



UCAS for Parents and Carers

October 2020



What is UCAS?

UCAS – University and College Admissions Service

- **Acknowledges, records, checks and distributes applications to the appropriate institution**
- **Institutions make a conditional / unconditional offer to the applicant through their UCAS account**
- **Sets deadlines for applications –**
 - **15 October for medicine, veterinary, dentistry, Oxford/Cambridge**
 - **15 January for all other courses**



Apprenticeship Advice

UCAS has [apprenticeship advice](#) to help students make informed decisions about their post-16 and post-18 opportunities.

Find out about:

- the different types of apprenticeships
- how to find and apply for apprenticeships
- preparing for the application and interview process

Go to ucas.com/understanding-apprenticeships.



Applying through UCAS

- **Application is made online at ucas.com**
- **Register with username and password**
- **Details required –**
 - **personal details**
 - **qualifications**
 - **chosen courses (maximum of 5 courses, restricted to 4 for medicine, veterinary, dentistry)**
- **All applications require a personal statement and a teacher reference**
- **Single application costs £20, two to five choices costs £26**



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 career aspirations?
- See if the course or university/college offers any internship, placement, 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?



Making choices

Research course information and check entry requirements:

- ucas.com / whatuni.com
- UCAS Hub - virtual session for Scottish universities on Monday 26 October
- University websites
- University Virtual Open Days
- Speak with your Guidance Teacher
- Speak with your class teacher



When to apply for 2021 entry

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| 19 May | UCAS Undergraduate Apply opens for 2021 entry. |
| 8 September | First day for receipt of completed applications. |
| 15 October* | Application deadline for courses in medicine, veterinary medicine/science, and dentistry, and courses at Oxford or Cambridge. |
| 15 January* | Equal consideration application deadline. |
| 25 February | Extra opens. |
| 30 June* | Last date for applications before Clearing. |



Writing a personal statement

Academic Selectors are interested in:

- The candidate's motivation and enthusiasm for the course and any rationale behind any differing course choices.
- Work experience - what was learned and the skills developed (virtual work experience / work based conversations will be important this year)
- Details of any positions of responsibility
- Career aspirations
- Interests, activities and skills developed



Writing a personal statement

- **What skills and abilities are important?**
 - **Communication skills**
 - **Interpersonal skills**
 - **Leadership skills**
 - **Ability to work in a team as well as on your own**
 - **Specific skills for your course**

- **Writing statements-**
 - **What have you done?**
 - **What skills did you gain?**
 - **How did it relate to your course?**



Exemplar – communication skills

I know studying Engineering further will involve group work and I have had plenty of experience when it comes to working with others. I am an active member of both 6th year and school choirs and have become involved with many team activities in which communication is the key to success. Each of these activities helps me to communicate critically and to exercise the ability to listen to the views of others which I feel would come in very useful when studying such a complex and challenging subject as Engineering.



Exemplar – Work Experience

I believe that teaching is a vocation that involves a strong desire to share knowledge and to continue and promote learning. In sixth year I have had the chance to undertake work experience in a local primary school. As well as observing teaching techniques, I have also thoroughly enjoyed being involved in all aspects of the curriculum: taking small reading groups, helping with classroom tasks, running a physical education lesson, joining in with the music specialist and doing activities with the whole class. I have learned new methods of communicating and supporting children both individually and in small groups. As a result, I feel that I can communicate more effectively with people of all age groups.



What happens after the application is submitted?

- **UCAS acknowledges application**
- **Institutions review applications and make decisions**
- **Interview scheduled for some courses**
- **Conditional / unconditional offers made**
- **Applicants accept a Firm choice and an Insurance choice**
- **Track allows applicants follow the progress of their application 24/7**



Other options

Extra (25 Feb – 4 Jul)

If applicant has used all five choices but had no offers an extra choice can be added in Tracking.

Clearing (5 Jul – 19 Oct)

Apply after 30 June for applicants who have received no offers, declined all offers or not met conditions. Find vacancies in Clearing and add one choice in Tracking.

Adjustment (up to five days in Aug)

For applicants who performed better than expected and wish to change their Firm choice.

Register in Tracking and find another university or college.

