



The Focus of this Presentation

- 1) Post Sixth Form Pathways
- 2) What we have done so far
- 3) UCAS Application Process
- 4) Personal Statement Writing



Part 1) Post Sixth Form Pathways



1) Undergraduate Degree



What is an Undergraduate degree?

- It is the next **'academic' step up from A levels** (A degree is level 6 – other HE courses such as certificates or diplomas can be levels 4 and 5).
- AN 'Undergraduate degree' is your **first degree**. A small number of people go on to study at 'Postgraduate' level having received their first degree.
- An undergraduate degree typically takes **3 to 4 years of study – based on attending lectures, seminars, group projects and (usually) a dissertation**.
- Some degrees (eg Medicine and architecture tend to run for longer – up to 6 years).
- The two most common denominations of Bachelors degree are **Bachelor of Arts (BA)** and **Bachelor of Science (BSc)**. Other degree schools include Bachelor of Education (BEd), Bachelor of Engineering (BEng) and Bachelor of Laws (LLB).
- Tuition fees for UK students in 2023/24 can be up to **£9,250 per year** at the majority of institutions in England.
- Obtaining a Bachelors degree broadens your horizons in the job market. The Department for Education's (DfE) *Graduate Labour Market statistics 2018* report shows that graduates have significantly higher rates of employment and **earn on average nearly £10,000 more per year** than non-graduates.

We use cookies to make the site easier to use. [Read our cookies policy](#)



MoneySavingExpert

Cutting your costs, fighting your corner

Founder, Martin Lewis · Editor-in-Chief, Marcus Herbert

Weekly email | News | Forum

Cards & Loans | Household Bills | Complain & Reclaim | Banking & Savings | Mortgages & Homes | Travel | Insurance | Dea

[MoneySavingExpert.com](#) » [Students](#) » Student Loans Mythbusting

Student Loans Mythbusting

The truth about uni fees, loans & grants





Martin Lewis
Updated 16 June 2020



Ignore newspaper headlines about students leaving university with £50,000 of debt. That's mostly a meaningless figure. What counts is how much you'll repay. For some that's far more, for others it's free.

This guide is written to bust common myths about student loans, grants and finance, including the 20+ key facts every potential student, parent and grandparent should know.

What about the cost of university?

[Read advice to students from Martin Lewis at Money Saving Expert](#)

Or watch his video '[Student Loans decoded](#)' filmed at Queens Park Community School in June 2019.

See the following slide for a summary of the key points.

What about the cost of university?

- 1) You do not need to pay anything upfront. The cost of your degree can be covered by your student loan.
- 2) You don't pay anything back until you have graduated and are earning over **£25,000** per year
- 3) You then pay **9% of everything you earn over £25,000**

So if you earnper year	You pay back 9% of	Which is ... per year
£22,128 (the starting salary for a nurse)	£0	£0
£25,425	£425	£38.25
£35,000	£8.425	£758.25

- 4) You stop paying once the dept is paid or **40 years** from the April after Graduation (for someone who graduates at 21 – you will be paid up by the age of 62).



Other First Choice destinations for year 13 - 2021

BCU – Computer Science
 Coventry - Politics
 Birmingham Uni – Sociology
 BCU Sound Engineering & Production
 Wolverhampton – Musical Theatre
 BCU – Primary Teaching
 Birmingham – Biomedical Services
 Plymouth – Physical Education
 Staffordshire – Psychology & Child Dev.
 Birmingham Uni – Psychology
 Birmingham Uni – Ancient & Medieval His.
 Falmouth – Photography
 Worcester – Midwifery
 BCU – Biomedical Engineering
 Cardiff – Politics
 Birmingham Uni – Maths
 Birmingham Uni – Maths & yr in Industry
 Derby – Nursing
 BCU – Psychology
 Uni Of Law -Professional Policing
 BCU – Media Production
 Birmingham Uni – Maths
 Worcester – Physical Education

