



CLAIRES COURT SIXTH FORM



Higher Education Application *Process*


2024-2025



Higher Education Guide

2024 / 2025

Contents

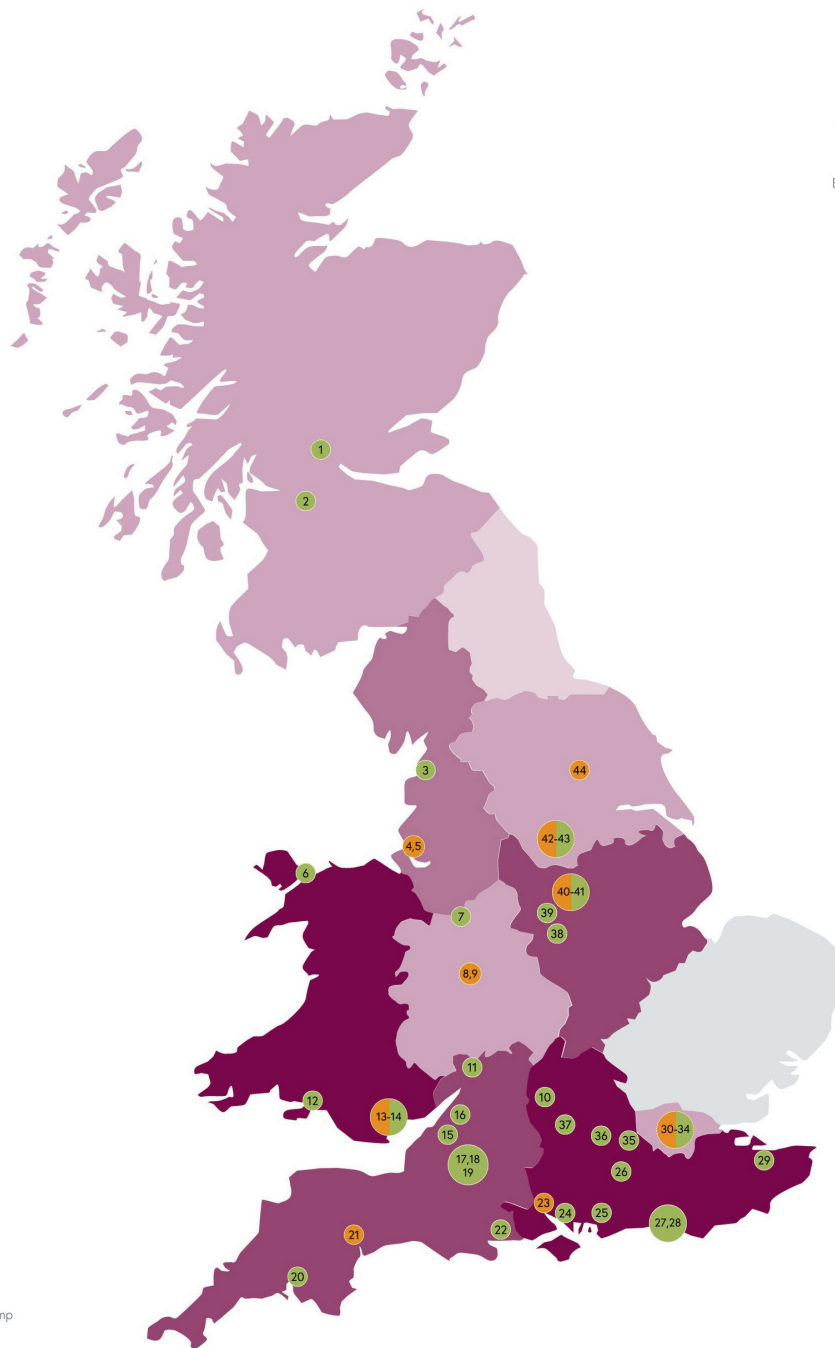


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Higher Student Destinations

2022 / 2023

- 1 - STIRLING UNIVERSITY**
GSK Degree Apprenticeship
Sport Business Management
- 2 - UNIVERSITY OF STRATHCLYDE**
Business Enterprise & Finance
- 3 - LANCASTER UNIVERSITY**
English Literature and Creative Writing
- 4 - UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL**
English and Philosophy
International Relations
Politics and International Business
- 5 - LIVERPOOL INSTITUTE FOR PERFORMING ARTS**
Sound Technology
- 6 - BANGOR UNIVERSITY**
Professional Policing
- 7 - KEELE UNIVERSITY**
Medicinal Chemistry and Neuroscience
- 8 - UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM**
History and Politics
- 9 - ASTON UNIVERSITY, BIRMINGHAM**
Logistics with Supply Chain Management
- 10 - OXFORD BROOKES UNIVERSITY**
Art Foundation
Computing Foundation
Construction Project Management
Engineering Foundation
Foundation in Humanities
Information Technology for Business
Mechanical Engineering
Real Estate
- 11 - UNIVERSITY OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE**
Music Business (with Placement)
- 12 - SWANSEA UNIVERSITY**
Chemistry (with Foundation)
Mechanical Engineering (with Placement)
Sport & Exercise Science (with Year Abroad)
- 13 - CARDIFF UNIVERSITY**
Business Management (with Placement)
Financial Mathematics
Media, Journalism and Culture
Psychology (with Placement)
- 14 - CARDIFF METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY**
Sports Coaching (with Foundation)
Sport and Exercise Science
- 15 - UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL**
Environmental Geoscience
- 16 - UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST OF ENGLAND**
International Business
Marketing
Philosophy
- 17 - BATH SPA UNIVERSITY**
Acting
Geography
- 18 - UNIVERSITY OF BATH**
