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UCAS, Apprenticeships and Student Finance

The benefits of a degree

- Improve your employment prospects
- Improve your earning potential
- Experience!

According to the Government, how much more do graduates earn a year compared to non-graduates?

they don't earn more	£2,000	£5,300	£8,400	£10,500	£11,200
✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗

87.7%

87.7% of graduates in employment

69.7%

69.7% of non-graduates in employment

3x

3x more likely to have a high skilled job

£10500

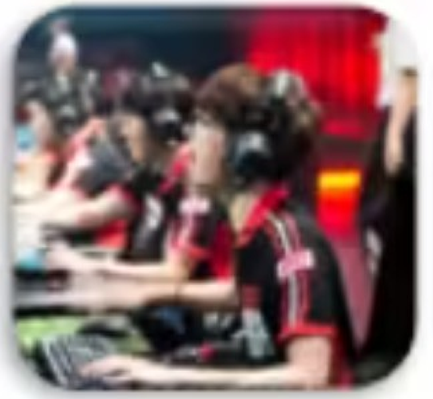
Earn on average £10500 more per year

Graduate Labour Market Statistics

Course and University Choice

Esports Management

Sports Management



Baking Science and Technology

Aerospace Engineering

UCAS

Music Production

Professional Golf Studies

Marine Biology

What would you be studying if you were doing a BSc in Viticulture and Oenology?

Animal behaviour	Grape-growing and wine-making	Cruise Management	Baking science and technology	Viking and Old Norse studies	Stem cell engineering
✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗

Work Placement

- Gain valuable industry experience
- Explore possibilities and make valuable contacts
- Offered all over the country
- We will come and check on you :)
- Our Careers and Employment team can help you find available placements
- Get paid!

Study Abroad

- Over 170 partner institutions
- Covering over 40 different countries
- YOU get to choose where you go
- Where you can choose from is different for each subject
- Study your subject at the partner institution for a semester or a year
- After completion, you will return to us for the final year of your degree

Entry requirements

- Grades for university courses will vary with each institution
- Entry requirements may be stated as grades or UCAS Points
- Some courses will require prior study of certain subjects
- **Be realistic!** 1 or 2 aspirational OK, but have some solid/safe!
- Admissions tests - LNAT, BMAT, UCAT
- GCSE requirements

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Tariff Points	GCE AS	GCE A Level	BTEC (QCF) Subsidiary Diploma	BTEC (QCF) Certificate	OCR Cambridge Technical	Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)
56		A*	D*		D*	
48		A	D		D	
40		B				
32		C	M		M	
28				D*		A*
24		D		D		A
20	A					B
16	B	E	P	M	P	C
12	C					D
10	D					
8				P		E
6	E					

UCAS Points

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Making the right university choice

League tables and rankings

- Compare universities and the courses they offer
- Provide information on a range of areas, such as student satisfaction scores, graduate prospects and student to staff ratios
- Different league tables use different pieces of information to come up with an overall ranking
- The Guardian: University League Tables
- THE (Times Higher Education): World University Rankings
- The Complete University Guide: University League Tables
- The Daily Mail University Ranking

Russel Group Universities

- The Russell Group is a self-selected group of universities with a shared focus on research
- Russel group universities are often found higher in the league tables
- Russel group institutions tend to have higher entry tariff requirements

Which of these universities is a member of the Russell Group?

Bath	Lancaster	Loughborough	Newcastle	St Andrews
✗	✗	✗	✓	✗

University Alliance

- University Alliance institutions are professional and technical universities
- Work in collaboration with their communities
- They partner with industry and businesses to develop quality graduates
- Practical, skills-based learning and applied research
- Graduates from UA institutions are highly sought after for their skillsets
- https://www.unialliance.ac.uk/

Support and Wellbeing

- Careers and Employment
- Academic Support
- Accommodation Support
- Health and Wellbeing
- Support for Care Leavers
- Support for Disabled Students
- Chaplaincy/ multi-faith spaces

Open days/Offer days

- Visit more than one university
- Plan ahead
- Make a list of questions to ask
- Talk to current students
- Maximise your time
- Ask yourself 'Would I be happy studying here?'
- Ask about additional opportunities!
- https://www.opendays.com/

