



Progression and The UCAS Process

TALK TO PARENTS 2026

Progression Options

- ▶ There are two main options if students wish to continue in education: Further Education (FE) or Higher Education (HE).
- ▶ Further Education is where students can continue in education and gain additional qualifications but they will not gain a degree.
- ▶ Students can gain industry recognised qualifications and BTEC qualifications.
- ▶ Colchester Institute provides many courses that are free for under-19s, e.g. fashion.
- ▶ Writtle College provides many course in the 'outdoors' fields, e.g. horticulture and gardening.
- ▶ Chelmsford College also offers courses.

Progression Options cont.

- ▶ Higher Education refers to degree courses.
- ▶ A degree is compulsory for some careers and so students have to do a degree if they wish to pursue these careers, e.g. medicine, dentistry, veterinary science, nursing, police, teaching and many law and engineering careers.
- ▶ NOTE: that there are degree apprenticeships for some of these options where a degree can be obtained without studying full-time at university, e.g. to be a Police Constable or nurse, you need a degree (can be obtained by degree apprenticeship or there is a professional policing/nursing degree).

Going To University

- ▶ Going to university is a good option for many students who:
 1. Wish to pursue a career where a degree is required.
 2. Really enjoy a particular subject.
 3. Wish to get a position on a graduate scheme (often the degree subject is less important than having a degree).
 4. Are unsure exactly what they want to do in the future, but enjoy learning and want a career in an area where a degree is necessary or useful.
- ▶ The vast majority of students from College go to university and research indicates that it does typically lead to higher lifetime earnings.

Addressing Concerns - Is University Right For you?

1. Finance – university can be seen as expensive, however, there are various options, e.g. student finance (see presentation), bursaries and scholarships (see a university's website and look on UCAS).
2. Course – students might be unsure on which course to study.
 - A subject you enjoy at College is generally a good start.
 - A subject that will lead into a particular career is a good strategy – look on National Careers Service and Morrisby to see required degrees.
 - Book an appointment to see a Careers Advisor at College.
3. No idea about the future – Look at answers to Morrisby questionnaire or book an appointment with a Careers Advisor is useful. University does open many doors and possible careers.

Addressing Concerns - Is University Right For you? Cont.

4. Not sure what university is like – this is understandable. University websites have an abundance of information. Likewise, open days can provide a flavour of studying at university.

5. “I want to go to a good university”.
 - There isn't a 'best' university - Russell Group universities are often seen as the most prestigious, however, there are top universities that are not Russell Group (e.g. Bath or Essex).
 - It depends on the course, e.g. the University of Essex is highly regarded in Politics.
 - University Rankings can provide information on the most prestigious universities, however, the best university for students depends on personal circumstances (e.g. some students are most concerned about prestige whereas others might want to be close to home).

University Rankings

University ranking	University name	Overall score	Entry standards	Student satisfaction	Research quality	Graduate prospects
1	University of Cambridge VIEW COURSES →	100%	91%	78%	89%	96%
2	London School of Economics and Poli... VIEW COURSES →	98%	84%	79%	93%	95%
3	University of Oxford VIEW COURSES →	98%	88%	79%	87%	94%
4	University of St Andrews VIEW COURSES →	98%	100%	84%	74%	91%
5	University of Warwick VIEW COURSES →	97%	80%	81%	92%	93%
▲ 1 6	Durham University VIEW COURSES →	96%	76%	78%	83%	93%
▼ 1 7	UCL (University College London) VIEW COURSES →	95%	76%	75%	90%	95%

- ▶ The Complete University Guide is often seen as the best.
- ▶ The image shows university rankings for Economics.
- ▶ This is useful for showing the most prestigious universities.
- ▶ However, different students will value different things, e.g. rankings, location, cost of living and employability.

The Application Process

- All applications to university are made via UCAS.
- UCAS is the place to go for all information related to the application process and universities, e.g. information about the courses, different universities and also has information on finance and apprenticeships.
- I will go through UCAS and highlight key parts of the website.

