

Higher Education Information Webinar.

Thursday 12th June 2025.



Chelmsford County High School for Girls

Welcome to our Higher Education Webinar.

- Dr Palmer – Assistant Headteacher.
 - Oversight of UCAS and Careers Provision.
 - Personal statement support, reference writing and form submission.
- Mrs Hopkins – Higher Education Adviser.
 - Advice to students.
 - Management of reference writing.
 - Personal statement support, reference writing and form submission.



Welcome to our Higher Education Webinar.

- Introduction from Dr Palmer.
 - Aims and context.
- Information from Mrs Hopkins:
 - UCAS and the current 'admissions landscape'.
 - Unifrog
 - Support at CCHS.



A low-angle, upward-looking photograph of several graduates in black caps and gowns. They are all smiling and looking towards the camera. The background shows green trees and a bright sky. The text "Applying to University" is overlaid in the center in a large, white, sans-serif font.

Applying to University

Dr Michael Palmer – Assistant Headteacher
Mrs. Amy Hopkins – Higher Education Adviser
Dr Alex Hiner – Careers Leader
Mrs Rhiannon Connolly – Year Leader
Tutors
Subject Teachers

Who will support the students?

UCAS at CCHS

In the current 2024-2025 cycle, 150+ applications have been made to UCAS.

The students have applied to a wide range of universities.

Popular subjects include: Computer Science, Architecture, English Literature, Geography, Law, Medicine, Politics, Psychology.

Students have applied to a wide range of universities including Kings College London, Imperial, Oxford, Cambridge, UCL, Bath, LSE, and more!

Which universities do CCHS students attend?

Scottish Universities

University of Edinburgh
University of Aberdeen
University of Strathclyde
University of St. Andrews

Newcastle University

Durham University

Hull York Medical School
University of York

University of Leeds

University of Nottingham
Nottingham Trent University

University of East Anglia

University of Cambridge

University of Sheffield

University of Manchester
University of Liverpool

University of Birmingham
Aston University

Welsh Universities

Aberystwyth University
Cardiff University
Swansea University

University of Oxford

University of Exeter

University of Plymouth

University of Bath
University of Bristol

Brighton University

University of Southampton
University of Portsmouth
AECC University College

University of Canterbury

City, University of London

UCL

Imperial College London

Reading University

Kingston University

Queen Mary, University of London

St. George's,
University of London

Goldsmiths

King's College London

CHOOSE YOUR FUTURE

All results

Courses

Uni & colleges

Advice

Events

Accommodation



Search for courses, uni & colleges and information

Feedback

What is UCAS and how do we use it?

The **University and College Application Service**

It is a portal that allows students to apply for higher education in one place.

Every student applying to UK universities uses this portal.
This year students will be able to apply for apprenticeships alongside university courses.

www.ucas.com

The UCAS Process

- Students can apply to up to 5 university courses per cycle.
- If a student wishes to do any of the following:
 - Study at Oxford or Cambridge,
 - Study Medicine, Dentistry, or Veterinary Medicine

They become an “Early Entrant”. This means that they must apply earlier than everyone else. The in-school deadline for this is late September.

- This is because these courses require interviews and pre-interview assessments.
- Everyone else applies by January.
- **Everyone can also apply for apprenticeships at the same time.**
- If a student is in receipt of Free School Meals, they do not have to pay for their application. Otherwise it is £28.50



How do students choose their course?

Students need to consider whether the career at the end of education or the subject is their main motivator. There is no right or wrong answer here.

