

# APPLYING TO UNIVERSITY

2022



HARROW  
SCHOOL

THE HARROW UNIVERSITIES TEAM

CHOOSING A UNIVERSITY COURSE

APPLYING TO A UNIVERSITY COURSE

HIGHER EDUCATION LEXICON

UNIVERSITY MAP



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CHOOSING A COURSE

HELPFUL RESOURCES

SANDWICH COURSES AND  
DEGREE APPRENTICESHIPS

OXBRIDGE COURSES

MEDICAL, DENTAL AND  
VETERINARY COURSES

ART AND DESIGN COURSES

STUDYING ABROAD

US UNIVERSITIES  
ADMISSION TIMELINE



Choosing a university course is a challenging task. You will find that fancy prospectuses portray a picture that you want to see: students loving the university, the facilities being the best in the country and the quality of the teaching being second to none. This cannot always be the case, so it is important that you focus on what will suit you best. Avoid being swayed by names, reputations and subjective league tables; instead form your own opinions through in-depth research.

- [The Universities' and Colleges' Admissions Service \(UCAS\) website](#) is the best place to start. Get a feel for a course under [Search for Courses](#) and then explore more detailed breakdowns via the university links.
- It is vital to visit the universities that you are interested in. That way, you will get a real sense of what they feel like, especially if you visit during their term time.  
  
The Covid-19 pandemic means many universities have online open days with virtual tours and live Q&A.
- Gathering the opinions of current students can also help. Quizzing student helpers on open days might give as much insight as hearing the formal departmental talks.
- You can also ask the university's admissions office, for example about class sizes, which are rarely published.
- Most importantly, remember that universities continue to change. What may have been the case five or more years ago could well be different now. If anyone makes sweeping statements like "university X is good for subject Y", ask for recent evidence on which to base your opinion.



#### WHEN EVALUATING A COURSE YOU SHOULD CONSIDER

- Its grade requirements
- Its length
- How it is taught (research, contact time, class sizes, industry placements, tutor system)
- How it is assessed (exams, coursework)
- Typical graduate jobs and employability

#### WHEN EVALUATING A UNIVERSITY YOU SHOULD CONSIDER

- Its type (collegiate, campus, modern, red brick)
- Its global reputation
- Its location
- Its facilities
- Its accommodation
- Student satisfaction

For one-to-one guidance, arrange to speak with the most relevant member of the School's Universities Team.

Your [Unifrog](#) account will also use large quantities of admissions and other data to suggest universities and courses that might be right for you, as well as helping you build your [personal statement](#).

Other resources are available in the Vaughan Library's university section, in books and online. When choosing a course, remember to be wary of any league tables and subjective opinions.

## UCAS

Directory of higher education courses in the UK with links to universities, guidance on how to apply and information on gap-year opportunities.

### GENERAL INFORMATION

[UCAS's guide to writing a personal statement](#)

[Birmingham University's advice on writing a personal statement](#)

[Prospects: the UK's official graduate careers website](#)

[Research Excellence Framework: departments' research strengths](#)

[Union View: independent university film guides](#)

[National Student Satisfaction Survey](#)

[WhatUni? University comparison tool](#)

[The Complete University Guide](#)

### MEDICAL, DENTAL AND VETERINARY COURSES

[Department of Health and Social Care](#)

[General Medical Council](#)

[The Medical Schools Council](#)

### STUDYING ABROAD

[European University Central Application Support Service](#)

[Fulbright advisory service on universities in the USA](#)

[Sporting scholarships to 120 US universities](#)

[Advice on universities in Australia and New Zealand](#)

### UNIFROG

Bespoke software matching students to courses and careers. This online software allows extensive research into UK universities, US universities, Oxbridge, apprenticeships and MOOCs.

### BOOKS

*HEAP 2022: University Degree Course Offers: The Essential Guide to Winning Your Place at University*

*The Times Good University Guide 2022*

*Uni in the USA: The Definitive UK Guide to the Universities in the USA (Good Schools Guide)*

Don't forget to look at universities' prospectuses, websites and student union websites too.

Sandwich courses include at least one placement away from university and are offered in many subjects, including Business, Engineering, Finance, Psychology and Sports Science.

A placement may be spent in a variety of ways, such as teaching in a school, studying at another university or working in industry.

The most common type is a 'thick sandwich' i.e. one long placement, usually in the third year of study. This is common for many modern language courses.

There are other types of sandwich course, such as the 'thin sandwich' pioneered by Brunel, which involves two shorter periods in a placement alternating with periods at university.

**Although sandwich courses add a year to the total period of study they can have significant benefits.**

- Students are often paid a salary during periods of work.
- Students acquire new skills and a competitive edge at the start of their careers.
- Students gain insights into potential areas of employment.
- It may be possible to secure full-time employment with a placement company after graduation.

**Not everyone is suited to such a course, however. Some might see the placement as an unwelcome interruption to full-time study. If you are considering a sandwich course, it is important to check:**

- if the university will help you find a placement (and, if so, what is available and how much choice you are given); and
- how much support you will get from the university during the sandwich year, as well as how your performance is assessed.



Increasing numbers of universities now offer **Degree Apprenticeships**. These are courses offered jointly with an employer and are designed to allow students to gain a degree while also acquiring practical skills in a work-based environment. Students split their time between academic study and work with the partner organisation. Such courses often guarantee employment upon graduation and are fee-free for the student. Degree Apprenticeships can be an attractive option for students who know the industry in which they wish to work.

**An interdisciplinary degree** is one where you study two or more traditional academic courses combined. This is a relatively new development for some UK universities. You could find out more by looking at the [London Interdisciplinary School](#) website which describes itself as 'a brand new university that will give students the knowledge and skills needed to address social and global problems in an increasingly interconnected world'.

