

YOUR NEXT STEPS START HERE



UCAS GUIDE FOR STUDENTS - 2027 ENTRY

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WHAT IS UCAS?

UCAS is the system you use to apply to university.

- You can apply for up to 5 courses
- You apply online using the UCAS hub
- The College will add your reference and predicted grades for you

START HERE: [HTTPS://WWW.UCAS.COM/](https://www.ucas.com/)

WHO SUPPORTS ME IN MY APPLICATION?

- **Progress coach** – your main support + writes your reference
- **Tutors** – help with course choices + the basis for your reference
- **Careers & Enterprise team** – help with decisions on course choices, personal statements and applications

WE ALSO OFFER CAREERS ADVICE FOR LIFE – THIS MEANS THAT YOU CAN COME BACK TO US FOR SUPPORT EVEN AFTER YOU LEAVE COLLEGE.

HOW DO I ACCESS SUPPORT FOR MY UCAS APPLICATION?

If you have any UCAS-related questions, you can email: ucas@yorkcollege.ac.uk

IMPORTANT:

All UCAS questions must be sent to this email address. Messages sent on Teams or directly to staff will not be answered and you'll be asked to email instead.



KEY DATES

APPLICATIONS OPEN:

12th May 2026

CONSERVATOIRE APPLICATIONS OPEN:

9th July 2026

SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION FROM:

1st September 2026

MUSIC CONSERVATOIRE APPLICATION DEADLINE:

1st October 2026 (6pm)

EARLY ENTRY DATE:

15th October 2026 (6pm)

For applications to:

- Oxford & Cambridge University
- Medicine
- Dentistry
- Veterinary

YORK COLLEGE INTERNAL DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS:

Friday 13th November. This is the date by which you must complete your parts of the application and submit your application to College.

EQUAL CONSIDERATION DATE:

13th January 2027 (6pm)

This is the deadline for the College to send your application to UCAS – not for you to start it!

UCAS EXTRA OPENS:

27th February 2027

FINAL APPLICATION DATE BEFORE CLEARING:

30th June 2027 (6pm)

LAST DATE TO ADD A UCAS EXTRA CHOICE:

1st July 2027 (6pm)

UCAS CLEARING OPENS:

2nd July 2027

Courses like nursing, primary education, midwifery and healthcare degrees often interview and can fill up quickly. Applying early gives you a better chance of getting an interview.

UCAS
application
deadline
13th January
2027



WHAT IS THE EQUAL CONSIDERATION DATE?

If you apply before the 13th January, universities must treat your application equally.

If you apply after this date, there is no guarantee that universities will consider it and courses may already be full.

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO BEFORE I APPLY?

- Know your GCSE grades
- Research your courses
- Check entry requirements (grades, subjects and any additional requirements)
- Visit university open days if possible
- Start your personal statement early

HOW DO I COMPLETE MY UCAS APPLICATION?

1. Create a UCAS account online
2. Enter your details
3. Choose your courses
4. Write your personal statement
5. Pay for and submit your application
6. College will then add your reference and send to UCAS

YOUR APPLICATION IS NOT SENT TO UCAS UNTIL THE COLLEGE APPROVES IT.

HOW DO I CREATE MY UCAS ACCOUNT?

You must enter the College **buzzword** to link your application to York College. If you don't link it, we can't add your references or send your application.

**DO NOT USE YOUR COLLEGE EMAIL ADDRESS
– YOU WILL LOSE ACCESS AFTER LEAVING COLLEGE.**

Use a professional email address to register your application. Check this regularly, as all application updates and interview information will be sent to this email address.

HOW SHOULD I CHOOSE COURSES?

You can choose up to 5 courses. We recommend the following:

- 1-2 ambitious options (ones that need higher grades than predicted)
- 2-3 realistic options (ones that need your predicted grades)
- 1 back-up option (that needs lower grades than predicted)

If you don't add all 5 choices straight away, you can add more later on as long as:

- It's before 30th June
- You haven't replied to any offers yet

WHAT SHOULD I INCLUDE IN MY PERSONAL STATEMENT?

YOU ANSWER 3 QUESTIONS:

1. Why are you interested in this course?
2. How have your studies prepared you?
3. What else have you done outside of College?

CHARACTER LIMITS

- Max 4,000 characters (including spaces, paragraphs and punctuation)
- Each section has a minimum character requirement

WHAT MAKES A STRONG PERSONAL STATEMENT?

