

**Welcome to the Year 12
Higher Education Launch
29th January 2026**

**Mr W Jones
Assistant Head (Head of Sixth Form)**





HE Part 1
(Jan 2026)

- Higher Education Opportunities
- Research and Preparation



HE Part 2
(Jun 2026)

- The Application Process
- The Gordon's Timeline



HE Part 3
(Jan 2027)

- Responding to Offers
- Student Finance / Clearing



As of now in Year 13

- ✓ 181 UCAS applications*
- ✓ 3 confirmed Degree Apprenticeships
- ✓ 2 confirmed US scholarships

Some students working towards

- Apprenticeships
- Study abroad
- Sport abroad
- Gap year / paid work



This evening



Meet the Team



Mrs Fiona Hugill

Sixth Form Administrator

Mr Thomas Deane

Deputy Head of Sixth Form

Mr Will Jones

Assistant Head
(Head of Sixth Form)

Mrs Susannah Hughes

Deputy Head of Sixth Form

Mrs Grethel Hall

Sixth Form Student
Services Manager





Oxbridge Co-ordinator: Mrs Wright

Medical/Dentistry/Veterinary careers co-ordinator: Meducators UK



Head of Careers: Mrs Augusta Kennedy





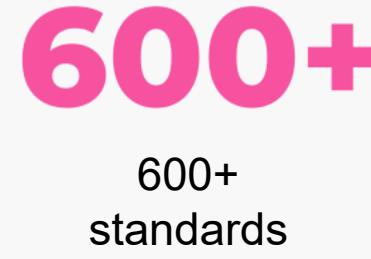
Higher and Degree Apprenticeships

Mrs Kennedy
Head of Careers



What are apprenticeships?



-  Employed
-  Off the job
-  Intermediate – degree level
-  Paid a salary
-  Typically 1-6 years
-  Real responsibilities
-  Contract
-  600+
600+
standards
-  Not the easy option

The levels of apprenticeships



Name	Level	Equivalent educational level
Intermediate	2	5 GCSE passes at grade 4-9 (A*-C)
Advanced	3	2 A Levels / Level 3 diploma / International Baccalaureate
Higher	4,5,6 & 7	Foundation degree and above
Degree	6 & 7	Bachelor's or master's degree



Higher & Degree apprenticeships



Work full-time and study part-time



Learning



Salary



No debt



NUS



Experience



4-6 Years

**University fees paid by employer and/or
Government**



**Wide range of employers work with 100+
universities to offer degree apprenticeships**

Degree Apprenticeships at Russell Group Universities



University of Exeter

- Civil Engineering
- Finance Services (J.P. Morgan)
- Digital and Technology Solutions (IBM)

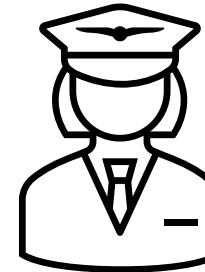
University of Birmingham

- Chartered Surveyor

University of Warwick

- BEng Applied Professional Engineering
- MSc Advanced Clinical Practice (Critical Care) (NHS)
- MSc Digital Technology Solutions

