



Largs Academy
Pupil & Parent
Information evening
Wednesday 9th September

UCAS - Setting the Scene



**University &
College
Admissions
Service**

- Central organisation through which applications are processed for entry to full-time higher education (HE) courses in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland
- UCAS operate on behalf of all full-time higher education courses at member institutions

AMBITION - RESPECT - EQUITY
COMMUNITY

Care and Flourish
LARGS ACADEMY



Applicants

Total Applicants

80

Acceptance Rate

Applicants (Percent of total)

54 (68%)

Offer Rate (Applicant level)

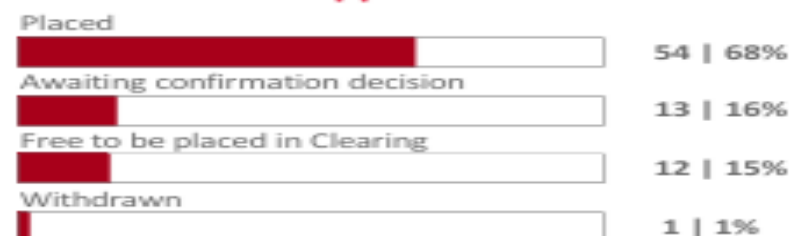
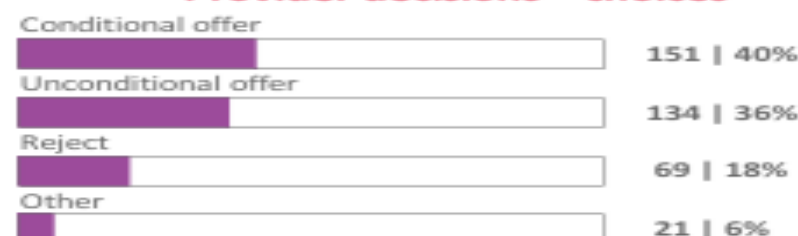
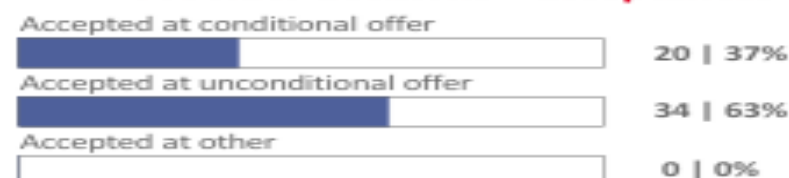
Applicants (Percent of total)

77 (96%)

Offer Rate (Choice level)

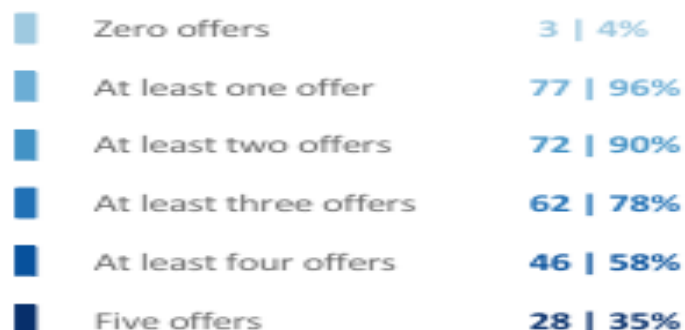
Choices (Percent of total)

285 (76%)

Applicant status**Provider decisions – choices****Provider decisions – acceptances****Applicant reply – acceptances****Most offers**

Provider | Offers | % of total

University of Strathclyde	57	20%
Glasgow Caledonian University	48	17%
University of Glasgow	37	13%

Applicant total offers count**Provider mission groups****Most applications**

Provider | Applications | % of total

University of Strathclyde	88	23%
Glasgow Caledonian University	53	14%
University of Glasgow	53	14%

Most acceptances

Provider | Acceptances | % of total

University of Strathclyde	17	31%
University of Glasgow	14	26%
Glasgow Caledonian University	8	15%

APPLICATION KEY FACTS



Invisibility - Universities and colleges **can't see** your other choices



Apply by the relevant **equal consideration date**.



Five choices, with some restrictions (medicine, veterinary, dentistry, Oxford and Cambridge).