Birmingham Uni – Law
 Wolverhampton – Sport & Exercise
 BCU –Psychology with Criminology
 Cardiff – Biomedical Sciences
 Aston – Business Computing and IT
 Coventry – Sport & Exercise Therapy
 BCU – Fashion Branding & Communication
 Aston - Psychology
 Nottingham Uni – Law
 Coventry - Geography
 York University – Film & TV Production
 Aston – Cyber Security
 Liverpool - Maths
 BCU – Child Nursing
 Birmingham Uni – Politics with Int Relations
 Manchester – Law with Politics
 BIMM Institute – Film Making
 BCU Business Management
 Oxford Brookes – Animal Behav & Welfare
 Aston - Business Management
 Salford – Counselling with Psychotherapy
 Derby - Specialist Sports Journalism
 BCU – Adult Nursing

First Choice Uni Destinations 2021

In 2021 65% of Park Hall Uni students are planning on studying at local universities.



Birmingham University



Other First Choice destinations for year 13 - 2020

Nottingham - Film & TV
 Leicester – Accounting
 Coventry – Geography
 Birmingham – Soc & Criminology
 Northampton – Sport
 Newman – Primary education
 Nottingham – Health Science
 Worcester – Primary teaching
 Birmingham – Education & Sociology
 Derby – Sport Therapy
 BCU – Interior Architecture & Design
 Warwick – History
 Birmingham – Law
 Coventry – Nursing
 Aston – English Lit & Language
 BCU – Professional policing
 DeMontfort – Psychology
 Cardiff – Psychology
 Birmingham – Sport
 Wolverhampton – Dance
 BCU – Primary Education

Aston – Optometry
 Worcester – Psych with education
 Aston – Psychology
 DeMontfort – Maths
 Coventry – Sports Coaching
 Worcester – Healthcare
 Worcester – Paramedic Science
 Wolverhampton – Health Studies
 Worcester – Paramedic Science
 Birmingham – Psych in Education
 BCU – Disability Nursing
 Nottingham – Psychology
 Coventry – Nursing
 BCU – Fashion Branding & Communication
 Newman – Primary education
 Bournemouth – Media Production
 Worcester – Nursing
 Cardiff – Psychology
 Worcester – Primary Teaching
 Liverpool – Film Studies
 Worcester - Nursing

First Choice Uni Destinations 2020

In 2020 55% of Park Hall Uni students are planning on studying at local universities.



Manchester University



2) Higher Level Apprenticeships

Deloitte. [Services](#) [Industries](#) [Insights](#) [Careers](#) [UK-EN](#) [Ω](#)

Apprenticeship Opportunities

A professional career without a degree? A salary while you're still learning? A social life when you're working hard? What's really right for you?

[Register your interest](#)

A photograph showing three young adults sitting on a light-colored sofa in a modern office setting. A woman wearing a black hijab and a black top with red embroidery is sitting on the left, smiling. A woman with long dark hair, wearing a black top, is sitting in the middle, also smiling. A man with short brown hair, wearing a black t-shirt, is sitting on the right, seen from the back. They are all looking towards the camera. The background is a white brick wall and a modern office interior.

What is a Higher Level Apprenticeship?

The Higher Apprenticeship incorporates a work-based learning programme and leads to qualifications at Level 4 and above, where Level 4s and 5 are equivalent to a higher education certificate, higher education diploma or a foundation degree, Level 6 is equivalent to a bachelor degree and Level 7 is equivalent to a master's degree.

Higher Level Apprenticeships can last from anything from 2 to 5 years.



Levels of apprenticeship

Apprenticeships have equivalent educational levels.

Name	Level	Equivalent educational level
Intermediate	2	GCSE
Advanced	3	A level
Higher	4,5,6 and 7	Foundation degree and above
Degree	6 and 7	Bachelor's or master's degree

Eg The Deloitte Bright Start Apprenticeship


See the film [here](#)

Deloitte. Services ▾ Industries ▾ Insights ▾ Careers ▾ Search  

Can you really have it all?

A professional career without a degree? A salary while you're still learning? A social life when you're working hard? What's really right for you? Having it all might just be possible.

