



Year 12 Post 18 Options Information Evening



Format of evening



- Overview of post 18 options
- Outline of UCAS process for applying to UK universities
- Student Finance Presentation
- Apprenticeships
- How you can help and resources
- Questions?

Post 18 options



**UK
universities
2026 or 2027
start
(deferred)**

**Other courses
eg
conservatoires,
art foundation**

**Apprenticeship
or employment**

**Gap year -
travel, work
or
volunteering**

**Overseas
university**

Key Information

- UCAS: centralised electronic system (www.ucas.com)
- You may select a maximum of 5 university courses: not ranked, 'blind' application
- If applying for medicine or other clinical courses limited to 4 choices plus an alternative (e.g. biomedical science, anatomy)
- You can only apply to Oxford or Cambridge
- They can choose deferred entry to September 2027 – check course allows this
- They can do other applications alongside your UCAS e.g. international, art foundation, apprenticeships
- If they are thinking about applying for an apprenticeship have UCAS as a back-up so keep on listening.



Timelines

Key deadlines:

- Conservatoires: early October deadlines
- Early applicants – Oxbridge, medicine, dentistry, veterinary - 15 October 2025 **There will be an internal deadline in early October.**
- Main UCAS deadline – 14 January 2026 **BUT there will be an internal deadline in early December 2025**



Choosing the right place



- 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.

Choosing the right place (cont)



- Culture and facilities – influenced by a range of factors, look at facilities for academic and extra-curricular activities.
- 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



- 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.

Choosing the right course (cont)



- 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?
- Foundation years

UCAS form

What it includes



Student Profile

Contact details
Educational
Qualifications
Contextual data



Personal statement

More about this later



Choices

Up to 5 choices

The School then adds in predicted grades and reference

Personal Statement-The Structure

Q1

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

Q2

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

Q3

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

Types of University

RUSSELL

University of Birmingham
University of Bristol
University of Cambridge
Cardiff University
Durham University
University of Edinburgh
University of Exeter
University of Glasgow
Imperial College London
King's College London
University of Leeds
University of Liverpool
London School of Economics
and Political Science
University of Manchester
Newcastle University
University of Nottingham
University of Oxford
Queen Mary University of London
Queen's University Belfast
University of Sheffield
University of Southampton
University College London
University of Warwick
University of York

GROUP

'Typical' offer A*AA - AAB
at A Level

Most certainly not the be-all and end-all!

**There are many good universities which
are not members of the Russell group**

**Some universities have specialisms in vocational
courses**



Will you get an offer?



- A-Level predicted grades, may be specific subject requirements
- GCSE grades –may be subject/grade requirements
- Personal statement
- Admissions tests (UCAT, LNAT etc)
- Interview
- Work experience
- Offer may be in grades or tariff points
- Some students may be eligible for contextual offers.