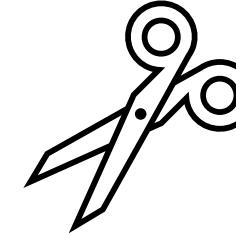
Range of apprenticeships



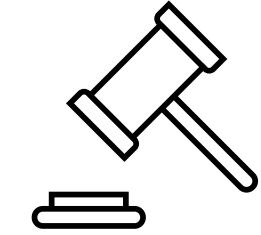
First Officer
Pilot



Doctor



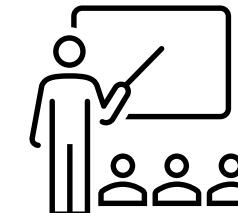
Hairdresser



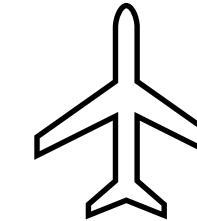
Paralegal



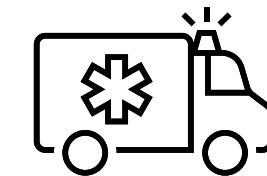
Quantity
Surveyor



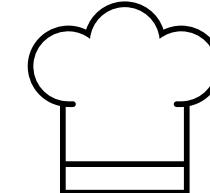
Early Years
Practitioner



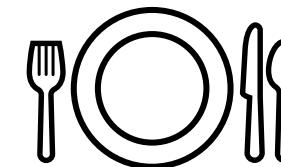
Aerospace
Engineer



Paramedic



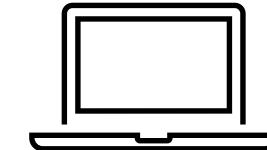
Chef



Dietician



Beauty
Therapist

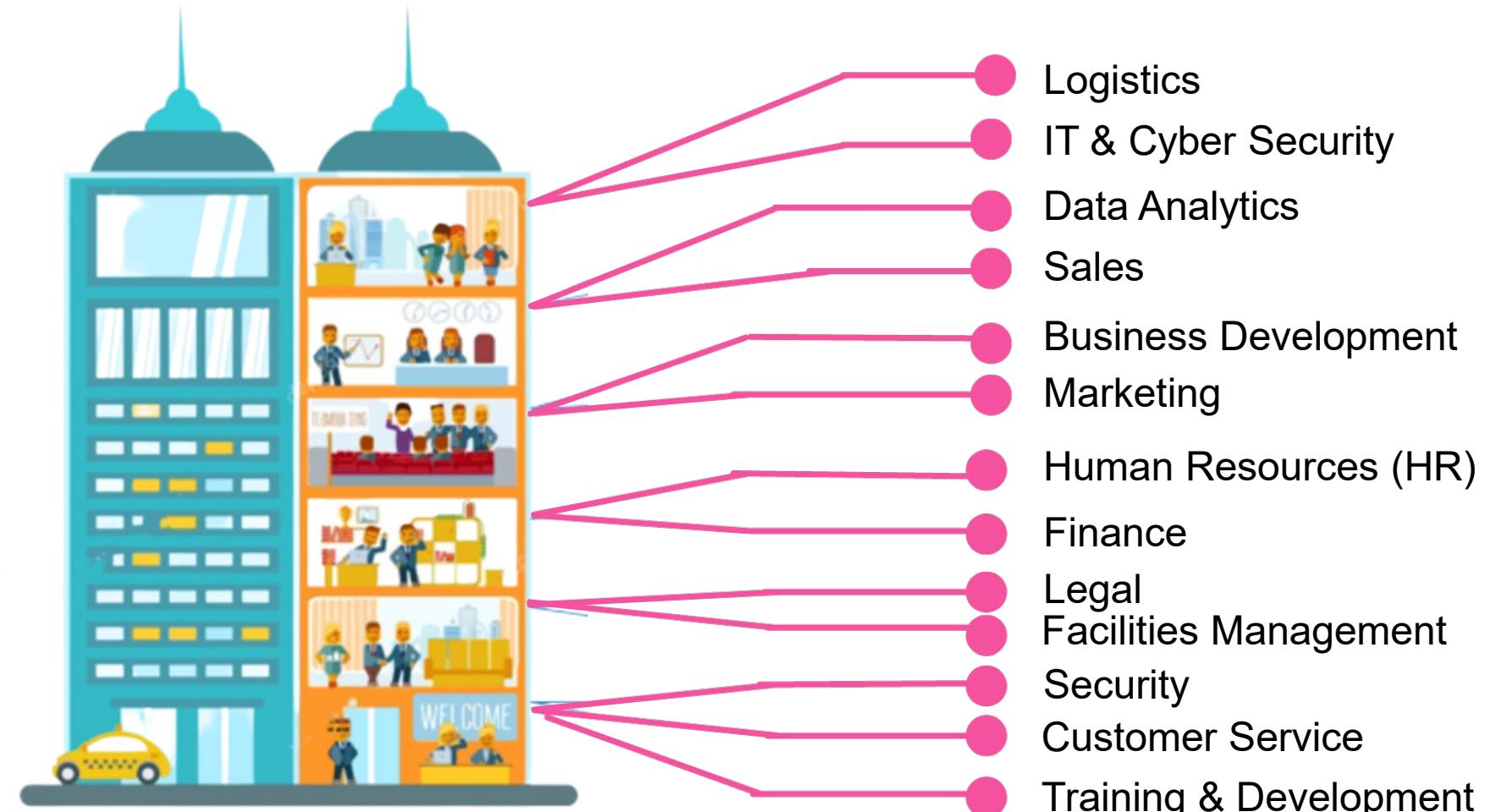


Business
Admin

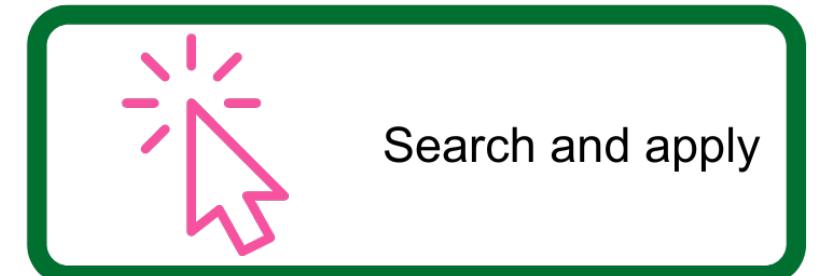
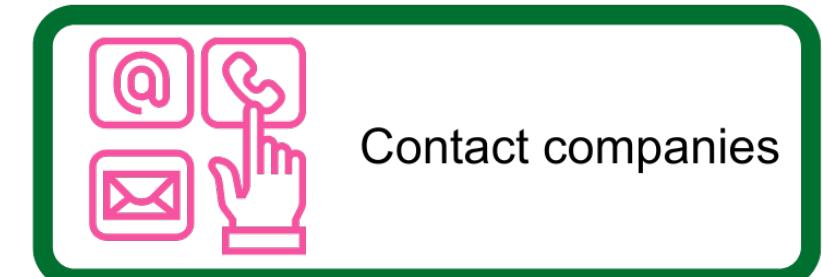
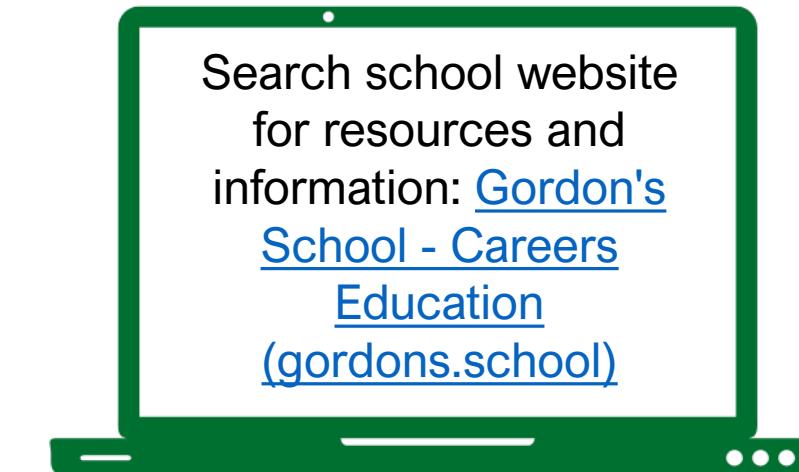
Which employers offer apprenticeships?



Look inside the company



How do you find apprenticeships





Be Apprenticeship Ready



**HIGHER & DEGREE
APPRENTICESHIPS
VACANCY LISTING**
JANUARY 2026

AG A&O SHEARMAN AstraZeneca Barratt Redrow CMS Dunelm
ASHE AtkinsRéalis Bellway CAPULA Bishop Fleming experian. edf
ARMY BE THE BEST TROUP BYWATERS + ANDERS Babcock
WARWICKSHIRE POLICE WSP Valuation Office Agency Transport for London
WHITECODE CONSULTING united infrastructure Surrey & Sussex trowers & hamins
TaylorWessing Kennedys JR
METIS Nestle Laing O'Rourke irwinmitchell
michelmore MZA CONSULTING ENGINEERS TLT MARS LEONARDO
SEVERN TRENT NetworkRail RHOTIC SIEMENS MONDELEZ INTERNATIONAL Hill
Lloret. KPMG

[https://www.amazingapprenticeships.com/wp-
content/uploads/2025/10/Higher-and-Degree-Listing-January-2026.pdf](https://www.amazingapprenticeships.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Higher-and-Degree-Listing-January-2026.pdf)

FIND OUT MORE:



NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK
2026: 9TH – 13TH FEBRUARY



[GORDON'S SCHOOL - CAREERS
EDUCATION](#)



CONTACT:
AKENNEDY@GORDONS.SCHOOL



PREPARATION WORKSHOPS IN
SUMMER TERM + APPRENTICESHIP
CLINIC

Higher and
Degree
Apprenticeships

An
introduction to
UCAS

Oxbridge &
Med/Vet

University of
Exeter

In school
support and
preparation

An Introduction to UCAS

Mr Jones

Assistant Head (Head of Sixth Form)

UCAS Vocabulary (FAQs)

UCAS

University and Colleges Admissions Services

UCAS Points

A tariff used to convert A Level/BTEC grades into a point score

Russell Group

24 of the UK's most esteemed Universities

Oxbridge

Oxford and Cambridge University

Personal Statement*

An important part of the application process. It's an opportunity to talk about yourself and your passions, outside of your grades.