[Register your interest](#)



Our BrightStart Apprenticeship

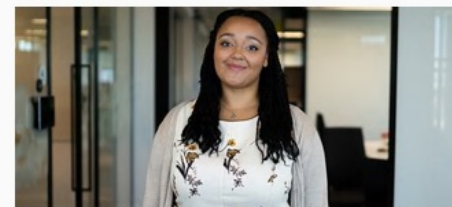
An opportunity for clever, curious people like you to leap into the world of professional services. This is an earn-while-you-learn apprenticeship, with the chance to gain professional and degree level qualifications. Get stuck in from day one, helping to solve some of our clients' most complex problems right from the minute you join. Create a brilliant career for yourself with a business that's making an impact worldwide.



Audit & Assurance



Business & Financial Advisory



Cyber



Human Capital



Governance, Risk & Regulation



Legal



Real Estate



Strategy & Operations



Tax Consulting



Technology



What do we offer?

"My friends and family can see how being a BrightStart has worked out brilliantly for me."

Mollie Mahoney, Consulting

- An earn-while-you-learn apprenticeship that is a permanent job
- Competitive salary and benefits
- Fully funded recognised professional qualification
- Live project experience and client exposure from day one
- An alternative to university
- Fast progression on a structured career path with plenty of support and flexibility
- The support of a buddy and mentor
- Lifelong learning & development throughout your career
- Technical and business skills training
- Paid study leave to support with exams
- Agile working options
- Opportunities to develop your career in any direction, anywhere in the world



What are the benefits?

"It is a great place to work with lots of benefits and some amazing people."

Conor Neary, Tax Consulting

Salary Package

- Market-leading pay*
- Regular increases
- Variable pay schemes that allow us to credit you for any work you do 'above and beyond'

Core Benefits

- £1,000 interest-free loan
- 25 days holiday
- Pension
- Life assurance
- Occupational sick pay

Flexible Options scheme

- Pick and choose further benefits up to the value of your Options allowance.
- Additional holiday
- Childcare vouchers
- Dental insurance
- Bikes4Work scheme
- Give As You Earn
- Private medical insurance
- Travel insurance
- Corporate discounts
- Critical Illness Insurance
- Additional Life Assurance
- Health Assessments



Other Apprenticeship Websites

- www.deloitte.co.uk/careers
- www.kpmgcareers.co.uk/apprentice
- www.ukcareers.ey.com/students
- www.pwc.co.uk/schools
- www.joinus.barclays/apprenticeships
- www.bbc.co.uk/careers
- www.cgi-group.co.uk/careers
- www.hsbc.com/ukapprenticeships



3) Employment



What is Employment?

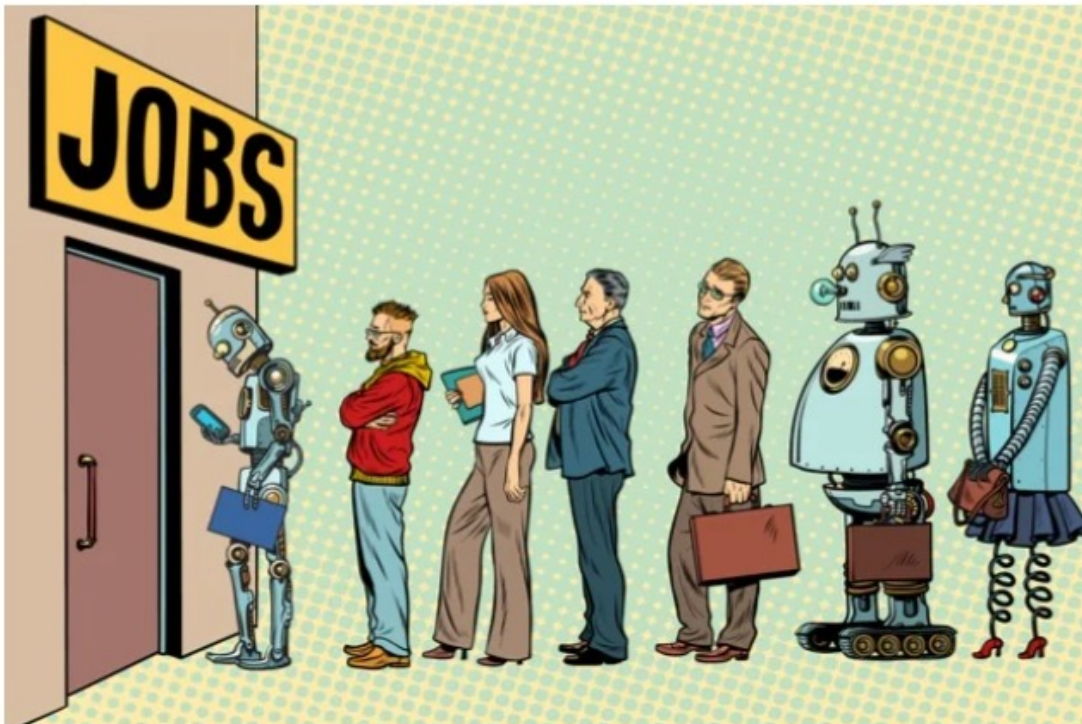
A number of Park Hall students enter employment directly having completed their level 3 qualifications. Routes into employment often arise due to

