

# YR 13 / L3 YR2 - SUPPORTING YOUR YOUNG PERSON WITH APPLICATIONS AND DECISIONS



## September – December

UCAS Undergraduate system opens for applications. Schools and colleges will set an internal deadline for all UCAS information, choices, and personal statements – make sure you're aware of this deadline.

Make sure students use the correct 'buzzword' in their application so it links to their school or college.

Keep a note of your young person's UCAS login details, in case they get lost or forgotten.

## September - July

### Researching, finding, and applying for apprenticeships

In the world of apprenticeships there is no one-stop-shop for vacancies, so you and your young person will need to make time to do the research. Here's a list of websites to get you started:

- [gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship](http://gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship)

- [Notgoingtouni.co.uk](http://Notgoingtouni.co.uk)
- [UCAS.com/apprenticeships](http://UCAS.com/apprenticeships)
- [icanbea.org.uk](http://icanbea.org.uk)

The apprenticeship application timeline and process will vary for every apprenticeship provider. Take the time to sit down with your young person to plot application deadlines and research the application processes.



## January

This is the main UCAS deadline for the majority of undergraduate courses. The deadline will be the last Wednesday of January at 6pm. Applications made after this date will only be considered once those that have met the deadline have been processed and some courses may close at the deadline.

## October – June

Attend Open Days, Taster Days, Virtual Events and Applicant Days. Where offered, apply for accommodation, and encourage your young person to seek out support when needed.



## Mid-October

Deadline for any applications for Oxbridge and courses in Dentistry, Medicine, and Veterinary Medicine or Science. Some other courses have earlier deadlines. This is often true for Conservatoire subjects like Dance, Drama and Music. Ensure your young person knows when the deadline dates are.



## January onwards

Offers can arrive from the moment an application is received.

Students need to choose one offer as their 'firm' (first) choice and one as their 'insurance' (second) option. Universities will usually start to send information to the applicant immediately after their offer has been accepted as the 'firm' choice. Once these are selected, any other offers are declined.



## February

UCAS Extra Opens – If your young person does not hold an offer for their chosen course, they will have another opportunity to add a further choice through Extra.

## February / March

From February, Student Finance England (SFE) will open applications – see [gov.uk/student-finance](http://gov.uk/student-finance). There is no need to wait for offers from universities. They should apply with their firm (first) choice university; they can always change the details later. Encourage your young person to apply as early as possible.

They will need to reapply each year of their study. Don't worry, the process does get easier and quicker each year.

Ensure your young person has a bank account set up for their maintenance loan to be paid into. It must be an account in their name. Support them to research student bank accounts to find the best incentives and offers available.



## What loans are available?

**Tuition Fee Loan** – covers the full cost of your young person's tuition fees, which is currently £9,250 per year. This money is paid directly to the university each year, so your young person will not see this money.

**Maintenance Loan** – This is also sometimes known as the Living Cost Loan. That is exactly what it is for – to support your young person with the cost of living whilst at university.

The amount they receive depends on their family's household income, and where they plan to live and study. Student Finance will let your young person know how much they can borrow once their application is complete.

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## Clearing

If your young person either doesn't get the grades they needed for their 'firm' or 'insurance' choices, or if they got grades higher than they expected, they can find alternative courses and universities through Clearing.

Clearing lines will open on Results Day. There is plenty of support for them to find an alternative place to study. Plenty of university students find the right university and course for them through Clearing!

Young people can gather as many offers as they like from universities. Make sure they take a note of the

universities they have contacted, then go through the options with them before they make a final decision. The Clearing process is done through their UCAS Hub, and they will find a step-by-step process on [UCAS.com](https://www.ucas.com).



## September / October

University will start – check in with your young person to see what support they might need for their transition to university. There will be plenty of welcome events to meet new people, and opportunities to try out new hobbies to help them get settled in before their studies begin.



## Preparing them for university

Create a checklist with your young person, listing things they need to prepare and items they need to take. Set up a communication thread (such as WhatsApp) with your young person, so they can keep in touch when they need to.

It is essential to start open conversations about support at university with your young person before they go. Support them to research the university's dedicated wellbeing and support teams and take note of key contact details so they have them if they need them.

You might want to prepare a care package for them – something they can open as they're settling into university life, or when they're feeling like they need a cheering up.

## July / August – Results Day

Date will be confirmed by your young person's school or college. Results are published via the school or college and offer outcomes are made on UCAS Hub. Students who meet expected results must confirm their choice.



## July

BTEC results are published. Clearing/Clearing Plus vacancies will be listed on [UCAS.com](https://www.ucas.com) and are updated regularly by universities and colleges. This process is available from July to September. It is useful for your young person to look at what courses are on offer through Clearing, in case they need a 'Plan B' after Results Day.

Universities will make a decision on applications if submitted prior to the end of June deadline. If a student receives all offers by early July, they will have until mid-July to accept offers.



## June

If your young person has received all their offers in May, they will have until early June to accept offers. Any applications received after the end of June will be entered into the Clearing process.



## Student Finance Calculator

The Student Finance Calculator is a useful tool to find out how much maintenance loan your young person is entitled to and what extra funding they could apply for to support their life at university. [gov.uk/student-finance-calculator](https://www.gov.uk/student-finance-calculator)



## Will my young person have enough money for university life?

The Maintenance Loan is designed to help support students, but it won't necessarily cover all the costs of living at university. It's important that you talk to your young person about your financial boundaries as early as possible, so they are clear on what support you can and cannot offer. This will allow them to make decisions about how they can support themselves.



There are plenty of student budgeting tools available online to help your young person keep in control of their money whilst at university. Check out the Money Saving Expert ([moneysavingexpert.com/banking/budget-planning](https://moneysavingexpert.com/banking/budget-planning)), [savethestudent.org](https://savethestudent.org) and [ucas.com](https://ucas.com) as a starting point.



## May

Universities will have made a decision on applications if they were submitted prior to the January deadline.

Student Finance applications will close – ensure your young person has completed their application in full to guarantee their Student Loan is in place for the start of their university course.



## What other financial support is available?

Your young person might be able to claim extra financial help through a scholarship or bursary, a fee waiver or hardship funds. Visit individual university websites for more information, as each university has their own offering. Search and apply for UK scholarships at [thescholarshiphub.org.uk](https://thescholarshiphub.org.uk).

## The Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA)

Additional non-repayable support is also available for young people with a disability, including mental health problems, long term illnesses or specific learning difficulties. To apply, students will need to complete an application form through: [gov.uk/disabled-students-allowance-dsa](https://gov.uk/disabled-students-allowance-dsa)



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