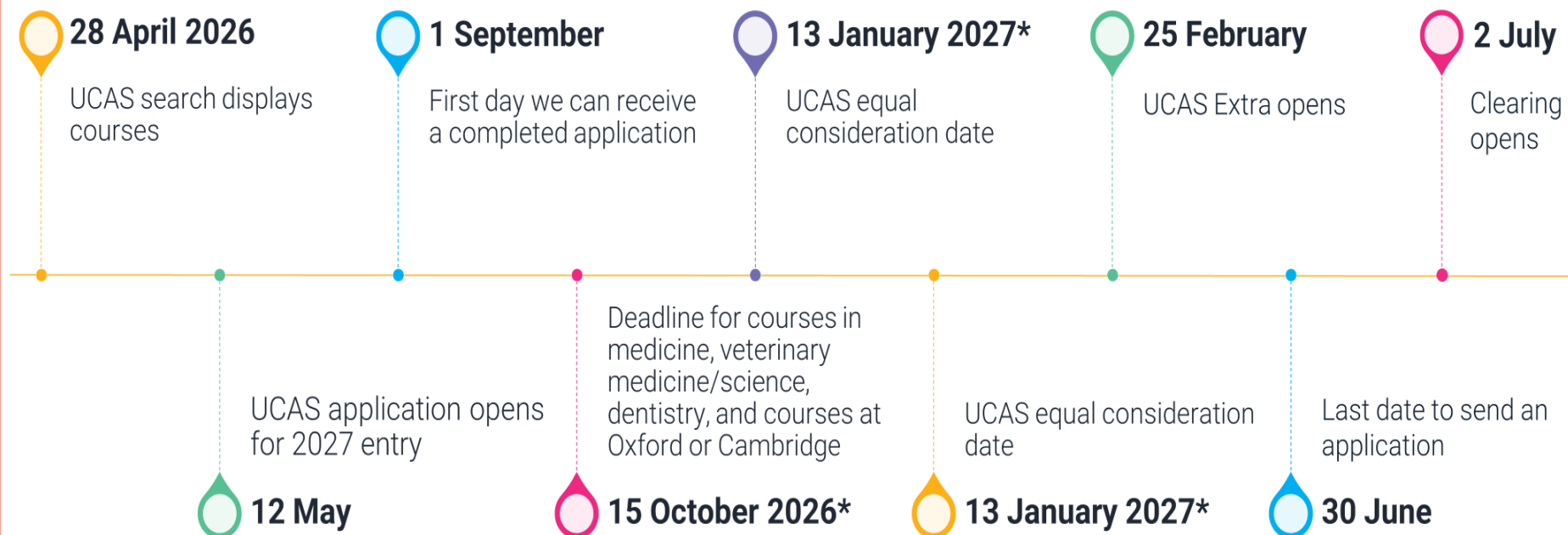


Research is **key** to a successful application.

<https://www.ucas.com/applying/applying-university/filling-your-application/students-eligible-free-school-meals-fsm>

<https://www.ucas.com/applying/applying-to-university/students-with-individual-needs/undergraduate-care-experienced-students>

KEY DATES FOR 2027



* 18:00 UK time

23

Choosing the right place

FIND YOUR BEST FIT UNI OR COLLEGE

Style and focus

- ✓ From research-intensive to practical, career-orientated learning.

Location and size

- ✓ Ranges from small campuses to large city-based universities with over 20,000 students.

Culture and facilities

- ✓ Environment, resources, and student life.

Graduate outcomes

- ✓ What careers have recent graduates gone on to?

Costs

- ✓ Include living costs, accommodation, and transport.

Student Outcomes

Operated by the Office for Students



The number of student respondents and response rates can be important in interpreting the data – it is important to note your experience may be different from theirs. This data will be based on the subject area rather than the specific course. [Read more about this data on the Discover Uni website.](#)

THE COURSE MATTERS

Teaching & learning

- ✓ Teaching hours, self-study, lectures, and group work.

Assessment & structure

- ✓ Coursework, exams, practical work, and module choices.

Entry requirements

- ✓ Grades, skills, interviews, or auditions.

Career links

- ✓ Placements, internships and study abroad.

Class size & experience

- ✓ Student numbers and learning environment

UCAS

Select qualification

UK A-Level

Data from: This course

Date range: 2019–2023

Grades held by accepted students



Rate of offers for UK school leavers



How do you compare?

Add three of your UK A-Level grades, predicted or those you've already achieved, to see how they compare to the grades previously accepted.

UK A-Level grades

B B C

By using 'Accept & show results' you acknowledge that the result indicates how you compare to previously accepted students. It is not an indication of success if you were to apply.

Accept & show results

Cancel

- accommodation search

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Starting your research

Register with the UCAS Hub to:

- Explore careers, subjects places & apprenticeships- find and favourite over 35,000 courses

www.ucas.com/search

- Search for open days, events and virtual tours-

www.ucas.com/open-days

- Turn predicted grades into UCAS Tariff points
- <https://www.ucas.com/ucas/tariff-calculator>
- 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

The screenshot shows the UCAS Hub homepage. At the top right, the text 'Start your discovery journey' is accompanied by a red arrow pointing down to the 'Your Hub' section. The 'Your Hub' section has a subtitle 'Your personalised homepage and discovery hub' and a navigation bar with icons for 'Hub', 'For you', 'Favourites', 'What to do', 'Where to go', and 'Search'. Below this, a 'Welcome back Sam' message indicates the user is applying for Undergraduate courses in 2027. A large pink box titled 'Start an application' contains a description of the application process and a 'Start an application' button. At the bottom, a grid of eight cards provides quick links to various resources: 'DISCOVER WHAT TO DO', 'What subject should I take?', 'FOUND A COURSE YOU LIKE?', 'DISCOVER CAREERS', 'Key application dates', 'DISCOVER WHERE TO GO', 'How to apply', and 'How to nail that personal statement'.

Start your discovery journey

UCAS

Your Hub

Your personalised homepage and discovery hub

Hub For you Favourites What to do Where to go Search

Welcome back Sam
You're applying for Undergraduate courses in 2027 - Change year

Start an application

Apply to universities, colleges, or conservatoires to study degrees, HNDs, HNCs, masters degrees, postgraduate diplomas, and doctorates.

Start an application

DISCOVER WHAT TO DO

Browse subjects and careers with related courses and apprenticeships.

Discover more

What subject should I take?

Read our subject guides to see what might be right for you.

FOUND A COURSE YOU LIKE?

Find out more

DISCOVER CAREERS

Try our quiz and get recommended careers that match your skills and personality traits.

