

Higher Education Information Evening

Higher Education Essentials

University of
Hertfordshire **UH**

What is Higher Education (HE)

Further Education is the name given to post-16 education and courses at Level 3.

Higher Education is the name given to post-18 education and courses at Levels 4-8.

Higher Education takes place at universities and Further Education at colleges. It includes undergraduate and postgraduate study.

Higher Education gives you the chance to study a subject you are interested in and can boost your career prospects and earning potential.

QUALIFICATION LEVELS

What does each level mean?

1

EQUIVALENT TO GCSE GRADES 3,2 OR 1

Examples:

- Level 1 Essential Skills
- Level 1 NVQ
- Level 1 Certificate



2

EQUIVALENT TO GCSE GRADES 4-9

Examples:

- Level 2 Diploma
- Level 2 NVQ
- CSE Grade 1

3

EQUIVALENT TO A LEVELS

Examples:

- T Levels
- Advanced Apprenticeship
- Access to Higher Education Diploma



4

EQUIVALENT TO YEAR 1 OF A DEGREE

Examples:

- Higher Apprenticeship
- Higher National Certificate (HNC)
- Level 4 NVQ



5

EQUIVALENT TO YEAR 2 OF A DEGREE

Examples:

- Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE)
- Higher National Diploma (HND)
- Foundation Degree

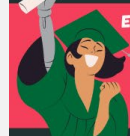


6

EQUIVALENT TO A DEGREE WITH HONORS

Examples:

- BA or BSc
- Degree Apprenticeship
- Graduate Certificate



7

EQUIVALENT TO MASTERS DEGREE

8

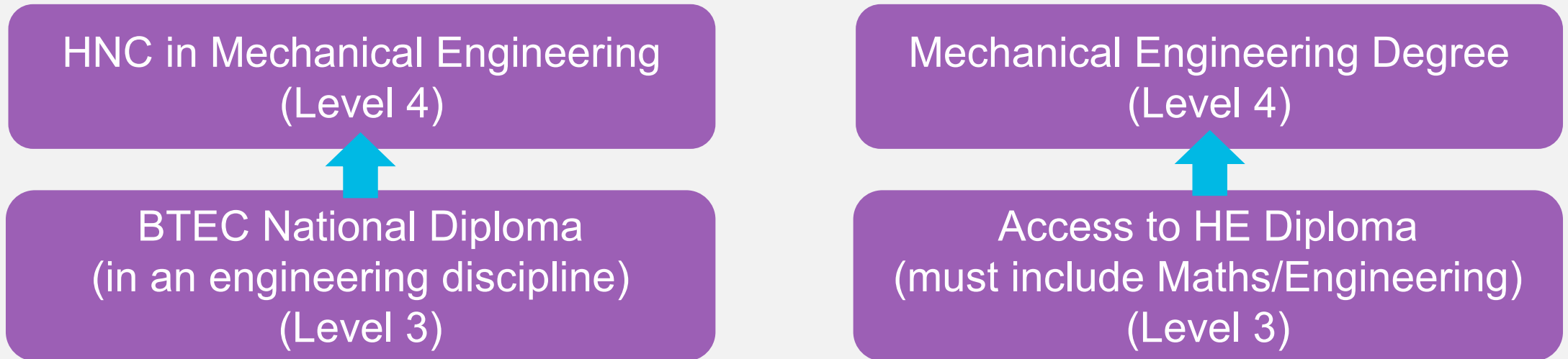
EQUIVALENT TO DOCTORATE/PHD

FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO:

[HTTPS://WWW.GOV.UK/WHAT-DIFFERENT-QUALIFICATION-LEVELS-MEAN](https://www.gov.uk/what-different-qualification-levels-mean)

Routes into Higher Education (HE)

- Universities and colleges set their own entry requirements for HE courses.
- These vary depending on the subject, the course, the qualification and the course provider.
- Most commonly, you will need a qualification of the level just below the one you are applying for.



Higher Education offered by FE Colleges

FE colleges tend to offer HE qualifications which relate directly to certain jobs or industries and often include practical work experience as part of the course.

HNCs/ HNDs

Access Course



Foundation Degree

Honours Degree

Higher and Degree Apprenticeships

Higher and Degree Apprenticeships provide a route to HE through work-based training. You will get trained to do a job, get a higher level qualification and be paid at the same time - so no student debt at the end!

Higher (Level 4- 7)
Foundation-Masters
Degree

Degree (Level 6- 7)
Bachelors/Masters



Higher and Degree Apprenticeships

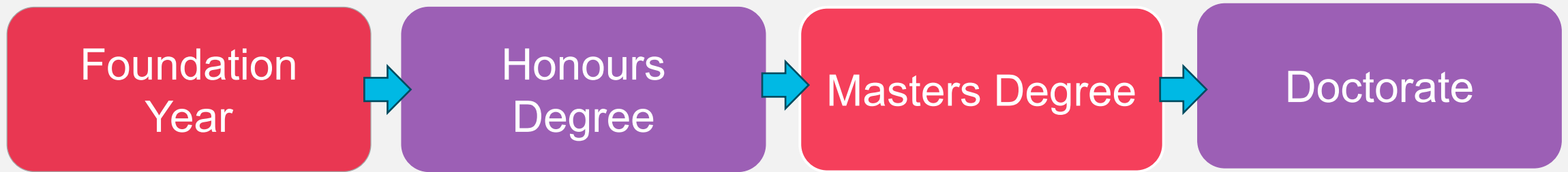
- All apprenticeships can be searched for on GOV.UK.
- UCAS also provides information about apprenticeships.
- Prospective apprentices apply for vacancies with the employer – not through UCAS or any centralised service.
- Higher and degree apprenticeships are currently very competitive, partly due to the small number available.