- Opportunities through family and friends
- Opportunities for development arising from Part Time Work
- Opportunities from an expanding Retail and Services sector
- Regular scrutiny of local employment opportunities

The Mix – Essential Support for the under 25s

How can I find a job?

It's a tough job market out there, especially for young people. So how do you find a job? We tell you where and how to look for work.



All Y13 Park Hall students study for an NCFE Employability qualification – which helps you develop the job search and application skills necessary to successfully navigate the job market.

[The Mix website](#) is a great place to discover more about how and where to search for local job opportunities.

Popular Job Search Websites

[Monster](#)

[Totaljobs](#)

[Reed](#)

[Fish4Jobs](#)

[JobcentrePlus](#)



The National Picture for 18 year olds

Destinations	National % (Approx)	Park Hall % (3 year average)
Higher Education (Degree)	34%	62%
Degree Apprenticeships (levels 6 and 7)	0.6%	0%
Higher Apprenticeships (levels 4 and 5)	1.4%	2%
Advanced Apprenticeships (level 3)	8%	6%
Intermediate Apprenticeships (level 2)	6%	2%
Employment (Full time and part time)	39%	26%
NEET	11%	2%

Key Points



- The majority of year 13 Park Hall students opt to go to university.
- Degree Apprenticeships and Higher Level Apprenticeships are an attractive alternative (earning you a higher level qualification while getting paid to learn on the job.)
- However, the number of Higher / Degree level apprenticeships available to 18 year olds is tiny compared to the number of degree programmes. (There are approximately 24 university degree programmes available for every 1 degree / higher level Apprenticeship).

Where can I find out more about University Courses?

- There are loads of really useful websites – but most of what you are looking for (course search, finance, advice for parents, apprenticeships, student life) can be found at

www.ucas.com

- Create your own Ucas hub. This is a great starting point for researching courses and universities and putting the first 'building blocks' together for your personal statement.

What is it?

