

# Choosing a Course & Applying to University



# What are my options?

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**Employment**

**University**

**Gap Year**

**Apprenticeship**



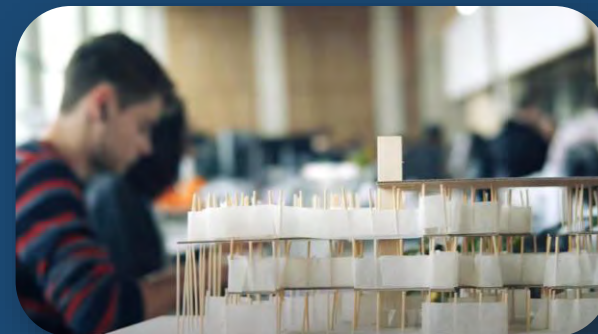
# Studying at University

Teaching at university is **very different to teaching at school**. It includes:

- Lectures
- Seminars and workshops
- Practical sessions
- Contact hours

There are also a **variety of assessment methods** including:

- Essays
- Lab reports
- Presentations
- Selecting modules



# Ask yourself...

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Why go to Uni?

What university?

Which Course?

What makes a  
good  
application?

When to apply?



Why should I go to university?



# Improve your Knowledge

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**Continue studying something you love**



**Try something new**



**Get involved with research**



**Use more sophisticated facilities and equipment**

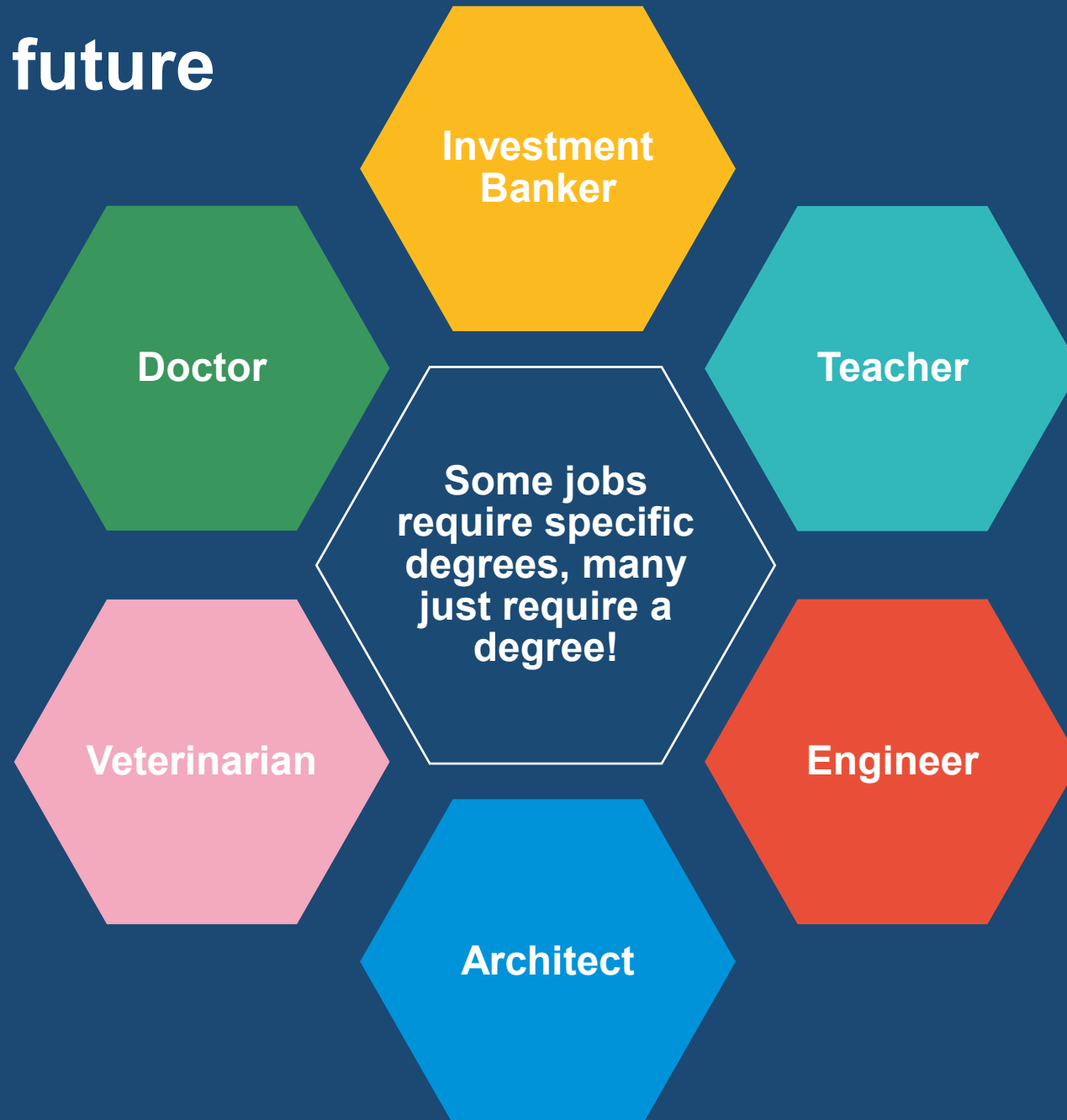


**Learning the latest developments**



# Invest in your future

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# Develop transferable skills

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**Personal skills:** independence, time management, budgeting

**Academic skills:** research, academic writing, data analysis

**Career skills:** support and advice, placements, study abroad, communication, teamwork





# Student Life

Meet people from **all over the world**

Join sports clubs and societies – learn something new!

**Networking opportunities** – building your network before graduating



What should I study?



# What influences decision making?

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99% of students said they make choices based on subject enjoyment



83% students decide on their degree subject ahead of their uni/college



Over 50% said high graduate employment rates are important





Which  
holiday  
would you  
prefer?