The image shows two overlapping screenshots of the GOV.UK website. The top screenshot is the 'Find an apprenticeship' search page. It features the GOV.UK logo, a breadcrumb trail (Home > Education and learning > Apprenticeships, 14 to 19 education and training for work), and a search bar. Below the search bar, it says 'Find an apprenticeship in England.' and provides links for 'Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales'. A green 'Search >' button is visible. On the right, there is a 'Related content' section with links for 'Become an apprentice' and 'Find a traineeship'.

The bottom screenshot shows the search results page for the same query. It displays the GOV.UK logo and the title 'Find an apprenticeship'. Below this, it says 'We've found 10 apprenticeships in your selected area.' and provides a link to 'Receive alerts for this search'. The search filters are visible: 'Keywords (optional)' with a dropdown menu, 'Your location' set to 'CM23 3EH', 'Within' set to '20 miles', and 'Apprenticeship level' set to 'Degree'. The 'Sort results' dropdown is set to 'Distance'. A specific result is highlighted: 'Graduate ACCA/ACA Apprentice Accountant' by 'HARDCASTLE BURTON LLP', with a closing date of '31 Dec 2023' and a possible start date of '02 Sep 2024'. A map shows the location in Roydon, with a distance of 15.3 miles and a journey time. A 'Sign in / Create account' link is also visible.

University Degree

Universities offer the widest variety of HE courses and subjects. With over 50,000 degree courses on offer across the UK.



How to decide?

One option isn't necessarily better than another.

Ultimately, it depends on **YOU** and what you would prefer.

University

Thousands of courses
with more career options

Apprenticeship

On-the-job experience,
earning while studying
with no tuition fees



FE College

Lower fees.
Some FE colleges are
linked with universities

Higher Education Information Evening

UCAS Applications

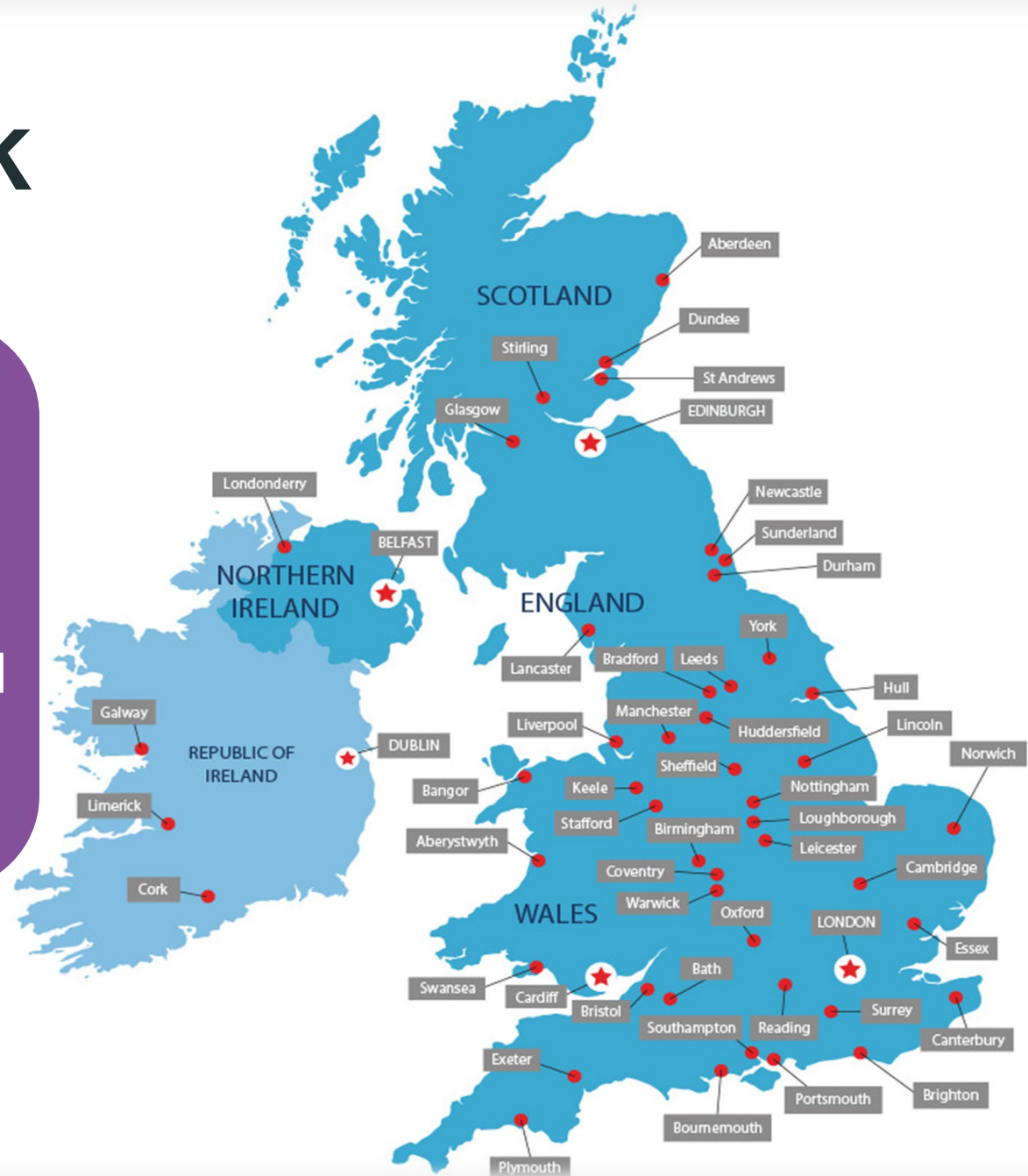
University of
Hertfordshire **UH**

University Applications in Figures

- UCAS, the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service, is an independent charity, and the UK's shared admissions service for higher education.
- In the academic year 2021–22, there were 2,182,560 students studying at UK higher education providers.
- In 2022, a total of 761,740 people applied through UCAS to study a higher education qualification. The overall entry rate for UK 18-year-olds was 37.5%.
- In 2022, record numbers of 18-year-olds from the most disadvantaged areas in the UK (POLAR4 quintile 1) have been accepted onto a course (32,420 students) This has increased 10% over the last decade.

