

Welcome to



UCAS and Apprenticeship Parent Information Evening

Purpose of this Evening



- To give you an overview of the destinations support and options
- The university application process.
- To introduce the UCAS and Unifrog websites to you.
- The apprenticeship application process.
- To give you some advice to maximise your child's chances of success.
- Address questions raised in the MS Form.



Why now?



- Open Day timetables now available for all 2027 applications
- Summer trial exams on the horizon
- UCAS process has begun in tutor time
- Personal statements beginning
- Apprenticeship windows starting to open



***The
UCAS/Apprentic
eship
Application
Timeline
BGJ***



Timeline



Spring/Summer Term Yr12

- Register with UCAS guided in tutor time
- Begin Application Process
- Submit personal statement draft to tutor for feedback
- Sit trial exams (23/6-1/7) – vital in informing predicted grades and influence university choice/course
- Investigate courses and visit university open days (LOAs approved for this)



Summer Holidays Yr12

- Personal statements edited
- Continue to research courses, visit university cities and any open days
- Engage in work experience

Timeline



Autumn Term Yr13

- Personal statements checked and final edits made
- References written
- Predicted grades confirmed by class teachers and department leads



Autumn Term Yr13

- Early applications (Oxbridge, Medicine, Dentistry) internal deadline early in Autumn term.
- All other students applications will be at the end of the first half term around start of November.

Timeline



Spring Term Yr13

- Offers received as universities process applications.
- If no offers, UCAS Extra can be used to apply for further courses.

May Yr13

- Accept one firm and one insurance choice.
- Apply for accommodation and student finance.

Results Day Yr13

- If requirements have been met, the university is obliged to give you that place.
- If not, 'Adjustment' and 'Clearing' can be utilised to secure you an alternative provider.

***First Steps into
Exploring
University
Courses***
CEA



The Basics



- Applications will be made to 5 courses
- Students should be applying for:
 - 1 ambitious course
 - 3 realistic courses
 - 1 safe course as a back up

*There are no limits to number of apprenticeship applications that can be made on top of university applications.

What can we be doing now?



- Researching potential options for after TG
- Booking open days for the summer term
- Using Unifrog to filter initial ideas
- Narrow down choices on university and non-university routes
- Proactively drafting out a personal statement
- Open minds to a range of different post TG routes – the more options the better.

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

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Study Research International Business News About us

Undergraduate Study in the Department of English Literature

Home > Schools and Departments > School of English, Drama and Creative Studies > Departments > English Literature > Undergraduate study

Come and study at one of the top 30 universities for English in the World (QS, 2022). You will explore, research and study a wide range of literary specialisms, from Old English to digital cultures, and everything in between.

Step 1 - register today

Full Name *

First name Last name

First Name Last Name

Date of Birth

Day Month Year

Email address *

your.name@company.com

Re-type email

Email consent: We would like to keep you informed about what it's like to study at Birmingham and give you further information on the application process. Would you like to receive occasional messages by email?

☐ Allow ☐ Do Not Allow

Mobile phone number

0121 234 5678

What country do you live in? *

Step 2 - visit our course pages

- [Digital Media and Communications](#)
- [Drama and English Literature](#)
- [English and Creative Writing](#)
- [English Literature and Film](#)
- [English Literature](#)
- [English Literature with Digital Media and Communications](#)
- [English Language and Literature](#)
- [English Literature with Shakespeare Studies](#)
- [English Literature and Classical Literature & Civilisation](#)
- [English Literature and History](#)
- [English Literature and History of Art](#)
- [English and Philosophy](#)
- [Modern Languages and English Literature](#)

Step 3 - find out more about:

- [International Applicants](#)
- [Careers](#)

Research Alternative Options

- Although we are going to be talking about UCAS and university applications tonight, please encourage your child to explore many different routes for when they leave TG.
- On results day, we want students to be in control of their future and have as many options to choose from as possible.



