

# What is the UCAS process?



Students must complete their online UCAS application. This will include the 'personal statement' which they will work on with their tutors.

Once students have completed their application, their tutor will check it with them in case there are any errors.

Students will then 'pay and send' their application.

The school will then check the application a final time, add the academic reference and the predicted grades. The application will then be sent to UCAS.

# How many choices can a student make?

Students can apply to up to five universities. UCAS charge about £25 for an application.

All courses have entry requirements. Our advice is that students make aspirational choices but also have at least two courses that match or are slightly lower than their predicted grades.



# Advice on predicted grades



Subject teachers issue predicted and potential grades to Year 12 students in the Summer.

**For the UCAS application we always use the ‘potential grade’ from the Summer Review. For example, if a student is predicted a B and has a potential of an A, the A grade will be entered as the UCAS grade.**

Students should ensure they use their five university choices wisely to select a range of universities with different entry requirements.

# What happens after the application is sent?

Universities make 'conditional' offers. Students only secure a place at a university on receiving A Level results in August.

Once students have received offers, they make a 'firm choice' and an 'insurance choice'. If they do not achieve the grades for their firm choice then they might still meet the entry requirements for their insurance choice.

Students do not have to make a firm or insurance choice until May or June of year 13 (depending on when they receive their offers).



# What is an unconditional offer?



This means that the university will accept a student regardless of the grades they achieve for A level.

There is lots of controversy about this practice. On the one hand, it can remove stress. However, evidence suggests that students who accept unconditional offers achieve lower A level grades.

Students should be wary of unconditional offers and only accept one for the right reasons. UCAS has published advice on 'making the right decision' which contains more guidance: <https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/after-you-apply/making-right-decision>.

# Who do students speak to for help?

For more help and guidance, students should contact either their tutors or Mr Ayre: [tayre@thomas-hardye.net](mailto:tayre@thomas-hardye.net)

