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***YEAR 12 HIGHER  
EDUCATION EVENING***

ALTIORA PETO



# SIXTH FORM

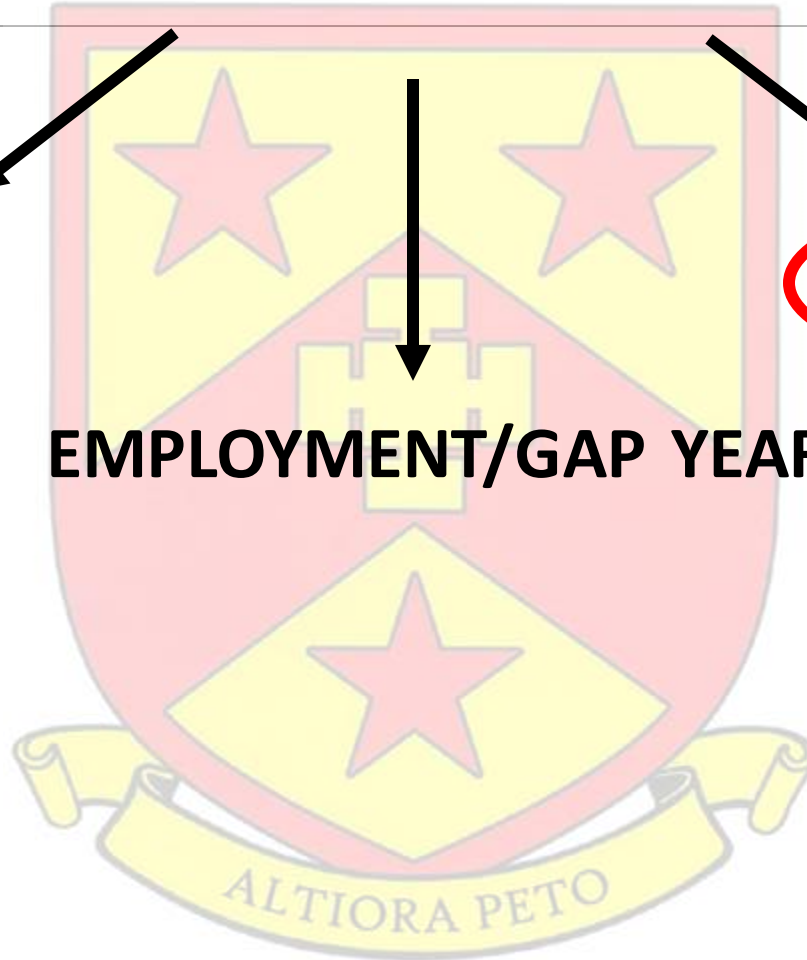
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**UNIVERSITY**

**Success?  
Russell Group**

**EMPLOYMENT/GAP YEAR**

**APPRENTICESHIP**



# APPRENTICESHIPS

NAME	LEVEL	EQUIVALENT
Intermediate	2	5 GCSE's
Advanced	3	A Levels.
Higher	3-7	Foundation degree and above
Degree	6+	Bachelor's/Masters Degree

# WHERE AND WHEN?

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- Government website – students already registered.
- Ask employers if specific interest.
- Looking anywhere from October through to April/May for a September start.
- We have a parent support pack available in school if you would like further information on apprenticeships and how to support your child in the application process.