Oxford and Cambridge are looking for students who have:

- Great academic ability and potential
- A genuine passion for their subject(s)
- Motivation, commitment and organisation
- Enthusiasm for complex and challenging ideas
- Clarity of thought and analytical ability
- Intellectual flexibility
- Vocational/professional commitment and interpersonal skills
- An independent and enquiring mind

As small tutorials are a key part of Oxbridge teaching, applicants should enjoy defending a point of view orally, listening to other

opinions and collating in discussion a number of conflicting threads. An applicant should also relish the possibility of being taught by academics of international repute.

### GRADE REQUIREMENTS

Successful Oxbridge applicants generally have all grades 8 and 9 at GCSE, and will be predicted a minimum of all A grades at A level. 39.9% of successful Oxford applicants have at least three A\* grades at A level. Oxford and Cambridge are looking for the very best applicants academically and they will use a number of other measures in addition to those mentioned above to assess an application. Both Oxford and Cambridge require applicants in most subjects to sit an admissions test to help assess which applicants to call to interview and to provide further contextual information. Most of these take place in November but some for Cambridge take place at interview. While other universities look at the bigger picture and take account of your co-curricular activities, Oxford and Cambridge do not. Excellence in a co-curricular activity will not compensate for lower academic potential. Only organ scholarship applicants can apply to both Oxford and Cambridge.



### HOW TO PREPARE

In most subjects, particularly in arts and humanities, you will be expected to have read widely in the subject. This means that planning a successful Oxbridge campaign must begin at the start of your Sixth Form studies and preferably well before that.

It is worth considering university holiday courses, research projects, stimulating internships or work placements, Olympiads for mathematicians, scientists and linguists and the Engineering in Education Scheme for engineers.

### HERE TO HELP

Mr Elphinstone oversees Oxbridge preparation, including interview training. Each applicant will have an academic mentor, probably the relevant Head of Subject. Applicants should check carefully if admissions entrance tests are required, or if written work must be submitted.



These courses are amongst the most competitive of vocational subjects. Students can apply to four schools only but may apply for a different subject as their fifth choice.

### DESIRABLE PERSONAL QUALITIES INCLUDE:

- Commitment and empathy
- Enthusiasm for independent learning
- Good personal management skills to cope with the volume of work
- A willingness to take responsibility
- Good problem-solving abilities and communication skills
- Proficient ICT skills
- Resilience to withstand the long and sometimes stressful training

Integrity is essential. Enhanced clearance through the Disclosure and Barring Service will be required after any offer. Any caution, warning or offence involving assault or illegal drugs is likely to prejudice an application.

All medical, dental and veterinary schools have rigorous selection procedures, mainly screening applicants by their academic track record in the first instance and then by their personal statement. Nearly all medical schools interview after shortlisting.

There are two main types of admission test:

#### **BMAT**

([BioMedical Admissions Test](#)) is taken at School early in November of the Upper Sixth year. Entries are made in September.

#### **UCAT**

([University Clinical Aptitude Test](#)) is taken online during the summer of the Lower Sixth year. Applicants must register for the test online from May.

Universities are attaching increasing importance to these tests. Many have a cut-off score, below which they do not interview. The School runs in-house preparation courses in the Summer term of the Lower Sixth Form (for UCAT) and the Autumn term of the Upper Sixth Form (for BMAT).

### GRADE REQUIREMENTS

To be successful, applicants must have a consistently strong academic record (predictions of AAA+ at A level; GCSE grades that compete with applicants with eight or more 8 and 9 grades). Some medical schools stipulate specific subjects and grades at A level and GCSE.

### HOW TO PREPARE

Work experience is extremely important.



For Veterinary Medicine, it may be a requirement: Nottingham looks for at least six weeks of animal-related work experience before application. For medics, work experience in a hospital or GP's surgery is useful, but of greater value still is the experience of working with people in need of care, for example elderly or disabled people. Talk to a variety of NHS employees to be fully aware of what is involved.

### HERE TO HELP

Mr Ansbro oversees applications and will issue a more detailed guidance booklet on request. It is an applicant's responsibility to check whether they are required to complete admissions tests and, if so, to register and take them.

There are two main pathways into higher education in Art and Design: foundation courses and degree courses.

## FOUNDATION COURSES

One-year foundation courses are designed for students wishing to pursue a career in the subject but who need further training and professional guidance before making a defined choice. These courses offer a solid grounding in a range of disciplines including film, video, graphic design, fine art, photography and textiles. After a short and intense series of modules, students select a specialism and are allocated a personal tutor to guide them through the Bachelor (BA) degree application process. Students then prepare a portfolio of work for March/April interview.

We recommend the Foundation Diploma for students unsure of their specialism or wishing to develop their portfolio. Applicants may apply to as many foundation courses as they wish (with the exception of the University of the Arts, which allows only one choice). The application process is not administered through UCAS but is explained on art school websites.



## HERE TO HELP

An applicant's Art beak will oversee their application.

Many art schools offer week-long portfolio preparation courses, including Kingston University, Central St Martin's, London College of Fashion and Chelsea College of Arts.

## DEGREE COURSES

Three-year degree courses (BA Hons) in Art and Design are the norm, although some schools offer a four-year course. These courses are aimed at students who are already proficient in a specialist subject, for example photography or fine art painting. Applicants straight from school should remember that they will be in direct competition with others who have taken a foundation course. Their portfolio must, therefore, be of very high calibre and focused on their specialist subject. Beaks will offer 'best fit', tailored advice for boys wishing to apply for Fine Art courses at Oxford (Ruskin School of Art) and UCL (Slade School of Fine Art), as well as the many excellent courses available at Edinburgh and Glasgow universities.

Applicants can apply for up to five Art and Design degree courses through the usual

UCAS process. Applications are made in the Autumn and interviews usually take place in March and April.

