

UCAS- Making a HE Application

Parent Presentation

The purpose of this presentation is:

- To discuss choices for students after Level 3 study
- Look at the role of UCAS when they apply for Higher Education (HE)
- To explain how the College will be supporting students through the process of applying to Universities/Colleges offering HE

The UCAS logo is positioned in the top right corner of the slide. It features the letters 'UCAS' in a bold, sans-serif font. The 'U', 'C', and 'S' are black, while the 'A' is a vibrant red. The logo is set against a purple background that curves from the top right towards the center of the slide.

What next for students?

Options for after College

- Entering Higher Education (HE)
- Studying Abroad
- Taking a gap year
- Seek full time employment
- Apprenticeships/Traineeships
(Intermediate, Advanced, Higher/ Degree)

To understand options further visit
wwwucas.com/alternatives



What next for students?

Apprenticeships

PARENTS' GUIDE TO APPRENTICESHIPS

WHAT IS AN APPRENTICESHIP?

Apprenticeships are a great way for your son or daughter to gain a nationally recognised qualification while earning a wage. While gaining real work experience, they'll also develop skills to kick-start their career in a huge range of industries from finance, engineering, construction, beauty and so many more.

As an apprentice, your child will have the same rights as any other member of staff. They will be paid at least £4.15 per hour and be entitled to 20 days annual leave per year.

BENEFITS OF AN APPRENTICESHIP

- Earning a wage while developing new skills and gaining work experience
- Developing links with reputable employers. 90% of apprentices stay in employment after completing their apprenticeship
- No student debt
- Having a dedicated mentor for support and guidance
- Excellent prospects - 1 in 5 companies have a former apprentice at board level

APPRENTICESHIP LEVELS

There are various levels of apprenticeship your child could apply for depending on their current qualifications and experience.

APPRENTICESHIP LEVEL	EQUIVALENT TO
Intermediate (level 2)	5 GCSEs (A* - C, 9 - 4)
Advanced (level 3)	2 A Levels
Higher (level 4, 5, 6)	Foundation degree and degree

THERE ARE FOUR TYPES OF APPRENTICESHIPS IN THE UK ✓

INTERMEDIATE
Like 5 GCSEs, A*-C/4+

What qualifications can I get?
Level 2 NVQ, Diploma, National Certificate

ADVANCED
Like 2 A-levels

What qualifications can I get?
Level 3 NVQ, National Certificate, BTEC

HIGHER
Like a foundation degree or above

What qualifications can I get?
Foundation degree, Bachelor's degree, Master's degree, Level 4-7 NVQ, Higher National Diploma

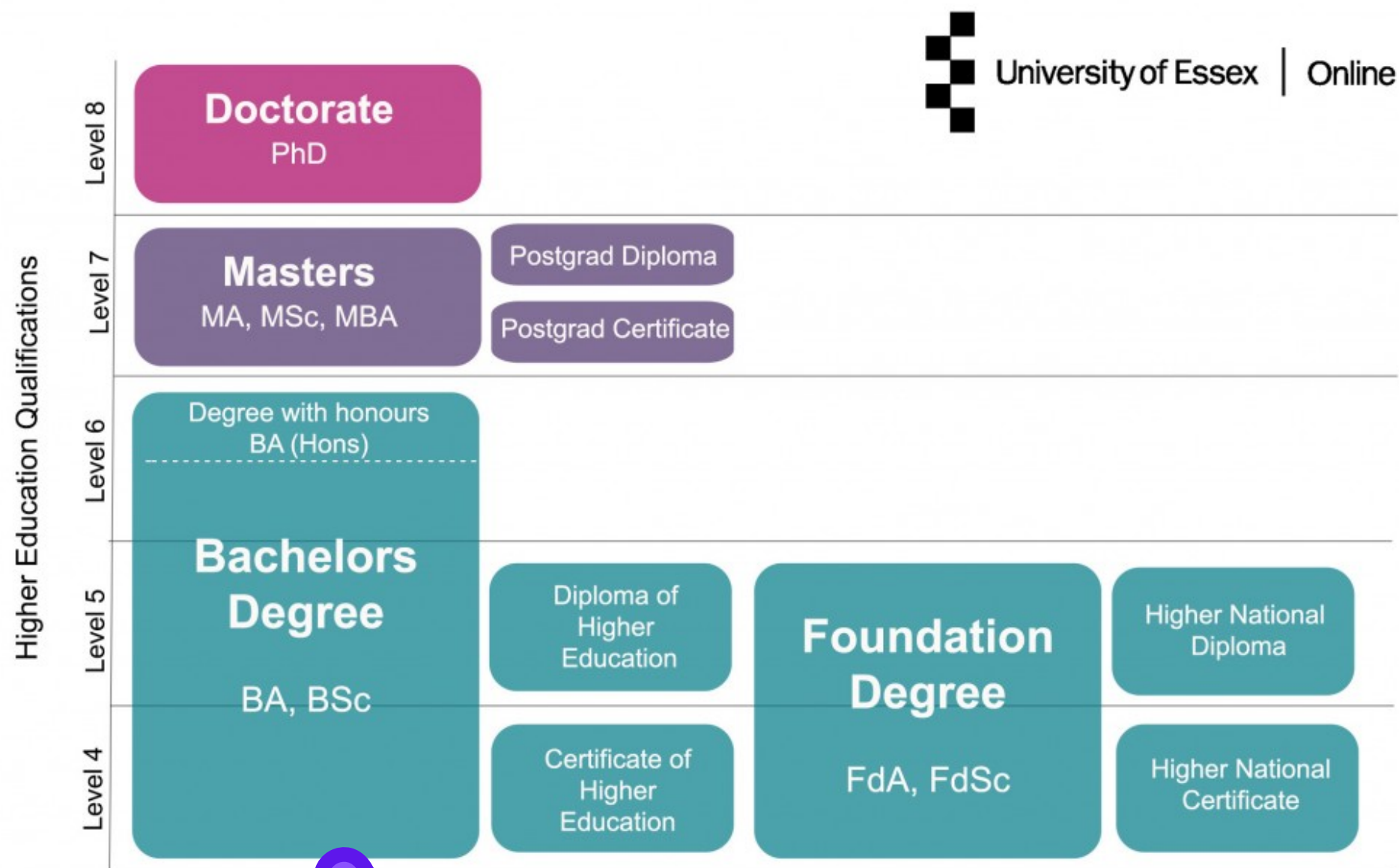
DEGREE
Like a Bachelor's/ Master's degree