# Your choice

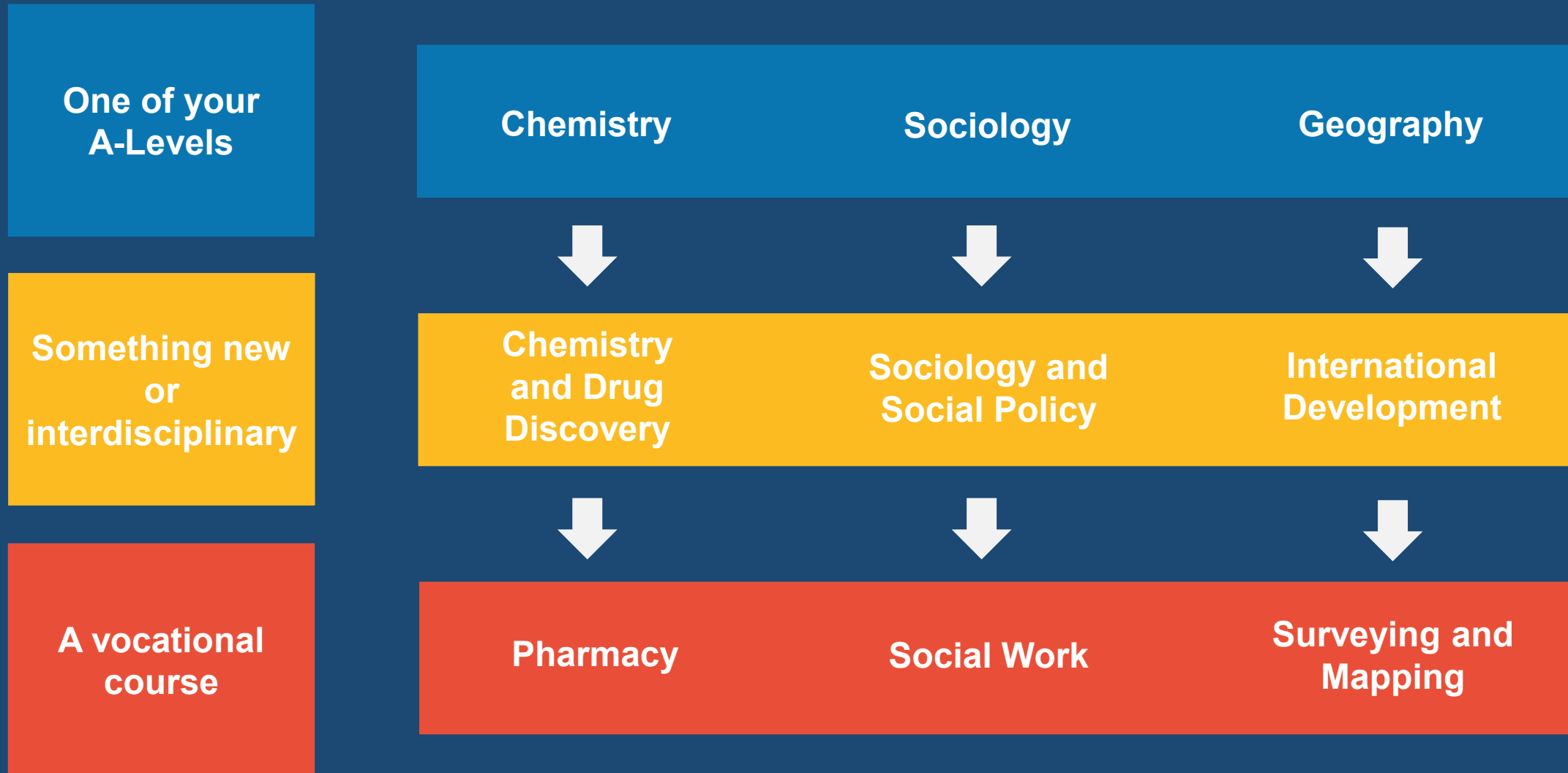
**350+** universities and colleges

**35,000+** courses

- Bachelors Degrees
- Undergraduate masters
- Foundation degrees
- Degree apprenticeships



# What can you study?



# What can you study?

Pretty much any course you can think of is on offer somewhere, including:

- Chemistry with management (University of Bath)
- Applied Golf Management Studies (University of Birmingham)
- Cartoon & Comic Arts (Staffordshire University)
- Equine Behaviour, Health and Welfare (Nottingham Trent University)
- Viking and Old Norse Studies (University College London)





# Entry requirements

What are the entry requirements for your course?

Traditional qualifications or UCAS points?

Alternative offers

Contextual offers

Require an interview?

Is specific experience required?





# Academic factors/considerations

Course content

Methods of  
assessment

Teaching style

Size of cohort

Entry  
requirements

Course rankings



Together, we can shape  
the future of our University.

Find out how to get involved:  