Universities in the UK

When it comes to choosing where to study, lots of students first thought is location. There are universities all over the UK, some are local to the county, like UH, and some are a long way away, like Aberdeen or Falmouth!



More than just a qualification!

Industry
placements

Study abroad

Career support

Personal
development

Higher earning
potential

Fast-tracked
career entry

Research and
innovation

Social life and
new opportunities

Do I need a degree?

- There are lots of reasons why you as an individual may choose to go to university or not.
- Some careers will require a degree in a specific subject and other careers don't require a degree at all.
- Many students do not end up working within the related field or industry for their subject, though a **good degree can act as an entry point into a graduate position** or scheme within a company in lots of different industries.



Key Information: UCAS



UCAS stands for University and Colleges Admissions Service



Lists all available courses, with entry requirements and basic course details.



UCAS processes all university applications in the UK.

The UCAS Application



Personal Statement



Predicted Grades



School / teacher reference

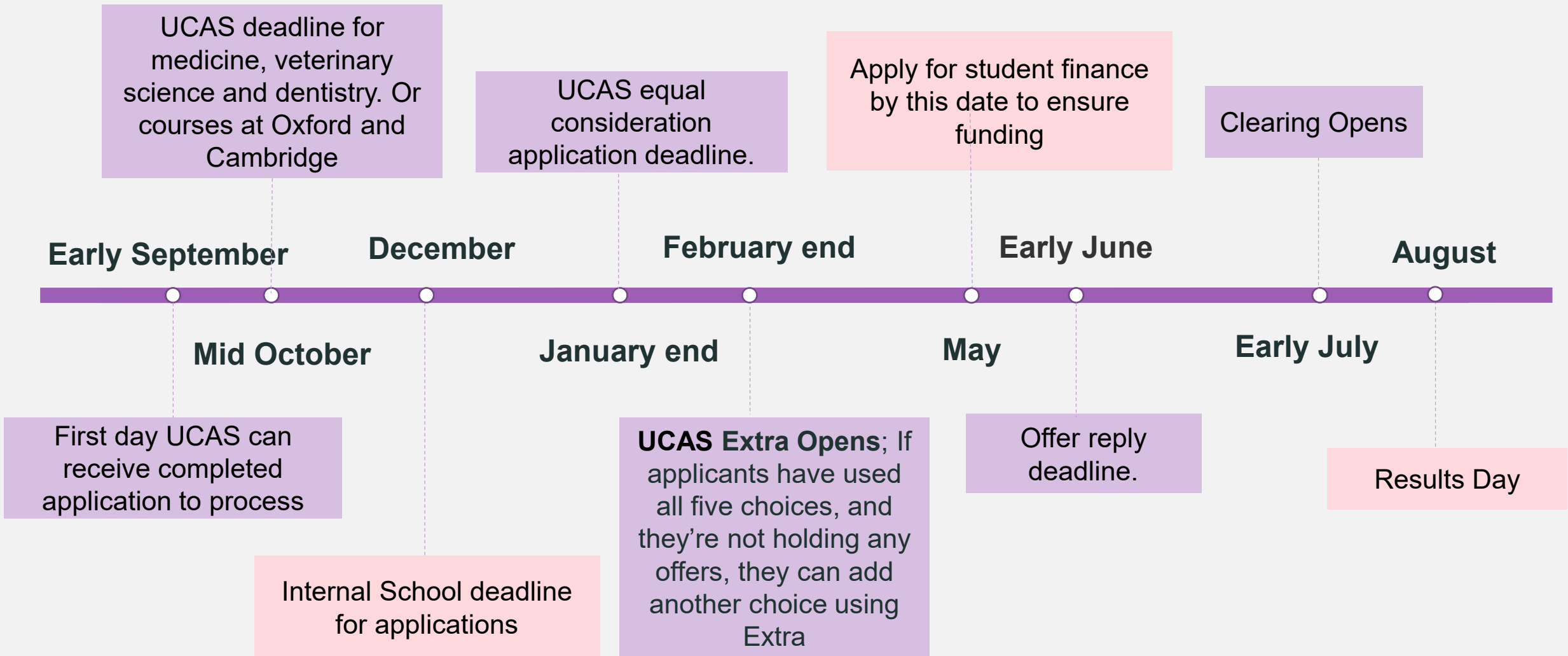
Profile

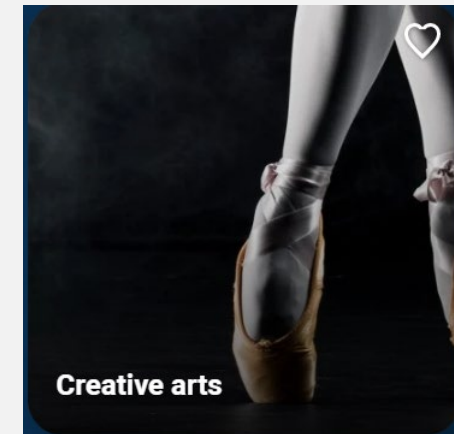