Unifrog

The program students use in Year 12 to research different universities and courses



Entry Requirements

Universities make offers based on:

- A Level grades A*- E
- BTEC grades D*- P
- UCAS points

A Level Grade	UCAS Points	BTEC Grade	UCAS Points	EPQ	UCAS Points
A*	56	Distinction*	56	A*	28
A	48	Distinction	48	A	24
B	40	Merit	32	B	20
C	32	Pass	16	C	16
D	24			D	12
E	16			E	8

Therefore, a university course might have the entry requirements of AAB, or 136 UCAS points. Mock examinations in April are a good indicator of realistic university destinations.



The Russell Group Universities

'Typical' offer A*AA or AAA at A Level

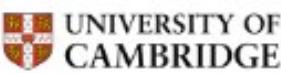
Could be AAB with an EPQ (Grade A*- A)



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM



University of
BRISTOL



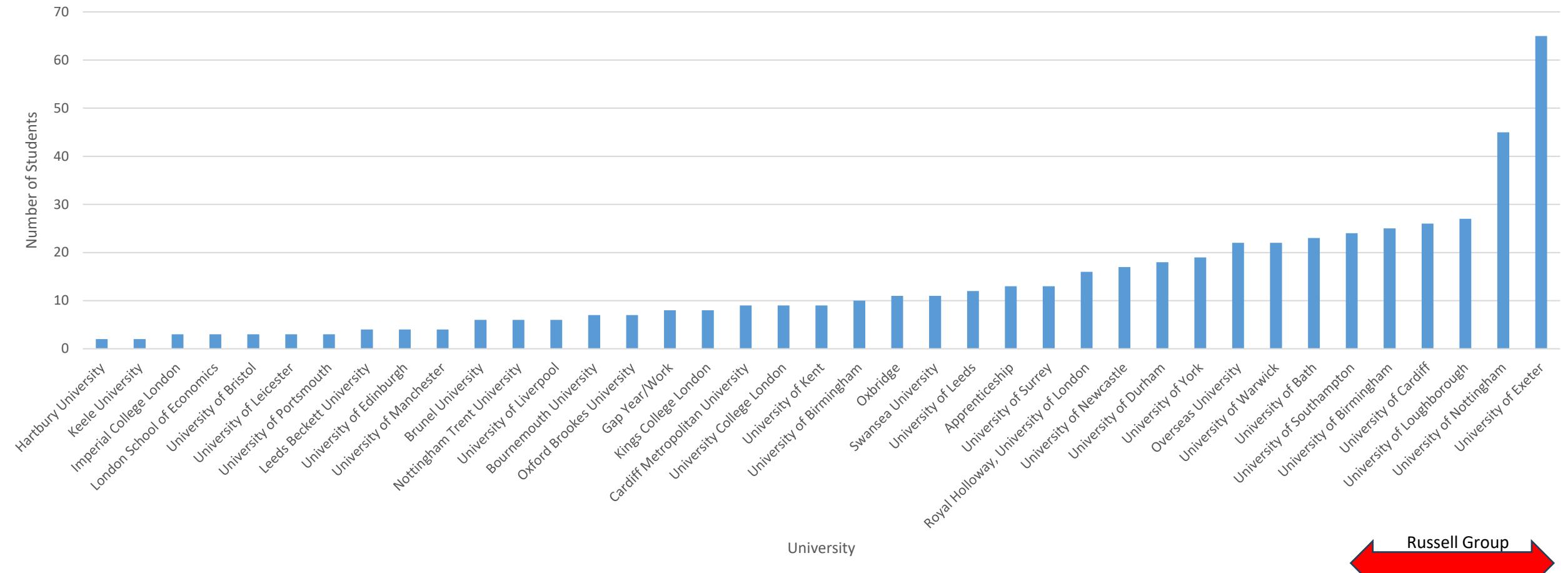
UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE



THE LONDON SCHOOL
OF ECONOMICS AND
POLITICAL SCIENCE



2019-2025
Most Popular Destinations





UN
UK

BA (Hons) BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

UCAS CODE: NP29

Overview

About this course

Entry Requirements

Modules

Course costs

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

2023 Entry: **104-120** UCAS tariff points

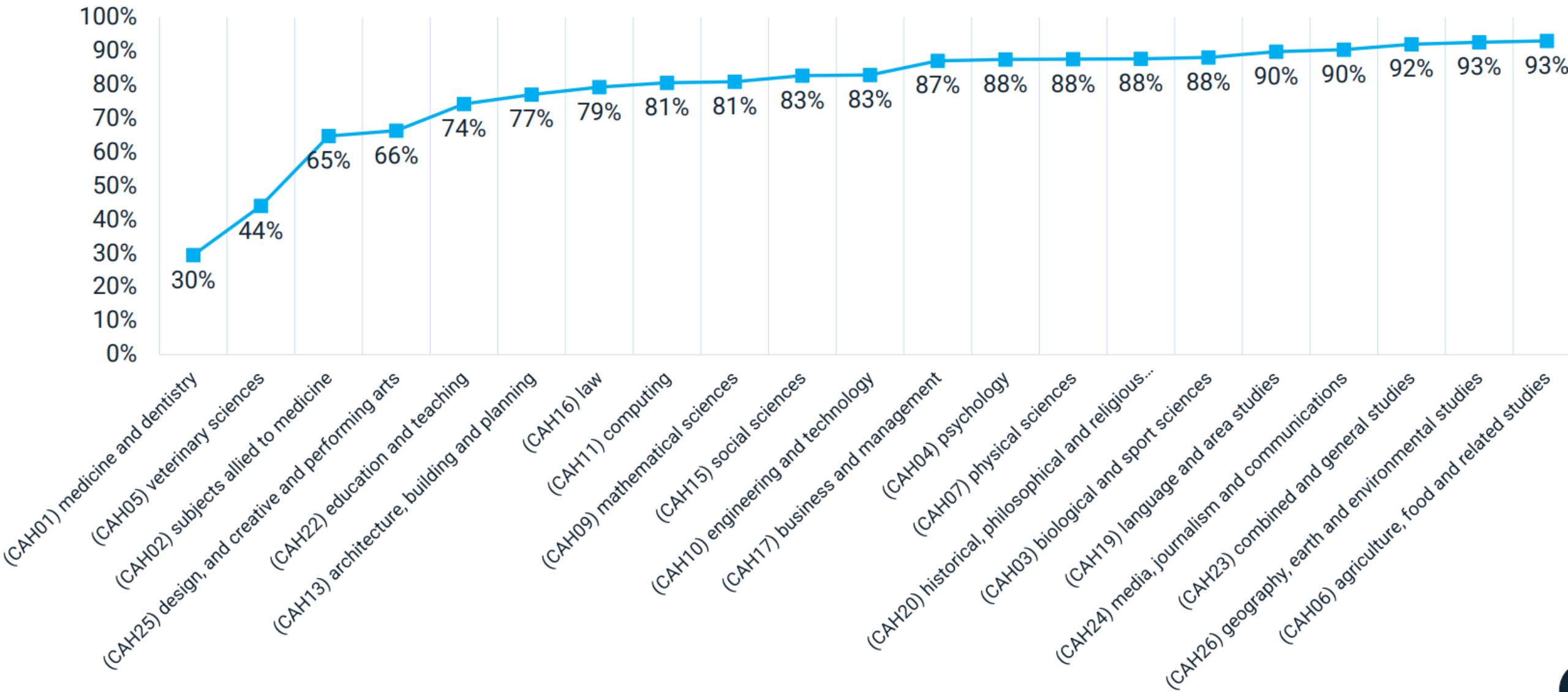
Our offers are typically made using UCAS tariff points to allow you to include a range of level 3 qualifications and as a guide, the requirements for this course are equivalent to:

- **A-Levels:** BCC-BBB from 3 A Levels or equivalent grade combinations (e.g. BBB is comparable to ABC in terms of tariff points)
- **BTEC/CTEC:** DMM from BTEC or Cambridge Technical (CTEC) qualifications
- **International Baccalaureate:** To include a minimum of 2 Higher Level certificates at grade H4
- **T Level:** Merit in a T Level



HOW DO OFFER RATES VARY BY COURSE?

UK 18 year old offer rates by subject group (CAH1), 2024



Mock examinations

Friday 17th – Friday 24th April

Mock grades **inform** UCAS Predicted grades (school report WB 18th May)

- Evidence based – Key Assessments and mocks
- Holistic
- Aspirational*

UCAS Predicted Grades are re-issued in September 2026 (Year 13)

- Study hard
- Key Assessment performance
- Honest post mock reflections



UCAS Predicted Grades

- Evidence based – Key Assessments and mocks
- Holistic
- Aspirational*

UCAS Predicted Grades are re-issued in September

- Study hard
- Key Assessment performance
- Honest post mock reflections
- School report WB 29th September 2025

<https://www.ucas.com/advisers/help-and-training/guides-resources-and-training/application-overview/predicted-grades-what-you-need-know-entry-year#risks>



Higher and
Degree
Apprenticeships

An introduction
to UCAS

Oxbridge &
Med/Vet

University of
Exeter

In school
support and
preparation

Oxbridge

Mrs Wright
Oxbridge Co-Ordinator



Oxbridge Process

- Early internal deadline for UCAS: **Friday 11th September**
- **UCAS deadline: 15th October**
- Admissions tests: October/early November
- Interviews: early December
- Offers: January
- All further details including guidance on test dates, registration and booking, and preparation for 2027-entry tests will be available from April 2026 via the [UAT-UK website](#).

Please note: It is the responsibility of each applicant to check which test is required and to register as required online and to ensure the date is in the diary as **it may fall in October half term.**



Admissions Tests

CAMBRIDGE ADMISSIONS TESTS

Medicine - UCAT

Law – LNAT

ESAT (Engineering and Science Admissions Test)

TMUA (Test of Mathematics for University Admission)

College Admission Assessments

OXFORD ADMISSIONS TESTS

Medicine - UCAT

Law - LNAT

Biomedical Sciences - ESAT

Computer Science - TMUA

Computer Science and Philosophy - TMUA

Economics and Management – TARA (Test of Academic Reasoning for Admissions)

Engineering Science - ESAT

History and Economics - TARA

History and Politics - TARA (still tbc)

Human Sciences - TARA

Mathematics/Mathematics and Statistics - TMUA

Mathematics and Computer Science - TMUA

Mathematics and Philosophy - TMUA

Physics - ESAT

Physics and Philosophy - ESAT

Politics, Philosophy and Economics - TARA

Psychology (Experimental) - TARA

Psychology, Philosophy and Linguistics - TARA



Is it right for me?

- Excellent academic credentials: A/A*PGS across the board
- Wide range of further reading
- Passion, interest and love of subject
- Extensive work experience with evidence of reflection (medicine related courses)