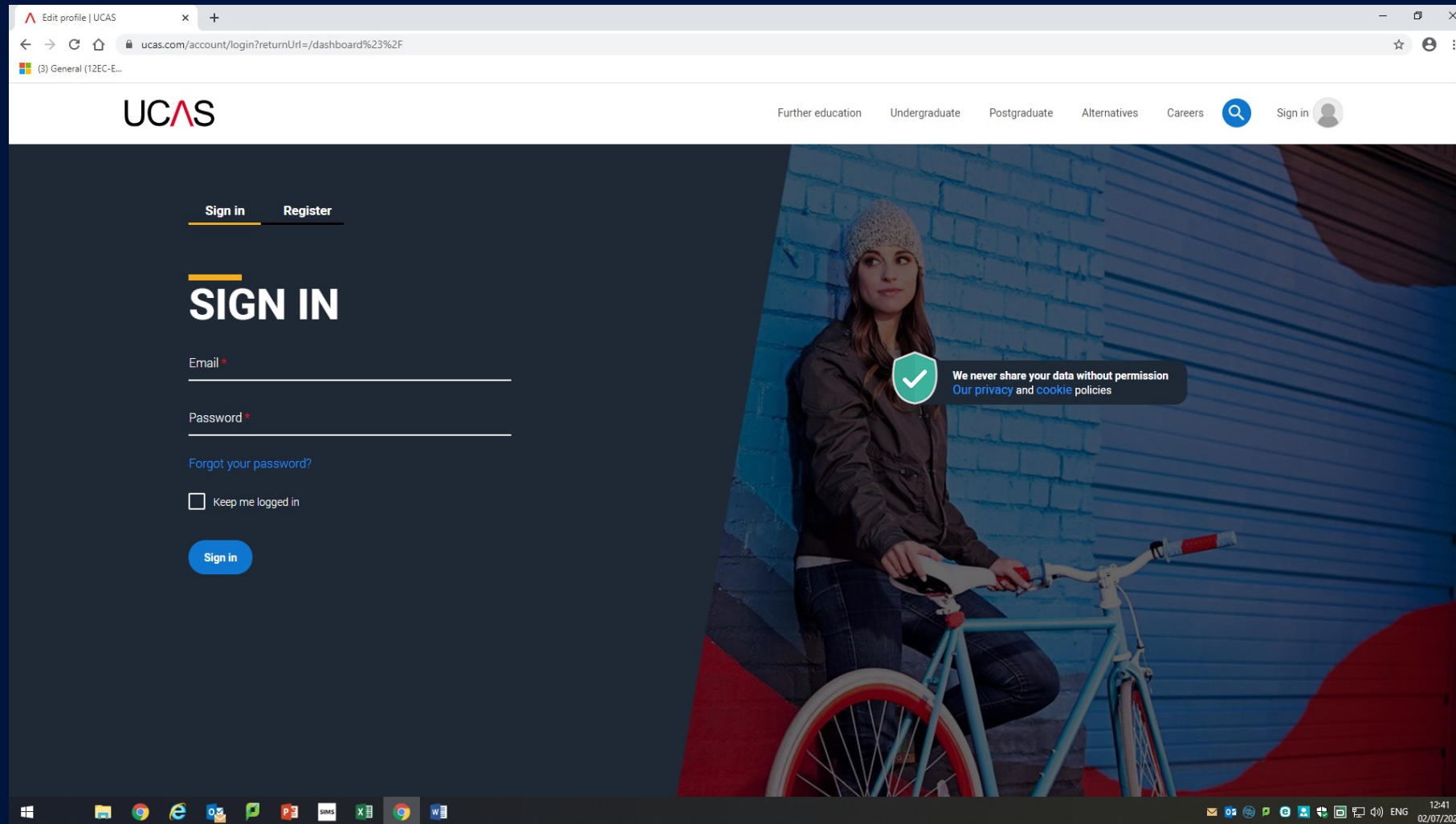
With your very own UCAS Hub, you can plan your next step. The best bit – you can save your progress and carry on whenever you want.

We've created lots of handy tools to help you make choices and start your application:

- 1 The explore tool – where you can search subjects and discover courses.
- 2 The notepad – so you can keep all your thoughts about your next step in one place.
- 3 Apprenticeship finder – for the latest vacancies, locally and nationally.
- 4 The personal statement builder – to help you structure your writing and introduce yourself to universities.
- 5 The Tariff calculator – for tallying up your UCAS points to see if you meet entry requirements.

Your Hub is your space. Organise the widgets, remove the ones you don't need, and tick off your to do list. However you use it, make it yours.

Register for UCAS Hub [here](#)



Other useful University Websites

<http://purepotential.org>

<https://www.gov.uk/browse/education/universities-higher-education>

<https://www.opendays.com/calendar>

What can I do now to support my university application in September?

