

Kelsey Wright	Anglia Ruskin University	Drama and Film
Chloe Rainey	Bath Spa University	Film and Screen Studies
Abi McLaughlin	Bath Spa University	Philosophy and Ethics and Psychology
Sennen Hurley	Bath Spa University	Psychology and Sociology
Katherine Shaw	Bristol UWE	Criminology
Kirra Butcher	Cardiff Metropolitan University	Digital Marketing Management
Lizzie Horniblow	Cardiff University	Physics
Joe Maston	Cardiff University	Psychology
Logan Williams	Cardiff University	Electrical and Electronic Engineering
Callum Birkett	Falmouth University	Game Development: Programming
Caleb Coulter	Leeds Beckett University	Criminology with Psychology
George Found	Newcastle University	Agriculture with Farm Business Management
Vikki Marlow	Solent University (Southampton)	Criminology and Psychology (Foundation)
Walter Tait	Swansea University	Law
Hannah Erasmus	The University of Edinburgh	Biological Sciences
Jessica Herbert	University of Exeter	Modern Languages
Mannie Wellman	University of Exeter	Business and Management
Jade Wilkinson	University of Exeter	Exercise and Sport Sciences
Ben Waters	University of Plymouth	Computer Science (Cyber Security)
Annabel Chapman	University of Plymouth	Law with Foundation
Cody Green	University of Plymouth	Psychology (Foundation)

Beaminster and Colfox Joint Sixth Form



UCAS: A Parents' Guide

Key messages

- Do not be put off by **financial considerations**
- **Research** courses and institutions carefully before applying
- **Spend time** writing a quality application (including personal statement)
- **Use your 5 choices wisely** – be realistic!
- **Ultimately, the quality of the course being offered trumps everything else.**
- **Follow your heart!**

This Year (2023 entry):

- 100% of Sixth Form students receive offers from universities of choice
- A reduction in 'unconditional' offers (from 44% of offers in 2018 – now only one student accepting)
- 25% of students have accepted firm offers at 'Russell Group' institutions

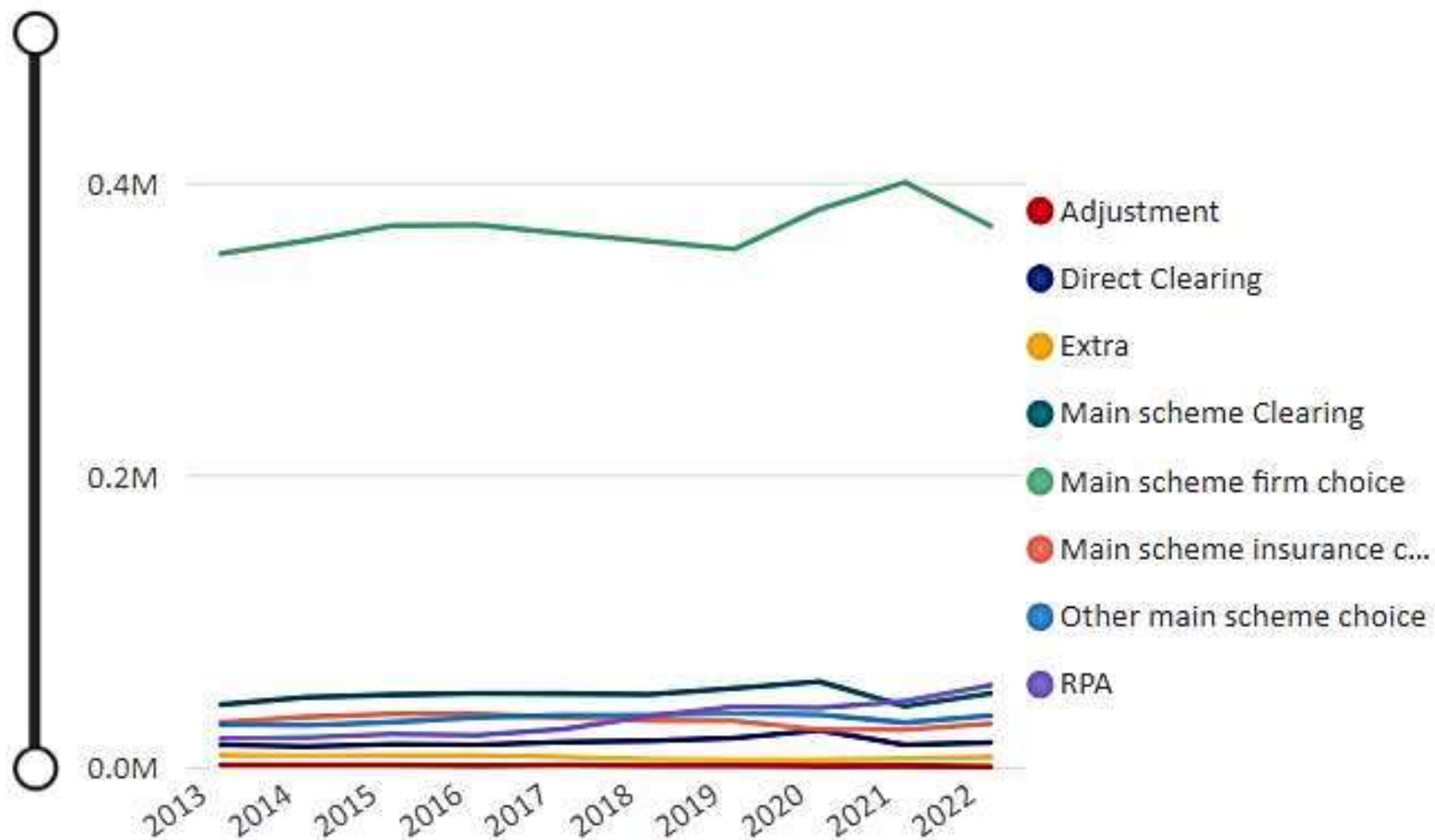
Current year (2019, Beaminster):