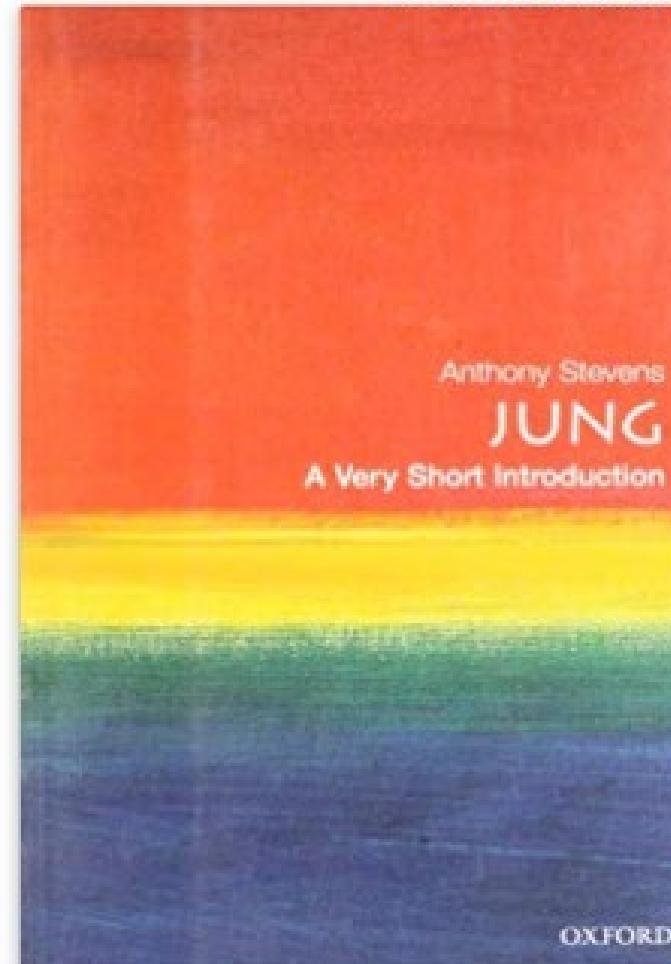
The support we offer

- Talks with Oxbridge undergraduates in Autumn term
- Weekly email updates on Oxbridge opportunities: study days, online talks, summer courses, competitions
- HE day: guidance on personal statement; how to prepare for interview with wider reading
- September: 1:1 session on statement & support with UCAS form
- Reference using guidance from Oxbridge tutors
- Support within departments on further reading and admissions test preparation
- November/December: interview practice



What are they looking for?

- Independence
- Intellectual curiosity
- Studiousness
- Love of subject
- Determination and willingness to work hard & under pressure
- A demonstrable scholarly instinct
- Flexibility of thought



Medicine, Veterinary and Dentistry

Mr Jones*
Assistant Head (Head of Sixth Form)

Miss Weeks

Head of Academic Enrichment at Gordon's School

Meducators UK



Support on offer

- P7 session dedicated to all aspects of application throughout year 12 and 13
- UCAT preparation starting in Spring of year 12
- Interview technique practice (multiple sessions)
- Personal statement sessions
- Personalised references
- Talks and MOOCs
- Support from Meducators UK as a South-East hub
- Teaching and led research into ethics and GMC pillars



The application timeline – Medicine, Dentistry & Veterinary

Year 12

- Work experience
- UCAT preparation
- Year 12 mock grades at A or B grade minimum
- Begin writing personal statement

Year 13

- Complete UCAT in summer holidays
- Finalise personal statement
- Applications sent
- Interviews

A strong application will have:

- Top grades
- Wider-reading
- Work experience (in both a **medical** and **care** setting)
- Impressive UCAT score
- Online courses
- Talks or lectures



Higher and
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University of
Exeter

In school
support and
preparation

University of Exeter

Dr Karl Devincenzi

&

Ashley Dozwa.





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UNIVERSITY

The University Application Process

Ashley –
School and College Engagement
Officer

Karl – Schools Relationship &
Recruitment Manager



University
of Exeter

In this presentation we will look at:

- Choosing a course
- The UCAS Process
- Application timeline
- Key considerations
- Next Steps





Outstanding
Teaching.¹

TOP 5 OF THE UK'S

Home to **four** of the
UK's top five
most influential
climate scientists.²



Globally a Top 200
university in all
major world league
tables*.³



More than 400
courses in 40
subject areas.



Four times Queen's Anniversary Prize
winners, most recently in 2020 for
exposing the devastating effect of
plastic pollution on human and
wildlife health.

TOP 10

Top 10 for most
targeted by
leading UK
employers.⁴



Devon and Cornwall are
amongst the safest
places in England and
Wales.⁵



Sustainability
University of
the Year.



Consistently Top 5 in
British Universities and
Colleges Sport rankings
out of 150+ institutions.



Leading UK
university.⁶

RUSSELL GROUP

A world-class,
research-intensive
university.



Award Winning Careers Support:

- Training
- Development
- Networking
- Support
- Opportunities.

SUCCESS FOR ALL

University of
Sanctuary
 Stand Alone
Pledge

Care Leavers Covenant
 Stonewall Diversity
 Champion

Athena Swann
Gender Charter

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¹ Rated 'triple' Gold in the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF).

² The Reuters Hot List.

³ 122nd in the U.S. News & World Report Best Global Universities 2024-2025; 169th in the QS World University Rankings 2025; 177th in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2024; 151-200 in the 2024 Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) released by ShanghaiRankings.

⁴ The Graduate Market in 2024 report by High Fliers Research.

⁵ Office for National Statistics (24/07/24).

⁶ Top 15 in UK university rankings** 14th in The Complete University Guide 2025 and 13th in The Times and The Sunday Times Good University Guide 2025.

University of Exeter campuses

Travel times from Exeter

Location	Train travel time
Reading	1.5 h
Bagshot	3 h



University of Exeter campuses

From **Gordon's School**

Location	Driving Travel time
Exeter	3 h
Penryn	4.5 h



STREATHAM CAMPUS



PENRYN CAMPUS





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Research & Course choice

Course research

Academic examples:

- English
- History
- Biology
- Classics
- Modern Languages
- Mathematics

Vocational examples:

- Engineering
- Business
- Medicine
- Veterinary Science
- Games Design
- Event Management

Can't choose? Combined/joint courses may suit them.

Consider Multi-disciplinary courses: Liberal Arts, Natural Sciences



Courses we offer

Faculty of Environment, Science and Economy
Computer Science
Earth and Environmental Science
Ecology and Conservation
Engineering
Geography
Mathematics and Statistics
Physics and Astronomy
Economics
Finance and Accounting
Management
Natural Sciences

Faculty of Health and Life Sciences
Biosciences
Health and Care Professions
Psychology
Clinical and Biomedical Sciences
Health and Community Sciences
Public Health and Sport Sciences

Faculty of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences
Arab and Islamic Studies
Archaeology and History
Classics, Ancient History, Religion and Theology
Communications, Drama and Film
English and Creative Writing
Humanities and Social Sciences
Languages, Cultures and Visual Studies
Law School
School of Education (Postgraduate)
Social and Political Sciences, Philosophy and Anthropology
Flexible Combined Honours
Liberal Arts



Comparing courses

History

Over 2.5k courses offered by 149 institutions

University of Exeter is one of them

Streatham Campus

History

History and
Ancient History

History and
Archaeology

History and
Modern
Languages

Penryn Campus

History

History
and
Politics

History and
International
Relations

History and
Business

History and
Geography



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What are universities looking for?