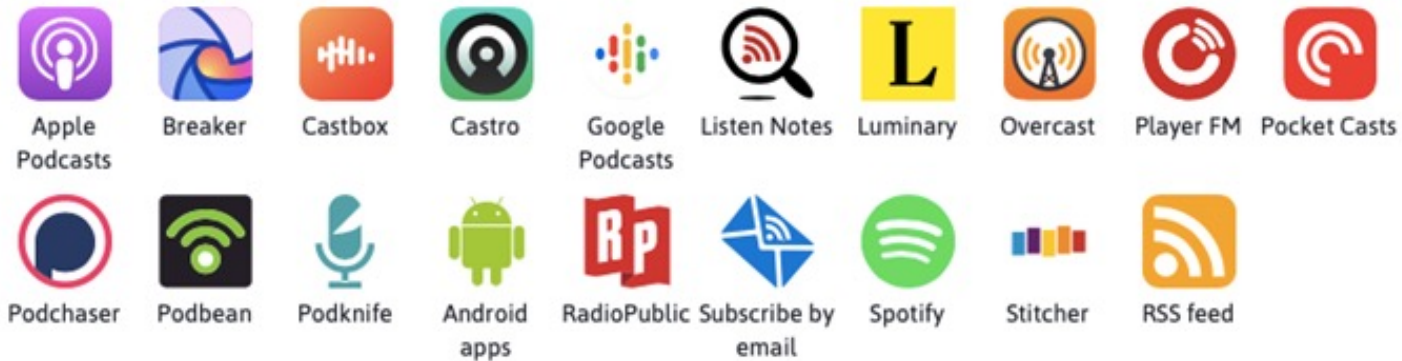
[Read the Park Hall Guide to Preparing for a good university application](#)

- 1) Engage in **wider reading** in your chosen subject area(contact your subject teachers and ask for recommendations).
- 2) Develop a specific area of interest.
- 3) Youtube documentaries, TED talks, Podcasts, websites (www.brightknowledge.org)
- 4) Complete a free online MOOC course (www.futurelearn.com)
- 5) 'Virtual' work experience opportunities

Super Curriculars



- Books You have read
- Online MOOC Courses (www.futurelearn.com)
- TED Talks
- Youtube Documentaries
- EPQ
- Podcasts





Part 2) What have we done so far?



Personal Reflection and Development day



8.50 – 9.30 Session 1) Assembly – Post 16 Pathways – Mr Cornell

9.30 to 11.10 - Session 2) Computer Rooms – Personal Research

8

tasks

- 1) Work Experience reflection
- 2) Personal University Pro's and Con's
- 3) Consider possible courses (based on your current studies / career aspirations / outside interests)
- 4) Identify 5 preferred universities
- 5) Find three specific courses that appeal to you
- 6) Super curriculars (what can you be doing over the summer?)
(Wider Reading / Online courses (www.futurelearn.co.uk) / Podcasts you subscribe to / TED Talks / You tube Documentaries / EPQ / SMF Aspiring Professionals Programme
 - 7) Relevant experience
 - 8) Complete HE Survey



So..... By now you should know

- a) what subject you want to apply for
- b) Which universities you are planning on applying to.

Where can I find out more about University Courses?

- There are loads of really useful websites – but most of what you are looking for (course search, finance, advice for parents, apprenticeships, student life) can be found at

www.ucas.com

- Create your own Ucas hub. This is a great starting point for researching courses and universities and putting the first 'building blocks' together for your personal statement.



Part 3) How do I Apply?

The UCAS Application Process

How do I apply to university?



- 1) Go to www.ucas.com/apply and click on 'Undergraduate 2023 Entry'
- 2) Click on Go to your Hub
- 3) Answer a series of simple questions (most of these are straight forward – you are interested in 'Undergraduate' entry)
- 4) Registration is free and takes 10 minutes. Enter the Park Hall Buzzword Horseshocourses when invited – this links your application to Park Hall
- 5) At the end of the registration process make a note of your username and password. You will need these every time you log in.

In future – just go to www.ucas.com and click 'sign in' at the top right hand corner of the screen

Sections of the UCAS Application

Applications are all through the '[Apply](#)' section of the UCAS website.

