



UCAS Preparation & Application Guide 2027 Entry

Introduction

This booklet is designed to make it easier for you to navigate through the challenging route that will hopefully lead you to university entry. It is really worth making the right choices now. After all, you will be committing yourself to a course of study that will dominate at least three years of your life and which is likely to bring you many benefits during your lifetime.

We recognise the importance of your next steps and as you know we have encouraged you to start thinking about these important decisions at an early stage. Your visit also gave you an insight into courses and hopefully got you thinking about the type of university you may wish to attend. Some of your Enrichment sessions have also provided you with invaluable advice and your tutors will also share their experience with you. We also highly recommend that you organise some university visits this term and next – but please ensure you complete the relevant permission form if you cannot arrange these at weekends or in the holiday.

The Crypt Sixth Form has an excellent reputation and track record in preparing students for HE entry. We have achieved this success through a combination of the hard work and determination on the part of the students themselves and the guidance provided to applicants by their tutors, teachers and our careers adviser.

The Sixth Form Team

1. Post-18 options

At 18 there are a number of options for students with A-Levels. Most do choose to go onto Higher Education (HE) to study for a degree in their chosen area. However, some students may wish to take up employment or undertake an apprenticeship or job-related training. Information and guidance about all options are offered in school for students' use.

2. Choosing the right course & institution

With hundreds of HE providers and thousands of courses on offer the choice appears both endless and somewhat daunting. Some students have long known what they want to study after school but many have a number of potential options whilst some still have no idea. Whichever group you fall into, once you have decided that going to university is the right option for you, you will need to decide which course(s) you wish to study and where you would like to study. You will have a choice of up to five institutions to which you can apply (four for Medicine, Dentistry and Vet Medicine) and can apply for up to five different courses – although it is normal to apply for the same course at five different institutions. Therefore in thinking about what you want to study and where you wish to study you may like to bear the following points in mind.

Subjects.

You will have 3 basic options –

- continue with a subject (or subjects) that you are currently studying and enjoy:
- approach a new academic subject for example, psychology, economics, law:
- study a vocational subject, nursing, retail management, engineering. There are over 55,000 courses on offer at Higher Education Institutions in the UK. Your choice needs to be researched carefully and there are resources in school to assist with this.

Institutions.

Which university is best for you is a very personal decision. It is somewhere where you will be spending 3 or 4 years (plus a significant amount of money) so it is important to make the right choice. Points to consider are:

- Does it offer the right syllabus for me
- Can I achieve the entry requirements
- Size and location
- City or campus university
- Travelling time and cost from home
- Does the institution have a good reputation for my subject
- What sports and social activities are offered
- What sort of employment do the graduates from the course move into
- Cost of living

When making your decision about course and institution choice make sure you view the **entry profiles** on the UCAS website for the relevant institution and department to see if you meet the basic entry requirements for that institution and subject. There is little point applying to a university when you do not meet the basic entry requirements.

2027 Tariff UCAS entry

Grade	AS points	A Level Points
A*		56
A	20	48
B	16	40
C	12	32
D	10	24
E	6	16

3. UCAS on-line application process & Crypt internal deadlines

The UCAS application

Your UCAS application must be completed on the UCAS Apply web based system which you can access either via the School intranet or from home if you have internet connection. You must register first in School; this process will take place during the Enrichment tutorials on UCAS.

Your reference

Your reference is in 3 sections. Section 1 is information regarding the school and will be the same in all Crypt student's applications. Section 2 includes any extenuating circumstances that the University should be aware of. This has been written by Mrs Price and she will check this with you before it's added. Sections 3 will be written by your subject teachers and tutor.

Your application

You should complete your UCAS application by the dates set out below. The School UCAS No is **13272**. The fee code will be **UK Finance England** and our centre number is **66715**. You should have precise details of your GCSE and GCE qualifications and you must list all qualifications taken. UCAS has a database of qualifications and the accuracy of your qualifications may well be checked.

Before you send your form to the referee (Mr Biggs, Mr Dyer, Miss Parkin), you must check all details of your form are accurate and complete. Then you must **PRINT OUT YOUR FORM AND HAND TO MR BIGGS, MR DYER or MISS PARKIN PERSONALLY FOR FINAL CHECKING**. We will then authorise you to send us your form. UCAS forms will not be sent unless payment has been made.