Key Deadlines

- ▶ **Deadlines – remember college needs at least 3/4 weeks to check your application is perfect and to add a reference and predicted grades. Applications are sent every day and not in batches.**
- ▶ **Tuesday 1st September UCAS open for applications to be sent**
- ▶ **Friday 18th September for most medicine, dentistry, and veterinary medicine/science and for Oxford or Cambridge (OXBRIDGE) (for Thursday 15th October deadline)**
- ▶ **Friday 25th September- for applications to be sent before half term**
- ▶ **Thursday 1st October Application deadline for conservatoire music applications**
- ▶ **Thursday 15th October at 6pm UCAS FINAL deadline for Oxford, Cambridge, Medicine, Veterinary medicine/science, Dentistry**
- ▶ **Friday 23rd October College recommended deadline for UCAS**
- ▶ **Friday 6th November for applications to be sent to UCAS by college before Christmas**
- ▶ **Friday 13th November Final College deadline** to meet the UCAS deadline (Wednesday 13th January 2027) – remember we have 2 weeks holiday in December when no applications are looked at.
- ▶ **Wednesday 13th January at 6pm UCAS deadline for equal consideration.**

Key Deadlines cont.

- ▶ **Wednesday 13th January at 6pm UCAS deadline for equal consideration, which means course providers must consider all applications received by this time equally.** Includes non-music conservatoire applications. Applications received after this deadline will be considered a late application.
- ▶ For non-UK university applications the deadlines are different – you will need to check on their website but also inform your Personal Tutor that you are applying and allow for 4-5 weeks for your reference to be written and these universities require a different format and more in-depth reference.

Choose your future

Search everything



Courses



Uni & Colleges



Scholarships



Apprenticeships



Employers



Events



Subject guides



Career guides



Industry guides



City guid



UCAS Discovery Days

Research your options, meet unis, colleges and employers face-to-face, and get your questions answered at our events and uni open days.



Advertisement. [Why the ads?](#)



Advertisement. [Why the ads?](#)

The UCAS website is:
<https://www.ucas.com/>

UCAS HUB - Students should register for the UCAS HUB. This allows them to make applications to universities and conservatoires.

UCAS Discover Applying Money & student life International

Search Heart User Sign in

Sign in Register

REGISTER


Email *
millwardj@colchsf.ac.uk

First name *
Joe

Last name
Millward

Password *
..... Show

Confirm password *
..... Show

 UCAS will share your data with our wholly owned trading subsidiary UCAS Media. Please be assured your data is safe with us and we never pass your details to third parties for marketing purposes without your permission. Please see our [privacy](#) and [cookies](#) policies for more information.



Use the sign in tab to register

Use your home email not your college email

To link to college: we are The Sixth Form College, Colchester

Buzzword is:
Colchester2027

Different Parts of UCAS: Discover

Courses – what is it like
what does it cover?

UCAS Discover Applying Money & student life International

🔍 ❤️ 👤 Sign in

Where to start

UCAS Hub
Virtual Work Experiences
Chat to students
UCAS events

What to do

Courses
Apprenticeships
Subject guides
Subject tasters
Industry guides

Where to go

Universities and colleges
Employers
Regions
City guides
Gap years

Careers

Types of employment
Write a CV
NHS careers
Starting work
Career quiz
Interviews

▶ Lots of information on different courses, careers ideas and the option to chat to students.

Where to go – guide to universities and cities/location.

Different Parts of UCAS: Discover cont.

UCAS

Discover Applying Money & student life International

   Sign in

Where to start

UCAS Hub
Virtual Work Experiences
Chat to students
UCAS events

What to do

Courses
Apprenticeships
Subject guides
Subject tasters
Industry guides

Where to go

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Gap years

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Types of employment
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NHS careers
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Interviews

In the what to do section, students can look at different courses and even have subject tasters.

Where to go: this section looks at different universities and regions students can study in.

Important to consider city vs. campus.

UCAS: Subject Tasters

🏠 / Undergraduate / What and where to study

SUBJECT TASTERS

Explore this **section** ▾

Try university degrees before you apply. Subject Spotlights from Springpod give you a taste of what is like to study real subjects delivered by university lecturers and developed in partnership with the universities



Subject Spotlights give you the chance to try a university course before you apply. Delivered by the lecturers themselves you will gain insight into what it's like to study the course and give your personal statement a boost.