# PROS

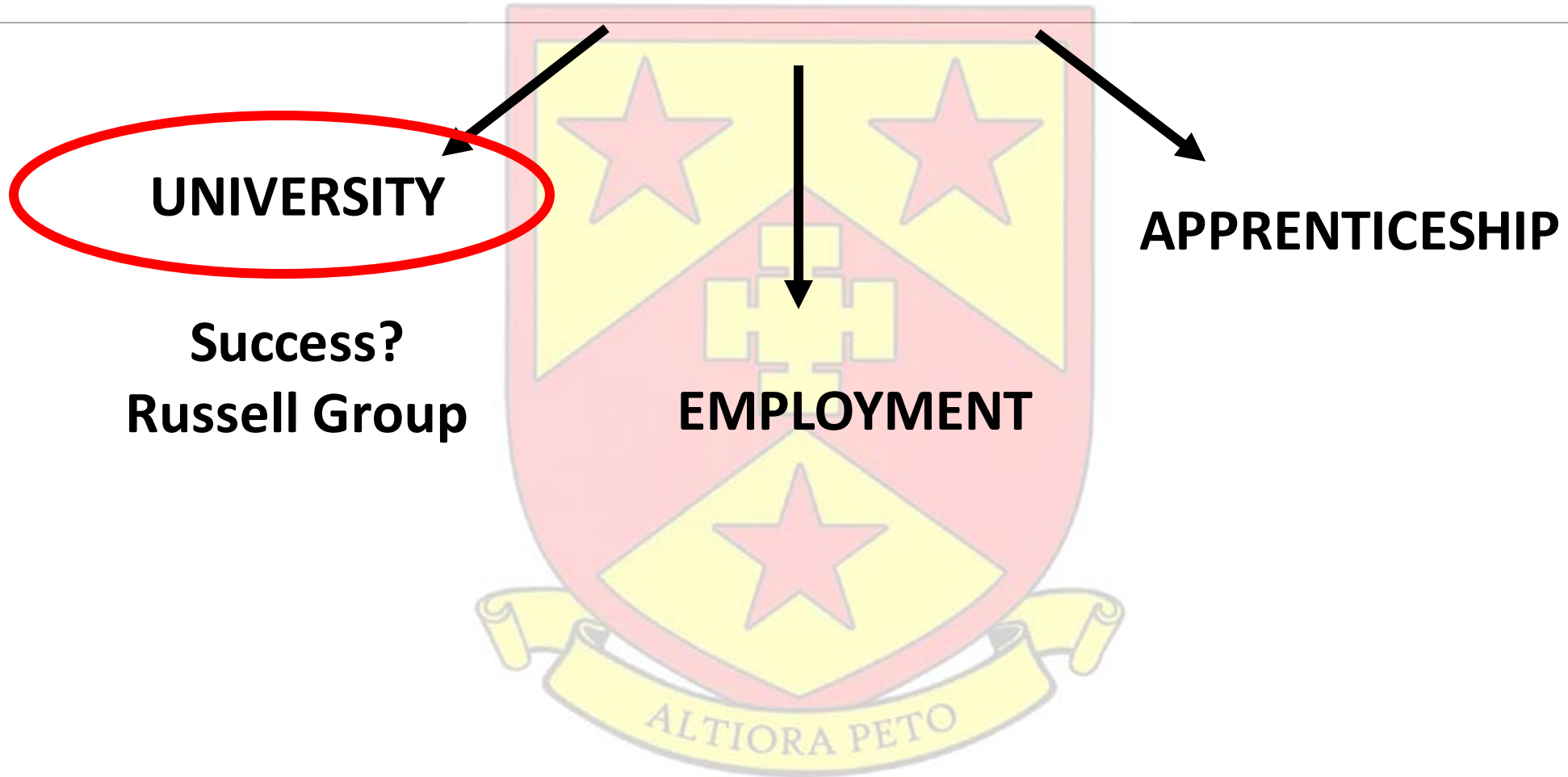
- Practice over theory. 20% study the rest full time employment.
- Paid work/no debt.
- Networking/potential job offer.
- Employability skills.
- Working alongside those with more experience.

# CONS

- Likelihood is you will earn minimum wage £6.83 an hour.
- Highly competitive.
- Availability of apprenticeships.
- Social sacrifice as in full time work.
- A job for life.

# SIXTH FORM

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**PARENTS**



**STUDENTS**

**Which University** – students and parents may have very different opinions on which universities students want to attend. There are many different factors that they need to consider, specifically the course on offer and the modules they complete, the facilities available, the accommodation, whether they prefer to be in the city or more rural, live away or live at home whilst studying.

**Contextual offer universities** – Some universities will lower the offers based on the school you go to and the area you live in as well as your personal circumstances, always worth checking when looking at entry requirements.

**Russell Group Universities** – universities within this group are research universities and are considered to be the top universities within their fields. Recently employers have said that students attending these universities will sit at the top of the pile for any job applications, however, this is solely dependent on the subject and career path you choose to take. Here is a link to those universities - <https://russellgroup.ac.uk/about/our-universities/>

**Aspirations vs Realism** – It is really important that students are aspirational with regards to the universities they apply to but also realistic. If they are currently achieving C grades then these will likely be the grades they are predicted for their applications and therefore will be rejected by most universities if asking for 3 A grades for example. Students have 5 choices, one choice should act as an **insurance choice** where the grades are lower. This essentially is a back up if students do not achieve the grades they needed but still want to go to university.