Accounting and Finance (with Placement)
Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence MComp
International Development with Economics
Mechanical Engineering (with Placement)
Natural Sciences (with Placement)
Physics
Sport and Exercise Science (with Placement)
Sport Management and Coaching



- 44 - UNIVERSITY OF YORK**
English
Psychology
- 43 - SHEFFIELD HALLAM UNIVERSITY**
Business and Management
- 42 - UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD**
Mechanical Engineering (with Placement)
- 41 - NOTTINGHAM TRENT UNIVERSITY**
Business
Business Management and Accounting & Finance
Business Management and Marketing
Computer Science
Criminology
Economics with International Finance and Banking
Politics and International Relations
Psychology
Sport Science and Management
- 40 - UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM**
Criminology and Sociology
English and French
Finance, Accounting and Management
- 39 - LOUGHBOROUGH UNIVERSITY**
Chemical Engineering
- 38 - UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER**
Biological Sciences (Neuroscience)
- 37 - AMERSHAM & WYCOMBE COLLEGE / PINEWOOD**
Set and Prop Making
- 36 - UNIVERSITY OF READING**
Applied Psychology (Clinical)
Business and Management
Law
Philosophy Business & Ethics
- 35 - ROYAL HOLLOWAY**
Business and Management
Geography
History
Management with International Business
Psychology
- 34 - POINT BLANK MUSIC SCHOOL**
BA Music Production
- 33 - UCL (UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON)**
BA Music Production
- 32 - UNIVERSITY OF GREENWICH**
Criminology and Criminal Justice
- 31 - UNIVERSITY OF WEST LONDON**
Future Food and Culinary
Management
- 30 - CITY, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON**
Future Food and Culinary
Management
- 29 - UNIVERSITY OF KENT**
Business & Management
- 28 - UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX**
Finance and Business
(with Professional Placement)
Politics and International Relations
- 27 - UNIVERSITY OF BRIGHTON**
Social Science

