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# Applying to University

## The Application Process

Student Recruitment & Outreach Team

# Commonly asked Questions…

*Is there a deadline to make my decision by?*

*What makes a successful application?*

*What happens if I don’t get the grades?*

*What should I put in or leave out of my personal statement?*

*Does it matter when I apply? When will I hear back?*

*How do I compare different offers or make an insurance choice?*

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# Personal Statements

Student Recruitment & Outreach Team

# What makes a good

# Personal statement

- ✓ Three questions
- ✓ Minimum 350 characters per question
- ✓ Think of it as an interview on paper
- ✓ One statement to cover all five choices

***This is your chance to show universities why you want to study the course and why you'd make a great student - so make the most of it!***

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# Personal statement

## The three questions

*A personal statement can make the difference between getting an offer - or not!*

**Why do you want to study this course or subject?**

**How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?**

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

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# What NOT

# To include…

A personal statement can make the difference between getting an offer - or not!

- ✗ Your **achieved and predicted grades** – we can already see these on your application.
- ✗ Don't name a **specific course title or university** – it doesn't flatter the other choices!
- ✗ Lists – just give one good example

***Most importantly, be yourself!***
***Genuine enthusiasm shines through.***
***Higher education learning requires difference, disagreement and debate – we don't want clones!***

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# Checking your

# Personal statement

Don't leave it until the last minute!

- ☑ Don't stick with your first (or second, third…) draft.
- ☑ Ask several people to read through it – friends, family & teachers.
- ☑ Spelling, punctuation and grammar are important – don't just rely on a spell-checker.
- ☑ Search personal statements at ucas.com

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# What happens next?

# Application

# Timeline

Summer/ October

November / December

January

November/ March/April

April/May

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# Application Timeline

**Summer to October**

Shortlist courses and universities to apply to.

Start UCAS application and personal statement.

Visit universities.

**November / December**

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# Application

# Timeline

November
to
December

Pass to referee to check qualifications, add a reference and submit the application to UCAS.

January

March/April

# Application

# Timeline

**January**

January 13th 2027 is UCAS 'Deadline for equal consideration' so you should aim to apply by this date.

It can still be submitted after this

**March/April**

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# Application

# Timeline

**November to March/April**

You may hear back from some universities with offers or an interview in a couple of days or a few weeks – don't be concerned – it's all about how busy we are.

**Don't forget to book Campus Tours and Open Days!**

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# Application

## Decisions explained...

### Interview/Audition

For many of our courses we also require an interview or practical audition.

### Conditional Offer

This means your place is not yet guaranteed and you will be asked for certain grades.

### Unconditional Offer

Your application already meets all the entry criteria, yet we still need to see your qualifications

### Flexible structure

If your application is not strong enough, we may consider you for another programme or decline your application.

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# Conditional Offers

**Might be grades, UCAS Tariff points – or both!**

- ABB TO CCD – often BCC -may also require a specific subject at grade B or C
- DDD to MMM
- 104 UCAS Tariff points with a grade C or better in X – points offers normally include points from other exams like the Extended Project
- Access to HE Diploma with x credits at Merit

**Take the time to compare offers and understand what they do or don't include**

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# Application Timeline

| | |
|---|---|
| **February/March** | **May/June** |
| • Applicant Days / Offer Holder Days / Interviews | • Apply for university accommodation |
| **March/April/May – Decision time!** | **August – Confirmation** |
| <u>Firm choice:</u><br>• Where you really want to go<br>• Does not have to be highest offer<br><br><u>Insurance choice:</u><br>• Back up choice, normally an offer with lower grades / points but it must be somewhere you want to go<br><br>• Most applicants have to decide by early June | • A level , BTEC, etc. results are sent directly to the university via UCAS.<br><br><u>Near miss?</u><br>• You may still be accepted if we have spaces. We value your commitment to choosing us<br><br>• Clearing or re-apply next year? |
| | |

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# Student Finance

## General Overview

Updated information relevant JAN 2026 (Plan 5 loans)

# What is Student Finance

Student Finance England (SFE) provides financial support on behalf of the UK Government to students from England entering higher education in the UK.

The two main costs you'll have while studying are tuition fees and living costs.

There's student finance available to help you with both.

Depending on your circumstances, you could also get extra financial help while you study.

The Student Loans Company (SLC) administer the loans.

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# What will you receive?

## Tuition Fee Loan

All eligible students receive up to **£10,050** per year.
Not based on family income.

This pays for classes, placements, library costs and taking care of the university.

This is paid directly to the University.

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# What will you receive?

## Maintenance Loan

How much loan your student receives is based on household income as well as where they study.

This is paid into the students bank account.

It supports living costs such as rent, bills and resources.

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# How Much?

Student Loans

- **Tuition Fee Loan** – Up to **£9,790**
Not based on family income

- **Maintenance Loan** – to support with living costs such as rent, resources – **partially** based on family income**.**
Amount you receive depends on household income, where you live and where you study.

- Care leavers entitled to maximum loan.

