

-
- Welcome to the Year 12
 - Post-18 Information Evening
 - Mr White and Miss Long



ARDEN

Tonight's Structure



- Welcome

Mr White - Head of Sixth Form
Miss Long - Head of Year 12

- Predicted Grade Exams (PGEs) and their impact on your child's next steps

- UCAS and university degrees

- Apprenticeships

Predicted Grade Examinations



- When?
 - Monday 15th June - Friday 26th June

- Why?
 - An accurate view of each student's progress
 - Learning the process (A levels are terminal exams)
 - To provide the most accurate information from which teacher will make a judgement about the students' predicted grades for UCAS

- What if...
 - The Arden deadline on UCAS is 6th November 2026
 - PR5 Assessments may provide evidence for Revised Predicted Grades.
 - The Predicted Grade Examinations form part of the evidence for the revised grade

Predicted Grade Guidance



A predicted grade is the grade of qualification an applicant's school or college believes they're likely to achieve in positive circumstances.

The Principles

- ✓ aspirational but achievable – stretching predicted grades can be motivational for students
- ✓ **determined by professional judgement**
- ✓ data-driven

Predicted Grades should not be:

- ✓ **affected by student, parental, guardian, or carer pressure**
- ✓ **influenced by university or college entry requirements or behaviours**
- ✓ **affected by student behaviour or background – predicted grades should be made objectively and disregard external factors.**

Applying to UCAS for 2027



- Last year, there were some changes to the UCAS system.
- If you, have been through the system with an older child, please be aware of the minor changes.
- Personal statement have been divided into 3 questions.

ARDEN: STEP ONE

Discover



Explore all your options

YOUR HUB JOURNEY



EXPLORE THE HUB:
[UCAS.COM/HUB](https://ucas.com/hub)

Illustrations designed by [terrapinco/freemk.com](https://www.instagram.com/terrapinco/freemk.com)

Discover options



HIGHER
EDUCATION



APPRENTICESHIPS



STUDYING
ABROAD



GAP YEAR



GETTING A
JOB

Discover **PATHWAYS**

- **Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE) and Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE):** first and second year of a degree course.
- **Higher National Certificate (HNC) and Higher National Diploma (HND):** HNC is a one-year industry specific course, and the HND is a two-year industry specific course. Higher technical qualifications (HTQs) in England are an example of these.
- **Foundation degree:** flexible vocational qualification, combining both academic study and workplace learning. It usually takes two years to complete.
- **Bachelor's or undergraduate degree:** a three to four-year course which can also be available as a part-time option, allowing you to study and work.
- **Apprenticeships:** typically take between 8 months to 6 years to complete depending on their level. Apprenticeships are offered for levels 2-7 in N.I. and England, levels 2-6 in Wales, and SCQF levels 4-11 in Scotland. All nations offer degree level apprenticeships.

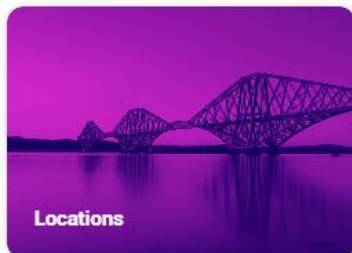
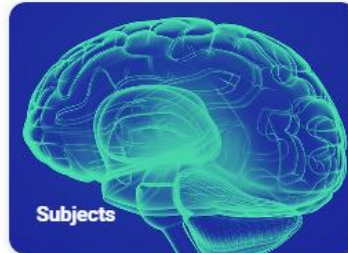
Search

Courses, apprenticeships, information guides and more

Hub For you Favourites What to do Where to go Search

Search for items

Browse by



Favourite courses

List

Grid

ⓘ You can shortlist up to 5 courses



Animal Bioscience and Management

University Centre Askham Bryan
BSc (Hons) - 3 Years - Full-time - York - 2025

UCAS Tariff: 84 points

↔ Add to Shortlist



Accounting and Finance

University of Plymouth
No option selected, please visit the [course details](#) page to review and favourite the available options.