Unifrog tools



Unifrog is a fantastic tool to help guide your children through university and apprenticeship applications.

UK universities

Make your first shortlist

Start >

Apprenticeships

Make your first shortlist

Start >

College /
Sixth Form

Sorry, your school doesn't yet have this tool

Oxbridge

Make your first shortlist

Start >

US universities

Make your first shortlist

Start >

European
universities

Make your first shortlist

Start >

Unifrog tools



When selecting the 'UK University' application widget, students input their most likely set of grades.

What are the **best grades** you're likely to get by the time you leave school / college?

* Qualification 1	A Level	B (40 points)
Qualification 2	A Level	B (40 points)
Qualification 3	A Level	C (32 points)
Qualification 4	--- please select a qualification ---	
Qualification 5	--- please select a qualification ---	
Qualification 6	--- please select a qualification ---	

next ► or go back

Unifrog tools



After selecting the subject that they would like to study, students can select up to 10 more specified subjects to explore.

Any of these interest you?
Select up to 10 at a time by clicking on the subjects you like

Direct matches (1)

Subjects you might like (47)



Sociology

Anthropology and Sociology

Archaeology and Sociology

Biology and Sociology

Business Management and Sociology

Business Studies and Sociology

Childhood and Family Studies and Sociology

Creative Writing and Sociology

Criminology and Sociology

Drama and Sociology

Economics and Sociology

Education Studies and Sociology

English and Sociology

English Language and Sociology

English Literature and Sociology

next: 3 subjects ▶ or go back

Unifrog tools



Students are then provided with a wide range of potential courses which they can filter as they see fit.

Select courses below

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

Rank ▼ Filter ▲ Search ▼

Filters:

- All distances | 10 miles | 20 miles | 50 miles | 100 miles | 200 miles | 300 miles | Big cities | Scotland | Wales | City | Campus
- All modes | Full time | Part time | Sandwich | Foundation | No Foundation | Full degrees | W/ study abroad | W/out study abroad
- All types | Russell Group | Top Third | Art Foundation | Joint Honours | No courses that prefer A-level, IB, Pre-U | TEF Gold | TEF Silver | TEF Bronze
- All entry requirements | No courses out of my range

Aspirational (187) → Solid (85) → Safe (70)
Top of your range → At the bottom

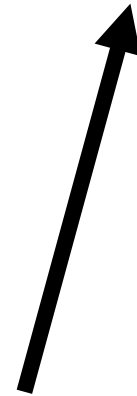
 Social Sciences - 3FT BSc (Hons) UCL (University College London) A Level: A,A,A-A,A,B	 Social Sciences - 4FT BA (Hons) Glasgow Caledonian University A Level: B,C,C	 Sociology (with Foundation Year) - 4FT BA (Hons) University of Hull UCAS Points: 80
 Law with Social Sciences - 4FT BA (Hons) University of Warwick A Level: A,A,A	 Social Sciences (with a foundation year) - 4FT BA (Hons) University of Sussex A Level: B,C,C-C,C,C	 Sociology and Criminology with Foundation Year - 4FT BA (Hons) Birmingham City University UCAS Points: 80
 Sociology - 3FT BSc (Hons) London School of Economics and Political Science, University of London A Level: A,A,B	 Social Sciences - 4FT BA (Hons) Edinburgh Napier University A Level: B,C,C	 Criminology and Sociology - 3FT BSc (Hons) Teesside University UCAS Points: 80
	 Criminology and Sociology - 3FT BA	

next ► or go back

Plan your time



When students have narrowed down the courses and institutions they would like to apply for, you can either search for open days directly with universities or use 'Opendays.com' for all information in one place.