What qualifications can I get?
Foundation degree, Bachelor's degree, Master's degree, Level 4-7 NVQ, Higher National Diploma

- Higher and Degree apprenticeship opportunities will start to be advertised from **October 2023 and will run through until Spring 2023**
- More information available here <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/higher-and-degree-apprenticeships>
- Intermediate and Advanced level apprenticeships are open all year round.

Higher Education..

What is it?



- Higher Education (or HE for short) is the continuation of study post 18.
- It is important to remember that it is never too early to start thinking about future education or career plans.
- There is no set path to take and there are all sorts of degrees, diplomas, vocational, foundation, full time and part time courses for students to think about.
- They can also choose to study at a particular institution or take part in a long-distance course

Higher Education

Why study it?



Over the course of a lifetime, estimates suggest that students are more likely to earn £250,000 if they have a degree.

Opportunities while studying:

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

With a degree, they'll have:

- The opportunity to follow their career path
- Better job prospects, as many employers target graduates
- Higher earning potential

Where can you study Higher Education

You can study HE at College too!



**Riverside
College**
Widnes & Runcorn

Full time courses

- **Computing**
- **Health and Social Care**
- **Sport**
- **Media Makeup**

Part time courses

- **Counselling**
- **Education**
- **PGCE/Cert Education**
- **Engineering**
- **Construction**



Applying to University

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What UCAS does:

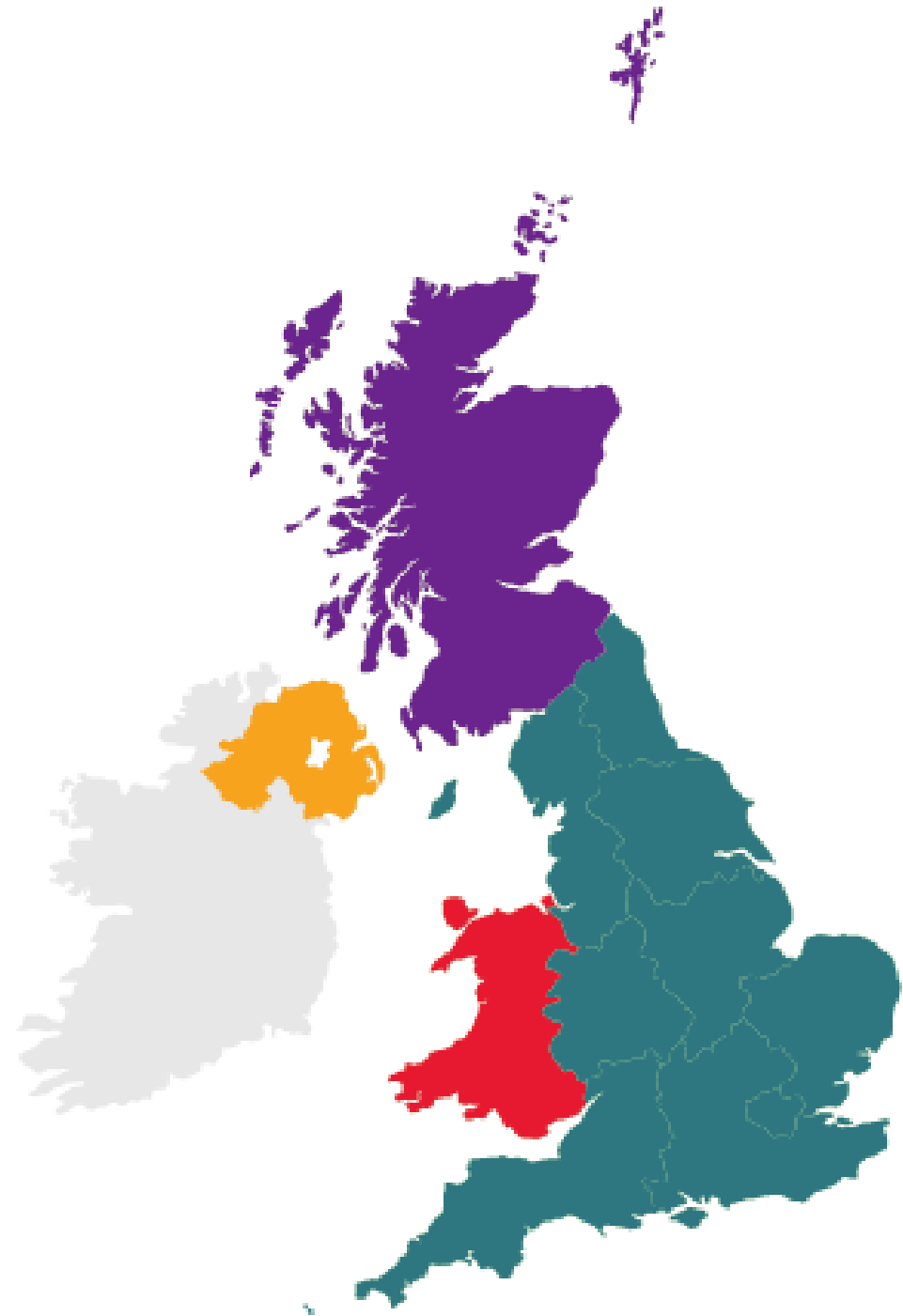
- Process HE applications
- Provide information, advice, and training
- Have a Fraud and Verification Team
- Take part in education sector engagement
- Give information on apprenticeships, studying abroad and getting a job.

