



Welcome to Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School Post 18 Pathways

UCAS





Aims for today

- Pathways:
 - Apprenticeships
 - University
 - Gap Year
- Unifrog
- What families can do to help
- Student experiences



Pathway 1: Apprenticeships - Higher and Degree Level

Apprenticeships combine practical training in a job with study

For A Level students, the Higher and Degree Level Apprenticeships are the most appropriate pathways

Students can search for apprenticeships through the Unifrog platform that we use at QEGS

We send information throughout the year to students via email about apprenticeship opportunities as well as inviting guest speakers to share information

Opportunities are shared via the Pastoral Classroom

What are apprenticeships?



Earn a wage



Work for at least
30 hours per week



Study towards a
job related qualification



Contract of employment
including holiday pay



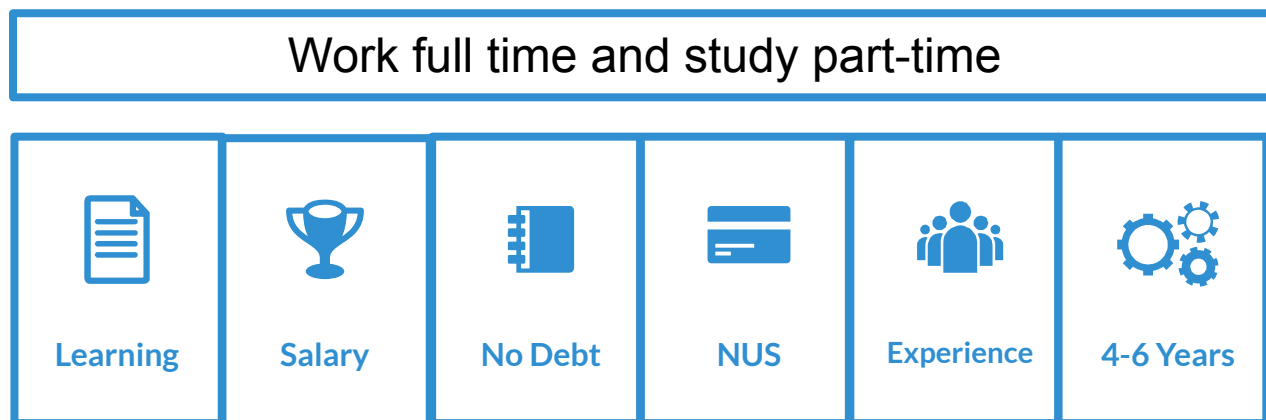
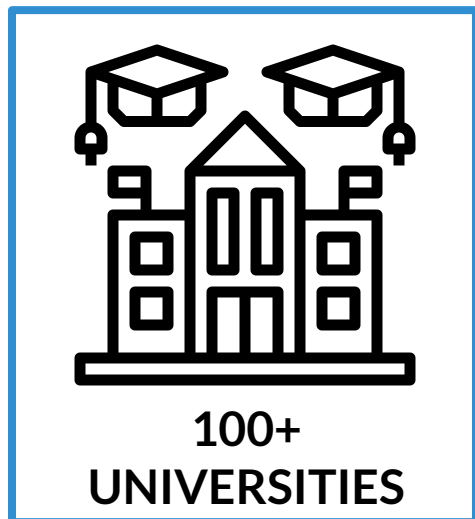
Real job with
real responsibilities

Supported by
**National
Apprenticeship
Service**

How do apprenticeships compare to full time university?



HIGHER AND DEGREE APPRENTICESHIPS



University fees paid by employer and/or government



Protective services



Hair and beauty



Digital and IT



Law and legal studies



Care services



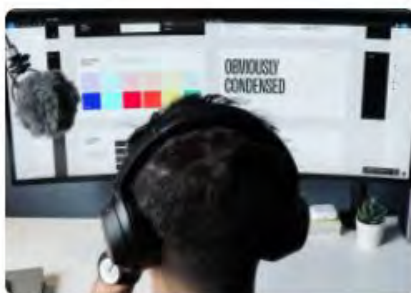
Business and administration



Education, teaching, and childcare



Transport and logistics



Creative and design



Catering and hospitality



Finance and accounting



Engineering and manufacturing



Health and science



Construction, architecture, and the built environment



Agriculture, environmental, and animal care



Sales, marketing, and procurement

Which employers offer apprenticeships?



Supported by
National
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Different delivery models



Workplace learning



Online learning



Classroom learning



Attend college or training provider

How do you find an apprenticeship?