Applications

Choices and deadlines for UCAS (2026 entry)

- 5 universities/course
- Deadline for equal consideration - January 14th
- Medicine/Vet/Dentistry - 4 choice + something different
- Can apply Oxford OR Cambridge
- Deadline October 15th
- **Chiltern Hills deadlines - 30th September Early Applicants, 30th November everyone else**

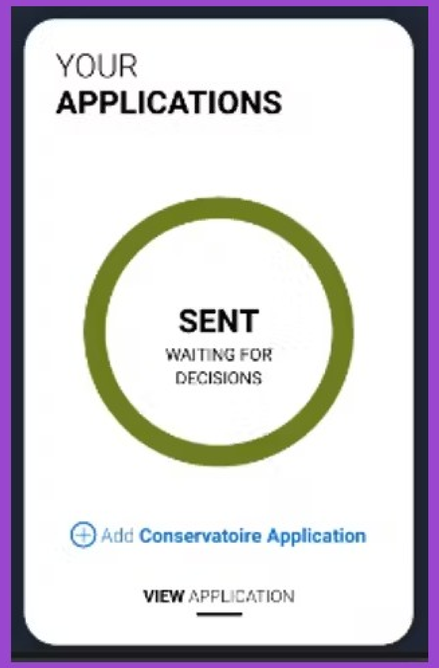
What goes on a UCAS application?

- Personal Information
- Academic History
- Personal Statement
- Reference from a Teacher
- Course choices

Sending your application

- Pay and send - £28.50
- Applicaiton will come to school (buzzword links it!)
- School will add reference and predicted grades and sned to UCAS

What happens next?



- Tracking number from UCAS
- Invitation to interview
- Decisions sent by universities
- Conditional offer
- Unconditional offer
- Unsuccessful application
- Applicant days
- Choose your Firm and Insurance

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Personal Statements and how to stand out

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What is a Personal Statement?

- 4000 characters (in three sections) about YOU
- A way to tell admissions tutors why they should want you on their course
- A way to hopefully secure an interview/offer

How many personal statements can be submitted as part of an application?

Three 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?

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Law and Criminology

Media and Journalism

Music Composition, Technology and Production

Physics, Astrophysics and Mathematics

Politics, Economics and Sociology

Psychology

1. Watch our Psychology Taster lectures. What did you learn? How will it benefit y course you are applying for?
2. The Zooniverse is the world's largest and most popular platform for people-pow possible by volunteers like you — more than a million people around the world w researchers. Their goal is to enable research that would not be possible, or prac
3. The British Psychological Society is the representative body for psychology anc responsible for the promotion of excellence and ethical practice in the science,

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Extra experience

Books, Periodicals, Podcasts, Films, Documentaries, Museums, Art Galleries, Lectures, Virtual talks.
https://www.herts.ac.uk/about-us/supporting-our-students/education-liaison-and-outreach/getting-ready-for-university/gaining-experience-for-your-Personal-Statement

Unifrog

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Keep a log

In a year's time, you need to remember the things you've read/listened to that fuelled your interest.

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Tips for presentation

- Organise your thoughts
- Check your spelling, grammar and punctuation
- Be cautious when using humour
- Use your own vocabulary
- Avoid repetition
- Don’t copy

" I partake daily of global occurrence dissemination" This sentence was in a Personal Statement - what do you think this applicant was applying for?

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Grace is 25. Her student debt: £69,000

The Guardian

What is the maximum a university can charge per year for tuition fees?

£3470	£5765	£7920	£9535	£11360
✗	✗	✗	✓	✗

What will it cost?

