

Supporting your young person with UCAS

Georgie Linton-Smart
Senior Student Recruitment Officer



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years

We advance
We activate
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UCAS Apply

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UCAS APPLICATION

2024 Undergraduate application

Your Personal ID number

1779379267

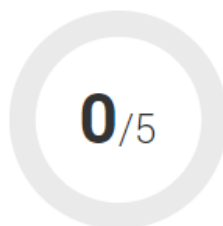
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Application status

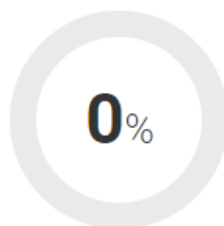
Centre information

You are not linked to a centre. Use the link below to link your application to your centre.

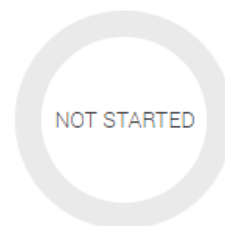
[Add buzzword](#)



CHOICES



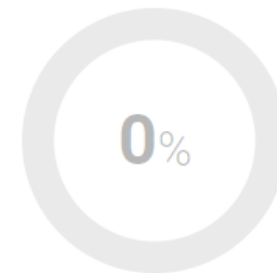
PROFILE



PERSONAL STATEMENT



REFERENCE



[Review and submit](#) >



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Personal details

Contact and residency details

Nationality details

Supporting information

English language skills

Finance and funding

Education

Employment

Personal statement

Reference

Contact details

Mobile telephone number

Other telephone number

Email address *

You can update your email address in your UCAS profile

g.linton-smart@bham.ac.uk

Postal address

Address type *

Nominated access

Do you want someone else to be able to act, or speak on your behalf, about your application? e.g. A parent, teacher, other relative or guardian. If you are using an agent, you can choose to enter their details.

You're able to enter details of someone you're happy to help manage your application - this is called nominated access.

Yes No



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Tips for applicants

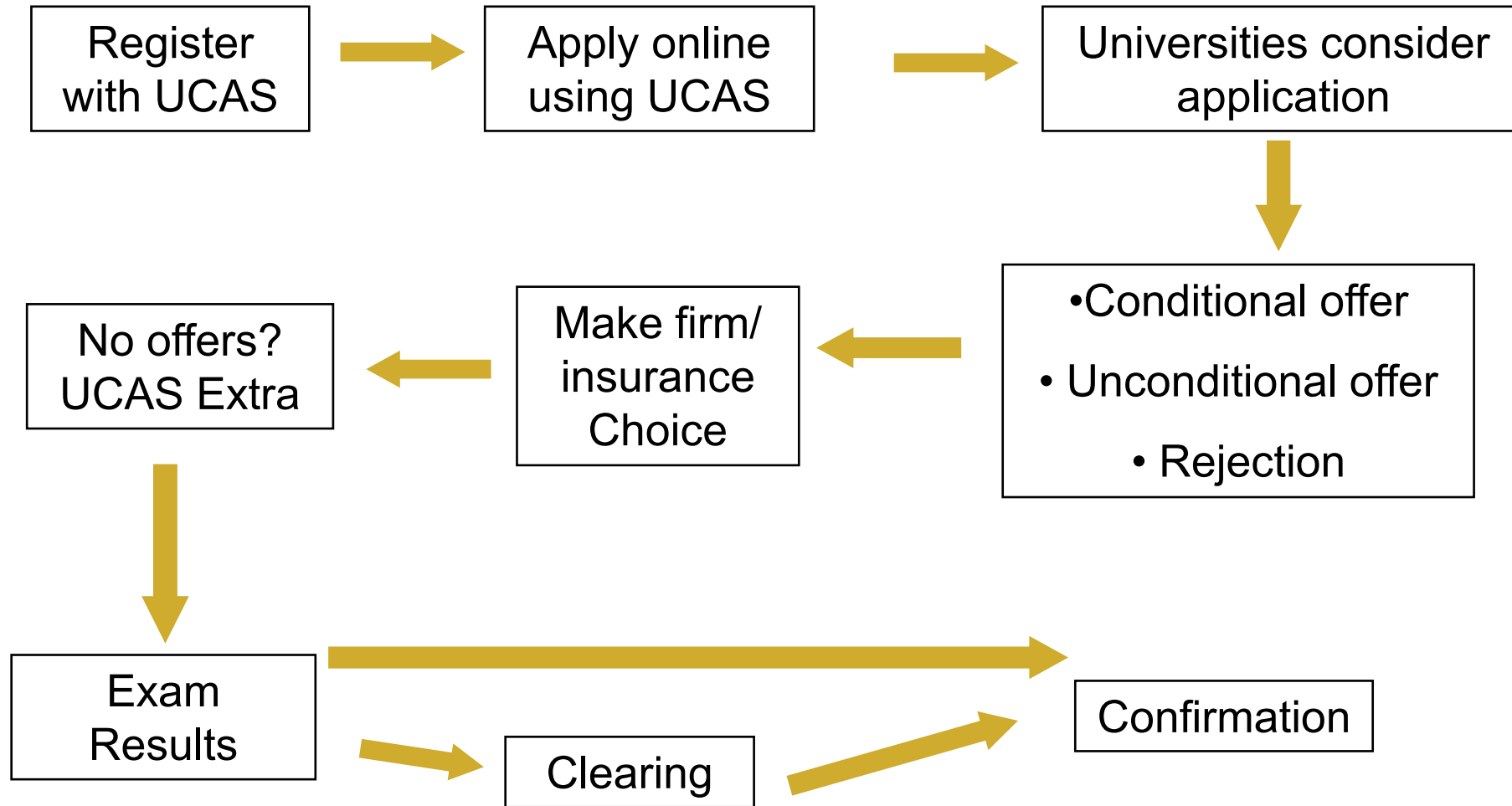
- Enter as much detail as you can
- Spell your name correctly!!!
- Don't use a school email address
- Create a sensible email address if you haven't already got one