- 26 out of 39 applied to uni.
- All but one have received offers (veterinary)
- 10 have accepted unconditional offers
- 14 have accepted conditional offers

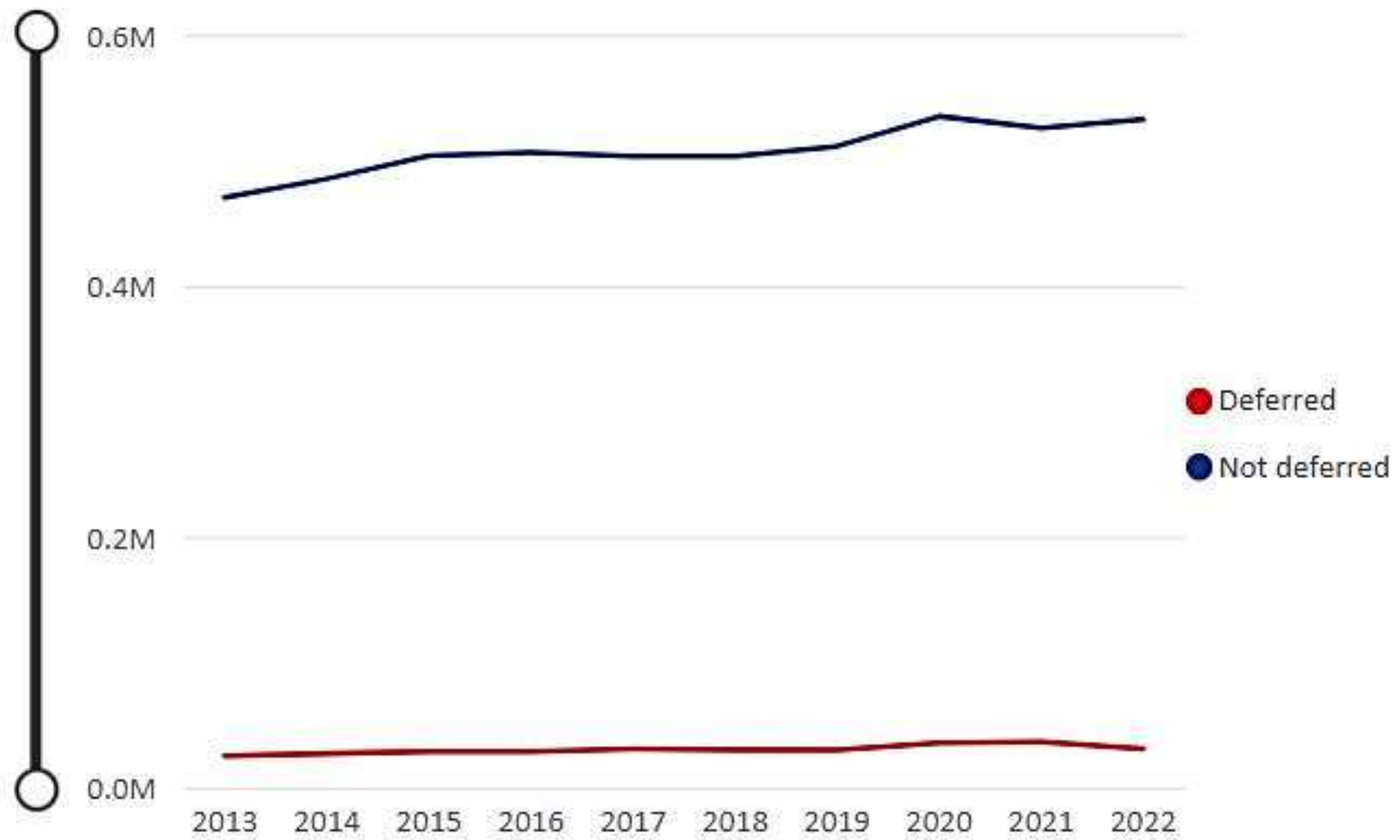
January deadline analysis 2023



Number of accepted applicants

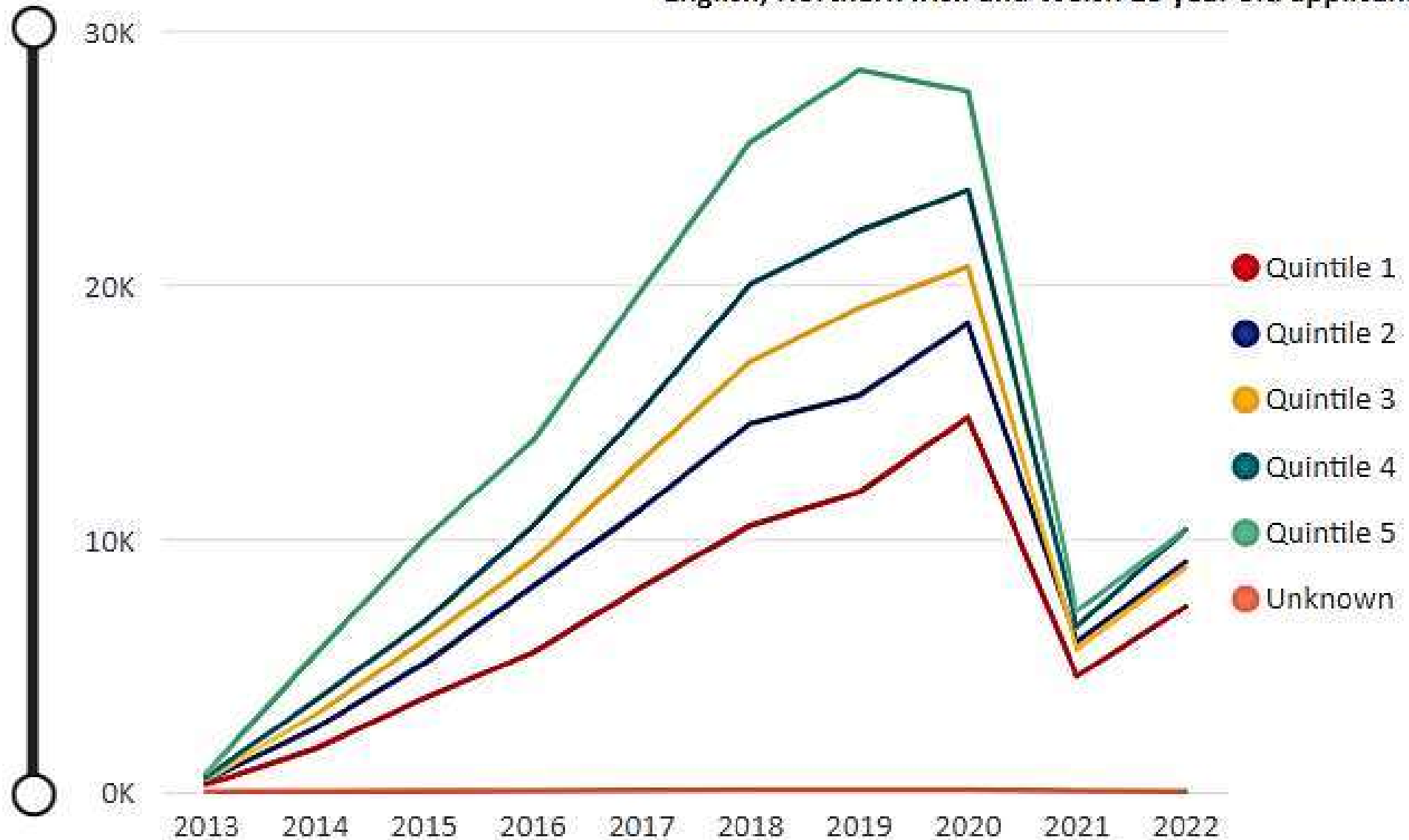


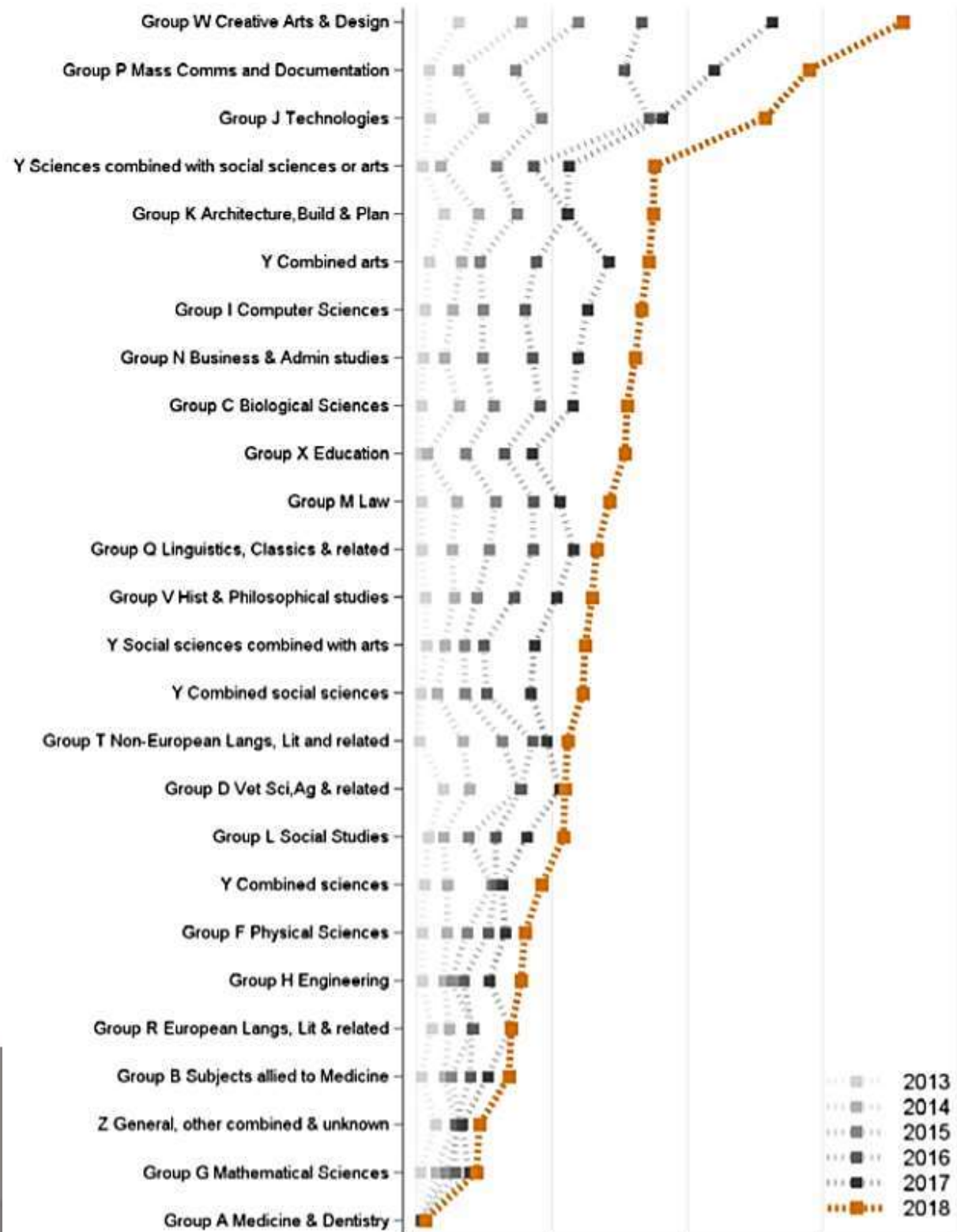
Number of accepted applicants



Applicants who received at least one offer with an unconditional compo... ▾