[bath.ac.uk/our-university-our-future](http://bath.ac.uk/our-university-our-future)

# Where should I study?



# Bath or Barbados?

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# How to research

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## Make a long list

- Use virtual open days or online resources
- Consider locations
- Course pages
- UCAS course finder
- Unifrog

## Then shortlist

- Understand what's important to you
- Visit in person open days
- Speak to current students
- Understand course content



# What's important to you?

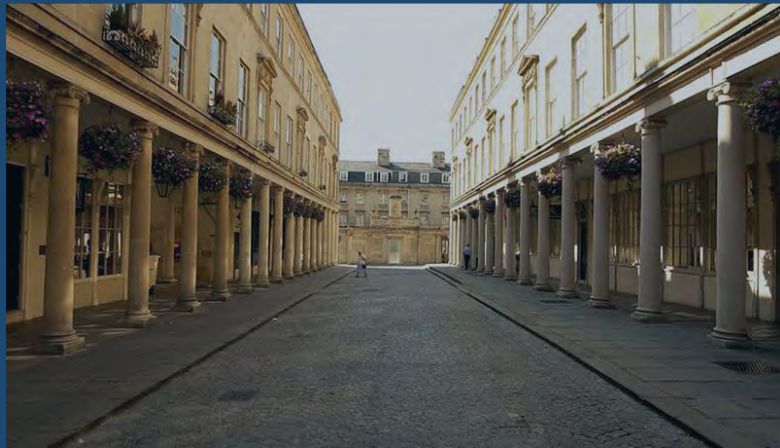
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- **Course**
- **Location**
- **City or campus?**
- **Ranking and reputation**
- **Opportunities**
- **Important facilities**
- **Accommodation**



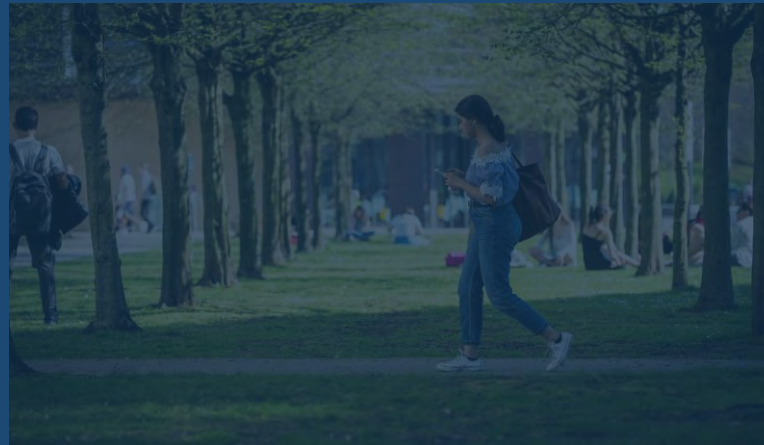
# Campus

- Convenience
- Space
- Community
- Safety
- Student Orientated



# City

- Immersed in city life
- Amenities and services
- Independence and freedom
- More part time jobs
- Transport links



