

# Higher Education – University courses/Degrees

This is a resource to help you in your journey to get to University. The list below is what you need to do in order – below this list is more detail and links to resources that can help you at each stage.

If you want to study a degree at university you need to:

1. Decide on the subject/course you would like to study.
2. Do some research on if you have the right subjects/qualifications to do the course you have picked. (If it is a National Curriculum subject - Maths, English, Science, History, Geography etc then you have to have the A level. If it's not, like Business and Sociology, you can apply for these without studying that A Level first).
3. Research universities that deliver your course - to see what their entry criteria is. Can you get in? - also to see if you like the university - you have to stay there for 3 years.
4. You need to narrow your choice of universities to a maximum of 5.

Conservatoires are a different application

## **Decide on the subject/course you would like to study.**

It is vital that you remember that university is about further in-depth study - so it needs to be a course that you are fascinated by and want to learn and do further research about. You can choose a course that does this – furthers a subject you currently study or it can be a course that you don't currently study but check if you have the right subjects/qualifications to do the course you have picked. (If it is a National Curriculum subject - Maths, English, Science, History, Geography etc then you have to have the A level. If it's not, like Business and Sociology, you can apply for these without studying that A Level first).

Another type of course is vocational – it leads to a career path i.e. Social Worker, Nurse, Policing, Doctor, Vet, Paramedic, Physiotherapist, Psychology.

What and Where to Study - <https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/what-and-where-study/ucas-undergraduate-what-study>

Explore subjects on the UCAS website

<https://www.ucas.com/explore/subjects?scheme=undergraduate>

## **Do some research on if you have the right subjects/qualifications to do the course you have picked.**

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<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/what-where-study>

Course search on the UCAS website: <https://digital.ucas.com/search>

Each university now has guidance on this on their websites as well – some are offering chats with academics and students.

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## **Research universities that deliver your course - to see what their entry**

**criteria is.** Can you get in? - also to see if you like the university - you have to stay there for 3 years.

**Course search on the UCAS website:** <https://digital.ucas.com/search>

**Attend open days** – this is where you visit the university on a planned open day - <https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/what-and-where-study/events-and-open-days>

**List of all open days** – by calendar as well <https://www.opendays.com/>

Most universities have **virtual tours** on their website at the moment and are doing sign up question and Answer sessions

**Entry requirements explained:** <https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/what-and-where-study/ucas-undergraduate-entry-requirements>

**UCAS tariff explained:** <https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/what-and-where-study/entry-requirements/ucas-tariff-points>

## **You need to narrow your choice of universities to a maximum of 5.**

You can choose up to five courses (all now or some later – don't fill all 5 just because you can -if you don't want to go to a university don't include it). There's no preference order and your universities/colleges won't see where else you've applied until after you reply to any offers you get.

Applying for medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine or veterinary science? For these subjects you can only apply to a maximum of four courses in any one of medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine or veterinary science. You can add choices with a different deadline later, but don't forget you can only have five choices in total.

Can I apply to both the University of Oxford and the University of Cambridge? you can only apply to one course at either the University of Oxford or the University of Cambridge.

**Register and Apply** – UCAS is the central place where you complete one application form and they send it to your 5 universities. None of them know what other universities you have applied for.

**Please now refer to the “How to make a university application via UCAS” help sheet which will be available in May 2021**

## **Conservatoires – Performing Arts courses**

Each conservatoire has its own strengths and specialisms, so it's important to research all of them to find the right fit for you. For example, although all conservatoires offer music courses, only two offer drama courses, and some offer subjects like film and production. To help decide, research what graduates from each conservatoire have gone on to do, to see if this fits with your aspirations.

The conservatoires in the UCAS Conservatoires scheme are:

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- Royal Birmingham Conservatoire
- Bristol Old Vic Theatre School
- Leeds College of Music
- Royal Academy of Music
- Royal College of Music
- Royal Conservatoire of Scotland
- Royal Northern College of Music
- Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama
- Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance

Other conservatoires may operate outside the UCAS Conservatoire scheme. and you may have to apply to them direct or through the UCAS Undergraduate scheme. If the conservatoire is not listed above, check with them to find out more about their admissions process.

<https://www.ucas.com/conservatoires>

<https://www.ucas.com/conservatoires/conservatoire-study-right-me>

Deadlines <https://www.ucas.com/conservatoires/how-apply-through-ucas-conservatoires/ucas-conservatoires-when-apply>

Dates will change slightly for 2022 applications - *For courses starting in 2021, your application should be with us by one of these dates to ensure consideration by the conservatoires:*

- 1 October 2020, 18:00 (UK time) – for music courses
- 15 January 2021, 18:00 (UK time) – for most undergraduate dance, drama or musical theatre courses

However there are some exceptions, particularly for certain audition locations, international applicants or postgraduate courses, so check the conservatoire websites for full details.

If you miss the deadline for your course, you must ask the conservatoires whether they have vacancies before applying – we'll still process your application either way, but it will be deemed 'late' and some conservatoires might not consider you.

### How to Apply – different from your UCAS application.

<https://www.ucas.com/conservatoires/how-apply-through-ucas-conservatoires>

Get two references

- **You'll need an academic reference and a practical reference. These must be completed by two different referees. Enter the details of your referees on the application, and ask them to send you a reference.**

Who should write your **academic reference**? Your Senior Tutor - so you put their name.

Who should write your **practical reference**?

Your practical referee should be someone, such as your music, dance, drama or art teacher/tutor, or head of department, who can comment on your:

- ability, experience and potential in your specialist field

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- general academic ability in music, dance, drama, or musical theatre
- practical skills
- attitude to work and reliability
- commitment to music, dance, drama, or musical theatre as a profession
- ability to communicate
- relevant experience

It is not permitted for either you, your family, friends, partners or ex-partners to write your reference. If subsequently we find this to be the case, the application may be cancelled.

### Sending reference forms to your referee

At college you must send the reference forms to your referees to complete, and we will send the references separately to the conservatoires. Save the reference form as a Word document to email to your referee. You can download the academic reference form here:

 [UCAS Conservatoires academic reference form](#) (127 KB)

You need an academic reference and a practical reference sent to each conservatoire for each of the courses you have applied for.

Enter your name and Personal ID on each reference form and save or print a separate copy for each of your choices and for each type of referee. So for six choices, you will have six documents for each referee, i.e. 12 reference forms in total.

### Enter the following details onto an academic and practical reference form:

- **your main specialism/discipline**
- **the course applied for**
- **tick your choice of conservatoire**

Give, post, or email the forms to your referees and, if they intend to post your reference forms onto the conservatoires, send them with a stamped addressed envelope for each of your choices. *If they intend to email your reference forms, please note that your referee must email the forms on to the conservatoire, once completed – they must not be sent to a conservatoire from your email address.*

- You can enter your referee's response into the referee's section before you submit your application, or if you are unable to get it in time you'll need to print or download the reference forms to post or email to your referees – and they need to send the references to the conservatoires you're applying to. At college we send your academic reference direct to the conservatoires once you have sent us your reference forms completed with your details.
- **This must be completed by the end of October for music courses, or as soon as possible for courses with other deadlines – check conservatoire websites for specific dates.**

Once all sections are complete, you must pay any fees, before sending your application to UCAS.