UCAS doesn't:

- Suggest courses or universities
- Make decisions or offers
- Advise on finance, immigration, or visas for individuals

UCAS Search tool

So much choice



- 370+ universities and colleges
 - five in Northern Ireland
 - 20 in Wales
 - 21 in Scotland
 - 334 in England
-
- 37,000+ courses available
 - The majority of HE applications go through UCAS

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Things Explained further...



Undergraduate courses refer to courses that are degree level study for individuals who have never taken a degree before.

They usually offer courses from Level 4-6 and include all Bachelor courses, HND and HNC courses.

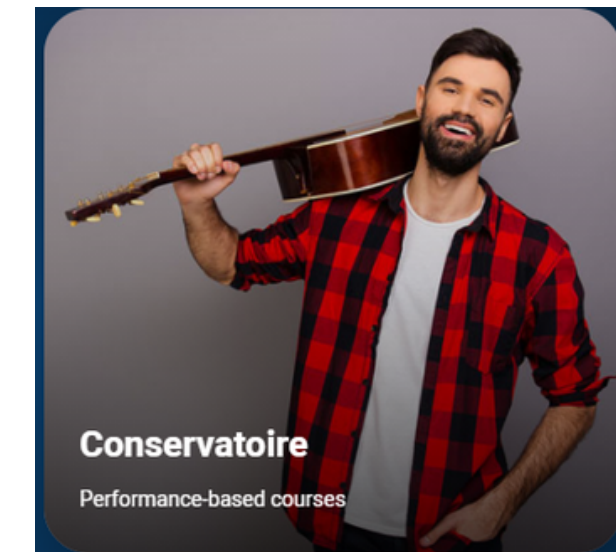
These are usually the type of courses the majority of our students will be applying for straight from college.



Postgraduate courses refer to courses that are taken once an individual has completed an undergraduate degree

These tend to be offered up to Level 7 and can be relevant for more research intensive careers or those who need further study in order to progress.

It is unlikely you would be applying for these at this time, but it can be useful to research them if you are looking to progress into certain roles such as teaching, therapy and other career paths.



Conservatoire courses provide performance based courses right up to postgraduate level.

Specialised establishments offer subject specific courses and training.

Applications to conservatoires are made separately to a traditional UCAS application and may differ slightly.

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Things Explained further...

Architectural Technology and Practice

📍 Main Site

🎓 BSc (Hons) ⌚ 3 Years 📖 Full-time 📅 09/2021



Architecture

📍 Main Site

🎓 BA ⌚ 3 Years 📖 Full-time 📅 09/2021



Flexible Combined Honours with Study Abroad

📍 University of Exeter Penryn Campus, Cornwall

🎓 BA/BSc (H) ⌚ 4 years 📖 Full-time




- BSc (Hons) is an undergraduate course that results in students gaining a Bachelor of Science degree. The majority of study for a BSc qualification is mathematical and analytical in its approach. BSc's tend to be attached to degrees with an element of relation to science.
- BA (Hons) is an undergraduate qualification that results in students gaining a Bachelor of Arts degree. The majority of a study for a BA qualification is creative and critical in its approach. BA's tend to relate to the creative based elements of subjects.
- Combined Honours/Joint Honours is an undergraduate course, that allows students to study more than one subject as an undergraduate

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Things Explained further...

Architecture (with Placement year)
Chelmsford Campus
BA (Hons) 4 Years Sandwich 13/09/2021




- Sandwich courses are traditional honours degree courses with a placement year added in (usually 2 years in university, 3rd year in placement then 4th year in university). Really good option for those who want to experience the practical element of the course on placement. Sometimes can be available with abroad study (further research needed)

Architecture [with Foundation Year]
Chelmsford Campus
BSc (Hons) 4 Years Full-time including foundation year 13/09/2021



- Courses with foundation years are 4 year courses with an extra year of study at the beginning before the 3 year graduate course. Usually you enrol onto the full 4 year course (however some foundation courses can be separate). Good for those who maybe didn't achieve the grades required for the course or for those coming from a different subject area, or those who have been away from education for a while.

Structural Engineering with Architecture
Main Site
MEng (Hon) 5 Years Full-time 09/2021



- Integrated masters courses are honours degree courses with a masters level course added onto the end. They combine undergraduate and postgraduate courses into one element of study. Can be useful for those wanting to advance into technical research

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Tariff Table

	A*	A	B	C	D	E
A levels	56	48	40	32	24	16

Diploma						
DDD	DDM	DMM	MMM	MMP	MPP	PPP
144	128	112	96	80	64	48

•When looking at the entry requirements for courses some universities will ask for certain subjects and certain grades, i,e, DMM or AAB at A Level.

Other Universities may ask for 'tariff points' which equate to grades. See picture..