# Student Satisfaction

Independent and honest insight

Questions include: academic support,  
teaching & resources

- Overall student satisfaction rate is **86%** (UK Avg. 76%)
- We're ranked **1<sup>st</sup>** in England and **3<sup>rd</sup>** in the UK for student satisfaction
- 9 degree programmes achieved **100%** overall satisfaction
- 19 achieved over **90%** overall satisfaction



# Placement Opportunities

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Does the institution offer placements or study abroad?

How long do they last?

What links do they have with industry and institutions?

## University of Bath:

- Second in the UK for number of students taking a placement
- Links with around 3000 employers





# University facilities

24/7 facilities?

Extra costs?

Specialist equipment?

Will you have access?

Good sporting facilities?



# Accommodation

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Private or university owned?

Shared bathrooms or en-suite?

Price range?

Location?

Is accommodation guaranteed?



# Non academic factors/considerations

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**Accommodation**

**Facilities**

**Placements**

**Student satisfaction**

**Location**

**Clubs/sports**



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# Open Days



# Open Day



Speak to as many current students as possible



Don't be afraid to compare, list pros and cons



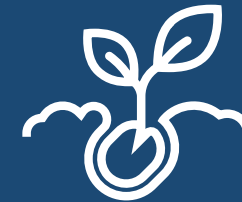
Don't rely on parents



Get dates in your diary in advance



Attend 2 or 3 over a weekend



This is only the beginning of the journey, you are not expected to know everything



# Alternative Ways to experience a University

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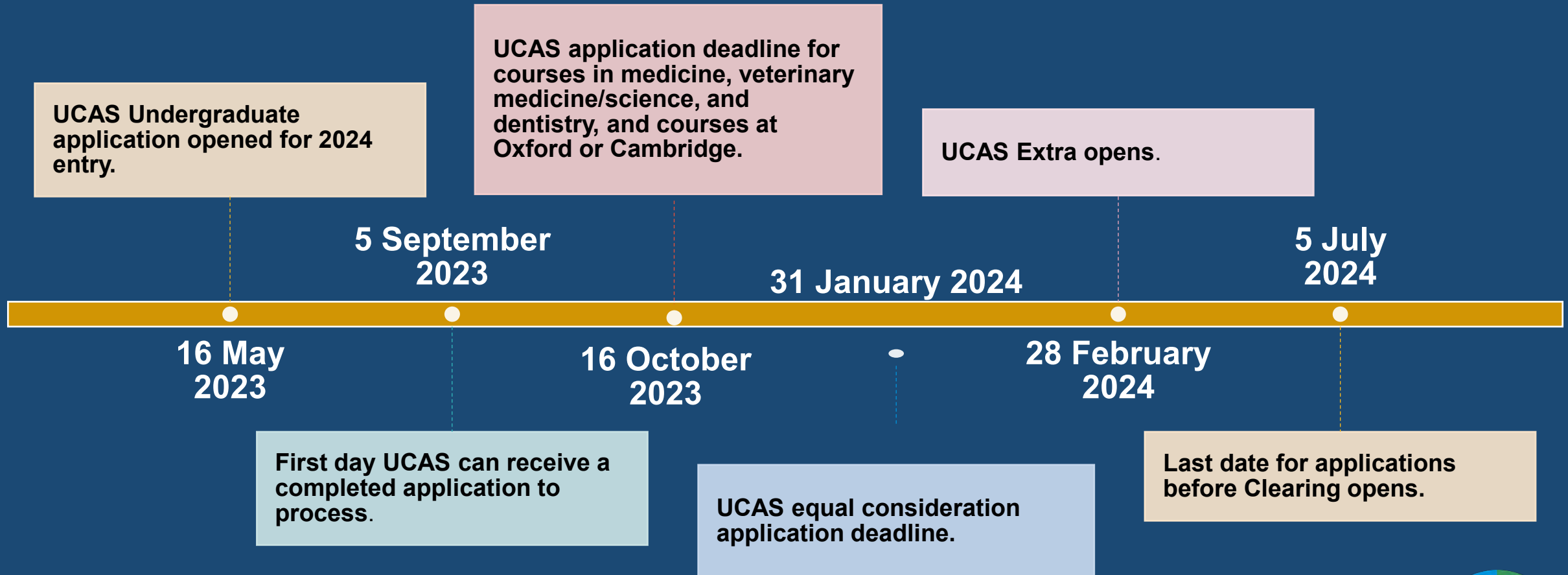
- Virtual open days
- Summer Schools or residentials
- Applicant Visit days (Offer holders)
- Talk tour and stay
- Self Guided Tours
- Visiting a friend or relative