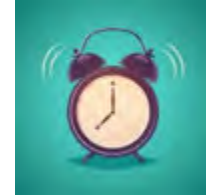
1

Register on Find an apprenticeship



4

Manage your alerts



2

Do your research



5

Contact companies



3

Search and apply



To find an apprenticeship visit [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) and search for apprenticeships

Where else to look?



The company website



Social media



Your friends and family



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Apprenticeship
Service

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Apprenticeships'
on the home
page



Applying for Apprenticeships

- Separate application form for each apprenticeship
- Share knowledge, skills and experience in a similar way to a university personal statement
- Tasks could include aptitude tests, record themselves answering set questions and attend an interview (virtual/real life)
- Apprenticeship Programmes are released throughout the year

- Searching for Apprenticeships:
 - Unifrog - search on the apprenticeship area for more information
 - Government Website www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship
 - Amazing Apprenticeships www.amazingapprenticeships.com
 - UCAS (www.ucas.co.uk) Click on 'Apprenticeships' in the top bar
 - Not Going to Uni www.notgoingtouni.co.uk



Further information



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L6efCUjwhCM&t=6s>



Pathway 2. University - UCAS (Universities and Colleges Admissions Service)

All students who wish to study at UK universities must apply through UCAS. The exception is if you are applying to an Art Foundation course

The applications are submitted in the Autumn Term:

- 1st UCAS Deadline – 15th October 2025 - for Medicine/Dentistry/Veterinary degrees and Oxbridge applications

The provisional school deadline is October Half Term for all other courses

- 2nd UCAS Deadline – 29th January 2026





Anglia Ruskin University	Optometry	Ravensbourne University	Fashion and Textiles Foundation
BIMM Institute	Popular Music Performance & Music Business	Royal Holloway, University of London	English and Drama
Cardiff University	Spanish and Philosophy	UCL (University College London)	Engineering and Architectural Design
City, University of London	Aeronautical Engineering	UCL (University College London)	Global Humanitarian Studies
City, University of London	Accounting and Finance	University of Cambridge	Human, Social, and Political Sciences
Coventry University	Psychology	University of Leeds	Modern Languages
De Montfort University	Product Design BA	University of Leicester	Psychology
Falmouth University	Film	University of Manchester	Modern History with Economics
International screen acting academy	Acting	University of Nottingham	Social Work
King's College London	Neuroscience	University of Oxford	Spanish
King's College London	Culture, Media & Creative Industries	University of Reading	Pharmacy
King's College London	Culture, Media & Creative Industries	University of Sheffield	Biomedical Science
Nottingham Trent University	Business Management and Marketing	University of the Arts London	Interior Design
Nottingham Trent University	Business Management and Marketing	University of Warwick	History of Art
Oxford Brookes University	Sport and Exercise Science	University of York	Business of the Creative Industries
Queen Mary University of London	Biomedical Sciences	Writtle University College	Animal Management



Planning and Application Process Year 12 Summer Term

March 2025 - September 2025

- Students register with UCAS and begin to research and narrow down subject areas and universities/apprenticeships
- Year 12 visit the UCAS exhibition day - Tuesday 25th March
- Students send draft versions of personal statements to tutors via unifrog - as soon as possible. Examples of personal statements for all courses can be found on Unifrog
- Students utilise Unifrog - 'Geek Out' sections on the Subject Library and super curricular resources to delve deeper into subject areas
- Students are strongly encouraged to complete Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) in their areas of interest



Planning and Application Process Year 13 Autumn Term

September 2025

- Students finalise their Personal Statement
- References are checked and completed by Form Tutors and the Sixth Form Team
- Students finalise their choices on UCAS – 5 choices (4 for Medicine and 1 other choice)

October 2025

- Oxbridge/Medicine/Dentistry/Veterinary – 15th October 2025
- All other courses - Proposed School Deadline October Half Term



UCAS Application Process - October 2025 – May 2026

Students wait for offers after applying and may be asked to attend interviews, dependent on the course

Final choices - once all five offers have been received students then confirm two choices:

Firm Choice – First choice

Insurance Choice – Second choice (the entry requirements will be lower for this choice compared to your firm choice)

Types of Offer:

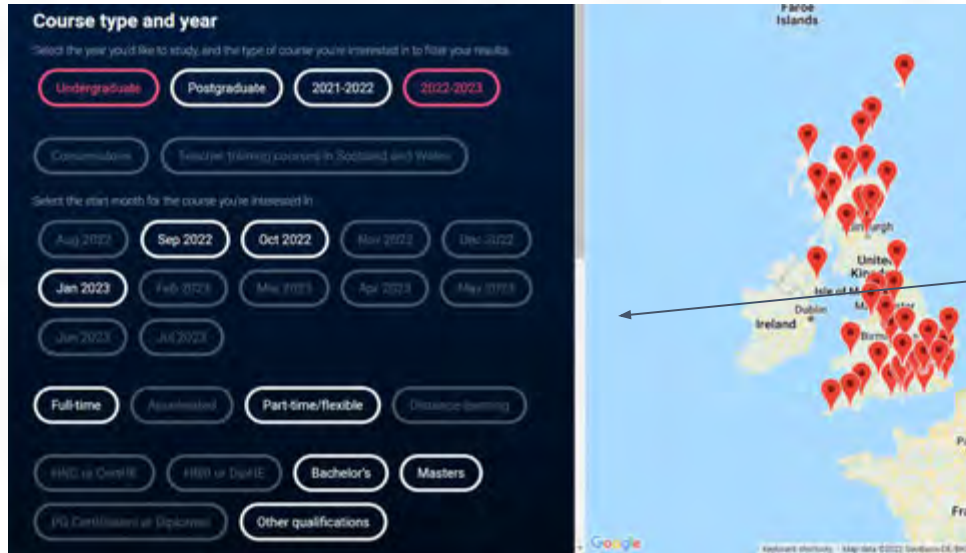
Unconditional – Means the university will take the student regardless of grades achieved

Conditional – Student needs to meet a certain entry requirement

Contextual Offers - these recognise that academic potential is not always indicated in grades and considers how personal circumstances may have impacted achievement. Contextual offers often offer a grade reduction below the standard entry requirements for the course.

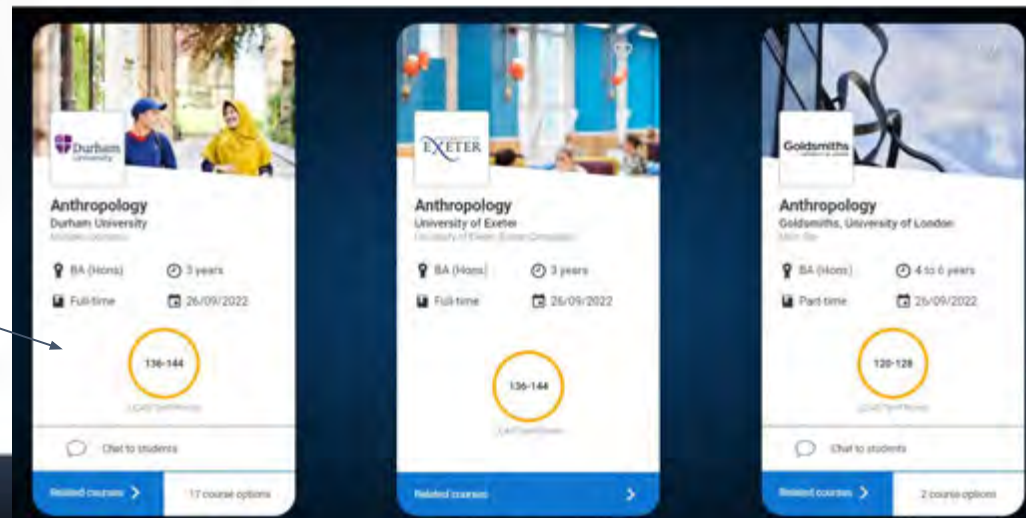


UCAS Search Tool



- Choose the course you would like to study
- Use the filter to narrow down your choices e.g. location, grade entries, how far you wish to travel

- You can then click on each item for more information





Entry Requirements - UCAS

Archeology at University of Bristol

Entry requirements

Qualification requirements

▶ UCAS Tariff - Not accepted

▼ A level - BBB - AAB

Standard offer: AAB Contextual offer: BBB Please visit:

[http://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/entry-requirements-](http://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/entry-requirements-qualifications/contextual-offers/)

[qualifications/contextual-offers/](http://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/entry-requirements-qualifications/contextual-offers/) for more information about contextual offers.



Entry Requirements - UCAS

Adult Nursing at University of Birmingham

▼ A level - BBB

Typical offer: BBB - You must also meet in full the GCSE entry requirements for the programme. General Studies: Not accepted, but a good performance may be taken into account if you fail to meet the conditions of your offer. All applicants must meet in full both the GCSE and Level 3/higher qualification entry requirements for the Bachelor of Nursing programme. The only exception to meeting the GCSE requirements in full applies to some Access applicants, please see the relevant section below for more details.