Russell Group Universities

OTHER DESTINATIONS

- Gap Year - 11
- Apprenticeship - 7
- College - 1
- Work - 2

OVERSEAS

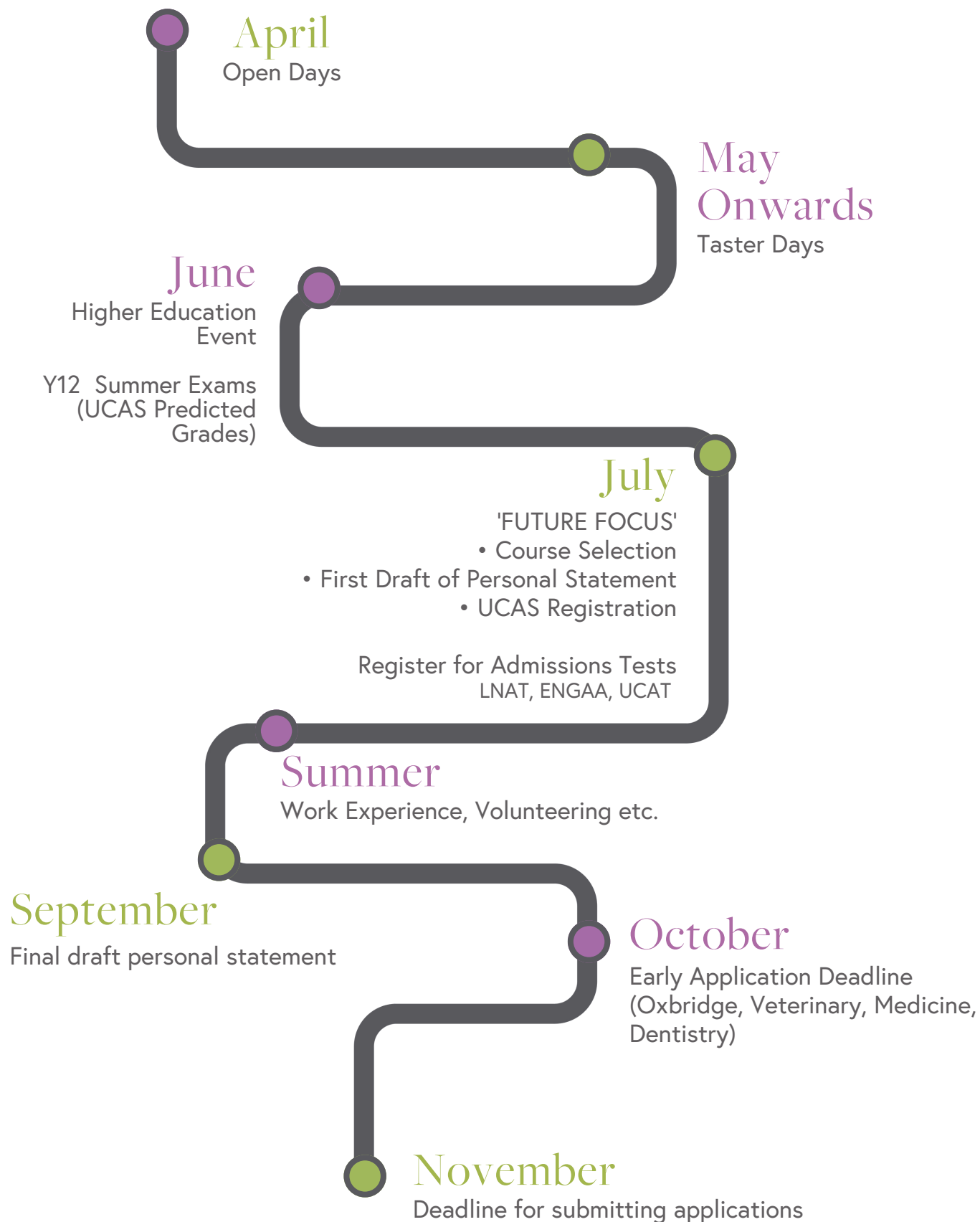
- Canada - 1
- Ukraine - 2
- USA - 7

- 19 - NORLAND**
Early Childhood Education and Care
- 20 - UNIVERSITY OF PLYMOUTH**
Product and Furniture Design
- 21 - UNIVERSITY OF EXETER**
Accounting and Finance
Communications
Flexible Combined Honours

