

Making the right choices

October 2023

Miss Shaw-Kew & Miss Honey

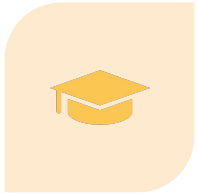
UCAS



Tonight's Aims

- **To outline the possible routes available to young people as they complete their full time education**
- **To give a clear timeline for the year and when applications should be made**
- **To highlight the systems to follow for applications**
- **To answer questions that any of you might have about next steps and future pathways**

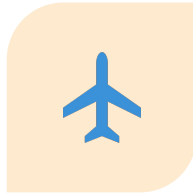
Choices available



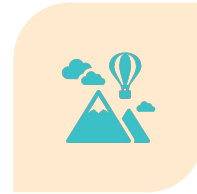
HIGHER
EDUCATION



APPRENTICESHIPS



STUDYING
ABROAD



GAP YEAR



GETTING A JOB

Register for the UCAS Hub to understand all your options and make the right choices for you: ucas.com/hub

What are the options?

- **Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE) and Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE):** first and second year of a degree course.
- **Higher National Certificate (HNC) and Higher National Diploma (HND):** HNC is a one-year industry specific course, and the HND is a two-year industry specific course.
- **Higher apprenticeships:** provide an opportunity to gain Level 4 qualifications or above, e.g. HND, or foundation degree while you work. Can take from one to five years to complete, depending on the course level.
- **Foundation degree:** flexible vocational qualification, combining both academic study and workplace learning. It usually takes two years to complete.
- **Bachelor's or undergraduate degree:** a three to four-year course which can also be available as a part-time option, allowing you to study and work.
- **Degree apprenticeships:** enable you to gain a full undergraduate or master's degree while you work. Degree apprenticeships take three to six years to complete, depending on the course.

Why?

- Essential for some career paths.
- Develop new transferable skills and subject knowledge.
- Increase confidence and independence.
- Broaden experiences.
- Meet new people.
- Investment in the future.
- Increased job prospects.
- Higher earning potential.



What's right for you?

There are a number of things to consider with your next step

- something you enjoy – you are investing time and effort
- whether it's right for your career path – check with employers and professional organisations
- location – city or rural, transport links
- a study and assessment style that suits you
- environment including extracurricular, clubs, and societies
- finances



UCAS Hub

Your discovery tool

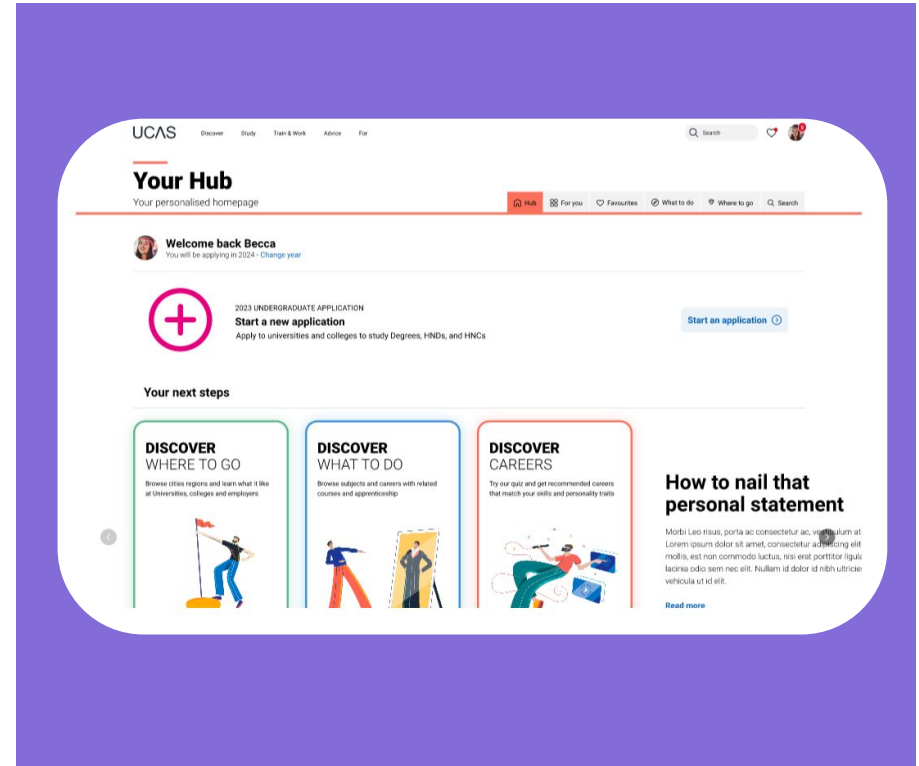
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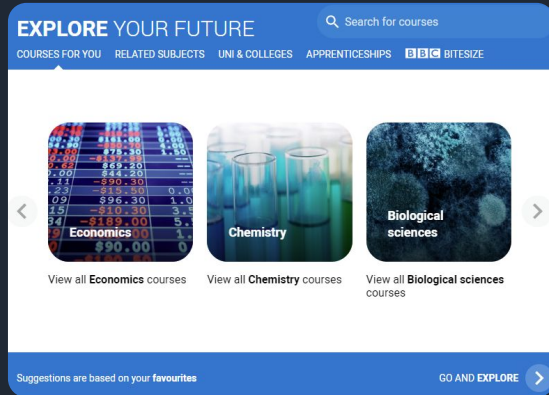
Starting your research