Our offers

- Time scales
- Personalised
- No unconditional offers before results
- Core Maths and EPQ
- Contextual offers

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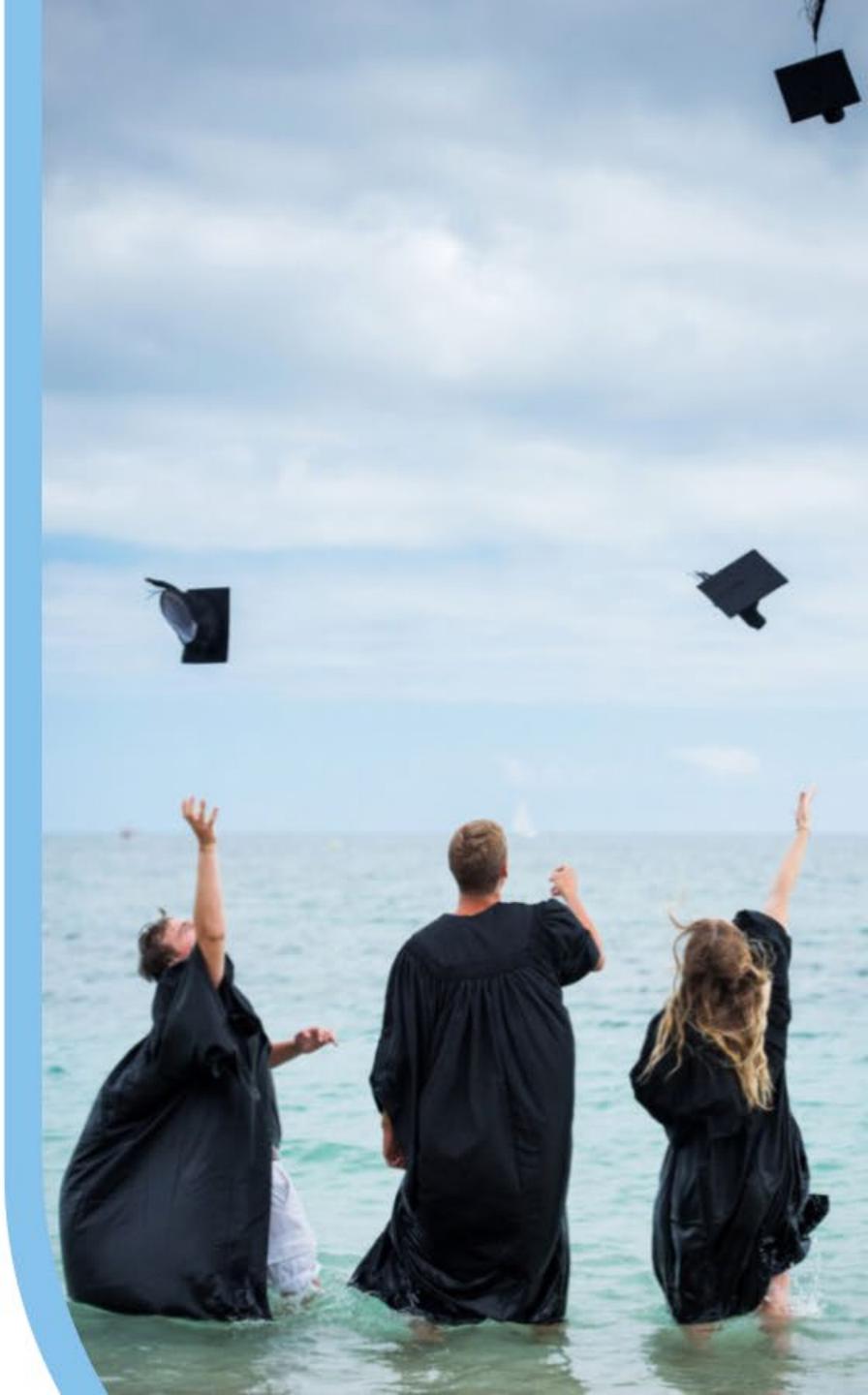
UCAS application form

- Registering (buzzword to automatically link them to their school or college)
- Personal information (including diversity and inclusion)
- Education, employment and extra activities
- Course choices
- Personal statement



Key things to consider

- Entry requirements and UCAS tariff
 - Achieved and predicted grades
 - Subject-specific requirements
 - Reduced offers, e.g. contextual, EPQ/Core Maths
- Course code and location
- Personal statement

