

UCAS Guidance Evening FAQs – Monday 21 September 2026

Q. How do Students get a reference for UCAS when taking a gap year?

Students who decide that they would like to apply for university during their gap year are still able to link to Exeter and North Devon College's group and their tutor from year 2 would write the reference.

If there is any difficulty in contacting their year 2 tutor, then contact careers@ndc.ac.uk

Q. How do we find out what the predicted grades are for our child and by when (so we can help them shortlist the 5 options)?

This information will come from the student's tutor. We are very aware that every young person's application is unique to them and so there are sometimes more discussions that are needed between the student and the tutor (and sometimes then a conversation between the tutor and the student's teachers) so that we are aspirational for the student but also giving the best and realistic advice for their future and so that the college's view and the student/parent view aligns. The student can ask their tutor for this when they know that they will be applying via UCAS.

Q. Is it possible to apply for Oxford/Cambridge and also to other universities on the same application?

The UCAS submission for Oxbridge needs to be submitted by the early deadline but the other choices can then be added right up until the main deadline.

The early application Internal deadline (to allow for applications to be thoroughly checked) is: 28th September and the external early application deadline is 15th October 2026.

The internal deadline (to allow for applications to be thoroughly checked all other applications) is 20th November. The external equal consideration date for all other applications is 13th January 2027.

Q. Are there more resources you can suggest to help talk with my child about more general post-18 options?

There are many gap year opportunities, higher apprenticeships and work experience opportunities on the UCAS hub: [Discover Careers, Apprenticeships And University With UCAS](#)

The following websites also contain more general information about careers:

[Further and Higher Education Career Tips for Parents - Talking Futures](#)

[Parent, Carer and Guardian Guide | UCAS](#)

[Supporting next steps: a parent and caregivers' guide to post-18 options : Unifrog Event](#)

[Tips for parents and caregivers: supporting your child's UK university application : Unifrog Event](#)

[What parents and caregivers need to know about apprenticeships : Unifrog Event](#)

[Parents and caregivers session: supporting your young person's journey to higher education : Unifro...](#)

[Degree apprenticeships - Learn more here](#)

[Student finance in England - Everything you need to know](#)

[Prospects | Job & Course Search | Career & University Advice](#)

Q. Is it better to apply for deferred entry or to wait and apply during the gap year?

Both offer different opportunities. If your young person is uncertain about which course to apply for and keen to take a gap year, it may be better to concentrate on making their gap year meaningful and gaining valuable experience prior to applying.

However, the support offered while in college can help make their application shine.

If choosing to request to defer, it is important to directly contact the university admissions to make sure that they accept deferred entry applications.

There is some advice about deferred entry on the UCAS website [Deferred Entry To University | UCAS](#)

Usually, you can **only defer your entry by one year**, and it's up to the university or college whether they accept it for your course.

The conditions of your offer won't change even though the date does. For example, if your conditional offer is based on attaining ABB in 2025 to start your deferred course in 2028, **you must attain those grades in 2027 to secure your deferred place.**

Q. What is the order of events for applying to UCAS?

- They register with UCAS via the UCAS hub and link their application using the buzzword ENDC27.
- They complete their personal details into the application on the UCAS Hub, being careful to double check:

- Date of birth
 - Capital letters for names
 - Name of school and qualifications (GCSEs, AS qualifications, etc, all must be listed)
 - Current qualifications that they are taking with the grades set to pending.
- Write a draft of their personal statement and show it to their tutor
 - Input up to 5 choices (these can be different courses at the same university or different universities)
 - Submit it and pay the UCAS fee £34.50 (before the college deadline of 13th November) (if entitled to Free School Meals this fee is waived)
 - The Tutor will add predicted grades and their reference
 - The Careers Team will complete a final check before submitting to UCAS*

*NB. Where they pick up on errors; they will return it to the student prior to the equal consideration deadline so that they can amend it before sending.

Where students have queries they are able to seek support from their Personal Tutor (who they see regularly) and the Careers Team who have a regular drop in service 11am – 2pm Monday, Wednesday and Friday and offer 1:1 appointments where needed.