

A Parent's Guide to Higher Education

Amanda Kenningley

Deputy Head of Schools and
Colleges Liaison Service



Reach New Heights



What do you need to know?

What should happen & when

How to choose a course

How to choose a university

How to apply

What you can do to help



Timeline

When?	What?
Year 12	Research, HE Fairs, Open Days
September Y13	Apply for course
October	Oxbridge, Medicine, Dentistry and Vet Science
October to January	School/College deadline; UCAS deadline
Open ended	Interviews and offers
February - June	Apply for financial support; UCAS Extra
August	Results
August	Clearing
September/October	Enrol at university

What to study?

Familiar or
new subject?

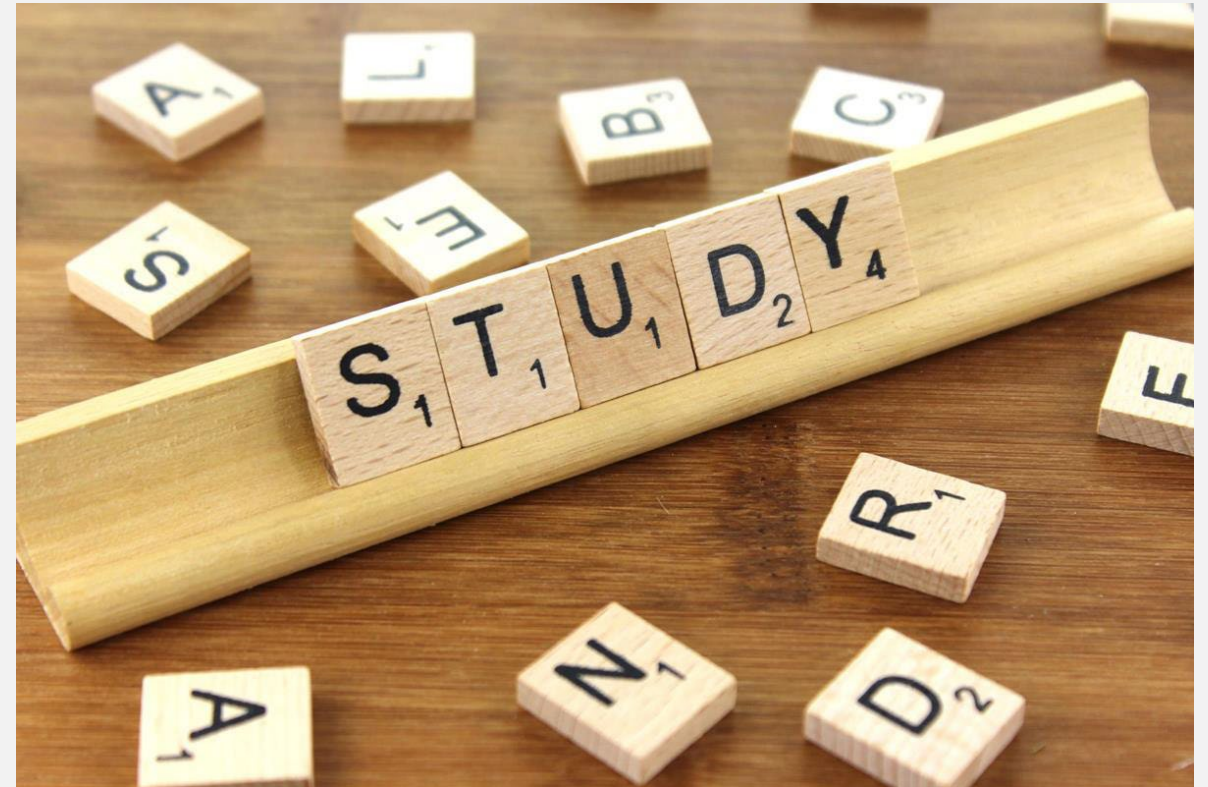
Vocational or
non-
vocational?

Entry
requirements?

Qualification?

Career
aspirations?

Teaching &
assessment?