Take the quiz

Key application dates

Find out what you need to do and when.

DISCOVER WHERE TO GO

Browse universities, colleges and employers and learn more about cities and regions in the UK.

Find out more

How to apply

All you need to know about applying to university, college or an apprenticeship.

FIND AN APPRENTICESHIP

Learn more

How to nail that personal statement

Writing a personal statement can be daunting. Follow our tips and advice to help make it easier.

And more research

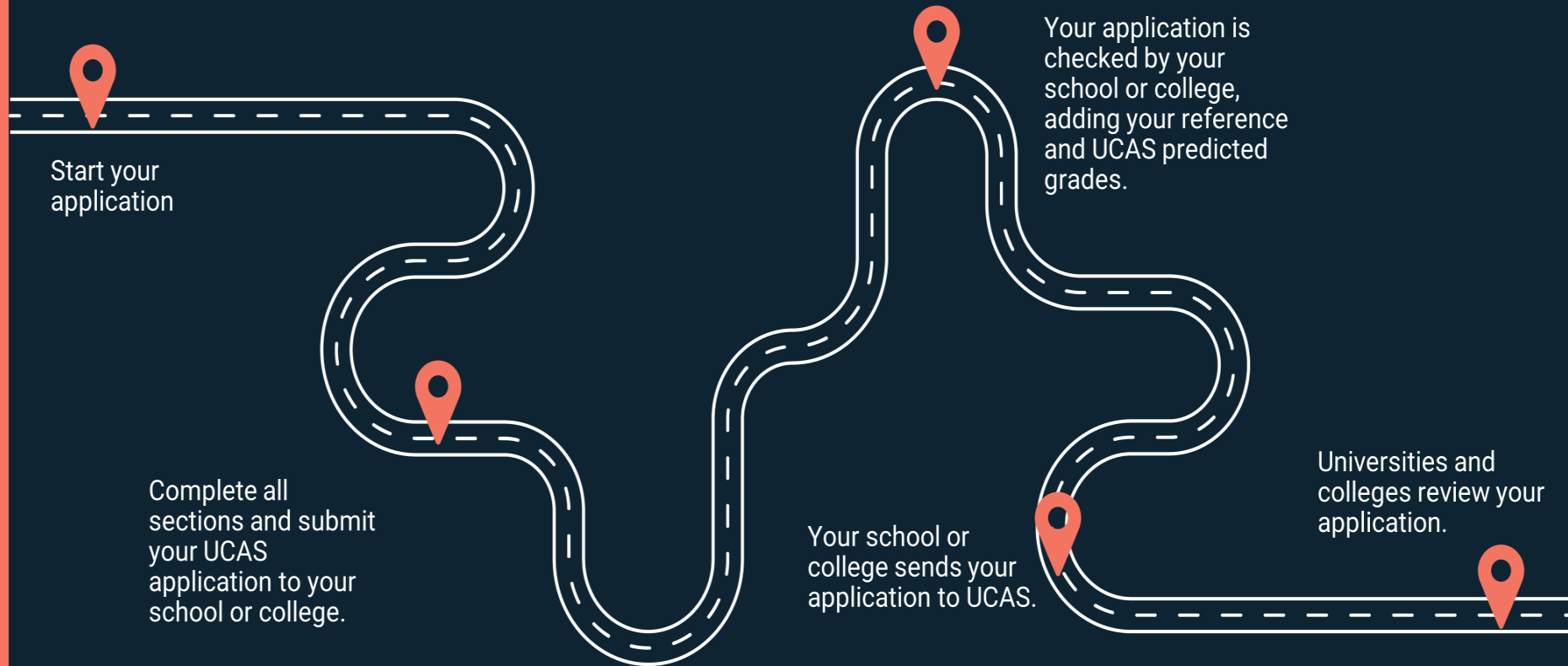
- Online....
- www.ucas.ac.uk/students/coursesearch/ Choose your future
- www.myworldofwork.co.uk click on secondary pupils
- www.planitplus.net course advice
- www.prospects.ac.uk course choice advice based on school subjects/Matched to future job prospects
- www.thecompleteuniversityguide.com ranks universities/league tables
- [Personal Statement Examples | Studential.com](#) sample personal statements
- [Find and Compare the Best University & Degree Courses – The Uni Guide](#)
The student room Uni guide