Register with the UCAS Hub to:

- explore careers, subjects, places, and apprenticeships
- find and favourite over 35,000 courses
- search for open days, events and virtual tours
- turn predicted grades into UCAS Tariff points
- speak to those in the know using [Unibuddy](#)
- speak to career, higher education, and application specialists by attending [Hub lives](#)
- take the [UCAS Quiz](#) to find your career matches
- start your application



Personalised tools to help

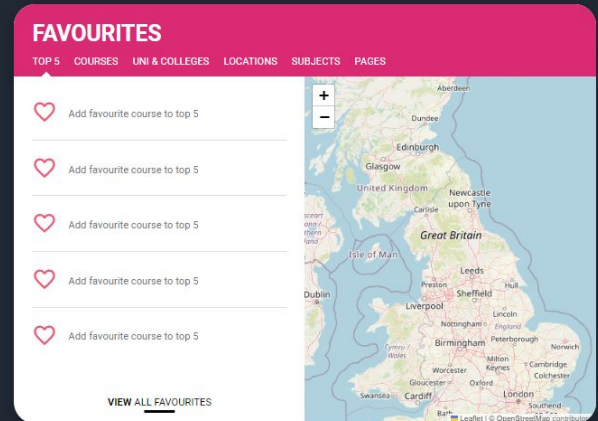


Explore your future

Discover what to do with subject, industry, and career guides; discover where to go with city, employer and accommodation information. Explore apprenticeships and course opportunities for you. Favourite as you go.

Your favourites

Search for courses, use to decide your top 5 choices, manage, keep those favourite information pages to hand. Manage and edit at any time.

