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# Higher Education

SEPTEMBER 2022 – YEAR 14

# What will I do?





## Select a course...

- Choose something that interests you
- Choose something useful (for your chosen career)
- Choose something you can achieve. Acceptance to a particular course will be based on the UCAS points students achieve in August from their A Levels

How many UCAS Points do I have?

Use the following to calculate how your AS and A Level grades are converted into UCAS Points:

AS Level	A Level	UCAS Points
–	A*	56
–	A	48
–	B	40
–	C	32
–	D	24
A	–	20
B	E	16
C	–	12
D	–	10
E	–	6



## Please remember....

Many sixth formers do not know what they want to do eventually; that's the norm.

Approximately 40% of all graduate careers are not related to the subject studied at university.

1. Outstanding journalists are far more likely to have read English Literature, History or Politics than Journalism at university.
2. Lawyers can study a subject they're passionate about, get a very good degree and then "convert to law".
3. Chemists can become City bankers and politicians

# So sometimes other things are more important than the subject studied...



- Class of degree;
- Ability, initiative and determination;
- Internships/work placements/volunteering;
- University references
- The length of all courses will vary, so look into this carefully (Could be anything between 1 and 7 years)



Results are what will give you options after  
school.

Work your hardest  
Do your best



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**What are my options?**



## University

Applying to university or higher level education can be a daunting process. The careers team are here to help and have provided links to information below which will help you understand the process.

The links below provide opportunity to compare universities and courses:

- <https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/league-tables/rankings>
- <https://www.theuniguide.co.uk/>





UCAS



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The Universities and Colleges Admissions Service is a UK-based organisation whose main role is to operate the application process for 5 courses at universities in the UK. This is the route most students take.

<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate>



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## Northern Ireland: QUB & UU

If you want to stay in Northern Ireland read the university guides and prospectus closely.

- Grades will determine your future. You must stress this to students.
- Does a student need to be doing 4 subjects? If grades drop to AABB, the offer of AAA will not be met.
- What contingency plans do they have in place?





# CAO

The Central Applications Office (**CAO**) (**Irish**: An LárOifig Iontrála) is the organisation responsible for overseeing undergraduate applications to colleges and **universities** in the Republic of **Ireland**. This will allow students additional applications on top of their UCAS choices. Students are encouraged to consider this pathway in addition to UCAS.

**You can apply for up to 10 courses and don't need to write a personal statement.**

<http://www.cao.ie/index.php>

# University allows your child to....



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- Further particular academic interests and improves specialist knowledge
- Develop new skills and personal qualities – independence, self-reliance, adaptability and the ability to communicate effectively, improving transferable skills
- Obtain a better job
- Graduates experience quicker promotion and earn more money



# Good reasons not to go to university.....

- If they get a job the moment they leave school they'll make money now and not be in debt.
- A degree may be completely irrelevant to their ambitions
- If they are a good employee they'll have a head start on the career ladder. There are plenty of good role models.
- Some management trainee programmes and apprenticeships for 18+ students are excellent
- They may have had enough with education, essays exams...
- <https://www.ucas.com/alternatives-to-university>

# Higher Level Apprenticeships



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Some students may be interested in a Higher Level Apprenticeship, which offers the opportunity to gain quality training and a recognised higher qualification while in paid employment. Higher Level Apprenticeships (HLAs) currently offer you qualifications from Level 4 to Level 7 (Masters degree). The majority are at Level 5 (Foundation degree or equivalent) and vary in length but will be a minimum of two years. By taking part in a Higher Level Apprenticeship, you can gain the skills that employers need and that are relevant to the local economy, therefore improving your prospects of good earnings and sustained employment.