- Explain why you chose the subject
- Explain what relevant skills you have
- Use real examples
- Show your passion for the subject, using examples outside of the classroom

USE THIS STRUCTURE:

- What you did
- What you learned/why it's relevant
- How it links to the course(s) you're applying to

INCLUDE:

- Work experience
- Projects & EPQs
- Reading/research
- Relevant activities

AVOID:

- Clichés
- Listing things without explaining
- Irrelevant content
- Applying for more than 2 different subject areas – your personal statement needs to be balanced, and it is difficult to do this if you choose too many different subjects.

UNIVERSITIES READ THOUSANDS OF STATEMENTS – CLEAR AND SPECIFIC ONES STAND OUT.



UCAS TARIFF POINTS

UCAS tariff points turn your grades into a number. Universities sometimes use this number to check if you meet the entry requirements.

A LEVEL

Grade	Tariff Points
A*	56
A	48
B	40
C	32
D	24
E	16

BTEC

Grade	Tariff Points
D*	56
D	48
M	32
P	16

T LEVEL

Grade	Tariff Points
D*	168
D	144
M	120
P (C+)	96
P (D or E)	72

BTEC EXTENDED DIPLOMA

Grade	Tariff Points
D*D*D*	168
D*D*D	160
D*DD	152
DDD	144
DDM	128
DMM	112
MMM	96
MMP	80
MPP	64
PPP	48

EPQ

Grade	Tariff Points
A*	28
A	24
B	20
C	16
D	12
E	8

ACCESS TO HE COURSES POINTS (IMPORTANT)

Only 45 credits are graded on these courses and the maximum points you can earn is **144**.

EXAMPLES:

45 Distinction = 144

30 Distinction + 15 Merit = 128

15 Distinction + 30 Merit = 112

45 Merit = 96

15 Distinction + 15 Merit + 15 Pass = 96

15 Merit + 30 Pass = 64

45 Pass = 48



UCAS APPLICATION FEES

UCAS fee (2027) = **£34.50**.

You only pay once. If your application is sent back to you for changes, you won't need to pay again.

Most students pay by card.

AM I ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR FREE?

You may be eligible to apply for free (via invoice) if you are a care leaver or received free school meals.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS ELIGIBILITY

- You need to have received free school meals at some point during the last 6 years
- You must apply through College (UK students only)

CARE LEAVER

You may qualify if:

- You are aged 16-24
- You have been in care for 13+ weeks, including your 16th birthday

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO

In your application:

- Answer yes to free school meals or care experience

For care leavers:

- Complete your application, but don't submit yet
- UCAS will tell you how to confirm your eligibility
- UCAS will apply the fee waiver

IMPORTANT

- You must provide evidence if asked
- You must select the correct option **before** submitting (there will be no refunds if you pay by card by mistake)

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER I SUBMIT MY APPLICATION?

You can track your application on UCAS.

Universities will make offers via the hub.

Types of offers:

CONDITIONAL

- The university is offering you a place, but you must meet the requirements e.g. get certain grades

UNCONDITIONAL

- The university is offering you a place, regardless of your grades

If you receive multiple conditional offers, you can choose:

1. Firm choice (1st choice)
2. Insurance choice (2nd choice – usually a course that needs lower grades than your predicted grades)

If you choose an unconditional offer, you only get to choose a firm choice, as you will be going regardless of your grades.

UCAS EXTRA & CLEARING

UCAS EXTRA

- If you receive no offers or if you reject all your offers, you can add another choice
- UCAS Extra is open from 27th February 2027 to 1st July 2027

CLEARING

- This is your last chance to apply to university for that year
- You can only apply to available courses
- You usually need to contact the university directly to secure a place

WHY APPLY THOUGH CLEARING?

If you don't get your expected grades or change your mind on the course or the university



STUDENT FINANCE

There are **two main loans** you can apply for:

TUITION FEE LOAN

- This covers your course cost
- It is paid directly to the university
- You can apply for up to £9,250 per year

MAINTENANCE LOAN

- This covers your living costs
- It is paid in 3 instalments across the year
- The amount depends on your household income and location of the university:
 - If you're living at home = £3,900-£8,800
 - If you're living away from home = £4,900-£10,500
 - For universities in and around London = £13,700

Most students apply for **both** loans.

WHEN DO I REPAY MY STUDENT FINANCE?

- You start repaying from the April after you finish your course
- You have to be earning over £25,000 before you start repaying
- You repay 9% of anything you earn above £25,000

If you earn less than £25,000, you pay nothing. After 40 years, any remaining finance is written off.

HOW DO I APPLY FOR STUDENT FINANCE?

Applications usually open in March before you start university.

You should apply early so your funding is ready in time. You don't need a confirmed place at university to apply; you can change these details later.