English, Northern Irish and Welsh 18 year old applicants







349

Institutions
awarding
degrees



52,000
courses

Different Types of Degree

- Single Honours
- Joint Honours
- Tripos
- Thin Sandwich
- Thick Sandwich
- Degrees with a year abroad

Types of Qualification

- B.A. B.Sc. M.A. M.SC.
- B.Eng. LL.B Ph.D. D.Phil.
- Foundation Degrees & Diplomas
- Linear / modular

Small Minority Subjects

Some subjects are found in only one place:

e.g.

- Viking Studies - UCL
- Brewing - Heriot Watt



VETERINARY MEDICINE

- Bristol
- Cambridge
- Edinburgh
- Glasgow
- Liverpool
- Nottingham
- Royal Veterinary College
- Surrey



ENGLISH

- The same subject e.g.
'English' will not be the same course in any 2 institutions – not even a common core

e.g.

- non-Shakespearean
- American literature
- creative writing



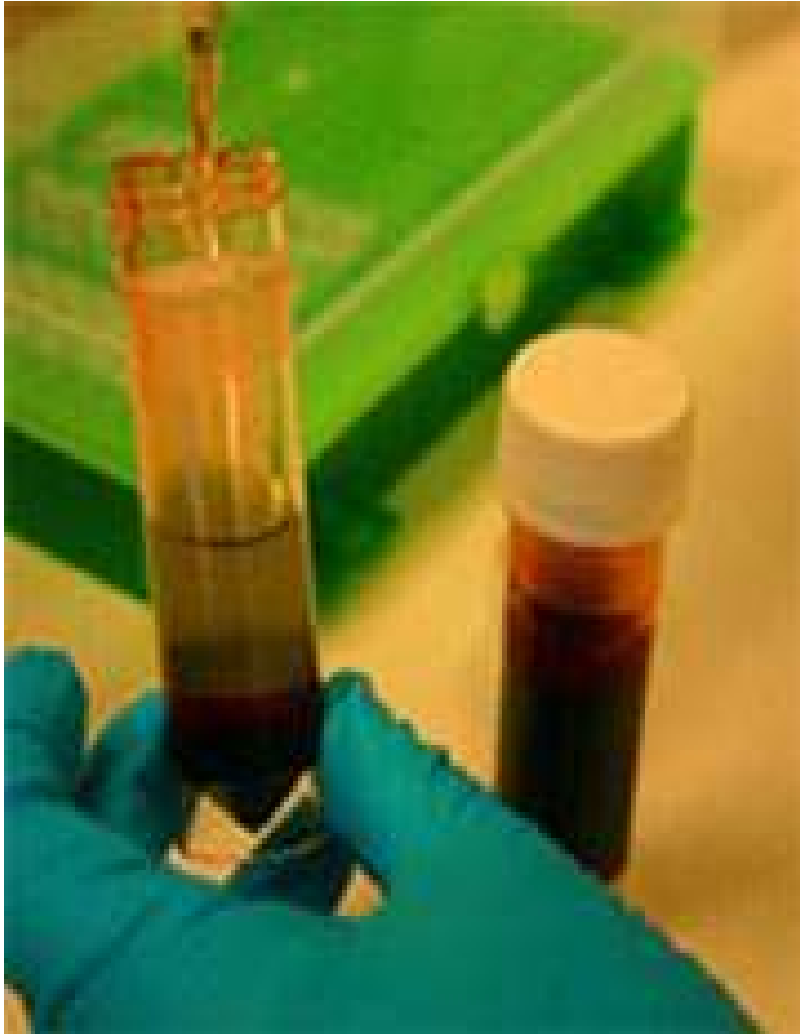
HISTORY

‘Modern History’ in some universities may mean nothing before 1900 but in others 1789, 1485 or even when the Romans left Britain.

