# Applying to Higher Eucation

inspiring choices
York & North Yorkshire

OfS Uni Connect Programme

# Who are Inspiring Choices?

We support young people as they make decisions about their future education and career.

What we do:

- Run activities in schools and colleges
- Work with young people aged 15 and above
- Opportunities to consider future education options and how to achieve these
- 1 to 1 support
- Organise university campus visits

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# Aims of the session

- The range of University options available and how to decide between them.
- The UCAS application process.
- Writing your personal statement.



# UCAS timeline

## Year 1 of Post-16 study

**Autumn term:**

Start thinking about and researching courses and Universities.

**Spring/Summer term:**

UCAS conventions. These are great ways to find out more about a course or institution. Your school or college may organise a trip to one of these.

**May/June:**

Start to put together a list of Universities and courses you are interested in, and look for dates of open days.

**Summer/early Autumn term:**

Plan to attend open days, both physical and virtual.
Start to consider your personal statement.

# UCAS timeline

## Year 2 of Post-16 study

**September:**
UCAS applications open!

**October/November:**

Writing your application, discuss plans with **careers advisor** or **tutor**. You may be ready to submit your application.

Dentistry, medicine and veterinary courses have a deadline of the **15th October.** As do applications to Oxford or Cambridge.

**Conservatoires** also have an earlier deadline in the first week of October.

**Late Autumn/Spring:**

Universities will begin sending offers via UCAS.

**January:**

UCAS applications close on the **13th January.**

**April/May:**

Decide your first and second choice Universities.