- Please note Access qualifications and other qualifications may have different points, please look at <https://www.ucas.com/ucas/tariff-calculator> for more information

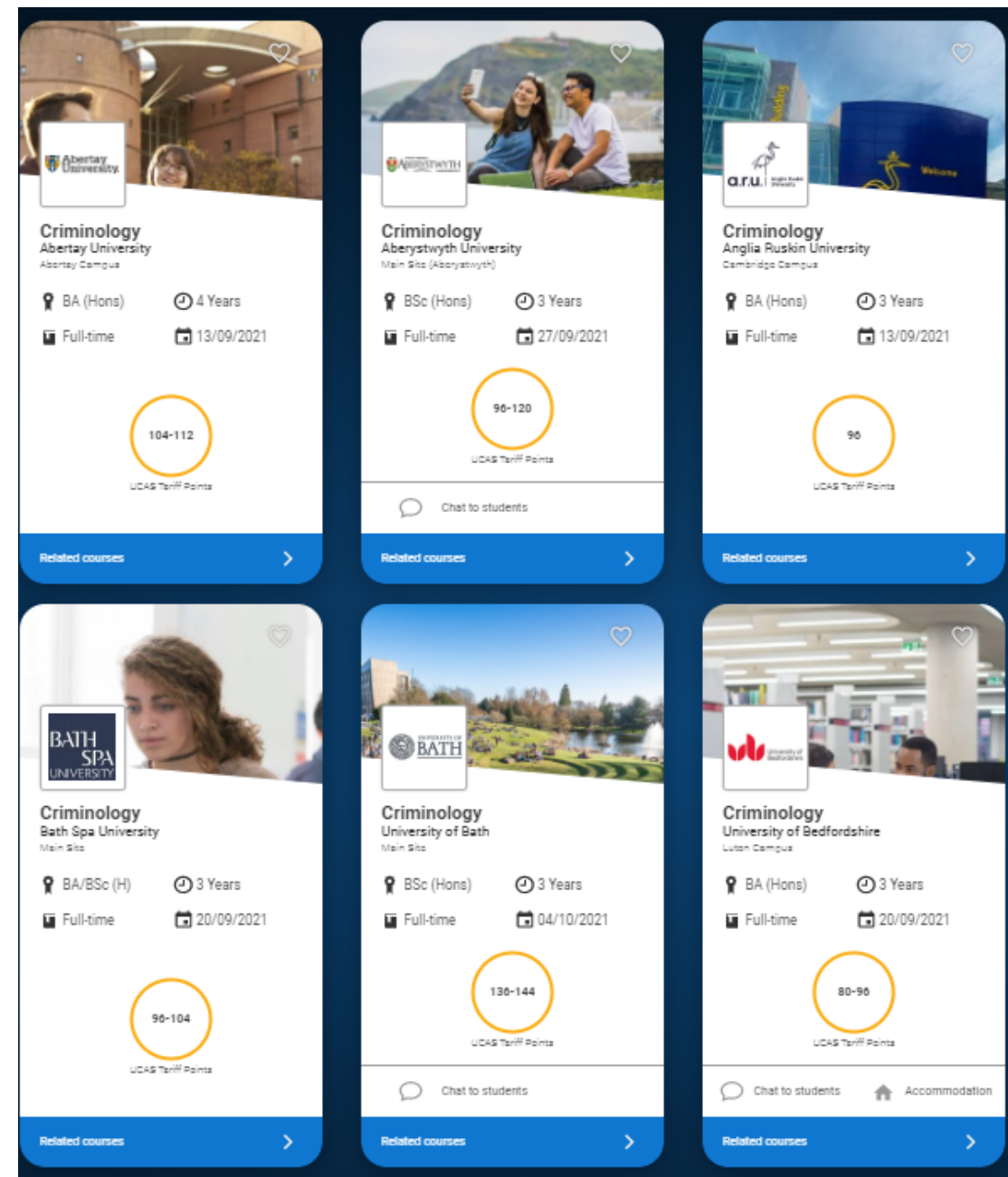
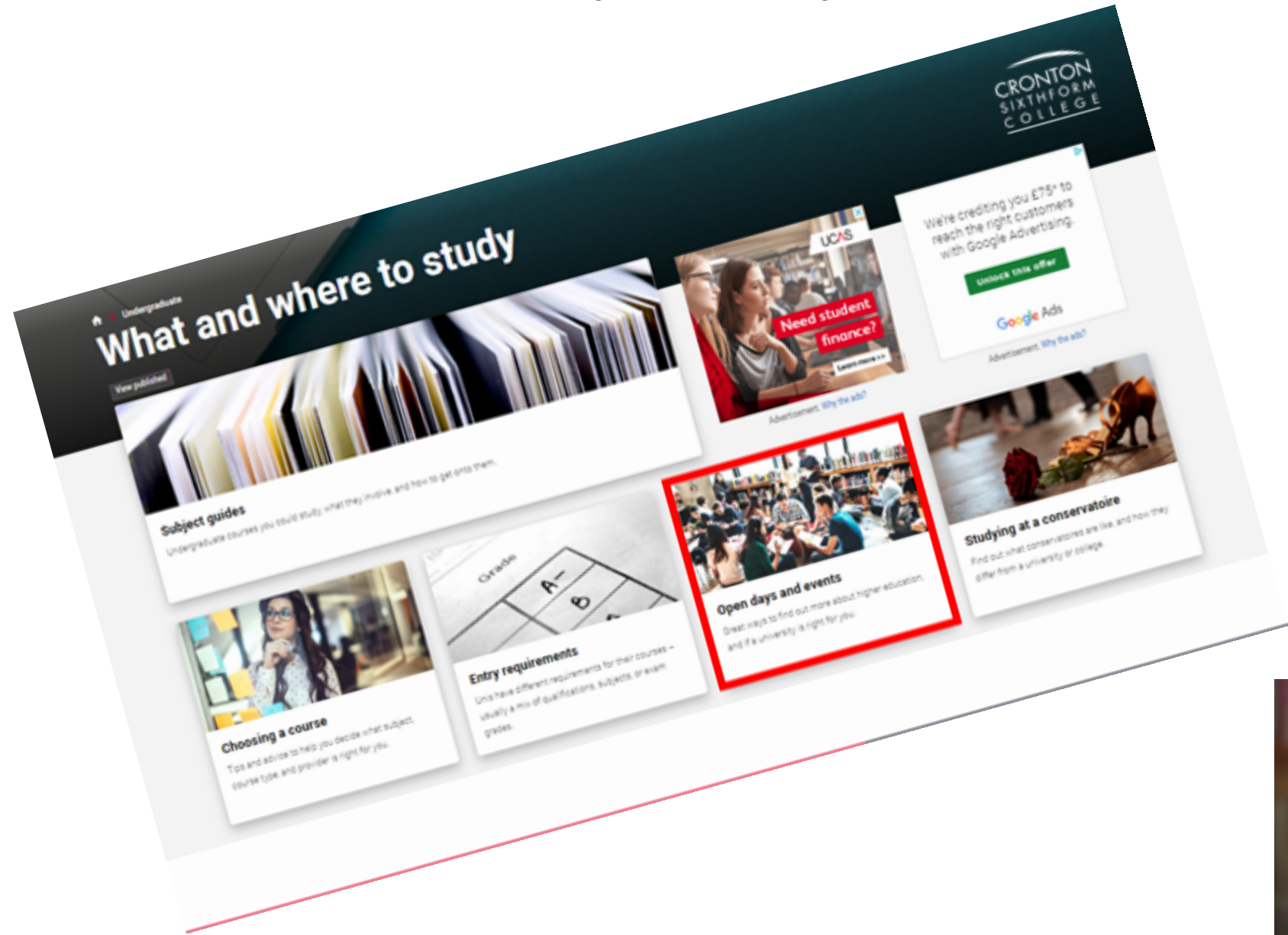
When applying