The Higher Education Landscape

Figure 1: English and Welsh 18-year old population 2009-2036

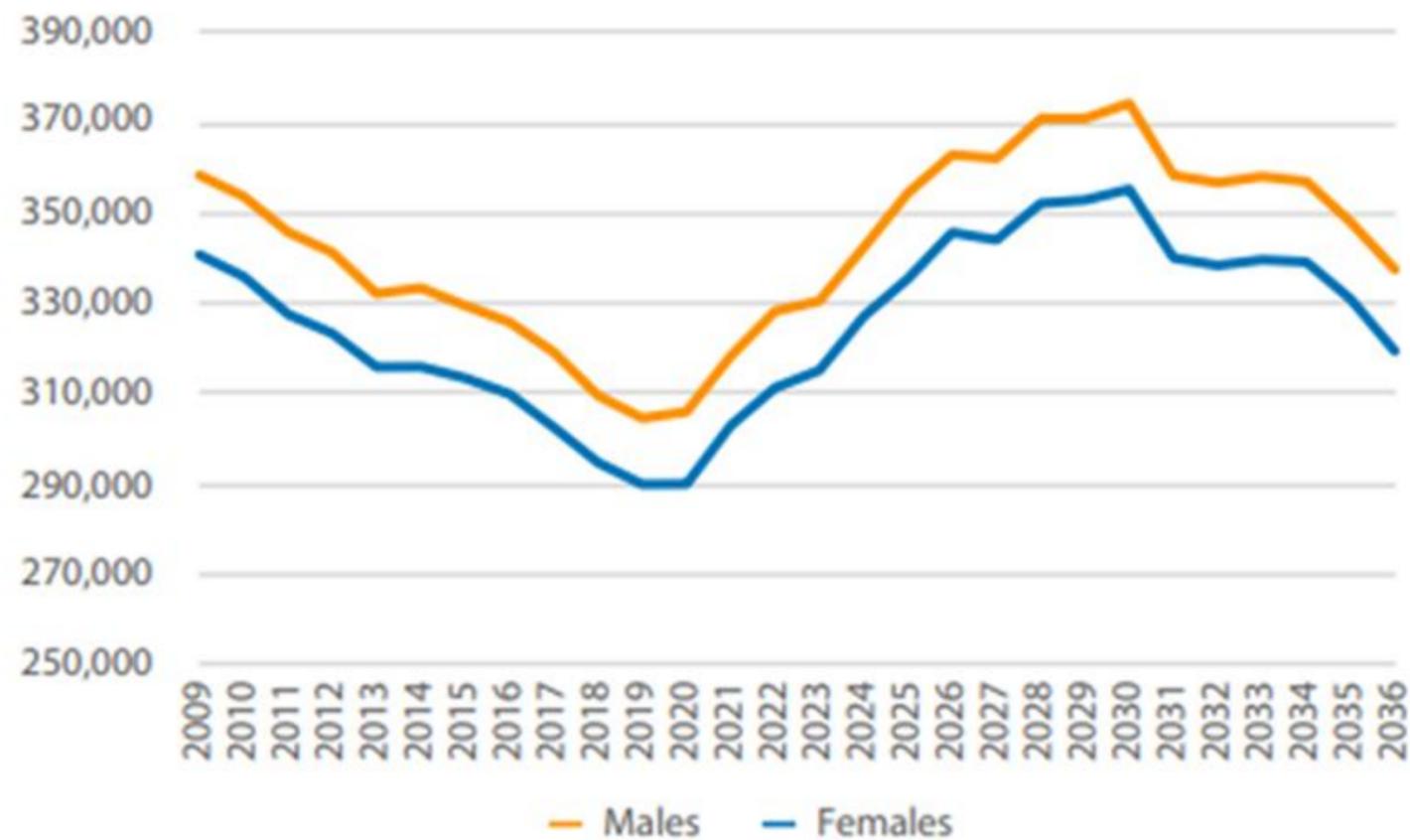
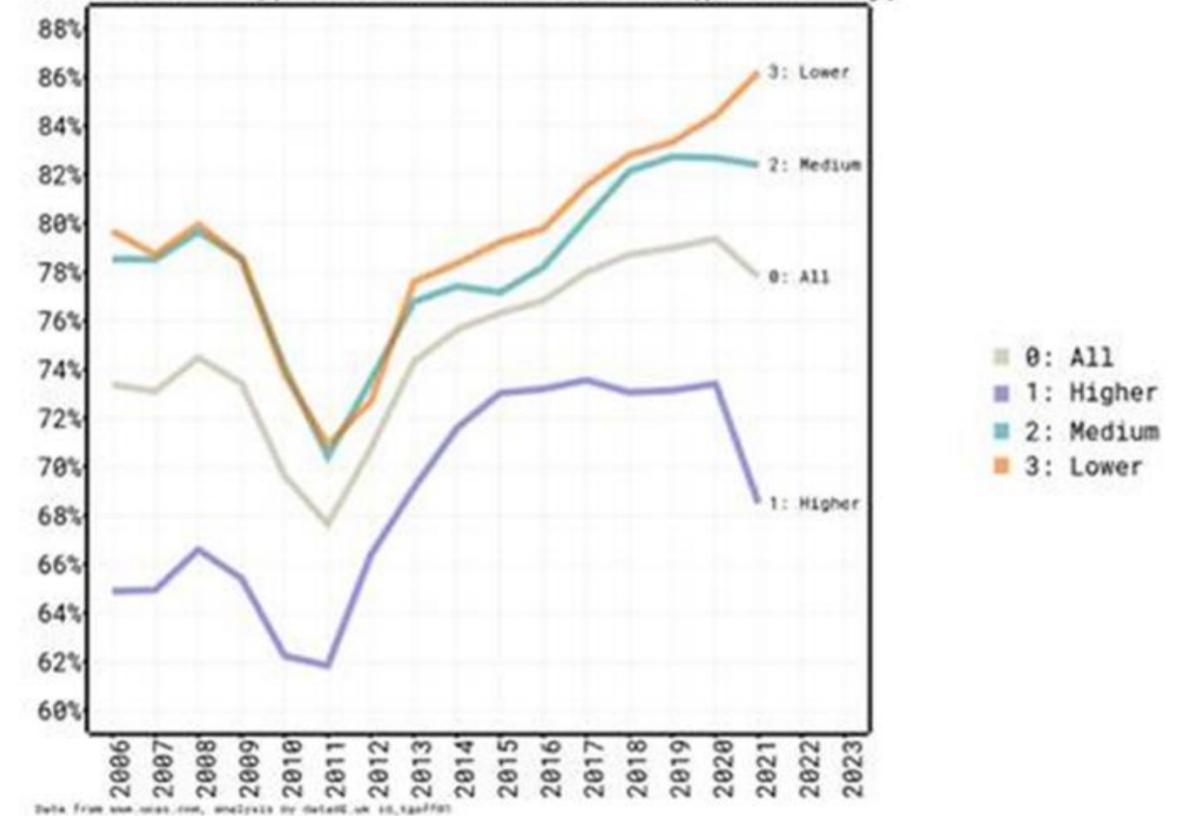