- 22 - BOURNEMOUTH UNIVERSITY**
Business & Management
Communication & Media
Events Management
Mechanical Engineering
Media Production
Nutrition
Sport Management
Television Production
- 23 - UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHAMPTON**
Biomedical Sciences
Business Management
Law
Medicine

- 24 - UNIVERSITY OF PORTSMOUTH**
Business and Management
Environmental Science
Quantity Surveying
- 25 - UNIVERSITY OF CHICHESTER**
Performance
Sport and Exercise Science
(Performance Sailing)
- 26 - UNIVERSITY OF SURREY**
Nursing Studies
Psychology

Higher Education Application Process



Things for You To Consider

- Do I want to go to university?
- Should I consider taking a gap year?
- Would a degree apprenticeship suit me better?
- Do I want to continue with a subject I have studied in Sixth Form?
- Can I see myself continuing with study for the next 3 or 4 years?
- What am I good at and what do I enjoy?
- Would I prefer to begin studying something new?
- Do I hope to follow a career that requires me to take a specialised course?
- Will my expected academic performance match the likely demands of the course I am interested in?

If you do want to go to university, you should now consider your course options:

- Career related subjects – e.g. medicine, veterinary science, dentistry, engineering, accountancy, law, architecture and pharmacy
- Familiar subjects – which you may have studied in Sixth Form
- New subjects which you have not studied at school, e.g. criminology, anthropology

Subjects may be studied as Single Honours, as Joint Honours in equal combination with another subject e.g. Law and French, or as part of a Combined Honours degree with several subjects. Degrees typically last three or four years full-time and allow you to enter graduate professions. On some courses, you can take up an industrial placement or option to study abroad.

You may take a Foundation Degree which takes one or two years and acts as a springboard onto a full degree course. Art foundation courses are especially popular.

UCAS

All you need to know

You should enter five course choices on your UCAS application.

If you are applying for medicine, dentistry or veterinary science you are limited to four course choices plus one additional choice of a course in another subject. You must apply by 15 October 2024 for courses at Oxford or Cambridge University, or for courses in Medicine, Dentistry or Veterinary Science.

The Claires Court deadline for all other courses is 29 November 2024.

The UCAS deadline is 29 January 2025. If you send in your application after the deadline but before 30 June 2025, the university may still consider your application.

The standard application fee is £28.50 for a maximum of 5 choices.

You can visit the UCAS Higher Education Exhibition in June which is held at a local university. There you can discuss courses of interest with university admissions representatives and gather prospectuses for further research. You will also be able to attend subject based lectures.

The UCAS Hub www.ucas.com is invaluable.

Use the Hub to search for courses and apprenticeships. There are many informative videos on there to help with every aspect of the application process.

Where to Study

You can apply through UCAS to over 300 Higher Education institutions and 50,000 courses across the UK. Consider the following:

- Entry requirements
- Location
- Campus or non-campus
- Size of university
- Number of contact hours
- Facilities
- Accommodation
- Reputation
- Quality of course teaching – how the course is taught and assessed
- Status of university
- Employability of graduates
- Number of student places on particular courses
- Cost of living
- Financial support e.g. bursaries and scholarships
- Social life

Academic Requirements

Entry requirements may be expressed as specific grades (e.g. BBC at A Level), or as a target number of UCAS tariff points (e.g. 112 points). For BTEC students entry requirements will be expressed as Pass, Merit, Distinction or Distinction* (a typical offer will be DDM).