## APPLICANTS SHOULD DEMONSTRATE:

- Fascination with the visual world
- Ability to articulate influences i.e. from artists and designers
- Understanding of the course
- Capability to develop ideas both conceptually and visually
- Commitment to improving craft skills
- Ability to accept and benefit from constructive criticism
- Willingness to experiment, innovate and take risks
- No hint of arrogance or pomposity about their work
- An excellent portfolio of Art and Design work

## HOW TO PREPARE

Applicants' portfolios should usually comprise 15–20 completed pieces of work for a foundation course and 20–25 pieces for a degree. Drawing is the most important skill to demonstrate, alongside a variety of other work in different media. Applicants should include sketchbooks that reflect their own motivation, interests, talents and ideas. Portfolios must be presented in a professional manner. Applicants should check art school websites for any stipulations on what to include.

Applicants are encouraged to participate in Harrow's extensive lecture and exhibition programme offered by the Pasmore and OSRG Arts Societies, and in independent projects and visits to galleries and museums.

Since the rise in UK tuition fees, there has been more interest from UK applicants in studying at universities abroad. In addition to the standard questions, those interested in international courses should consider:

- The alignment between A level standards and the international university's entry requirements
- Likely tuition and living costs
- Recognition of the international degree in the UK (particularly for professional qualifications)
- The support network in place should there be a medical or other emergency
- The student demographic (locally populated universities tend to be quiet at weekends)

## USA

There are over 4,000 universities in the USA. Most international students opt for four-year Liberal Arts programmes, where a range of subjects is studied in the early years before specialisation in the last two. The average cost is approximately \$60,000 per year, but many US universities offer very generous bursaries to international applicants, and some are even need-blind. There is no US equivalent

of UCAS, and the selection process for US universities is more holistic in nature than for UK universities. There is no limit to the number of US universities to which applicants can apply. Applying to US universities requires multiple documents and stages, including the SAT or ACT (American standardised tests), as well as application essays and recommendations from beaks and House Masters. Boys thinking of a US application must inform their House Master and Mrs Fletcher by the start of the Autumn term of the Lower Sixth Form so that they can receive the appropriate support and guidance well ahead of the US deadlines.

An interesting recent development has been the establishment of satellite campuses by some prominent US universities in the Middle East. NYU Abu Dhabi, for instance, offers an exciting opportunity with very generous financial support to students who are academically able, have a global outlook and have demonstrated leadership ability.

## CANADA

Canadian universities are a little cheaper than those in the USA, although still fairly costly in general terms. Universities set their own fees so it might be worth shopping around if cost is an issue. It will also vary by subject. Humanities courses tend to be less expensive than Engineering or Medicine, for example. Applications are made via a university's international office; there is no centralised application procedure as such.



## AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

Australia has 18 universities, including an elite 'Group of Eight'. New Zealand has eight. The education systems are based on the UK model but the academic year runs from February to November. Some programmes might be attractive for their environment (for example Marine Biology, Sport Sciences) or their entry requirements (they are lower for Veterinary Medicine than in UK). Study Options oversees UK applications to Australia and New Zealand.

## EUROPE

Many European universities offer degree programmes in English. The seven universities in the Irish Republic operate a similar system to UCAS but do not make conditional offers, allocating places instead after results are received. Entry requirements for European universities are generally lower than for UK universities. There is a lot of information on European universities on the universities section of Firefly.

### HERE TO HELP

Mrs Fletcher oversees applications to universities in the USA and Canada. Miss Fox will advise on applications to other universities overseas.



## APPLYING TO US UNIVERSITIES – TIMELINE AND KEY DEADLINES

LOWER SIXTH	UPPER SIXTH
<p><b>Before the Autumn term</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Thinking through A level choices: Have I chosen the right, i.e. academically demanding and versatile, set of A level subjects that will be attractive to US universities? Can I realistically continue with my four chosen subjects all the way through and achieve good grades in all of them?</li> <li>Conducting preliminary research about US universities: Do I want to study on the East Coast or on the West Coast? Do I want to study in a big city or do I want to be on a more remote campus? How big do I want my university to be?</li> <li>Asking parents to attend the meeting about US universities before first exeat.</li> <li>Informing Mrs Fletcher in case access arrangements are required for the ACT/SAT (they are not granted automatically based on the assessments carried out for public exams in the UK).</li> </ul>	<p><b>Before the Autumn term</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finalising the list of universities and making the decision regarding the ED and/or EA applications.</li> <li>Creating the Common App account (1 Aug) and the equivalent accounts for the universities that do not use the Common App.</li> <li>Drafting all application essays, including both the Common App essay and the supplement essays.</li> <li>Preparing for outstanding standardised tests if required.</li> <li>Visiting the potential university destination if possible or attending virtual tours.</li> <li>Completing some valuable independent research work and/or work experience.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Autumn term</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Intensively preparing for the ACT/SAT for the first sitting of the tests in December, either by attending the preparation course run by the School or independently (approximately 4–5 hours per week).</li> <li>Registering for the test with the ACT or the College Board in early September.</li> <li>Attending meetings with admissions directors from US universities visiting the School.</li> <li>Performing to the highest possible standard in the end-of-term Trials.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Autumn term</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attending meetings with admissions directors if still uncertain about some university choices or to make a good impression (demonstrated interest is still taken into account by many US universities).</li> <li>Finalising all application essays, checking all the deadlines carefully and submitting all the applications, starting with the ED/EA applications.</li> <li>Receiving ED/EA offers in mid-December.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Spring term</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preparing for the ACT/SAT re-takes if required.</li> <li>Sustaining excellent academic performance.</li> <li>Building the portfolio of co-curricular activities, participating in subject Olympiads and essay prizes, investigating research work and work experience opportunities.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Spring term</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fully focusing on A levels to achieve the predicted grades.</li> <li>Submitting Mid-Year Reports (counsellors).</li> <li>Receiving regular application offers.</li> <li>Making the decision regarding the university destination while ensuring full compliance with the rules (ED). Accepting or rejecting offers by 1 May.</li> <li>Beginning visa application process.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Summer term</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Achieving the best possible results in the end-of-year Trials to secure excellent A level predicted grades.</li> <li>Selecting recommenders and completing “brag sheets” for them.</li> <li>Attending application essays workshops, narrowing university choices in light of the achieved test scores and the likely predicted A level grades.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Summer term</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Performing to the highest possible standard in A level exams.</li> </ul>

APPLYING TO UNIVERSITY

WHAT WE EXPECT FROM YOU

YOUR PERSONAL STATEMENT

UNDERSTANDING YOUR OFFER

RECEIVING YOUR RESULTS

TIMETABLE FOR APPLICATIONS



## HOW

Applications to UK universities are made and tracked online via [UCAS Apply](#). Applicants can apply to five higher education institutions. Once all conditional offers are received, these are reduced to one first (firm) choice and one second (insurance) choice.

