giving confidential and impartial advice via our UUSU Advice Bureau
- Providing support with their business ideas via UUSU Enterpriseusu.org

uusuu.org

Accommodation

Our accommodation is based on or near our campuses, is well-priced, comfortable, modern and a great way to help your child settle in and make the most of university life.

All Ulster University accommodation has:

- Self-catering facilities
- High speed Wi-Fi
- Laundry facilities
- Access to gym facilities
- Student hub for socialising
- 24/7 resident support
- 'ResLife' calendar of social events
- Housekeeping service and utilities included
- Block insurance for contents and belongs
- 24/7 security and CCTV

Accommodation guarantee

We guarantee all first year students who have made Ulster their first choice a place in one of our halls.*

*Accommodation must be booked by 7 July.

"At first, I was quite nervous... but after moving into the halls on campus and meeting new people I have settled in really well!"

**Jack Earl
International
Travel and Tourism
Management**

Cost and when to apply

We offer several accommodation options across our campuses to cater for every budget and taste. These range from ensuite to standard rooms, with costs varying depending on location and size of the accommodation.

Browse the range of accommodation available, take a virtual tour and review price lists at

ulster.ac.uk/accommodation



Accommodation application timeline

March

Accommodation applications open and go live online

Accommodation open days across all campuses

June

July

New students must have applied for accommodation by this date to be eligible for our accommodation guarantee

After A-level results day, allocation of rooms to all students who have applied starts. *For those students entering Clearing, you can still apply for accommodation

Mid-August

September

Allocation of all rooms completed. We look forward to welcoming you on campus!

*Those offered an unconditional offer may receive their room allocation earlier in the summer. See for yourself.

Accommodation open days: June 2023
Explore our halls from home: Virtual 360 tours online

FIND OUT MORE: ulster.ac.uk/accommodation

Campus accommodation starts from:

Belfast
£134
per week*

Coleraine
£98
per week*

Jordanstown
£146
per week*

Magee
£95
per week*

*Correct at time of print

Get in touch

Families play an invaluable role in the life of any new university student as a source of guidance, support and encouragement. We hope this guide has given you the information you need to help and advise your family member during this transition period, but if you have any further queries or concerns, please get in touch with us.

E: study@ulster.ac.uk

ulster.ac.uk



'Study at Ulster'





Disclaimer

Correct at time of print (February 2023). The University makes every effort to ensure that the information contained is accurate but it is possible that some changes will occur. Please note that the University's website is the most up-to-date source of information regarding courses and facilities.

Visit **ulster.ac.uk** for further details.