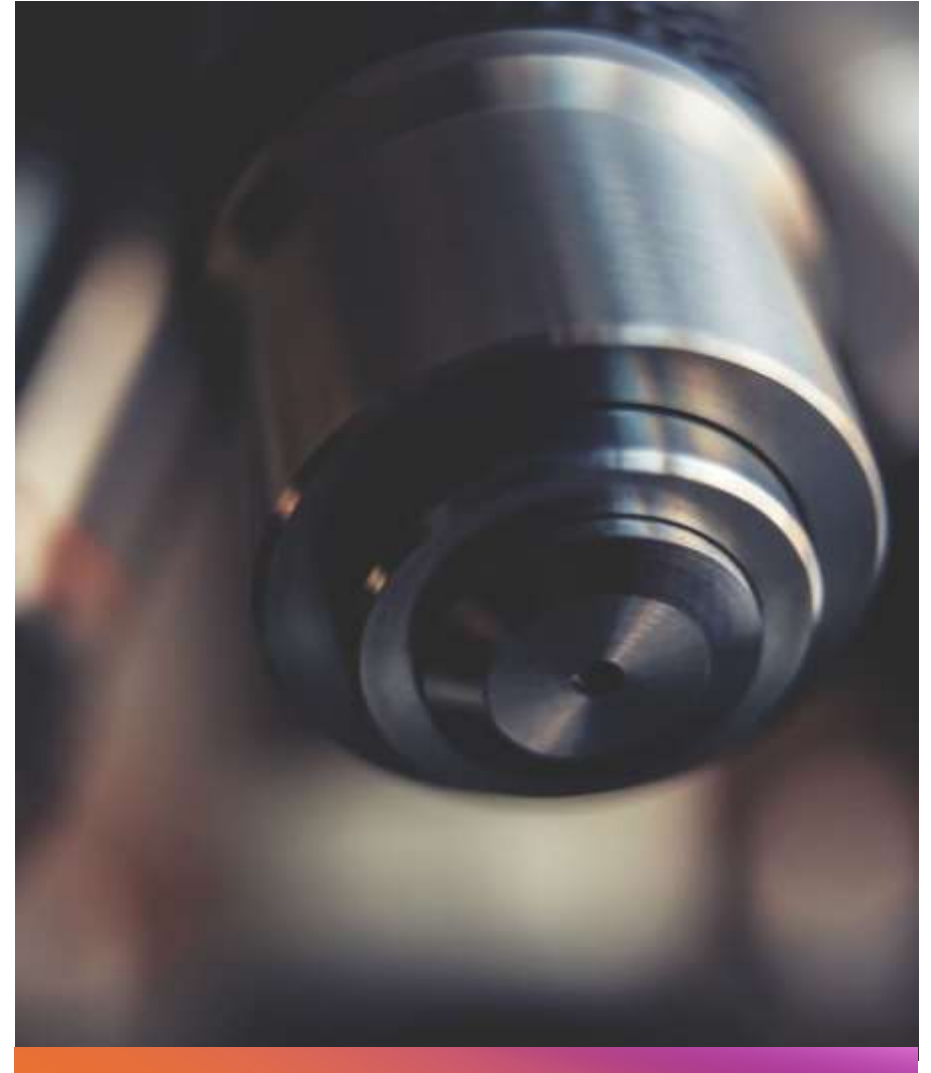
If it is the **career**, then students should look at relevant courses, if necessary.

It is the **subject**, then students should reflect on the many options within that.

Career

Students should consider:

- Why does that job appeal to them?
- Do they have to read a specific subject
 - e.g. Medicine, Dentistry etc
 - or can they read any subject that they like and do a conversion course at the end e.g. Law, Education and Finance.
- Has the student done relevant work experience?
- Have they considered apprenticeships as well as degrees?



What is an apprenticeship?

- An apprenticeship is an opportunity to work and study at the same time. Most of your time is spent doing on-the-job training, and the rest is spent working towards a qualification. Apprentices are paid a salary and be part of a team, just like a standard employee, but you'll also get dedicated study time throughout the week.
- The qualification achieved could vary from the equivalent to GCSEs, to a master's degree depending on the level of apprenticeship. There are different types or levels of apprenticeships depending on where you are in the UK. Each level apprenticeship will have different entry requirements; degree apprenticeships are the highest (and most competitive and well remunerated) level.