The UCAS Tariff:

- Is a points system to report achievement for entry to universities
- Gives numerical value to qualifications
- Allows comparisons between applicants with different types of achievement

Here are a few general rules to help you calculate your tariff total:

- Points can be aggregated from different qualifications
- There is no double counting – students cannot count the same or similar qualification twice

A Level

Official title: Advanced GCE

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

AS Level

Official title: Advanced Subsidiary GCE

Grade	Tariff points
A	20
B	16
C	12
D	10
E	6



Pearson BTEC Diploma (QCF)

Grade	Tariff points
D*D*	112
D*D	104
DD	96
DM	80
MM	64
MP	48
PP	32

Pearson BTEC Extended Diploma (QCF)

Grade	Tariff points
D*D*D*	168
D*D*D	160
D*DD	152
DDD	144
DDM	128
DMM	112
MMM	96
MMP	80
MPP	64
PPP	48

Level Grade	UCAS Tariff Points	Extended Diploma	UCAS Tariff Point	Diploma	UCAS Tariff Point	Extended Certificate	UCAS Tariff Point
A*	56	D*D*D*	168	D*D*	112	D*	56
A	48	D*D*D	160	D*D	104	D	48
B	40	D*DD	152	DD	96	M	32
C	32	DDD	144	DM	80	P	16
D	24	DDM	128	MM	64		
E	16	DMM	112	MP	48		
		MMM	96	PP	32		
		MMP	80				
		MPP	64				
		PPP	48				

Here are a few dos and do nots to make sure that the final five courses you select are right for you:

DO:

- Carefully check the required entry grades, including GCSEs and qualifications on the UCAS website
- Be realistic about the grades you are likely to achieve
- Make sure you apply to courses with a range of required grades

DO NOT:

- Apply to five institutions that all demand high grades
- Apply for lots of different subjects – you will not be able to justify this in your personal statement

UCAS

Your application

You will already have registered for the UCAS Hub. Applications are live on there from the end of May and you will be advised by school when you can begin your application.

Writing your personal statement

This section is crucial because it is the only part of the application where you have the chance to select and emphasise points about yourself and explain to admissions officers why you are interested in your chosen course.

Personal statements submitted via 'Apply' have a maximum of 4,000 characters on 47 lines – so think carefully about what you want to say in the limited space provided.

Organise your statement into themed sections covering:

- Reasons for course choice including interest and knowledge
- Relate academic skills to chosen course
- Independent study (EPQ) and going beyond the curriculum
- Relevant work experience
- Extra-curricular interests, leadership and volunteering roles
- Details of achievements such as Duke of Edinburgh Award
- Career aspirations if vocational

Your personal statement must be written by you and not copied from another source. UCAS runs all applications through plagiarism software that looks for matches.

Please ask us if
you need any help!



Selections and Interviews

Admissions tutors are looking for students who:

- Have academic potential
- Are independent learners
- Are curious
- Can cope with the demands of the course
- Are aware of the level of work required
- Are likely to accept
- Will make a contribution

They may be able to glean much of this information from your personal statement but some will use interviews to help them decide which applicants to make an offer to.

What sort of questions might you be asked?

- Why this course?
- Why this university?
- What can you bring to the university?
- What particularly interests you?
- What additional reading and research have you done?
- Topical issues related to your chosen subject
- Anything you mention in your personal statement

It is wise to have considered how you might respond to such questions.

Top tips for interviews:

- Dress smartly and smile
- Make eye contact and be attentive
- Show your genuine interest in your chosen course
- Always have one or two prepared questions of your own about the course
- Read your personal statement

Offers

Your UCAS application will be submitted by the end of November. UCAS will acknowledge your application and confirm the courses you have applied for – you must check the information is correct and contact UCAS immediately if it is not.

UCAS will forward your application to the relevant universities. Universities will then inform UCAS of their decisions. These decisions may be emailed to you directly but generally, they are visible in 'Track', so check this regularly.