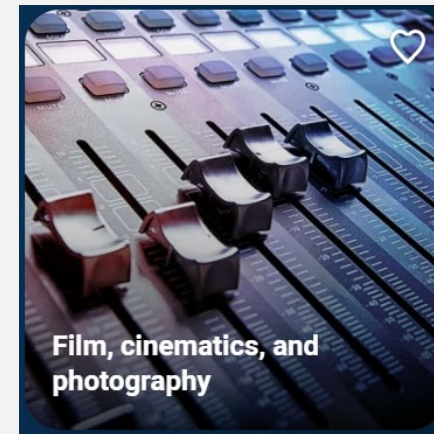
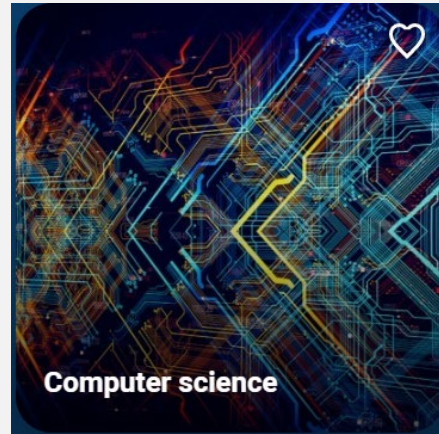
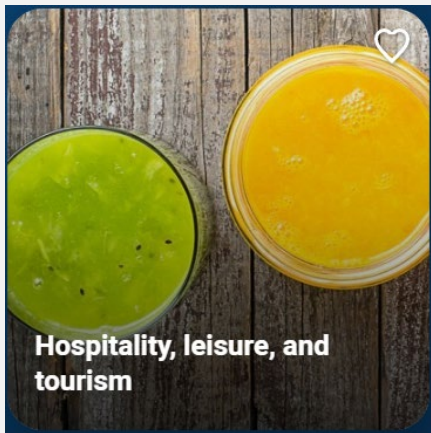
Personal details > Name, age, title and gender Section in progress	Contact & residency details > Address, email, telephone and where you live Section complete	Nationality details > Birthplace and nationalities Start this section
Supporting information > So that providers know how to support you during your studies Start this section	English language skills > Is English your first language? Start this section	Finance & funding > Tell us how you'll fund your study Start this section
Diversity & inclusion > Only shared with a provider once you have a place or your application is archived Start this section	More about you > Tell us about any circumstances that you might need support for during your studies. Start this section	

Experience

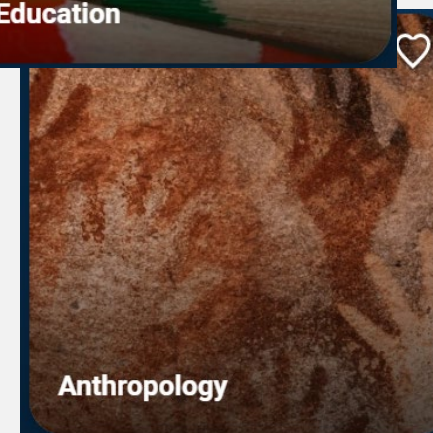
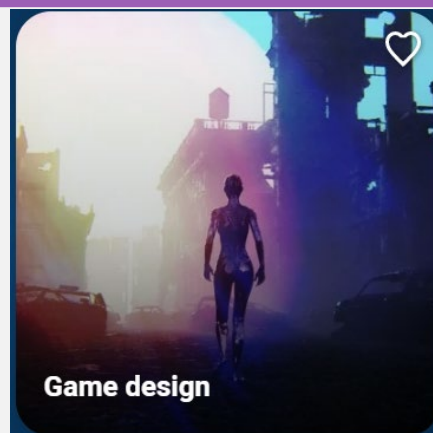
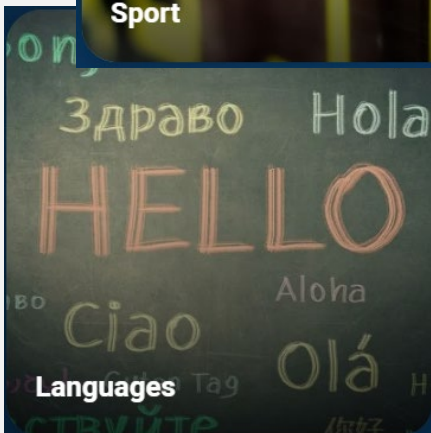
Education > Qualifications and periods of study Start this section	Employment > Paid employment Start this section	Extra activities > Taken part in any activities to prepare you for higher education? Start this section
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Applications Timeline