Subject tasters can be very effective for students who are unsure on what they want to study, are unsure if they want to go to university or have an interest in finding out more about their chosen course.

Reduces the risk of picking a course a student doesn't like.

UCAS: Subject Tasters cont.

SUBJECT TASTERS



Accounting and finance



Agriculture and related sciences



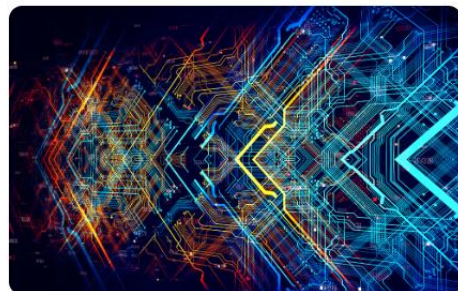
Architecture, building, and planning



Biology



Business and management



Computer science



Creative arts and design



Drama

There are many more on the website.

Different Parts of UCAS: Applying

UCAS

[Discover](#) [Applying](#) [Money & student life](#) [International](#)

[Search](#) [Heart](#) [User](#) [Sign in](#)

Before you apply

- [Campus open days](#)
- [What and where to study](#)
- [Distance learning](#)
- [Apprenticeships](#)
- [Industry guides](#)
- [Higher Technical Qualifications \(HTQs\)](#)
- [Studying at a college](#)
- [Pros and cons of university](#)
- [Choosing a course](#)

Parents, guardians and carers

- [Key dates](#)
- [How to fill in the UCAS application](#)
- [UCAS terms explained](#)
- [Clearing toolkit for parents](#)
- [Sign up for our parent newsletter](#)

Applying to university

- [Dates and deadlines](#)
- [Personal statement](#)
- [UCAS Tariff points](#)
- [Individual needs](#)
- [Subject guides](#)
- [Fees, loans, and funding](#)

After applying

- [Interviews](#)
- [Track your application](#)
- [Decisions and offers](#)
- [Results day](#)
- [Clearing and results day](#)

Conservatoires

- [Fees and finance](#)
- [How to apply](#)
- [Replying to offers](#)
- [Tracking your application](#)

All students applying from the College will be undergraduates.

This just means that students do not have a degree already.

There is information on open days, what and where to study and advice on going to university and which course to study.

Different Parts of UCAS: Applying cont.

UCAS

Discover Applying Money & student life International

🔍 ❤️ 👤 Sign in

Before you apply

Campus open days
What and where to study
Distance learning
Apprenticeships
Industry guides
Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs)
Studying at a college
Pros and cons of university
Choosing a course

Applying to university

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Subject guides
Fees, loans, and funding

After applying

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Results day
Clearing and results day

Conservatoires

Fees and finance
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Parents, guardians and carers

Key dates
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Parent and Carers – a section for you!

In the applying to university section, there is a lot of information on key dates, the application process and how to write a personal statement.

Conservatoires provide performance-based higher education, including music, drama, screen and production courses.


Course Search

UCAS

Discover Applying Money & student life International

   Sign in

Choose your future

 Search everything



Courses



Uni & Colleges



Scholarships



Apprenticeships



Employers



Events



Subject guides



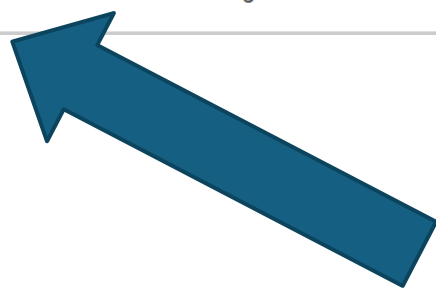
Career guides



Industry guides



City guide



Course Search cont.

