

**Welcome to
Stowupland Sixth
Form
Y13 Parents'
Information evening:
UCAS,
Apprenticeships and
Student funding**





Who we are

UCAS

Mrs Julie Macey - Director of Sixth Form

Mrs Kay Southgate - Senior Administrator - Sixth Form

Year 13 Form tutors:

Ms Janet Sheldon

Miss Rachel Bird

Mrs Jade Canfer and Ms Armanda Sprigings

Parents' evening presentation

Last updated April 2023

UCAS



What Next?

What are the options available?

UCAS



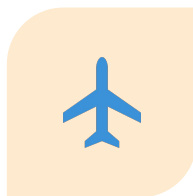
Choices available



HIGHER
EDUCATION



APPRENTICESHIPS



STUDYING
ABROAD



GAP YEAR



GETTING A JOB

Register for the UCAS Hub to understand the options available and make choices that are right for your child

Why continue in education?

- Essential for some career paths.
- Develop new transferable skills and subject knowledge.
- Increase confidence and independence.
- Broaden experiences.
- Meet new people.
- Investment in the future.
- Increased job prospects.
- Higher earning potential.



What's right?

There are a number of things to consider with your next step :

- something you enjoy – you are investing time and effort
- whether it's right for your career path – check with employers and professional organisations
- location – city or rural, transport links
- a study and assessment style that suits you
- environment including extracurricular, clubs, and societies
- finances



A background photograph of three young adults sitting on a concrete ledge outdoors. On the right, a man with a beard and a denim vest over a grey shirt is smiling and looking towards the left. He is holding a stack of books. In the center, a woman with long pink hair is also smiling and looking towards the left. On the far left, the back of a person's head wearing a black beanie is visible. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

University or college

What's right for you?

UCAS

Choosing the right place

- **Style** – from traditional, with a focus on subject-based courses and research, to modern universities/colleges, with a greater focus on vocational courses.
- **Location** – some are in large cities, others in small towns, by the coast or in the countryside – it's all 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 useful to find out what jobs or further study students go on to.
- **Tuition fees** – can vary between universities and colleges; check if there are scholarships or bursaries available.
- **Living costs** – accommodation, transport, and food can vary enormously.

Choosing the right course

- What does the course cover?
- Courses with the same title may be very different.
- Look carefully at the core course content, and the range of optional studies/modules available.
- Which modules are the most interesting and relevant to your career aspirations?
- See if the course or university/college offers any internships, work placements, or study abroad opportunities.
- How is the course taught – structured teaching, or more independent research? How many lectures are there, and how much group work will be done in seminars?
- How is the course assessed?