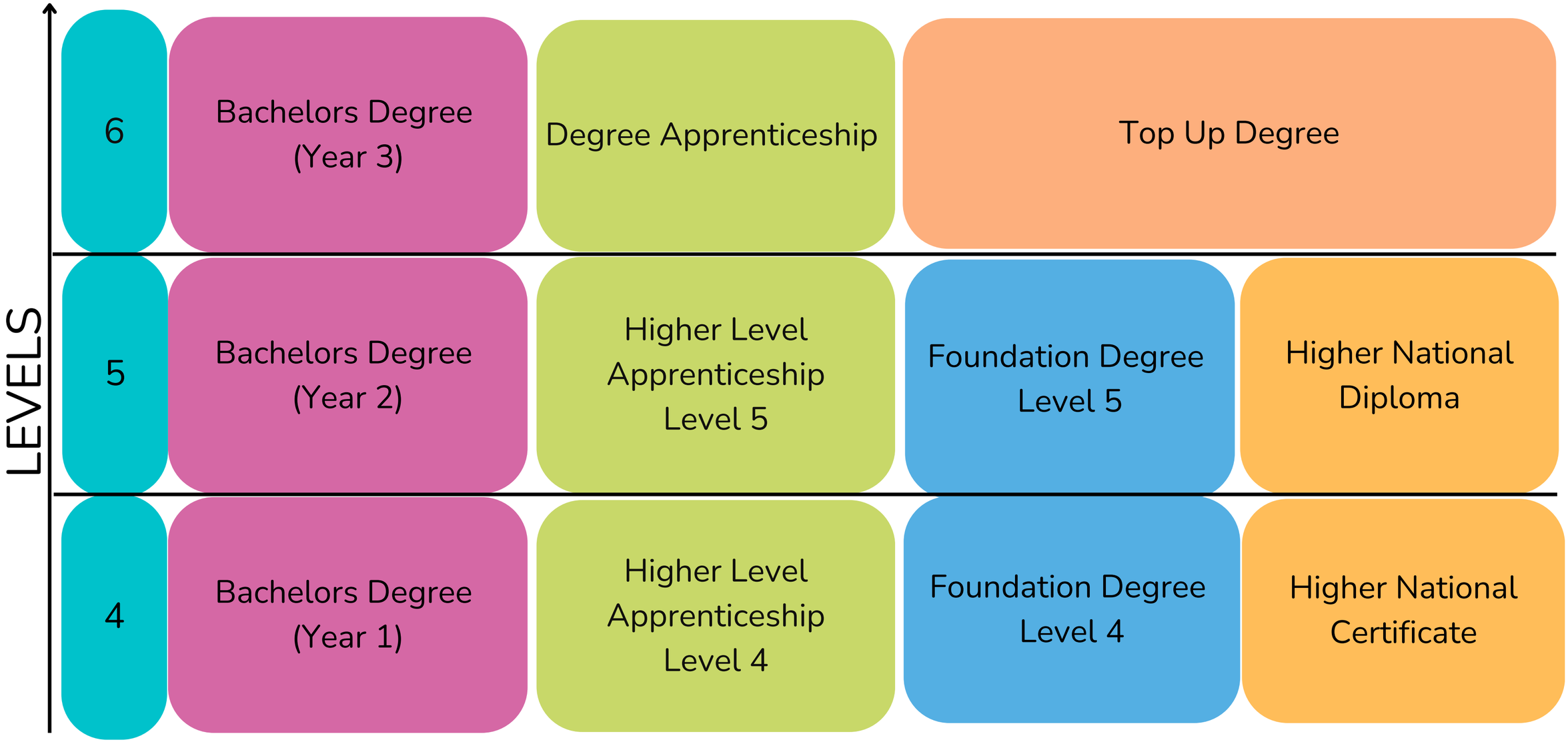
**May:**

Deadline to apply for Student Finance.

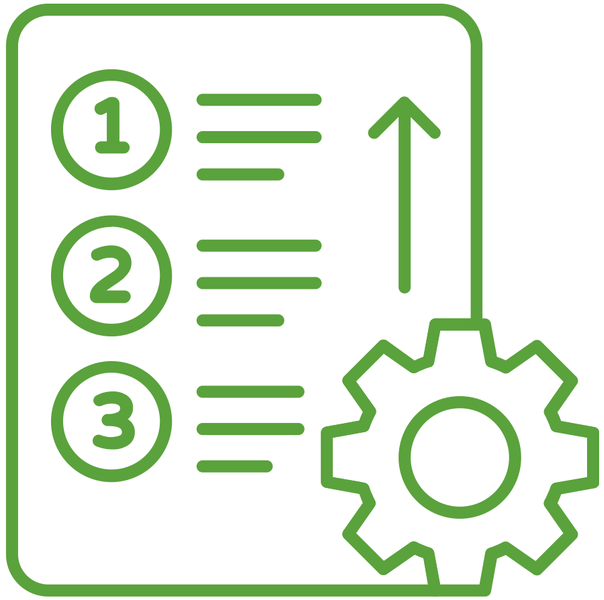
**August:**

Results day, good luck!

# What are my Higher Education (HE) options?



# How do I decide?




## Priorities

- Staying local/ moving away
- What you are studying
- Lifestyle



## Advice

- Careers advisor
- Parents/Carers



## Research

- UCAS website
- Prospectuses

Activity!

# What factors should you consider when applying to HE?

Discuss with the people around you. Write your answer on the whiteboard.