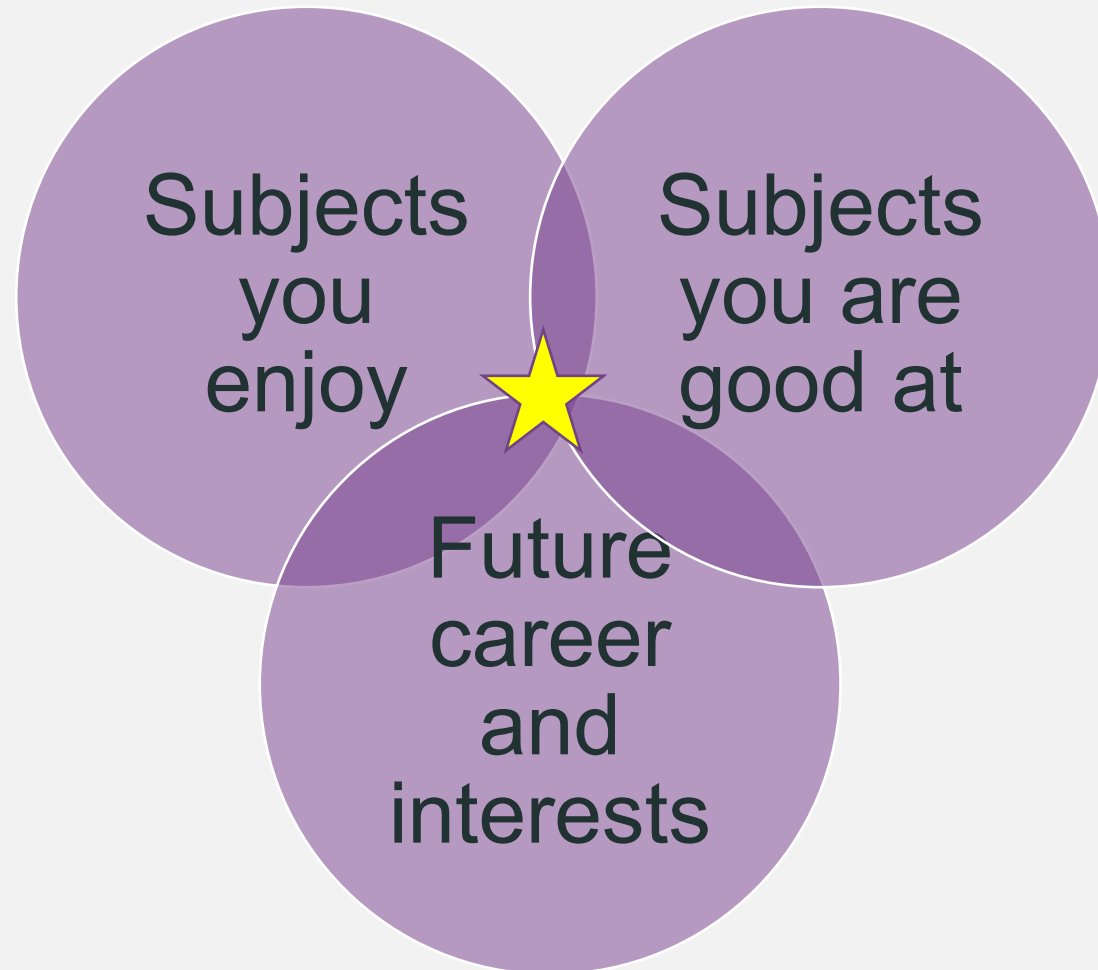
Many students in secondary schools will not be aware of the wide range of courses available to study at university!



Choosing a course

18

Look for the sweet spot that is a combination of all three factors.



Choosing a university

19



Teaching & assessment



Location



Size



Costs



Lifestyle and
accommodation

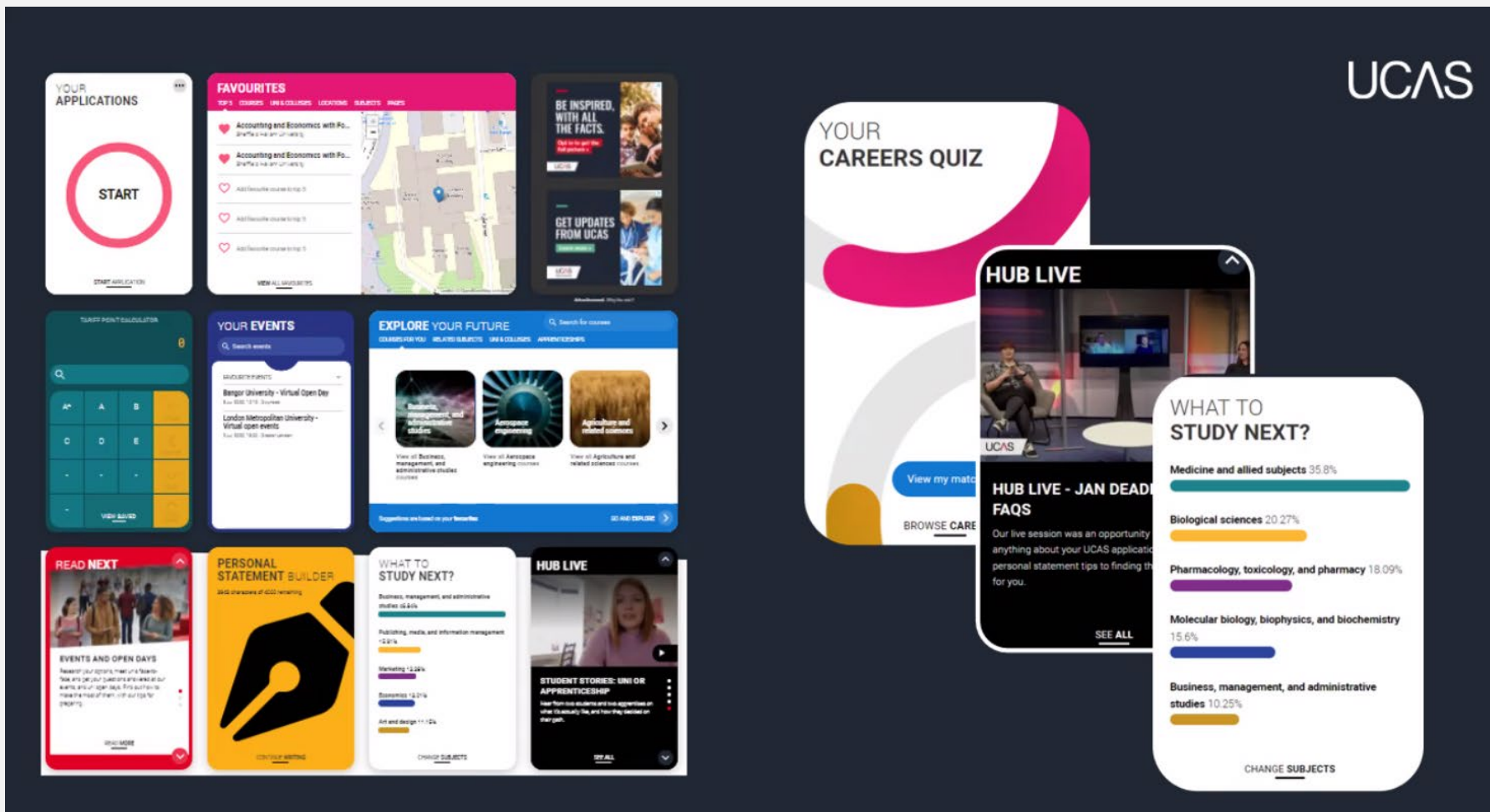


Extra-curriculars



Reputation

UCAS Hub



Higher Education Information Evening

Student Finance

Student Finance

Student loans are provided by the UK Government. They are designed to help students pay for higher education and the associated fees, such as tuition, books and supplies, and living expenses.



