



APPLYING TO STUDY AN UNDERGRADUATE QUALIFICATION IN THE UK

UCAS

What is UCAS?

UCAS is an impartial, non-profit charity, providing a central source of information and advice about higher education, as well as processing applications to full-time undergraduate courses at UK universities and colleges. On ucas.com, you can research your options, search for courses, make your application, and track its progress.

Applying to study in the UK

As the UK's national admissions service, UCAS is for all students who wish to apply to a university or college in the UK. UCAS processed over 706,000 applications in 2019, including over 140,000 applications from outside the UK. Over 540,000 people were accepted onto courses, including nearly 77,000 from outside the UK, applied through UCAS to get their place at UK university or college.



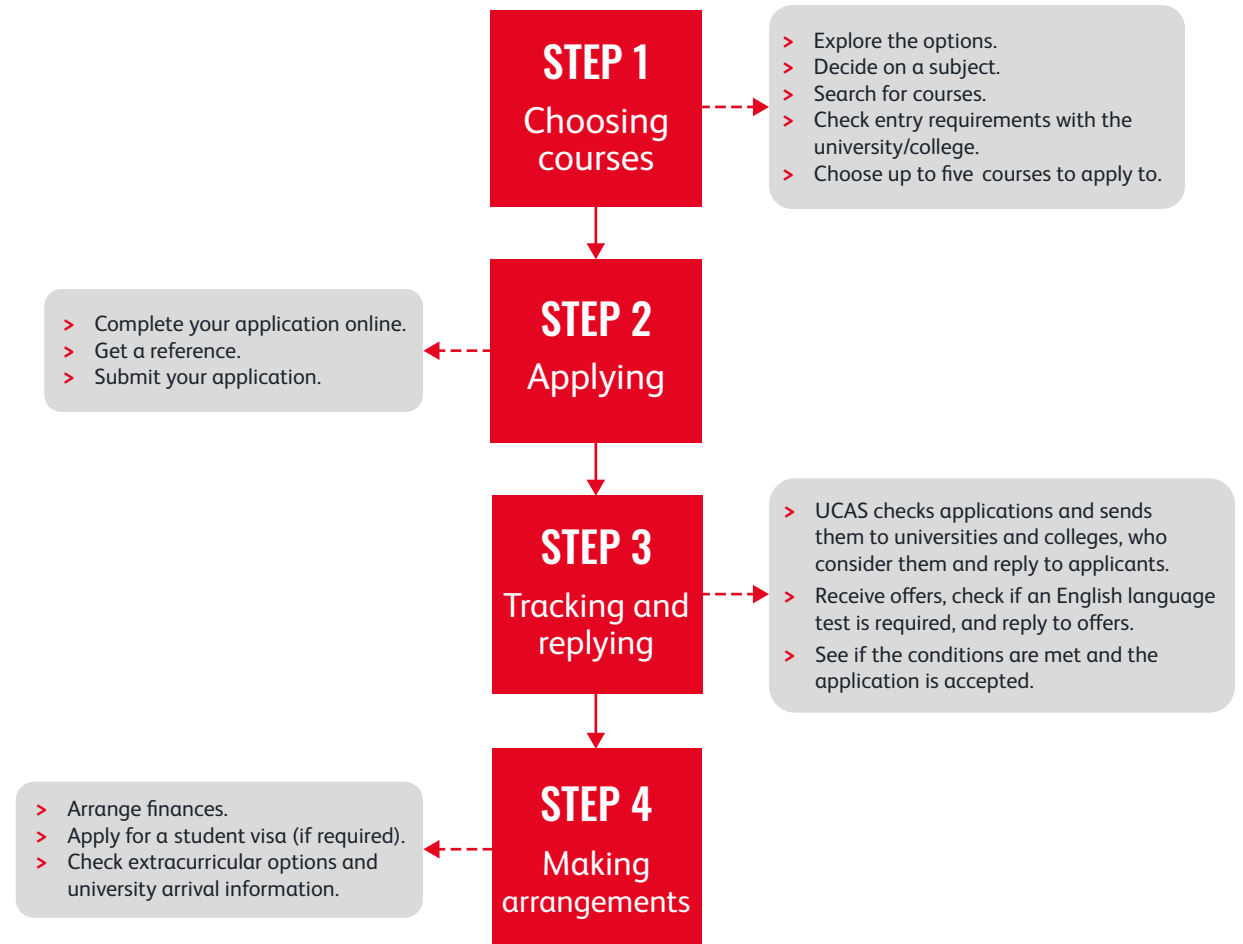
London Skyline from Primrose hill – England



Bridge of Sighs of St John's College, Cambridge – England

How to apply

You should apply to study in the UK through UCAS. Steps one, two, and three are completed through the UCAS website – [ucas.com](https://www.ucas.com) – which also has information on the arrangements you'll need to make for step four.



STEP 1 – CHOOSING COURSES

Research courses at digital.ucas.com/search. There are over 35,000 courses at over 400 universities and colleges to choose from.

STEP 2 – APPLYING

Start your application by registering online at ucas.com/apply. You can apply to up to five undergraduate courses – this could be five courses at five different universities, or five courses at one university. Try to apply for a range of courses with different entry requirements, so that you have options if your grades are better than, or not as good as you expected.

As part of your application, you will have to write a personal statement. This is your chance to tell universities and colleges why you want to study your chosen subject and why you would be a good student. Writing a good personal statement may take a long time, so start your preparation early.