Tuition Fees

- £9,535 per year. Covers all essential course costs

Maintenance costs

- Accommodation
- Study materials
- Food and drink
- Entertainment

Tuition Fee Loan

- Covers the fee charged by a university to study with them
- Paid directly to the university
- Amount received does not depend on household income

Maintenance Loan

- Help to cover living costs and other expenses
- Most students are eligible for some level of maintenance support
- Paid directly into your bank account at the start of each term (3 instalments)
- The amount a student receives is based on two factors (covered in the next slides)

Eligibility criteria

- You're a UK national or Irish citizen or have 'settled status' (no restrictions on how long you can stay)
- Settled or pre-settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme
- You normally live in England
- You've been living legally in the UK for 3 continuous years before the first day of your course
- *To check eligibility, please visit https://www.gov.uk/student-finance/who-qualifies

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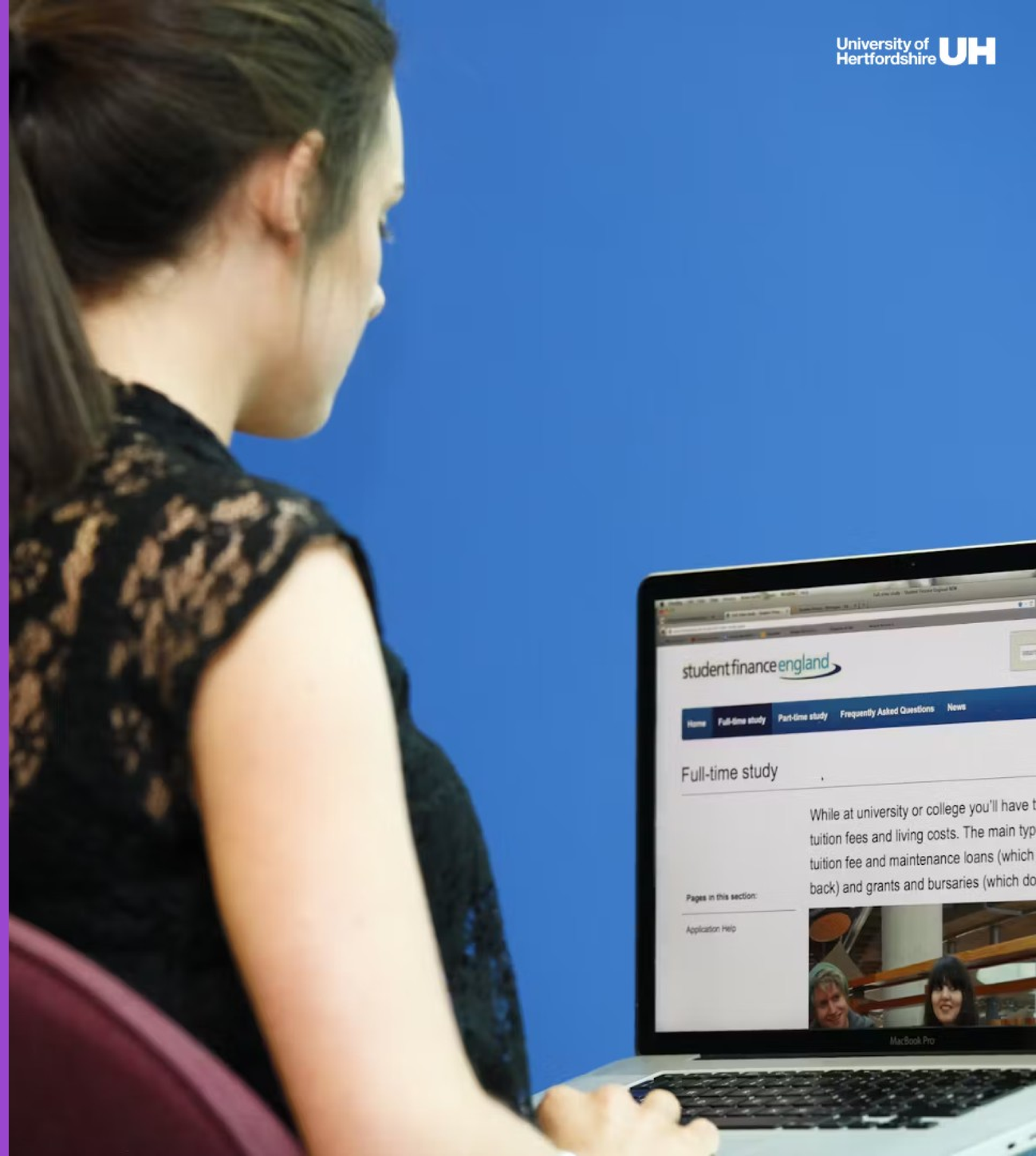
Household Income	Home	Elsewhere	London (£70,040)
£25,000 & under	£8,610	£10,227	£13,348
£30,000	£7,887	£9,497	£12,606
£35,000	£7,163	£8,766	£11,863
£40,000	£6,440	£8,035	£11,120
£45,000	£5,716	£7,304	£10,377
£50,000	£4,993	£6,573	£9,634
£55,000	£4,269	£5,842	£8,891
£60,000	**£3,790**	£5,111	£8,148
£65,000	£3,790	**£4,767**	£7,405
£70,040 & over	£3,790	£4,767	**£6,647**