# Applying to university



# Application timeline for 2024 entry





# The Basics



- To start an application you need a **UCAS Hub account**.
- Register for a UCAS Hub account at any time.
- You have up to **five choices**, unless applying to study medicine, veterinary, medicine/science, dentistry – then it's **four choices**.
- Applying **costs** £27.50.
- Apply by the **equal consideration date**. (31.01)
- Universities and colleges **can't see** your other choices when you apply.



# The UCAS Application

- Personal details
- Contact and residency details
- Nationality details
- Supporting information
- English language skills
- Finance and funding
- Diversity and inclusion\*
- More about you

**Profile**

<p><b>Personal details &gt;</b> Name, age, title, and gender</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Section complete</p>	<p><b>Contact &amp; residency details &gt;</b> Address, email, telephone, and where you live</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Start this section</p>	<p><b>Nationality details &gt;</b> Country and nationality details</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Start this section</p>
<p><b>Supporting information &gt;</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Section in progress</p>	<p><b>English language skills &gt;</b> Is English your first language?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Start this section</p>	<p><b>Finance &amp; funding &gt;</b> Tell us how you'll fund your study</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Section in progress</p>
<p><b>Diversity &amp; inclusion &gt;</b> Only shared with a provider once you have a place or your application is archived</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Start this section</p>	<p><b>More about you &gt;</b> Tell us about any circumstances that you might need support for during your studies</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Start this section</p>	

\* (for students with a UK home address)



# The UCAS Application

- Education
- Employment
- Extra activities\*
  
- Personal statement
- Reference\*\*
- Add choices – up to five

## Experience

### Education >

Your qualifications and periods of study

Section in progress

### Employment >

Employment, paid or unpaid, or volunteer work

Section complete

### Extra activities >

Activities you have attended in preparation for higher education

Start this section

## Personal Statement

### Personal statement >

Why do you want to study this subject?

Start this section

\*(for students with a UK home address)

\*\* (not visible for students linked to their school/college)



# Personal Statement

4,000 characters or 47 lines

Your opportunity to speak directly to the person deciding – why should they choose you?

Basis for an interview

You can provide evidence of work experience /additional activities

Important for 'near miss' applications



# Writing your Personal Statement

Imagine you are being interviewed....

*‘Why do **you** want to study this subject, and what makes **you** the right person for the course?’*

Your Personal Statement should answer this question

Your Personal Statement may be the only chance you get to stand out from other applicants



# Personal Statement Tips

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**DON'T - repeat information**

**DON'T - just list achievements & skills**

**DON'T – begin every sentence with 'I'**

**DON'T - be tempted to plagiarise**

**DO – Research your choices**

**DO – draft then re-draft until you are completely happy with it**

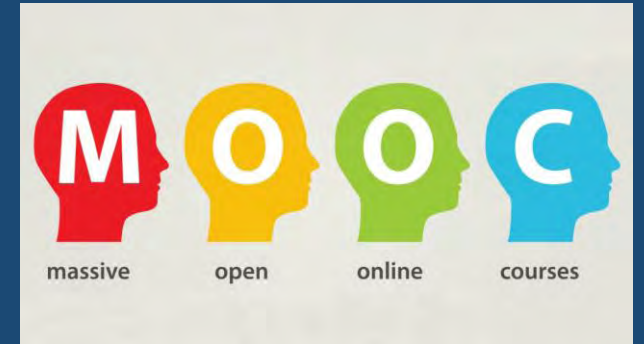
**DO – get external feedback**

**DO – Think carefully about spelling, grammar and vocabulary**

**DO – demonstrate your enthusiasm!**



# How can I stand out?



# Application Tips

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**Start early**

**Be accurate**

**Ask for support**

**Research**

**Check entry  
requirements**

**Think about life  
after uni**





# Resources

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There are a range of amazing resources to support you when applying to university:

- University websites - [University Of Bath's page](#) on applying
- The UCAS website & HUB - [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com) (Subject guides, city guides, student vlogs, personal statement guidance)
- Reach out to Admissions Teams
- Chat to students online via unibuddy
- Follow UCAS, universities, student finance etc on socials.





Thanks for listening!

#BelongatBath



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