# How do I apply?

UCAS

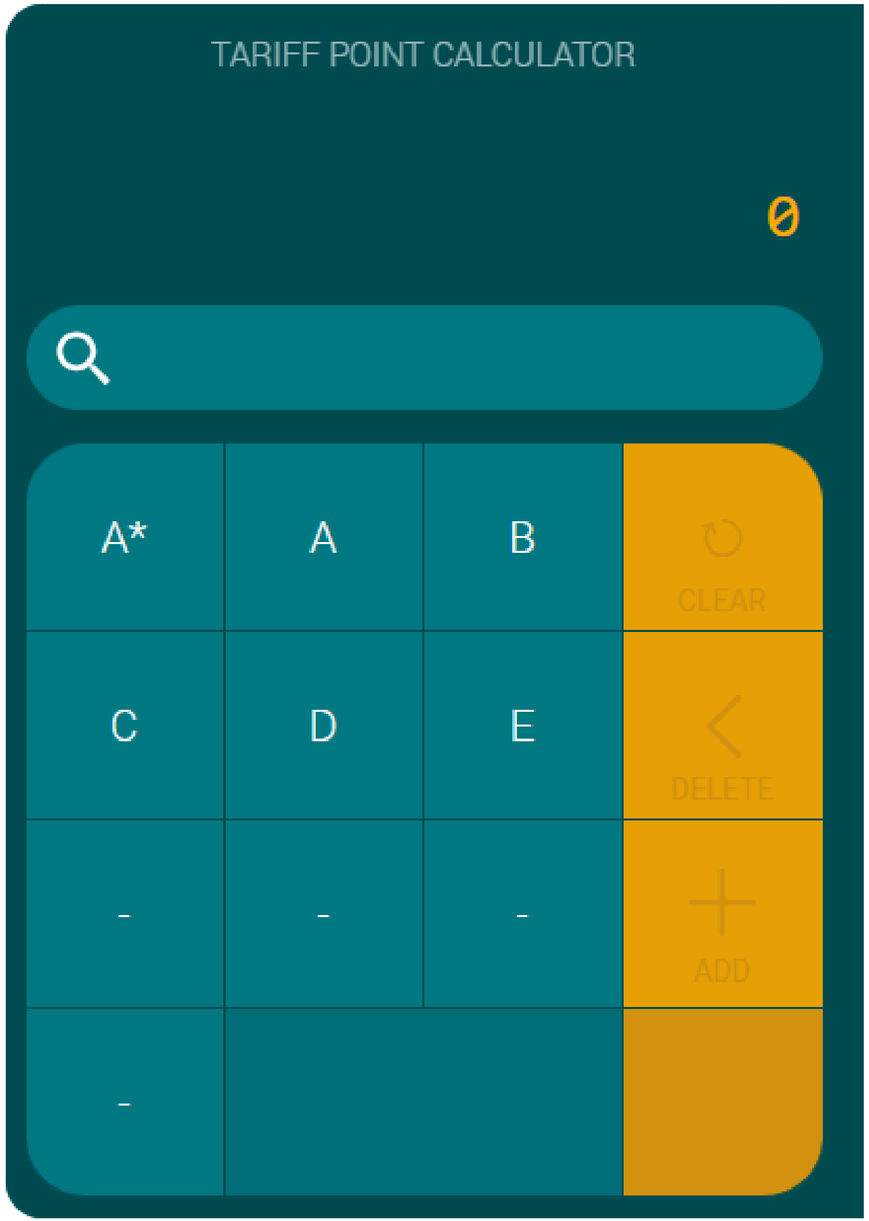
# UCAS

- You will apply for your chosen courses via the **Universities and Colleges Admissions Service** (UCAS).
- UCAS is also a great place to search for courses and universities.
- You can use the UCAS website to search for events, exhibitions, and open days.



# UCAS - Entry requirements

- Check your courses entry requirements.
- Some ask for specific qualifications.
- Use the UCAS Course Finder to find course entry requirements.
- Use the UCAS Tariff Calculator to find out how many UCAS points your FE options could give you.



# UCAS Application Process

After registering with UCAS, there are six steps to the application:

**1** Complete your **personal details**. This will include:

- residency status
- ethnic origin
- national identity
- occupational background
- personal circumstances
- funding plans



# UCAS Application Process

**2** Add your **education history**. This includes:

- All qualifications from secondary education onwards.
- If you are studying or awaiting results, add your **predicted grades**



**3** Complete your **employment history**.

- **Don't** include unpaid or voluntary work - that can go in the personal statement!



# UCAS Application Process

**4** Select your course choices.
You can choose up to **five.** You do not need to order them at this stage.



Example:

