

UCAS

# UNLOCKING UCAS: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

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# HIGH LEVEL TRENDS



What we're seeing at the ECD

# APPLICANTS AT THE EQUAL CONSIDERATION DATE

+3.1%

## TOTAL APPLICANTS

619,360  
applicants

+18,700 vs 2025

+4.8%

## UK 18-YEAR-OLDS

338,940  
applicants

+15,580 vs 2025

+5.1%

## INTERNATIONAL

124,830  
applicants

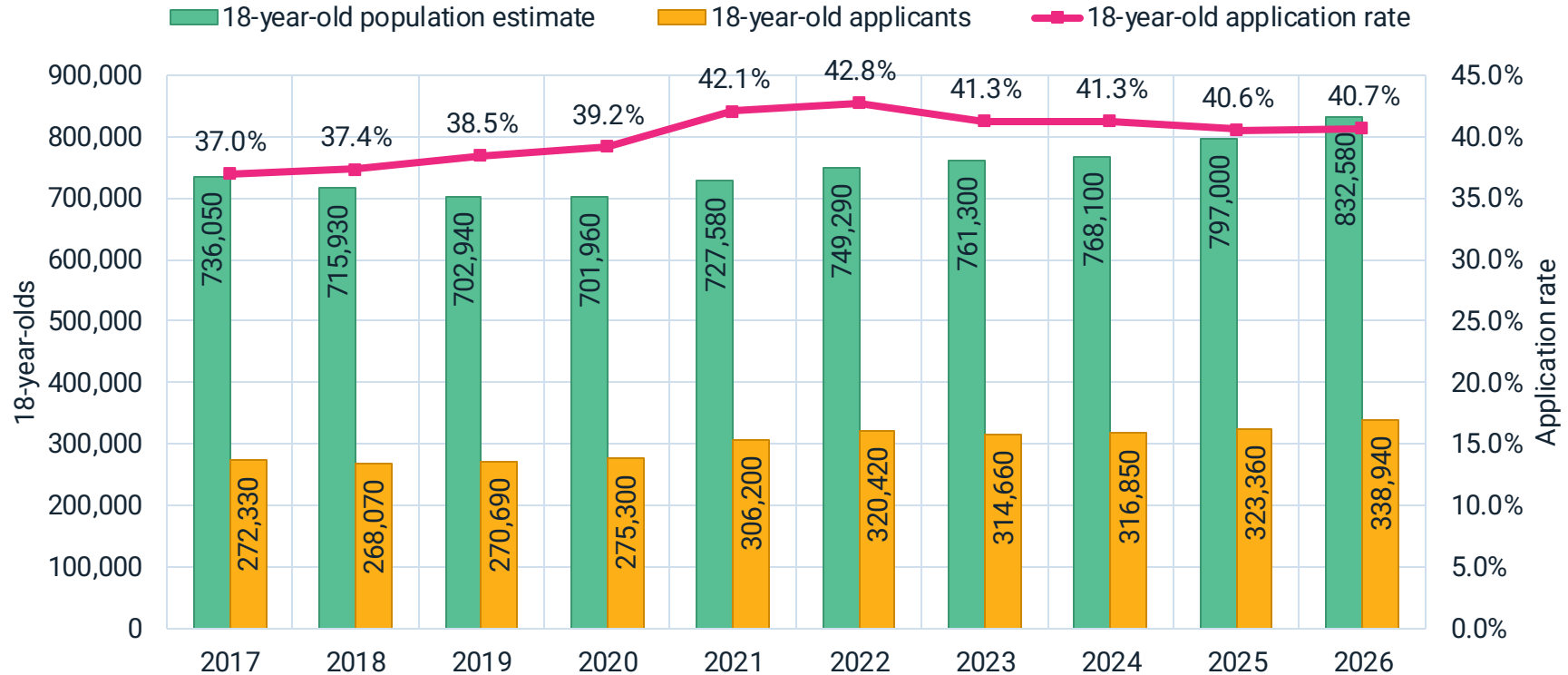
+6,030 vs 2025

-6.1%

## UK 21 AND OVER

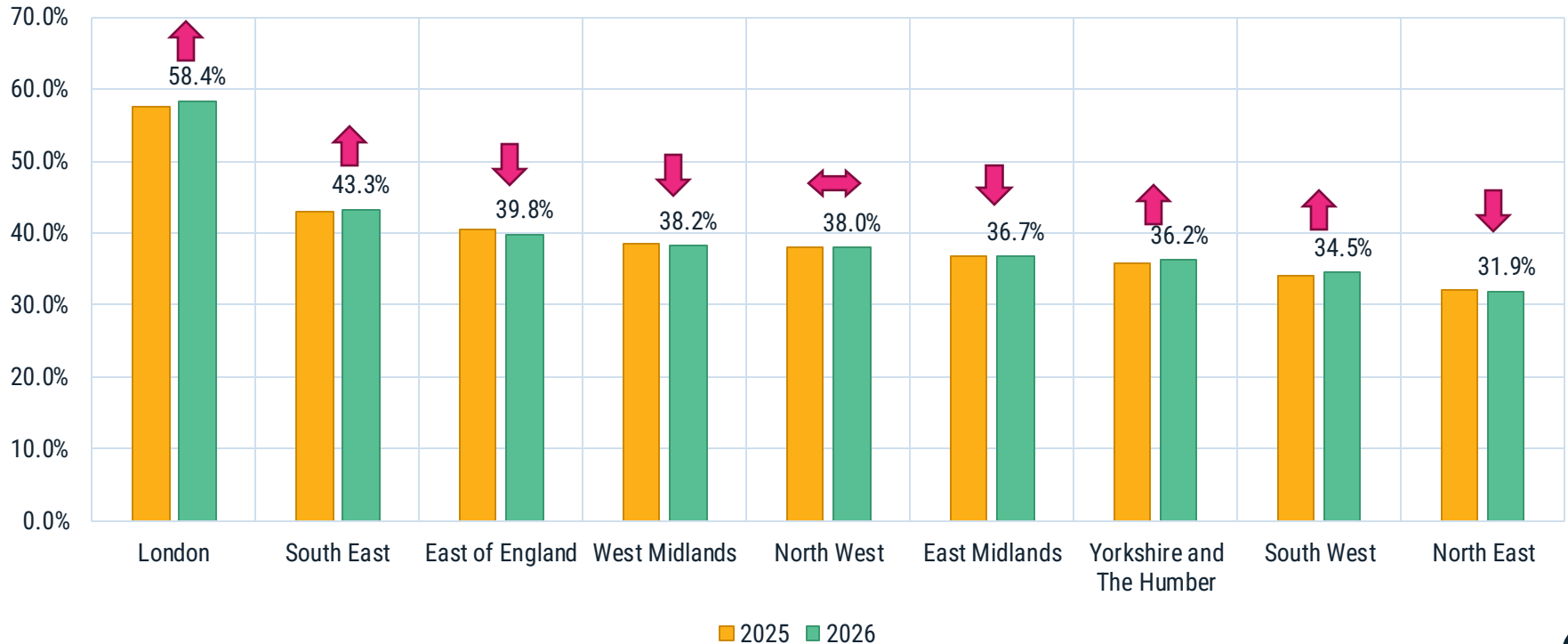
57,570 applicants  
-3,710 vs 2025

# UK 18-YEAR-OLD APPLICATION RATE



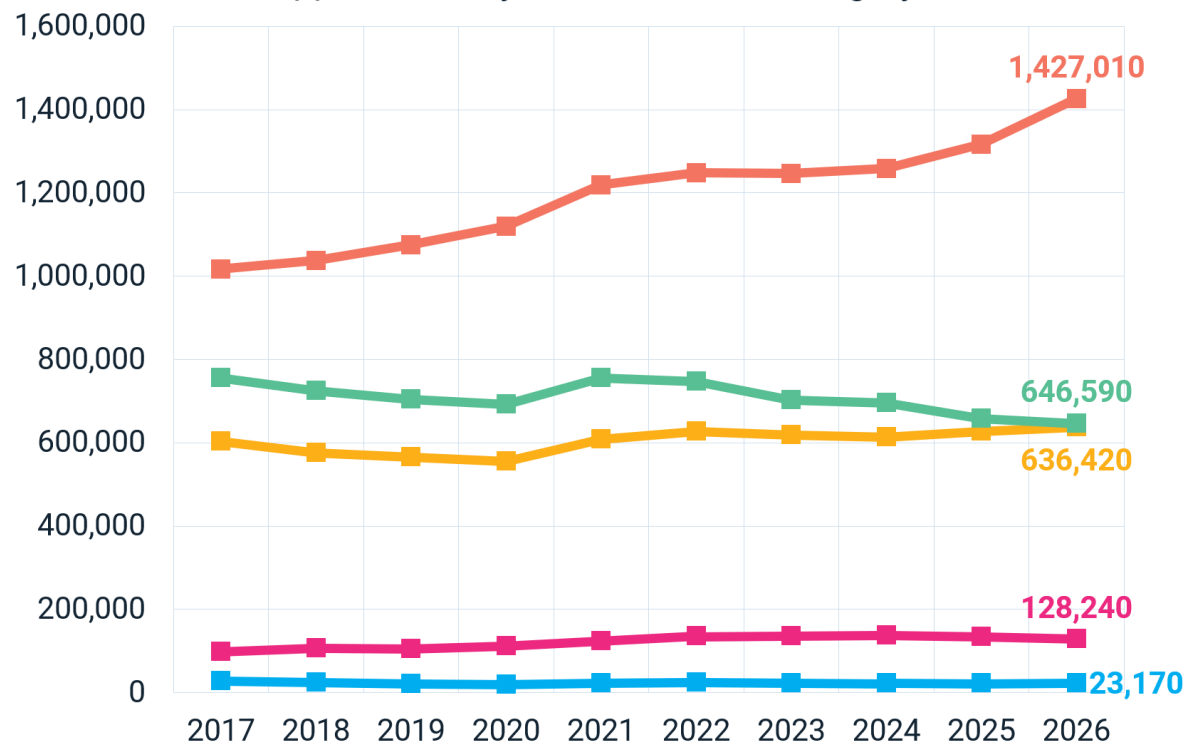
Data source: UCAS Equal Consideration Date 2026