At Harrow, we have a [structured programme in place to support this application process](#). It is vital that boys take the initiative and meet these deadlines.

## WHEN

**We strongly advise that all boys submit a UCAS application in the Upper Sixth**, even those who are strongly committed to a gap year and those who are unsure about their subject choice.

With some universities, it is possible to indicate a desire to take a gap year from the outset of the application process and to apply for entry a year later. However, please note that a deferred entry application cannot be revoked.

**We are able to provide support during this complex process far more easily while a boy is at School. Having offers to aim for also acts as an incentive to greater academic achievement.**

An applicant is not committing himself until his A level results have been received. Even then, offers can be refused and a second application process undertaken. That second application will be all the more familiar given that the applicant has been through the process the year before.





- 1** Conduct detailed research into courses and universities.
- 2** Discuss your progress with the Universities Team and your House Master, particularly before finalising your firm and insurance offers.
- 3** Enter correct information in your UCAS form, with full disclosure of matters such as dyslexia and other SEND diagnoses.
- 4** Ensure your personal statement is entirely your own words.
- 5** Amend your application in light of advice.
- 6** Check whether you need to sit entry tests; register for them if required.
- 7** Check your emails daily and act on university matters quickly (certainly by the deadline).

The personal statement is your opportunity to show admissions tutors that you stand out from the crowd of applicants. Anything you mention must be relevant and demonstrate your interest in the degree subject.

#### HERE TO HELP

If the courses for which you are applying have a UCAS Entry Profile, use any reference to 'qualities sought in applicants' as a guide.

You will be allocated a subject specialist to give you feedback on your personal statement. You should also discuss your draft with your Tutor and where relevant the Head of Subject. Remember, however, that there is no perfect personal statement. The more opinions you seek, the less convincing and cohesive it is likely to become.

Never borrow phrases or ideas from other applicants. UCAS has sensitive anti-plagiarism software that will check your personal statement against others in the current and previous application cycles. Any similarities will be passed on to all your university choices and will probably result in your disqualification.

## STRUCTURE AND STYLE

- You should aim to fill most of the area offered on the form (4,000 characters including spaces) but don't cramp the overall layout.
- Write positively, in full sentences and avoiding exaggerated statements.
- Keep it clear and simple but try to leave an impression of curiosity and enthusiasm.

#### FIRST THREE QUARTERS

##### INTEREST IN THE DEGREE SUBJECT

» An extended essay or a large project should be prominent and possibly even your starting point.

» Otherwise, you might begin with the defining moment when your interest began (for example a geographer peering into the crater of Mt Vesuvius).

» You should then discuss your interest in general terms (for example the wide variety of topics covered, the opportunity to look at ethical issues from a different standpoint).

» Go on to mention specific areas that you have researched. Support this with reference to a few books, periodicals or articles, which your beaks may be able to recommend. Give your opinion on the author's viewpoint rather than simply listing the titles.

» Your Unifrog super-curricular tracking record should be an excellent source of evidence of academic engagement.

» Mention work experience and additional courses, indicating how they helped your decision to apply for the subject in question. Perceptive and reflective commentary on one experience is far more useful than a long list.

» **If you are applying for a subject that you have not studied at A level (for example Engineering, Medicine, Psychology)**, you must justify your application by demonstrating extensive research. Don't let an admissions tutor think that you are looking for an escape route from current subjects.

» **If you are taking a gap year**, your personal statement should include work experience, projects or charity work that can be related to your degree choice.

» In situations where you are applying for a joint honours degree, you may wish to consider adopting a thematic approach to your personal statement.

#### FINAL QUARTER

##### INTERESTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

» Admissions tutors will expect you to have taken advantage of some of the extensive co-curricular activities that Harrow offers.

» Admissions tutors value signs of persistence (for example 'I have played the piano for five years', even if you have never taken Grade 1) but only if an activity pertains to recent time i.e. since Fifth Form.

» Do not give too many co-curricular items as this can suggest that you flit between activities or will have no time in which to fit your studying. It is better to specify ways in which you have benefited.

## UCAS POINTS

Most of the universities to which Harrow boys apply make offers in terms of three A level grades.

Some universities use a points system which is based on the following tariff:

A LEVEL	GRADE	GRADE
56	A*	56
48	A	56
40	B	52
32	C	44
24	D	40
16	E	36
		28
		24
		20

An offer of 120 points might simply specify 'from three A levels' (BBB, ABC, AAD etc.). This provides a little more flexibility in application. For example, if an applicant achieves BBB when they needed ABC on a grade-based offer then they are unlikely to be admitted. On the points-based system they would still have 120 points and therefore be accepted.



## RESULTS DAY

If the required grades are attained, wait for confirmation of your place and sign the acceptance form.

If the required grades for your firm choice are not attained, consult UCAS Track. Your application will be passed automatically to your insurance choice.

If the required grades for your insurance choice are not achieved, consult UCAS Track and the university directly.

If the required grades for your insurance choice are attained, wait for confirmation of your place and sign the acceptance form.

If the insurance choice does not accept you with reduced grades, your application will be eligible to enter Clearing, which will help you to gain a place on a course at another university where there are still spaces.

**You must engage in this process as quickly as possible as places do get taken up rapidly. At the same time, do not rush into taking a place on a course you have not carefully researched or at a university you have not visited.**



### HERE TO HELP

The Academic and Universities Director, Director of Studies and House Masters are available to give advice when A level results are released.