The screenshot shows the UCAS website homepage. At the top, the UCAS logo is on the left, and navigation links for 'Further education', 'Undergraduate', 'Postgraduate', 'Alternatives', 'Careers', a search icon, and 'Sign in' are on the right. The main heading is 'Choose your future' in large white text, with the subtext 'Explore your options, apply to university, and more' below it. A search bar contains the text 'computer games'. Below the search bar, there are three promotional banners: one with a graduation cap and the text 'ONLY FOR STUDENTS Start your 6-month trial 50% off Prime', and another with the University of Law logo and the text 'WE FOCUS ON YOUR EMPLOYABILITY'.

UCAS is the website to find and access any information regarding University courses,

**UCAS process** – Students will be given a buzzword which allows them to attach to the school profile so that we can support with their applications. They will use this to formulate their own log in during the summer term and begin to complete their application in sections. The deadline for applications is early **January 2024** for enrolment in September 2021. The deadline for any students applying for Oxford or Cambridge or Medicine, Dentistry or Veterinary Medicine is **October 16<sup>th</sup>**.



## Courses and apprenticeships



Students should access the undergraduate option

University or college (A to Z) ▾

**Study year** ?

- 2018 - 2019
- 2019 - 2020

**Course vacancies** ?

- Show all courses
- Only show courses with vacancies

This helps us to show courses that are available to you. [Click here for more info.](#)

**Course level** ?

- Undergraduate
- Postgraduate
- Conservatoires UK (CUK)

**Entry requirements (beta)** ?

Calculate your Tariff points

0 144+

2,641 courses from 250 providers

EXPAND ALL COLLAPSE ALL



▼ **University of Aberdeen**

11 courses

- ♥ **Electronic and Software Engineering**  
Master of Engineering (with Honours) - MEng (Hon)
- ♥ **Engineering (Electronic and Software)**  
Bachelor of Engineering (with Honours) - BEng (Hon)
- ♥ **Business Management and Information Systems**  
Master of Arts (with Honours) - MA (Hons)

Show more courses



▼ **Abertay University**

6 courses

- ♥ **Computer Games Technology**  
Bachelor of Science (with Honours) - BSc (Hons)
- ♥ **Computer Arts**  
Bachelor of Arts (with Honours) - BA (Hons)
- ♥ **Computer Game Applications Development**

100  
1920-2020  
Swansea University  
Prifysgol Abertawe  
**Computer Science**



# *OPEN DAYS*

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Most open days are available on a Saturday however, each University is different.

Some still happening remotely but at least visit city/town.

Maximum of 3 during school time.



## A-Levels and Highers: Ucas Points

	A-levels	AS levels	Scottish Highers	Advanced Highers
A*	56			
A	48	20	33	56
B	40	16	27	48
C	32	12	21	40
D	24	10	15	32
E	16	6		

## UCAS POINTS SYSTEM

## BTEC Nationals: (first taught September 2016) Ucas Points



National Extended Certificate		National Diploma		National Extended Diploma	
D*	56	D*D*	112	D*D*D*	168
D	48	D*D	104	D*D*D	160
M	32	DD	96	D*DD	152
P	16	DM	80	DDD	144
		MM	64	DDM	128
		MP	48	DMM	112
		PP	32	MMM	96
				MMP	80
				MPP	64
				PPP	48

(D) distinction (M) merit (P) pass

**Choices**

University of Bristol (B78)

Law (M100)

Campus: Main Site (-)

Start date: September 2019

Live at home while studying?: No

Deferred entry?: No

Point of entry:

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Durham University (D86)

Law (M101)

Campus: Josephine Butler College (9)

Start date: September 2019

Live at home while studying?: No

Deferred entry?: No

Point of entry:

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Lancaster University (L14)

Law (M100)

Campus: Main Site (-)

Start date: October 2019

Live at home while studying?: No

Deferred entry?: No

Point of entry:

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University of Warwick (W20)

Law with Humanities (MV21)

Campus: Main Site (-)

Start date: October 2019

Live at home while studying?: No

Deferred entry?: No

Point of entry:

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University of York (Y50)

Law (M100)

Students will fill in a variety of sections as part of the application. This will include;

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Personal details

Past exam results

Employment (if relevant)

Choices (students get 5 choices unless studying medicine)

Personal statement

# WHAT DO THE OFFERS MEAN?

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**Unconditional** – this is where a University offers the students a place usually regardless of their grades (although always read the small print). Often associated with making them a first choice.

**Conditional** – students are given an offer subject to meeting their requirements. These are often lowered dependent on a number of factors.