- Ancient
- Medieval
- Early Modern
- Modern



BIOLOGY



- Botany
- Human
- Zoology
- Marine Biology
- Genetics
- Biomedicine
- etc.

ENGINEERING

- Civil
- Mechanical
- Electrical
- Aeronautical
- General



SPORTS

- Sports Science

e.g. Loughborough - AAA - Science A Levels

- Studies
- Management
- Coaching
- Psychology
- Therapy



There are all sorts of subject that are not taught or even introduced in school at all...

- Adult Studies
- Anthropology
- Gemmology
- Optometry
- Viticulture



Key Dates

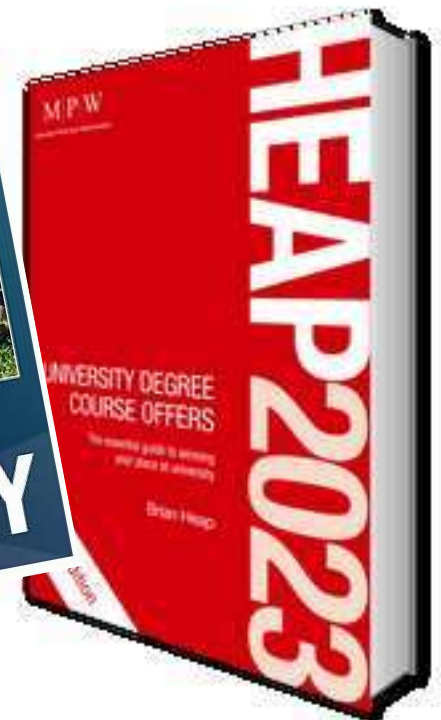
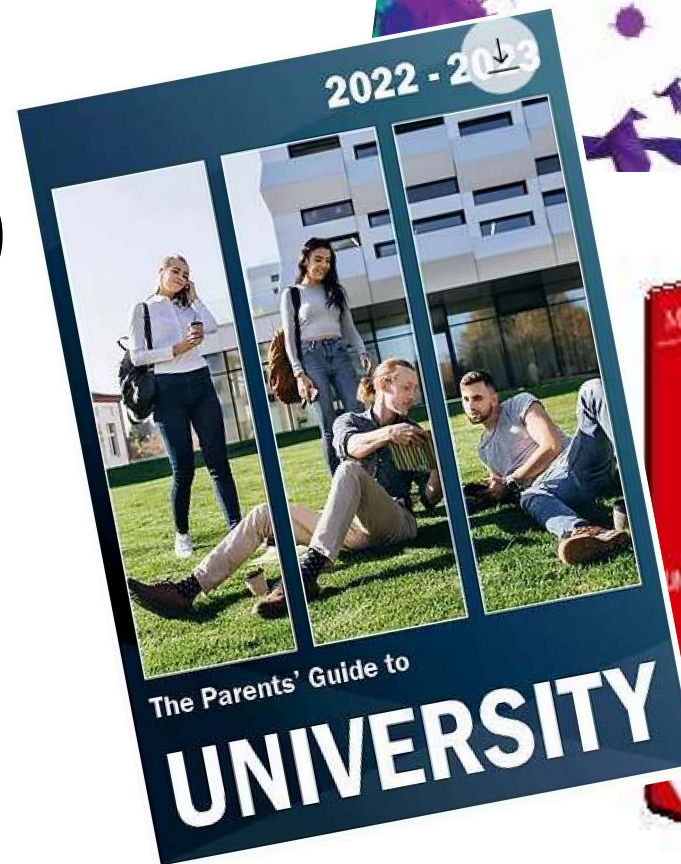
- **16th May** New UCAS cycle opens
- **Term 6** Students start writing personal statements
- **Term 1 (Sept '23)** References written and applications made
- **15th October** Deadline for Oxbridge and medicine
- **25th January** Cycle closes
- **Terms 2 – 6** Offers made, choices made
- **August 17th** Acceptance or clearing

Useful websites

- www.theuniguide.co.uk
- www.ucas.com
- www.heaponline.co.uk
- www.theparentsguideto.co.uk
- www.whatuni.com
- <https://www.savethestudent.org/>
- www.slc.co.uk

Useful publications

- The Good University Guide (gooduniguide.co.uk, £3.99 or free e-book)
- Sunday Times Good University Guide (£17)
- The HEAP guide (£40)
- The Parents' Guide to University (£12.99)



The Process

1. **Students research** and **decide on courses** and locations
2. Students set up **UCAS accounts** (they are responsible for user names and passwords. Think carefully about personal email addresses)
3. Applications made to **5 institutions** (spread! Invisible!)
4. **References** written, **application** sent
5. **Payment of £27** (by card only)
6. UCAS processes application
7. Offers made / interviews
8. Firm acceptance / insurance / UCAS extra
9. Results and places confirmed
10. Finance in place via Student Loans Company

Prospective university students attending fewer open days due to costs – Ucas

Possible applicants from the most disadvantaged backgrounds were more likely to report cutting down on open-day attendance, a survey suggests.