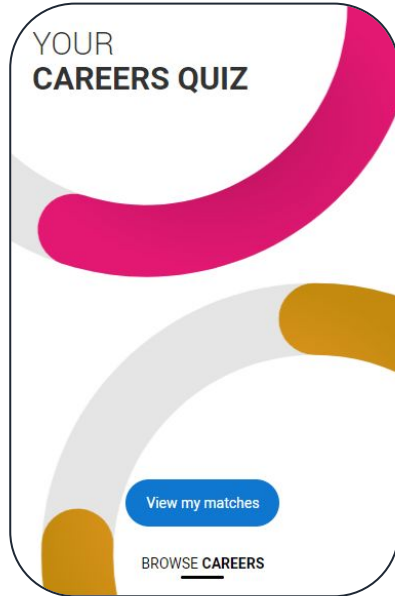


Personalised tools to help

UCAS Quiz

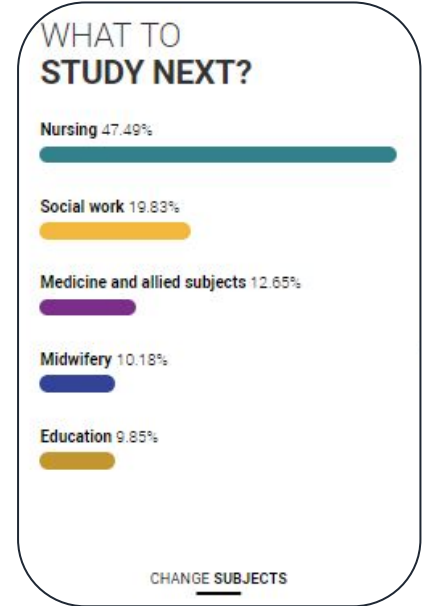
Find job and career ideas matched to your personality.

Plus a list of courses previous students studied in order to get there.



What to study next?

Broaden your horizons by exploring another subject area, that student's who did your qualification went on to study.

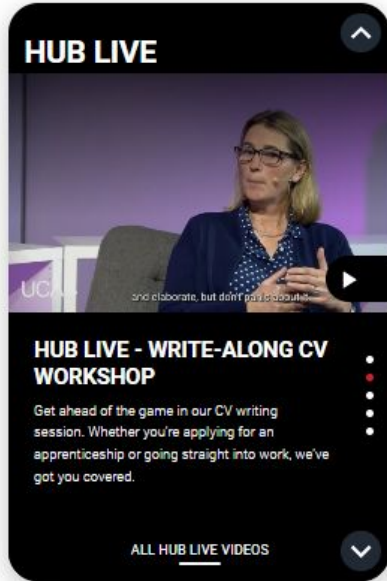


Our advice and events

UCAS Hub lives

Join our live sessions hosted by expert panels.

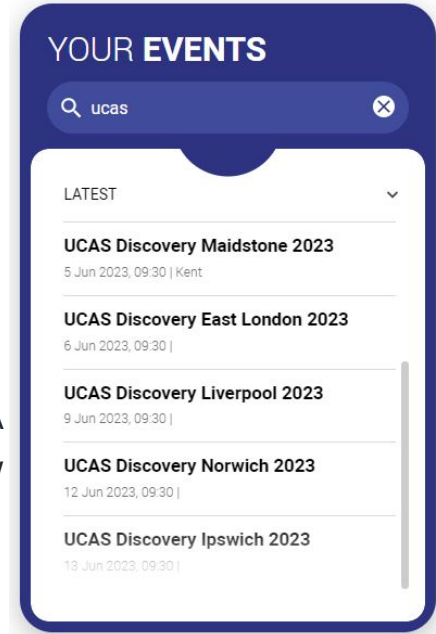
Ask questions to help you make an informed decision about the right path for you. University, apprenticeships or the world of work.



UCAS Discovery

Events and open days are presented based on your preferences.

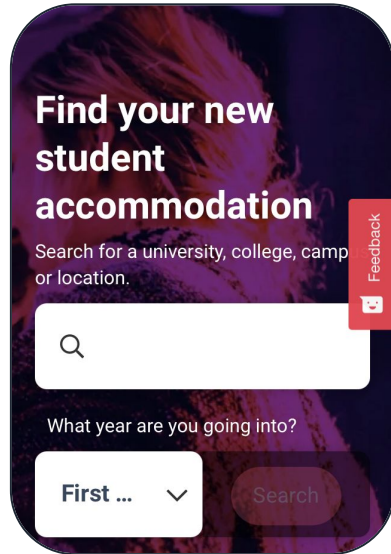
Register straight from the Hub for our UCAS Discovery 'The Big Q&A Tour', with exciting new zones covering all pathways.