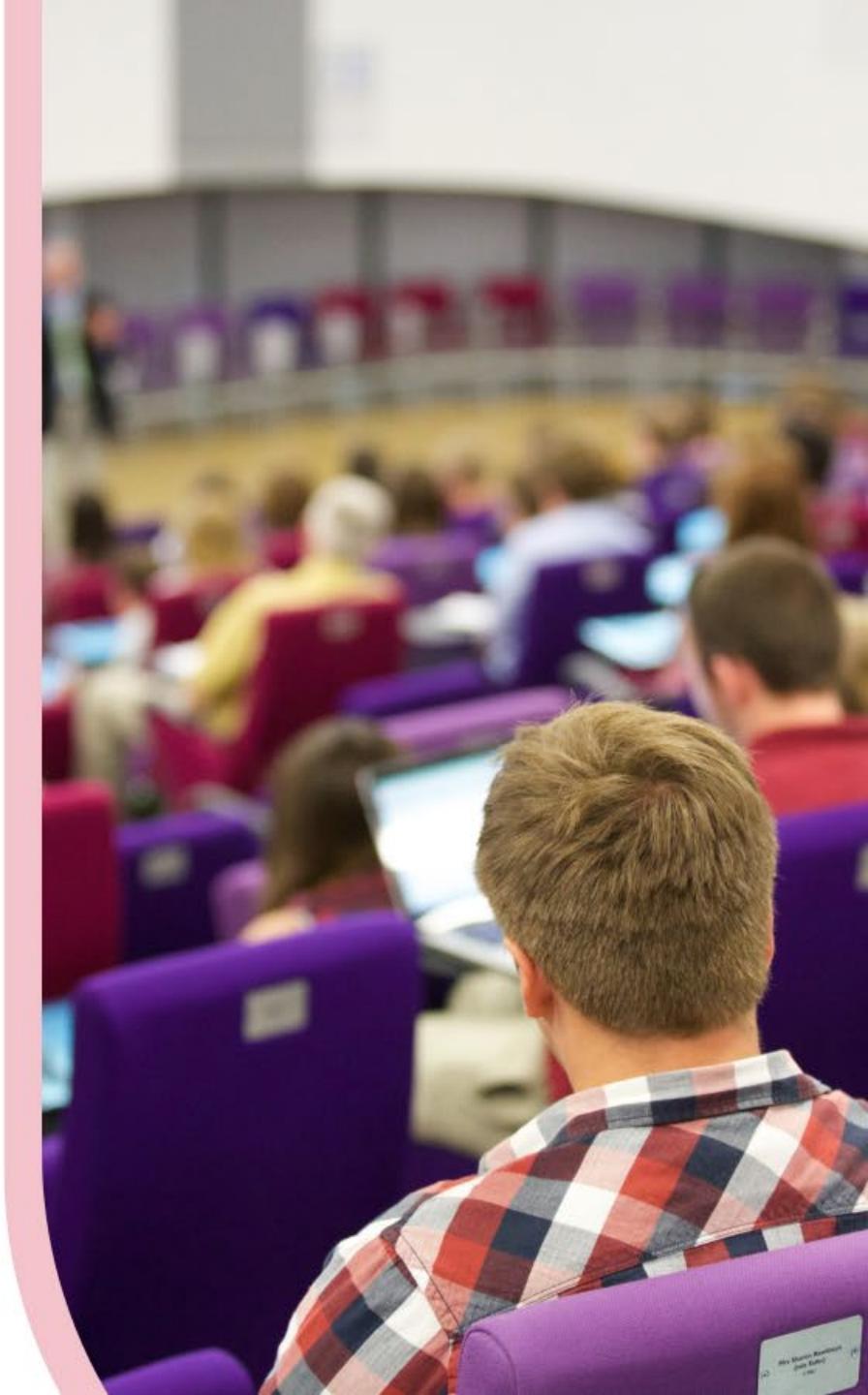




Other possible requirements

Key considerations

- Can apply and change their mind.
- Nominated Access
- Pay and Send
- Excellent in school support
- Reference and predicted grades completed by school





What is the personal statement?

Statement sections



Why do you want to study this course or subject?

Show your passion and knowledge for your chosen subject. It lets universities and colleges know why you're a good fit.



How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare?

Talk about the skills you've developed in your education, and how they'll help you succeed.



What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?

Reflect on any other activities or personal experiences outside the classroom that make you suited to the course.

After applying

- University decisions:
 - Unconditional offer
 - Conditional offer
 - Unsuccessful or withdrawn
- Applicant replies:
 - Firm acceptance
 - Insurance acceptance
 - Decline
 - UCAS Extra



Results day

- Exam results
- Confirmation
- Clearing
- Clearing Plus

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Deferring a year

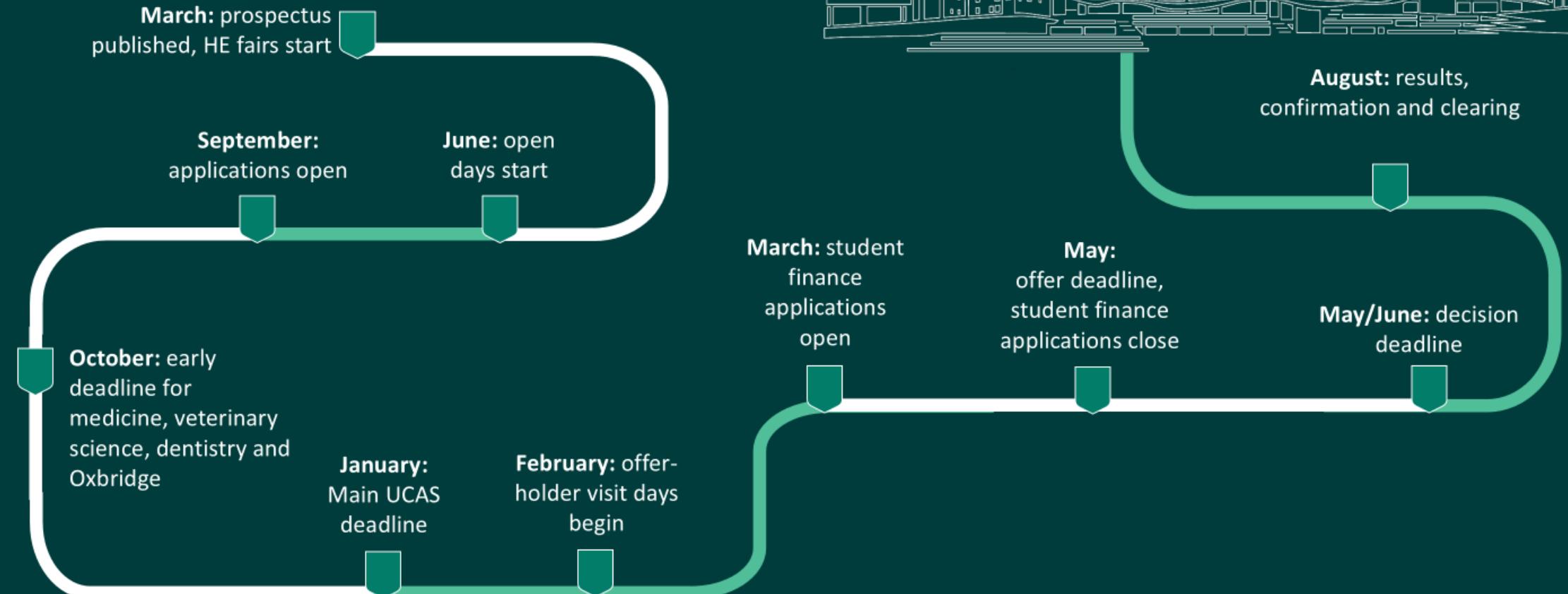
Other options

- Gap year
- Re-applying
- Degree apprenticeship
- Work with training
- Self-employment

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Your journey





Helping prepare your young person

Shortlisting universities

- Course/subject
- Entry requirements
- Location / Distance from home
- League rankings / Reputation
- Social scene
- What matters to them?