UCAS

Discover Applying Money & student life International

🔍 ❤️ 👤 Sign in

Search courses

All courses

🏠 Hub 🗄️ For you ❤️ Favourites 🕒 What to do 📍 Where to go 🔍 Search

🔍 Economics

Courses

Economics

Economics (including foundation year)

Economics (with foundation year)

Economics and Data Science

Economics and Econometrics

Economics and Finance

Economics and Finance with Foundation Year

Economics and Geography

Economics and History

Economics and International Relations

Economics and Management

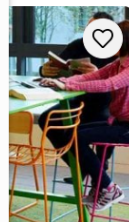
Economics and Mathematics

Sort by: Relevance

🗄️ Grid

☰ List

🗑️ Reset filters



Course Search - filters

Q Economics

< Search All | 1548 courses | Page 1 of 65

Sort by: Relevance

Grid List

All filters Year Study type University or College

Reset filters



Economics
University of Aberdeen
Main Site
MA (Hons) · 4 years · Full-time · September 2026
UCAS Tariff: N/A



Economics
Aberystwyth University
Main Site (Aberystwyth)
BSc (Hons) · 3 years · Full-time · September 2026
UCAS Tariff: 96 - 120 points



Economics
Aston University, Birmingham
Main Site
BSc (Hons) · 4 years · Full-time · September 2026
UCAS Tariff: N/A




Economics
Bangor University
Main Site
BSc (Hons) · 3 years · Full-time · September 2026
UCAS Tariff: 112 - 136 points

You can use the filters to narrow the results – they appear in alphabetical order by university.

Can filter location, distance, entry requirements and start date.

There are over 1,548 Economics courses.


Course Search – Click on a Course



Economics

University of Exeter

BSc (Hons) • 3 Years • Full-time • 21 September 2026 • Undergraduate University of Exeter - Exeter campuses



[More about University of Exeter](#)

Course options

2026-2027	2027-2028
1 campus University of Exeter - Exeter campuses	▼
1 study option BSc (Hons) • Full-time • 3 Years	▼
Starting date 21 September 2026	▼

[Apply](#)

[Course summary](#) | [Modules](#) | [How to apply](#) | [Entry requirements](#) | [Fees and funding](#) | [Contact information](#)

▶ Click on a course you like the look of.

▶ There will be information on the course, module information, entry requirements and assessment methods.

Course Search – Click on a Course cont.

Course summary

- A comprehensive degree enabling you to understand modern economics, covering essential topics including inflation, monopoly control, the study of developing economies and the finance of multinational companies
- Flexible structure ensures you are knowledgeable in all core areas of economics whilst offering you the opportunity to pursue optional modules; allowing you to tailor your degree to your interests
- Your first two years consist of introductory and intermediate modules delivering the tools and techniques required for formal economic analysis.
- With a completely bespoke final year, you can choose from a range of modules, including the opportunity to choose one module from beyond the Business School
- No previous study of economics is required or assumed.

To learn more about modules, assessment methods, facilities and our staff research expertise please visit our course page.

- ▶ The course summary provides a BRIEF overview of the course.
- ▶ Read it and if you like the sound of the course, go onto the university's website to see additional information.

Course Searches – Click on a Course

Open days



University of Exeter - Undergraduate

Open Day

27 May 2026, 09:00
Penryn



University of Exeter - Undergraduate

Open Day

29 May 2026, 09:00
Exeter



University of Exeter - Undergraduate

Open Day

30 May 2026, 09:00
Exeter

Entry requirements (typical offer)

Qualification	Typical offer	Required subjects
A-Level	A*AA - AAA	GCE A-Level Mathematics grade B. Candidates may offer GCE AL Maths, Pure Maths or Further Maths.
IB	38/766 - 36/666	HL5 or SL6 in Mathematics (Analysis and Approaches or Applications and Interpretations). Maths Studies not accepted.
BTEC	D*DD - DDD	Applicants studying a BTEC Extended Diploma are also required to achieve A-Level grade B in Mathematics
GCSE	C or 4	C or 4 in GCSE English language
Access to HE	30 L3 credits at Distinction Grade and 15 L3 credits at Merit Grade.	To include at least 12 L3 credits at Merit Grade in an acceptable Mathematics subject area.
T-Level	Distinction* - Distinction	Applicants studying a T-Level will also require GCE A-Level Mathematics
Contextual Offer	A-Level: AAB - ABB IB: 34/665 - 32/655 BTEC: DDD - DDM	Specific subject requirements must still be achieved where stated above. Find out more about contextual offers.