Further information on the University of Birmingham website

GCSE requirements:

5 GCSEs at grade C/4 or above which must include English, Mathematics and a Science subject. We do not accept level 2 equivalents e.g. BTEC, Key skills

Preferred subjects and grades:

Biology, Psychology or Sociology A level, and two others. Welsh Baccalaureate at grade B can substitute one of the A Levels.

Edexcel Level 3 extended project:

Grade A in the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is accepted in addition to 3 A Levels (of equivalent level 3 qualifications). You would be made a variable offer e.g. BBB or BBC plus A in the EPQ



Russell Group Universities

The Russell Group represents 24 leading UK universities which are committed to maintaining the very best research, an outstanding teaching and learning experience and unrivalled links with business and the public sector. (**Bold** are London universities)

University of Birmingham

University of Bristol

University of Cambridge

University of Manchester

Durham University

University of Edinburgh

University of Exeter

University of Glasgow

Imperial College London

King's College London

University of Sheffield

University of Southampton

University of Liverpool

University of Leeds

Cardiff University

London School of Economics & Political Science

Newcastle University

University of Nottingham

University of Oxford

Queen Mary University of London

Queen's University Belfast

University of Warwick

UCL (University College London)

University of York



The Oxbridge/ Medicine Programme

In Year 12 students aspiring to study at Oxford or Cambridge are invited to be a part of the programme. There will be regular meetings and there is a google classroom with resources, events and advice on applying for the University of Oxford or Cambridge or for Medicine:

The Programme offers the following:

- Consideration of entry requirements/college systems
- Students applying/attending Masterclasses
- Opportunities/ links for super curricular activities
- Members of staff who have studied at Oxbridge to speak to students
- Interview practice and development of spoken language skills
- Provided with practice assessment test practice and guidance - UCAT, BMAT, LNAT etc
- Drafting Personal Statements using exemplar personal statements of successful candidates



The UCAS Application Form

1. Personal Details

Name, Address, Contact Details, Nationality, Criminal Convictions, Disabilities

2. Additional Information

Ethnic Origin

Courses related to the degree that you have completed

Parental Education

3. Choices

You have a choice of five places/courses that you can apply for. If you are applying for Medicine you have 4 choices and one non medical choice. If you are applying to Oxbridge you cannot apply to both Oxford and Cambridge.

4. Education

Educational Institutions Attended

Examinations taken, GCSEs and pending A Levels

Other Qualifications e.g. EPQ, University short courses,

5. Employment

Part time work

Voluntary Work

6. Personal Statement

Sections 1, 2, 4 and 5 will be completed before the summer holiday.

All students should have a draft personal statement prior to work experience.



Choices

Your choices must be realistic based on your GCSE and A Level target/predicted grades

You should have a variety of entry requirements within your choices e.g.

1. ABB – University of Liverpool – English Literature
2. ABB – Royal Holloway University – English and Drama
3. AAB – University of Sheffield – English Literature
4. AAA – University College London – English
5. ABB/BBB – Cardiff University – English Literature

Once you have received a response from all of the institutions that you have applied to, you will need to select two; your firm choice and your *insurance* choice.

1 = Firm Choice

2 = Insurance

It is very important that these two choices do not have the same entry requirements otherwise there is no point in the insurance offer.



Course Choices

- You should consider if you are going to study a single honours, joint honours or a combined course
- **GCSE entry requirements** – some universities will have GCSE as well as A Level requirements. Be sure to check for example, if they require a 6 in Mathematics and you have a 5 which could hamper your application. You are likely to have your application rejected if you don't meet the GCSE entry requirements
- Make sure you have read in detail the content of the course using the university website/prospectus. This is especially important if it is a course that you have not studied at A Level



Personal Statement

- 75% of your statement should be focused on why you would like to study the subject
- You should use all of the space provided (47 lines)
- Correct punctuation
- Avoid repeating information contained in the other sections of the application form
- Clear logical structure
- Good command of English
- Error free
- Avoid jargon, abbreviation or non-standard English
- You are applying to study an academic course therefore you will need to include academic references to books, research etc

Start putting bullet points together on a page of what you have been doing that relates to your area of interest



The UCAS Personal Statement is Changing

- UCAS have recently amended the personal statement format from one longer essay to three structured questions, affecting all students applying to a UK university from next year onward.
- To support your child in navigating these changes, InvestIN is hosting a free, interactive webinar led by experts, covering everything they need to know to make their application stand out.
- We strongly encourage parents of Year 12 students to attend alongside their child to gain valuable insights into the new format and understand what skills and experiences will help them craft strong responses.
- Date & Time: 26th March, 6-7pm
- Online - Register [here](#)
- If you cannot attend live, please register to automatically receive the recording.