Support them

- Applying to university is exciting but also overwhelming at times
- Internal deadlines & achieved certificates
- Big decisions are tough as emotions are involved – hope, fear, anxiety
- Encourage them and follow through by making it possible!
- Soft check-ins, your voice matters!
- Life skills prep- budgeting and cooking



Student voices

- ‘The first 6 weeks of term are fine. The last month or so is incredibly stressful once you get snowed down with work, ill etc.’
- ‘The style of learning is different; at school you can get away with buying a revision guide and cramming, but at university there is no revision guide, you have to learn things for yourself in your own way.’
- ‘It was quite daunting. It felt a bit of an anti-climax because I had built it up so much and I felt homesick but things quickly changed as I made friends.’
- ‘I enjoyed the atmosphere of halls and joined as many societies as I could; it's a great way to meet people and I wanted to take advantage of the opportunity to try out new things – like the Curry Appreciation Club.’



For Parents and Supporters

We offer a programme of online webinars designed especially for parents, guardians, carers, relatives and supporters.

- 18 March 2026 – Degree Apprenticeships
- 20 May 2026 – Making the most of an Open Day
- 17 June 2026 – Understanding Contextual & Alternative Offers

More information for supporters and all sessions can be found at exeter.ac.uk/supporters



Open Days

Our next undergraduate Open Days are open for bookings and will take place on the following dates:

Wednesday 27 May 2026 – Penryn Campus, Cornwall

Friday 29 May 2026 - Exeter Campuses, Devon

Saturday 30 May 2026 – Exeter Campuses, Devon

To book your place, please use our Open Day booking form.



DISCOVER UNIVERSITY



@DiscoverUniExe

exeter.ac.uk/discoveruniversity



University
of Exeter

RUSSELL
GROUP





Mrs Hughes

Deputy Head of Sixth Form

UCAS and Unifrog: how students should prepare



The Unifrog tools

Exploring pathways

Careers library

Subjects library

Know-how library

MOOC

Done:
Quizzes
completed and
explored the
pathways

Searching for opportunities

UK universities

US universities

European universities

Oxbridge

Apprenticeships

College/ Sixth Form

Canadian universities

Asian universities

Special Opportunities

Recording what you've done

Activities

Competencies

Interactions

Drafting application materials

Personal Statement

CV / Resumé

Teacher References

Common App Essay

Doing:
Shortlisting 5 options
using subjects and grades
Logging all achievements
& activities

Making applications

Post 16/18 Intentions

Locker

Applications list

To do:
Begin personal
statement (Summer
term)



Cover all bases

Select courses below

Pick the best courses for you by ranking, filtering and searching. Click next when you're done.

Stuck on a strange term? Check out the [glossary](#) ▾

Rank ▾

Filter ▾

Keyword search

Aspirational (71)

Top of your range

- Arts and Sciences - 3FT BASc (Hon) !
 UCL (University College London)
RG A Level: A*,A,A

- Arts and Sciences with Study Abroad - 4FT + Abroad BASc (Hon) !
 UCL (University College London)
RG A Level: A*,A,A

- Liberal Arts - 3FT BA (Hons) !
 Durham University
RG A Level: A*,A,A

- Natural Sciences MSci - 4FT Msci (Hon) !
 University of Bath
TT A Level: A*,A,A

Solid (108)

In the middle

- Fine Art: Photography - 3FT BA (Hons)
 University of the Arts London
Requirement: Not given. Check their site (Avg UCAS points 129)

- Fine Art - 3FT BA (Hons)
 Solent University (Southampton)
UCAS Points: 112-128

- Fine Art Technology - 3FT BA (Hons)
 University of East London
A Level: B,B,C

- Creative Expressive Arts and Health Practice - 4FT MArt
 University of Derby
A Level: R R C-R R R

Safe (165)

At the bottom

- Liberal Arts with Foundation - 4FT BA (Hons)
 Durham University
RG Foundation year

- Fine Art [with Foundation Year] - 4FT BA (Hons)
 Anglia Ruskin University
Foundation year

- 3D Design - 1FT DipHE
 University of East London
Requirement: Not given. Check their site (Avg UCAS points 107)

- Art and Design (Art Practice) - CCTT
 Chichester College Group



Is the institution right for you

Getting in

2023 A Level entry requirements

A*,A,A

Full-time 3 Years: Major pathway requirements: Cultures: at least one essay-based arts/humanities subject.

Societies: at least one social sciences subject.

Sciences and Engineering: Mathematics and one other science.

Health and Environment: Chemistry or Biology, and one other science or social science. For more information about A level subject classification, see the BASc website at:

www.ucl.ac.uk/basc/prospective/application/alevels

Contextual Offers: please visit the course webpage for further details about our Access UCL scheme.

Last year's successful applicants

The average UCAS tariff for last year's successful applicants was 179, and you fall in the 90-100th percentile. This means that 90-100% of the students who were on this course last year achieved lower grades at school than the ones you entered.

Overall application success rate for General, other combined & unknown

14%

UK application success rate for General, other combined & unknown

10%

University facts

Guardian overall rank

9th

THE Impact rank

101-200

Guardian subject rank

Philosophy: 12th

Full-time undergrads

21,700

Ethnic minority 1st years

52.1%

Difficulty

Aspirational - Out of your predicted range

University description

Founded in 1826 in the heart of London, UCL is London's leading multidisciplinary university, with more than 13,000 staff and 42,000 students from 150 different countries. UCL is a diverse community of world-class academics, students, in



Students are supported

January 2026 offers for cohort so far for Year 13:

At least one offer	156 88%
At least two offers	134 76%
At least three offers	104 59%



'Students in the sixth form excel. Throughout the sixth form, students explore future career options and qualifications. This is reflected in the clarity with which students in Year 13 talk about their post-18 choices.'

Ofsted 2024

- 1 to 1 support from form tutors is integral**



Top tips from this year's cohort

Start early
(apprenticeships
and UCAS
research)

Keep open minded

Use Unifrog

Attend open days

Ask for help

Consider your
strengths before
applying

Make mocks count

Importance of
work experience



Summary of Next Steps

Mr Jones

Assistant Head (Head of Sixth Form)



29th January 2026	HE Launch: Spring = research using Unifrog
3rd March 2026	University of Surrey UK University & Apprenticeship Search
11 June 2026	HE evening (part 2)
18th June 2026	Personal statement writing/CV workshop (Unifrog & UCAS)
Summer Holidays	Y12 Work Experience
15th October 2026	Oxbridge, Medicine, Veterinary and Dentistry submission deadline
October 2026	All other students complete UCAS application
Oct/Nov 2026 onwards	Applications sent off

Early applications = early offers



UCAS Parent Guide 2026



Any questions?



gordons_sixth_form