University Open Days in Scotland 2026



University of Aberdeen https://www.abdn.ac.uk/study/open-days/ Saturday 6 June (Medicine only), Tuesday 25 August, and Saturday 3 October	Glasgow Caledonian University https://www.gcu.ac.uk/study/opendays Friday 4 September and Saturday 3 October	Scotland's Rural College (SRUC) www.sruc.ac.uk/opendays SRUC offers courses across multiple campuses and open day dates vary. Please check the website for updates.
Abertay University https://www.abertay.ac.uk/visit/ Saturday 26 September and Saturday 24 October	Heriot-Watt University https://www.hw.ac.uk/visit-us/open-days-and-events Saturday 26 September, Saturday 7 November (Edinburgh) Friday 9 October, Friday 30 October (Borders)	University of St Andrews https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/study/meet-us/in-st-andrews/ug/ Dates for visiting days can be found on their website.
University of Dundee https://www.dundee.ac.uk/open-days Saturday 26 September and Saturday 31 October	University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI) https://www.uhi.ac.uk/en/studying-at-uhi/open-days UHI offers courses across multiple campuses and open day dates vary. Please check the website for updates.	University of Stirling https://www.stir.ac.uk/openday Saturday 19 September, Wednesday 7 October (virtual) and Saturday 24 October
The University of Edinburgh https://study.ed.ac.uk/undergraduate/open-days-events-visits Monday 22 June, Saturday 26 September and Saturday 24 October	Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh https://www.qmu.ac.uk/open-days-and-meeting-us/undergraduate-open-day Saturday 26 September and Saturday 7 November	University of Strathclyde https://www.strath.ac.uk/studywithus/openday/ Tuesday 1 September and Saturday 3 October
Edinburgh Napier University www.napier.ac.uk/openday Saturday 26 September and Saturday 24 October	Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen https://www.rgu.ac.uk/study/visit-us/open-days Wednesday 2 September, Saturday 31 October and Saturday 28 November	University of the West of Scotland https://www.uws.ac.uk/study/open-days-info-sessions/ UWS offers courses across multiple campuses and open day dates vary. Please check the website for updates.
University of Glasgow https://www.gla.ac.uk/explore/visit/undergraduate/opendays/ Thursday 18 June, Wednesday 2 September, and Saturday 24 October. For Dumfries campus, see website	Royal Conservatoire of Scotland https://www.rcs.ac.uk/study/visit-us/open-days/ RCS offer a variety of open days for different courses. Please check the website for updates.	Glasgow School of Art https://www.gsa.ac.uk/study-at-the-gsa/open-days Open Day dates still to be confirmed, please check website for updates

THE UCAS APPLICATION



Linking to a school

- If you're applying with the help of a school, college or centre you should enter their 'buzzword' to link your application to them.
- The buzzword is a unique code set by your school, college or centre- **Largs2027**
- By linking your application you're giving your school, college or centre permission to view and track your application. It also means they'll provide you with a reference, and send your application to UCAS on your behalf.



Are you applying from a school, college, or centre?

Yes

No

Select Yes here.

START >

Making an application

Sections to be completed:

- Personal details
- Nationality details
- Where you live
- Contact details
- Supporting information
- Finance and funding
- Diversity and inclusion*
- More about you

* (for students with a UK home address)

Personal details Name, age, title and gender Start this section	Nationality details Birthplace and nationalities Start this section	Where you live Tell us about your address history Section in progress
Contact details Address, email, and telephone Section in progress	Supporting information So that providers know how to support you during your studies Start this section	Finance & funding Tell us how you'll fund your study Start this section
Diversity & inclusion Additional equality information Start this section	More about you Tell us about any circumstances that you might need support for during your studies. Start this section	

Making an application

Sections to be completed:

Experiences:

- Education
 - Employment
 - Extra activities*
-
- Personal statement
 - Reference**
 - Add choices – up to five

*(for students with a UK home address)

** (not visible for students linked to their school/college)

Experience

Education >

Your qualifications and periods of study

 Section in progress

Employment >

Employment, paid or unpaid, or volunteer work

 Section complete

Extra activities >

Activities you have attended in preparation for higher education

 Start this section

Personal Statement

Personal statement >

Why do you want to study this subject?

 Start this section

School Deadlines

- End of September- all sections of the UCAS application form (except personal Statement) should be complete.
- All pupils to attend personal statement workshops with Paul - our Career Advisers.
- Before October holidays- 1st draft of personal statement should be given to referee as well as info to support Reference. (word document). This does not include early applicant deadlines. Year Team will check in with those pupils.
- Post October holidays- regular check ins with Year Team to check over drafts of personal statement until its complete.
- End of November UCAS form should be complete (Paid/Sent).
- Pre Christmas Holidays – reference added and S6 Year Team will check over forms before sending off to UCAS.
- This process allows pupils to then focus on prelims after the Christmas holidays.



Care and Flourish
LARGS ACADEMY



THE PERSONAL STATEMENT

 Your chance to show your passion, curiosity, interest.

 Three separate sections with question prompts.

 A maximum of 4,000 characters, minimum of 350 characters per section.

 The same for all your choices.

 There isn't a spelling or grammar check.

 No formatting allowed.

 Every personal statement is run through similarity detection software.

Why do you want to study this course or subject? *

This is your opportunity to showcase your passion and knowledge of your chosen subject area and to demonstrate to universities and colleges why they are a good fit for you and your future ambitions.

Please use a minimum of 350 characters in this section (350 needed)

How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject? *

This is your chance to shout about the relevant or transferable skills you've gained from your education and highlight your understanding of how they will help you succeed in this subject area.

Please use a minimum of 350 characters in this section (350 needed)

What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful? *

This is your chance to reflect on any other activities you have undertaken outside of your education, or personal experiences which further demonstrate your suitability for the course. This section is likely to be deeply personal to you, so anything you include should be meaningful and relevant to you.

Please use a minimum of 350 characters in this section (350 needed)

WHAT ARE THE QUESTIONS?



Why do you want to study this course or subject?