Degree vs. Apprenticeships

Degree

- Immerse yourself in your favourite subject.
- Don't have to be committed to one pathway.
- Live independently.
- Move on to further study.

Apprenticeships

- Degree apprenticeships give you a degree at work at the same time.
- Spend some time in university and the rest of the time at work.
- Earn while you learn.

Apprenticeships

How do students apply?

Applying for an apprenticeship is just like applying for a normal job. Here's what you need to know:

Students can use UCAS, to apply for Degree Apprenticeships.

Apprenticeships don't follow the same deadlines as applying to university, the deadline is down to the employer

Students can apply directly through the employer

Students are not restricted to one apprenticeship application; you can do as many as you like

Subject

- Do they have a career in mind?
- Are they thinking of joint or single honours?
 - What other subject will complement their subject?
- Do they need to study in a particular setting?
 - Conservatoire
 - Specific university



How should students select their university?

- **Predicted grades** – the entry requirements should be seen as a minimum for the most competitive universities.
- **Style** – from the traditional, with a focus on subject-based courses and research, to modern universities, with a greater focus on vocational courses.
- **Location** – some are based in large cities, others in smaller towns - a major influence on the environment and lifestyle.
- **Size** – larger universities can have more than 20,000 students, whereas some of the smallest have only a few thousand.
- **Culture and facilities** – influenced by a range of factors, including the diversity of students who attend.
- **What graduates do** – all universities collect destination statistics. It can be interesting to find out the types of jobs or further study students go on to.
- **Tuition fees** – can vary between course providers. Check if there are any scholarships or bursaries available.
- **Living costs** – accommodation, transport, and food can vary enormously

The UCAS Application


- Students will apply with key requirements:
 - Predicted grades
 - Personal Statement
 - School references
- Some universities will use these to invite people to interview,
- Some universities will use these to make offers.

It is worth noting that some universities also look at GCSE averages as well (best 8 average).

Predicted grades

- In a competitive market, meeting the entry requirements of the university course is essential.
- In many cases, students need to **exceed** the entry requirements for the best universities.
- Overpredicting now can lead to disappointment later.





Changes to the 2025 UCAS personal statement



Universities & colleges will consider

- Have students chosen the course for the right reasons?
- Do students have a depth of interest in the subject?
- Do students appear motivated and committed?
- Can students study independently?
- Are students genuinely engaged and knowledgeable about the area students are applying to?

Format and structure



Three sections with question prompts



4,000-total character count split across sections



Minimum character count 350 characters per section



Don't waste characters listing grades and subjects



Don't repeat information across sections

What are the 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?”

References

- CCHS will only write positive references.
- Students do not need to see them – they are not used in interviews.



Enter a general statement about your school/college/centre.



If applicable, enter any information about extenuating circumstances which may have impacted the applicant's education and achievement.



Outline any other supportive information specific to the applicant and relevant to the course(s) applied for that you think universities/colleges should be aware of.

Interviews

- Students will be called to interview for certain subjects.
- The subject that the student wishes to study will determine the type of interview. E.g. many applicants for Medicine have MMIs (Multiple Mini Interviews)
- Some universities will ask students to attend more than one interview.
- They generally happen in December for Oxford and Cambridge and in a wider time frame for Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Medicine.
- Universities use them to help to select between excellent candidates.

Pre-Admission Assessments

- Are going to become more popular.
- The UCAT is changing for the 2026 cohort.
- Entrance Tests currently used are:
 - ESAT
 - LNAT
 - TMUA
 - UCAT
- UCL has introduced a new admissions test called the TARA. It will be used for some subjects with Maths and Social Sciences in.
- Other tests are dependent on the university. Oxford and Cambridge have many different assessments both pre and at interview.
- It is the student's responsibility to book and manage their own tests.
- If a student is in receipt of the Sixth Form Bursary, Free School Meals or have exam adjustments, it is important that they read the website carefully and register to ensure that their needs are met.