- ▶ There is also information on open days and the entry requirements.
- ▶ If the entrance requirements seem realistic, you might want to visit the university.
- ▶ Some universities have specific A-Level grades they require.
- ▶ Some universities might have GCSE requirements.

UCAS Tariff Points

UCAS tariff points

Grade	Tariff points
A*	56
A	48
B	40
C	32
D	24
E	16

Extended Certificate

Grade	UCAS points
Distinction *	56
Distinction	48
Merit	32
Pass	16

Course Search – Contextual admissions

Contextual admissions

Universities and colleges consider more than grades when assessing applications and may make offers based on a range of criteria. [Learn more about contextual offers.](#)

This tool provides a broad indication on entry information. When considering applicants at Exeter there are additional specific individual considerations taken into account. This includes eligibility for contextual offers, extenuating circumstances, whether applicants fall within UK or international targets, or whether they've applied for a capped programme or group. Please also make sure to check for specific subject requirements on our website www.exeter.ac.uk/study/undergraduate

Here is an example – you can see that the contextual offer is two grades lower than the standard offer.

Qualification	Typical offer
A-Level	A*AA - AAA
Contextual Offer	A-Level: AAB - ABB

- ▶ Some universities have contextual offers.
- ▶ These are typically two grades lower than the standard offer.
- ▶ The requirements vary by university, but are typically based on postcode, household income (measured by FSM) or being in care.
- ▶ Check each university's website for specific requirements.

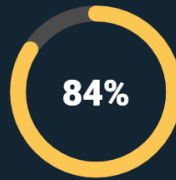
Course Search – Student outcomes

Student Outcomes

Operated by the Office for Students



Employment after 15 months (Most common jobs)



Go onto work and study

The number of student respondents and response rates can be important in interpreting the data – it is important to note your experience may be different from theirs. This data will be based on the subject area rather than the specific course. **Read more about this data on the Discover Uni website.**

- ▶ Student outcomes is useful to see if the degree is likely to lead onto something beneficial, e.g. employment or further study.

Other Things To Consider – Type of University

When choosing a university, there are many things to consider other than just entry requirements, course content and location.

1. Campus vs. City university:

- ▶ Campus: A campus university is like a self-contained student village, where everything you need for living, socialising and studying is in one place. Campus universities tend to have more of a community feel, as you'll be surrounded by other students.
- ▶ City: At a city university, everything from accommodation to lecture halls and student facilities will be spread out over a much wider area than at a self-contained [campus university](#).

Other Things To Consider – Type of Course

1. Study abroad or Placement Year: these degrees tend to be 4 years long as they include a year studying abroad or in industry.
2. Degrees with a Foundation year: These degrees also tend to be 4 years long as they include a foundation year, which provides a chance to get up to speed with any knowledge./skills missed at A Level before starting the main degree.
3. Combined honours degrees: Some universities allow you to study 2 subjects at the same time e.g. BSc Economics and Politics.
4. Degree Apprenticeships: This is when you are employed by an organisation, who will pay for you to complete a degree. Your working week will be structured as 80% work and 20% study. It can take up to 7 years to complete your degree this way.

Making An Application

- ▶ Students can only apply for a maximum of 5 choices – it is not easy to change choices, so students need to be sure they are happy to go to all their choices.
- ▶ The same personal statement must be used for all applications.
- ▶ We advise students to apply to universities that match their predicted grades – it is ok to have one aspirational choice and one slightly lower choice.
- ▶ Research! Every universities course is slightly different.
- ▶ Students do not need to apply to all five at once, but should apply by the UCAS deadline for equal consideration.
- ▶ Don't pick a university just because friends are going there – they might not end up there.

Making an Application cont.

- ▶ Students can start an application now but cannot send it until September 1st.
- ▶ The earlier, the better!
- ▶ The personal statement is the longest part of the application for students – the first draft is never perfect, so starting early, getting it checked and making improvements is vital.

The Personal Statement

UCAS

Discover Applying Money & student life International

🔍 🍷 👤 Sign in

🏠 > Applying > Applying to university > Writing your personal statement ...