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# Eligible students could receive up to:

## Living with parents

Receive: Up to £9118 (£4013 minimum)

Max. Household income £58,387

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# Eligible students could receive up to:

## Living away from home, Outside of London

Receive: Up to £10830 (£5048 minimum)

Max. Household income £62,410

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# Eligible students could receive up to:

## Living away from home, Studying in London

Receive: Up to £14,135 (£7039 minimum)

Max. Household income £70,131

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# Eligible students could receive up to:

## Living and studying abroad

Receive: Up to
£12,403

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# Other things
# To think about

### General Needs

- Groceries
- Clothes/shoes
- Technology
- Living (rent/bills)

### Travel

- Car (insurance/tax)
- Bus
- Train (season tickets)

### Hobbies and Leisure

- Society subs
- Club supplies/kit
- Eating/drinking out
- Events (concerts etc)
- Trips/holidays
- Gym memberships

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# How Students Fund Their Study

**Government support**

- Tuition Fee Loan

**University Financial support**

- Bursary – related to background/personal circumstance e.g. household income/Free school meals
- Scholarship – achievements or excellence in academics, sports etc. e.g. Gifted Athlete

**Other methods**

- Part-time work
- Parental Contribution
- Support Funds – means tested and administered by the Student Money Advice Service

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# Additional Funding

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# Disabled Students Allowance

**Disabled Students Allowance** – help to pay essential extra costs you might have as a direct result of a disability including long-term health conditions, mental health conditions or specific learning difficulties such as dyslexia. Not dependent on household income. You will be assessed on the basis of your specific needs in relation your specific programme.

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# Adult Dependance

# Grants

**Adult Dependents Grants** – If you are financially responsible for your partner or another adult. Up to £3,545 a year depending on household income.

# Childcare Grant

**Childcare Grant** – Helps towards the cost of childcare while studying. Check out the website for full details.

# Parent Learning Allowance

**Parents Learning Allowance** – Helps with course related costs if you have children. Potentially up to £2,024 depending on household income.

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# Scholarships
# And Bursaries

**Scholarships and Bursaries** – can vary from institution to institution and course to course. E.g. Student Support Packages, NHS Bursaries, Subject specific and care experienced students.

- Achievements or excellence in academics, sports or music.
- Background or personal circumstances e.g. household income
- Teacher Training (PGCE)
- Charities

# Applying for Student Finance

- Student should apply as soon as possible once the service opens – for full time undergraduate study this is usually March **OPEN NOW** – this looks at basic eligibility (settled in the UK, ordinarily resident and no previous degree study)
- **Apply by 15 May** – you can apply later than this but your loan is likely to be paid late
- Parents / partners complete the (optional) financial assessment in the summer (based on last tax year)
- Part-time applications open in the Summer – usually late June
- You don't need a confirmed place to apply. Apply with your preferred choice of uni at that stage, you can easily change the details later, if needed.

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# What, When
# And How to Repay

| Annual Salary | 9% will be deducted from | Monthly repayment (Approx.) |
|---|---|---|
| £25,000 | £0 | £0 |
| £26,000 | £1,000 | £7.50 |
| £27,500 | £2,500 | £18.75 |
| £30,000 | £5,000 | £37.50 |

- How much you repay each month depends on your income. Not how much you have borrowed.
- You don't start to repay until you are earning over a certain amount, currently £25,000 a year. (9% of your income over that amount)
- If your income changes your repayments will change accordingly.
- If you haven't finished repaying after 40 years, your loan balance will be cancelled.
- Repayments start the April after you finish or leave your course.
- Happens automatically from your pay.

*Plan 5 Loans (2026/27)

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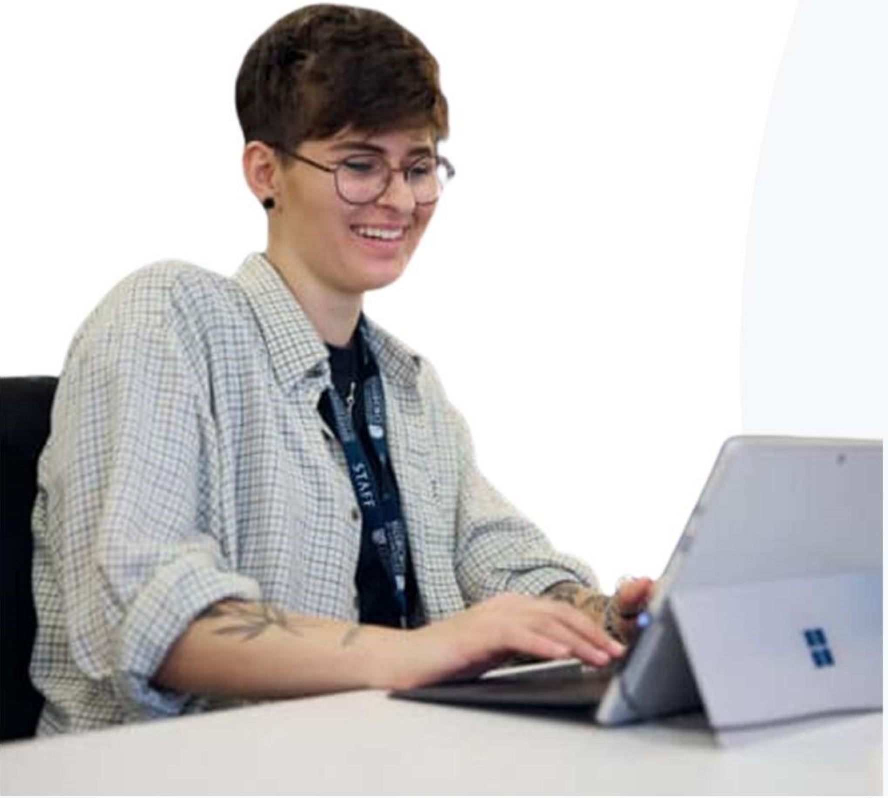
# Useful links
# And contacts




**Student Finance**

gov.uk/student-finance

**Student Finance Calculator**

gov.uk/student-finance-calculator

**Facebook**

SFEngland

**YouTube**

@SFEFILM

**Save the Student**

Savethestudent.org

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# Any questions?

**Contact details**
(+44) 01243 816000
help@chi.ac.uk

**Campus tours**
visitus@chi.ac.uk

**Open Days & Applicant Days**
studyhere@chi.ac.uk