

ARMED FORCES PARENT GUIDE

SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD WITH
THEIR UNIVERSITY
APPLICATION



WHY UNIVERSITY?

University is a big commitment, but by getting a degree your child will be making a big investment in their future. For many young people, it is also their first taste of independence, and an exciting opportunity to try new activities.

So, what are the benefits?

It opens up a wide range of career options

- A university degree is essential for some professions, for example if your child wants to become a doctor or an architect.
- Many other jobs will only recruit people with a degree.

It will help them to become career-ready.

- Your child may have the opportunity to study overseas, which can be appealing to some employers.
- University life will give your child the opportunity to develop transferable skills such as teamwork, time management and critical thinking, which are all crucial skills for the work place.
- Universities offer careers advice and work experience opportunities

It's fun!

- University is life changing! Your child will meet new people, grow in confidence and develop as a person.
- For many young people, going to university means leaving home, enjoying new freedoms and having new responsibilities.



THE APPLICATION PROCESS

YEAR 12

SPRING - SUMMER TERM

Begin to discuss with your child what they are interested in studying

MARCH - JUNE

Your child's school/college may offer to take them to a UCAS Convention. These are a great opportunity to them find out more about different universities and speak to their staff.

SUMMER - EARLY AUTUMN

Plan to attend Open Days (physical and virtual). Open Days will give you and your child the opportunity to view accommodation, speak to academics and find out more about each university. They are also a great opportunity to visit a new place and decide if you child can see themselves living there.

SEPTEMBER

UCAS applications will open and your child will be able to submit an application.

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER

Your child can use this time to write their application, which includes a personal statement and other details such as their predicted grades.

Universities will also run Visit Days, too.

LATE AUTUMN - SPRING

Universities will begin to send offers via UCAS and some will invite your child for an interview.

JANUARY

UCAS applications close.

EASTER

Your child will need to decide on a first and second choice university based on the offers from their five applications.

MAY

Deadline for applying for student finance.

AUGUST

Results Day!



YEAR 13

THE APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications to study a higher education course are processed on UCAS. Your child can apply for up to five courses in total. Your child will need to register on the website and create a username and password.

There are seven sections to complete on the application, including a personal statement (we'll tell you more about this later!) There is also a section at the end for their teacher to write a reference.

Your child does not have to fill the form in all at once. Once they have registered they can go in and out of the form and save as they go, and they can edit sections too.

If your child is applying through their school or college, their form will first go to the school/college before it goes to UCAS. They will check the form, add a reference and then send it to UCAS.

Once the form has been submitted, your child may be invited for an interview by the universities or to a Visit Day.

Universities will let UCAS know when they have made a decision and their online application will be updated.



There are three different types of offers:

Conditional Offer: an offer of a place that depends on your child getting certain grades in their current course or courses.

Unconditional Offer: some universities may make this type of offer regardless of if the student has received their results or not. This means the university will give your child a place whatever grades they achieve in their assessments.

Unsuccessful Application: where the university has decided to not make an offer.

PERSONAL STATEMENTS

WHY WE ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILD TO MENTION THEIR ARMED FORCES BACKGROUND, AND WHAT TO SAY.

In our student guide, we explain to students how they can use their UCAS personal statement to demonstrate strengths, or describe challenges they have faced, specifically around growing up in the Armed Forces.

This is because universities and colleges understand that service children may have experienced disruption to their education, or not been able to participate in extra-curricular activities. They are also aware that there is extra pressure on a young person who may have experienced a parent or carer being deployed. There are also lots of positives to mention, including adapting to change, picking new things up quickly, and studying independently. Universities and colleges will use this contextual information to support a student's individual application.

Some of the things we encourage students to mention include:

- The number of schools they have attended
- If they have any care responsibilities (e.g., when a parent is deployed)
- Gaps in their education (e.g. Moving to a new school, changing GCSE options etc)
- Their ability to cope and adapt to change and separation
- Their ability to learn new skills quickly

At the moment, there is **no checkbox for students to declare that they are from a military service background**, which means a university or college will only be able to get this information if it is shared on the personal statement and/or teacher reference. What this also means is that students only have to share this information if they want to.

It is also worth remembering that universities and colleges are interested in a student's military service background even if the parent is no longer serving in the military or hasn't for a number of years.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

All students who apply for an undergraduate degree are eligible to apply for a loan to cover tuition fees and living expenses. Students from a military service background could get extra financial help depending on their circumstances. This could be from universities themselves, or from government and charity funding pots. In some cases, eligibility might depend on whether the parent is still currently serving, and where they are based.

If you would like to explore this further, we've found some funding opportunities for you to look at:

- **Distance Learning Funding** - You may be eligible for funding through Student Finance England for distance learning courses if you are a child, step child, or adoptive child living with a member of the UK Armed Forces serving overseas. [Contact Student Finance England for more details.](#)
- **School Children's visits** - Children of UK Armed Forces undertaking their first degree may be eligible for three return journeys to visit their family throughout each academic year. Details can be found in the MOD JSP 752 Tri-Service Regulations for Expenses and Allowances or you can find out more [here.](#)
- **Bereavement Scholarship Scheme** - Tuition fee and maintenance scholarships for children whose parent died while in service. Find out more [here.](#)



Once your child has decided which universities they are applying to, it's a good idea to look on their websites for any scholarship or additional funding opportunities that they provide to see if your child is eligible for any of them.

WAYS TO SUPPORT: OUR TOP TIPS

**SIGN UP TO THE UCAS
PARENT NEWSLETTER**



**PRINT OFF THE
UCAS
DEADLINES**



**RESEARCH INTO
SCHOLARSHIPS FOR
ARMED FORCES
STUDENTS**



**ATTEND VIRTUAL OR
PHYSICAL OPEN
DAYS**



FURTHER READING

[UCAS - Students from a UK Armed Forces Background](#)

[SCiP Alliance - Making the most of my assets](#)



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