Figure 1 Offer rates to UK 18-year-old applications

Offer rates to UK 18 year olds by provider tariff group
June deadline applications at June deadline [pre-2017 adj]



What does this mean?

- Competition for places at selective universities is tough
- Having the right predicted grades is not a guarantee of an offer for some courses at some universities
- Important to spread risk across the five choices— particularly competitive this year at Oxbridge, Durham, LSE, Imperial, Warwick, UCL, St Andrews, Edinburgh, KCL, Bath
- Particular pressure on Computer science, Economics, healthcare courses
- We suggest a strategy of a spread of entry grades – look at predicted grades when deciding where to apply.

Useful resources

- [Ucas.com](https://www.ucas.com)
- Use the careers library, subject library, University search tool on Unifrog
- [Opendays.com](https://www.opendays.com)
- [Discoveruni.gov.uk](https://discoveruni.gov.uk)
- Subject league tables: Guardian, The Complete University Guide
- [Aspire.upreach.org.uk](https://aspire.upreach.org.uk)



University of
Sheffield

Student Finance

Meg James, Student Recruitment Officer

Whatuni? Student Choice Awards
**UNIVERSITY OF
THE YEAR 2024**



University of
Sheffield

Government support



What will it cost?

Tuition fee (£9,535 per year):
Covers all essential course costs

Maintenance costs:

- Accommodation
- Study materials
- Food and drink
- Social activities

www.sheffield.ac.uk/new-students/tuition-fees



Eligibility

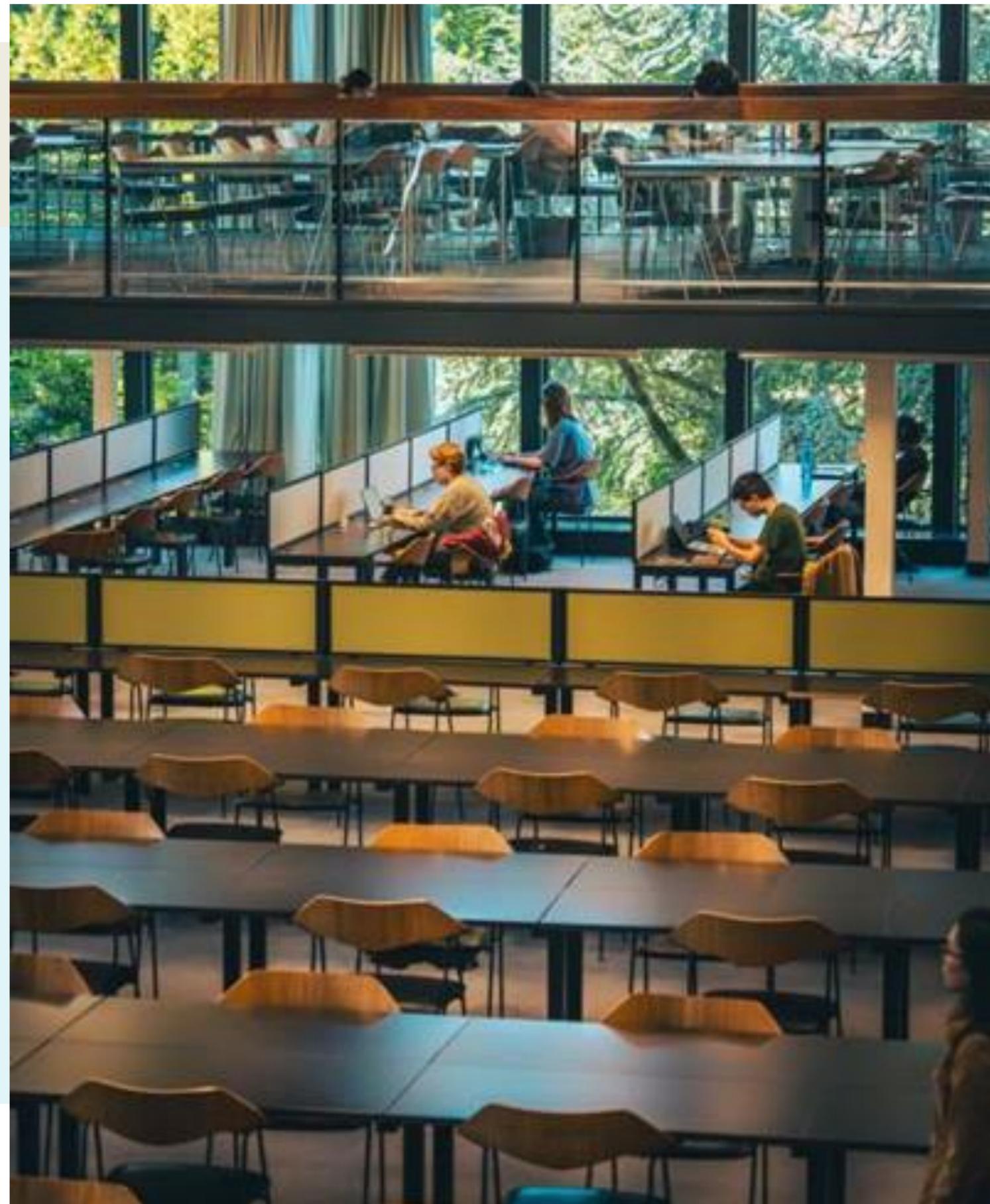
Whether you qualify for student finance depends on:

- If you've studied a Higher Education course before
- Your nationality or residency status

Visit www.gov.uk/student-finance/who-qualifies to find out more information on eligibility criteria.