UCAS Hub

The key discovery tool

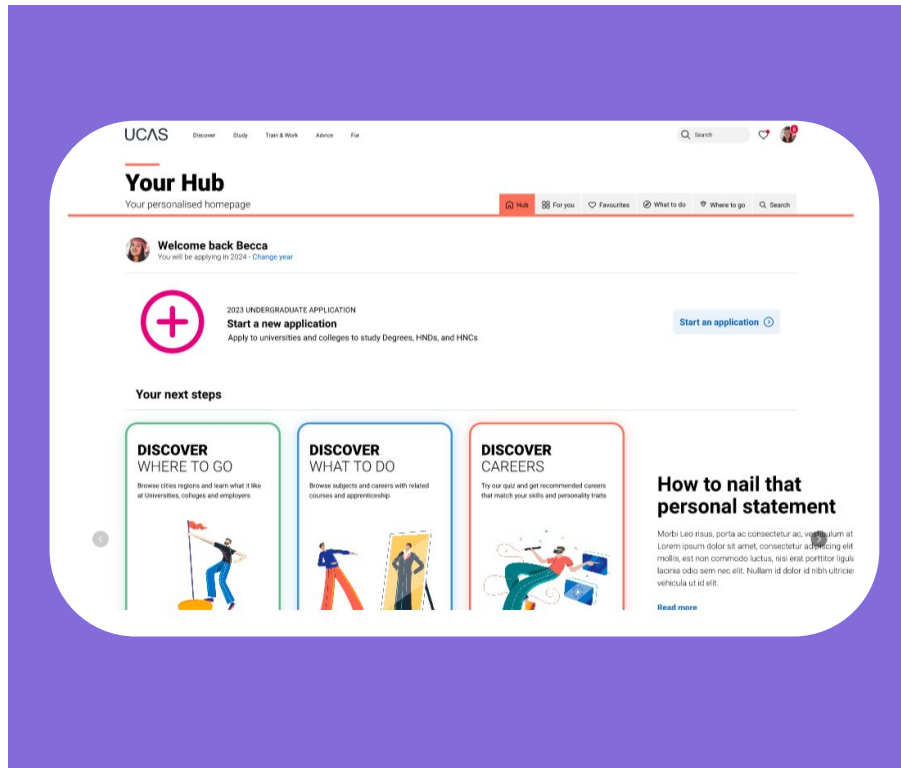
UCAS



Starting your research

Register with the UCAS Hub to:

- explore careers, subjects, places, and apprenticeships
- find and favourite over 35,000 courses
- search for open days, events and virtual tours
- turn predicted grades into UCAS Tariff points
- speak to those in the know using [Unibuddy](#)
- speak to career, higher education, and application specialists by attending [Hub lives](#)
- take the [UCAS Quiz](#) to find your career matches
- start your application




UCAS Exploring Apprenticeships

From UCAS Hub you can easily explore apprenticeships; learn more information and see a live selection of apprenticeship vacancies.

Set alerts to stay up to date.


APPRENTICESHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Search for apprenticeships

Software Developer Degree Apprentice, Ware UK, 2023

Ware, Hertfordshire
A competitive starting base salary of £18,000 per year, which increases after year 1

Apply for this job

R&D Laboratory IT (Digital & Tech) Degree Apprentice, Stevenage, 2023

Stevenage, Hertfordshire
A competitive starting base salary of £18,000 per year, which increases after year 1

FIND MORE

Found 504 jobs

Browse

Search

Keywords
Keyword

Location
Location

Within 5 miles

☐ Nationwide
☐ Homeworking

► Specialism

► Sector


▼ Role Type2 selected
☒ Apprenticeship
☐ Other work and training

► Start Date

Get new jobs for this search by email

Create alert

TOP JOB


Radio Access Optimisation Apprentice (Virgin Media)

- Leeds, Hammersmith, Runcorn, Wythenshawe
- £23,000
- Estio Training

Level 3 Radio Network Technician About the company: We're Virgin Media O2 and we're here to upgrade the UK. Virgin Media O2 combine...

View details

10 days ago | Save

Software Developer Degree Apprentice, Ware UK, 2023

- Ware, Hertfordshire
- A competitive starting base salary of £18,000 per year, which increases after year 1
- GSK

Join GSK's R&D (Research and Development) Apprentice Programme – Ware UK, 2023: Help us get ahead of disease together

View details

4 days ago | Save

Apprenticeships

What you need to know

www.ucas.com/apprenticeships

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Apprenticeships

What are
apprenticeships?

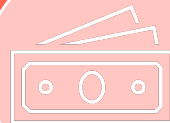
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Study



Job



Wage*

The A – Z of apprenticeships

There are **over 600** possible apprenticeship 'standards' (training programmes) which exist. It's probably easier to name an industry that doesn't have an apprenticeship than to list all that do. Here are just a few

- Accounting and Taxation
- Architect
- Boat Builder
- Building Surveyors
- Civil Engineer
- Cyber Security Technician
- Data Analyst
- Doctor (from 2023)
- Early Years
- Ecologist
- Farrier
- Food Technologist
- Game Programmer
- Geospatial mapping
- Harbour Master
- Historic Environment Adviser
- Internal audit professional
- Intelligence analyst
- Journalist
- Junior 2D artist (visual effects)
- Knitted product manufacturing
- Laboratory scientist
- Licensed conveyor
- Midwife
- Marketing Manager
- Nuclear Scientist and Engineer
- Nursing
- Operational firefighter
- Orthodontic therapist
- Paralegal
- Physiotherapist
- Quality practitioner
- Rail engineer
- Research scientist
- Social worker
- Software Developer
- Teacher
- Town planning assistant
- Utilities engineering
- Veterinary nurse
- Vehicle damage assessor
- Water process technician
- Workplace pensions consultant
- Youth worker

www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/#

Who can start an Apprenticeship?