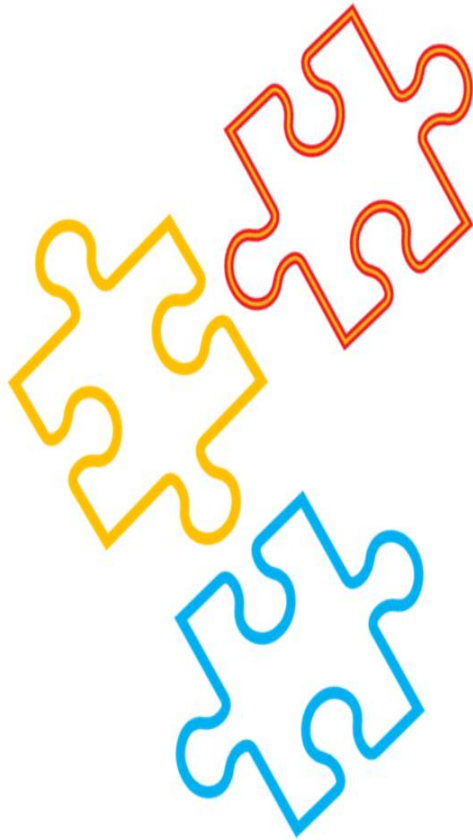


How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?



What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?

BUILD A PERSONAL STATEMENT



Ultimately, think of it like a jigsaw.

Each piece is reflective evidence.

PERSONAL STATEMENT SUPPORT

PERSONAL STATEMENT BUILDER

4000 characters of 4000 remaining

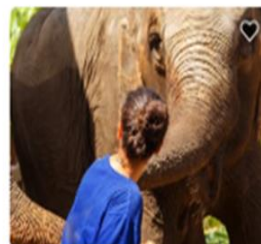


[View personal statement guides](#)

CONTINUE WRITING



What to include in your architecture, planning or building personal statement



What to include in your animal science personal statement



What to include in your art and design personal statement



What to include in your biology personal statement



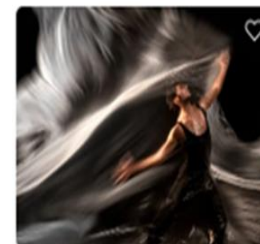
What to include in your business management personal statement



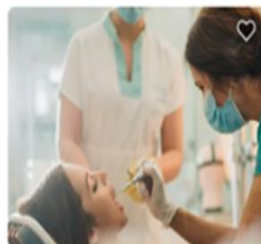
What to include in your chemistry personal statement



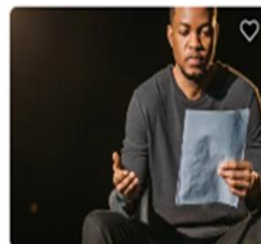
What to include in your computer science personal statement



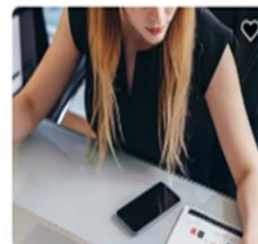
What to include in your dance personal statement



What to include in your dentistry personal statement



What to include in your drama personal statement



What to include in your economics personal statement



What to include in your engineering personal statement

References- 3 section approach



Enter a general statement about your school/college/centre.



If applicable, enter any information about extenuating circumstances which may have impacted the applicant's education and achievement.



Outline any other supportive information specific to the applicant and relevant to the course(s) applied for that you think universities/colleges should be aware of.

Two different routes. One destination.

A five-minute guide for parents and carers

COLLEGE → UNIVERSITY

Articulation

Start with an HNC or HND, then move into a related degree, often with advanced entry.

JOB + UNIVERSITY

Graduate Apprenticeship

Be employed, earn a wage and work towards a degree through workplace and university learning.

The key question is not “Which is better?” It is “Which route best fits this young person?”

Finding Out More - Articulation



College & Uni information

Check websites & prospectuses.
Some institutions have extra guides just for articulation. You can also ask about it at live & online events.