Once students have heard from their universities...

- Students will hopefully have offers and they need to decide where they want to go.
- Students should select:
 - A firm choice- this should be the university that they most want to attend.
 - An Insurance choice- this is in case they miss their offer on results day.
- The insurance should have lower entry requirements than their firm choice e.g.
 - Firm: AAA
 - Insurance: ABB
- If for any reason students don't have an offer they can use 'Extra' on the UCAS system to apply for other courses.

**What support is available
at CCHS?**

Tutor and Subject Teacher Support

Tutor support

- Tutors are experienced in the UCAS process.
- Tutors have regular 1-2-1 discussions with their tutees.
- Support with writing personal statements.
- Support with the applications.

Subject support:

- Mr. Carter and other staff run sessions on applying to Oxford and Cambridge.
- All departments offer personal statement support.
- Subject specialists support in the mock interview process.
- Subject staff prepare students for pre-admission assessments.

Wider support

- Students can use two weekdays in the Summer Term to visit
- A Higher Education focused Enrichment Day in July
 - Former students speak about their experiences, career and subject choices, and how to enter certain professions.
 - University Speaker to give students insight into the application and life at university.
- Dedicated time to UCAS/Careers in RTP sessions throughout June and July.
- UCAT Day training run by The Medic Portal.
- Dedicated higher education Team.
- Individual referee.
- Individual support from Dr Hiner and Mrs. Hopkins.
- Practice interviews:
 - Parent interviews.
 - Subject specialist interviews.

Unifrog

- A Careers System designed to give students the most up to date data.
- Parents can use it as well so that everyone can make informed choices.
- Gives advice on everything related to university.
- Has how-to guides, webinars, MOOCs and much more to level up students.

Unifrog Careers library

- Over 1000 career profiles
- Presents information from a range of sources, including local and national LMI
- Includes qualifications and skills needed, interviews with industry professionals and labour market information
- Explores progression opportunities and what a working week really looks like

Architect

Architects design new buildings and the spaces around them, and work on the restoration and conservation of existing buildings.



Searching for courses

Unifrog allows students to enter grades and subjects. It then allows students to see Aspirational, Solid and Safe options for universities.

Rank ▾

Filter ▾

Keyword search

✕


Aspirational (6)	Solid (115)	Safe (206)
<div><div>🎓</div><div>Geography - 3FT BA (Hons)</div><div>🏠</div><div>University of Cambridge</div><div>RG</div><div>A Level: A*,A,A</div></div>	<div><div>🎓</div><div>Geography - 4FT MGeogSci</div><div>🏠</div><div>University of Sheffield</div><div>RG</div><div>A Level: A,A,A</div></div>	<div><div>🎓</div><div>Geography with Foundation - 4FT BA (Hons)</div><div>🏠</div><div>Durham University</div><div>RG</div><div>Foundation year</div></div>
<div><div>🎓</div><div>Geography - 3FT BA (Hons)</div><div>🏠</div><div>Durham University</div><div>RG</div><div>A Level: A*,A,A</div></div>	<div><div>🎓</div><div>Geography - 4FT BSc (Hons)</div><div>🏠</div><div>University of St Andrews</div><div>TT</div><div>A Level: A,A,A</div></div>	<div><div>🎓</div><div>Geography with a Foundation Year - 4FT BSc (Hons)</div><div>🏠</div><div>Loughborough University</div><div>TT</div><div>A Level: B,B,B</div><div>Foundation year</div></div>
<div><div>🎓</div><div>Geography - 3FT BA (Hons)</div><div>🏠</div><div>University of Oxford</div><div>RG</div><div>A Level: A*,A,A</div></div>	<div><div>🎓</div><div>Geography - 4FT MA (Hons)</div><div>🏠</div><div>University of St Andrews</div><div>TT</div><div>A Level: A,A,A</div></div>	<div><div>🎓</div><div>Geography - 3FT BSc (Hons)</div><div>🏠</div><div>Royal Holloway, University of London</div><div>A Level: B,B,B-A,B,B</div></div>
<div><div>🎓</div><div>Geography - 4FT BSc (Hons)</div><div>🏠</div><div>University of Glasgow</div><div>RG</div><div>Requirement: Not given. Check their site (Avg UCAS points 202)</div></div>	<div><div>🎓</div><div>Geography and Sustainable Development - 4FT MA (Hons)</div><div>🏠</div><div>University of St Andrews</div><div>TT</div><div>A Level: A,A,A</div></div>	<div><div>🎓</div><div>Physical Geography - 3FT BSc (Hons)</div><div>🏠</div><div>Royal Holloway, University of London</div><div>A Level: B,B,B-A,B,B</div></div>
<div><div>🎓</div><div>Geography (SocSci) - 4FT MA (Hons)</div></div>	<div><div>🎓</div><div>Earth Sciences and Geography -</div></div>	