LOWER SIXTH		UPPER SIXTH	
SEPTEMBER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduction to the university application process</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Applicant's section of the UCAS form completed and given to Universities Team (by second weekend of term).</b></li> <li>Registration for BMAT admission tests</li> <li>Oxbridge+ Electives run through the Autumn term on 2ppw</li> </ul>	
OCTOBER		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>House Master written references completed</li> <li>UCAS forms submitted (Oxbridge, Veterinary and Medical by 15 October, others by half-term)</li> </ul>	
NOVEMBER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>European Universities Fair</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oxbridge preparation</li> <li>Oxbridge admissions tests</li> <li>BMAT admission tests</li> </ul>	
DECEMBER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research degree courses and institutions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oxbridge interviews</li> </ul>	
JANUARY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduction to the Vaughan Library's universities section and ucas.com</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oxford and Cambridge offers made</li> </ul>	
FEBRUARY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parents' meeting</li> <li>Oxbridge meeting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>University offers made</li> </ul>	
MARCH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tentative degree choices</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All UK parents complete a student finance application online</li> <li>Art and Design course interviews</li> </ul>	
APRIL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organise work experience for summer holidays</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Art and Design course interviews</li> </ul>	
MAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Registration opens for UCAT admission tests</li> <li>Oxbridge+ Elective</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Final firm and insurance choices submitted to UCAS</li> </ul>	
JUNE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lower Sixth University Preparation Course: begin applications and draft personal statement; Higher Education Fair</li> <li>Deadline for Oxbridge applicants to indicate any Choral or Instrumental Award applications</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A level examinations</li> <li>Correspondence address on UCAS amended</li> </ul>	
SUMMER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work experience</li> <li>Oxbridge preparation</li> <li>UCAT admission tests</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A level results</li> <li><b>Post-A-level advice (we recommend that boys be in the UK when results are published in case they warrant any communication with the universities or Harrow Universities Team)</b></li> </ul>	

## ACADEMIC COURSE

A subject like History or Biology, studied for its own sake, rather than leading directly into a trade or profession (for example Law).

## CAMPUS UNIVERSITY

A university that completely takes over an area and provides its own shops, banks etc., such that the resident student does not have to leave it for any of the usual needs of life.

## CLEARING

Generally affects you if you fail to get the grades needed for the universities you have chosen. It happens mainly in August when the universities find out through the results how many places are not filled with qualified students. They publish these in *The Independent* and on the web – and often make offers below their normal grades to fill the places. At this point, or any time before this, if you decline any offers you hold, or if your grades are not acceptable to your universities, you are in ‘Clearing’ and can make approaches to universities with places and follow this up via UCAS.

## DEGREES

A qualification awarded by a university after a satisfactory level has been achieved.

### UNDERGRADUATE/BACHELOR DEGREES

Most of these are Honours Degrees, which are classified by results into 1, 2:1, 2:2, 3 and Fail. They are entitled BA (Bachelor of Arts), BSc (Bachelor of Science) or BEng (Bachelor of Engineering), but some four-year first degrees are entitled MEng (Master of Engineering) etc. ‘Ordinary Degrees’ are Pass and Fail and are easier to get into, but less highly rated.

### POSTGRADUATE DEGREES

Taken after an undergraduate degree.

(1) MSc or MA – often a one-year taught course in a specialist subject, for example a Geography graduate might do an MSc in river management.

(2) PhD/DPhil – is an Arts or Science research-based degree taking at least three years. After it you would be called a Doctor (non-medical).

## DEGREE APPRENTICESHIP

Offers the chance to combine study with on-the-job vocational training. Often offered as a joint enterprise between a university and an employer. Usually leads to guaranteed employment as well as a cost-free degree.

## HIGHER EDUCATION

University-level education. Distinguish this from further education (post-16 education).

## SANDWICH COURSE

In many vocational courses, especially in engineering and business, instead of doing final exams in the third year, students take up paid placements where they can do serious work for the firm that employs them. Salaries of between £10,000 and £15,000 are common. The student then returns to university for a final year, in which they will often write a dissertation or extended essay, usually drawing on their placement experience.