The screenshot shows the Opendays.com website. At the top, there's a blue header with the 'opendays.com' logo and the text 'university and college open days'. To the right, a dark blue banner displays 'Saturday 10 June'. Below the header, a navigation bar includes links for 'Home', 'Search for a university/college', 'Browse open day calendar', 'Advice', and 'My Open Days'. A row of university logos is featured, each with its open day date: 'US UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX' (3-Jun Open Day), 'ual: london college of communication' (26-May Open Day), 'Lancaster University' (1-Jul Open Day), and 'Northeastern University London' (8-Jul Open Day). The main heading reads 'Opendays.com - the university and college open day directory'. A large image of the University of Southampton is shown, with text indicating its '11-May Open Day' and providing details about a 'First Look virtual event' on 9, 10, and 11 May. It also mentions live sessions with staff and students. A list of bullet points includes: 'Explore your new home: our cities and campuses', 'Learn about accommodation options', 'Get tips on student finance', 'Make your application stand out', and 'Think ahead to employability and...'. At the bottom, there's a search bar with the placeholder text 'Enter university name...' and a 'Search' button.

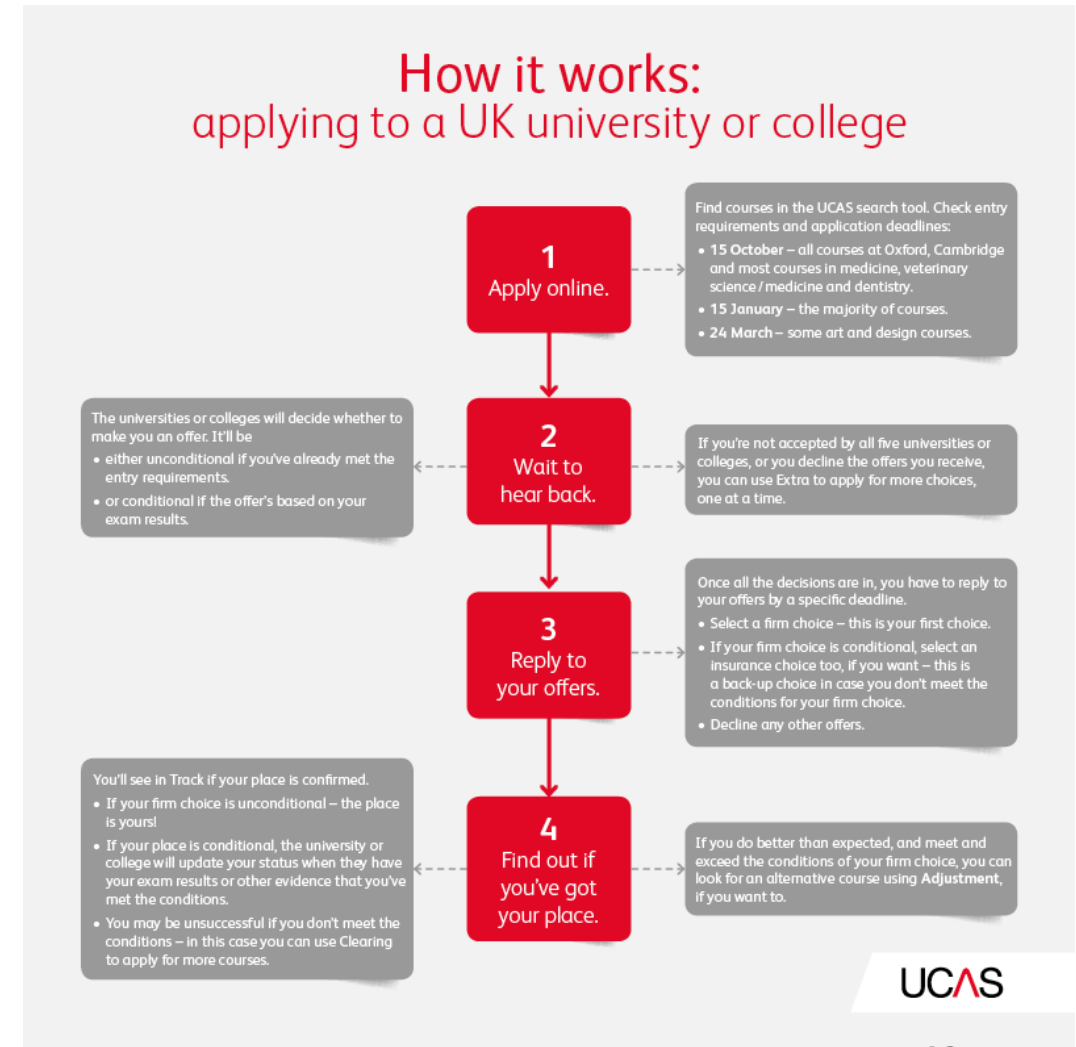
Practicalities of Application

BGJ





- Personal Details including student finance options (we guide students to correct code in tutor time) and additional information
- Choices
- Education
- Employment
- Statement
- Pay and Send (when pay and send, it gets sent to us to check and approve)



How to Apply



- Applications will be made to 5 universities in the Autumn term of year 13 based on the research undertaken now
- Students will receive one of three replies from each of these choices:
 - An unconditional offer of a place (sometimes after interview).
 - A conditional offer (sometimes after interview).
 - A rejection (Unsuccessful).



- By the end of the application process, usually in **May of Year 13** but can be sooner, students will need to :
- Accept one offer as a **firm choice (1st choice)**.
- And one as an **insurance choice (back up)**.
- If you meet the requirements of the offer the university is obliged to give you that place.

Deadlines



- **Early applicants: October 15th 2026 (October 1st 2026 TG)**
 - Medics, Vets, Dentists
 - Oxbridge
 - Additional entry tests required – full support given in school via our pathways programme although students need to be proactive with booking any tests externally and ensure that they do not take place in school time.
- **All other applicants: January 13th 2027 (5th November 2026 TG)**
