



# UCAS guide for Parents and Carers

## Supporting your young person with their application

Your young person's school or college will support them with their application and will set deadlines complete personal statements and submit their application, but it is helpful for you to understand the process as well to ensure your young person feels supported, is making good progress with their application and can make informed decisions.

## What is UCAS?

UCAS stands for Universities and Colleges Admissions Service. Through the 'Apply' service, you can complete one application that will get sent directly to up to 5 universities, rather than having to apply to each university individually. Almost everyone who is applying for an undergraduate degree course at a UK university will use the UCAS website to apply for university. The website lists every university and course available, and also has lots of useful information and guides about applying.

## UCAS fee

UCAS charge a fee to send applications to universities. The application fee for 2019 entry is £18 if the applicant is applying to just one course or £24 if they are applying for multiple courses.

## Key dates

Application dates vary between courses and course providers. Dates for 2019 entry are below and generally stay the same each year. Your school or college may have earlier deadlines to make sure they have time to provide references and check your personal statement.

- **5<sup>th</sup> September 2018** – Applicants can pay for and send their applications to UCAS and universities and colleges begin making decisions on applications.
- **15<sup>th</sup> October 2018** – Applications for Oxford, Cambridge and most courses in medicine, dentistry and veterinary medicine/science should be completed.
- **15<sup>th</sup> January 2019** – This is the main application deadline for courses and all applications sent by January must be given equal consideration. If applicants don't meet the 15<sup>th</sup> January application deadline, they can still apply for many courses, but universities do not have to consider the application, and it may be considered 'late'.
- **20<sup>th</sup> September 2019** – this is the final deadline for applications to 2019 courses.



## Student finance

A major concern for students and their parents/carers is how to pay for university. Most universities charge a tuition fee of up to £9,250 per year of an undergraduate course. Fees do not need to be paid upfront and students can apply for a student loan to cover the cost of the tuition fees. Students can also apply for a maintenance loan to help cover the costs of living while they study. The amount of money your young person will be eligible for depends on where they choose to study and the household income.

## Further information

The UCAS website has a wide range of information, guides and videos about applying to university, including a monthly parent newsletter to keep you updated. Visit [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com) for more information.

For more information on student finance, visit [www.gov.uk/student-finance](http://www.gov.uk/student-finance).