## STUDENTS’ UNION

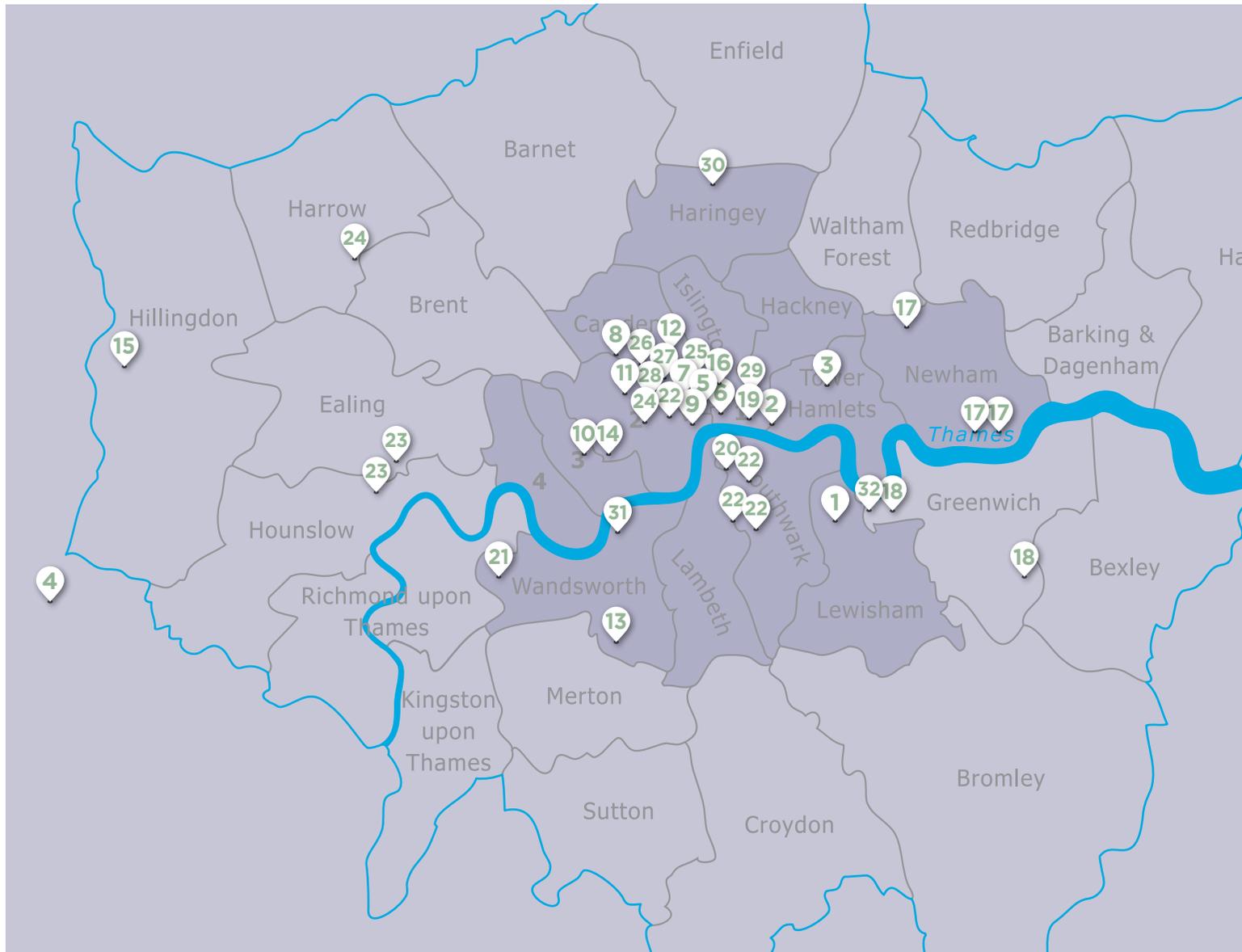
This is an organisation, based in a building of the same name, which provides support, food and entertainment.

## UCAS

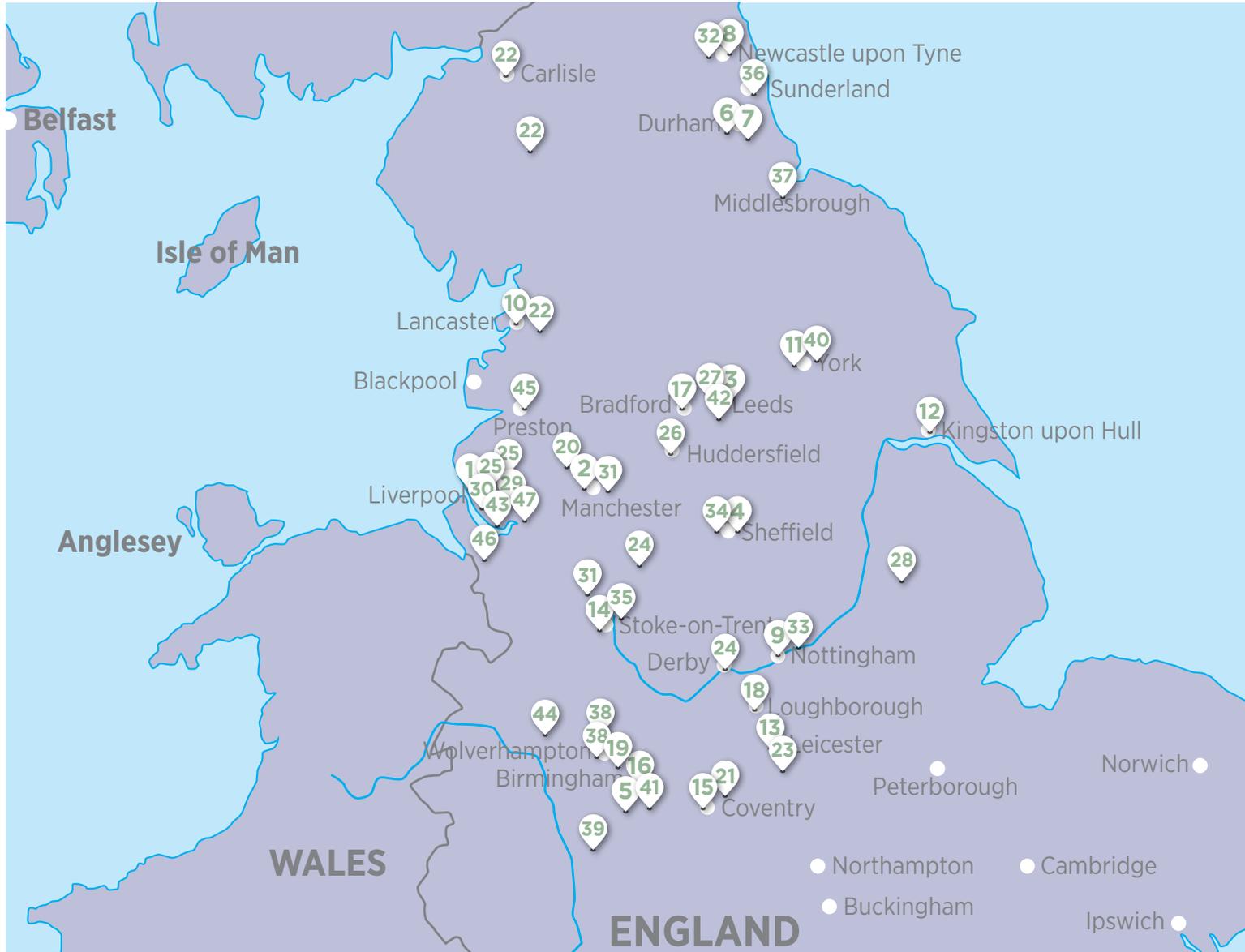
Universities’ and Colleges’ Admissions Service (UCAS). Based in Cheltenham, UCAS acts as an intermediary between applicants and higher education institutions.