(Park Hall Buzzword = horsesforcourses)

Your UCAS application is completed online – usually over a number of weeks and contains the following sections. You can log in and complete sections over time.

- Personal Details
- Choices (5 specific courses at specific universities)
- Additional Information
- Education (including **qualifications** – GCSE and A level – pending)
- Employment
- Student Finance
- **Personal Statement** (47 lines – approx. 550 words. Max No of characters = 4000)
- **Reference & Predicted Grades** (completed by Mr Cornell and the Sixth Form team)



Part 4) How do I write a
personal statement?



Part 4) What is a personal statement?

- 47 lines – approx. 550 words. Max No of characters = 4000
- It is a statement that reflects your passion and suitability to academic study at degree level.
- It is assessed by an 'admissions tutor – specialist in your chosen subject.



Part 4) Personal Statement Do's and Don'ts?

Do

- Make it clear that yours is a serious, well – researched application and that you know exactly what the course involves.
 - If you are applying for a 'joint–honours' course be sure to explain your interest in, and enthusiasm for, both subjects.
- Seek advice from subject teachers who specialise in your chosen subject area and ask them to look over your draft statement.
- Beat the rush. Admissions tutors are more likely to be impressed by an application if it is one of ten on their desk rather than one of 400.



Part 4) Personal Statement Do's and Don'ts?

Don't

Over-emphasise extra-curricular activities when they do not relate directly to your chosen course.

Make stuff up. Many tutors still insist on an interview before making an offer of a place. Your PS will provide the focal point of the interview.

Expect to get it right first time. The best personal statements are the result of a number of drafts and re-drafts and numerous consultations.

Despair – there are always people around who are willing to help.

Personal Statement Overview

- Para 1) Introduction. Why this subject?
- Para 2) In school evidence of interest
- **Para 3) Other evidence of interest (Super-curriculars)**
- Para 4) Wider Skills
- Para 5) Conclusion



This is the most important section as it makes your application stand out. If you have plenty to say here – expand this section and shrink the others)

Paragraph 1) Introduction – why this subject?

- **Personal trigger:** Why do you want to study this subject at university? (was your personal trigger a book, a museum trip, a documentary, a film, a teacher, an inspirational figure or work experience). *“My passion for Sport can be traced back to my earliest experiences of coaching, when my Dad took me along to my first ‘mini-rugby session at the age of 5.”*
- **Why do you think this subject is important?** *“Sport and exercise science has a vital role to play in the UK’s fight against obesity, supporting people with developing more active lifestyles and a better understanding of nutrition.”*
- **Why does this subject inspire / motivate you personally?** *“Sport remains a significant part of my life today. My social life, sense of identity, achievements and goals are all a reflection of my love of sport, of keeping fit and of the camaraderie that comes with being part of a team.”*
- Read the course details of a course you are applying for. Which particular areas are you looking forward to studying and why?

Paragraph 2) In school evidence of your interest in the subject

If you study the same subject in school

Discuss your positive experiences of that subject in school. Focus on a specific area / areas of interest within the subject. *“I have found the study of Sports psychology particularly interesting (discuss relevant tasks / assignments / research / activities that helped develop this interest.)”*

What aspects of your course have you enjoyed so far (research, debate, applying learning to the real world? *“My favourite experience on the course so far was having the opportunity to deliver a football skills coaching session to a group of year 2 students on a week long placement. As part of this task I had to”*

If you do not study that subject in school

Discuss the skills you are currently learning (research, debate, essay writing, critical analysis, research, analytical / evaluative skills) and apply them to your chosen course. *“My studies in Sociology have prepared me for a career in nursing by deepening my understanding of the ‘health gradient’ - the idea that our health and life expectancy is closely related to our class background.”*