Eleanor Busby • Thursday 13 April 2023 00:01



As told to Jon Ungoed-Thomas

Sat 13 May 2023 19.06 BST



Martin Lewis: 'We must stop calling it a student loan'

The consumer finance champion says most university leavers will spend the rest of their working lives paying off the cost of higher education

● Read more: [Richer graduates in England will pay less for degree than poorer students](#)



📷 'The aim is the state pays less': Martin Lewis on the Peston TV show on 10 May. Photograph: Jonathan Hordle/Shutterstock

Revealed: richer graduates in England will pay less for degree than poorer students

Measures being introduced in August labelled 'deeply regressive' and research suggests nurses and teachers could be among the worst affected

● Read more: [Martin Lewis: 'Don't call it a student loan'](#)

Jon Ungoed-Thomas

Sat 13 May 2023 18.25 BST



UCAS: The process

Key Information for UCAS Registration:

- Website: <https://www.ucas.com>
- Click on '**Sign In**' (top right hand corner) – choose '**students**'
- Select **undergraduate** and choose **2024 entry**
- Choose 'through school / college' when asked how you are applying
- **Buzzword = 2024SJC**
- A personal ID will then be generated. Write this down or screenshot the page

Key factors for successful applications

Some
preparation
of 'plan B'

Thorough and effective
research (95% regret
lack of this!)

Contact with
university
admissions
offices

Timely and effective
management via
Track.

Associated factors
considered (e.g.
student loans,
accommodation)



Submitted by
relevant
deadline

Considered choices -
weighing aspiration
and risk

A strong, focussed,
error-free **personal
statement**

Professional
academic
reference

A level UCAS Tariff

A levels

A*	56 (equiv D* at BTEC)
A	48
B	40
C	32 (28 is A* for EPQ)
D	24 (20 points is A at AS)
E	16

AS levels (40% A level)

A	20
B	16
C	12
D	10
E	6

Extended Project (higher tariff)

A*	28
A	24
B	20
C	16
D	12
E	8

BTEC UCAS Tariff

And their equivalents at full A level

BTEC Diploma

D*D*	112	(A*A*)
D*D	104	(BBD)
DD	96	(AA)
DM	80	
MM	64	
MP	48	(DD)
PP	32	

BTEC Extended Diploma

D*D*D*	168	(A*A*A*)
D*D*D	160	
D*DD	152	
DDD	144	
DDM	128	(ABB)
DMM	112	
MMM	96	(CCC)
MMP	80	(BB)
MPP	64	
PPP	48	



Events and key dates

Open days

Find open days



Current search

Search found 378 items

Open day x

[Reset](#)

Filter by event type:

☒ Open day

Distance

Find open days

Displaying 1 - 50 of 378. Page 1 of 8.

7
JUN

London Metropolitan University - open day event

<https://www.ucas.com/events/london-metropolitan-university-open-day-event-301936>

Mini Open Day - Social Sciences and Humanities / Life Sciences and Computing

Open day • Islington • 7 June 2017 • Undergraduate

7
JUN

University of the Highlands and Islands - open day event

<https://www.ucas.com/events/university-highlands-and-islands-open-day-event-301941>

Open Day

Open day • Inverness • 7 June 2017 • Undergraduate

8

London Metropolitan University - open day event

<https://www.ucas.com/events/london-metropolitan-university-open-day-event-301946>



Entering qualifications

- All completed, certificated qualifications should be entered with relevant date and grade. Even if a U grade or resit(s).
- Qualifications with a future completion or certification date should be entered, with relevant date and result 'Pending'.
- Science practical grade will need to be added in references.

Apply key facts

- Application is entirely online.
- Maximum of five choices.
- Some choice restrictions:
 - medicine, veterinary science, dentistry (4 max!)
 - Oxford or Cambridge (not both!)
- Simple application cost:
 - £27 – for just 1 or 5 applications
- Equal consideration.
- ‘Invisibility’.

Common applicant errors

- Fail to check entry requirements or take admissions tests.
- Qualifications missing or entered incorrectly.
- Inappropriate email address or email address not verified.
- Tick some boxes (e.g. unspent criminal convictions) in error.
- Locked out.
- 14 day Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) cool off.



**KEEP CALM
AND**

**WRITE YOUR
PERSONAL
STATEMENT**

From a university perspective

‘With many highly qualified students applying to university, the personal statement is crucial in helping us identify students with the greatest merit and aptitude for our courses.’

University of Manchester

Decisions...