Writing your personal statement

Here you'll find everything you need to know about writing your personal statement.

What's on this page?

- [How to write your personal statement](#)
- [Personal statement subject-specific guides](#)
- [Personal statements for conservatoires, mature students, and international students](#)
- [Using AI and ChatGPT with your personal statement](#)

▶ Lots of information on UCAS regarding personal statements.

▶ In the applying section.

The Personal Statement – New Last Year

The new personal statement questions

Question 1: Why do you want to study this course or subject?

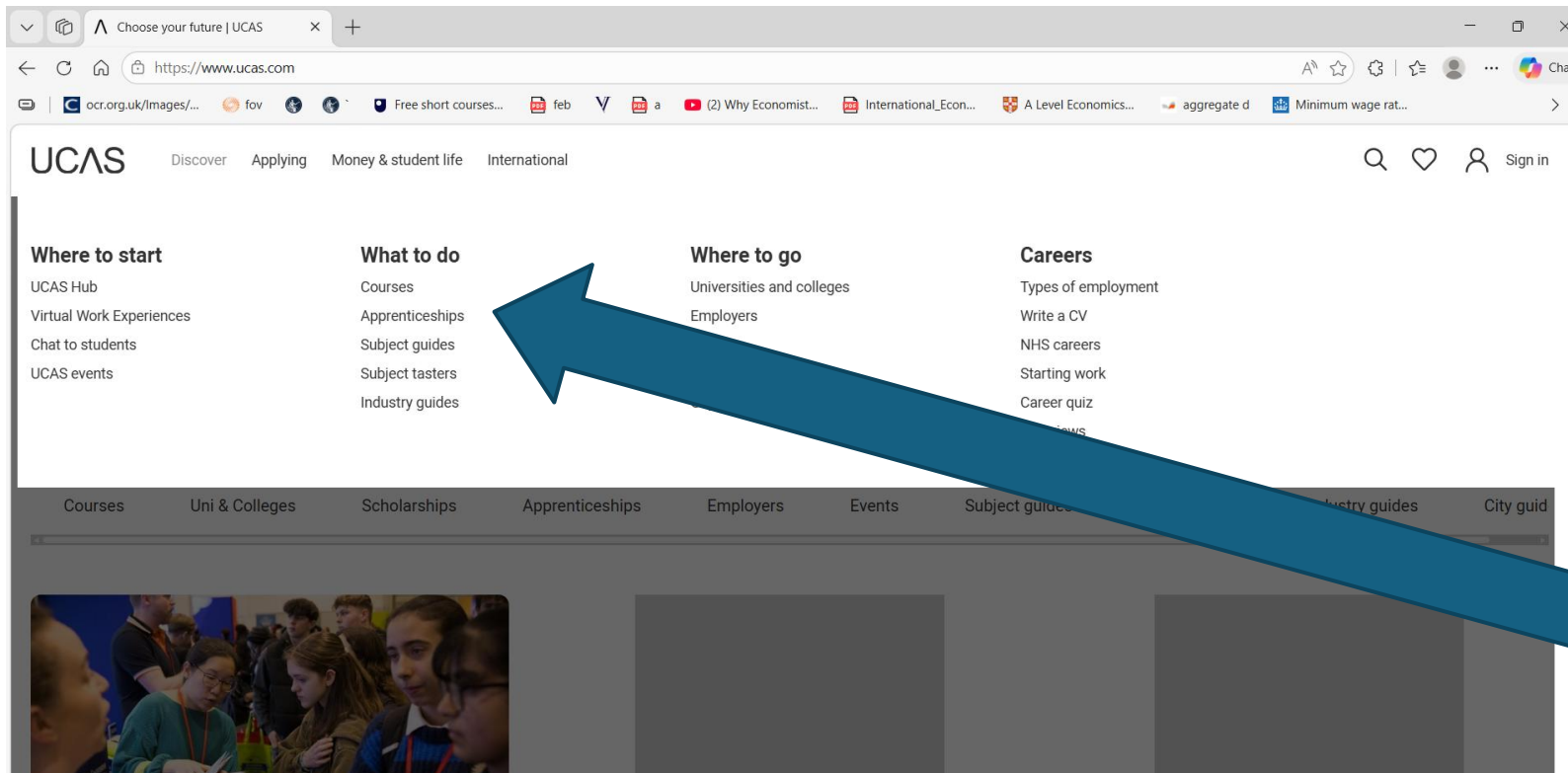
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Question 2: How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?