Decisions will arrive in random order. There are three main decisions:

- U: **Unconditional offer** - no further qualifications are required. If you accept this offer then you are in
- C: **Conditional offer** - still some work to do... but if you accept the offer and achieve the grades a place is guaranteed
- REJ: **Unsuccessful** – sorry – no place offered

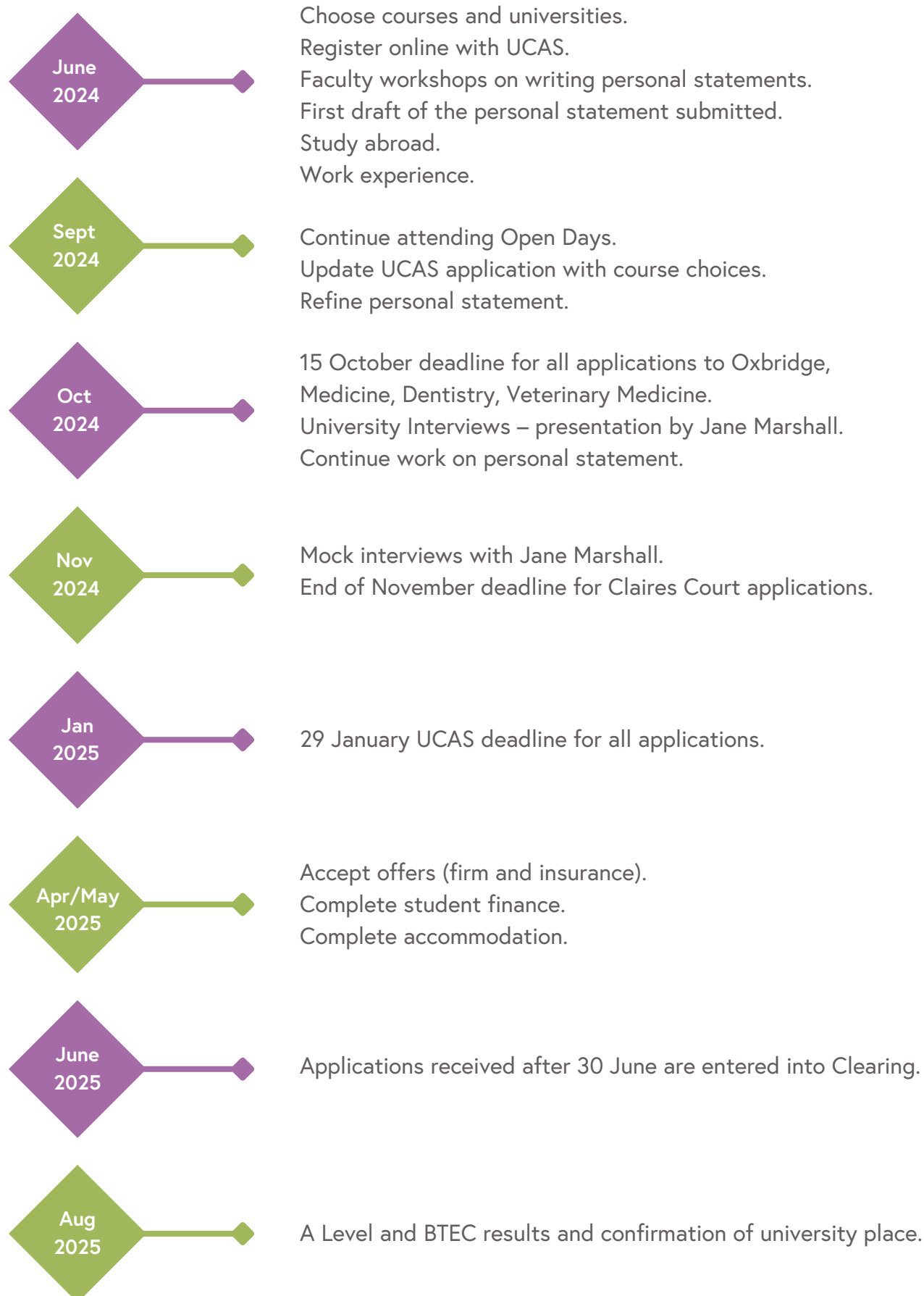
Once you have received decisions from all five institutions you will be asked to reply. You reply on 'Track' using one of the three options below:

- F: **Firm acceptance** – your first choice university
- I: **Insurance Acceptance** – this is your fall-back in case your grades are too low for your firm acceptance
- D: **Decline** – not for you
- W: **Withdraw** – before offer made

You may accept a maximum of two offers (one firm and one insurance).