# 18-YEAR-OLD APPLICATION RATES BY ENGLISH REGION



# UCAS PROVIDER CATEGORIES: ALL APPLICANTS

Applications by UCAS Provider Category



+8.3%

Higher tariff

-1.8%

Lower tariff

+1.4%

Medium tariff

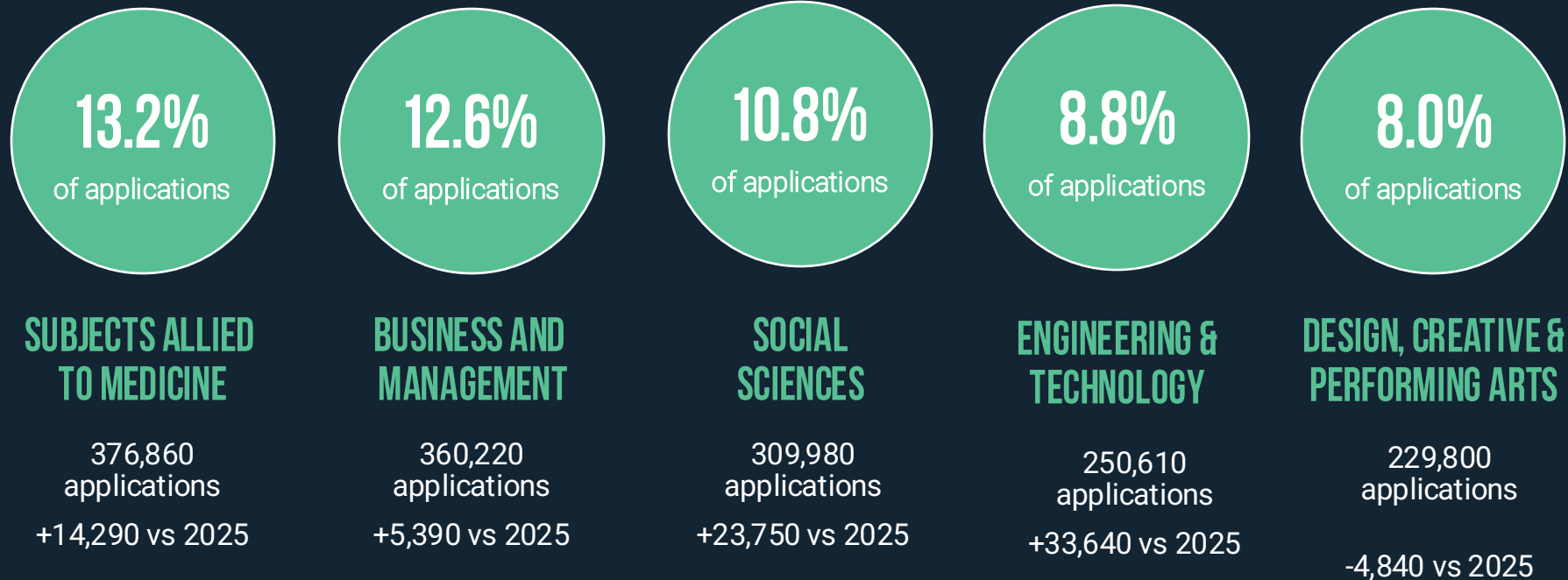
-4.0%

Specialist