Universities and colleges will review the:

- personal statement
- reference
- qualifications
- admissions test result
- interview
- portfolio
- audition

You'll get one of three decisions:

- **unconditional** offer
- **conditional** offer
- **unsuccessful**

Applicant replies

Wait for all decisions from all choices, then they can choose one:

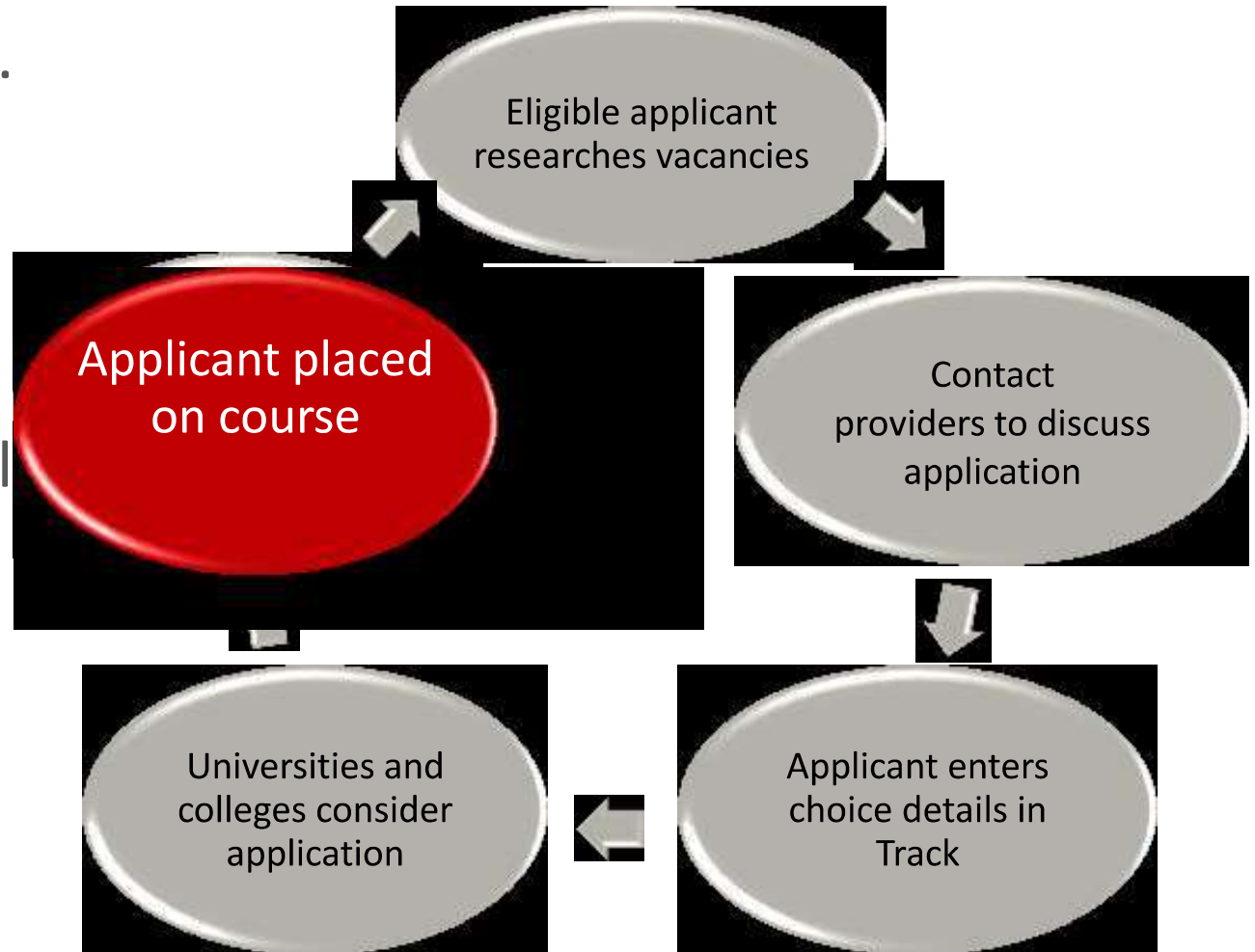
- **firm** – if all conditions are met, where they will be placed
- **insurance** – usually lower conditions in case firm conditions are not met

Any other offers must be **declined**.

They don't have to have an **insurance** (14 day CMA cooling off period).

Clearing process

- Places secured via Track.
- A verbal agreement following initial direct contact must be made.
- Eligible applicants will have a ten digit Personal ID number (PID) and a six digit Clearing number.
- Should be able to quote both to the universities they contact.



References

- **Something Joint Sixth Form does well – the personal touch**
- Similar format to personal statement.
- Should form a partnership with the personal statement.
- Particularly important for competitive courses.
- Should be in line with predicted grades.
- Make sure it is written for the right student.



HIGHER EDUCATION

STUDENT FINANCE

KEY FACTS SESSION

STUDENT LOANS

What are Student Loans?

Funds loaned to you by the government, to help you cover the costs of going to university.

There are two types of loan:

- A **Tuition Fee Loan** - paid to your university to cover the costs of your tuition
- A **Maintenance Loan** - paid to you to help with living costs - like rent, bills, books and socialising

These loans are very different to commercial loans offered by banks. They are more like a tax...

TUITION FEE LOAN

What is a Tuition Fee Loan?

- A Tuition Fee Loan is there to cover the costs of your tuition.
- It's paid directly to your university or college, in three instalments per year.
- If you attend a publicly-funded university or college and it's your first degree (it is for the vast majority of students) you will be eligible for a loan that covers all of your tuition fees

TUITION FEE LOAN

What do Tuition Fees cost?