 - All other institutions and subjects

Replying to offers



1. Don't reply until you've heard back from all 5 universities.
2. Don't rush to reply but keep an eye on accommodation bookings.
3. Most of our students will need to select a firm and insurance choice.
4. Seek advice before they choose.

What if no offers are given?

- If students are rejected by all their applications they can use the **UCAS Extra** service from late February to early July each year.
- If they are still unsuccessful or fail to meet any conditional offers they can apply through **UCAS Clearing** in August after results. We can support with this.
- If students vastly outperform their initial expectations, they can use **UCAS Clearing** to apply for new courses.

Personal Statements

CEA



Personal Statement

- **Personal statement - prepare to populate:**

- Enthusiasm and engagement with course applied for is key
- Enthusiasm beyond the syllabus
- Employment/ work experience if relevant
- Altruism
- Extra-curricular
- Super-curricular = wider reading, wider listening, MOOCs

- **Selection of courses need careful research and visits**

- Open days
- Prospectuses
- Websites: unistats.com, university league tables (outcomes/ earning/ experience)
- Speak to Yr13s or teachers for advice.
- History at University of Birmingham is oversubscribed each year but Ancient History isn't – a safer choice if University of Birmingham is the biggest factor in the decision?

Relevance of work experience in the current climate

- Applications for certain courses will require evidence of commitment and this can be shown through work experience.
- E.g. medical, veterinary, teaching, nursing.
- In nearly all cases for all subjects it greatly strengthens an application (however students shouldn't be rejected from courses solely based on a lack of work experience).
- At a recent Medical applications conference, University of Leicester highlighted that any 'public facing' work experience would be appropriate for medical courses. Does not necessarily need to be in a hospital.

Personal Statement



Summer Term Yr12

Submit PS draft by deadline set by Mr Clarke. Usually early July.

Summer Holidays Yr12

Personal statements edited and perfected.

Autumn Term Yr13

Personal statements checked and final edits made, references written, predicted grades confirmed.

- Lots of tutor sessions will be allocated to UCAS and personal statements in the summer term.
- **ALL STUDENTS** must submit a draft on Unifrog whether university is for them or not – these paragraphs can be utilised on apprenticeship selection applications too.
- Feedback will be provided by subject specialists; form tutors; and the sixth form team.