next ▶

or go back

Universities

- Students can enter subject of interest and projected grades to see all relevant university courses available in the UK
- Rank and filter opportunities by factors like hours of lectures, price of accommodation and graduate job rates
- Get direct links to university information pages, with impartial information on courses and institutions
- Save unlimited shortlists to refer back to later

 Geography - 3FT BSc (Hons)

 UCL (University College London)
London, England

Website

Open Day

Course page

Finance page

Disabilities


Contextual offers

Scholarships

Main Contact: study@ucl.ac.uk +44 (0)20 3370 1214

Undergraduate Admissions Office: +44 (0)20 8059 0939

Main Site, Admissions, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT



Course facts

2024 course description
This is an integrated geography programme which combines physical and human geography as well as offering opportunities for specialisation. Those choosing the BSc will usually have studied some science at A level or equivalent, but it is possible to transfer to the BA if your interests develop differently.

UCAS course code:
F800

Uni sessions per week Social studies: 12 hours	Independent study per week Social studies: 20 hours	Placements / field trips etc per week Social studies: 0 hours	Graduate jobs 92% after 15 months
2024 years of study 3 years full-time	2024 annual fees £9,250		

Getting in

2024 A Level entry requirements
A,A,A
Full-time 3 Years: No specific subjects.
Contextual Offers: please visit the course webpage for further details about our Access UCL scheme.

Last year's successful applicants for physical geographical sciences
The average UCAS tariff for last year's successful applicants was 169, and you fall in the 0-10th percentile. This means that 0-10% of the students who were on this course last year achieved lower grades at school than the ones you entered.


77.8% of successful applicants did the same qualification types as you, and of these a typical result was:
A Level: A*AA


Overall acceptance rate for geography, earth and environmental studies 24%	UK acceptance rate for geography, earth and environmental studies 21%
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University facts

Guardian overall rank 8th	Complete University overall rank 9th
QS world rank 9th	
THE Impact rank -	People and Planet rank 7th
Guardian subject rank Geography: 7th	Student welfare rank 102nd
Full-time undergrads 23,020	International undergrads 53%
Difficulty Aspirational - Out of your predicted range	UCAS uni code U80
Avg starting salary £31,228	

Apprenticeships

 Social Care Worker Apprentice - Intermediate

 Employer: Choice Care Group - Heronsmede - Old Windsor

 Training Provider: LIFETIME TRAINING GROUP LIMITED

[+ Apply](#)

📍 88-90 Straight Road SL4 2RX

Do you enjoying helping people and making a positive impact in their lives? Are you caring, reliable and passionate? If you feel you have these unique qualities, we would love you to join our team. You will deliver high quality personal care following the care plan and individual resident wishes to ensure the comfort and dignity of each resident.

At Choice Care Group, you will be working towards an Adult Care Worker Level 2 Apprenticeship standard over the course of 15 months!