+2.7%

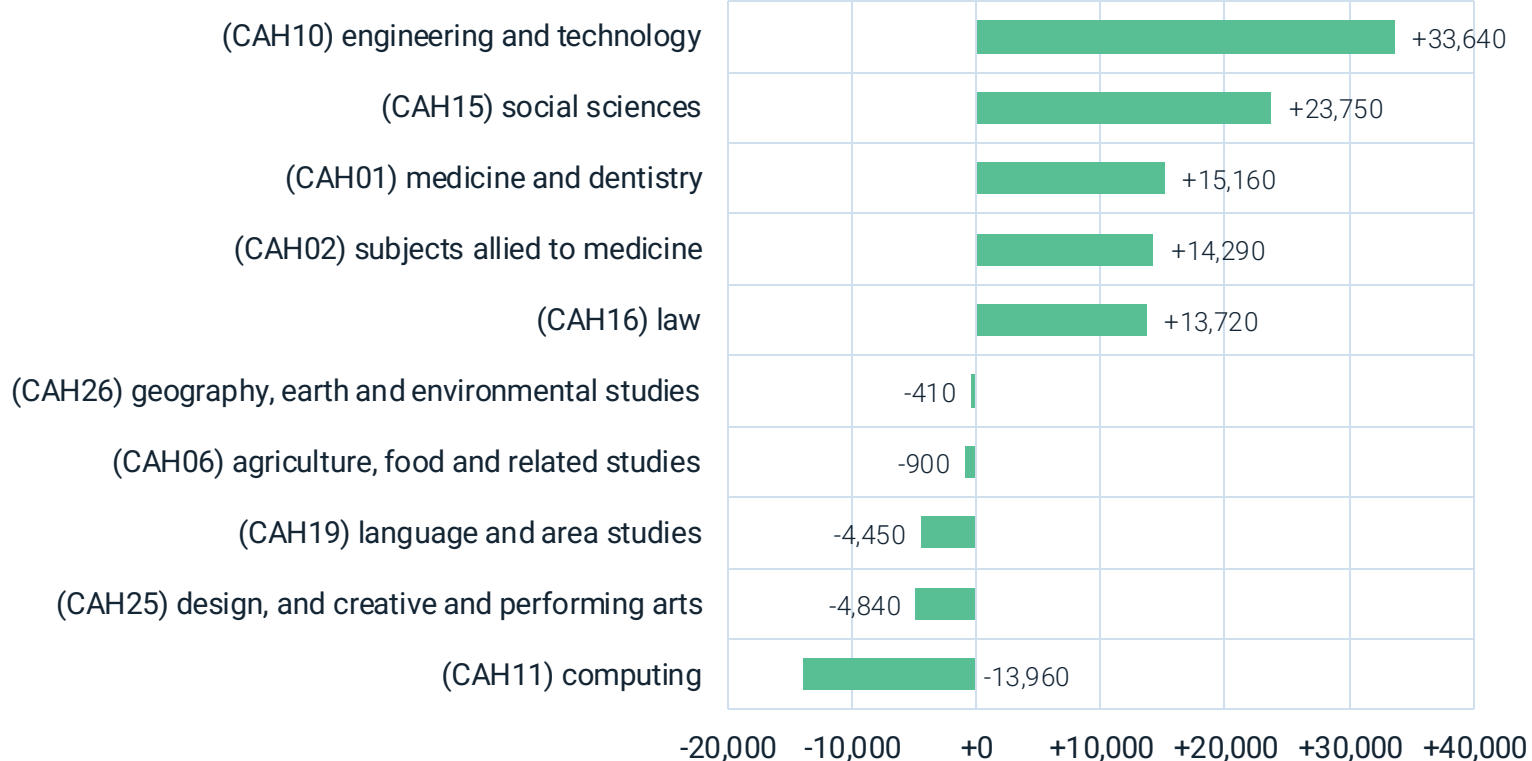
Smaller

# POPULARITY OF SUBJECTS ALLIED TO MEDICINE REMAINS HIGH



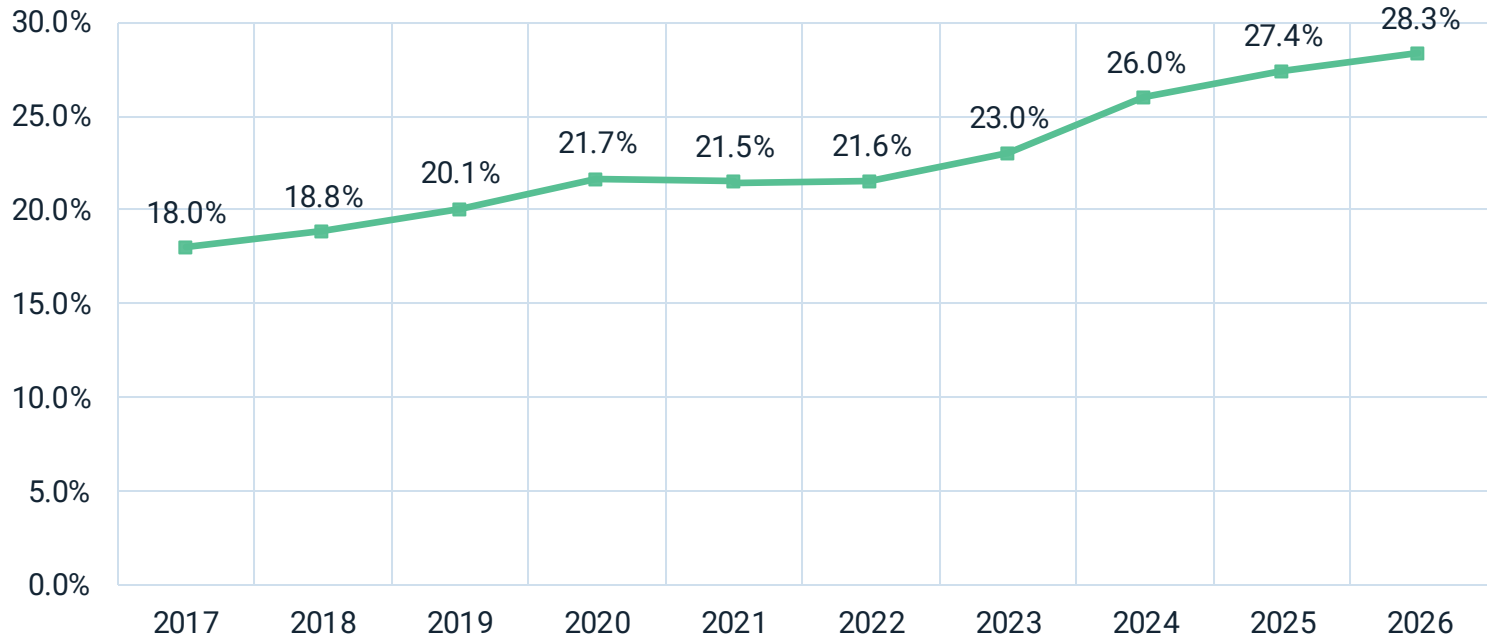
# GROWTH FOR ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY BUT COMPUTING CONTINUES TO FALL