Tuition Fees

Living Costs

Tuition Fee Loans

This covers the cost of the **course**.

All eligible students will qualify for the full amount.

Full time
Degree fees are capped at
£9,250 per
academic year.

Foundation
Degree fees are capped at £6,125
per academic
year.

This is paid directly to the university NOT into Students' bank accounts.

Maintenance Loans

This covers **living expenses**.

The amount you receive depends on household income and where students live or choose to study

The maximum per year **£13,002**

The minimum per year **£3,698**

This will be paid directly into the Students' bank accounts.

Maintenance Loan

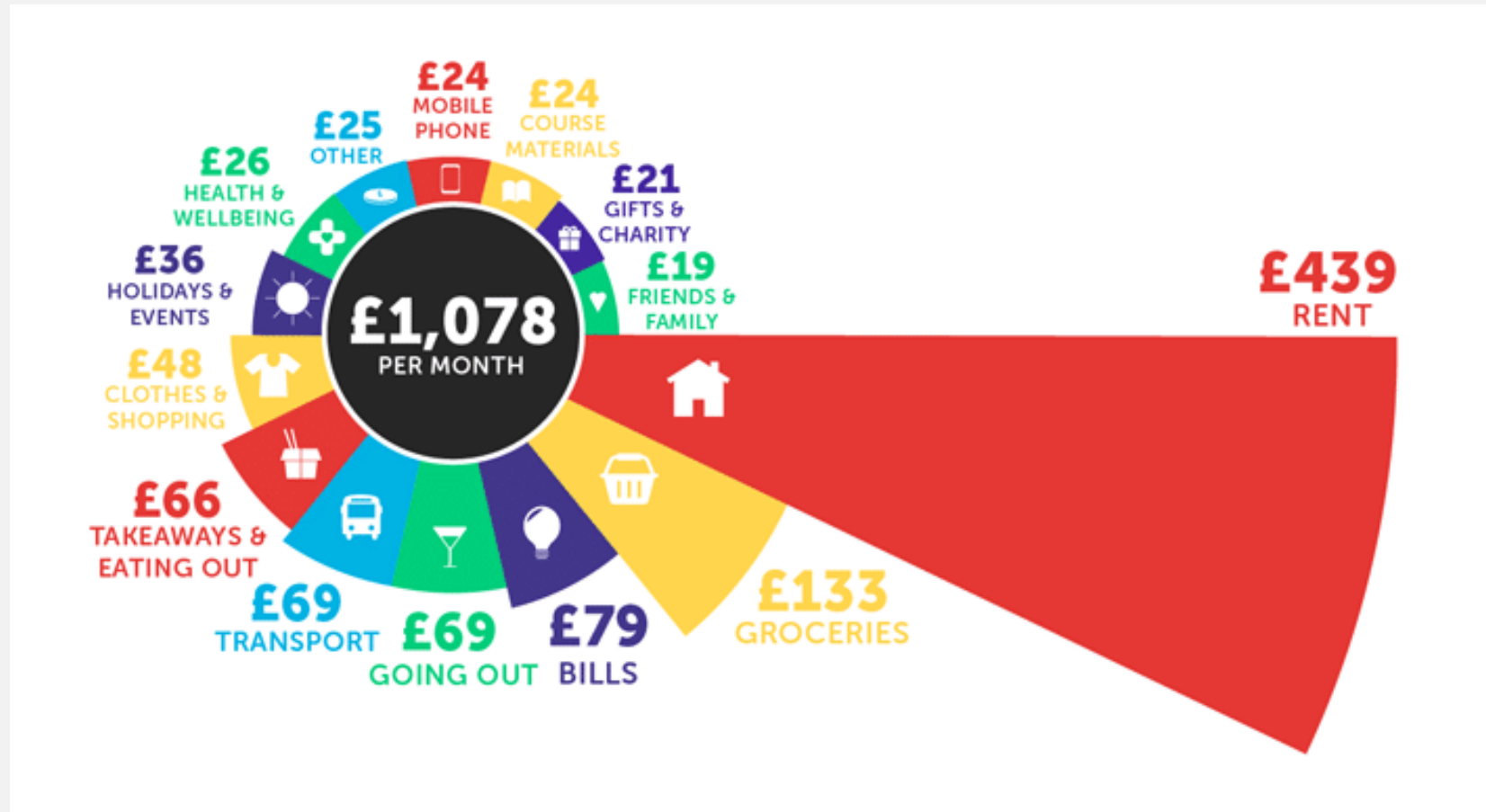
25

A few more examples;