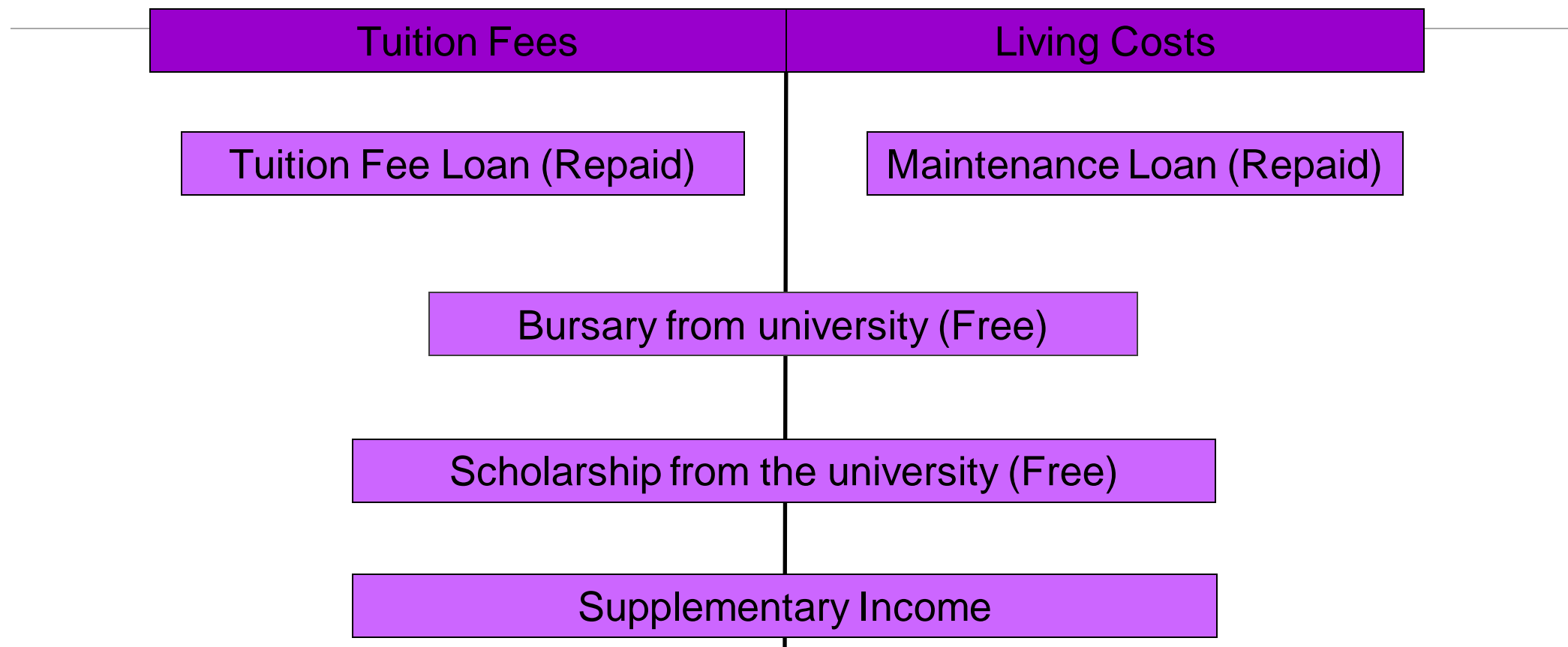
Once students have received offers they will select a **FIRM** and **INSURANCE** choice. Students holding no offers can go through other processes.

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# *STUDENT FINANCE*



## Overview







# Tuition Fee Loan

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- Up to £9,250 (subject to inflationary increases)
- Fees will vary between course and universities
- Fees paid either by:
  - Tuition fee loan
  - Private Finance
  - Combination of the above
- Available to **all** applicants
- Non-means tested
- Full cost of fees available per year
  - Linked to course costs
- Paid directly to the University
- Repaid by student after graduation
  - Study now, pay later