Your tutor will help you with and check your personal statement. Mr Biggs, Mr Dyer, and Miss Parkin will be available to give you advice during lunchtimes or during Wednesday period 5, or other sessions they allocate to support you.

Internal deadlines for student to complete your application are as follows:

FRIDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER 2026

Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, Dentistry Oxford and Cambridge applications

FRIDAY 23rd OCTOBER 2026

All other subjects

4. Completing Section 10 – the Personal Statement

This is the part of the UCAS form which takes most time and demands most attention. In this section you have just 4000 characters, split across three questions, to show why you would be an ideal candidate for your chosen course. The questions are:

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

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

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

Take your time over this section – draft out a statement and show it to your tutor/relevant subject teacher who will offer you feedback. Redraft it and show it to Mr Biggs, Mr Dyer or Miss Parkin. Make sure you check that spelling, punctuation and grammar are all correct. When completing your personal statement make sure you tailor it to the particular demands of the course – look at the **subject entry profiles** on the UCAS website.

Students applying for Oxford or Cambridge and for Medicine, Veterinary Medicine and Dentistry should return at the beginning of September with a completed draft of their Personal Statement.

5. Oxbridge

Some students will be considering an application to either Oxford or Cambridge universities and we strongly encourage such applications if your ambitions are realistic. Applications are made through UCAS although Cambridge does also require applicants to complete an online form which will be emailed to you once you have submitted your application. Deadlines for Oxbridge entry are early (please see above) and so it is pivotal that you are beginning to consider your application now. Other courses such as Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Medicine or Law can also be either equally or even more competitive than Oxbridge, and may also have entry tests you will need to sit.

The Crypt has a good track record of success in these areas. Those who do wish to make an application will have thought carefully about their reasons for wanting to study at Oxbridge and will have an excellent academic profile; invariably they will be predicted A or A* grades at A Level. Oxbridge students should meet in small subject-based study groups on a regular basis in preparation for their application and for an

interview. These meetings have already started and will continue through to the Oxbridge interviews in December. They will be prepared to undertake significant reading/study in their area of interest – the school's Super-Curricular Booklet is a suitable starting point for ideas for this purpose.

A significant amount of time should be devoted to Oxbridge preparation during the summer holiday. Some students will also have to sit additional entry tests (see below) and familiarisation and preparation for these will be required. Ensure you have booked a test if you need one as registration for such tests is not automatic and it is your responsibility to make sure this is done on time. Miss Parkin oversees these applications and any queries or questions should be sent her way (sparkin@crypt.gloucs.sch.uk).

6. University Additional entry tests – 2026 (for 2027 entry or deferred entry 2028)

Some students will have to take additional tests as part of the application process. You need to research whether this applies to you or not by visiting relevant university websites. The following sets out the position at the moment.

a) Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Medicine/Science: UCAT

You have to register online by 26th September 2024.

There is only a short testing window - 08th July to 26th September 2024

UCAT	www.ucat.ac.uk
Online registration opens:	20th May 2026
UCAT registration deadline:	16th Sept 2026 (15:00 BST)
Access Arrangement deadline:	10th Sept 2026 (15:00 BST)
Testing starts:	23rd June 2026
Bursary and voucher application deadline:	10th Sept 2026
Last test day:	24th Sept 2026

b) Law LNAT – National Admission Test for Law -Some students wishing to study law will be required to sit the LNAT. Students need to register online from August 1st and take the test at the local test centre. Testing begins on 1st September. Oxford applicants are required to take the test by specific dates. Relevant for Birmingham, Bristol, Durham, Glasgow, King's College London, Nottingham, Oxford, University College London. UK Fee £75 for 2026/27. Students receiving grants may apply for a bursary prior to booking the test. Further details at www.lnat.ac.uk

c) Oxford and Cambridge Universities

These universities have a range of admissions tests and students are usually asked to submit written work. Some tests will be taken when you attend for interview and others separately at a Pearson VUE centre. See Mr Dyer or Miss Parkin for details. **It is therefore very important that you check admissions information and procedures in detail.**

Information about all requirements and sample papers can be found on the university websites
-www.ox.ac.uk and www.cam.ac.uk

Oxford: www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/applying-to-oxford/tests?wssl=1

Cambridge: www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/applying/admission-assessments

University College London:

<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/clie/preparatory-certificates/how-to-apply/how-to-apply-tab/entrance-tests>

STEP – Sixth Term Examination Papers in Mathematics

Required for Mathematics courses at Cambridge, UCL and Warwick. The University of Bristol, the University of Bath, the University of Oxford and Imperial College London all encourage applicants to take the papers.