School References and Predicted Grades

- School references are an important part of the application
- The school reference will be divided into three areas:
 - School context
 - Extenuating circumstances (if applicable)
 - Information specific to the applicant and relevant to the course(s) applied for
- Predicted Grades are worked out using the Y12 April Mock grade. Students are usually predicted one grade higher than the grade they achieve in the April Mocks



Unifrog

The Unifrog logo, consisting of the word "unifrog" in white lowercase letters on a green square background.

- Unifrog allows students to search, and save all of the activities and qualifications that they have completed in support of their application.
- University courses, advice and exemplar personal statements can be looked at on the platform.
- There is also a wealth of information on Apprenticeships, Study Overseas, Gap Year Opportunities, MOOCS that students can complete in relation to areas of interest.
- When searching courses it breaks down the choices into - Aspirational, Safe and Solid according to students inputting their target/predicted grades.
- Personal statements are written on unifrog and shared with staff.



Pathway 3: Taking a Gap Year

- Be clear about why you are taking a year out and what you are going to have to show for the year
- Employers will ask about what you did – going on holiday for a few months does not sound great
- Employment
- Work Experience Placements/Voluntary Work/Internships
- Unifrog has information on taking a Gap Year



What students should be doing now

1. Make sure you are working effectively on your A Levels in order to have as many options open to you as possible.
2. Research the courses that you are interested in and shortlist these on unifrog - apprenticeships and degrees
3. Check based on a realistic set of grades, which courses would be open to you - unifrog
4. Sign up to open days for the institutions that you are interested in
5. Start to draft your personal statement on unifrog - there are examples for each subject areas on the subject guide. Share with your tutor for feedback
6. Complete super curricular work (books, journals, lectures, podcasts, films) on your subject area - what you learn can be added to your personal statement. This might also include completing the EPQ



Parents – What can you do to help?

- Go to Open Days - attend virtually/real life and do this together if possible
- Read through and support them with their personal statement
- Visiting places related to their course e.g. A trip to the British Museum if they looking at studying Anthropology
- Encourage reading around and in depth the subject area they are interested in - 'geek out' on unifrog provides this
- Discuss current affairs and encourage them to read/watch/engage with the news (Guardian, Independent, Times, BBC)
- Make sure they are revising effectively - help to test them/revise with them. (30 minutes slots with 5 minute break)



Navigating the transition from Sixth Form

- **Embrace Change:** Embrace this time of change as an opportunity to learn more about yourself and what makes you happy.
- **Managing Emotions:** Techniques such as deep breathing, journaling, and talking to someone can help manage these feelings.
- **Building New Networks:** Surround yourself with positive, supportive individuals who encourage your personal growth.
- **Support from Family:** Don't hesitate to lean on them when needed.



Building Healthy Routines

- **Physical Health:** Aim for regular exercise, balanced meals, and adequate sleep.
- **Exercise:** Regular physical activity.
- **Sleep:** It's recommended that young adults aim for 7-9 hours per night to maintain focus and mental clarity.
- **Nutrition:** Eating a well-balanced diet rich in fruits, vegetables, and whole grains can improve your energy levels and overall mood.
- **Time Management:** Create schedules, break tasks into manageable steps, and build in time for relaxation and hobbies.



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Accessing Support Services

- **University and Workplace Support:** If you're heading to university or a new job, take advantage of any wellbeing services they offer. Most universities have dedicated mental health teams, counselling services, and peer support networks.
- **Online Resources:** There are many online resources that offer advice on mental health and wellbeing. **Websites like Mind and the NHS provide tips and support. Apps like Headspace and Calm are also great tools for managing anxiety and promoting relaxation.**
- **National Support:** For general wellbeing, organisations such as Mind, the Samaritans, and Anxiety UK can provide valuable support. Don't hesitate to reach out if you're feeling overwhelmed or just need someone to talk to.



Year 13 Student Experience

N - Biology / Chemistry / Maths

Medicine

A - Economics / Geography / Maths

Economics & Finance

H - Spanish / Sociology / English Language/Literature

Army



Thank you

- Any questions?
- Email sixthformshared@qegschool.org.uk
- Slides will be shared with families