UCAS Timeline



Student Finance

There are two main costs of attending university:

1. Annual tuition fees remain at a maximum of £9,250 in 2025.
2. Living expenses which cover the cost of accommodation, food, clothes, travel and learning resources, as well as leisure and social activities.

However, financial support is available from the government to assist with paying your fees and your living costs.

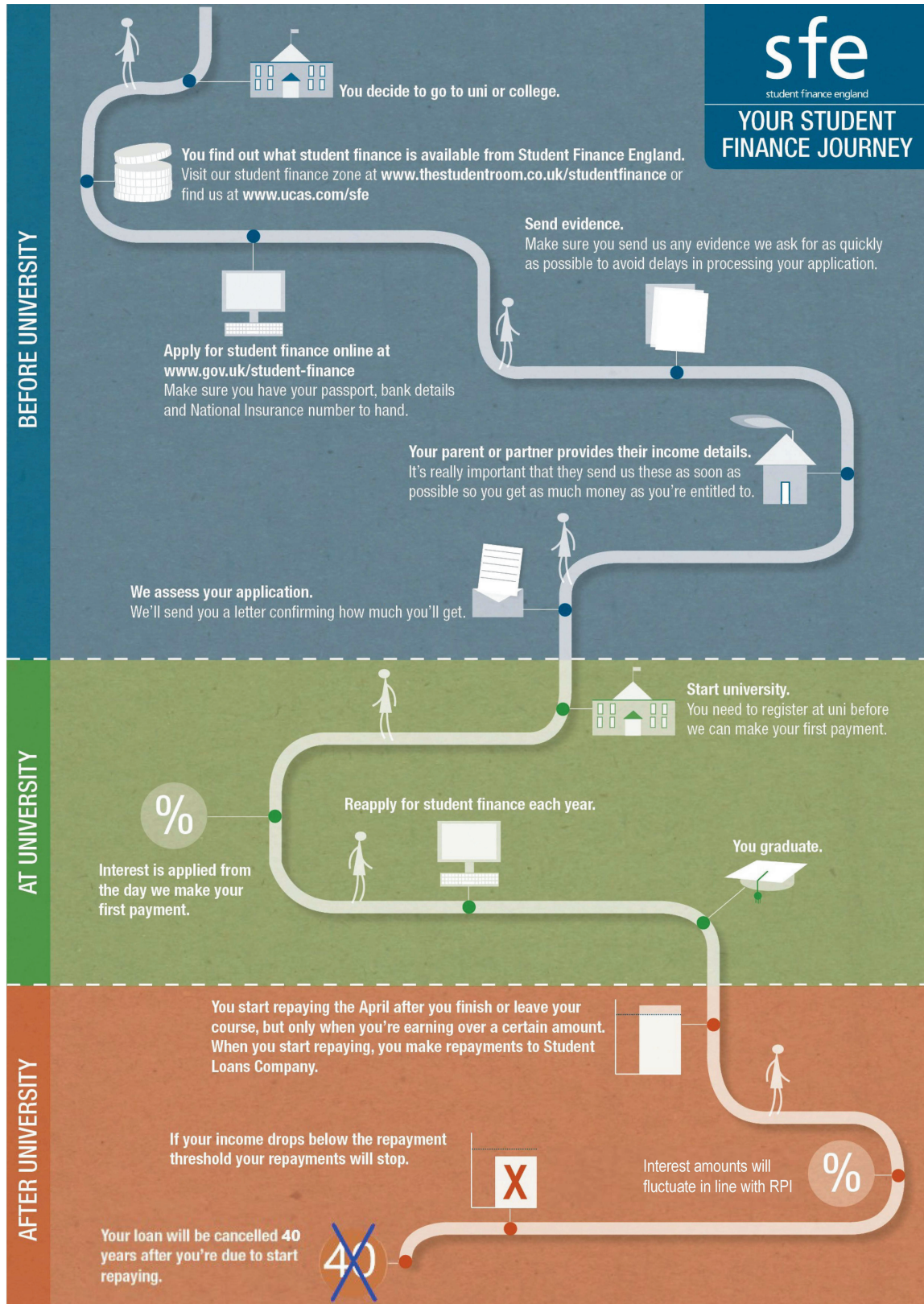
It is important to note that UK students do not need to pay their fees up front. Student loans can be used to pay for your tuition fees and a maintenance loan is available to cover your living costs while you are studying. You only have to start repaying the loans from the following April once you have graduated and are earning an annual salary of more than £25,000 (frozen until 2026/27). You pay 9% of your earnings over this figure. For example, the annual repayments on a salary of £30,000 would be £450pa. Any debt outstanding after 40 years will be written off.