UCAS Tariff: N/A

↔ Add to Shortlist



3D Animation and Visualisation

Glasgow Caledonian University
BSc (Hons) - 4 Years - Full-time - Glasgow - 2026

UCAS Tariff: N/A

↔ Add to Shortlist



Accountancy and Business Law

University of Stirling
BAcc (Hon) - 4 Years - Full-time - Stirling - 2026

UCAS Tariff: N/A

↔ Add to Shortlist



Close

Subject spotlights

POWERED BY **Springpod**
 UCAS Media Service



Teaching: A Profession And A Passion

with Damien Maguire from Liverpool Hope University



Cancer, Brain Tumours & Rogue Cells: The Science Behind The Killer Disease

with Dr Shafiq Ahmed from University of Sunderland



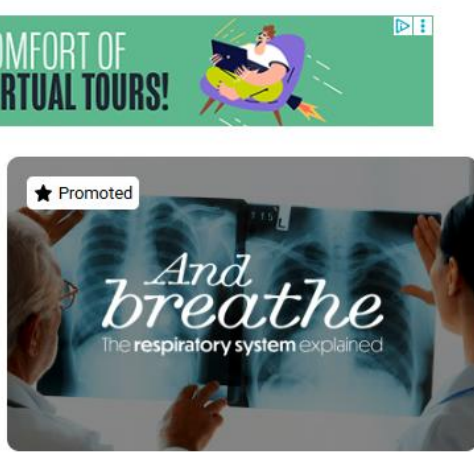
Understanding

with [Name] from Manchester Metropolitan University



Computer Science: Is Generative AI The Problem Or The Solution?

with Dr Aminu Usman from the University of Sunderland



And Breathe: The Respiratory System Explained

with Charlotte Anderson from the University of Sunderland



Computer Science: Space Exploration And Beyond

with Dr Paul Sant from The University of Law



Biotechnology: The Rise Of Radical Healthcare

with Prof. M. Safwan Akram from Teesside University



Covid: The Law And You

with Mike Meehan from University of Law

- Anglia Ruskin University
 - Bangor University
 - Bournemouth University
 - Canterbury Christ Church University
 - City St George's, University of London
 - Coventry University
 - Coventry University London
 - Edge Hill University
 - Johnson & Wales University
 - Leeds Beckett University
 - Liverpool Hope University
 - Manchester Metropolitan University
 - New England Institute Of Technology
 - Queen's University Belfast
 - Teesside University
- [Show more](#)



Understanding



Computer Science: Is Generative AI The Problem Or The Solution?



And Breathe: The Respiratory System Explained



Computer Science: Space Exploration And Beyond




Biotechnology: The Rise Of Radical Healthcare



Covid: The Law And You

Virtual work experience

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 UCAS Media Service



★ Promoted

Defy the limits with Amazon: Careers Experience

Digital, IT and Computing


This programme will explore an array of career opportunities available at Amazon

Available 31/07/2025 - 21/05/2026


Start now

- Allianz
- Amazon
- Arcadis
- Asda
- Atkins Realis
- BDO
- Barclays
- British Geological Survey
- CIPFA
- Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development
- Chartered Insurance Institute
- Coventry Building Society
- Drax
- EDF Energy
- Forvis Mazars

[Show more](#)




FIND OUT MORE



Key Skills

opportunities



★ Promoted

Vistry's Careers in Housebuilding

Construction & Trades

This programme will explore an array of career opportunities available at Vistry

Available 14/10/2024 - 01/11/2026

Start now



Academic Publishing with Taylor & Francis

Publishing & Journalism

This programme will explore an array of career opportunities available at Taylor & Francis