+

Question 3: What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?

Extra Bits on UCAS: Apprenticeships



The image shows a screenshot of the UCAS website. The browser address bar displays 'https://www.ucas.com'. The main navigation menu includes 'Discover', 'Applying', 'Money & student life', and 'International'. A search icon, a heart icon, and a 'Sign in' link are also visible. The page content is organized into four columns: 'Where to start', 'What to do', 'Where to go', and 'Careers'. A large blue arrow points from the right side of the page towards the 'Apprenticeships' link in the 'What to do' column. Below the main navigation, a secondary menu lists 'Courses', 'Uni & Colleges', 'Scholarships', 'Apprenticeships', 'Employers', 'Events', 'Subject guides', 'Industry guides', and 'City guide'. The bottom of the page features a banner image of students at an event.

Choose your future | UCAS

https://www.ucas.com

UCAS Discover Applying Money & student life International

Where to start
UCAS Hub
Virtual Work Experiences
Chat to students
UCAS events

What to do
Courses
Apprenticeships
Subject guides
Subject tasters
Industry guides

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Courses Uni & Colleges Scholarships Apprenticeships Employers Events Subject guides Industry guides City guide

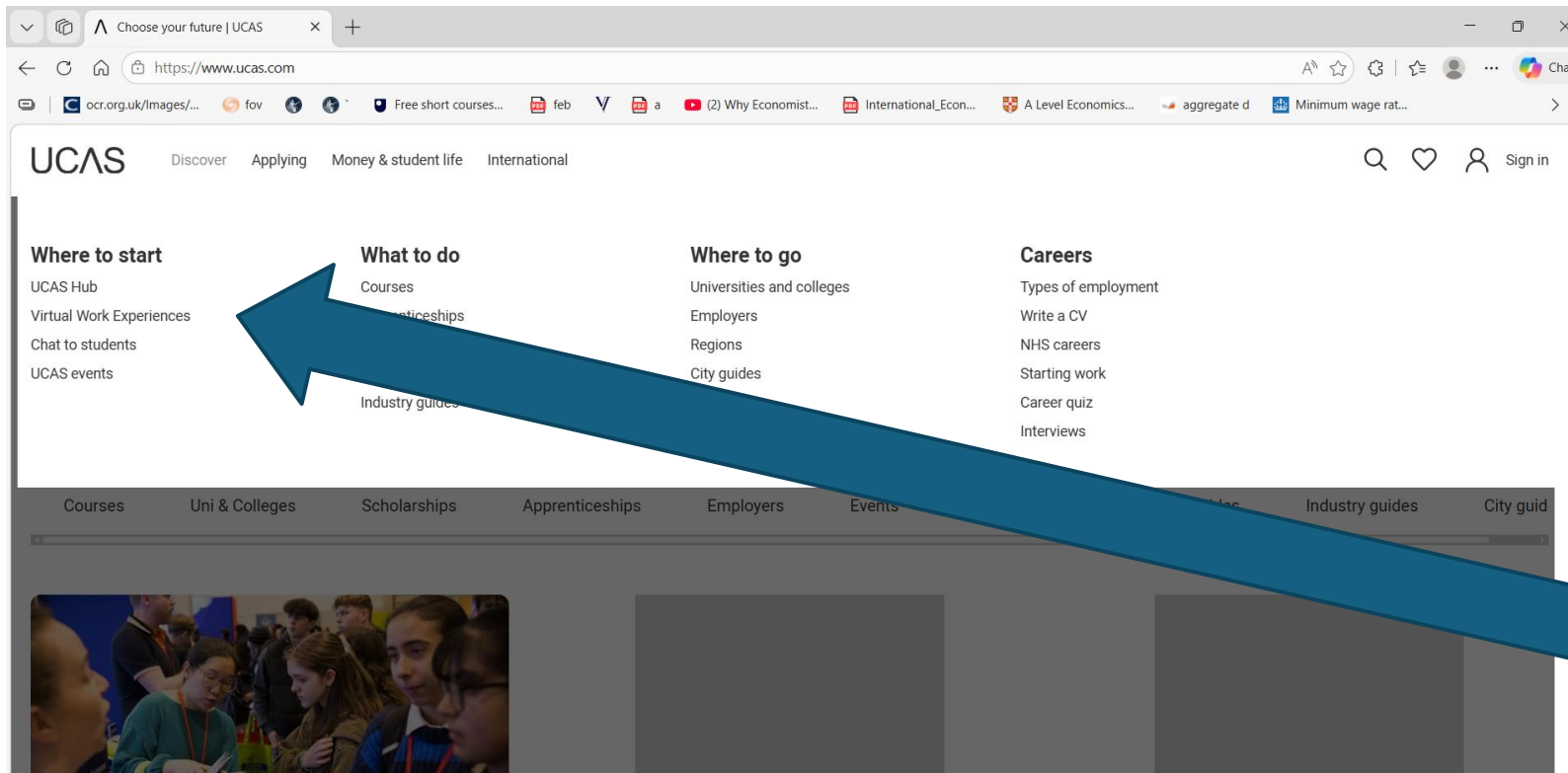
Extra Bits on UCAS: Industry Guides

The image shows a screenshot of the UCAS website. The browser address bar displays 'https://www.ucas.com'. The main navigation bar includes 'Discover', 'Applying', 'Money & student life', and 'International'. Below this, there are four columns of links:

- Where to start**
 - UCAS Hub
 - Virtual Work Experiences
 - Chat to students
 - UCAS events
- What to do**
 - Courses
 - Apprenticeships
 - Subject guides
 - Subject tasters
 - Industry guides
- Where to go**
 - Universities and colleges
 - Employers
 - Regions
 - City guides
 - Gap years
- Careers**
 - Types of employment
 - Write a CV
 - NHS careers
 - Starting work