An apprenticeship with Choice Care Group will be not only a meaningful, active and rewarding job, but a possible new career as well and the opportunity to work with a fun, dedicated team.

Choice Care Group is looking to appoint a Health and Social Care Apprentice to work in one of our homes. The successful candidate will work towards achieving a Level 2 Adult Care Worker Apprenticeship Applicants should be at least 16 years old and not in full time education.

By the end of your Apprenticeship you'll have gained new skills and experience. If you're new to adult social care, then an Apprenticeship is one of the best ways to get into the sector and start your career.

You'll work alongside experienced staff and learn the skills and knowledge required for you to be a skilled and confident worker.

As an Apprentice you will be supporting adults with learning disabilities, mental health disorders and complex needs in a residential care environment, providing a high standard of care and support.

Key Responsibilities

- Deliver high quality personal care following the care plan and individual resident wishes to ensure the comfort and dignity of each resident
- Delivery of care that it is of high quality and maintains the dignity and well-being of residents
- Understand the importance of privacy, dignity, choice and consent and uphold these basic rights at all times
- Contribute to the individualised person centered care planning process of each resident and recording appropriate interactions and observations
- Complete all regulatory and statutory training requirements and comply with all company policy and procedures whilst at work
- Carry out responsibilities for residents ensuring that residents receive one-to-one quality time when on duty

Apprenticeship facts

Deadline 24 October 2023	Applications open July
Start date 30 October 2023	Weekly wage £296
Hours per week 40	Duration 15 Months
Number of vacancies 1	Distance from home 19 miles

Employer & Training facts

Employer description
We provide specialist care and support for people with learning disabilities, autism, mental health conditions and associated complex needs. Our purpose is to help everyone in our care to live safe, happy, meaningful and fulfilled lives, regardless of their challenges, where they're valued, respected, listened to and supported, living as independently as possible.

Training provider Ofsted rating
Requires improvement
[Read report](#)

- Students can find live apprenticeship vacancies
- Vacancies are updated daily
- Rank and filter opportunities by factors like distance from home, weekly wage and application deadlines
- Direct link to the ‘apply’ page
- Each apprenticeship vacancy includes practical information about the opportunity, employer and training
- Save unlimited shortlists to refer back to later

Special Opportunities

- Includes £5 million-worth of grants, bursaries, scholarships, contextual offers and extracurricular activities
- These can be filtered by circumstances or characteristics, depending on the access requirements of the opportunity
- Includes direct links for applying
- Unlimited shortlists can be created and referred back to

Select special opportunities below

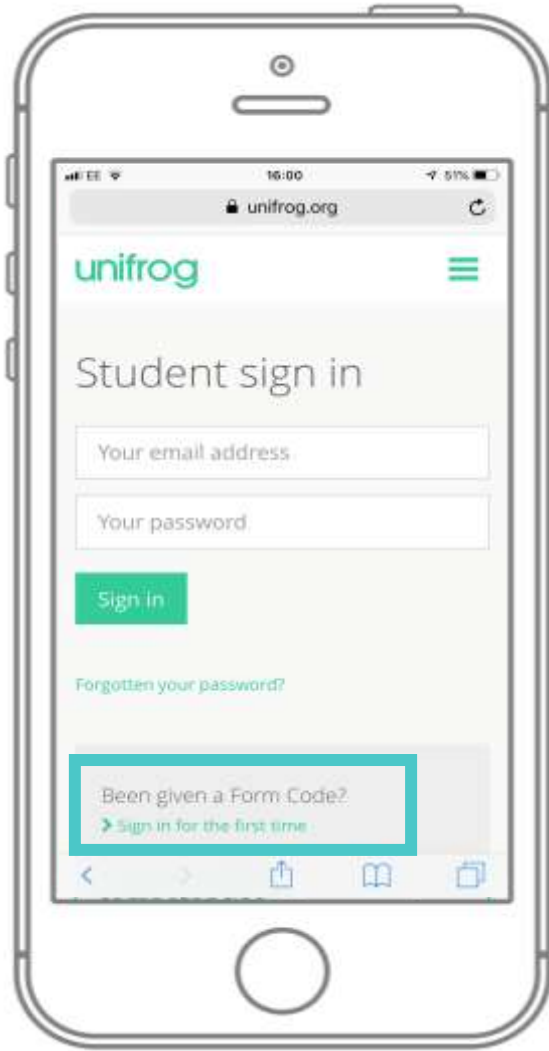
Pick the best opportunities for you by ranking, filtering and searching. Click next when you're done.
Stuck on a strange term? Check out the [glossary](#) ~