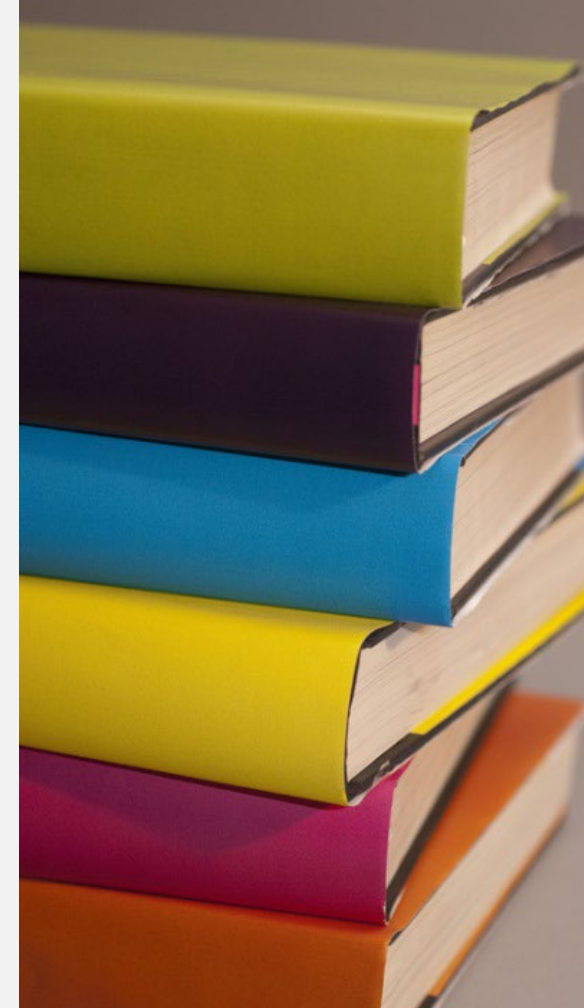


Things to consider

Single/joint/
Combined
honours

Placement
(sandwich)
courses

Niche
subjects



Entry requirements

A Levels	
Grade	UCAS points
A*	56
A	48
B	40
C	32
D	24
E	16

BTECs	
Grade	UCAS points
D*D*D*	168
D*D*D	160
D*DD	152
DDD	144
DDM	128
DMM	112
MMM	96
MMP	80
MPP	64
PPP	48



Entry requirements for university courses will be displayed in the prospectus, through the Universities website and on UCAS

[UCAS Tariff Points - what are they and how do they work?](#)

Compare courses/universities

The screenshot shows the Discover Uni website interface. At the top left is the Discover Uni logo. To its right are navigation links: "Thinking about uni", "Starting uni", "Further information", and "Cymraeg". On the far right of the top navigation bar are three buttons: "Search" (with a magnifying glass icon), "Compare" (with a double-headed arrow icon), and "Saved" (with a bookmark icon). Below the navigation bar, the main heading reads "Thinking about your uni choices?" followed by the sub-heading "Search and compare undergraduate courses in the UK". To the right of this text are three overlapping triangles in purple, red, and orange. Below the heading is a search section titled "Search by course name and/or institution". It contains two input fields: "Course name" (with a magnifying glass icon) and "Institution name" (with a dropdown arrow). A yellow "Search" button is positioned below these fields. To the right of the search section is the "Course Wizard" section, which features a purple dotted arrow icon, the title "Course Wizard", and the text "Answer 4 questions to find courses relevant to me". A yellow "Start Now" button is located below this text. At the bottom of the page, a purple banner displays the text "You have 0 courses saved" with a yellow circle containing the number 0, followed by a link to "View your courses".

A typical day at university



Lectures



Seminars



Tutorials



Lab work



Studio work



Independent Study



Where to study?