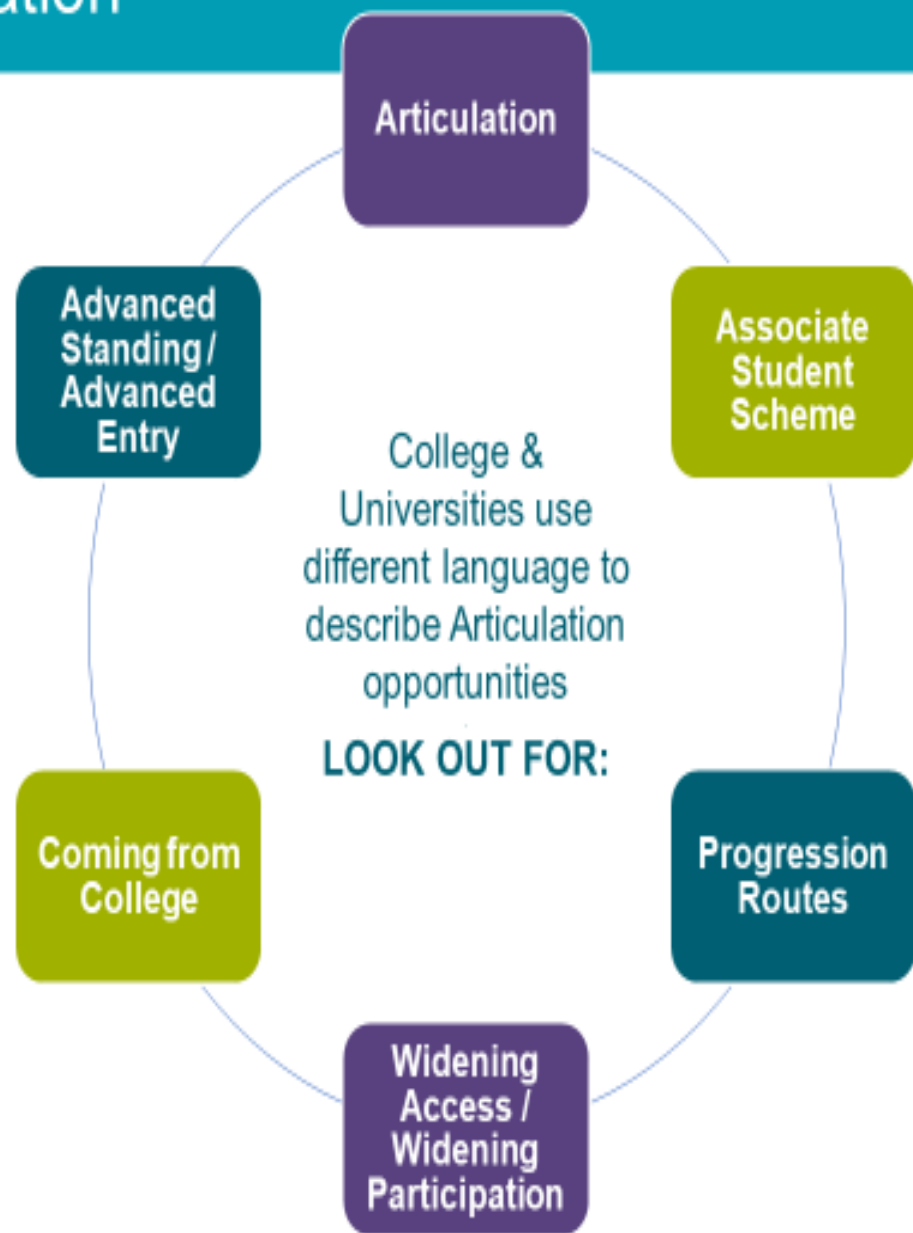
Pathways - www.pathways.ac.uk

Search tool with pathways for 7 colleges, 9 universities and 19 subject groups.



Always check entry requirements

with university admissions –
Not all college articulation routes have guaranteed university places



Articulation – Finding out more from College Sources



College on [Pathways](#) + have related webpages

Border College

- [Progression to University or other Colleges](#)

Edinburgh College

- [Progression Routes](#)

Fife College

- [Browse our HE & Degree Guide](#)

Forth Valley College

- [Partnership Degrees](#)

Newbattle Abbey

- [Social Science Associate Degree](#)

SRUC

- [Qualifications explained](#) (general)

West Lothian College

- [Routes from College to University](#)

Not on Pathways, see college webpages

Dumfries & Galloway

- [Progression Opportunities + HNC & HND Qualifications](#)

Dundee & Angus

- [Articulation agreements](#)

City of Glasgow

- [Progressing to University](#)

Glasgow Clyde

- [Articulation + Course progression map](#)

NESCol

- [Pathways to university](#)

New College Lanarkshire

- [In house degrees](#)

South Lanarkshire

- [Routes to University](#)

West Lothian

- [Routes from college to uni](#)

UHI Colleges

- [Already studying at UHI](#)

NOTE: Not all colleges are listed here, only those with articulation prospectuses, information pages or tools

Articulation – Finding out more from University Sources



Universities on [Pathways](#)

Abertay

• [Widening access to university](#)

Edinburgh

• [Higher National Qualifications](#)

Edinburgh Napier

• [College to university](#)

Heriot watt

• [College qualifications](#)

Open University (OU)

• [Credit transfer](#)

Queen Margaret

• [College leavers & mature students](#)

St Andrews

• [Supported pathways](#) (FE-HE)

Kingston (London)

• [via Edinburgh College](#)

Stirling

• [Coming from college](#)

Not on Pathways, see university webpages

UHI

• [Coming from college](#)

Robert Gordon

• [Degree link](#)

Strathclyde

• [Entry from college](#)

UWS

• [College to uni](#)

**Glasgow School
of Art**

• [Advanced entry](#)

Caledonian

• [GCU Pathways](#)

Glasgow

• [Widening participation](#)

Aberdeen

• [Entry from college](#)

Note: SRUC & Dundee articulation details are within course pages. RCS rarely offer Articulation, contact direct



Articulation: college first, university next

Progress learning rather than repeat it



HNC (SCQF 7) → Year 2 degree or HND → Year 3

- 1 Could suit someone who...** prefers a staged transition, practical learning or a local college start.
- 2 Check carefully** The HN subject must link to the degree. Entry requirements vary, and not every route guarantees a university place.
- 3 How to access it** Search the college course and its progression routes. Check Pathways and university "advanced entry" or "coming from college" pages. Ask admissions before applying.

Useful search terms: articulation • progression route • advanced entry • associate student

Graduate Apprenticeships: work, earn and learn

A real job with degree-level study built in

EMPLOYED

PAID

DEGREE

Most learning happens through the job, supported by structured university study.

Good fit if they... are ready for recruitment, full-time work, responsibility and combining deadlines.

Look beyond grades Employers set role requirements. Motivation, research, skills and evidence of interest matter.

Apply for the job Search vacancies, employer careers pages and Apprenticeships.scot. Vacancies appear throughout the year, so set alerts and apply to more than one.