Rank ▾ Filter ▾

Activities (130) <small>Virtual work experience, contextual offers, gap years...</small>	One-off scholarships (215) <small>Money all in one go</small>	Renewable scholarships (427) <small>Money every year</small>
Aberystwyth University Contextual Offers Aberystwyth University Aberystwyth University Contextual Offers	The Bruce Watt Memorial Scholarship No specific university Up to £10,000	Uggle Family Scholarship London School of Economics and Political Science, University of London £21,200 a year
Access Sheffield University of Sheffield Access Sheffield Contextual offers	Mature Student Scholarship Goldsmiths, University of London £3,000 a year	Stormzy Scholarship for Black UK Students University of Cambridge £20,000 a year
Access to Bath University of Bath University of Bath Widening Participation	International Scholarship University of Gloucestershire Up to £7,350 fee reduction	Sanctuary Scholarship University of Sheffield Full tuition fees plus £9840 a year
Access to Harper Harper Adams University Access to Harper contextualised offer scheme	BeArt Presets Scholarship No specific university \$5,000	Brian Cooper Scholarship Durham University £13,000 a year
Access to Leeds University of Leeds University of Leeds Contextual Offers	Charles Beeson Scholarship Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, University of London £5,000	Access Opportunity Scholarship UCL (University College London) Tuition fees plus £12,000 a year
	Gotranscript Scholarship No specific university £5,000	Sanctuary Scholarship and Friendly <small>University of Gloucestershire</small>

[next](#) ▸ or [go back](#)

Where can parents find more information?



This QR Code opens a page designed to tell you more about how Unifrog works.



This QR Code opens a page where you can download the 2026 Parents Guide.

Parent Code for Unifrog

- The parent code necessary to create a Unifrog login is:
CCHGparent

What can students do to be competitive?

- Essay Competitions.
- Work experience in the school holidays.
- Virtual work experience.
- Research options
- Create a short list.
- Read widely around their subject and spend time immersed in that subject:
 - This work should take students beyond what they learn in lessons in an interesting way.
 - Reflect thoughtfully on that reading/study – how has it changed their understanding? What have they learnt?



Timeline

30th April 2025	UCAS Search tool displays 2025 courses
7th May 2025	The Adviser portal opens for 2025
14th May 2025	Undergraduate Applications open
7th July 2025	ED3 – UCAS and Careers Day
10th July 2025	Conservatoire Applications Open
1st August 2025	Booking for LNAT opens
24th September 2025	Internal CCHS deadline for Early Entrant students (MVD, Oxbridge) students to “Pay and Send” their UCAS applications.
2nd October 2025	Application deadline for conservatoire music applications. Dance/drama/theatre may have other deadlines. Students should check these carefully.
15th October 2025	UCAS Deadline for applications to Oxbridge and MVD.
24th November 2025	Internal CCHS deadline for all equal consideration applications.
14th January 2026	UCAS Equal Consideration Deadline.
January 2026	University of Cambridge and University of Oxford decisions sent to applicants.
26th February 2026	Extra Opens. This is the system that allows students holding no offers to add extra choices to their applications.
5th July 2026	Clearing Opens

Thank you for your time; we wish
all parents and students every
success in this process.

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Thursday 12th June 2025.



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