Paragraph 3) Outside school evidence of your passion for the subject

- **Evidence your passion for the subject with reference to your ‘super curriculars’:** Books you have read / Online courses you have done / Podcasts you subscribe to; Documentary series you have watched; EPQ; TED Talks. What did you learn / gain from these – link everything back to the subject you are applying for.
- *“Having read Paul Britton’s ‘The Jigsaw Man’ I gained a deeper insight into the development of forensic psychology, and the potential role that psychology can have in understanding criminal behaviour.”*
- **Describe any relevant work experience and any skills that you have picked up along the way that specifically relate to your chosen course.** *“As a Sports Leader I have supported PE lessons, Sports Days and and extra curricular clubs. A key part of my role has been to motivate other students to overcome their fears, and become involved in sport and exercise. The ability to encourage participation is”*
- *“As a teacher at Twinkle toes dance academy I have coached a group of 12 6 year olds for over a year. As a dance instructor I have demonstrated an ability to build confidence and self esteem, as well as challenge my students to try new moves”*

• Paragraph 4) Wider Skills

- This is an opportunity to demonstrate your non academic skills and achievements either in or out of school. This is to give the admissions tutor a glimpse of the person you are. The aim is to paint a picture of someone who
- Has a love for life – seeks new experiences / challenges and adventure. (sports / visits / World Challenge / The Challenge / hobbies and interests)
- Does not shy away from responsibility (eg part time job / student union executive)
- Has the drive and initiative to pursue their interests (work experience, masterclasses.
- Wants to make an impact on the world (fundraising / awareness raising / student mentoring / student council)
- Link these experiences to the skills they have helped you to develop (communication, commitment, time management, teamwork, initiative, public speaking, sense of responsibility, adaptability, organisation, leadership, independent research and analysis)

Paragraph 5) Summary

Finish your personal statement with a one or two line summary of why you want to go to university and study the course – and why you deserve to be offered a place.

“I am mature, confident and self motivated, all qualities that I believe are critical to a successful university experience. I relish the opportunity to study Accounting and Finance to degree level and hopefully beyond.”

“I feel certain that this subject will provide me with the intellectual challenge best suited to my personality and ambition of pursuing an academic career in the social sciences. The prospect of studying such a stimulating and dynamic course truly excites me.”

“Overall, I am a hardworking, well organised and active person with a genuine belief in the transformative power of Sport and Exercise. I am looking forward to university life, both academically and socially.”



Part 5) What If I don't want to
go to university?

Where can I find out more about Apprenticeships?

<https://www.ucas.com/understanding-apprenticeships>

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>

<https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/real-stories/apprentice>

However, for Higher Level Apprenticeships – you are often best going directly through the employers own website.

You can access our handy guide to the top 100 companies [here](#)

Top Higher Level Apprenticeship Providers?

www.deloitte.co.uk/careers

www.kpmgcareers.co.uk/apprentice

www.ukcareers.ey.com/students

www.pwc.co.uk/schools

www.joinus.barclays/apprenticeships

www.bbc.co.uk/careers

www.cgi-group.co.uk/careers

www.hsbc.com/ukapprenticeships

What can I do now to support my 'Higher Level Apprenticeship' application in September?

- **Research the different sectors** that are available and find the right one(s) for you
- **Identify specific companies** that you are interested in applying to
- **Research the company.** Understand what they do, where they are based and what their values are.
- **Make contact** – are there any opportunities to gain experience or develop skills in preparation / support of your application.
- Build up a **CV of qualities** that they are likely to be looking for and think about how you can evidence them in interview (**team working / coping under pressure / overcoming obstacles / leadership / working collaboratively / problem solving etc...**)

How do I apply for a 'Higher Level' Apprenticeship?

- Although you can apply through UCAS the most common routes are through the following websites

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>

<https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/real-stories/apprentice>

Or – directly through the company themselves. (See [top 100](#) list)

- [Guide to applying for higher level Apprenticeships](#)
- [Guide to completing an Apprenticeship Application](#)

Other Useful Websites?

Look at UCAS 'Alternatives to University'

<https://www.ucas.com/alternatives-to-university>

Not Going To UNI

<https://www.notgoingtouni.co.uk/>

Or – take a look at potential career routes using

<https://www.startprofile.com/>