## VOCATIONAL COURSE

Some sectors require a specific degree such as Engineering, Medicine or Veterinary Science. These are described as vocational courses.



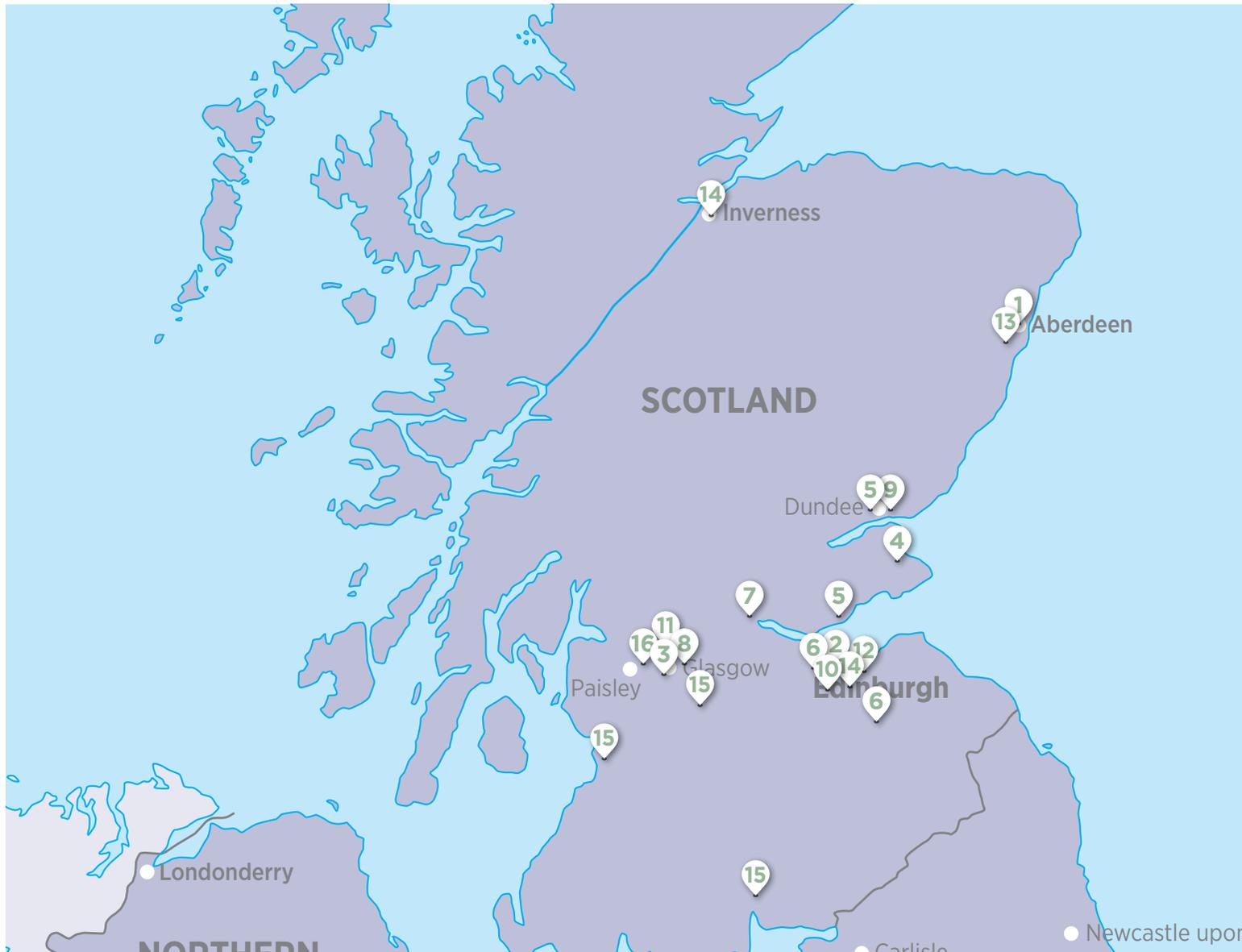
- 1 Goldsmiths (no Science or Engineering courses)
- 2 King's College London (KCL)
- 3 Queen Mary
- 4 Royal Holloway (no Engineering courses)
- 5 University College London (UCL)
- 6 London School of Economics (LSE)
- 7 School of Oriental & African Studies (SOAS)
- 8 Central School of Speech and Drama
- 9 Courtauld Institute of Art (History of Art)
- 10 Heythrop College (Philosophy and Theology)
- 11 Royal Academy of Music
- 12 Royal Veterinary College
- 13 St George's Hospital Medical School
- 14 Imperial College (Science and Engineering)
- 15 Brunel
- 16 City
- 17 East London (Stratford, Barking and Docklands)
- 18 Greenwich (three major campuses in SE London and Kent)
- 19 London Metropolitan
- 20 London South Bank
- 21 Roehampton
- 22 University of the Arts, London (Camberwell, Central St Martin's, Chelsea, London Colleges of Fashion and Communication and Wimbledon)
- 23 West London (Ealing and Brentford)
- 24 Westminster (Central London and Harrow)
- 25 BPP University College of Professional Skills (Business and Law)
- 26 European Business School (Business and Law)
- 27 The College of Law (Business and Law)
- 28 The New College of the Humanities (Humanities)
- 29 Guildhall School of Music and Drama (Performing Arts)
- 30 Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts (Performing Arts)
- 31 Royal Academy of Dance (Performing Arts)
- 32 Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance (Performing Arts)



