

# ARMED FORCES STUDENT GUIDE

## APPLYING FOR UNIVERSITY



# THE APPLICATION PROCESS

Applying for a higher education course takes place on the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS).

You can use UCAS to apply for a maximum of five higher education courses. The UCAS form is completed online, where you will fill in lots of personal information and your exam results so far.

You will also write a personal statement about why you want to study the course you are applying for (we'll tell you more about that later!)

Your school/college will need to write a reference for you and provide your predicted Level 3 predicted grades.

The deadline for UCAS applications is in January.



## WHAT HAPPENS AFTER I HAVE SUBMITTED MY APPLICATION?

UCAS will send your application to each institution you have applied for. Admissions staff at each institution will assess your application and process a decision about whether they want to offer you a place on their course.

They will then make you an offer to study (a "conditional" or "unconditional" offer) or they will make your application unsuccessful. You can access the decisions on UCAS Apply and Track.

### CONDITIONAL

An offer of acceptance providing you achieve the course grades (and any other criteria) set by the university/college

### UNCONDITIONAL

You've already met the entry requirements for a college or university and your upcoming results will not affect this decision.

# THE APPLICATION PROCESS

YEAR 12

## **SPRING - SUMMER TERM**

Start to consider what you might like to study and researching universities.

## **MARCH - JUNE**

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

## **JULY**

Start to create a list of courses and universities you are interested in.

## **SUMMER - EARLY AUTUMN**

Plan to attend Open Days (physical and virtual)

## **SEPTEMBER**

UCAS applications Open

## **OCTOBER - NOVEMBER**

Write your application and discuss with your Careers Advisor and/or Tutor. Your application can be submitted now, if you are ready. Universities will also run Visit Days and interviews during this time, too.

## **LATE AUTUMN - SPRING**

Universities will begin to send offers via UCAS.

## **JANUARY**

UCAS applications close.

## **EASTER**

Decide on your first and second choice universities

## **MAY**

Deadline for applying for student finance.

## **AUGUST**

Results Day!

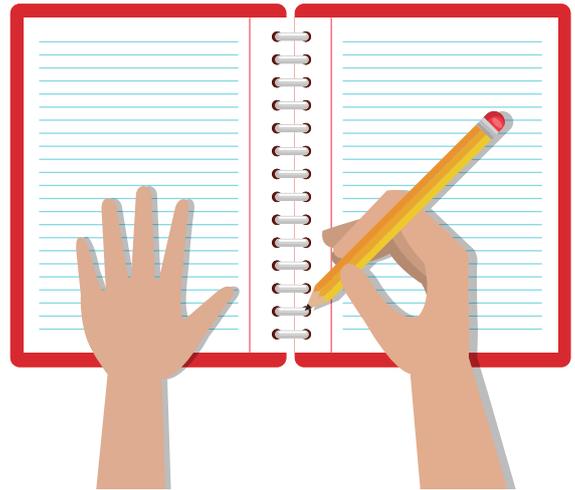
Check out the UCAS website for more information about deadlines!

YEAR 13

# WRITING A PERSONAL STATEMENT

Whether you want to demonstrate your strengths, or describe challenges you have faced, the UCAS personal statement is your opportunity to tell the university or college you are applying to a little bit about who you are. This can include your experience of growing up in the Armed Forces.

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.



But also remember that growing up as a service child isn't all about negative experiences. You could also use your personal statement to demonstrate and showcase the skills you have had to develop to adapt to change, pick new things up quickly, and study independently.

Some of the things you could mention include:

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

For more detailed information on how to write a personal statement please check out our booklet, "[How to Write a Personal Statement](#)"

# FINANCIAL SUPPORT

All students who apply for an undergraduate degree are eligible to apply for a loan to cover tuition fees and living expenses. As a student from a military service background, you could get extra financial help depending on your circumstances. This could be from universities themselves, or from government and charity funding pots.

To get you started, we've found several funding opportunities, that you might like to explore further:

- **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.](#)



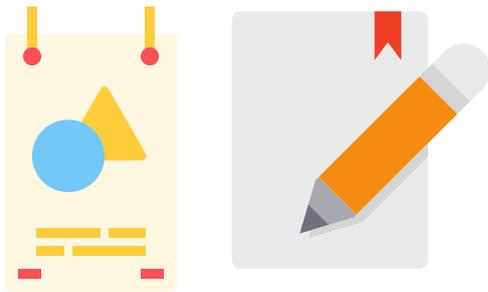
Once you have decided which universities you are applying to, it's a good idea to look on their websites for any scholarship or additional funding opportunities that they provide to see if you are eligible for any of them.

# THINGS TO CONSIDER!

HERE ARE A FEW THINGS TO THINK ABOUT WHEN APPLYING TO UNIVERSITY...

## WHAT DO YOU ENJOY?

What subjects do you currently enjoy? Or would you like to try something new, which you are interested in?



## ASSESSMENT STYLES

Different universities assess courses in different ways. Some assess using exams, whereas others assess using essays or posters! Which would suit you?

## HOME OR AWAY?

Would you prefer to study and stay near home, or move further away?



## YOUR DREAM JOB

What is your dream job? What course could lead you into that industry?

# TOP TIPS

## 1. SPEAK TO YOUR TEACHERS

Speak to your teachers about including information about your military service background in their UCAS reference.

There is lots of support available for anyone who wants to apply for higher education - online and at school/college. Make sure you check out the UCAS website for up-to-date information on courses and the application process.

## 2. DO YOUR RESEARCH

There is lots of support available for anyone who wants to apply for higher education - online and at school/college. Make sure you check out the UCAS website for up-to-date information on courses and the application process.

We also recommend you speak to the Careers team and your Tutor at your school/college. They will be able to help you make decisions based on your predicted grades.

## 3. ATTEND OPEN DAYS

Open Days are the perfect opportunity for you to visit the university and find out what it is like to study there. You will also be able to speak to current students and also the staff teaching on each course. You can also view accommodation and other facilities.

If you can't attend an Open Day, lots of universities are now running Virtual Open Days, too!

## 4. IT IS YOUR EXPERIENCE

Going to university is your individual and unique experience, so make choices which are the best for you!

# FURTHER READING

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

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



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