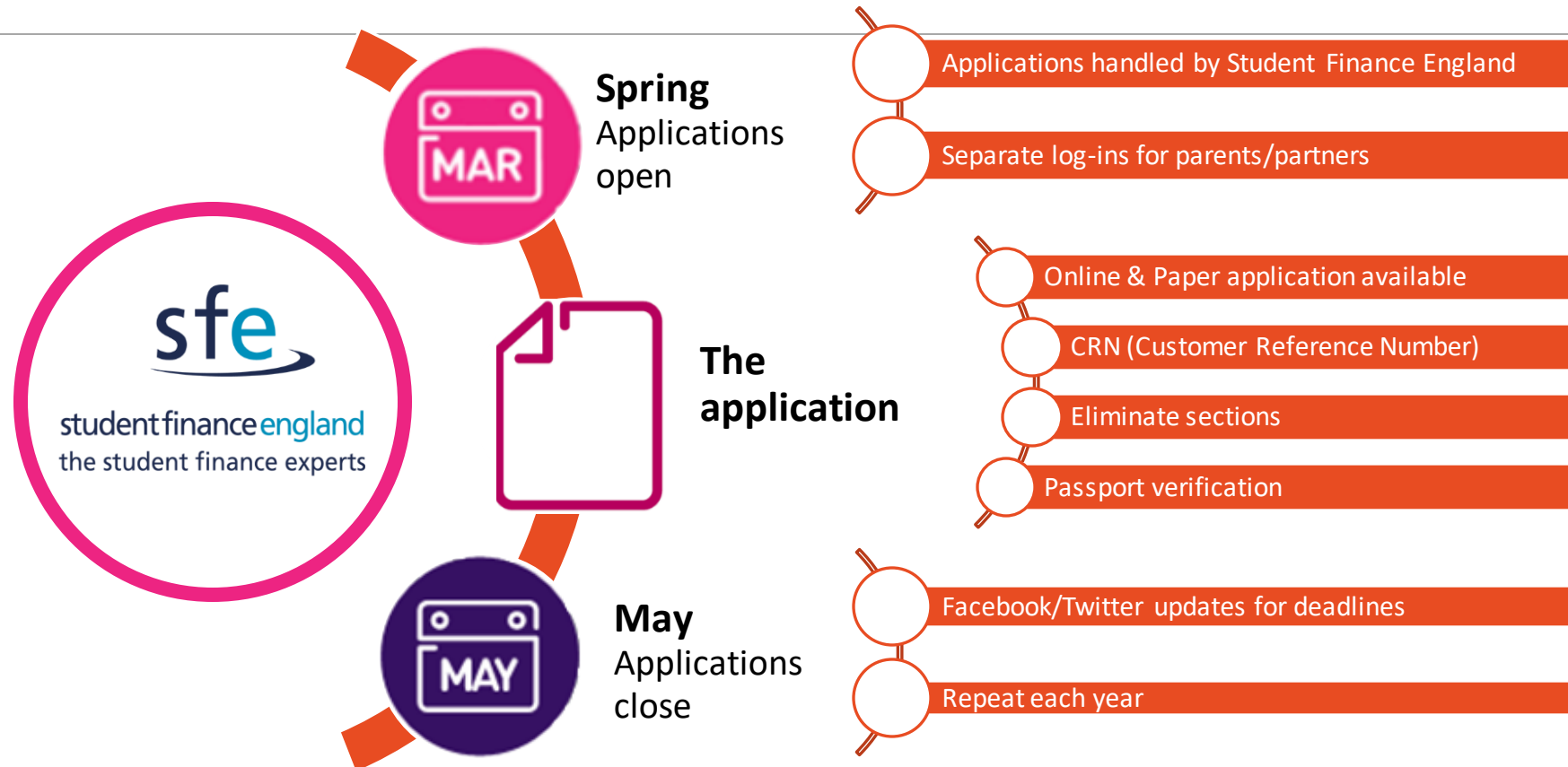


# Maintenance Loan

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- To cover living and study costs
- Basic rate is non-means tested
- Remaining rate is **means tested**; what you get depends on:
  - Household income
  - Where you live
  - The year of course you're on
- Paid in 3 instalments direct to student

# The Application Process





# Repayments

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- Starts the first April after graduating
- Loan repayments linked to your salary (9% of earnings over £25,000)
  - <£25,000 = no payments
  - £25,000 = £30.00 per month
  - £30,000 = £67.00 per month
  - £40,000 = £142.00 per month
- Interest is initially linked to RPI + up to 3%
- Does not appear on credit score
- Remaining debt wiped after 30 years





# Scholarships & Bursaries

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- Free pots of money
- Scholarships based on areas such as:
  - Academic performance
  - Specialist skill set
- Bursaries based on areas such as:
  - Household income
  - Family circumstances
  - Home Postcode
- Applied for via the institution awarding the money



# HOW DO I GET OFFERS?

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- Meeting/exceeding entry requirements.
- Supercurricular activities relevant to course;
- Trips/visits
- Own Research – know your subject
- Work experience
- Ted talks
- Volunteering
- Webinars



How is this demonstrated?

# *The Personal* *Statement*

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## Are these statements true or false?