How much will it cost to study in the UK?

Tuition fees

The cost of tuition fees varies depending on the type of course provider, course, and fee status. If you aren't sure of your fee status, you might find the 'Fees and Money' section on ukcisa.org.uk helpful.

Tuition fees are regulated by the UK government for students eligible for EU fee status. Maximum fee levels vary depending on whether you study at a university or college in Northern Ireland, Wales, Scotland, or England. For more information, see the 'Finance and support' section on ucas.com.

Tuition fees for non-EU students vary a lot more than EU fees, as they are not subject to the same regulations. You can find details of tuition fees for specific courses in the search tool.



TIP: Visit ucas.com/international to get more advice on how to choose the right course for you.





TIP: If you are applying for a Tier 4 student visa, you will need to show that you have enough money to meet your living costs.

Living costs

The amount of money you will need to cover living costs will vary based on where you study in the UK. London and other large cities tend to be more expensive.

UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) estimate that you will need £1,265 per month for living costs if you are studying in London, or £1,015 per month for living costs* if you are studying anywhere else in the UK. Use our student budget calculator to help work out how much living costs might be at different UK universities and colleges: ucas.com/budget-calculator.

Many universities and colleges offer advice to applicants on the detailed costs of living specific to the city or town in which they are located. You can find this information on university websites, or in the pre-arrival guide that many universities send you once you have accepted an offer.

What financial support is available?

If you are from the EU, you may be able to apply for a student loan to pay for your tuition fees. Many universities and colleges offer scholarships or bursaries for both EU and international students. Go to educationuk.org/global to search for scholarships for UK higher education.


English language requirements

Universities and colleges advise all applicants what standard of English is required for their courses. Most course providers will ask you to demonstrate proficiency in English, or to take an approved English language test if English is not your first language. Visit the university or college's website, or contact its admissions or international office, to find out which English language tests they will accept. They will also advise you which language tests are needed when applying for a student visa, if you need one. You may not need to take the English test before you apply, but you will normally need to meet English language requirements before your place can be confirmed.

What is an SELT? Do I need one?

You can take a wide range of English language tests to meet this requirement, but if you require a student visa to study a degree or international foundation programme at a UK university or college, you may be asked to take a Secure English Language Test, or SELT, rather than any other English test.



 **TIP:** If your teacher isn't confident enough to provide a reference for you in English, ask your English teacher for help

An SELT is an English test that has been approved by UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI), and can only be taken at an approved SELT test centre. For a full list of approved tests and centres, go to **www.gov.uk** and search 'approved English language tests'.

However, some universities will accept a wider range of English tests or other qualifications. For degree-level courses, immigration regulations allow course providers with HEI status to choose their own way of assessing an applicant's English ability, so it's worth checking requirements with the university directly.

References

The last part of the application is the reference or letter of recommendation. This is often supplied by a teacher at your school, or if you have left school, it can be supplied by an independent referee, like a former teacher or employer.

It's good to ask the teacher who knows you best, and can support your application for a specific course, to provide your reference.

Important dates

There are different deadlines to apply for different courses – check course information in the search tool to see which one applies to you.

Any applications received after 30 June will be automatically entered into Clearing.

STEP 3 – TRACKING AND REPLYING

Tracking your application

After you've sent your application, you can see how it's progressing by signing in to our online system, Track. In Track, you can see when decisions are received from universities and colleges, and reply to any offers you get.

When the universities and colleges have received and considered your application, they will make their decision. If they make you an offer, it can be either unconditional or conditional. Unconditional means you have already met all the university or college's academic entry requirements. Conditional means that the offer has certain conditions you need to meet, for example, you have to achieve certain exam results.



STEP 4 – MAKING ARRANGEMENTS TO STUDY

Once you have a place to study in the UK and a confirmed start date for your course, you can start organising your student visa (if required) with the support of your chosen university. The earliest you can apply for your visa is three months before the start of your course.

- > After you've accepted an offer, you should start thinking about accommodation. Many international students choose university accommodation for at least their first year of study. Check with your university for any accommodation application deadlines – these may be earlier than you think.
- > Prepare for Success is a free resource which helps international students prepare for their studies at a UK university or college.

Things to remember when applying for your visa

Do you need to pay the immigration healthcare surcharge?

From April 2015, the UK government introduced an additional charge for people from outside the EEA, which most Tier 4 applicants are required to pay. Once you have paid, you are entitled to free health services from the National Health Service (NHS) during your stay in the UK.

 **TIP:** The UK Visas and Immigration service, and the UK Council for International Student Affairs (UKCISA), have useful information on studying in the UK on their websites.

Do visa applicants need to take a tuberculosis (TB) test?

If you are spending more than six months in the UK, and you're from one of the countries listed at www.gov.uk/tb-test-visa, you'll need to take a TB test. You'll be given a chest x-ray and, if your test shows you don't have TB, you'll receive a certificate which you need to include with your visa application.

Not everyone needs to take a TB test, and there are different arrangements for children and pregnant women from countries where you do need to take a test.

Information for parents and advisers

We want to help you give your child the best support possible during their application journey. For some handy hints to get started, go to ucas.com/parents.

If you work in a school or other organisation and support students applying to UK higher education, we have a wealth of resources to help you give the best advice. Go to ucas.com/advisers.



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