Household Income	Home	Elsewhere	London
£25,000 & under	£8,400	£9,978	£13,002
£35,000	£6,988	£8,552	£11,551
£45,000	£5,576	£7,125	£10,100
£55,000	£4,163	£5,699	£8,648
£65,000	£3,698	£4,651	£7,197

www.gov.uk/student-finance-calculator

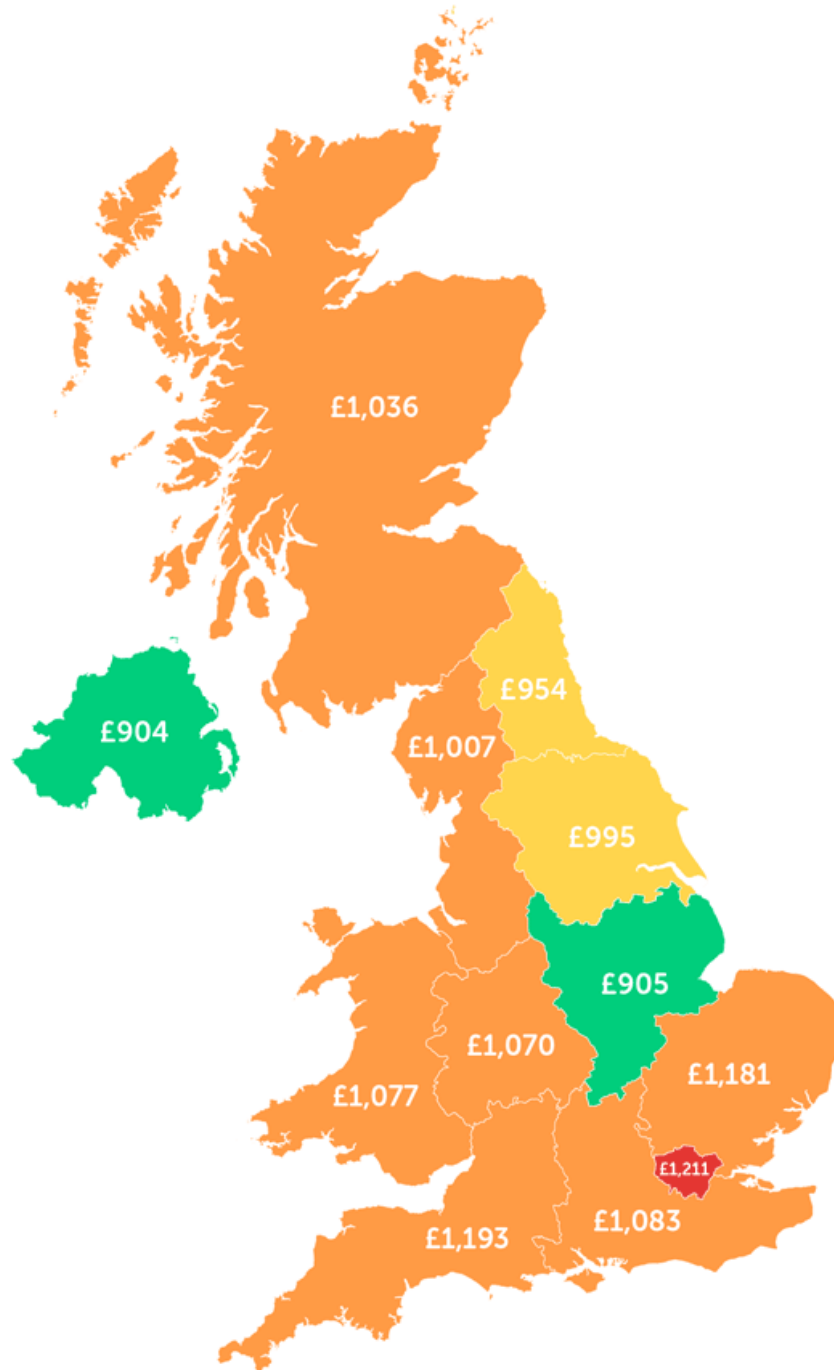
Average monthly costs



Monthly costs by region

Average living costs vary depending on *where* you choose to study

This map shows the average living costs per month by region



Lowest average costs:
East Midlands &
Northern Ireland, **£905**
per month

Highest average costs:
London, of **£1,211**
per month



£544
A MONTH

AVERAGE EARNINGS
FROM A STUDENT'S
PART-TIME JOB

Three key figures

- £1078 per month

- Average living costs for students

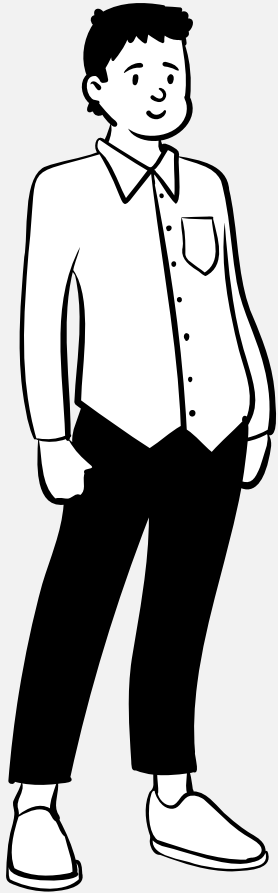
+ Variable amount per month

- Maintenance loan, which varies based on household income and other factors

+£544 per month

- Average earnings from a student's part time job

Example



<u>Monthly cost</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Total</u>
Living costs	-£1078	-£1078
Maintenance Loan	+£832	-£246
Part time job	+£544	+£298

Extra Support

Is a Student Loan a debt?