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- Anyone 16 and over
- Anyone not in full time education*
- Apprenticeships in Scotland, Wales or England require you to be living in the same country as the apprenticeship
- Apprenticeships in Northern Ireland require you:
 - be employed or be about to take up paid employment in Northern Ireland
 - be working a minimum of 21 hours per week on a permanent contract

* a foundation apprenticeship in Scotland is typically taken alongside Scottish Higher and National 5s

UCAS

- www.ucas.com/apprenticeships



How can I apply?

- Applications are made directly through the company or the education provider.
- There is no limit on the number of applications you can make.
- The application process might vary across vacancies, you could be asked for:
 - CV and Covering Letter
 - Application Form
 - In App/Site application
- You can apply for universities and apprenticeships at the same time!



UCAS Applications

How to apply

UCAS



Completing the UCAS application



Student registers for a UCAS Hub account to carry out research and start application.



Student completes all sections of the application and sends it to their school/college.



Teacher or adviser reviews the application and adds reference and predicted grades.

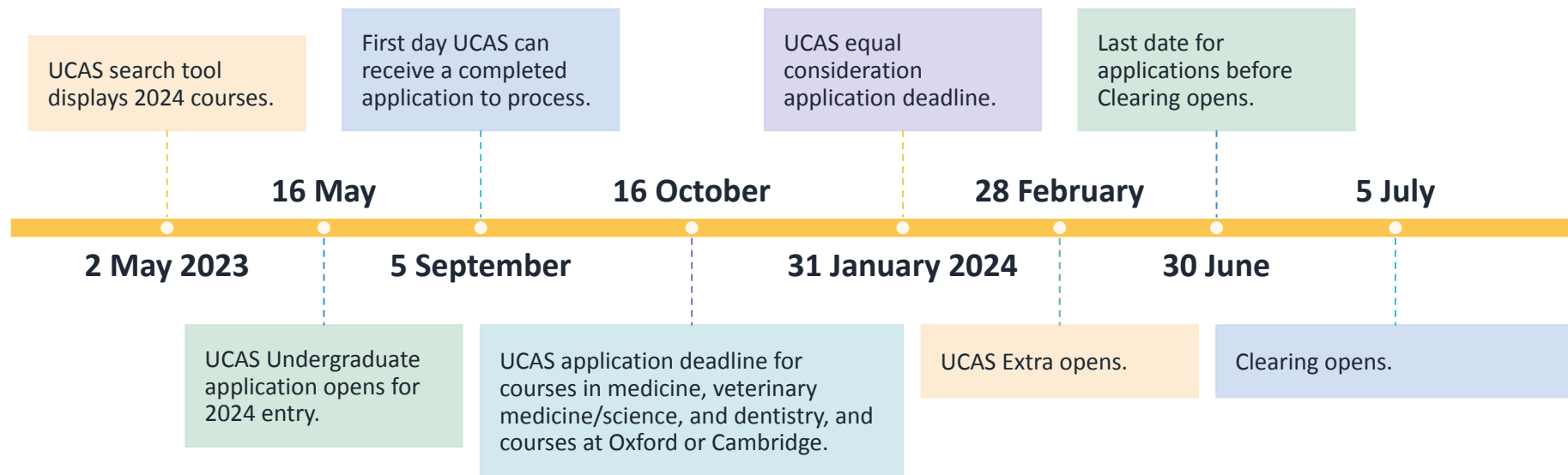


Applications are sent to UCAS by the school or college on behalf of the student.



Universities and colleges make their decisions on the application.

When to apply for 2024 entry - Key dates



Key facts

- To start an application you need to register with ucas.com, you can register at any time.
- From **16 May 2023** you'll be able to start an application.
- Universities and colleges **can't see** your other choices when you apply.
- Apply by the **equal consideration date - 31st January 2024**
- You have up to **five choices**, unless applying to study medicine, veterinary, medicine/science, dentistry – then it's **only four choices**.
- You **can't apply to BOTH** Oxford and Cambridge.
- Applying **costs** £27.50.



2024 UNDERGRADUATE APPLICATION

Start an application

Apply to universities and colleges to study Degrees, HNDs, and HNCs

Linking to a school

- If you're applying with the help of a school, college or centre you should enter their 'buzzword' to link your application to them.
- The buzzword is a unique code set by your school, college or centre.
- By linking your application you're giving your school, college or centre permission to view and track your application.
- It also means they'll provide you with a reference, and send your application to UCAS on your behalf.