Available 14/11/2024 - 30/09/2026

Start now



Accountancy and Advisory Services

Accounting, Banking & Finance



Accountancy Work Experience with BDO

Accounting, Banking & Finance



Amazon Career Tour: Robotics Fulfilment Centre



AtkinsRéalis Virtual Work Experience programme

Chat to students

- All filters
- University or College
- Subject
- Country of origin

Reset filters POWERED BY UNIBUDDY UCAS Media Service

Search for filters

- Abertay University
- Bangor University
- Birkbeck, University of London
- Brunel University of London
- Buckinghamshire New University
- City St George's, University of London
- Coventry University
- Durham University
- Edinburgh Napier University
- Goldsmiths University
- King's College London
- Lancaster University
- Leeds Beckett University
- Leeds Trinity University
- Liverpool John Moores University

Show more



I'm a second year student from China and Germany...

Chat with [Name]

Currently in my second year, I'm focused on making the most of my...

Chat with Abdullah

Aadil
Manchester Metropolitan University
Product Design

Hey there! My name is Aadil and I am a second-year student studying...

Chat with Aadil

Abhishek
University of Strathclyde
MSc Forensic Science

Hey there! I'm a doctor who spent six incredible years in Ukraine...

Chat with Abhishek

abdeldjouad
University of Westminster
Finance and Business Management BA Honours

Hi everyone! my name is Abdeldjouad, I'm an international student...

Chat with abdeldjouad

Abi
King's College London
Digital Media and Culture

I am an enthusiastic creative, who is always motivated to develop my...

Chat with Abi

Abdul
University of Lincoln
Architecture - BA (Hons)

"Hi! Feel free to ask me any questions about the courses here i...

Chat with Abdul

Abi
University of Reading
BSc Business and Management (Marketing)

Hi, I'm Abi! I am a part of the University of Reading; however, I a...

Chat with Abi

UCAS

Applying through UCAS

For courses starting in 2027

Updated: April 2026

ARDEN: STEP TWO



theucas application



How to start a UCAS application



- After PGEs all students will be shown how to start their UCAS application process in a CPD session
 - We do not expect all students to attend university but having an open application is worthwhile if students change their mind last minute.
- Starting the application is easy.
- It doesn't cost anything until you 'Submit'
 - It will cost £34.50 when you do submit
- It provides a good opportunity for the students to practise writing about themselves
- Students will also be provided with an Arden UCAS Guide.
 - This should be used when completing the remainder of the form!

Students should talk to staff about...



- Choosing courses to fit with grades
- Where students are and where they want to be
- 5 choices
 - **A range**
 - **The insurance must be one they would accept**
- And personal statements...

Personal Statements for 2026



The new questions:

- **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 you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?

APPLICATION KEY FACTS



Invisibility - Universities and colleges can't see your other choices



Apply by the relevant date set by your school.



Five choices, with some restrictions (medicine, veterinary, dentistry, Oxford and Cambridge).



Research is key to a successful application.



Write carefully and check your spelling!



Everything with a red Asterix must be answered

DEADLINES		
	<p>Arden deadline for submission</p> <p>(You need to Pay & Send before the UCAS deadline as we need to write your reference and check your form before sending it to UCAS.</p> <p>If you Pay & Send after the Arden deadline we cannot guarantee that your application will be processed on time.)</p>	<p>Final UCAS deadline for submission</p> <p>(Universities and colleges do not have to consider applications received after the deadline.)</p>
<p>Conservatoires (Music)</p>	<p>17th Sept 2026</p>	<p>1st Oct 2026 at 18:00</p>
<p>EARLY ENTRY (Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary, Medicine, Oxford, Cambridge)</p>	<p>1st Oct 2026</p>	<p>15th Oct 2026 at 18:00</p>
<p>All Other Courses</p>	<p>6th Nov 2026</p>	<p>13th Jan 2027 at 18:00</p>

ARDEN: STEP THREE

APPRENTICESHIPS



What you need to know

www.ucas.com/apprenticeships

WHO ARE THEY FOR?