Apply online here:

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

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

- National insurance number
- Passport or ID
- Bank details
- Parent/guardian income details

IMPORTANT

- You must apply for student separately from your UCAS application
- You need to reapply for finance every year you study
- You get undergraduate funding for up to 4 years of university
- Parent/carers must complete their section if required
- You should apply early to avoid delays

You don't need to have accepted an offer before applying for student finance.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I'M NOT SURE ABOUT UNIVERSITY?

That's completely fine – university is not for everyone.

You can also explore:

- Apprenticeships
- Higher Technical Qualifications
- Taking a gap year

Browse Careers | Discover Your Ideal Job | UCAS

<https://www.ucas.com/explore/career-list>

Book a careers appointment to talk it through.



UCAS FAQs

BEFORE YOU START YOUR APPLICATION

Can I apply for apprenticeships through UCAS?

No – UCAS is just for university applications.

However, you can search for apprenticeships on UCAS here: <https://www.ucas.com/apprenticeships>

You apply for them separately (e.g. gov.uk or employer website).

Can I apply to university and apprenticeships at the same time?

Yes – lots of students do both to keep their options open.

Do I need to apply for student finance now?

No – this is a separate application. You usually apply from March.

THE APPLICATION PROCESS

Can I use my College email address?

No – use a personal email so you don't lose access after leaving College.

Do I need UCAS points or grades to apply?

It depends on the course – some universities ask for grades, some use UCAS points and some use both.

What grades do I put on my application?

You include your achieved grades and your predicted grades, which are added by the College.

Can I apply for different subjects?

Yes – but your personal statement needs to match all your choices.

We recommend applying for no more than 2 subject areas, so you can keep your statement balanced and relevant.

Do I have to apply for all 5 choices at once?

No – you can add more choices later (before 30th June), as long as you haven't replied to any offers.

Do I need to pay again if my application is sent back?

No – you only need to pay once.

Can I change my choices after I apply?

Yes – you have 14 days after submitting to make changes.

Who writes my UCAS reference?

Your progress coach writes your reference using information from your course tutors.

AFTER YOU APPLY

What if I miss the January (equal consideration) deadline?

You can still apply, but universities don't have to consider your application, and courses may already be full.

Will I have to do an interview?

Some courses (e.g. healthcare and teaching) may require interviews. This will be detailed on the university's website.

What if I don't get any offers?

You can use UCAS Extra or apply later through Clearing.

IF YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND

What if I change my mind about university?

That's completely fine – speak to the Careers & Enterprise Team about other options like apprenticeships, gap years or other routes.



FINAL TIPS

- Start your application early, especially your personal statement
- Meet the deadlines
- Use the UCAS website to help you
- Check everything carefully, especially for spelling and grammar
- Email ucas@yorkcollege.ac.uk if you need any support

Don't leave it to the last minute – the earlier you apply, the better your chances of getting offers.

UCAS CHECKLIST

Create a UCAS account on the UCAS hub, then start your application. Connect your application to York College.

Do not tick the box that says 'reference only'.

- ☐ BUZZWORD: **Minster2027**
- ☐ Select the group that applies to you. Groups are organised by the type of course or the type of application.

EDUCATION

- ☐ Add secondary school, start date and end date
- ☐ GCSE qualifications and grades (GCSE 9-1)
- ☐ Double Science - GCSE Double Award (9 - 9 - 1 - 1)
- ☐ Add York College and Start Date. You can set the end date to August of your final year at college
- ☐ If you have AS levels, ensure you add them with your grades
- ☐ Add A-Levels. Include end dates. End dated must before the overall end date at York College. This will set your grades to pending
- ☐ Add BTEC course. Check the exact name and awarding body with your tutors or Progress Coach. Your first and second years will have separate end dates and you should have grades to insert for your first year. End date should be before the College end date. Some qualifications will bring through separate modules for you to list
- ☐ Insert T Level and end dates, End date should be before final end date at York College. The T Level option will bring through 4 modules to insert grades into

EXTRA ACTIVITIES

- ☐ Campus visits
- ☐ Online Courses
- ☐ Summer School
- ☐ Workshops
- ☐ Others

CONTACT & RESIDENCY

- ☐ Add nominated access. Allows a parent or carer to speak to UCAS on your behalf

FINANCE & FUNDING

- ☐ Choose 'UK student finance services' if using Student Finance
- ☐ Choose 'Private Funding' if paying for university yourself

IMPORTANT

- ☐ Complete as much of your application as you can as EARLY as you can
- ☐ Ensure you have linked your application to College and ensure you are in the correct group
- ☐ When you are ready to send your application to College, you can pay your £34.50. Ensure you select the card payment option unless you qualify for the free school meals fee waiver
- ☐ When adding your choices, you don't need to put them in an order



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