Applications by subject grouping (CAH1) – Biggest changes comparing 2025 to 2026 ECDs



# MORE 18 YEAR OLD APPLICANTS INTENDING TO LIVE AT HOME

Percentage of UK 18-year-old applications where an intention to live at home is declared



+0.9PP

Increase in the rate of declarations to live at home, 2026 vs 2025

# NEW AND IMPROVED

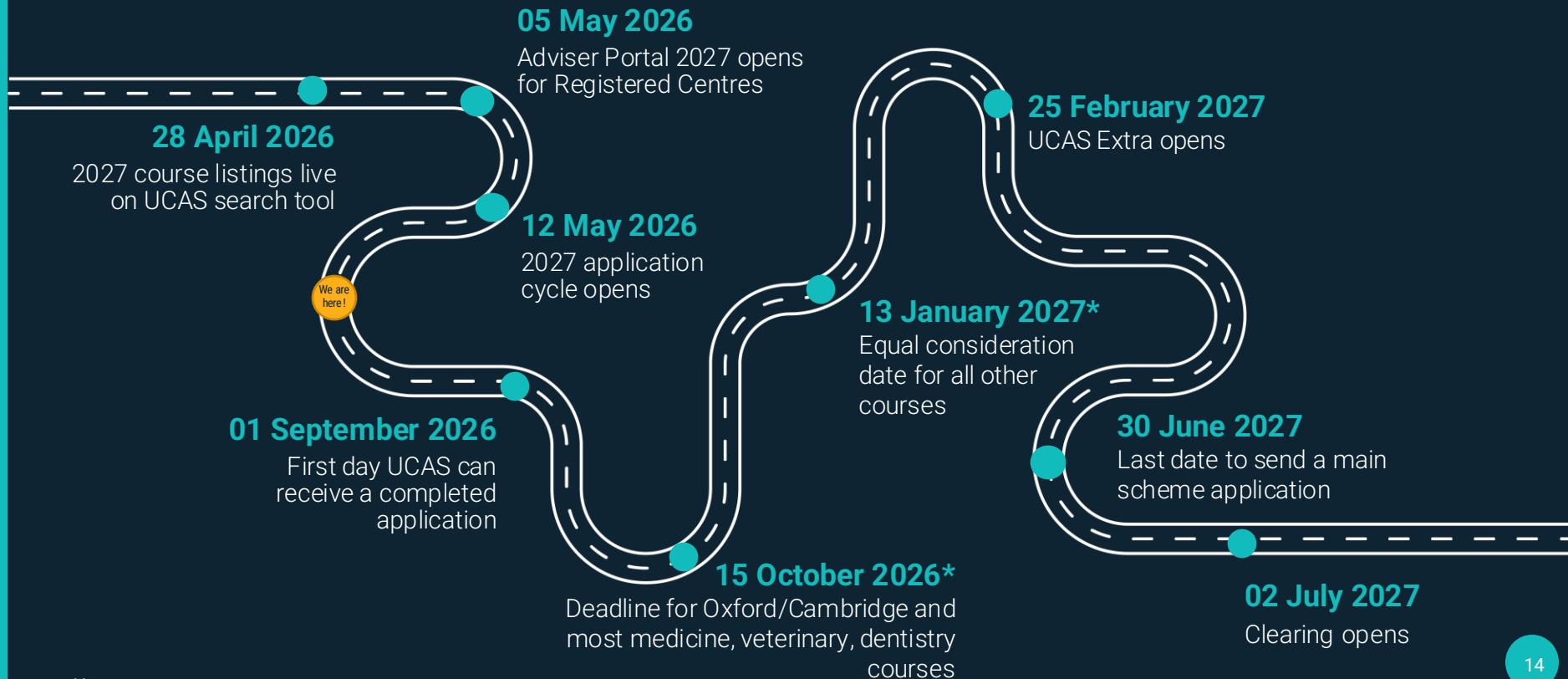


Getting ready for the 2027 cycle

# KEY DATES: 2027 ENTRY

UCAS

\* 18.00 UK time



# DOCUMENT UPLOAD

From 2026 Clearing (direct applicants) and all 2027 applications, students will have the option to upload supporting documents.

Document types include:

- ✓ Change of name
- ✓ Care experience (UK only)
- ✓ Visa and immigration status
- ✓ Passports
- ✓ International qualifications
- ✓ UK qualifications\* (where relevant; those currently in formal education are not expected to upload)


**Optional** Would you like to upload your visa or immigration status?

Documents with security markings such as visas or immigration documents must be uploaded as photos and not scanned.

Only upload documents that are in your own name. Do not submit documents belonging to someone else (e.g. a parent, guardian or spouse).

Adding these documents may assist universities and colleges in evaluating your fee status. If you cannot add documents before you submit, you may be asked to send them directly to the universities and colleges.

[FAQs about uploading your visa and immigration documents](#)

 Upload documents

- Upload is **optional** – the aim is to support efficient, inclusive admissions.
- Applicants must still **complete all required information** on the UCAS application.
- Advisers cannot access documents and are **not required to review** or check them.