- Home or away
- Cost of living
- Available support
- Course availability
- Academic facilities
- Social opportunities



University community

- Academic
- Finance
- Social
- Pastoral, health and faith
- Careers advice and guidance
- Disability services:
 - Disabled applicants can contact Disability Services before joining the University to discuss the support or adjustments they will require during their studies. Disabled applicants may be eligible for the Disabled Students' Allowance – we offer support and guidance on this before starting your course. The earlier you apply the better.
 - How to get in touch:
 - disability@hud.ac.uk or 01484 471001
 - <https://students.hud.ac.uk/help/disability/>



Average student accommodation prices

(Accommodation prices provided by The Student Crowd Student Accommodation League Table 2026)

University Town/City	Average cost per week
Huddersfield	£136
Liverpool	£234
York	£237
Leeds	£249
Manchester	£279
Nottingham	£188
Central London	£460

- Figures quoted are average cost of student accommodation in university towns and cities, including a mix of accommodation types.
- Check contracts/schedule for payment details
- Private housing could be much cheaper but a different way of living

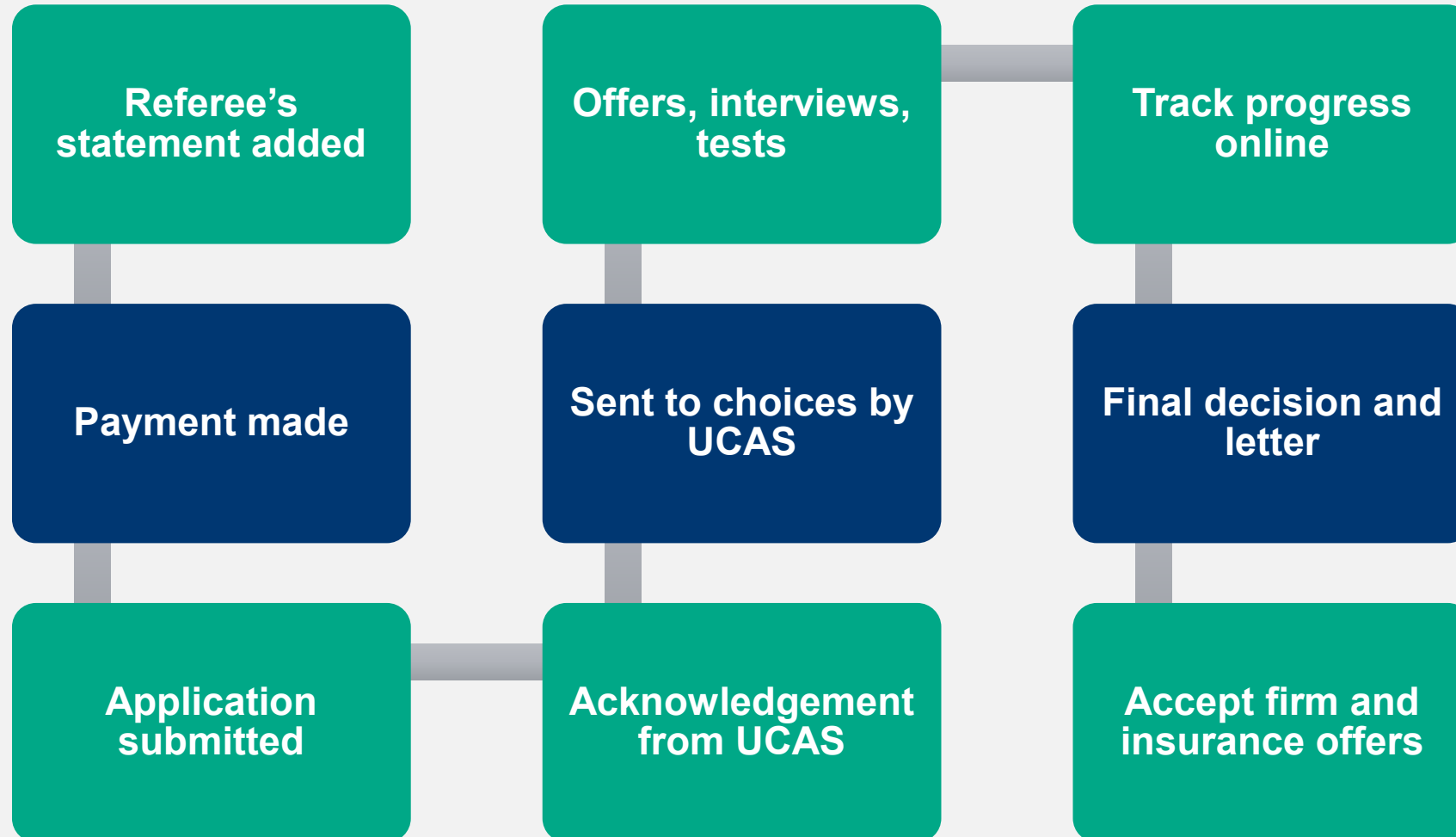
How to apply

- Universities and Colleges Admissions Service
- Apply online, one application covers all, maximum of 5 choices
- Fee payable – 2026 entry £28.95 for up to 5 choices - **Free school meals application fee waiver**: If your child has received UK government funded free school meals at any point during their secondary education, they will be eligible to have the application fee waived.
- UCAS sends applications on to University choices

UCAS



What happens next?



What your son/daughter can do now

Talk to teachers,
staff and careers
advisers

Look at UCAS
guide/website and
Discover Uni
website

Look at student
finance website

Visit HE Fairs and
open days

Look at
prospectuses,
leaflets and
brochures

Talk to friends,
family and current
students



How parents can help



Visit open days

Help with insurance, mobile phone?

Check accommodation contracts

Homesickness

Food shopping!

Help with course equipment, bedding, cutlery?

Support from C&K Careers

- C+K offers impartial careers information, advice and guidance to young people and adults about all their options. C+K careers advisers can support them with applications to higher education, apprenticeships and employment.
- Advisers can be contacted at schools, colleges or through the C+K Chat service.
- The C+K Chat service is for young people and parents/carers living in Calderdale and Kirklees and is available Monday to Friday, 10.00am-4.00pm.