What else do you need?

Accommodation

High on the list when considering where to study, but it's not always easy to compare what's on offer. Understand what options there are using our [accommodation search](#).



Personal Statement Builder

Designed to help you think about what to include, and how to lay it all out. It counts how many characters you've used, so it's easy to see when you're close to the 4,000 character limit.




UCAS Exploring Apprenticeships

From UCAS Hub you can easily explore apprenticeships; learn more information and see a live selection of apprenticeship vacancies.


Set alerts to stay up to date.

APPRENTICESHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Software Developer Degree Apprentice, Ware UK, 2023 

Ware, Hertfordshire
A competitive starting base salary of £18,000 per year, which increases after year 1

[Apply for this job](#)

R&D Laboratory IT (Digital & Tech) Degree Apprentice, Stevenage, 2023 

Stevenage, Hertfordshire
A competitive starting base salary of £18,000 per

FIND MORE

Found 504 jobs

Browse Search

Keywords

Location

Within 5 miles

Nationwide
 Homeworking

► Specialism

► Sector

▼ Role Type 2 selected

Apprenticeship
 Other work and training

► Start Date

Get new jobs for this search by email


[Create alert](#)

TOP JOB

Radio Access Optimisation Apprentice (Virgin Media)

- Leeds, Hammersmith , Runcorn , Wythenshawe
- £23,000
- Estio Training

Level 3 Radio Network Technician About the company: We're Virgin Media O2 and we're here to upgrade the UK. Virgin Media O2 combine...


 10 days ago [Save](#)

[View details](#)

Software Developer Degree Apprentice, Ware UK, 2023

- Ware, Hertfordshire
- A competitive starting base salary of £18,000 per year, which increases after year 1
- GSK

Join GSK's R&D (Research and Development) Apprentice Programme – Ware UK, 2023: Help us get ahead of disease together

 4 days ago [Save](#)

[View details](#)

National Apprenticeship Service

Search

Keywords (optional)
Can include job title, employer or reference number

All ▾

Your location
Enter postcode, town or city or [use current location](#)

Within

10 miles ▾

Apprenticeship level

All levels ▾

Only show

Disability Confident

Search

Register here for more
Apprenticeship vacancies

A search can be saved to receive
notifications of new vacancies

Appear throughout the year - not
always for a September start

College Courses - Access to HE and Level 4

[Mid Kent College](#) - Maidstone

Open Event - 1/11/23 15:30-19:00

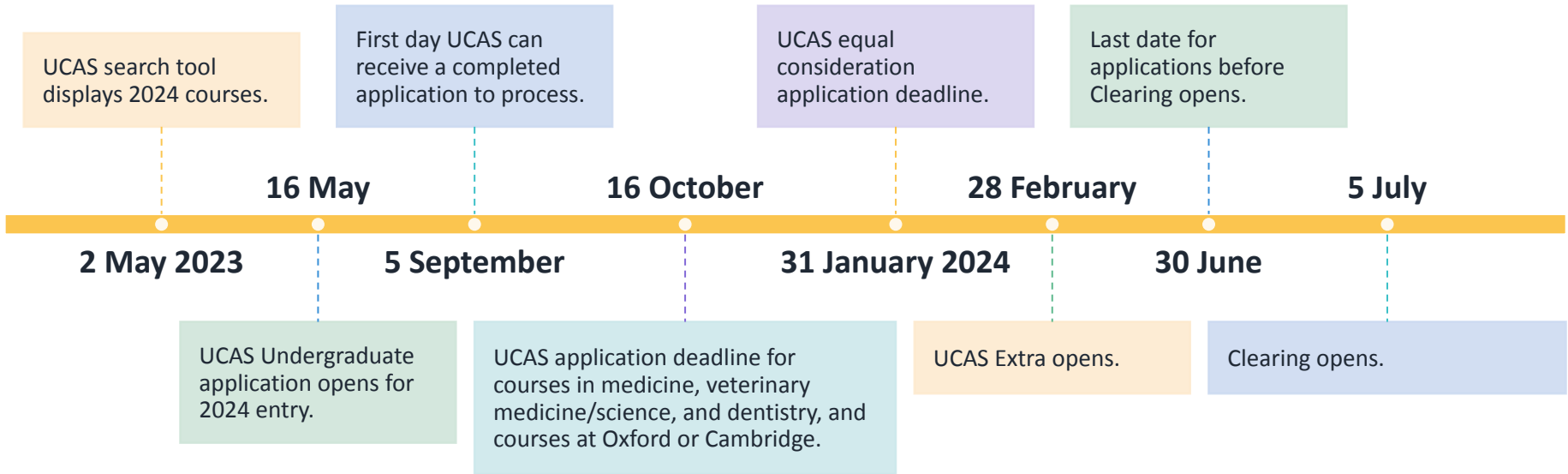
Both North Kent and Mid Kent offer Level 4 courses and a range of Access Courses

