

NEXT STEPS

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER I APPLY FOR UNIVERSITY?



CONTENTS



This workbook is here to help guide you through your next steps on your journey to higher education.

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NEXT STEPS TIMELINE

FEB/MARCH

APPLY FOR STUDENT FINANCE

Applications for Student Finance usually open between the end of February and end of March (exact dates change each year).

JUNE

DECISION DEADLINE

You will be given a deadline to reply to your offers on UCAS track. The exact date will depend on when you received your final university offer. Check UCAS Track for your own deadline.

JULY/AUGUST

RESULTS DAY & CLEARING

Your results are out and you'll know which university you will be attending. You'll also be able to bag a university place through Clearing.

MAY

STUDENT FINANCE DEADLINE

The deadline to apply for Student Finance is the end of May. This is to guarantee that you will have your student loan in time for the beginning of your course.

JULY

ACCOMMODATION DEADLINE

If you are planning to live in university accommodation, make sure you keep an eye out for emails about applying for your room. At UEA, the deadline to apply for accommodation is the end of July.



OFFERS

CONGRATULATIONS!

Your personal statement is written, you've narrowed down your choices and have officially applied to university. So... what happens next?



UNIVERSITY RESPONSES

Now that your application has been sent off, there are several possible outcomes:

1. UNCONDITIONAL OFFER:

An unconditional offer is an offer that is not dependent on your grades. This means that you have a guaranteed place at the university, should you choose to accept it. Sounds great right? It can be, but make sure you choose the university that's right for you. It is still important that you work hard to get the best grades that you can as your university course will expect you to be at a certain academic standard.



2. CONDITIONAL OFFER:

A conditional offer is dependent on your grades. If your exam results meet the entry requirements for the course, you will be given a place. It is at the discretion of the university if they choose to accept a student who missed their grades. When making this decision, universities look at the number of factors, including the number of places still available, the grades achieved in individual subjects that are relevant to the course applied for, and how all of the other applicants performed.



3. COURSE CHANGE:

If a university is unable to make you an offer for your chosen course, they may offer you a place on an alternative course. This can be a foundation year, or in a similar subject. Make sure you check that the course is still something you are interested in before you accept this offer.



4. INTERVIEW:

Some universities as well as certain courses, such as medicine, will invite you to attend an interview before making an offer. You can usually find guidance on the university website of the format that your interview will take.



5. UNSUCCESSFUL:

An unsuccessful application means the university has decided not to offer you a place on the course.



WHEN WILL I HEAR BACK FROM UNIVERSITIES?

Each university and college will decide at different times, so you might receive an offer back from the same university before a friend does, or vice versa. This is perfectly normal! Universities do however have a deadline which they have to respond by.

If you submitted your UCAS application by **the January deadline**, universities have to respond by the **end of May**.



TOP TIP

When a university makes a decision, you will be notified via email and the decision will appear on

HOW DO I DECIDE BETWEEN UNIVERSITIES?

Here are some questions you can ask yourself to help narrow down your choices:

IS THE COURSE RIGHT FOR YOU?

Subject areas can vary quite considerably at each university. With this in mind, **ask yourself the questions on the next page** and **mark your university option out of 10**. You can also **add any extra information or notes to the comment section**.



IS THE COURSE RIGHT FOR YOU?

QUESTION	MARK	COMMENT
DO THE MODULES ON OFFER INTEREST ME?	/10	
WHAT FACILITIES ARE AVAILABLE FOR ME TO USE ON THE COURSE?	/10	
WHAT OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE? E.G. YEAR ABROAD	/10	
HOW WILL I BE TAUGHT?	/10	

IS THE UNIVERSITY RIGHT FOR YOU?

WHAT IS THE STUDENT ACCOMMODATION LIKE?	/10	
WHAT SOCIAL ACTIVITIES CAN I GET INVOLVED IN?	/10	
WHAT SUPPORT IS ON OFFER?	/10	
WHAT IS THE SURROUNDING AREA LIKE?	/10	

Universities may invite you along to an **Applicant Day** experience. This is a great opportunity to find out more about a university, and speak to academics and current students.



FOCUS ON YOUR STUDIES

It's easy to get lost in researching universities - it's an exciting topic to get stuck into. However, don't forget to focus on your studies. They are the last piece of the puzzle to secure your place at university so knuckle down for the last few months - **you've got this!**



RESPONDING TO OFFERS

AFTER YOU'VE RECEIVED YOUR OFFERS BACK, IT'S DECISION TIME!

Now you must select:

- A FIRM CHOICE

The place you really want to go to.