(Student Finance England 204/25 - rising by 3.1% for 25/26)

How to apply

- Apply online at https://www.gov.uk/student-finance
- You will need your Passport, National Insurance Number, Bank Details & Course Start / End Date
- If applying for the maintenance loan, your parents/ guardians will be contacted for their NI Number and income details
- It can take up to 6 weeks to process an application
- Typically, for courses starting in Sept students can apply from March
- You can apply BEFORE you have a confirmed place
- New application EACH YEAR OF study



Repayments

Plan 5:

- Repayments start when you earn over £25,000
- Repayments are based on how much you earn, not what you owe - 9% of earnings above £25,000
- Your "debt" is written off after 40 years from leaving uni
- You don't start paying until the April after you leave University
- Interest is added at RPI

If a graduate is earning £30,000 a year, how much will the monthly repayments be roughly?

£22	£38	£59	£120	£225
✗	✓	✗	✗	✗

How will you pay?

- Employee - straight out of wages. Like tax.
- Self-employed - calculated with tax return, pay when you pay your tax.
- You can pay off early with no penalties (but not necessarily worth it - estimated 50% never pay off whole loan)

How can students increase their income?

- Parent/ Guardian contribution
- Full-time job during the holidays
- Part-time job alongside studies
- Bursaries
- Scholarships
- Grants
- Financial assistance/ hardship funds
- Additional state funded support

Bursaries, Scholarships, Grants

Money you DON'T have to pay back. Research your area, your university - see what's available!

https://www.herts.ac.uk/study/fees-and-funding/financial-support/scholarships-grants-bursaries

https://www.blackbullion.com/funding-for-university-students

https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/student-advice/finance/university-bursaries-and-scholarships

https://grants-search.turn2us.org.uk/

University of Hertfordshire Independent (Estranged) Student Bursary +

University of Hertfordshire Sport Scholarship Scheme +

University of Hertfordshire Undergraduate Bursary +

University of Hertfordshire Care Leaver Bursary +

University of Hertfordshire Young Adult Carer Bursary +

Business

Grace Foods Scholarship +

Education

Pendleton Scholarship +

Physics, Mathematics, Engineering and Computer Science

Dannenberg Scholarship (BEng) +

Kurt Dannenberg Bursary +

Professor Peter Lines Scholarship +

Sir Gerard Newman Scholarship +

Gittins Family Bursaries +

Santander STEM scholarships +

Falko Aerospace Scholarship +

Health and Social Work

NHS Learning Support Fund +

The Joan Trower Midwifery Scholarship +

Gittins Family Bursaries +

The Janice Ann McNaughton Bursary +

Humanities

Undergraduate History Assistance Fund +

Law

In addition to this collection of scholarships, Hertfordshire Law School has a large number of prizes and awards available for students. Some of these recognise academic achievement, others recognise improvement or the contribution individual students make to

Additional state funded support is available

- Healthcare students (NHS Learning Support Fund)
- Care Leavers (paid by local authority)
- Child Care grants (up to 85% of childcare costs)
- Parental learning allowance
- Adult dependence allowance
- Disabled Students Allowance (DSA)
- Further details can be found at www.gov.uk/student-finance

Disabled Student's Allowance (DSA)

Available to anyone with:

- a physical disability
- long-standing medical condition/ illness
- sensory impairment
- social/ communication impairment
- specific learning difficulty
- mental health condition

Confusion over what is meant by disability, and poor awareness of a widely available fund means many eligible students miss out on financial support at university

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Average cost of living at University

Save the Student, National Student Money Survey 2024 = £1,104 each month

Average cost of accommodation per month = £550

Micky's total loan is £28,000. He earns £75K. Goofy's total loan is £64,000, he earns £32K. Who pays back more each month?