Not a UCAS course choice
It begins with securing an employer vacancy.

GRADUATE APPRENTICESHIPS



**Work-based learning to
masters level**
(SCQF level 8–11)

STUDY

Access to
university/college
facilities, services &
learning, including
enterprise support



WORK

Paid full-time
employment with
learning in the
workplace



FLEXIBILITY

A flexible entry
point and timetable
with assessments



**Designed by
industry for industry**

SUPPORT

Both an academic
and workplace
mentor

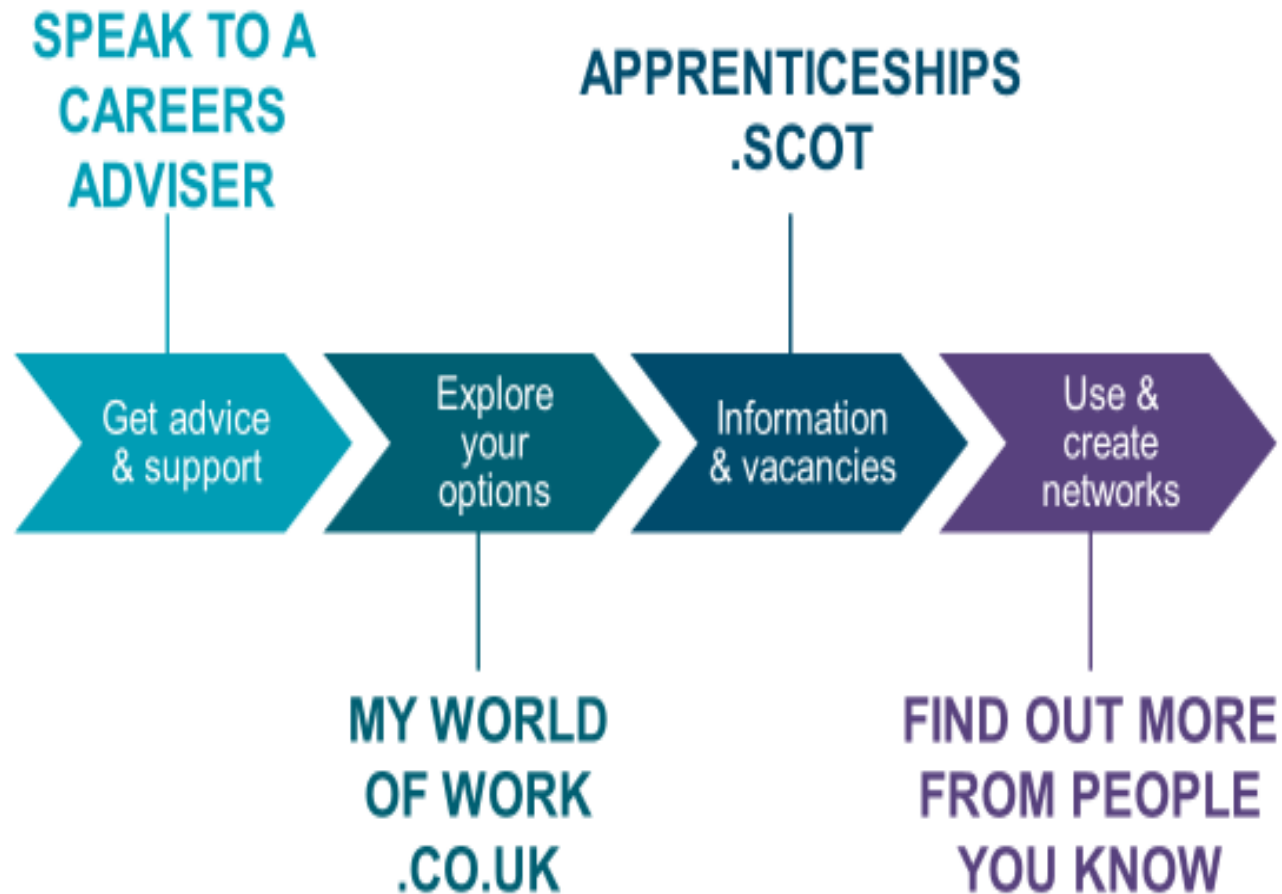


GRADUATE APPRENTICESHIPS

 Accounting	 Business Management (including Financial Services)	 Civil Engineering: Higher Apprenticeship	 Civil Engineering: SCQF level 10	 Construction and the Built Environment	 IT: Software Development
 Cyber Security	 Data Science	 Early Learning and Childcare	 Engineering: Design and Manufacture	 Engineering: Instrumentation, Measurement and Control	 IT: Management for Business



FIND OUT MORE APPRENTICESHIPS



What parents can do next

Three actions that keep both routes open

1

Start with the young person

Interests, preferred learning style, location, independence and readiness for employment.

2

Research the exact route

Check linked subjects, entry conditions, application method, deadlines and whether progression is guaranteed.

3

Use support early

Speak to the school careers adviser, college or university admissions, and the employer named in a vacancy.

Keep both routes open while researching. A UCAS application does not prevent a pupil applying for suitable apprenticeship vacancies.