- AN INSURANCE CHOICE

Your second-choice university and then decline your remaining offers.



TOP TIPS ON MAKING YOUR FINAL CHOICE:

- Make sure you wait for all your offers to come through before making any decisions.
- When picking your insurance choice, pick an institution with slightly lower entry requirements than your firm.
- If you're only applying to one institution, make a plan B in case you aren't offered a place.
- Make sure you pick two courses that you want to study.



How long do I have to decide? You will be given a deadline to respond to offers. The exact date will depend on when you received your final university offer. Check for your own individual deadline.



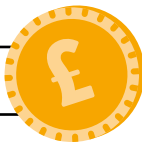
FINANCE AND ACCOMMODATION

APPLY FOR STUDENT FINANCE

Now it's time to apply for your Student Finance loans. You can apply from **February/March until the end of May** (exact dates change each year).

TOP TIP

Remember to apply on time otherwise your loans could be delayed!



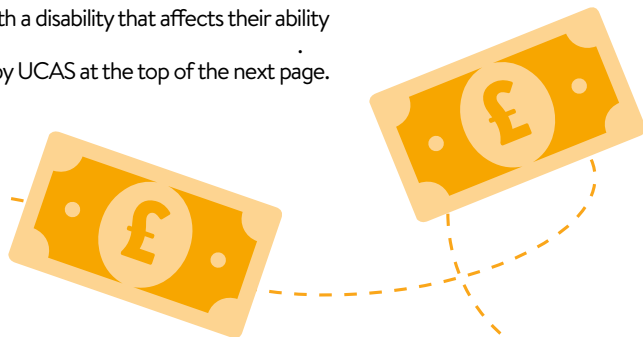
ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT

BURSARIES AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Now is also a great time to check if you're eligible for any **Bursaries** or **Scholarships** at the universities you're interested in. Bursaries and Scholarships are **free additional money** given to students by the university, and can help with things like accommodation costs, tuition fees, or living costs. Sometimes there will be an application process for this funding, and sometimes the money is awarded automatically. It's different at each university, which means it's crucial to do your research. At UEA our Bursaries are awarded automatically but Scholarships must be applied for, so don't miss out!

DISABLED STUDENTS' ALLOWANCE (DSA)

Anyone going to university with a disability that affects their ability to study can apply for the **Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA)**. These disabilities are defined by UCAS at the top of the next page.



- Learning difficulty, such as dyslexia, dyspraxia, or ADHD.
- Mental health condition, such as anxiety or depression.
- Physical disability, such as if you're partially sighted, have a hearing impairment or have to use crutches.
- Long-term health condition, such as cancer, chronic heart disease, or HIV.



Unlike the maintenance loan from Student Finance England, the DSA doesn't depend on household income – what you can get depends on your own needs and students don't have to pay it back.

There is no deadline for DSA application, but it can take up to **14 weeks** to get the support in place so apply for it as soon as Student Finance applications open.

For more info on how Student Finance works and what you could be entitled to, check out our [Student Finance guide](#).

PARENTS AND CARERS FINANCIAL SUPPORT

If you care for someone you could be eligible for childcare grant, parents' learning allowance, adult dependents' grant and universal credit. Visit [our guide](#) for more information.



NHS FUNDING

Did you know the NHS has a Learning Support Fund that you could be eligible to apply for on top of Student Finance? Visit [our guide](#) for more information.



APPLYING FOR ACCOMMODATION

Most universities provide accommodation, also known as 'Halls of Residence' or just 'Halls', for your first year of study. Types of accommodation can vary at each university. **Take a look at the different options on the next page.**



- SELF-CATERED

Where you'll share a kitchen with your flatmates and prepare your own meals.

- CATERED

Where options might vary between two or three meals a day.

- EN-SUITE

Where you'll have your own bathroom attached to your study bedroom.

- STANDARD

Where you'll share bathroom facilities with your flatmates.

- SHARED

Where you'll share a study bedroom with another student.



Your university will get in touch with you about applying for accommodation.

If you have applied to UEA for example, once you have accepted your offer you will receive an email inviting you to complete an accommodation preference form. Keep an eye out for this email and ensure that you **apply on time**.

After the first year, students typically move out of Halls of Residence and rent student houses with their friends in the local area. Universities usually have a list of approved landlords that they can provide to help you find a house. At UEA, we have Home Run website to help students find good private accommodation in Norwich



RESULTS DAYS

Results day can be a nerve-wracking experience.

Here is a helpful guide for every possible outcome to make it easier for you.