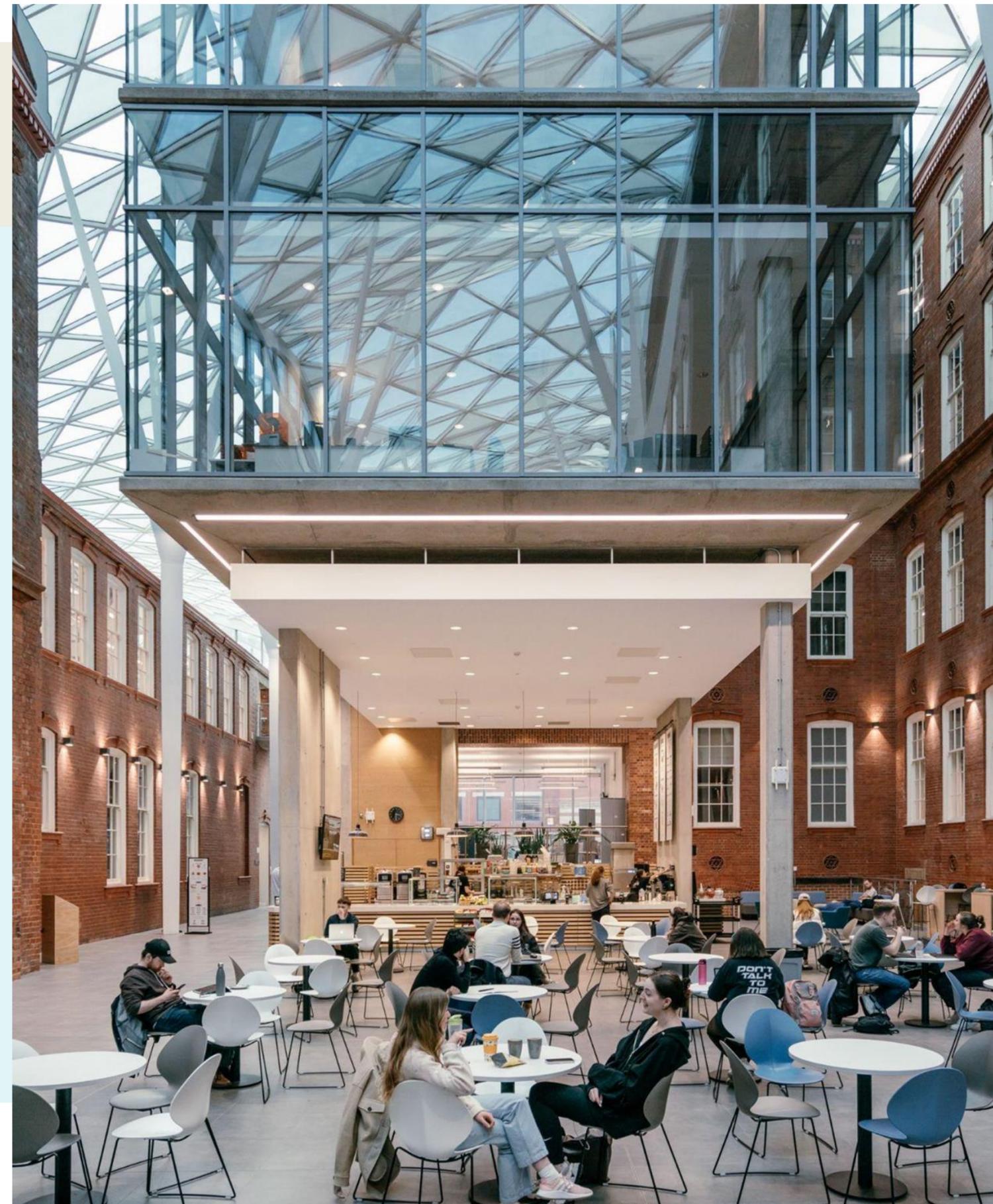
Tuition fee loan

- The government will always cover the cost of your tuition fees each year.
- You won't pay anything upfront
- Not based on your household income
- You can borrow 'part' of the loan
- £9535 per year



Maintenance loan

- Based on your **household income**
- Amount depends on location and whether you live with parents/carers.
- Paid directly into your bank account in 3 separate instalments (once a term)



Maintenance Loan amounts 25/26

Household income (HI)	Living at home <i>HI threshold for minimum loan amount = £58,349</i>	Living away from home <i>HI threshold for minimum loan amount = £62,364</i>	Living away from home (in London) <i>Threshold for min loan = £70,116</i>
£25,000 or less	£8,877	£10,544	£13,762
£35,000	£7,387	£9,038	£12,231
£45,000	£5,897	£7,532	£10,700
£58,349	£3,907 (minimum loan)	£5,522	£8,655
£62,364	£3,907	£4,915 (minimum loan)	£8,041
£70,116+	£3,907	£4,915	£6,853 (minimum loan)

How much funding will I get?

Calculators:

- sheffield.ac.uk/funding/calculator
- www.gov.uk/student-finance-calculator

Your details

Year of entry

2025/26 ▾

Level of study

Undergraduate ▾

What is your fee status?

Home ▾

Which school will you study in?

You can find this out by looking on your course page in our [online prospectus](#)

Please Select ▾

Where do you live?

Please Select ▾

Your household income

£

What are your top three predicted/achieved A Level grades?



University of
Sheffield

Repayments



Repayments



- Students only start repaying after they graduate.
- Monthly repayments depend on what individuals earn, not what they have borrowed.
- Individuals don't pay anything until earnings exceed £25,000 a year.