Where to look

Articulation routes

myworldofwork.co.uk

Pathways search

pathways.ac.uk

Graduate Apprenticeships

apprenticeships.scot

Vacancy search

apprenticeships.scot/find-a-vacancy

Need help? Book a careers meeting
paul.aitken@sds.co.uk

DECISIONS

Universities and colleges will review the whole application including:



Qualifications



Personal statement



Reference



Admissions test



Interview



Portfolio / audition

TRACKING YOUR APPLICATION

Follow your application to:

- check progress
- see your choices
- update contact information
- view and reply to your offers

One of three decisions:

- unconditional offer
- conditional offer
- unsuccessful



Submitted to your school or college

Your application has been sent to your school or college and is being checked by your adviser. Once they have approved it your application will be sent to UCAS.



Your application has been returned by your adviser

Your adviser has returned your application, go to your application to see what amendments they are recommending for you.



Waiting for decisions

Universities or colleges are considering your application.
Providers have until dd-mm-yyyy to respond to your choices.



All decisions received

You've received a decision from all of your choices. You can now reply to your offers at any time.
Reply by dd-mm-yyyy

REPLIES TO OFFERS

- Once you've made your decisions, choose a 'firm' and 'insurance' choice.
- Decline any remaining offers.
- If you're not holding an offer, use Extra or Clearing to find available places.



CONFIRM YOUR CHOICES

UCAS Application

Your Personal ID number

116-000-7564

< Previous
 Select insurance choice

Cancel

Save choices

Selecting as your firm choice

Archaeology (V400)

University of UCAS (298) (E56)

Master of Arts (with Honours) MA (Hons)

Location: Main site

Start date: September 2020

OFFER

You have been offered a place subject to conditions

Your offer

Pass in Access Course with 45 credits at Level 3, of which 24 Level 3 credits must be at Merit or Distinction grade in Science, Social Science or Health related subjects and pass Functional Skills Maths. Subject to DBS and Occupational Health clearances.

[View full offer](#)

Selecting as your insurance choice

Geography (L700)

University of UCAS (298) (E56)

Master of Arts (with Honours) MA (Hons)

Location: Main site

Start date: September 2020

OFFER

You have been offered a place subject to conditions

Your offer

Pass in Access Course with 45 credits at Level 3, of which 24 Level 3 credits must be at Merit or Distinction grade in Science, Social Science or Health related subjects and pass Functional Skills Maths. Subject to DBS and Occupational Health clearances.

[View full offer](#)

Offers you are declining

Italian and History of Art (RV33)

University of UCAS (298) (E56)

Master of Arts (with Honours) MA (Hons)

Location: Main site

Start date: September 2020

OFFER

You have been offered a place subject to conditions

Your offer

Pass in Access Course with 45 credits at Level 3, of which 24 Level 3 credits must be at Merit or Distinction grade in Science, Social Science or Health related subjects and pass Functional Skills Maths. Subject to DBS and Occupational Health clearances.

[View full offer](#)

Provider name

University of Glasgow

Provider code

G28

UNCONDITIONAL FIRM

Course name

Physics with Astrophysics

Course code

F3F5

Date of offer

09 Jan 2026

[Course entry requirements](#) 

Course start date

14 Sep 2026

Point of entry

Year 1

Application reply deadline

-

Conditions for acceptance

This offer is subject to you obtaining

We strongly encourage you to fully commit to your S6 studies even though you have an unconditional offer. Research indicates that students with good S6 results find the transition to university much smoother and attain better degrees. Graduate employers are interested in all qualifications attained by students, not just their degree qualification.



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Provider name

University of Strathclyde

Provider code

S78

CONDITIONAL FIRM

Course name

Product Design Engineering

Course code

H771

Date of offer

02 Mar 2026

[Course entry requirements](#) 

Course start date

14 Sep 2026

Point of entry

Year 1

Application reply deadline

-

Conditions for acceptance

This offer is subject to you obtaining

Scottish Qualifications Authority Higher
Grades BB including
Physics



Care and Flourish
LARGS ACADEMY



Provider name

University of Strathclyde

Provider code

S78

UNSUCCESSFUL

Course name

Social Work

Course code

L501

Date of offer

30 Jan 2026

[Course entry requirements](#) 

Course start date

14 Sep 2026

Point of entry

Year 1

Application reply deadline

-

Conditions for acceptance

After careful consideration, we regret to advise you that your application has been unsuccessful due to the limited number of places.

Due to extremely stiff competition for allocated places, coupled with large numbers of applications received where candidates have met and/or exceptionally exceeded all standard and minimum entry criteria, we are unable to make an offer of study this year. Regrettably, we are unable to consider your application further.

AMBITION - RESPECT - EQUITY
CARE AND FLOURISH
COMMUNITY

Care and Flourish
LARGS ACADEMY



Other options



Extra (25th Feb – 1st Jul)

- Used all five choices and had no offers.
- Add Extra choices for consideration one at a time in Track.

Clearing (2nd Jul – 18th Oct)

- Whether you have exceeded expectations, changed your mind or don't have a place.
- **Clearing is for everyone.**
- Find vacancies from early July, and add a Clearing choice to your application.

THINGS TO DO

- research, research, research
- attend open days and events
- independent learning outside the curriculum
- work experience
- volunteering
- focus on this year's studies

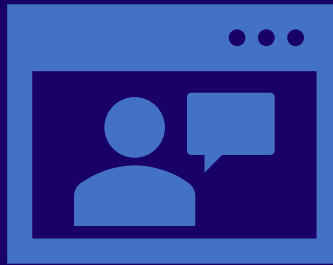


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