Other benefits include:

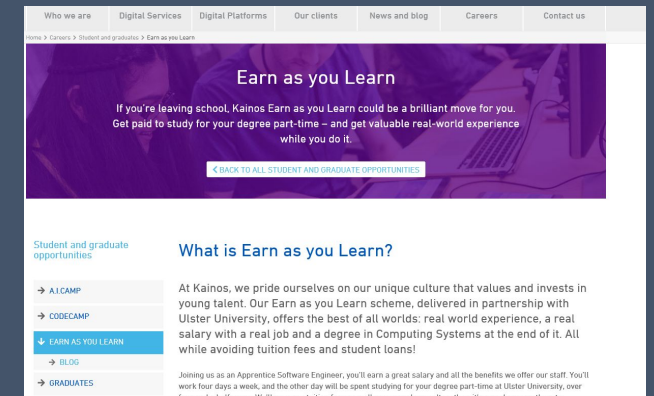
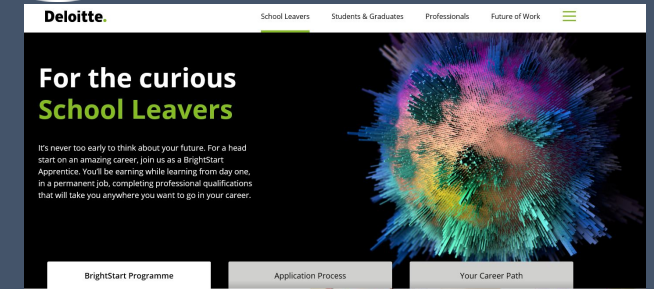
- earning while you learn
- achieving professional-level qualifications without paying higher education tuition fees
- increased opportunities for career progression
- a clear pathway to achieving ambitions in the workplace

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/higher-level-apprenticeships>

If you are interested in finding out more about apprenticeships and scholarships take a look at these links & keep checking Google Classroom



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[Information about Apprenticeships in N.Ireland](#)

[Deloitte: Business/ IT related](#)

<https://www.kainos.com/careers/earn-as-you-learn>

[Cyberfirst bursary](#)

[Flying Start: Accounting and Technology earn as you learn programs](#)

[Power Academy: Scholarship scheme for engineering students](#)

[NIE scholarship: Electrical and Electronic Engineering \(EEE\) or Software and Electronic Systems Engineering \(SESE\).](#)



## Further Education

An alternative to university education - often offering a pathway into a career or as a degree

<http://www.nwrc.ac.uk/>

<https://www.belfastmet.ac.uk/>

- [Foundation Degree in Science in Health and Social Care](#)
- [BSc \(Hons\) in Social Work](#)
- [Foundation Degree in Software Engineering](#)
- [Foundation Science Degree in Marketing](#)
- [Foundation Science Degree in Accounting](#)
- [Foundation Science Degree in International Hospitality Management](#)
- [Foundation Science Degree in International Travel and Tourism Management](#)
- [Foundation Science Degree in Event Management](#)
- [Foundation Degree in Architectural Technology](#)
- [Foundation Degree in Property Planning and Housing](#)
- [Foundation Degree in Construction Engineering with Surveying](#)
- [Foundation Degree in Civil Engineering](#)

QUB Courses:

- [Foundation Degree in Biological Sciences](#)
- [Foundation Degree in Mechanical Engineering](#)
- **QUB in conjunction with St Mary's and Stranmillis University College**
- [Foundation Degree in Early Childhood Studies](#)
- **Foundation Degree in Health, Physical Activity and Sport**





# Alternatives

## No idea...

If students have no idea where to apply, they may want to try this link...

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/>

Other students may consider a gap year

<http://www.yearoutgroup.org/>



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**How do I apply?**

# UCAS



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1. Choose Five Courses
2. Write your Personal Statement
3. Are given Predicted Grades by teachers
4. Reference is written by teachers
5. Application Fee £27 is paid
6. Internet Application is submitted

# CAO



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1. Apply online at [www.cao.ie](http://www.cao.ie) (10 courses)
2. No personal statement is required
3. No Fees except for a registration fee in recent years ( 3000 Euro approx.)
4. The same access to a student loan.
5. Opening date early November and closing date is beginning of February.
6. Level 8 courses are honours degree courses
7. Some of the most competitive courses require 4 A2 subjects (Vet, Med, etc).  
Test required HPAT Ireland for Medicine
8. Check entry requirements carefully - some subjects are not accepted in some universities e.g.Sports Science is not accepted for entry to Trinity.



# Required Tests

- Certain courses require students to sit an entrance exam (students should already be aware of any tests they need to sit, but all should check university websites).
- It is the responsibility of the student to ensure that they are registered for BMAT, OXBRIDGE TESTS, UCAT, HPAT and LNAT.
- need to arrange a chat with Mrs Yeates or Mrs Skuce. Most have been given information and told to visit the websites!!