The student loans company is wholly owned by the government and administers grants and loans. It also pays your tuition fee direct to the university when you apply for a tuition fee loan. Interest is charged on your loan while you are studying.

Until you start repaying the loan, Interest is charged at the rate of inflation known as RPI. Like tuition fee loans, maintenance loans are available to help with living costs for each year of the course. The amount you get depends on where you live and study and your household income. All students are eligible for at least a partial maintenance loan. The current maximum maintenance loan entitlement for 2024/5 is £10,227 outside London, £13,348 in London and £8,610 if you live at home. It is paid in three instalments directly to you.

Other financial awards may be available including scholarships and bursaries. Contact the student advice centre at your chosen university for additional information, or look on their website. Sponsored degrees may also be of interest.

A guide to making your application



Gap Year Information

Why take a gap year?

A gap 'year' may last for a matter of weeks or months but should include a meaningful experience.

- To gain wider experience before going to university or entering the job market
- An opportunity for meaningful volunteering roles
- To develop further transferable skills

What to do:

- Expeditions
- Structured work experience
- Voluntary work
- Educational courses

What do you want to get out of the year?

- Enhance your education
- Experience different cultures
- Helping others
- Improve your chances of getting a job or university place

What to think about:

- Funding
- Deciding when to start – some projects have specific start and finish dates

What to do now:

- Research gap year providers
- Check for non-profit and profit making organisations
- Consider personal safety including vaccinations, visas etc

Studying Abroad

Applying to American Universities

Applying:

- Start this process early
- Plan adequately for the time and effort involved
- Make a calendar of deadlines to track what you need to do and by when
- Start early, plan ahead, and know the application requirements
- Application packages require a great deal of preparation and planning
- In the USA, application requirements can vary greatly from one institution to another. Check the specific requirements on the website of each institution's international admissions office
- Undergraduate applications are typically due between November and January to enroll the following autumn

Things to know:

- Unlike UCAS, you apply to each US university separately
- Over 600 US institutions use the Common Application, an online portal to help you manage each application
- Universities will have their own application deadlines, fees and requirements
- You apply to the university, college or school as an undergraduate, not to a specific degree
- Offers of admission are not specifically conditional - if they admit you, they expect you to continue working towards your current level, but won't specify required grades

For further information follow this link: www.fullbright.co.uk

Applying to Universities in the European Union

You may need to pay different fee rates as a non-EU third-country national if you're planning to study your whole degree course at a university in an EU member state.

You should contact the relevant Higher Education provider in the EU member state you are going to so that you can check:

- What fees you may have to pay
- If there is any financial support available for students from the UK
- If there are any funding schemes, bursaries or scholarships you can apply for

Useful information can be found:

- Gov.uk - Study in the European Union
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/study-in-the-european-union>
- Study In Europe - a guide for UK students
<https://www.savethestudent.org/study-abroad/uk-study-in-europe-university.html>
- EUNICAS - the EU equivalent of UCAS
<https://www.eunicas.ie/>



Resources

Here are some useful websites to help you get started:

- www.whatuni.com
- www.opendays.com
- www.theuniguide.co.uk
- www.push.co.uk
- www.ucas.com/instit
- www.prospects.ac.uk
- www.timeshighereducation.com/student/best-universities/best-universities-uk
- www.discoveruni.gov.uk
- www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk



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