What to consider

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

- Making the right choice of course and University – students invest a lot of time, money and effort (Research is vital in order to make the right choice) Check out websites/ virtual tours/ open events...
- Right course for chosen career path? – if unsure check with employers/teachers/ACE advisers
- Location – city or rural?, good accommodation/transport links?
- Finances, course fees, living costs (moving away or stay at home)
- Scholarships or bursaries on offer?
- Extracurricular activities, clubs and societies

How to research UCAS Search



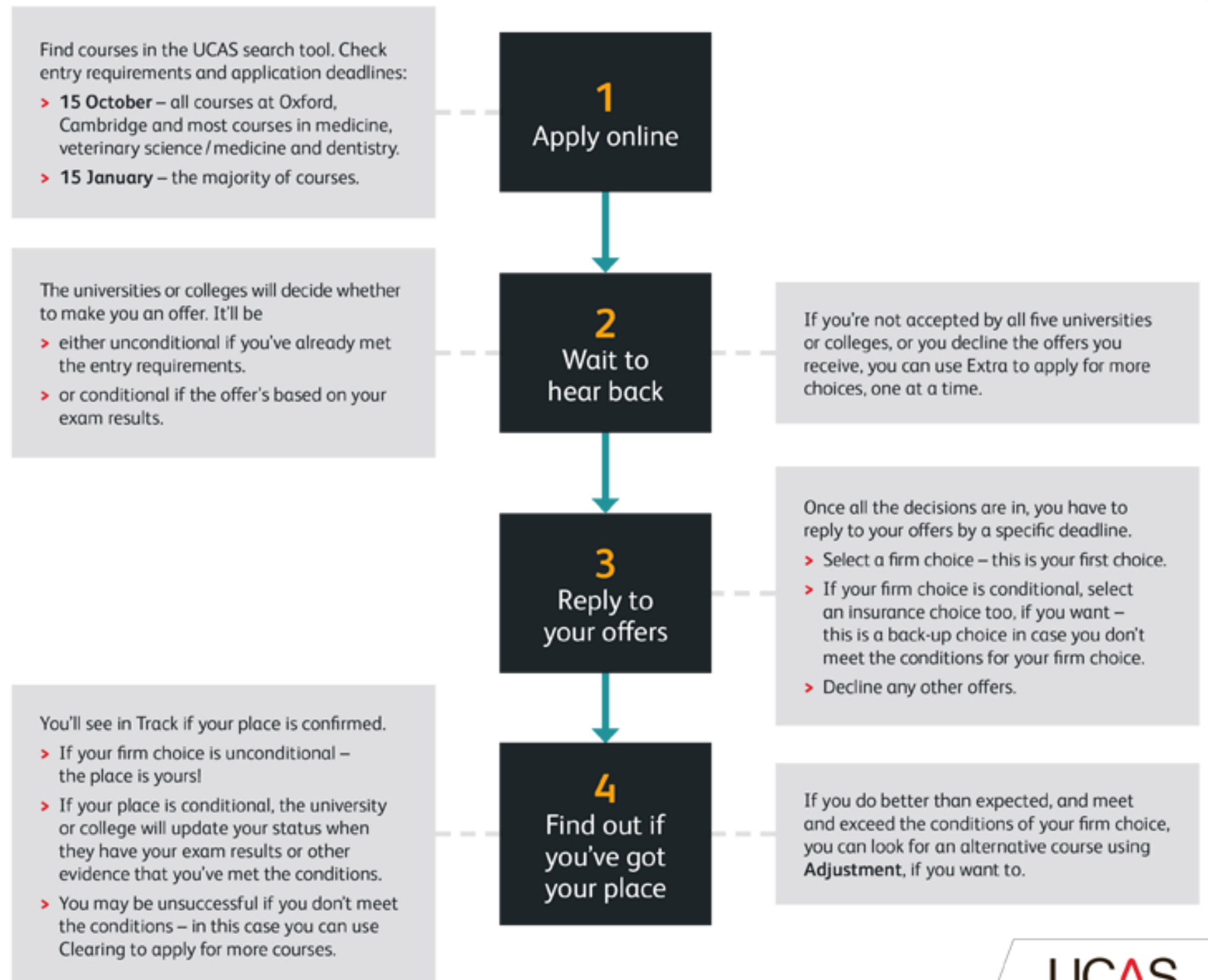
Applying to University

The process

HOW IT WORKS:

Applying to a UK university or college

- Students are required to create an account and application
- Once complete the application is paid and sent to the ACE team at college.
- ACE team check and support with the application process and may return applications for any errors.
- Applications once complete are sent to UCAS who then send the application to the universities.
- Offers/interviews and decisions are made through the UCAS Hub/Application system and can be tracked.