TEST REQUIREMENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE – PLEASE CHECK WEBSITES FOR UP TO DATE INFORMATION

7. Art & Design

Art and Design applicants normally apply to study for an Art Foundation course before they proceed to a degree level programme. Bishop's has developed a strong relationship with the Arts University College Bournemouth where many of our students go to study for their Foundation year. Applications go direct to institutions except for London based colleges. The Art department oversees this process which begins in January. Applications for university courses usually will be completed during the art foundation year. The deadlines for art and design courses is 26th January.

8. Music

Some students who wish to study Music at degree level apply for one of the Conservatoires. Students will need to apply through the CUKAS application system and will need to meet an early deadline. 15th July -applications open. 02nd October 6pm 'on time' applications -closing date. You need to contact the conservatoires about vacancies prior to application. For more information see <https://www.ucas.com/conservatoires> Other students will apply for Music courses at conventional universities and therefore apply through the normal UCAS on-line system.

9. Medicine

Medicine remains one of the most popular and challenging HE courses. It is also of course one of the most demanding and rewarding of careers to pursue. Students need to have undertaken a significant amount of work experience in preparation for making a successful application for Medicine. They need to ensure that they are committed to this five/six year degree programme and can show evidence of their commitment to medicine through their personal statements. Realistically students need to have achieved highly in their GCSE and be studying Chemistry at A level. Predicted A Levels grades of mostly A's, will also be important as well as a very positive school reference. Students can apply for up to 4 institutions and may decide to use their fifth choice to apply for a related discipline (such as biochemistry) as an insurance offer. Please note that entrants for Medicine will need to take the relevant test (see above) and Medicine has an early entry deadline.

10. Student Self-Assessment

Your tutor will be responsible for writing part of your UCAS reference – the part which reflects on your personality, your contribution to the school and local community and your suitability for HE. In order to ensure your mentor has all the details that he/she requires to write a full and accurate reference about you, you have been updating information on Unifrog for your tutor. You must update your tutor if you have any new information to add to this.

11. UCAS Extra & Clearing

UCAS Extra is a process that allows applicants to apply to additional universities or colleges that still have vacancies. It means that they do not have to wait until Clearing to apply for other courses.

Extra operates from the end of February until the end of June. UCAS's on-line Course Search system shows

which courses have vacancies. If an applicant is eligible to use Extra, a button will appear on their Track service on this website. They can then apply for one course at a time using Track.

To use Extra applicants need to have:

- already made five choices;
- received decisions from all these choices; and
- either had no offers or declined all the offers they have received.

If a student declines their offers and adds an Extra choice, they will not be able to accept any of their original choices later.

If an applicant is made an offer, they can choose whether or not to accept it. If they accept it, they cannot apply again through Extra. If an applicant's Extra choice does not make them an offer, or they do not receive a decision within 21 days of making an application through Extra, they can then apply for another choice (time permitting).

If an applicant is not offered a place by the end of the Extra process, they will be entered into Clearing. Clearing is used by applicants who have not managed to secure a place at university or college for the current year. It begins in August and it can help people to find suitable vacancies on higher education courses: more than 30,000 people gain a place during Clearing every year.

If you are flexible and you have reasonable exam results, there is still a good chance you will find another course.

Who can use Clearing?

You are eligible for Clearing if you have applied in the current application year and if:

- you have not withdrawn your application;
- you hold no offers; or
- your offers have not been confirmed because you have not met the conditions (e.g. you have not achieved the required grades); or
- you have declined your offers or not responded by the due date; or
- your offers have not been confirmed, and you have declined any alternative offers from the same university; or
- you have applied after 30 June. If UCAS received your application after these dates, they will not have sent it to any universities and colleges.

Course vacancies in Clearing are published on this site from mid-August until late-September. Further information about how to apply will be available nearer the time. You can apply for any course advertised in Clearing – not just your original choice.

On A-Level results day – August - 'Clearing' will become available. Information about courses available appears on the UCAS website or in The Independent newspaper. Students who have achieved better results than predicted will have the opportunity to explore other courses while still holding their original choice.