Putting repayments into perspective;

Annual income before tax	Monthly income before tax	Approximate monthly repayment
£25,000	£2,083	£0
£28,000	£2,333	£22
£35,000	£2,917	£75
£40,000	£3,333	£113
£50,000	£4,166	£188

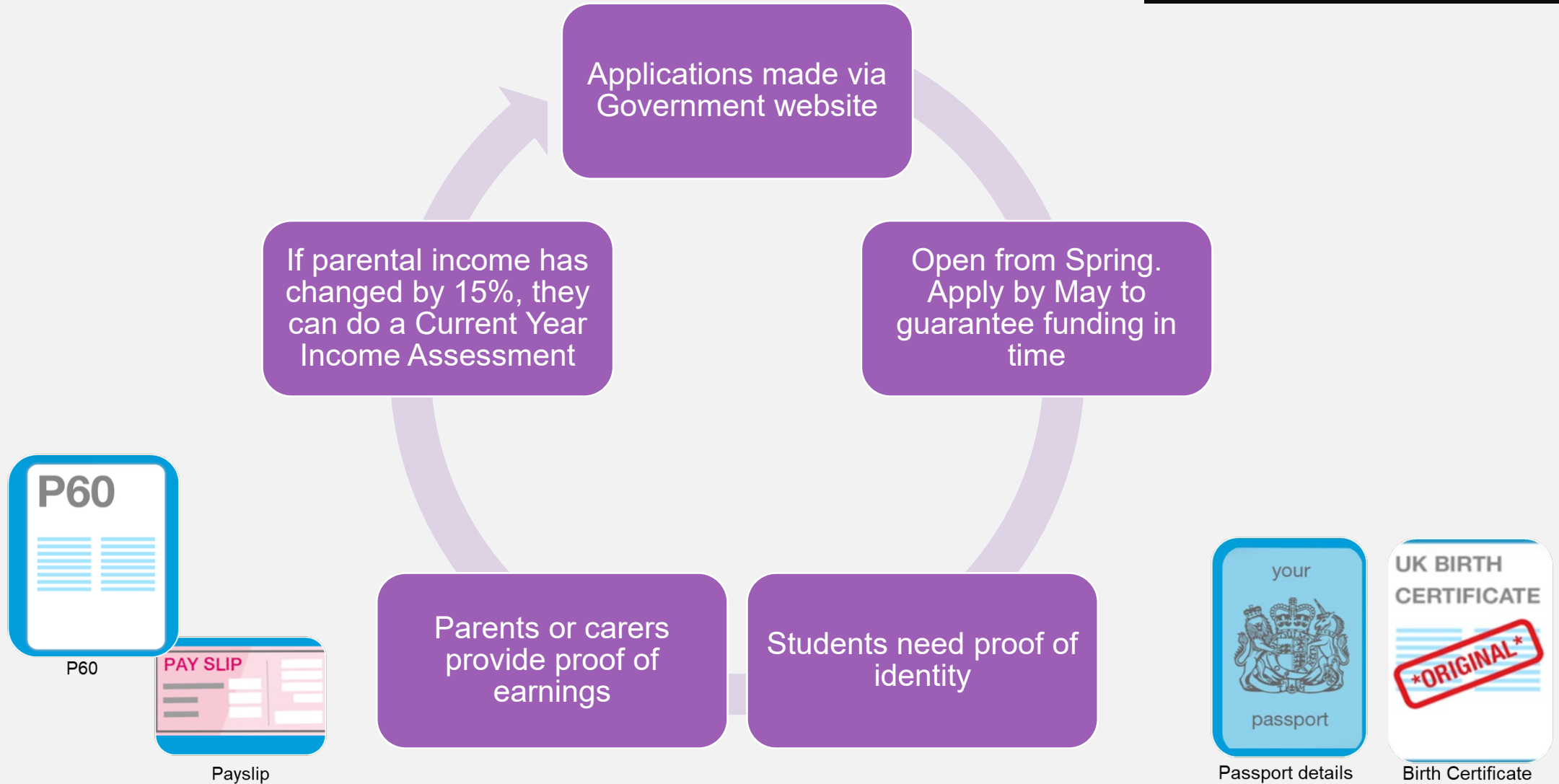
The amount you repay adjusts according to your earnings so you only repay what you can afford. (9% of income above the earning threshold shown, anything unpaid is then **written off after 40 years**)

The amount borrowed doesn't affect the amount owed



Source: [Martin Lewis' 6 need-to-knows about 'Plan 5' English student finance](#)
(moneysavingexpert.com)

How to apply!



Extra Support

By Group

Disabled
Student
Allowance

Adult
Dependants'
Grant

Childcare
Grant

Bursary for
Care
Leavers

By Course

NHS Bursaries

Social Work
Bursaries

Extra Funding for
Teaching
Students

Travel Grants for
Medical, dentistry
& Healthcare
courses

A few examples

Scholarships, Bursaries & Grants offered for Care experienced students

University of Nottingham

- Accommodation Award which provides **Care Leavers** or **Estranged** students with **free accommodation** for their first year of study

The Leathersellers' Undergraduate Student Grant

- Grant for **£5,000** each year of study for **Care Leavers**.

Unite Foundation Scholarship

- Scholarship covers cost of **accommodation & bills** for **3 years** of study at any of their **28** partnered institutions.

Personal Circumstances



This information is confidential and will not negatively impact their application.



These questions are intended to connect students to the right support for their needs.



Only students with a UK home address will see these questions

Would you consider yourself estranged from your parents (i.e. you're not in contact with and supported by your parents)?

Yes No

Do you have any caring responsibilities?

Yes No

Are you a parent or do you have parenting responsibilities?

Yes No

Do you have official refugee status or limited leave to remain, or are you seeking asylum?

No The UK government has granted me refugee status or humanitarian protection in the UK
 I have limited or discretionary leave to remain in the UK I'm currently seeking asylum in the UK

Do you have a parent or carer who currently serves in the UK Armed Forces, or who has done so in the past?

Yes No

Have you ever served in the UK Armed Forces?

Yes No

Are you currently receiving free school meals, or have you been in receipt of free school meals during your secondary education?

Yes No Don't know

Where to learn about Scholarships and Bursaries

General funding sites

- ScholarshipHub
- Turn2us Grants
- Employers linked to specific industries

University Websites

- Will have a dedicated space

Care experience charities

- Propel
- Unite Students
- Leathersellers