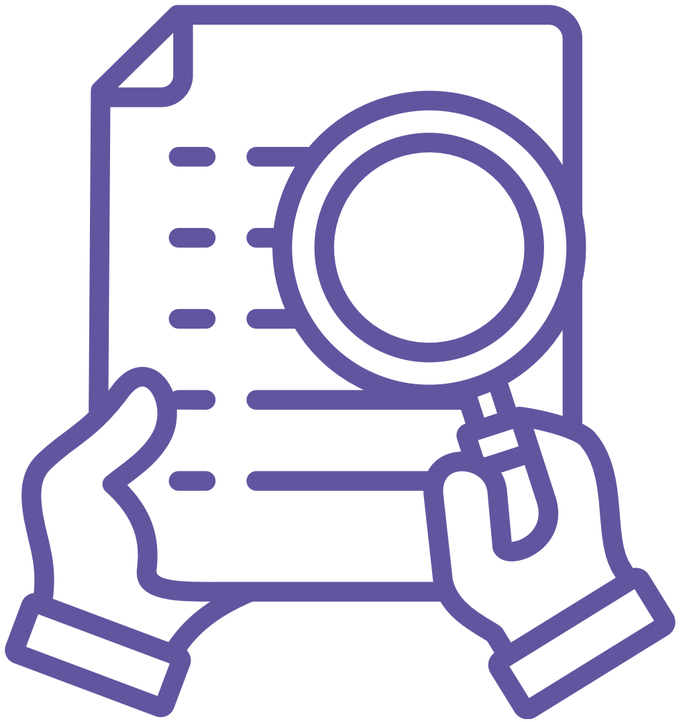
- Psychology and Child Development (University of Staffordshire)
- Psychology and Childhood Studies (Birmingham Newman University)
- Psychology (University of Glasgow)
- Psychology (University of Hull)
- Psychology (Leeds Beckett University)

# UCAS Application Process

**5** Write a personal statement.

- Your personal statement is an important part of the application process as it’s an opportunity to talk about yourself and your passions, outside of your grades.

- Your personal statement can be up to 4000 characters long and is split into three questions.



# Personal Statement Guide

Read through the personal statement guide. If you have any questions make a note of them on your whiteboard.

# UCAS Application Process

6

Get a reference, pay your application, and send your application in. **You cannot submit your application until your chosen referee has completed and added their reference to your application.**

When you submit your application you will need to pay an application fee of £34.50.

**Exemptions:**
**Free school meals application fee waiver:** Students who have received UK Government funded free school meals at any point during their secondary education may be eligible to have the application fee waived.

**Care leaver application fee waiver:** Students who are care leavers may also be eligible to have the application fee waived.

Activity!

# Time for a quiz

Write your answers down on a whiteboard. We will ask you to show them after each question.

# Question 2

Reflection is more important than just listing experiences.

True, false, or it depends?



# Question 2




Universities value quality over quantity. They want to see relevant experiences with reflection, not just a list of activities.

# Question 4

Admissions tutors look for evidence of transferable skills.

True, false or it depends?



# Question 4




Skills like critical thinking, communication, and problem-solving are just as important as academic knowledge.

# Question 5

The total limit for the Personal Statement is 4,000 **words**.

True, false or it depends?



# Question 5




The limit for your personal statement is 4,000 characters, not 4,000 words.

# Top Tips

What top tip would you give to someone writing their personal statement?

**Some of our top tips include:**

- Check spelling and grammar.
- Express yourself, avoiding cliches and quotes.
- Make sure all information is supported with evidence.
- Don’t repeat information across the three sections.
- Get someone you trust to proofread it.
- Only use AI for structure, not word for word.



# What happens next?



1. You have **submitted your application**, congratulations!

2. UCAS sends your application to your chosen universities where it is assessed by their **admissions teams**.

3. Some courses may ask you to attend an **interview**. Depending on your course, you may also be asked to provide a portfolio or attend an audition.

4. Decisions are made and offers sent via UCAS. You will receive a **Conditional** (usually dependent on upcoming exam results) or an **Unconditional** offer, or your application will be marked as **unsuccessful**.

# Postcard Feedback

- Your feedback is anonymous (no need to write your name) and helps us to develop and improve our sessions.
- If you can’t think of any improvements, please write ‘nothing’ for question one.
- There are no right or wrong answers, please answer honestly about what you think.
- If there are any questions you really don’t want to answer, it is okay to leave it blank.
- If you have any questions, please ask us.

What others have said:

*‘’I really appreciated how informative the session was, the presenters were amazing.’’*

# Find out more

Check out our website, and follow us on social media!




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# Any Questions?