The image shows a digital interface for linking an application to a school. It features a purple background with a white rounded rectangle in the center. Inside the rectangle, the text 'Are you applying from a school, college, or centre?' is displayed. Below this text are two circular buttons: a teal one labeled 'Yes' and a pink one labeled 'No'. Below the buttons, the text 'Select Yes here.' is shown, followed by a dark blue button with the text 'START >'.

Application

Profile:

- Personal details
- Contact and residency details
- Nationality details
- Supporting information
- English language skills
- Finance and funding
- Diversity and inclusion*
- More about you

* (for students with a UK home address)

The screenshot displays the UCAS application profile interface, which is organized into a grid of sections. The sections are as follows:

- Personal details >**
Name, age, title, and gender
Status: Section complete (indicated by a green bar and a checkmark icon)
- Contact & residency details >**
Address, email, telephone, and where you live
Status: Start this section (indicated by a blue bar and a circular arrow icon)
- Nationality details >**
Country and nationality details
Status: Start this section (indicated by a blue bar and a circular arrow icon)
- Supporting information >**
Status: Section in progress (indicated by a blue bar and a circular arrow icon)
- English language skills >**
Is English your first language?
Status: Start this section (indicated by a blue bar and a circular arrow icon)
- Finance & funding >**
Tell us how you'll fund your study
Status: Section in progress (indicated by a blue bar and a circular arrow icon)
- Diversity & inclusion >**
Only shared with a provider once you have a place or your application is archived
Status: Start this section (indicated by a blue bar and a circular arrow icon)
- More about you >**
Tell us about any circumstances that you might need support for during your studies
Status: Start this section (indicated by a blue bar and a circular arrow icon)

Application

Experiences:

- Education
 - Employment
 - Extra activities*
-
- Personal statement
 - Reference**
 - Add choices – up to five

*(for students with a UK home address)

** (not visible for students linked to their school/college)

The screenshot displays the UCAS application interface on a yellow background. It features a dark blue rounded rectangle containing two main sections: 'Experience' and 'Personal Statement'. The 'Experience' section has three white cards: 'Education >' (described as 'Your qualifications and periods of study' with a 'Section in progress' status), 'Employment >' (described as 'Employment, paid or unpaid, or volunteer work' with a 'Section complete' status), and 'Extra activities >' (described as 'Activities you have attended in preparation for higher education' with a 'Start this section' button). The 'Personal Statement' section has one white card: 'Personal statement >' (described as 'Why do you want to study this subject?' with a 'Start this section' button).

The personal statement



The only section you have full control over



Your only chance to market yourself as an individual



The same for all of your choices



A maximum of 4,000 characters, or 47 lines



A minimum of 1,000 characters



There isn't a spelling or grammar check



No formatting allowed

UCAS' similarity detection service:
every personal statement is run
through software to check for
plagiarism.

Start early

Include:

- academic achievements, past and present
- interest in the course area
- knowledge of the subject area
- enthusiasm to go beyond the syllabus
- details of independent study skills



Consider...

Universities and colleges will consider:

- Have you chosen the course for the right reasons?
- Can you achieve in a new learning environment?
- Do you have a range of interests and aptitudes?
- Do you have a depth of interest in the subject?
- Have you studied independently?
- Do you appear motivated and committed?
- Do you have good numeracy and literacy skills?





PERSONAL STATEMENT BUILDER

4000 characters of 4000 remaining

Writing about the course
Why are you applying for your chosen course(s)?

Write your text here...

Why does the subject interest you?

Write your text here...

Why do you think you're suitable for the course(s)?

Write your text here...

Do your current or previous studies relate to the course(s) that you have chosen?

Write your text here...

Skills and achievements
Work experience and future plans

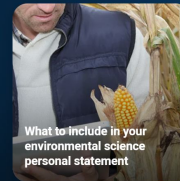
Preview

Save & close

PERSONAL STATEMENT GUIDES

Help write your personal statement with a guide tailored to the subject you wish to study.

Explore Uni & colleges For you Favourites Search



Decisions

Universities and colleges will review the:



personal statement



qualifications



reference

They may also ask for:



admissions test



interview



portfolio/audition

Tracking your application



2023 UNDERGRADUATE APPLICATION

Waiting for decisions

Universities or colleges are considering your application.