- Anyone 16 and over
- Anyone not in full time education*
- Apprenticeships in Scotland, Wales or England require you to be living in the same country as the apprenticeship
- Apprenticeships in Northern Ireland require you to:
 - be employed or be about to take up paid employment in Northern Ireland
 - be working a minimum of 21 hours per week on a permanent contract

* a foundation apprenticeship in Scotland is typically taken alongside Scottish Higher and National 5s



THE A-Z OF APPRENTICESHIPS

There are **over 600** possible apprenticeship 'standards' (training programmes) which exist. It's probably easier to name an industry that doesn't have an apprenticeship than to list all that do. Here are just a few...

- Accounting and Taxation
- Architect
- Boat Builder
- Building Surveyors
- Civil Engineer
- Cyber Security Technician
- Data Analyst
- Doctor (from 2023)
- Early Years
- Ecologist
- Farrier
- Food Technologist
- Game Programmer
- Geospatial mapping
- Harbour Master
- Historic Environment Adviser
- Internal audit professional
- Intelligence analyst
- Journalist
- Junior 2D artist (visual effects)
- Knitted product manufacturing
- Laboratory scientist
- Licensed conveyor
- Midwife
- Marketing Manager
- Nuclear Scientist and Engineer
- Nursing
- Operational firefighter
- Orthodontic therapist
- Paralegal
- Physiotherapist
- Quality practitioner
- Rail engineer
- Research scientist
- Social worker
- Software Developer
- Teacher
- Town planning assistant
- Utilities engineering
- Veterinary nurse
- Vehicle damage assessor
- Water process technician
- Workplace pensions consultant
- Youth worker

www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/#

WHAT AM I DOING NOW?

For example, in England, Northern Ireland and Wales:



GCSE grade 9-4 is a Level 2 qualification



A level or T level is a Level 3 qualification

Did you know?

An apprenticeship offering a degree may also be called a Level 6 or Higher Apprenticeship

Apprenticeships work in levels too!

In England:

Level 2	Level 3	Level 4-7
Foundation or Intermediate Apprenticeship	Advanced Apprenticeship	Higher Apprenticeship

In Wales:

Level 2	Level 3	Levels 4-7
Foundation Apprenticeship	Apprenticeship	Higher Apprenticeship

In Northern Ireland:

Level 2	Level 3	Level 4-7
Level 2 Apprenticeship	Level 3 Apprenticeship	Higher Apprenticeship

WHEN CAN I APPLY?

- Advertised throughout the year; with no single application deadline.
- Larger organisations with multiple application processes may recruit earlier than smaller local organisations.
- Higher apprenticeships with a Sep/Oct start tend to recruit in the previous academic year.

www.ucas.com/apprenticeships



HOW DO I APPLY?

- Applications are made directly through the company or training provider.
- There is no limit on the number of applications you can make.
- The application process might vary across vacancies, you could be asked for:
 - CV and Covering Letter
 - Application Form
 - In App/Site application
- You can apply for universities and apprenticeships at the same time!



What is an Apprenticeship?



- An apprenticeship is a real job, with hands-on experience, a salary and the training while you work.
- Treated just like all the other employees, with a contract of employment and holiday leave.
- Get paid and train at the same time, with at least 20% of time spent in off the job training, often at a college, university or with a training provider.
- Train to be fully competent in chosen occupation some offer a career path to higher qualifications - with lots of future potential
- Apprenticeship can take between one and six years to complete, depending on which apprenticeship chosen, what level it's at, and previous experience.

What is an Apprenticeship



NAME	LEVEL	EQUIVALENT
Intermediate	2	5 GCSE passes at grade A*– C or 9 – 4
Advanced	3	2 A level passes/Level 3 Diploma/ International Baccalaureate
Higher	4, 5, 6 and 7	Foundation degree and above
Degree	6 and 7	Bachelor's or master's degree

Applying



- **Apprenticeships are competitive to get, and each has its own entry requirements.**
- Most require that at least a grade 4 in Maths and English GCSE.
- Degree apprenticeships usually require A Levels or equivalent level 3 qualifications.
- Employers will also want to know that candidates are keen to learn, have a positive attitude, can get on well with colleagues and have excellent attendance and time keeping.
- They will usually check these things by taking a character reference from school or employer from a part time job
- Volunteering and extracurricular activities are other ways to demonstrate potential.