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# STRENGTHENING SUPPORT FOR CARE-EXPERIENCED APPLICANTS

**CARE LEAVER WAIVER:** eligible applicants can receive an application fee waiver.

**UPLOAD SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:** care-experienced applicants can share supporting documents with the university via UCAS.

**TOOLKITS, GUIDES AND TRAINING:** for all supporters and levels of experience.

**EARLIER IDENTIFICATION:** a new registration question in the UCAS Hub so we can tailor support.

Public

THE UCAS APPLICATION:

## THE SUPPORTER'S TOOLKIT: CARE-EXPERIENCED APPLICANTS

A step-by-step guide to the UCAS process for anyone helping care-experienced applicants.



## Supporting young people in care with their Personal Education Plans (PEPs)

If you are supporting a young person's Personal Education Plan (PEP), this guide suggests professional actions as they make their career and education choices – from Year 8 through to post-16 study. Content provided by Virtual School Sheffield.

## Supporting care experienced students

Students who have spent time in care are entitled to support to help them access higher education. Here are some practical ways you can support care experienced students research their options and plan their next steps.

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## TRAIN THE TRAINER: SUPPORTING CARE- EXPERIENCED APPLICANTS THROUGH THE UCAS PROCESS



### Have you been in care?

Select yes if you've ever lived in public care or as a looked after child including:

- With foster carers under local authority care
- In a residential children's home
- Being looked after at home under a supervision order
- Living with friends or relatives in lasting care

Note: This does not refer to time spent in boarding schools, working in a care or healthcare settings, or if you are a care leaver. Please be as honest as possible in your answer. We strongly recommend contacting the student support team in advance of making an application.

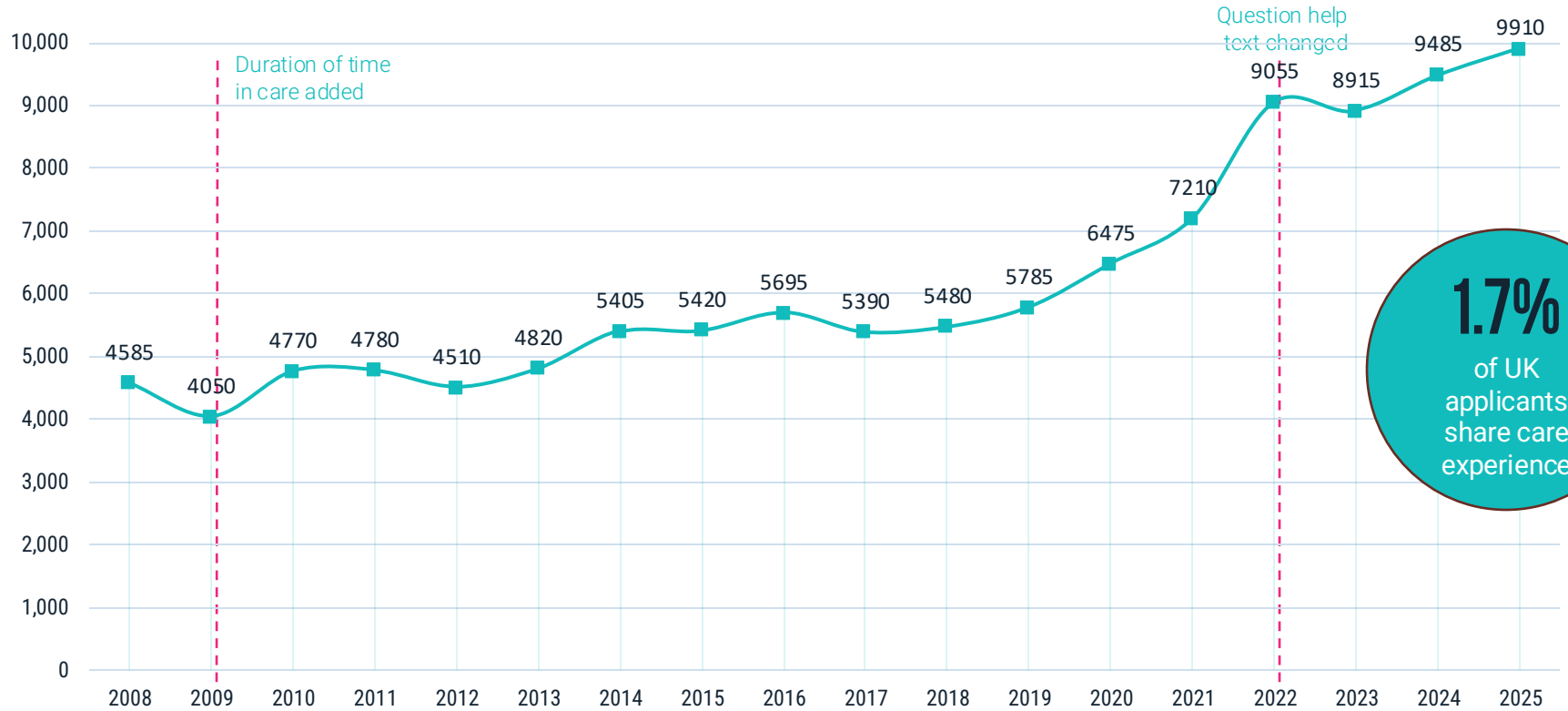
We use this information to help us personalise the support we offer to care experienced students. It will not be used for marketing purposes and will never be shared with third parties.

Have you been in care?

Yes No

Continue

# 116% INCREASE IN UK APPLICANTS SHARING CARE EXPERIENCE SINCE 2008



**1.7%**  
of UK applicants share care experience

# STRENGTHENING SUPPORT FOR SEND STUDENTS

NEW TOOLKITS, GUIDES AND TRAINING  
for all supporters and levels  
of experience.

IMPROVED APPLICATION QUESTION:  
easier to share multiple  
disabilities/conditions.



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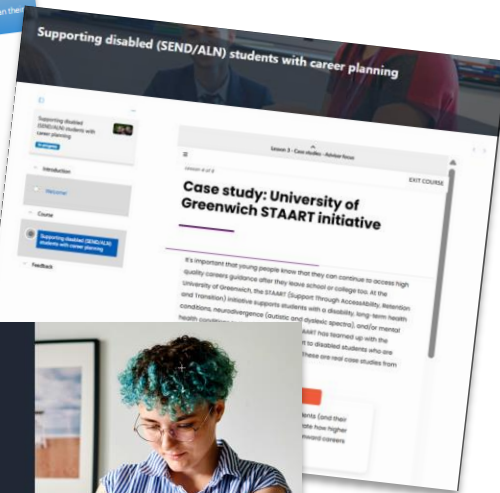
### Disabled students (SEND/ALN)

We've worked with experts, such as the National Association of Disability Practitioners (NADP) to outline some of the ways in which you can help your students make a successful transition.