Key UCAS facts

- All applications made online
- Maximum of five choices
- Some choice restrictions: max 4 choices for Medicine, Veterinary, and Dentistry. Oxford or Cambridge
- 'Invisibility'
- Equal consideration



UCAS – Step by Step



Key dates

- Medicine, Veterinary Science, Dentistry and Oxbridge applications
 - 8am on **Monday 21 September**
- Priority deadline (for those wishing to make an early application)
 - 8am on Monday 5 October
- General applications
 - 8am on **Monday 2 November**
- Final deadline
 - 8am on Monday, 16 November



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Personal Statements: the basics

- You can only write one Personal Statement
- You apply through UCAS, not to universities directly. All applications are processed online
- Your Personal Statement can be a maximum of 4,000 characters
- There are three questions to answer (minimum 350 characters each):
 - 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?
- UCAS has no spelling or grammar checks
- You can't use **bold**, underline or *italics*
- UCAS has similarity detection software – make sure all work is your own

Key considerations for new Personal Statements

- The document will be reviewed as a whole
- Do not repeat information across sections
- You can choose how to use the word count depending on your experiences and what's more important for your course
- Some information could fit into more than one question – don't agonise over what to put where
- There's no longer a line count – used to be a maximum of 47 lines
- You don't need to include an introduction or conclusion for the questions, but still write in full sentences



Why has UCAS changed Personal Statements?

- Students have reported finding the process stressful
- Provides students with more scaffolding so they know what to address in their answers
- To level the playing field
- Encourage more independence and less reliance on external support
- The questions capture the information that is most useful for Admissions Tutors



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Why is the Personal Statement important?

- Provide evidence of skills needed for the course
- Prove interest in the subject
- Demonstrate your commitment
- Stand out from the crowd
- Demonstrate further reading and research into subject area
- Only opportunity to inform admissions tutors about work experience and extra-curricular activities



1. Why do you want to study this course or subject?

- **Motivations for studying the course**
 - Why do you want to pursue this further?
 - Have you been inspired by a role model or key moment in your life?
 - What drives you?
 - How has your path led you to this course or subject area?
- **Knowledge of this subject area**
 - What relevant research have you completed?
 - What topics in this subject area have piqued your interest?
 - Is there an academic in the field or a book you have read that motivates you?
- **Link to future goals**
 - Do you have a particular profession in mind?
 - Why is this course/subject a good fit for you?
 - How might you use your studies to launch your career?
 - What's important to your future? How will studying this subject help you to achieve this?



2. How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?

- **Educational achievements**
 - Academic competitions, representing the school/college
 - Additional qualifications – EPQ etc.
- **Details of current/previous studies**
 - This could include school/college subject areas, a short online university course or other formal qualifications
 - Be specific – presentation, coursework, field trip, experiment, group project etc.
- **Relevant transferrable skills that make you a great candidate**
 - A particular module/topic that demonstrates your skills and interests
 - Academic subjects that have helped you to develop a core set of key skills for your desired course



3. What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?

- **Work experience, employment or volunteering**
 - Reflect on experience and skills gained relevant to chosen course
 - Can be paid or voluntary, in-person or virtual
- **Hobbies and extra-curricular activities**
 - Could include sports, music, reading, art, community work etc.
 - Showcase well-rounded interests
- **Achievements outside of school/college**
 - Positions of responsibility for local clubs or groups, competitions or qualifications obtained



TED Talks



Summer school

Residential/trip

Essay

MOOCs/online courses

Mentoring



Tutoring

Awards



Taster lectures



Examples of evidence

Personal life experiences/challenges

Clubs



Documentaries

Articles/research papers



Work shadowing

Podcasts

School council/prefect role



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Extra Vs super curricular

- Extra-curricular activities are activities or interests you do outside of school that are unrelated to your chosen subject, such as playing sports or an instrument.
- Super-curricular activities are academic activities you pursue beyond the standard school curriculum, driven by your own intellectual curiosity in a subject you plan to study at university.



TED Talks



Films

Museums

Exhibitions

MOOCs/online courses

Mentoring



Galleries

Taster lectures



Academic competitions



Examples of super-curricular

Volunteering

Documentaries

Podcasts

Reading



Relevant work experience

explore your chosen subject



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Do

- Create a list of ideas before starting
- Make it interesting – Admissions Tutors read hundreds of personal statements
- Focus on your strengths
- Produce several drafts
- Ask people for feedback
- Check your punctuation, grammar and spelling

Don't

- Use words you don't understand
- Start every sentence with 'I'
- Lie or exaggerate – you may be questioned at interview
- Leave it too late
- Talk about experiences from a long time ago
- Use quotations
- Use cliches such as 'Business is in my blood' or 'I have wanted to be a lawyer since I was born'
- Use AI software such as ChatGPT

Summary

- Research both the courses and the universities that interest you, including a visit if possible
- Be realistic in terms of your skill set and your likely academic attainment
- Discuss your choices with your teachers and family



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And remember students need to know

- Can you cook?
- Is it tasty?
- Are you getting your vitamins?
- Can you shop?
- Can you use a washing machine?
- Can you budget your finances?

- Will you take part?



Open Days

Where it begins

Friday 26th June 2026

Saturday 27th June 2026

Saturday 10th October 2026

Saturday 14th November 2026



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<https://gck.fm/rjhox>



Thank you!
Any questions?



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