Repayments

- Repayments start the April after individuals leave university
- When individuals earn over £25,000 a year
- Interest will be generated on a student loan when the first instalment is paid.
- Anything unpaid after **40 years is written off**
- If income falls to £25,000 or below, **repayments stop automatically**
- Loan doesn't affect credit ratings
- Repayments can be made early

Tuition fee loan
+
Maintenance loan
= Student loan

Repayment examples

- 9% on earnings over £25,000 per year

Yearly income before tax	Monthly income before tax	Monthly repayment
£25,000	£2,083	£0
£27,000	£2,250	£15
£30,000	£2,500	£38
£32,000	£2,666	£53
£35,000	£2,917	£75



University of
Sheffield

University support





University of
Sheffield

Additional Government support



Additional Government support

- Travel Grant
- Disabled Students Allowance (DSA)
- Dependents Grant
- Childcare Grant
- Parents' learning allowance



Health care courses

NHS Learning support fund*:

- Dental Hygiene and Dental Therapy
 - Nursing
 - Orthoptics
 - Speech and Language Therapy
 - All eligible students will receive at least £5,000.
- Medicine & Dentistry supported via NHS Bursary

**Sheffield courses, additional courses are included elsewhere*



Any questions?



sheffield.ac.uk/contact/prospective-students



@sheffieldun
i



@sheffieldun
i



The
University of
Sheffield



@theuniversit
y
ofsheffield

Sheffield Live

sheffield.ac.uk/study/online-events

Taster sessions

sheffield.ac.uk/undergraduate/visit/subject-tasters

Chat to current students

sheffield.ac.uk/study/chat

Apprenticeships

- Give you the opportunity to gain on-the job-experience
- Earning and no student debt
- Do they have a preferred career path?
- Are they okay with not having a 'traditional' university experience?
- Do they have good time management skills?
- Less straightforward to apply for and selection can be lengthy and demanding
- Less straightforward to find vacancies and different timescales
- Need to apply for more than one
- We always recommend a UCAS application as a back-up

Apprenticeships

- There are different levels and they can go up to degree level.
- Researching opportunities - look at company websites and vacancy lists. This can start in year 12 although application windows will vary.
- For degree apprenticeships opportunities are sometimes on the university website but you will apply to the company rather than through UCAS - you can therefore in most cases have 5 choices plus your degree apprenticeships.
- Do check though eg University of Leeds/PWC Computer Science Degree apprenticeship - application is through UCAS

Apprenticeships



Bloomberg



UCAS



pwc

vodafone

Goldman Sachs



Government
Economic
Service



AstraZeneca



nationalgrid

M&S
EST. 1884



Coca-Cola
EUROPACIFIC
PARTNERS



Apprenticeships

www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk

www.apprenticeshipguide.co.uk

<https://targetcareers.co.uk/search/jobs>

<https://www.notgoingtouni.co.uk/apprenticeships-223>

<https://www.getmyfirstjob.co.uk/>

<https://www.ucas.com/apprenticeships-in-the-uk>

<https://www.allaboutschoolleavers.co.uk/jobs>

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/apprenticeships>

<https://www.ratemyapprenticeship.co.uk/apprenticeships>

<https://www.milkround.com/jobs/apprenticeships?s=recentsearch>

<https://www.amazingapprenticeships.com/vacancies>

How you can help

- Encourage them to attend university open days – either in person, or virtually.
- Discuss different courses with them to help them narrow down their area of interest.
- Check that they are using Unifrog regularly to conduct research, log their activities and are starting their personal statements.
- Make sure that they know that they can contact myself or anyone in the Sixth Form team for help with anything – no matter how small

How you can help

- Make yourself familiar with the UCAS timeline, so that you can keep them on-track. In order to meet UCAS deadlines, the School has to set internal deadlines by which the student has to submit their application for the school to review.
- Make sure that they are checking both their school and the personal email account that they have used for their application daily.
- If they are applying for apprenticeships they need to be even more proactive. If you are able to, support them in learning to drive so that they can access more opportunities.
- If they are applying for clinical courses they will need to devote a significant amount of the summer break to preparing for UCAT

Questions?

Email:

careers@bourne-grammar.lincs.sch.uk