***Teacher
References &
Predicted
Grades
BGJ***



Teacher References



- UCAS have recently changed their policy on the 'references' section of their application process.
- Previously, all teachers wrote lengthy prose references and this has been removed.
- Instead, universities would like to know:
 - Factual data surrounding student performance and move away from vague 'teacher report' style paragraphs.
 - UCAS have given advice that this might include where a student stands in a cohort (for example 1st in cohort) or that a student won an award like the 'Chemistry Olympiad'. This may also include something like the way a student has followed a particular interest in their subject.
 - We need to be careful only to offer information that supports an application – this is going to make it difficult for middling students where trial exams and GCSE results might contribute most to offers. We await further advice from UCAS here.

Extenuating Circumstances

Include relevant information that contextualises the educational journey, for example:

- **individual circumstances** – e.g. mature student, disability, serious, acute, or chronic illness, bereavement, significant adverse personal circumstances (with applicant consent)
- **context as to why there is a disparity between an individual's grades achieved throughout the school or college - e.g. at GCSE equivalent and predicted grades, where applicable**
- **support the university or college should consider putting in place to ensure the applicant can thrive on their course (with applicant's consent) – e.g. highlight the measures the school, college or centre put in place to ensure the student's inclusion/experience.**
- **PLEASE MAKE ME AWARE IF THERE IS ANYTHING THAT YOU FEEL YOU WOULD WANT US TO INCLUDE IN THIS SECTION.**

Predicted Grades



- The **internal trial exam results** from this summer will be predominantly how predicted grades are formed but this is a process involving several stages.
- These predicted grades decide which universities you can realistically apply for.
- Lack of AS makes this more important.
- GCSE grades also important, particularly for more aspirational of courses.
- We must be as accurate as possible to preserve our credibility.

Predicted Grades



- Predicted grades are formulated using data from the June/July trial exams (23/6-1/7) as well as other assessment points if necessary.
- There is an element of teacher judgement that contributes to predicted grades – we must take into account potential progress.
- However, any grade must be realistic for the good of student and institution.

Tutor Grange Academy Solihull

Year 12 Progress Report – CA1



Tutor Group: 12c

Attendance: 99.44%

No of Lates to School: 0

Days Missed: 0.5

09 February 2026

Subject	Learning Habits	Barriers to Learning			
		Behaviour	Equipment	Presentation of Work	Punctuality
English Literature	Often				
French	Always				
Spanish	Always				
Percent Proactive	92%				

Progress to Target

Subject	KSS Target	Spring		Summer	
		Projected Grade	Progress to Target	Projected Grade	Progress to Target
English Literature	A	B	Near		
French	A	B	Near		
Spanish	A	B	Near		

Assessment Grade

Subject	KSS Target	Spring	Summer
		Assessment Grade	Trial Exam
English Literature	A	B	
French	A	C	
Spanish	A	C	

Predicted Grades – Learning Habits



- Student learning habits will play a significant role in our decision to project increased predicted grades.
- If a student is not using their independent time appropriately, we will not consider higher grades.

Tutor Grange Academy Solihull

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09 February 2026

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Percent Proactive	92%				

Progress to Next

Subject	KSS Target	Spring		Summer	
		Projected Grade	Progress to Target	Projected Grade	Progress to Target
English Literature	A	B	Near		
French	A	B	Near		
Spanish	A	B	Near		

Assessment Grade

Subject	KSS Target	Spring	Summer
		Assessment Grade	Trial Exam
English Literature	A	B	
French	A	C	
Spanish	A	C	

Predicted Grades



- Equally, attendance data will also play a significant role.
- If a student's attendance is lower than 92%, historical data tells us that their attainment will be impacted.
- Unless a student has extenuating circumstances, predicted grade will not be able to be increased if attendance is lower than 90%.