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|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1</b> Liverpool                                                       | <b>30</b> Liverpool John Moores                                         |
| <b>2</b> Manchester                                                      | <b>31</b> Manchester Metropolitan (other campuses in Crewe and Alsager) |
| <b>3</b> Leeds                                                           | <b>32</b> Northumbria                                                   |
| <b>4</b> Sheffield                                                       | <b>33</b> Nottingham Trent                                              |
| <b>5</b> Birmingham                                                      | <b>34</b> Sheffield Hallam                                              |
| <b>6</b> Durham                                                          | <b>35</b> Staffordshire (Stoke and Stafford)                            |
| <b>7</b> University of Durham, Stockton Campus                           | <b>36</b> Sunderland                                                    |
| <b>8</b> Newcastle                                                       | <b>37</b> Teesside (Middlesbrough)                                      |
| <b>9</b> Nottingham                                                      | <b>38</b> Wolverhampton (additional campuses in Walsall and Telford)    |
| <b>10</b> Lancaster                                                      | <b>39</b> Worcester                                                     |
| <b>11</b> York                                                           | <b>40</b> York St John                                                  |
| <b>12</b> Hull                                                           | <b>41</b> Birmingham Conservatoire (Performing Arts)                    |
| <b>13</b> Leicester                                                      | <b>42</b> Leeds College of Music (Performing Arts)                      |
| <b>14</b> Keele                                                          | <b>43</b> Liverpool Institute for the Performing Arts (Performing Arts) |
| <b>15</b> Warwick                                                        | <b>44</b> Harper Adams University College (Property and Land Studies)   |
| <b>16</b> Aston                                                          | <b>45</b> Central Lancashire (Preston)                                  |
| <b>17</b> Bradford                                                       | <b>46</b> Chester (Chester)                                             |
| <b>18</b> Loughborough                                                   | <b>47</b> Chester (Warrington)                                          |
| <b>19</b> Birmingham City                                                |                                                                         |
| <b>20</b> Bolton                                                         |                                                                         |
| <b>21</b> Coventry                                                       |                                                                         |
| <b>22</b> Cumbria (Lancaster, Penrith and Carlisle)                      |                                                                         |
| <b>23</b> De Montfort (Leicester)                                        |                                                                         |
| <b>24</b> Derby (Derby and Buxton)                                       |                                                                         |
| <b>25</b> Edge Hill (Ormskirk and four other campuses in Liverpool area) |                                                                         |
| <b>26</b> Huddersfield                                                   |                                                                         |
| <b>27</b> Leeds Metropolitan                                             |                                                                         |
| <b>28</b> Lincoln                                                        |                                                                         |
| <b>29</b> Liverpool Hope                                                 |                                                                         |



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|-------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1</b> Oxford                                                   | <b>26</b> Hertfordshire (Hatfield)                                                               |
| <b>2</b> Bristol                                                  | <b>27</b> Kingston                                                                               |
| <b>3</b> Cambridge                                                | <b>28</b> Middlesex (Barnet, Hendon and Trent Park)                                              |
| <b>4</b> Royal Veterinary College (Hertford)                      | <b>29</b> Northampton                                                                            |
| <b>5</b> Reading                                                  | <b>30</b> Oxford Brookes                                                                         |
| <b>6</b> Kent (Canterbury)<br>Kent (Medway)                       | <b>31</b> Plymouth (Plymouth and Exeter)                                                         |
| <b>7</b> Exeter                                                   | <b>32</b> Portsmouth                                                                             |
| <b>8</b> Southampton                                              | <b>33</b> Southampton Solent                                                                     |
| <b>9</b> East Anglia                                              | <b>34</b> University for the Creative Arts (Canterbury, Epsom, Farnham, Maidstone and Rochester) |
| <b>10</b> Essex                                                   | <b>35</b> Winchester                                                                             |
| <b>11</b> Sussex                                                  | <b>36</b> The Arts University College at Bournemouth (Art and Design)                            |
| <b>12</b> Bath                                                    | <b>37</b> University College, Falmouth (Art and Design)                                          |
| <b>13</b> Surrey                                                  | <b>38</b> Royal Agricultural College (Property and Land Studies)                                 |
| <b>14</b> Buckingham                                              |                                                                                                  |
| <b>15</b> Anglia Ruskin (Cambridge)<br>Anglia Ruskin (Chelmsford) |                                                                                                  |
| <b>16</b> Bath Spa                                                |                                                                                                  |
| <b>17</b> Bedfordshire                                            |                                                                                                  |
| <b>18</b> Bournemouth                                             |                                                                                                  |
| <b>19</b> Brighton (Brighton)<br>Brighton (Eastbourne)            |                                                                                                  |
| <b>20</b> UWE                                                     |                                                                                                  |
| <b>21</b> Buckinghamshire New (High Wycombe)                      |                                                                                                  |
| <b>22</b> Canterbury Christ Church (four campuses in Kent)        |                                                                                                  |
| <b>23</b> Chichester (Chichester)                                 |                                                                                                  |
| <b>24</b> Chichester (Bognor Regis)                               |                                                                                                  |
| <b>25</b> Gloucestershire (Gloucester and Cheltenham)             |                                                                                                  |



- 1 Aberdeen
- 2 Edinburgh
- 3 Glasgow
- 4 St Andrews
- 5 Dundee (Dundee and Kirkcaldy)
- 6 Heriot-Watt (Edinburgh and other campuses in Galashiels and Orkney)
- 7 Stirling
- 8 Strathclyde
- 9 Abertay Dundee
- 10 Edinburgh Napier
- 11 Glasgow Caledonian
- 12 Queen Margaret Edinburgh
- 13 Robert Gordon
- 14 University of the Highlands and Islands (13 college bases from Perth to Shetland Isles)
- 15 West of Scotland (Paisley, Ayr, Dumfries and Hamilton)
- 16 Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama (Performing Arts)



- 1 Aberystwyth
- 2 Bangor
- 3 Cardiff
- 4 University of Wales Trinity St David
- 5 Swansea
- 6 Glamorgan, Cardiff and Pontypridd (additional media centre in Cardiff)
- 7 Glyndwr
- 8 University of Wales, Newport (two campuses, one at Caerleon)
- 9 Swansea Metropolitan University
- 10 University of Wales Institute, Cardiff
- 11 Queen's, Belfast
- 12 Ulster (four campuses in Coleraine, Jordanstown, Derry and Belfast)
- 13 Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama (Performing Arts)