- Ring: **01484 213856**
Email: chat@ckcareers.org.uk
Or use the **Facebook** messenger service: www.facebook.com/CKCareers
- Careers information is available at <https://ck.mydirections.co.uk>. Young people can ask their careers adviser for a log in.
- To view local job and apprenticeship vacancies see <https://ck.mydirections.co.uk/vacancies> and follow C+K Careers Recruitline on Facebook



Headstart Huddersfield

Headstart is our fair access scheme. It offers eligible Level 3 students, interested in applying to the University of Huddersfield, the opportunity to gain an extra 8 UCAS points.

In 500 words, tell us about your experience at one of our Open Days or Taster Days.

Open now for 2026 entry

(not available for any other years of entry)

*If your child is in Y12 and would be coming in 2027 then they will need to wait until the next cycle which starts again on 1st June.



Check your eligibility and apply online:
<https://hud.ac/headstart>

Watch the [Headstart video](#)

Final points

- University contract is with the student
- Remember application deadlines
- No age limit, no rush
- Big life change for the whole family
- Dedicated webpages for parents and carers of prospective students:
hud.ac.uk/undergraduate/parents-and-carers/



Undergraduate Parents and carers

Information for parents and carers of prospective students

Going to university is an exciting time. It marks a big life change, not just for students but also for their parents or carers and can at times can seem like a complicated and overwhelming decision to make.

Rest assured, in this area of our website you'll find information to guide you through the process so you know what to do and when. You'll also discover useful information that will help you to provide the best support you can.

Remember, you're not on your own: there's a large amount of advice available via school staff, careers advisers, external agencies and universities who want your son or daughter to make the right choice for them and an informed one.

Parents **&** Supporters

Newsletter

*Your guide to supporting
a young person through
exploring, applying to
and attending University.*



**Scan here
to sign up!**



Thank you for listening

University of
HUDDERSFIELD
Inspiring global professionals

2026 Open Days:

Saturday 25 April

Saturday 20 June

Wednesday 29 July

Saturday 26 September

Wednesday 21 October

Saturday 28 November

hud.ac.uk/open-days

TEF
2023

Overall: **Gold**

Student experience: **Gold**

Student outcomes: **Gold**

Teaching Excellence Framework

Ofsted
Outstanding
Provider