OFFER ACCEPTED

If, on results day, you see that your application with your 'firm choice' is showing as 'Unconditional', congratulations! This means that your place at that institution is confirmed. Keep an eye on your emails for information on what to do next.



AWAITING DECISION FROM UNIVERSITY



If your application is still showing as 'CF' (Conditional Firm) on results day, this means that a decision hasn't been made on your application. It may be that the university are missing some information on your application. Check your email or get in contact with the university directly to find out what the problem may be.

MISSED GRADES - SUCCESSFUL

ACCEPTED FIRM

If you miss your grades, check UCAS Track as your firm choice university may still have offered you a place. It depends on how many places they have left on your chosen course. They will look at each candidate holistically on a case-by-case basis and any remaining places will be offered to those who the admissions team feel are best qualified for the course.



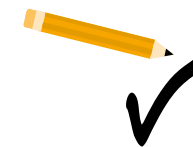
COURSE CHANGE OFFER

If you missed your grades and your chosen institution cannot confirm your place, you may be offered a place on an alternative course in a similar subject area. Or you might be offered a place on a foundation year. It is up to you whether you choose to accept this new offer. Take some time to think it through and make sure you chat to a member of staff at the university to get any questions answered. You'll need to look out for email correspondence from the university concerned, and make your decision on UCAS Track in the usual way.



ACCEPTED INSURANCE

Congratulations! You may have missed your offer from your first choice institution but you've been accepted into your insurance choice. On UCAS Track your offer will show as 'UF' (Unconditional Firm) with your insurance choice. Keep an eye on your emails for information on what to do next.



MISSED GRADES - UNSUCCESSFUL

CLEARING

You may have missed your grades for both your firm and insurance choice. **Don't panic.** If you still want to go to university you will be able to apply for a place at an alternative institution via **Clearing**. Universities will publish the courses that they have available spaces on to their website or via UCAS. You can get in touch with as many as you like to see if they can offer you a place before deciding on the one you want to go to. This can be done over the phone, on live chat, or via **Clearing Plus**. You'll then make one choice, once you've considered all your options, and select that university as your clearing choice on UCAS Track.



GRADE APPEAL

If you are unhappy with a grade you have received, you can speak to your teacher about applying for a re-mark. If your university place is dependent on this re-mark, make sure you ask for a priority re-mark to ensure your results make it to the university as soon as possible.



EXCEEDED PREDICTED GRADES

CLEARING

If you have exceeded your predicted grades and would like to apply for a university with higher entry requirements you can do so through clearing. This is completely optional. If you do decide to do this, make sure you have received an offer from another university before declining your original place.



CHANGED YOUR MIND?

I WANT TO CHANGE UNIVERSITY

Do you want to change university? If you have been accepted on to your firm choice, your insurance choice will no longer hold a place open for you. If you would like to change university you will need to get in contact with the university you would like to attend to check if they have a place available before you take any action. Once you have received an offer from another institution (either verbally or by email) you can release yourself to Clearing via UCAS Track and then make your new choice.



DEFER ENTRY

If you have decided to take a year out, you can get in touch with your university to ask whether it is possible to defer your place for a year.

WITHDRAW

You can withdraw from your course entirely. This can be done by contacting the university directly, or via UCAS Track. Make sure you are 100% certain you are happy with this decision. If you change your mind there is no guarantee that your place at that university will still be available.



I WANT TO GO TO UNIVERSITY BUT I HAVEN'T APPLIED PREVIOUSLY

Good news. It's not too late to apply for university this year. To do this, you will need to create a UCAS account, write a personal statement, and speak to a teacher about being your referee. If you haven't studied for a while and are wondering who can provide a reference, get in touch with the admissions teams who will provide guidance. Once you have a UCAS ID number you will be able to apply to universities through Clearing. You can get in touch with as many universities as you like to see if they can offer you a place before deciding on the one you want to go to. This can be done over the phone, on live chat, or via Clearing Plus. You'll then make one choice, once you've considered all your options, and select that University as your clearing choice on UCAS Track.



PREPARING FOR UNIVERSITY

The wait is almost over, and you'll soon be starting your new adventure as a university student! Here are some things you can do to help be as prepared as possible for your transition to university life.

PREPARING FOR UNIVERSITY MOOC

At UEA we offer a **free** online course which introduces you to the key skills you'll need for your studies at university, helping you to get ahead before you start your course. Our **Preparing for University MOOC** covers Academic Writing, Independent Study, Referencing, and lots more!

DO I NEED TO DO ANY READING FOR MY COURSE?

Some universities will send you a reading list before you start which you can look at over the summer. If you haven't received anything, don't worry! This means the university won't have expected you to have done anything.