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French	A	C	
Spanish	A	C	

Apprenticeships

CEA



Apprenticeships

careermapTV

JLR

**JLR APPRENTICESHIPS:
WHY JOIN?**

NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK



careermapTV

ARMY
BE THE BEST

**BRITISH ARMY
APPRENTICESHIPS**

NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK





Apprenticeships

Name	LEVEL	Equivalent
Intermediate	2	5 GCSE's at a pass
Advanced	3	2 A-Level's at a pass
Higher	4, 5, 6 and 7	Foundation degree and above
Degree	6 and 7	Bachelor's or Master's degree



Apprenticeships – What are they?

Level 6 - 7 Apprenticeships (Higher & Degree Apprenticeships):

- Combine full-time work with studying for a degree (e.g., Bachelor's).
- Emphasise practical, on-the-job training alongside academic study.
- Learn and apply knowledge in a real workplace.
- Earn a salary (£17,000 to £20,000 per year) while studying.
- Gain specialised skills relevant to a specific industry.
- Increase employability with practical experience and a degree



Apprenticeship application process

- This process is less formal than UCAS and allows unlimited applications.
- It still involves providing predicted grades, teacher references, personal statements (adapted from UCAS)...
- BUT will always involve interviews, and in some cases assessment centres.
- In 2025, there are 2,000 providers and 51,000 level 6 and 7 courses, compared to 170 universities and 30,000 undergraduate courses.
- The best apprenticeship opportunities are between October and December.
- There is no formal application window (they come up throughout the year).

Best places to search and apply for Apprenticeships

- UCAS
- gov.uk
- careermap.co.uk
- bestapprenticeships.com
- findapprenticeships.co.uk
- On the specific companies' website

On each of these sites, create an account and set up for notifications for certain types of apprenticeships





Apprenticeship statistics

- **Growth**: Degree apprenticeship starts increased by 7% in 2023/24.
- **Achievement Rates**: Overall apprenticeship achievement rate rose by 2.9 percentage points in 2022/23, reaching 54.3%.
- **Participation**: 736,500 people participated in apprenticeships in England in 2023/24.
- **Earning Potential**: Higher apprenticeships (Level 5+) can lead to greater lifetime earnings than non-Russell Group graduates, with apprentices earning while they learn.
- **Employer Satisfaction**: 65% of employers with completer apprentices were very satisfied, and satisfaction with applicant quality has improved.

***How will we be
supporting your
child?***

BGJ



How will we help?



Summer Term 1

- A series of year 12 tutor sessions to introduce the UCAS process and website.
- Students interested in applications that require tests/interviews will need to be confirmed and Mr Bargh and Mr Clarke need to be notified.
- Students requiring work experience must be proactive in organising this – organisation of this is priority one! As a school, we do not organise the work experience for students but we will support in any way we can.
- Weekly UCAS sessions & competitive pathway support still ongoing at this time.

How will we help?

Summer Term 2

- Year 12 Guidance Meetings – all students given meeting with member of sixth form leadership team or experienced sixth form tutor to discuss personal application journey.
- In departments staff are available to talk to students about their subject areas and university study.
- Careers advice meetings with Mr Bargh are bookable via Mrs Keiser.

Last hints and tips



- Understand what universities are looking for:
 - A level predictions are the single most important element
 - GCSE grades
 - Entry test scores
 - Personal statement and reference to support...
 - Work experience – type, amount
 - Extra curricular – gain relevant skills, additional interests
 - ‘Additional requirements’
- BUT **never apply for a subject you don't want to spend 3/4 years studying!**
- AND... **never apply for a university you would not be prepared to go to!**

Thank you for attending

- This is just the very start of a long process.
- Keep in touch
- **And, please, don't take drastic decisions without talking to someone.**
- **We are available for any questions you may have.**
- jbargh@solihull.tgacademy.org.uk
- aclarke@Solihull.tgacademy.org.uk