Micky	Goofy	They both pay the same
✓	✗	✗

Apprenticeships

The levels of Apprenticeships

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

Life as a Degree Apprentice

- Earn a salary
- Holiday & sick pay
- Real responsibilities
- Average 30 - 37 hours a week
- 6 hours a week will be ‘off the job’ training
- https://www.ucas.com/apprenticeships/degree-apprenticeships

How much will I get paid?

	21 AND OVER	18 - 20	19 and over, first year	**Under 18**
From April 2025	£12.21	£10.00	£7.55	£7.55
From April 2024	£11.44	£8.60	£6.40	£6.40

Apprentices are entitled to the apprentice rate if they're either:

- Aged under 19
- Aged 19 or over and in the first year of their apprenticeship

Apprentices are entitled to the minimum wage for their age if:

- Aged 19 and over
- Have completed the first year of their apprenticeship

Examples (live January 2025)

- Data Analytics (L6), Vodaphone Ltd - £27,000
- Fire Engineer (L6), WSP UK Ltd - £23,000
- Police Constable (L6), MET Police - £38,269
- Laboratory Scientist (L6), Astrazenca UK - £21,500
- Solicitor (L7), Holman Fenwick Willan LLP - £27,500
- Residential Child & Young People Support Worker, (L4) Abbey Green - £29,640
- Cyber Security (L6), Science and Tech Facilities Council - £23,186
- Counter Fraud Investigator (L4), DVSA - £29,525
- Civil Engineer (L6), AtkinsRealis - £26,208
- Maths Teacher (L6), Staffordshire University Academies Trust - £21,731

Fire safety engineer (L6)	Youth justice practitioner (L5)	Sports coach (L4)
Embalmer (L5)	Publishing professional (L4)	Game programmer (L7)
Soil scientist (L7)	Teacher for sensory impaired (L7)	Dispensing optician (L6)
Photographer (L4)	Community nurse practitioner (L7)	Animal care and welfare manager (L3)
Professional security operative (L2)	Hair, wigs. make-up and prosthetics technician (L3)	Assistant farm manager (L4)
Robotics engineer (L6	Playworker (L2)	Forest craftsperson (L3)
Youth worker (L6)	Outdoor learning specialist (L5)	Doctor (L7)

Apprenticeship Framework Examples

Applying - Degree Apprenticeships

- Degree Apprenticeship places are handled by the employer NOT the university
- You are applying for a job
- The deadlines for applications are set by the employer
- They open and close throughout the year
- Application, assessment centre, online testing, interview....

GOV.UK

University of

Home > Education and learning > Apprenticeships, 14 to 19 education and training for work

Find an apprenticeship

Find and apply for apprenticeships in England.

Start now >

Before you start

You must create an account for this new service even if you have an account for the original service - use the original service to view your previous applications.

You can use the same account to find a traineeship.

> The application process is different in Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales.

Contact

National Apprenticeship Helpdesk
nationalhelpdesk@findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk
Telephone: 0800 015 0400

Find out how this service is performing.

How to find a Degree Apprenticeship

- https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship
- https://www.ratemyapprenticeship.co.uk/
- https://careerfinder.ucas.com/jobs/degree/
- https://www.notgoingtouni.co.uk/opportunities/apprenticeships
- https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/
- Company websites
- School website - https://www.chilternhillsacademy.co.uk/apprenticeships

Top Tips for finding a Degree Apprenticeship

- Stay connected - follow companies on social media
- Go to job fairs
- Look at University websites to see the companies they have partnerships with
- Network
- Set up job alerts
- **Make your application stand out**

You can apply for both degree apprenticeships and full-time university courses at the same time.

True

False

Leaderboard

No results yet

Top Quiz participants will be displayed here once there are results!

Thank you! Any questions?
https://gck.fm/sqwae

0 questions
0 upvotes