- The highest amount a publicly-funded university or college in England can currently charge is **£9,250 for a full-time course each year.**
- Some Higher Education institutions have lower maximum fee levels, depending on whether they meet certain legal requirements. To find out more contact the uni or college you're interested in studying at.
- The important thing to remember is that **you will be able to access a tuition fee loan to cover the full amount of your fees at publicly-funded providers.**

TUITION FEE LOAN

How do Student Loans work?

- You apply through **Student Finance England** and the money is paid directly to your chosen university or college, so you don't need to worry about making any payments yourself.
- You won't need to pay anything back –
 - **Until you've left university or college**
and
 - **Until you start earning over £25,000 per year**
(£2083 pm / £480 pw).

MAINTENANCE LOAN



Rent, books, food and socialising are all a big part of university life - and they all cost money.

The government also provides a maintenance – or living costs - loan that is designed to **help towards** your living costs.

The amount of support you can access for living costs depends on your circumstances, including your **household income and where you live and study**.

MAINTENANCE LOAN



How much support could you be entitled to?

The Maintenance Loan available to eligible students for the current academic year (2023/2024) is:

- **Up to £8,400** for students living with parents
- **Up to £9,978** for students living away from home and studying outside London
- **Up to £13,022** for students living away from home and studying in London

Although loans have increased over the years, they have not kept up with inflation!

► Maintenance Loans in England 2023/24

Household Income	Living at home	Away from home (outside London)	Away from home (London)
£25,000 or less	£8,400	£9,978	£13,022
£30,000	£7,694	£9,265	£12,297
£35,000	£6,988	£8,552	£11,571
£40,000	£6,282	£7,839	£10,845
£45,000	£5,576	£7,125	£10,120
£50,000	£4,869	£6,412	£9,394
£55,000	£4,163	£5,699	£8,668
£58,291	£3,698	£5,229	£8,191
£60,000	£3,698	£4,986	£7,943
£62,343	£3,698	£4,651	£7,603
£65,000	£3,698	£4,651	£7,217
£70,000	£3,698	£4,651	£6,491
£70,040+	£3,698	£4,651	£6,485

Mind the gap!

- As mentioned, maintenance loans have not kept up with inflation
- Even the maximum loan available is unlikely to cover costs of living (accommodation, food, transport, etc.)
- Maintenance Loans are calculated using **exact household income** rather than a band (e.g. £42,345 instead of £40,000 – £45,000)
- Students will therefore need to plug the gap...

How to apply for a Current Year Income Assessment

- You'll need to provide your household income from the previous tax year (6th April 2021 – 5th April 2022, for example).
- If you think household income for the **current** tax will be significantly lower than in the previous tax year, you can apply for what's known as a **Current Year Income Assessment**.
- At the end of tax year, you'll need to submit further evidence to prove what your household income was. If it was lower than expected, you may get some extra Maintenance Loan. But if it's higher than you estimated, you'll have to repay some straight away.

REPAYING



Interest on your loan

Like any loan, interest will be charged but student loans are not like ordinary bank loans in important ways. Student loans are 'cheap' money and should be regarded as a tax.

- Due to rising inflation, the interest rate is currently capped at 6.9% (usually rate of inflation +9%).
- As student loans are usually linked to inflation, this is likely to change...
- **Currently, Plan 5 loans (this cohort) are 9%**
- Importantly, Plan 5 loans are written off after 40 years (previously 30 years)

REPAYING



When do you start repaying your loan?

You will only be required to start making any repayments

- From the April after you've graduated - and
- If you're earning above the threshold of £25,000 per year - and
- You only ever repay a percentage of what you earn above that threshold

Your Tuition Fee Loan and Maintenance Loan are combined for repayment purposes, to keep it simple. And the student finance system is designed to ensure your repayments are always affordable.

REPAYING



How much will you pay back?

Once you're earning over the £25,000 threshold:

- You'll pay 9% of anything you earn **above that £25,000 per year.**
- Your employer will deduct this from your salary automatically, like taxes.

So, let's say your salary is £27,000 a year - you'll pay 9% of £2,000.

That's £15 pounds a month.

OTHER FINANCIAL SUPPORT



You may be entitled to other types of financial support if you choose to go onto higher education – both from the Government and from your chosen university or college.

- If you have a recognised disability, you may be entitled to **Disabled Students Allowance**.
- There are also grants available if you have **a child or an adult who is financially dependent on you**.
- Students studying **nursing, midwifery and allied health profession courses** may be eligible for supplementary funding

OTHER FINANCIAL SUPPORT



Other bursaries and scholarships

- Many universities and colleges offer their own bursaries and scholarships to students.
- Institutions set their own eligibility criteria for this type of support - for example, you may be eligible if you are from a low-income household, or if you're a particularly high achiever in a specific subject.
- Speak directly to the university or college you're interested in to find out if there is anything available - **sometimes the bursaries are not widely advertised.**

Key messages

- Do not be put off by **financial considerations**
- **Research** courses and institutions carefully before applying
- **Spend time** writing a quality application (including personal statement)
- **Use your 5 choices wisely** – be realistic!
- **Ultimately, the quality of the course being offered trumps everything else.**
- **Follow your heart!**