Providers have until dd-mm-yyyy to respond to your choices.



2023 UNDERGRADUATE APPLICATION

All decisions received

You've received a decision from all of your choices. You can now reply to your offers at any time.

Reply by dd-mm-yyyy



2023 UNDERGRADUATE APPLICATION

Waiting for confirmation

You're waiting for confirmation of your choices. If you meet the offer conditions, the university/ college will confirm your place. Send them your results if requested.

Follow your application 24/7:

- see your choices
- keep personal information up to date
- view and reply to your offers

You'll receive one of three decisions from your choices:

- unconditional offer
- conditional offer
- unsuccessful

Replies to offers

Once you have decisions on all your choices, you can choose two:

- One as a 'firm' acceptance – your first choice.
- The other as an 'insurance' acceptance. This acts as a back-up if you do not get into your 'firm' choice.

Any remaining offers must be declined.

Once all your decisions and replies have been made, if you are not holding an offer, you may be able to use Extra or Clearing to find available places.



Other options

Extra (28 Feb – 4 Jul)

- Used all five choices and had no offers.
- Add Extra choices for consideration one at a time.

Clearing (5 Jul – Oct)

- Apply after 30 June, receive no offers, decline all offers, not met conditions.
- Find vacancies from 5 July and add a Clearing choice to your application.



How Clearing works

UCAS

Clearing is how unis and colleges fill any places they still have on their courses.

You can apply for a course using Clearing if you're not already holding an offer from a university or college, and the course still has places.

You can use Clearing if:

- you're applying after 30 June
- you didn't receive any offers (or none you wanted to accept)
- you didn't meet the conditions of your offers
- you've **declined your firm place** using the 'decline my place' button in your application

The logo for 'Clearing at UCAS' is centered within a white rectangular box. The text 'Clearing at' is in a red, sans-serif font. Below it, 'UCAS' is in a larger, bold, black, sans-serif font. The letter 'A' in 'UCAS' is stylized with a red outline and a black fill.

Clearing at
UCAS

How Clearing works

UCAS

Before results day in August

See what's available: When clearing opens on 5 July, there's no harm in seeing what's available before results day. Remember, official Clearing vacancies are only available in the [UCAS search tool](#) and are updated based on the places universities and colleges have available.

Keep checking: Keep checking your application regularly in the lead-up to Clearing. This is where students can find the latest updates and reply to their offers.

Talk about plan B: Make sure you know what grades you need for their choices before results are released so you can make the right decisions when exam results are published. It might be helpful to have a back-up plan in case you need to choose a different option.

Check how you'll receive results: Exam results aren't shown in the UCAS application. It only shows if the application has been successful or not. Students will receive their results from their exam centre, so make

The logo for 'Clearing at UCAS' is centered within a white rectangular box. The text 'Clearing at' is in a red, sans-serif font. Below it, 'UCAS' is in a larger, bold, black, sans-serif font, with a red triangle integrated into the letter 'A'. The entire white box is set against a solid red background.

Clearing at
UCAS

Next steps

UCAS



What should students be doing?

- research, research, research
- attend university open days and events
- extracurricular activities
- work experience
- leadership opportunities
- volunteering
- independent learning outside the curriculum
- focus on this year's studies



UCAS support

UCAS Customer Experience Centre:
0371 468 0 468

From outside the UK:
+44 330 3330 230

Monday to Friday
08:30 – 18:00 (UK time)



@ucas_online



@ucas_online



@ucas_online



@ucas



@UCASonline

STUDENT LOANS

What are Student Loans?

Funds loaned to you by the government, to help you cover the costs of going to university.

There are two types of loan:

- A **Tuition Fee Loan** - paid directly to your university to cover the costs of your tuition
- A **Maintenance Loan** - paid to you to help with living costs - like rent, bills, books and socialising

These loans are very different to commercial loans offered by banks. They are designed to make sure your repayments don't start until a year after you've graduated, and are always manageable and affordable.

TUITION FEE LOAN

What is a Tuition Fee Loan?

- A Tuition Fee Loan is there to cover the costs of your tuition.
- It's paid directly to your university or college, in three instalments per year.
- If you attend a publicly-funded university or college and it's your first degree (it is for the vast majority of students) you will be eligible for a loan that covers all of your tuition fees

TUITION FEE LOAN

What do Tuition Fees cost?