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**What do I need to do and  
when?**

# The following should already be done...



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By now they should:

- Have registered online for UCAS Apply
- Have completed most of the form
- Have decided what subject they will apply for
- Have a shortlist of universities to apply to
- Have completed the second draft of their personal statement  
Oxbridge, Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary applicants
- Will give their personal statement to Mrs Skuce or Mrs Yeates on Google classroom
- Have met with their teacher rep in relation to their reference

# UCAS Application: By October



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- We want all students to complete the UCAS application **ASAP**

The earlier this is sent away the better as Unis will start to make offers as soon as they get applications

- The form will prove very useful in the future if they are applying for jobs, courses etc.
- The form must be “completed” by the 7<sup>th</sup> October

**The earlier the better**

- Early applicants for Medicine, Dentistry etc should have their application completed by 24<sup>th</sup> Sept.
  - Once all sections are complete click “Review and submit”
  - This sends to Mrs Skuce for checking
  - Bring Cash/ cheque in an envelope payable to Limavady Grammar School
  - Sign approval form with Mrs Skuce





## References: By mid October

Each student will be given a teacher referee at the start of October.

It is the student's responsibility to arrange a meeting with their member of staff and email them the completed information sheet with extra curricular interests and achievements.

This must be arranged between 6th and 13th Of October

Please note early applicants will be completed before this



# UCAS Deadlines

**Sat 15th October 2022- 18:00**

Applications for any course at the universities of Oxford and Cambridge, or for most courses in medicine, veterinary medicine/science, and dentistry, should arrive at UCAS by 18:00 (UK time) today to guarantee equal consideration.

**Wed 25 January 2023- 18:00**

This is our 'equal consideration' deadline, which means course providers must consider all of the applications received by this time equally.

Universities and colleges do not have to consider applications received after the deadline, though they can if there are any spaces available once the on-time applications have been considered.

Early application is advised



## Student finance: By February

For more information on student finance use this website  
[www.studentfinancenl.co.uk](http://www.studentfinancenl.co.uk)

For February time your son/ daughter will need:

- A bank account that their loan can be paid into 3 times per year
- A passport or original birth certificate as proof of identity
  
- You will need your P60 from the previous year

# Open Days: Throughout the year



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This year Open days will operate face to face and via online platforms. Keep an eye on Google classroom so that you don't miss these opportunities



# Offers: After Christmas onwards

Following the application, students will start to receive responses from courses they have applied for.

1. Conditional offer made or (i.e. We will take you if you get these grades...)
2. Reject or
3. Unconditional offer (i.e. We will take you no matter what grades you get)

Offers are made on tariff points or grades

UCAS sends each decision to applicants

Then the student selects two offers

1. Firm Offer
2. Insurance (should be lower grades)

This is a two-way contract



# Clearing: July - October

Clearing is how unis and colleges fill any places they still have on their courses.

From results day, you can apply for a course using Clearing if you're not already holding an offer from a university or college, and the course still has places.

You can use Clearing if:

- you're applying after 30 June
- you didn't receive any offers (or none you wanted to accept)
- you didn't meet the conditions of your offers



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**How can parents support  
the application process?**



- Don't book holidays at key times e.g. results day. Don't let them book holidays at this time.
- Support your son or daughter's management of their application.
- Make sure they read everything they are sent..... carefully!
- Prepare them for living away from home:
  - cost of living – paying bills
  - independent living skills – cooking and washing
- comforting, proofreading, encouraging, testing, practicing etc.





## Staying Informed: Google classroom

All students have been asked to join the careers google classroom where all careers related opportunities and instructions will be posted. You should encourage students to join this and check it regularly.

The code for this is: `l4amltk`





# Questions

Anyone with any Questions please email and we will respond to you by email or phone call.

Mrs Olphert: [wolphert422@c2ken.net](mailto:wolphert422@c2ken.net)

Mrs Skuce: [rskuce928@c2ken.net](mailto:rskuce928@c2ken.net)

Mrs Skuce is available from Mon - Fri 9 - 2:30 if students wish to seek advice or discuss their applications