UCAS Apply

Key facts

- Application is entirely online.
- Maximum of five choices.
- Some choice restrictions:

Medicine, Veterinary Medicine/science, Dentistry (maximum of four). Oxford or Cambridge

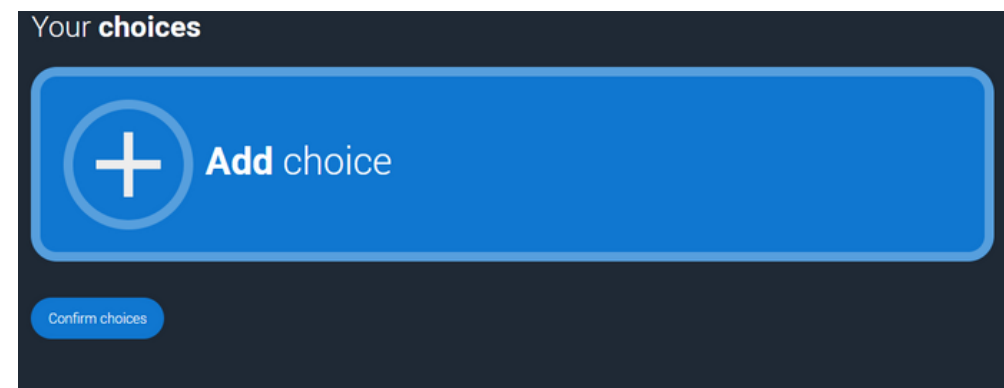
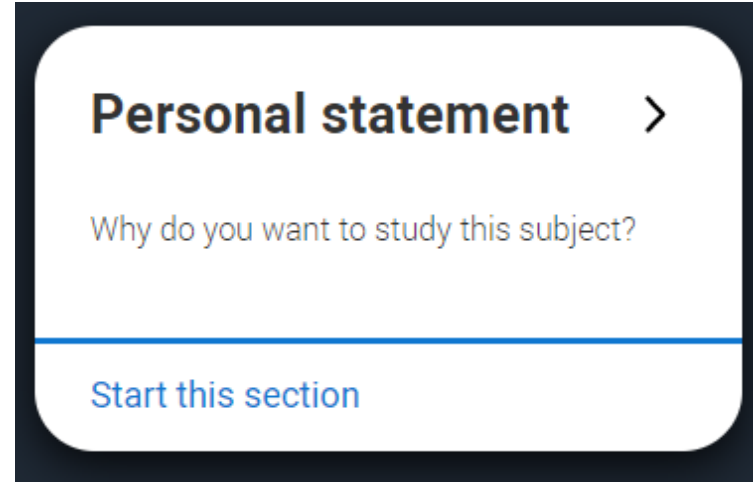
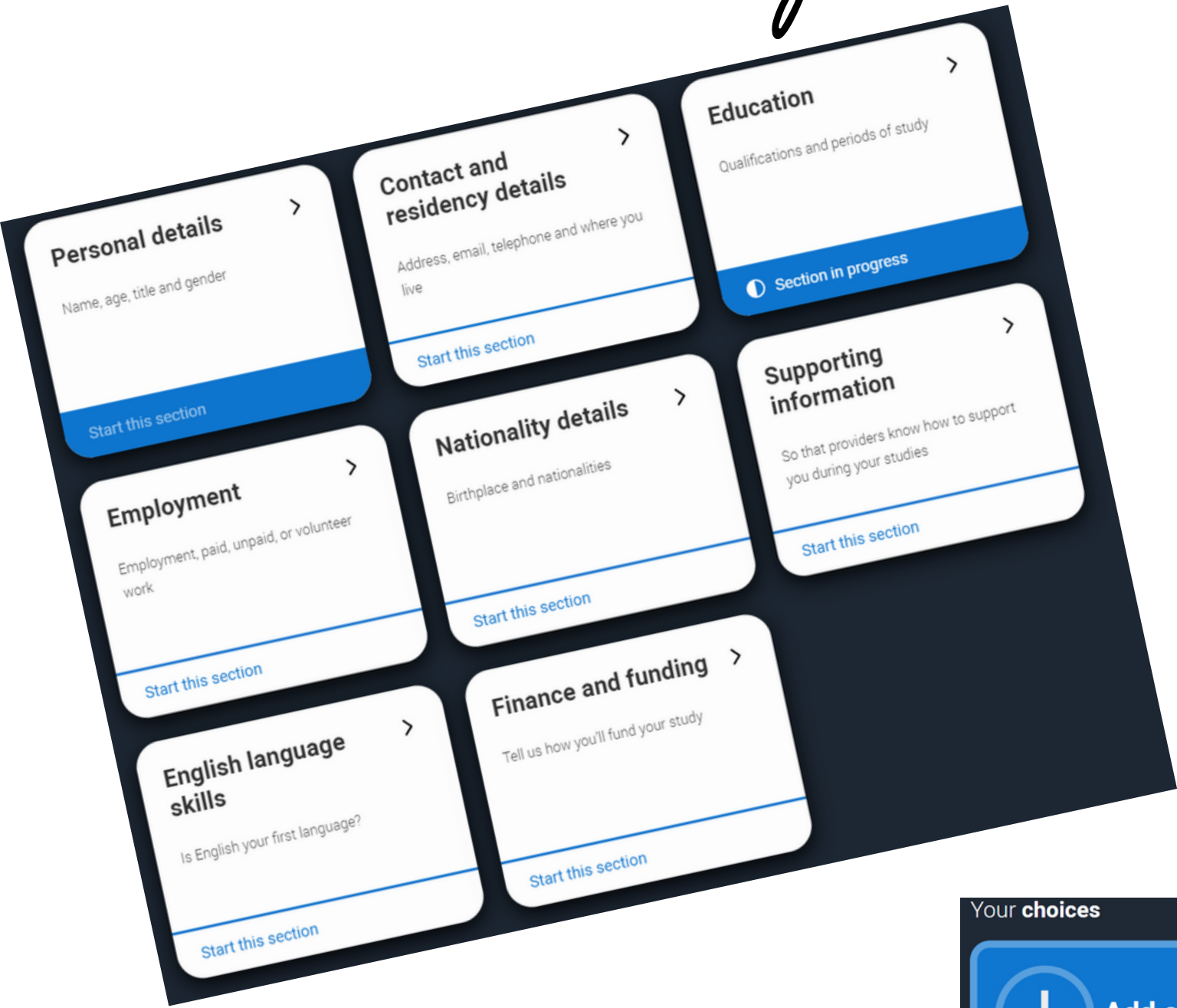
- Application cost – paid to UCAS online:
 - one choice – £21
 - two to five choices – £27