12. Work Experience

Work experience is increasingly vital for some university courses and very useful for others. Relevant work experience undertaken in the Sixth Form is crucial for those wishing to study Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, Dentistry, Law and teaching. Students could also consider using any 'gap year' to develop their

work experience for example by undertaking a 'Year in Industry' placement.

13. Gap years

An increasing number of leavers decide to take a 'gap year' before they proceed to university. Most universities are happy with students taking a 'gap year' although students need to check that that is the case. Obviously for some courses it may be prudent not to take a 'gap year' due to the length of the course (medicine) or the competition for places (Oxbridge). Productive 'gap years' however are often very worthwhile and grant students more maturity when they do arrive at university. Undertaking charity work or say teaching in this country or abroad, or undertaking a project with one of the many 'gap year' organisations may also impress future employers. You can apply to university this academic year (2024-2025) for 2026 entry by selecting the 'deferred entry' option on the UCAS form (see www.ucas.com/gap).

14. Student finance

Universities now charge for courses and students do need to be aware that going to university involves a significant financial commitment on their behalf. **Most universities have requested to charge the maximum of £9,790. Living costs will add on about £10, 242 (outside of London)** . Loans and grants are provided by Student Finance England. The full amount of the tuition fee may be borrowed which is paid directly to your chosen institution. A full or partial maintenance grant (non-repayable) is available for students depending on household income and a maintenance loan can also be applied for. Parental contribution is also means tested. Loans are not repayable until the student the student is earning over £25,000 per year. Bursaries and scholarships are available from universities and charitable organisations and are worthwhile investigating as many go unclaimed. With this considerable financial investment students do need to ensure that **they make the right choice about both the course they wish to study and the institution they wish to attend. (Please be aware that the figures above accurate when this document was written but may change for 2025 entry, so always check)**

15. Useful websites

General advice on higher education - www.direct.gov.uk Education and Learning -Designed to help you make important decisions about your future. Highlights the benefits of going to university.

www.officeforstudents.org.uk

Facts and figures about universities

www.whatuni.com

Guide to life and learning.

Courses and applying to university www.ucas.com

UCAS Directory of all higher education courses available at UK universities and colleges, how to apply and other frequently asked questions on undergraduate study.

www.completeuniversityguide.co.uk

To search for league tables to compare UK universities and subjects, as well as articles on current affairs.

Open days www.opendays.com

For information and dates of university and college open days.

Studying abroad www.astarfuture.co.uk

Provides information about international university education

www.fulbright.co.uk

Information about study in the US

Graduate careers www.beetroot.com

The student and graduate job site. Provides information on career choices for students at all levels.

Advice for students with disabilities www.disabilityrightsuk.org

Skill is the National Bureau for Students with Disabilities and provides information and advice for disabled students.

Student finance www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance

The most up-to-date information on student finances. Advice on tuition fees, student loans and financial help.

www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/Students.aspx

For information on bursaries for Healthcare and social work students.

www.scholarship-search.org.uk

Guide to everything you need when planning and organising your student finances.

Gap years and Apprenticeships

www.ucas.com/alternatives-to-university

Advice to help you plan and prepare for your year out.

www.gapyear.com

Gap year ideas and travel deals.

www.bunac.org

An organisation offering working holidays, flexible work and travel programmes and volunteering and teaching placements. This is just an example of what's available, there are many more organisations, so make sure you research all the options thoroughly.

UCAS Timetable for 2027 applications

3rd September 2026	Applications can be sent to UCAS
25th September 2026	School deadline for Oxford, Cambridge or any course in medicine, dentistry, and veterinary medicine/science
02nd October 2026 (18.00 UK time)	2027 entry UCAS Conservatoires deadline for music applications
15th October 2026 (18.00 UK time)	Deadline for applications to the universities of Oxford, Cambridge and applications for most medicine, dentistry, and veterinary medicine/science courses.
23rd October 2026	School deadline for all other subjects.
13th January 2027 (18.00 UK time)	Deadline for applications to all courses except those listed in the UCAS search tool, search.ucas.com , with a 15 th October deadline
25th February 2027	UCAS Extra opens. This allows students to apply for another course if you used all five choices and have no offers.
30th June 2027 (18.00 UK time)	The final deadline for applications to 2027 courses.
02nd July 2027	Clearing opens for all eligible applicants.

Please be aware that universities and colleges do not guarantee to consider applications they receive after 13th January 2027 and some popular courses may not have vacancies after that date. Please check with individual universities and colleges. **Complete your application as early as possible.**