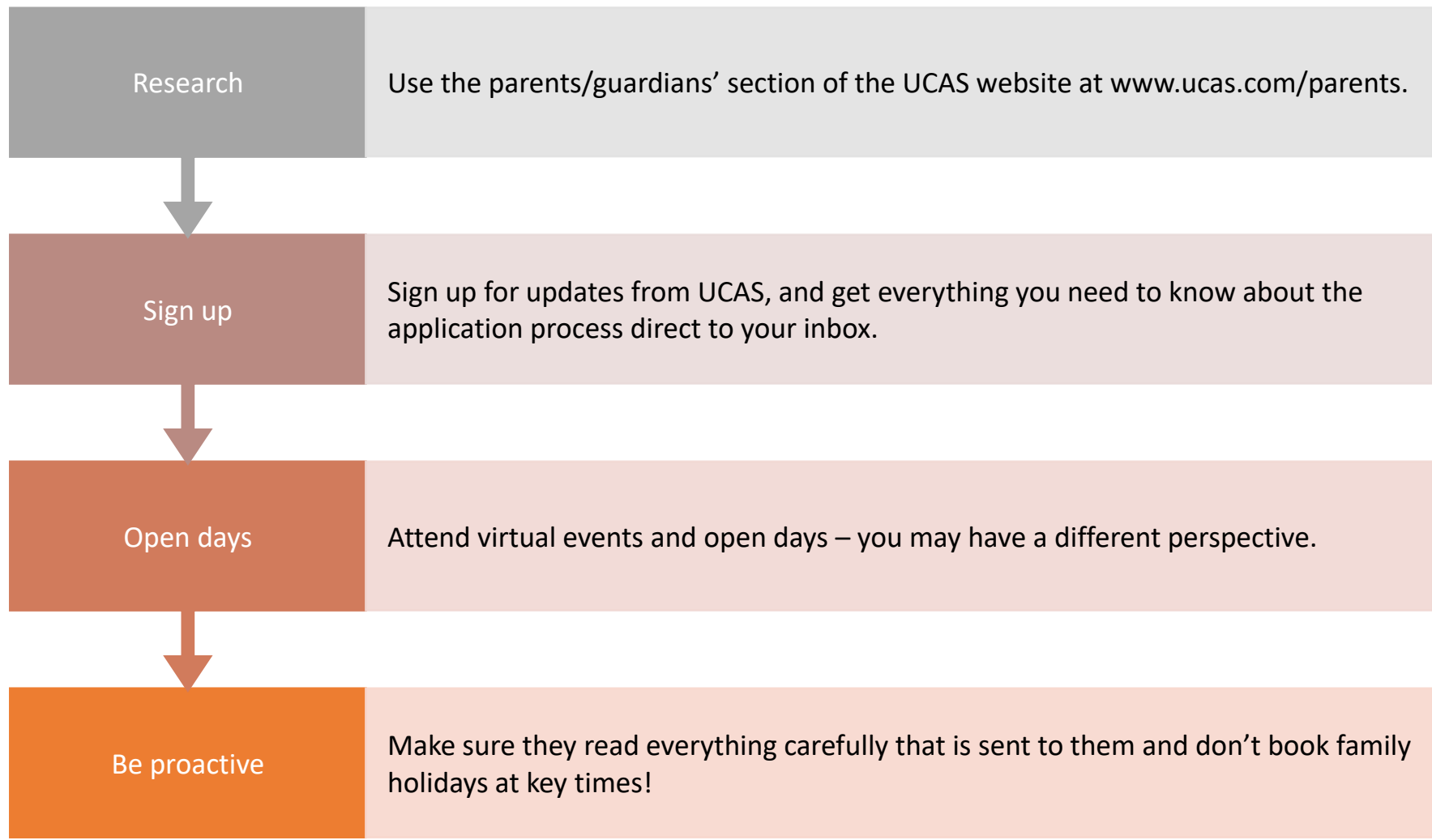


What should your child be doing now?

- Research courses and universities
- Gain work experience through a placement or virtual experiences
- Complete personal statement by 6th of November
- Complete and submit application by 11th of December
- Work closely with their Guidance Teacher
- Focus on this year's studies



How can you support?





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