- The Government sets maximum fee levels for universities and colleges that are **publicly funded**. The highest amount a publicly-funded university or college in England can currently charge is **£9,250 for a full-time course**.
- Some Higher Education institutions have lower maximum fee levels, depending on whether they meet certain legal requirements. To find out more contact the uni or college you're interested in studying at.
- The important thing to remember is that **you will be able to access a tuition fee loan to cover the full amount of your fees at publicly-funded providers**.

TUITION FEE LOAN

How do Student Loans work?

- Once you've decided to study a higher education course, you can apply for a Tuition Fee Loan of up to £9,250 per year to cover the cost of your course fees.
- You apply through Student Finance England and the money is paid directly to your chosen university or college, so you don't need to worry about making any payments yourself.

MAINTENANCE LOAN



Rent, books, food and socialising are all a big part of university life - and they all cost money.

The government also provides a maintenance – or living costs - loan that is designed to **help towards** your living costs.

The amount of support you can access for living costs depends on your circumstances, including your **parental household income and where you live and study**.

Once you have applied for the loan, it's paid into your bank account in three instalments - then it's up to you to plan your budget and be smart about spending!

MAINTENANCE LOAN



How much support could you be entitled to?

The Maintenance Loan available to eligible students for the current academic year (2023/2024) is: :

- **Up to £8,400** for students living with your parents
- **Up to £9,978** for students living away from home and studying outside London
- **Up to £13,022** for students living away from home and studying in London – as it's more expensive to study and live in London because of the higher cost of living
- If you're doing a course that involved **overseas study** as part of UK based course, the maximum loan is **£9,963**.

Maintenance Loans in England 2023/24

Household Income	Living at home	Away from home (outside London)	Away from home (London)
£25,000 or less	£8,400	£9,978	£13,022
£30,000	£7,694	£9,265	£12,297
£35,000	£6,988	£8,552	£11,571
£40,000	£6,282	£7,839	£10,845
£45,000	£5,576	£7,125	£10,120
£50,000	£4,869	£6,412	£9,394
£55,000	£4,163	£5,699	£8,668
£58,291	£3,698	£5,229	£8,191
£60,000	£3,698	£4,986	£7,943
£62,343	£3,698	£4,651	£7,603

REPAYING



When do you start repaying your loan?

So, you've sorted out your tuition fee and maintenance loan - but how will you repay them? And when?

Good news! You will only be required to start making any repayments

- From the April after you've graduated - and
- If you're earning above the threshold of £25,000 per year - and
- You only ever repay a percentage of what you earn above that threshold

Your Tuition Fee Loan and Maintenance Loan are **combined** for repayment purposes, to keep it simple. And the student finance system is designed to ensure your repayments are always affordable.

REPAYING



How much will you pay back?

Once you're earning over the £25,000 threshold:

- You'll pay 9% of anything you earn **above that £25,000 per year**.
- Your employer will deduct this from your salary automatically, like taxes.

So, let's say your salary is £27,000 a year - you'll pay 9% of £2,000.

That's just **£15 pounds a month**.

If you're **self-employed**, you'll make repayments as part of your self-assessment return to HMRC, in the same way you'd pay self-employed taxes.

REPAYING



How much will you pay back?

Repayment plan 5

Any remaining loan plus interest still owing 40 years after you're due to start making repayments will be automatically cancelled.

OTHER FINANCIAL SUPPORT



Other bursaries and scholarships

- Many universities and colleges offer their own bursaries and scholarships to students.
- Institutions set their own eligibility criteria for this type of support - for example, you may be eligible if you are from a low-income household, or if you're a particularly high achiever in a specific subject.
- Each institution decides what support they'll offer so you will need to do your research. Speak directly to the university or college you're interested in to find out if there is anything available - **sometimes the bursaries are not widely advertised**. But they are meant for you if you're entitled to them!

WHAT TO DO NEXT?



It's important for you to think carefully about your choices for higher education. Every course & every institution is different, and this is a big, life-changing decision - so do your research!

If you decide to go to university or college, begin your loan application as early as possible so you can get it set up in good time before your course starts.

It's especially important to make sure your maintenance loan is in your account ready for you to start term.

The main window for applications is usually open in the spring (February to the end of May).

To register an account and get started go to gov.uk/student-finance

Thank you

UCAS