- Equal consideration if deadlines are met

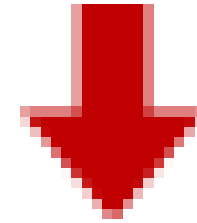
• 'Invisibility' – Choices and order of selection cannot be seen by universities

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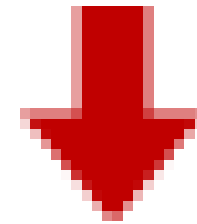
Making the application



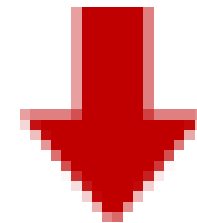
Complete the shown sections



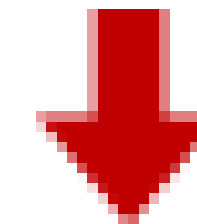
Tutor adds reference



College ACE team



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Universities/colleges

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The personal statement

- The only section the student has control over
- Their only chance to market themselves individually
- One personal statement for all choices.
 - Max. 4,000 characters, or 47 lines
 - Min. 1,000 characters
- Spelling/grammar MUST be checked
 - No formatting

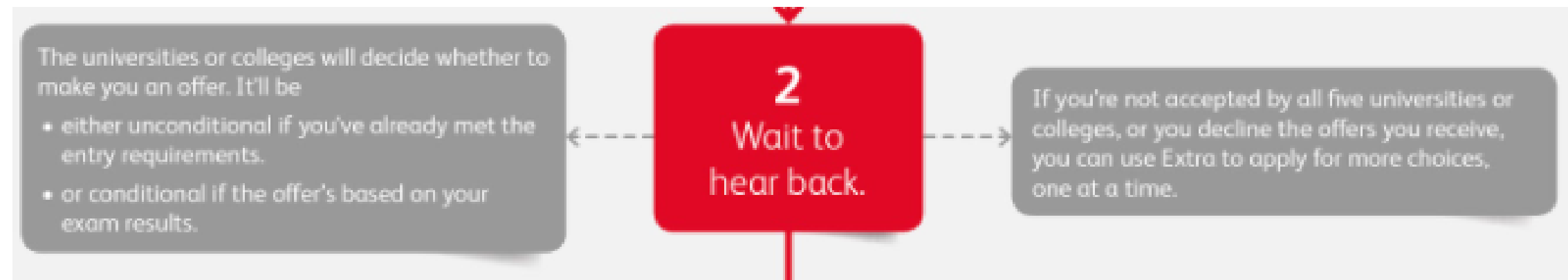
<p>1. Introduction: Talk about your career idea or degree subject area and why you want to go to university. Where did your interest in the degree subject area or career area come from?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Did this stem from subjects at school, college or from life experiences?• Does it suit your personality? Are you passionate about the subject or career area? - talk about this!
<p>2. Current studies: Talk about your current studies for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What you enjoy about them?• What skills and knowledge are you gaining? (I.e. Meeting assignment deadlines demonstrates good organisation and time management skills!)• Mention your achievements/ awards!• If you have gained certificate for attendance or student of the month -mention this! It tells the university you are a motivated student• State how your current studies will be a good base to build on - underpinning HE study
<p>3. Degree subject /course content: Here demonstrate that you have <u>thoroughly researched</u> your degree course content.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Talk about aspects / modules you look forward to studying• Make reference to the content and how this supports your future career aim/ goals
<p>4. Work history/ Voluntary work: It is very important that if you are mentioning work roles you have undertaken, that you also state the skills and knowledge this has helped you to develop.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Even part time roles in different vocational areas enable you to develop transferrable / employability skills. <u>For example:</u> Team working, problem solving, communication, interpersonal skills -face to face experience of dealing with the public!
<p>5. Interests / Achievement/ Organisations that you are involved with. This information can provide a picture of you as a "person" not just as a "student"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enrichment activities you have taken part in can also be mentioned here!• How do you spend your spare time?• Do you have any particular talents, play for sports teams?
<p>6. Conclusion :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What does going to university mean to you?• How will a Higher Education bring enhance your life experience?• If you need a degree to support your career aim - mention this and state how it will enable you to pursue your aim!