### Students with mental health conditions

Some students may be hesitant to tell their university, so we've worked with experts (including Student Minds and the University Mental Health Advisers' Network (UMHAN)) to explain the process of declaration to your students, and offer practical ways to help them manage the transition to independence.



## More about you

Tell us about any circumstances you might need support for during your studies. We want to reassure you that this information is confidential and will not negatively impact your application.

Information will be shared with those involved in supporting you – not all universities and colleges offer the same support, so it is a good idea to contact them directly to ask any questions before you apply.

We may also use this information (anonymously) for monitoring purposes to inform and improve support for future students.

Every year, over 60,000 students with a physical and/or mental health condition, long-term illness, or learning difference apply through UCAS to study at a university or college in the UK, and access a range of support available to help with their studies, day-to-day activities, travel, or lifestyle. Would you consider yourself as living with any of the following: \*

I have a learning difference  
(e.g. dyslexia, dyspraxia, or AD/HD)

I have a hearing impairment  
(e.g. deafness or partial hearing)

I have a mental health condition, concern or disorder  
(e.g. anxiety or depression)

I have a physical impairment or challenges with mobility, or dexterity  
(e.g. climbing stairs or uneven surfaces, using a keyboard or laboratory equipment)

I have a long-term illness or health condition  
This may involve pain or cause fatigue, loss of concentration or breathing difficulties – including any effects from taking associated medication.

I have a social, behavioural or communication impairment  
(e.g. an autistic spectrum condition, Tourette's Syndrome, or speech and language difficulties including stammering)

I have a visual impairment uncorrected by glasses  
(e.g. blindness or partial sight)

I have a condition or impairment not listed

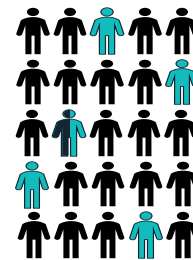
None of these apply to me

I prefer not to say

# ENABLING STUDENTS TO SHARE MORE

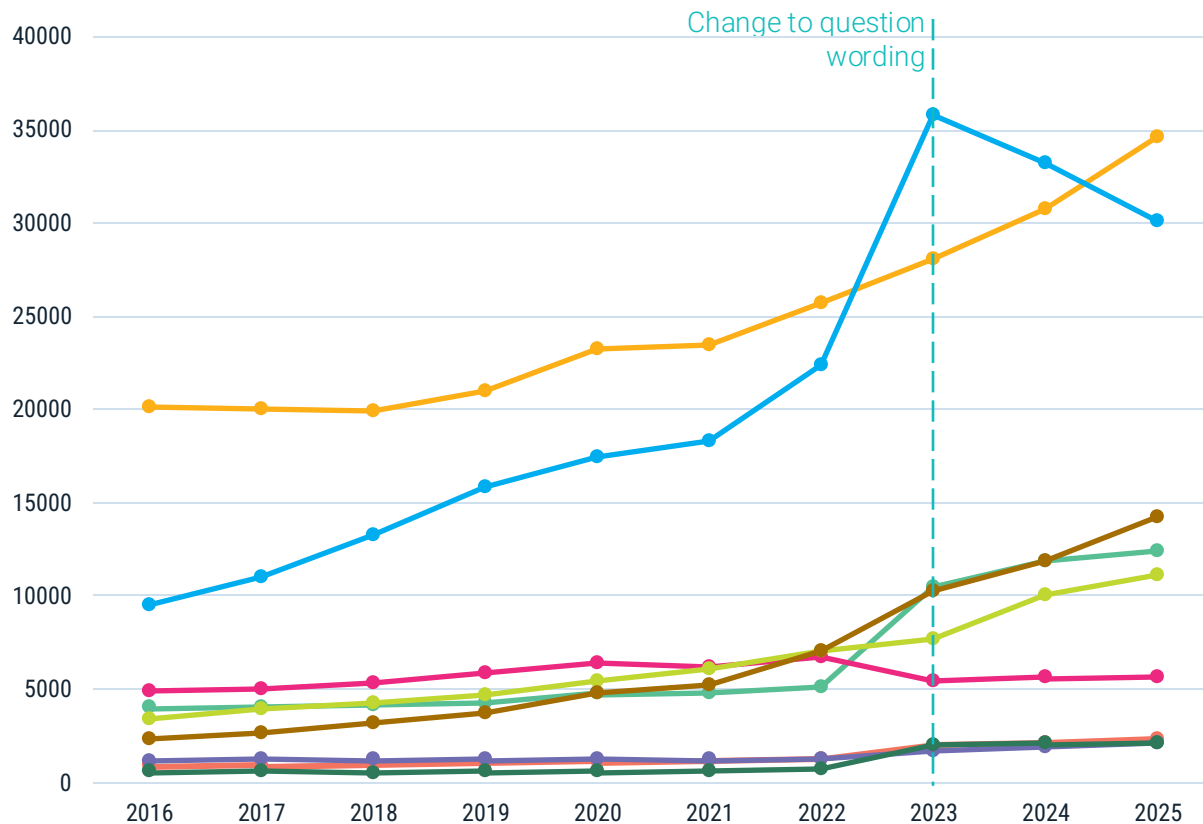
- A refreshed disability question in the 'More about you' section.
- Gives students the ability to share **multiple disabilities** and conditions more clearly, improving support.
- A new **question design** makes sharing simpler.