 - Career quiz
 - Interviews

A large blue arrow points from the right side of the page towards the 'Industry guides' link in the 'What to do' column. Below the navigation menus, there is a horizontal menu with links for 'Courses', 'Uni & Colleges', 'Scholarships', 'Apprenticeships', 'Employers', and 'City guides'. The bottom of the page features a banner image of students at an event.

Extra Bits on UCAS: Virtual Work Experience



The image shows a screenshot of the UCAS website in a browser window. The browser's address bar shows the URL <https://www.ucas.com>. The website's navigation menu includes 'Discover', 'Applying', 'Money & student life', and 'International'. A search icon, a heart icon, and a 'Sign in' link are also visible. The main content area is divided into four columns: 'Where to start', 'What to do', 'Where to go', and 'Careers'. A large blue arrow points from the bottom right towards the 'Virtual Work Experiences' link in the 'Where to start' column. Below the navigation menu, there is a horizontal menu with links for 'Courses', 'Uni & Colleges', 'Scholarships', 'Apprenticeships', 'Employers', 'Events', 'Industry guides', and 'City guid'. At the bottom, there is a banner image showing a group of students.

Choose your future | UCAS

<https://www.ucas.com>

UCAS Discover Applying Money & student life International

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Courses Uni & Colleges Scholarships Apprenticeships Employers Events Industry guides City guid

Extra Useful Websites

- ▶ **How to choose a university**
- ▶ [Choosing a university](#)

- ▶ **How to choose a degree**
- ▶ [How to choose the right degree | Prospects.ac.uk](#)

- ▶ **Personal Statement**
- ▶ [How to write your personal statement: 2026 entry | UCAS](#)

- ▶ **What to look for at open Days**
- ▶ [Preparing for a university open day | UCAS](#)

Matching A levels to degree choices

[Which Degree Courses Do Your A-Levels Suit? - The Uni Guide](#)

Degree Apprenticeships

[NEW What is a degree apprenticeship?](#)