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Decisions and offers

Universities and colleges will review the:

- personal statement
 - reference
 - Qualifications
- AND if required
- admissions test result
 - interview
 - portfolio
 - audition



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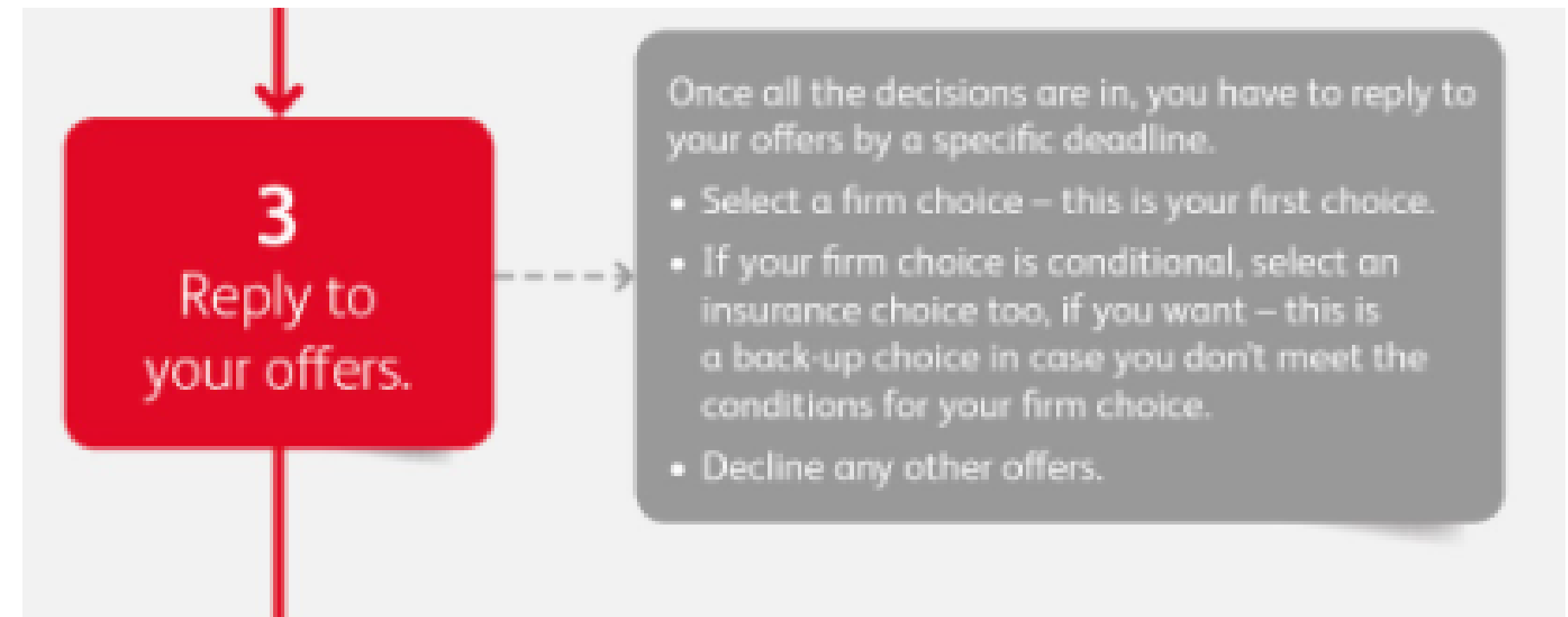
Applicant replies

Applicants must wait for **all decisions** from all choices, then they can choose one:

- **firm** – if all conditions are met, this is where they will be placed
- **insurance** – usually lower conditions, in case firm conditions are not met

Any other offers must be declined

If a student firmly accepts an unconditional offer, they must decline any/all others



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Other options

Extra (25 Feb – 4 Jul)

Used all five choices and had no offers (or declined all offers/withdrew).
Add Extra choices for consideration one at a time via Track.

Clearing/UCAS plus (early Jul – Oct)

Apply after 30 June, receive no offers, decline all offers, not met conditions, or did better than conditional offer.
Find vacancies from 5 July, and add one choice via Track.

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Important Dates

May UCAS Undergraduate Apply opens for 2023 entry.

June starts UCAS registration / supports students in the application

September First month UCAS will receive completed applications.

1st October- College deadline for Early applications- Oxford/Cambridge/
Veterinary/Medicine/Dentistry

14th October* UCAS deadline for applications - medicine, veterinary medicine/science, and dentistry, and courses at Oxford or Cambridge.

14th October College Deadline for all other applications to be in, checked and sent by ACE team

15th January 2023 Official UCAS Deadline -All courses other than Early Applicants

February 2023 Extra opens.

June 2023 Last date for applications before Clearing.

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What should they be doing now?

- Registering through college with UCAS
- Working with personal tutors to enhance their application and statement- Personal statement draft due in before the summer
- Researching courses and career opportunities
- Gaining valuable work experience and taking part in extra curricular activities
- Visiting open days
- Focusing on their studies to ensure the best grades

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How can you support?

- Use the parents/guardians' section of the UCAS website at – www.ucas.com/parents.
- Use our 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.
 - Sign up for your monthly parent newsletter (via UCAS site)

Student Finance

What funding is available...



Eligible students can access:

Tuition Fee Loan to cover the full cost of the fees charged by their university or college
Basic rate of **Maintenance Loan** to help with living costs, such as rent and bills **OR**
Higher amount of maintenance loan based on household income

Any loans they borrow have to be paid back, but not until they've finished or left their course, and their income is over the repayment threshold.

Other grants available for those with disabilities, parental or care duties etc.

A student's university or college may also offer bursaries, scholarships, or other kinds of financial help – it's always worth checking with them too.

What next?

Useful websites

<https://www.ucas.com/student-finance-england/student-finance-guidance-parents-and-partners>

<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/ucas-undergraduate-advice-parents-and-guardians>

<https://www.ucas.com/parents-signup>

<https://www.gov.uk/student-finance>

<https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/universities>

<https://www.theparentsguideto.co.uk/post/ucas-personal-statements>

<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/how-write-ucas-undergraduate-personal-statement>

What next?

Feedback form

Please would you give some feedback about tonight's event. The QR code on the left will scan straight to the feedback form so is available on a smart phone.

Alternatively please use the link below if on a computer

If you have any questions that have not been answered through the presentation or the chat Q and A, then please message us at

aceriverside@riversidecollege.ac.uk (Kingsway site)

or

acecronton@riversidecollege.ac.uk (Cronton Site)

and we will get back to you as soon as we can