# 144% INCREASE IN APPLICANTS SHARING A DISABILITY OVER THE LAST DECADE



1 in 4

UK accepted applicants shared a disability in 2025



- Hearing impairment
- Learning difference
- Long-term illness/health condition
- Mental health condition/challenge/disorder
- Other condition/impairment
- Physical impairment/challenges with mobility
- Social/behavioural/communication impairment
- Two or more impairments
- Visual impairment

Data source: UCAS End of Cycle 2025

# SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSARIES SEARCH TOOL

UCAS Discover Applying Money & student life International

## Search

Scholarships, bursaries & grants

Search for items

Not all scholarships, bursaries, and grants are on UCAS.com. Check directly with your chosen university for all available options. [Learn more](#)

Search All | 852 results | Page 1 of 43

All filters Level of study University or College Domicile

**BU Bournemouth University** Apply

### Global Futures Scholarships - North America - Undergraduate

Funding application deadline: 05 Mar 2026

University of Manchester  
£10,000.00

### Rest of UK (RUK) Bursary 2026-27

Funding application deadline: 27 Aug 2026

University of Dundee  
£2,000.00

### Sir Thomas White School

Funding application deadline: 31 Mar 2026

University of Northampton  
£4,500.00

### 1st Formations Business Scholarship

Funding application deadline: 31 Jan 2026

Bristol, UWE  
£500.00

### 2025-26 Business Scholarships

Funding application deadline: None

Hartpury University  
Between £2,000 to £3,500

### 2025-26 Postgraduate Country Scholarship

Funding application deadline: None

Northumbria University  
Up to £5,000

### 2026-27 Alumni Discount

Funding application deadline: None

Northumbria University, Newcastle  
20%

### Access to Sheffield Scholarships

University of Sheffield

#### Scholarship information

The University of Sheffield is offering over 250 Access to Sheffield Scholarships worth £1,000 each year of your course for home fee-paying students starting their studies in September 2026. Recipients of the scholarship will also receive £600 to help with the costs of starting at University.

**Eligibility**

You must meet all of the criteria below to be eligible to apply and receive an award:

- You have a household income of £40,000 or less. This must be assessed by Student Finance England or an equivalent UK funding agency
- You have received an academic offer to study a full-time undergraduate course at the University of Sheffield starting in September 2026
- You are eligible to pay the home rate of fees
- Have successfully completed an Access to Sheffield Programme or University of Sheffield Sutton Trust Summer School before you start your course

or

**Details**

Amount: £1,000 each year of your course and £600 to help with the costs of starting at University

Domicile: UK

Study level: Undergraduate

Awarded by: University of Sheffield

Funding application deadline: 03 Jun 2026

Apply

Funding application deadline: **03 Jun 2026**

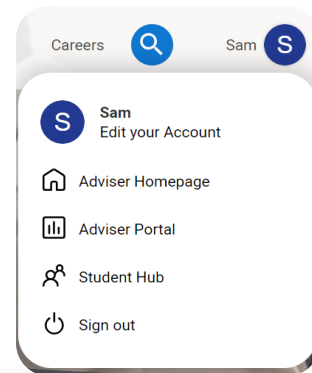
To apply for this scholarship you must submit your application on the scholarship provider's website by this date.

[Link to the scholarships search tool](#)

# STUDENT HUB ACTIVITY IN THE ADVISER PORTAL

## Adviser portal

For registered centres supporting UG applications



### Student Hub activity

View your students' preparatory activity in the Hub

[Go to student Hub activity](#)

### Application Management

View details of your students' progress, application details, and references

[Go to 2026 applicant list](#)

[Go to 2027 applicant list](#)

### Tracking offers and decisions

View details of your students' offers and decisions

[Go to 2026 tracking offers & decisions](#)

[Go to 2027 tracking offers & decisions](#)

### Outreach Connection Service

Search, find and filter for outreach opportunities

[Go to Outreach Connection Service](#)

### Centre management

Here you can view and manage details about your centre(s) including buzzwords and groups

[Go to 2026 centre management](#)

[Go to 2027 centre management](#)

### Data & reporting

Your paid for data and reports

[View reports](#)

### Staff management

Here you can view and manage staff and permissions at your centre(s)

[Go to staff management](#)

## Student stats

Total number of students	460
2026 application year	150
2027 application year	152
2028 application year	158

## Additional study types

Apprenticeships	460
Straight to employment	150
Conservatoires	152
Gap year	158
Study abroad	158

## Subject of interest

Business and management studies	45
Education	38
Computer science	32
Architecture and planning	24
Nursing	22
Philosophy	16
Mathematics and statistics	12
Law and legal studies	9
Social work, childhood, and youth stud...	8
Teaching	8

## Industries of interest

Business and administration	45
Education, teaching, and childcare	38
Digital and IT	32
Construction, architecture, and the bu...	24
Creative and design	22
Care services	16
Engineering and manufacturing	12
Law and legal studies	9
Sales, marketing, and procurement	8
Health and science	8

## Universities of interest

University of Nottingham	45
University of Birmingham	38
Nottingham Trent University	32
The University of Manchester	24
University of Oxford	22
Arts University Bournemouth	16
Imperial College London	12
University of the Arts London	9
University of East Anglia	8
University of the West of England	8

## Unibuddy chats

Students using Unibuddy1  
Chats in progress1



## Subject spotlights

Students exploring courses0  
Total subject spotlights0



## Virtual work experiences

Students exploring experiences0  
Total experiences0



First name	Last name	Applying	Unibuddy chats	Subject spotlights		Virtual work experiences		Events		Last sign in
				In progress	Complete	In progress	Complete	Booked	Attended	
Hannah	Abbott	2027	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16/05/2026
Becca	Jones	2027	1	1	2	1	0	1	0	30/04/2023
Maximilian	Campbell-Howard	2026	3	0	1	0	1	2	1	30/04/2023

< Back to student activity

### Additional information

#### Email addresses

student.name@school.ac.uk

12 [+ recommend <name>](#) adds a personal email address to their account.

#### Student is considering:

- Studying outside the UK
- A gap year

#### Student would like further information on:

- Apprenticeships

### Initial subjects

Subjects of interest chosen by the student during registration for their UCAS account.

- Fine art
- Graphic design
- Architecture, building, and planning

### Initial providers

Providers of interest chosen by the student during registration for their UCAS account.

- University of Exeter
- Nottingham Trent University
- Northumbria University

### Events

Booked events will display here along with confirmation of their attendance.

- 6**

OCT 2025

**Create Your Future London 2025: The Creative Career Showcase**

Attended
- 23**

MAR 2026


**UCAS Discovery York 2026**

Ticket booked

### Springpod Subject Spotlights

These short tasters allow students to gain insight into what it's like to study courses at universities and colleges.

In progress 0  Complete 1



**Fashion with Charlotte Goldthorpe**

with Dr Charlotte Goldthorpe from University of Huddersfield

Date started: 11/09/2025

Last activity: 11/01/2026

**100%**

### Springpod Virtual Work Experiences

These virtual experiences let students find out what it's like to work in a range of careers and for a range of employers.

#### Experiences started

0

### Unibuddy



Understand which universities and colleges this student is considering, how many chats they're involved in, and what subject areas they are interested in.