At LSE last year, did:

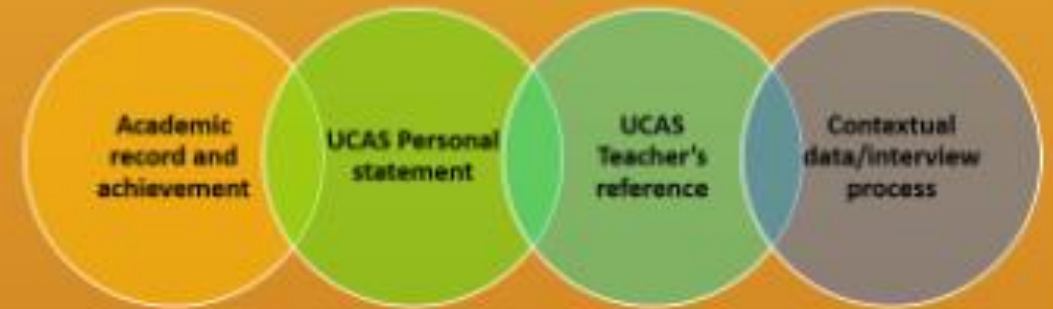
1779 applicants begin their personal statements with 'From a young age, I have always been...?'

90 include a Nelson Mandela quote in their statement?

Were there 450,000 UCAS applications last year?



## What is the purpose of a personal statement?



- A personal statement shows admissions tutors your enthusiasm for a course and institution
- It demonstrates your achievements and wider experience that will be relevant to your studies/career
- It provides universities an insight into you and your interests
- Universities will use all of the above data to make a judgement as to your suitability to a course





## How do you structure an effective personal statement?

- 1 • What you want to study at University and why/or the job you have applied for
- 2 • Your interests and skills – academic
- 3 • Experiences which show commitment and that you have developed a wide range of skills
- 4 • Your interests and skills – personal
- 5 • Closing statement

### Remember:

- 4000 characters or 47 lines of text
- UCAS uses similarity detection software
- It needs to be personal to you and you need to be able to substantiate everything you write
- 75-80% academic and 20-25% personal



## Advice and guidance

1. Plan first!
2. Get trusted people to read it e.g. parents/carers/teachers
3. Act on feedback that's given
4. Start reading around or gaining experience in an area of interest
5. Make sure everything you write in your personal statement is relevant -  
You can use the **ABC test** to see if you are making it relevant:
  - \* **A = Activity:** This might be captaining a sports team, or being part of a drama club
  - \* **B = Benefit:** This is the skill(s) you have gained from doing the activity
  - \* **C = Course:** How the skill will help you to complete the course successfully



## What does a good personal statement look like?

### *Less convincing examples:*

'I have been fascinated by the idea of becoming a lawyer ever since I watched the TV drama Suits.'

#### **Law**

'My love for the subject began in Year 6, when I conducted independent research for a project on natural hazards, which introduced me to tectonic theory.'

#### **Geography**

### *More convincing example:*

'Having read "End This Depression Now" by Paul Krugman I gained a deeper understanding of Keynesian theory. I found his argument convincing because...'

#### **Philosophy, Politics and Economics**

Read one of the example personal statements you have on your handout - take a minute to discuss the strengths and weaknesses.

# OUR GUIDANCE

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**Opening paragraph** – a ‘catchy’ opening about why you want to study that subject. If you are the first member of your family to study at university mention it here.

**Paragraph 2** – the most relevant subject you study to that area. Skills you have learnt, specific subject knowledge, expertise and experiences.

**Paragraph 3** - the academic and subject specific skills you have gained from your other subject areas.

**Paragraph 4** – Experiences, skills and qualities gained from areas outside of your academic study within school.

**Paragraph 5** – As above but outside of school.

**Paragraph 6** – A short and punchy paragraph, no more than 2 or 3 sentences explaining why you are a good candidate for that course.

**NB. This guidance is not prescriptive, every personal statement will be different but it does give a very good starting point.**

# UCAS TIMELINE

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16<sup>th</sup> MAY 2023 – register with UCAS and start searching courses and requirements

JUNE – Academic References are written by subject teachers

5<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023 – First applications can be submitted

16<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2023 – Early entries; Oxbridge, Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Medicine

DECEMBER 2023 – School deadline

31<sup>st</sup> JANUARY 2024 – UCAS Final Deadline

OFFERS

# *What now?*

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Careers appointments

Open days

Enrichment activities

Be proactive

Aspirations versus realism