WHAT SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE WHEN I GET THERE?

Universities offer a whole range of support to students. At UEA, students can access guidance around wellbeing and mental health, disability support, money management, study skills and lots more! We also have dedicated support for students who have experienced local authority care or are estranged from their parents. Check out our Student Services information

If you have any support needs, such as a learning difficulty like dyslexia, a mental health condition, a physical disability or a long-term illness, it is important that you inform your university. You may have declared your condition on your UCAS form when you applied, in which case your university may contact you before your course starts to discuss if you'd like any advice or support. If not, make sure you get in touch with your university before you arrive. Remember that the Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA) is available for eligible students, and you need to apply directly with Student Finance England for this.



It's important to discuss the support and alternative arrangements you might need (in accommodation, or during exams, for example), because any provision you've had in place at school or college won't automatically carry over to university. Don't be worried about giving Student Services a call or an email to discover what support is available to you.

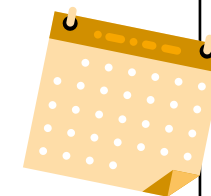
HEAR FROM CURRENT STUDENTS

Find out more about our current students' experiences and **TOP TIPS** in our preparing for university blogs:



TOP TIPS

- **Keep an eye on your emails! This is the main way universities will communicate with you. Check your spam folder!**
- **Look out for deadlines for Student Finance, Scholarship applications, accommodation preferences, and more. Respond on time to ensure you have a smooth start to your university experience!**



WHAT TO PACK

University is just around the corner and it's time to start preparing for the big move! From tea towels to toiletries there's a lot to remember. So, what do you really need to take with you to university?



ACTIVITY

Have a look through the items below and decide whether they'll be on your packing list or not. You can find our thoughts and tips on each item below the activity.



ITEM	TAKE TO UNI?	
OFFICIAL ID	YES	NO
PLATE, BOWL AND CUTLERY	YES	NO
PYJAMAS	YES	NO
STUDENT RAILCARD	YES	NO
LAPTOP	YES	NO
PHOTOS OF FAMILY AND FRIENDS	YES	NO
YEAR'S SUPPLY OF BISCUITS	YES	NO
TV	YES	NO
CAR	YES	NO
COLLECTION OF YOUR OLD SCHOOLWORK	YES	NO



WHAT TO PACK

Make a list of some of the things that you'll be packing!

If you're not moving into university accommodation, why not use this space to note down points to consider before you start, like, how long your journey might take you and what the bus services are like.



A large rectangular area enclosed by a dashed orange border, intended for writing notes.



ACTIVITY ANSWERS



OFFICIAL ID

YES – Whether it’s a passport or driving licence, don’t forget to bring at least one form of ID with you. You’ll need this for registration at the university, applying for jobs, and taking part in any over 18 social activities.

PLATE, BOWL AND CUTLERY

YES – You will need to provide your own kitchenware for your move to university. You can bring a few items with you or, if you’re short on space, you can purchase these when you arrive!

PYJAMAS

YES – This may be an obvious item to pack, but the obvious items can sometimes be the easiest to forget. Nobody wants to get caught off guard if there’s a fire drill during the night!

STUDENT RAILCARD

YES – Providing you with a third off your rail travel, if you’re planning to travel home by train, a railcard is a worthy investment!

LAPTOP

YES – Laptops will be really helpful to you for research, getting coursework done and ordering in the late-night takeaways. If you’re worried about financing a laptop chat to our student services team to see what support is available!

PHOTOS

YES – You can personalise your room by adding photos to the noticeboard provided. It’s always nice to have small reminders of everyone back home to make settling in easier.

YEAR’S SUPPLY OF BISCUITS

NO – We’d all love to have a year’s supply of biscuits, but you definitely don’t need to bring any food items in bulk with you to university. At UEA there’s a shop right on campus, so you can stock up on everything you need when you arrive.

TV

NO – While this can be great for those study breaks and chilling with your friends a TV is not absolutely necessary. Remember if you do bring a TV and plan to watch live TV or BBC iPlayer you will need to buy a TV license.

CAR

NO – If you’re living on campus, we do not recommend you bring a car with you as we are unable to offer student parking on site. Fear not, there are some exceptions to this and if your course has placements you may be able to apply for a temporary parking permit. Find out more about parking on campus, as well as alternative options such as buses and cycle parking

OLD SCHOOLWORK

NO – Say goodbye to your previous school work! Your university will have all the resources you need so there’s no need to bring this with you.



GOOD LUCK!

* Information correct at time of publishing January 2022.