Number of chats 2


Last activity 01/04/2026


University or college / Subject	Sent	Received	Last message
<b>University of Glasgow</b>			
Sociology, Social Policy and Anthropology	4	6	01/04/2026
<b>University of Essex</b>			
Sociology, Social Policy and Anthropology	10	9	31/03/2026


# DISPLAYING INTERNAL DEADLINES IN THE HUB


Careers  Sam 

 Sam  
Edit your Account

 Adviser Homepage

 Adviser Portal

 Student Hub

 Sign out

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[Centre and reference details](#)[Contacts](#)[Centre linking \(buzzword\)](#)[Qualification shortlist](#)[Groups](#)[Application fee payment methods](#)[Referee contact details](#)[Reference template](#)[Internal deadlines](#)

## Setting your internal deadlines

UCAS has two dates by which applications should be submitted, depending on the type of course and the university or college the student is applying to. Here you have the option to set your own internal deadlines for students to submit their applications to you for checking and adding references and predicted grades, before you send them on to UCAS.

- You do not have to set both deadlines.
  - If both deadlines are set, your October deadline date will be displayed to all of your applicants in the Hub until the UCAS October deadline has passed.
  - Once the UCAS October deadline has passed, your January deadline will be displayed to all of your applicants, if you have set one.
  - If you only set a January deadline, this will be visible to all of your applicants from the moment you save it.
  - The internal deadline(s) you do set will be visible to all applicants linked to you via the buzzword, regardless of their course choice/university/college.
- Applicants will see your internal deadline alongside the relevant UCAS deadline when they sign into the Hub.
- You can update your deadlines at any time.

### Your October deadline

Students applying to Cambridge or Oxford, or applying to medicine, dentistry, or veterinary medicine/science should submit their applications to you by this deadline.

**24 September 2026**

### Your January deadline

All students applying to most undergraduate courses should submit their applications to you by this deadline.

**24 November 2026**

## 2027 VIEW: OCTOBER

## 2027 UCAS Application

Personal ID number 00000000

[Go to application](#)

## Your application is in progress

You have completed 70% of your application. You need to complete all sections of your application before you can submit it.

70%

Submit to your School/College/Centre by **24 September 2026**

To meet the UCAS October deadline on **15 October 2026**

The October date is for those applying to Oxford, Cambridge, medicine, dentistry, and veterinary medicine/sciences courses.

## What happens next?

You will need to complete all the sections of your application and add choices to your application before you can submit it.

## 2027 VIEW: JANUARY

## 2027 UCAS Application

Personal ID number 00000000

[Go to application](#)

## Your application is in progress

You have completed 70% of your application. You need to complete all sections of your application before you can submit it.

70%

Submit to your School/College/Centre by **24 November 2026**

To meet the UCAS January Equal Consideration Date on **13 January 2027**

## What happens next?

You will need to complete all the sections of your application and add choices to your application before you can submit it.

# REFLECTIONS ON 2025



What we're hearing about recent changes

# PERSONAL STATEMENT REFLECTIONS

1

Currently gathering feedback across sector – we welcome your reflections

2

Still too early for universities and colleges to comment

3

Advice and guidance will be refined if needed

# DECLINE MY PLACE

5.8%

Of all applicants used DMP (43,810) +1.4% since 2024

59.5%

Of DMP users were placed by end of cycle (26,085) +2.9% since 2024

33.8%

Of applicants placed through Clearing used DMP(+33.3% since 2024)

## MOTIVATIONS

85% of those who used DMP had already chosen an **alternative course**.

The most common reason for using DMP was “I changed my mind about the **subject** I wanted to study”.

Other common reasons for using DMP are:

- **Course preference**
- **Location**
- **Provider reputation**

# RESOURCES AND TRAINING



Support for advisers

## Top 5 resources for you:

1. [Newsletters](#)
2. [Annual Adviser guide](#)
3. [Adviser Toolkits](#)
4. [The UCAS Hub guide](#)
5. [Adviser webinars](#)

# ADVISER GUIDE 2027

FOR ENTRY TO UNIVERSITY OR COLLEGE IN 2027

An operational guide for all teachers, advisers, and agents who help undergraduate students apply to study in the UK, as a UCAS registered centre.

# ADVISER FUNDAMENTALS

For new Registered Centres and teachers/advisers new to UCAS.

A practical training day designed to give you the skills, support and clarity required to support your students in each UCAS cycle.

Join us at our UCAS Headquarters or on the road throughout the U.K.

[Register here](#)



# YOUR HUB JOURNEY



UCAS

UCAS

1

## GET STARTED: REGISTER ON THE HUB



2

## BUILD YOUR PROFILE

Explore your favourite subjects, universities, employers, courses, apprenticeships, and more. Create a list of all your options.

3

## TAKE THE CAREERS QUIZ

What would you like to do? Find careers that match your personality, interests, and skills.



4

## TRY SUBJECT TASTERS

Grab the popcorn and hear real lecturers covering topics you would actually study. Try before you apply. You even get a certificate at the end!



5

## EXPLORE THE WORLD OF WORK

Get work experience with top employers like Airbus, the Met Office, and Amazon Future Engineer. Perfect for CVs, applications, and personal statements.



9

## CHAT TO CURRENT STUDENTS

Get messaging! Ask questions, get advice, and see if the university, subject, and location are a good fit for you.



10

## ATTEND A LOCAL UCAS DISCOVERY EVENT

Chat with people from different universities and companies. Open your eyes to new options and grab some giveaways.

11

## KNOW YOUR FINANCE OPTIONS

Learn about potential study costs and funding options, including student loans and scholarships.

12

## BOOK AN OPEN DAY

Get ready for a great day out! You'll get to see the facilities on campus, speak to current staff and students, and explore the local area.



13

## MAKE A SHORTLIST

Shortlist your favourite options: university courses, apprenticeship pathways, and further education. Use the Historical Entry Grades Tool to understand the grade profiles previously accepted by universities.

14

## STILL DECIDING?

See if a gap year or internship is the best choice for you.



15

## START YOUR APPLICATION

Clear on your next step? Then it's time to start applying!

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



Illustration designed by Shreyas on Pexels.com

# THANK YOU!



UCAS' Adviser  
Help Team

0345 123 8001

[adviserhelp@ucas.ac.uk](mailto:adviserhelp@ucas.ac.uk)

Adviser Experience  
and Training Team

[training@ucas.ac.uk](mailto:training@ucas.ac.uk)

CONNECT WITH US



[UCAS for Advisers group](#)

PLEASE SHARE YOUR  
**FEEDBACK ON**  
TODAY'S SESSION

(It's how we learn to support you better!)



**Nicola Turner**

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