Myth or Fact



“You do not gain relevant or worthwhile qualifications and it is not seen as good as a university degree.”

False, A lot of people might think that Apprenticeships are for those that didn't choose (or couldn't get into) higher education like University, so are a step down.

For many careers, employers will value the experience gained from an apprenticeship just as much as the degree that someone gains from university.

All qualifications are relevant and are appropriate to different industries and skills.

It is not that one is worth more than the other, it is all about **individual personal choice** and the job route that you would like engage with.

Myth or Fact



“I can apply for a degree apprenticeship through UCAS, just like applying for a studied degree at university.”

False. Applications to Degree Apprenticeships are for people who are in paid employment and are initiated by the employer.

Employers are encouraged to contact the Degree Apprenticeships team to discuss individual circumstances and to be provided with the application forms

Applicants need to complete an application form which will then be then sent to the course directors for consideration.

Each Degree Apprenticeship has specific entry requirements and requires the applicant to be working in a role that would enable them to have the hands-on experience, to complement the learning process and the theoretical underpinning attained through studying the Degree course.



“Apprenticeships only pay minimum wage”

False - It's also a common (and incorrect) assumption that Apprentices don't earn much and are all paid the National Minimum Wage, this isn't true.

While many employers might choose to pay their Apprentices minimum wage, unions are always negotiating higher pay rates for Apprentices, well above minimum wage.

In fact, the National Minimum Wage for Apprentices would see you earning roughly £100 per week, the average pay rate for Apprentices is £170 per week

Apprenticeship Timeline



- ✓ Each company has their own application process
- ✓ UCAS announced that they wanted to try and streamline the application process to make it more similar to applying for Universities
 - This has not happened yet but UCAS have hugely improved their information on apprenticeships (more to come)

What should students considering an apprenticeship be doing right now:

- ✓ Research widely
- ✓ Networking
 - Futures conference, mock interviews, Future Friday's, Careers Team, friends, family...!
- ✓ Updating LinkedIn
- ✓ Fundamentally, they have to be a self starter
- ✓ Students need to start doing all of the above right away

Apprenticeship Timeline



What support will we provide:

- ✓ We form an apprenticeship group that meets regularly to discuss:
 - What research have they done
 - How to prepare for applications
 - How to prepare for interviews including mock assessment centre opportunities
 - What they need to be doing to give themselves the best chance to get onto an apprenticeship
- ✓ We will support them with applications*
- ✓ We will provide references when requested

So what can I do to support my child – the detail?



- Know and keep to the deadlines for UCAS
- Encourage them to actively research university courses and apprenticeships and attend Open Days/Events
- Encourage personal statements to be written over summer/ early September
- Be patient, supportive and give advice but also be mindful that the onus is on them to think about their own future
- Talk to them about their aspirations and be realistic about goals/ back-up plans?
- Proofread their personal statement.
- Help with revision for PGE.

Support - the core message



- ❑ START NOW
 - ❑ GET ON UCAS
 - ❑ PREDICTED GRADE
- EXAMINATIONS – REVISION

WWW.UCAS.COM/PARENTS

Are you supporting someone who's exploring their options?
Whether they're set on going to uni, or still deciding, we can help!

1. Sign up for our parent newsletter - we'll send you everything you need to help them.
2. UCAS Parents' Podcast - listen to our live studio podcasts covering everything you need to know about education and careers.
3. Parent, Guardian and Carer Guides - everything you need to support a young person with their options and decision-making and help them through the UCAS application process.