[North Kent College](#) - Tonbridge

Open Event - 7/11/23 15:30-19:30

For courses, entry requirements and costs research on the websites and visit the Open Events

When to apply for 2024 entry



Choosing the right place for you

- **Style** – from traditional, with a focus on subject-based courses and research, to modern universities/colleges, with a greater focus on vocational courses.
- **Location** – some are in large cities, others in small towns, by the coast or in the countryside – it's all a major influence on the environment and lifestyle.
- **Size** – larger universities can have more than 20,000 students, whereas some of the smallest have only a few thousand.
- **Culture and facilities** – influenced by a range of factors, including the diversity of students who attend.
- **What graduates do** – all universities collect destination statistics; it can be useful to find out what jobs or further study students go on to.
- **Tuition fees** – can vary between universities and colleges; check if there are scholarships or bursaries available.
- **Living costs** – accommodation, transport, and food can vary enormously.

Choosing the right course for you

- 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 your 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?

Key facts

- To start an application you need to register with ucas.com, you can register at any time.
- From **16 May 2023** you'll be able to start an application.
- Universities and colleges **can't see** your other choices when you apply.
- Apply by the **equal consideration date**.
- You have up to **five choices**, unless applying to study medicine, veterinary, medicine/science, dentistry – then it's **four choices**.
- You **can't apply to BOTH** Oxford and Cambridge.
- Applying **costs** £27.50.



2024 UNDERGRADUATE APPLICATION

Start an application

Apply to universities and colleges to study Degrees, HNDs, and HNCs



Studying Abroad

USA

- As all applications to US universities are direct, timings for application deadlines and processing vary. For example, for a 'regular decision deadline', you apply by 1 January, and you should receive a decision by 1 April.
- **Once you've accepted your offer**, you can apply for your student visa through your nearest US embassy or consulate. Your US university will provide you with a form you may need if you are required to attend a visa interview.

Europe

You usually need to apply directly to the university or college, but there are some central admissions services too (a bit like UCAS). Application deadlines are usually in the first few months of the year in which you intend to begin your studies.

Australia

Most university courses in Australia start in February, and the academic year finishes in November. The application deadline is usually the September prior to the course start date, although it is recommended you start planning your application a year in advance.

[Link to UCAS Advice](#)



Gap Year

A gap year is not a year off. It's a way to develop yourself and your skills before taking the next step in your education or career.

Benefits of a Gap Year:

- think about your career plans
- travel and experience other cultures
- earn money to support yourself in future study
- improve your CV by doing work experience
- get skills you cannot learn in a classroom
- become more mature, focussed and motivated

[Link to suggestions and bookmarked pages for further research.](#)

Our support

UCAS Customer Experience Centre:
0371 468 0 468

From outside the UK:
+44 330 3330 230

Monday to Friday
08:30 – 18:00 (UK time)



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**We will be available
for any questions**

UCAS

