University of East Anglia

NEXT STEPS

What happens after I apply for **university?**

ueaofficial
uniofeastanglia
uniofeastanglia
Ueaofficial
uniofeastanglia

Contents

This workbook is here to help guide you through your next steps on your journey to higher education.

NEXT STEPS
Timeline

FEB/MARCH
Apply for Student Finance
Applications for Student Finance usually open between the end of February and beginning of March (exact dates change each year).

JUNE
Decision deadline
You will be given a deadline to reply to your offers on UCAS Hub. The exact date will depend on when you received your final university offer. Check UCAS Hub for your own deadline.

JULY/AUGUST
Results day and Clearing
Your results are out and you'll know which university you will be attending. You'll also be able to bag a university place through Clearing.

MAY
Student Finance deadline
The deadline to apply for Student Finance is typically at the end of May. This is to guarantee that you will have your student loan in time for the beginning of your course.

JULY
Accommodation deadline
If you are planning to live in university accommodation, make sure you keep an eye out for emails about applying for your room. At UEA, the deadline to apply for accommodation is the end of July.

What's Next?

Offers

Congratulations!

Your personal statement is written, you've narrowed down your choices and have officially applied to university. **So... what happens next?**

University Responses

Now that your application has been sent off, there are several possible outcomes:

1. Conditional Offer:

A conditional offer is dependent on your grades. If your exam results meet the entry requirements for the course, you will be given a place. It is at the discretion of the university if they choose to accept a student who missed their grades. When making this decision, universities look at the number of factors, including the number of places still available, the grades achieved in individual subjects that are relevant to the course applied for, and how all of the other applicants performed.

2. Unconditional Offer:

An unconditional offer is an offer that is not dependent on your grades. This means that you have a guaranteed place at the university, should you choose to accept it. Sounds great right? It can be, but make sure you choose the university that's right for you. It is still important that you work hard to get the best grades that you can as your university course will expect you to be at a certain academic standard.

3. Course Change:

If a university is unable to make you an offer for your chosen course, they may offer you a place on an alternative course. This can be a **foundation year,** or in a similar subject. Make sure you check that the course is still something you are interested in before you accept this offer.

4. Interview:

Some universities as well as certain courses, such as medicine, will require you to attend an interview before making an offer. You can usually find guidance on the university website of the format that your interview will take.

5. Unsuccessful:

An unsuccessful application means the university has decided not to offer you a place on the course.

When Will I Hear Back from Universities?

Each university and college will decide at different times, so you might receive an offer back from the same university before a friend does, or vice versa. This is perfectly normal. Universities do however have a deadline which they have to respond by.

Universities have until the **16 May 2024** to get back to you if you sent your application by the 31st January deadline.

They have until the **17th July 2024** if you send your application by the 30th June.

TOP TIP

When a university makes a decision, you will be notified via email and the decision will appear on UCAS Hub.

How do I Decide Between Universities?

Here are some questions you can ask yourself to help narrow down your choices:

Is the course right for you?

Subject areas can vary quite considerably at each university. With this in mind, **ask yourself the questions on the next page** and **mark your university option out of 10. You can also add any extra information or notes to the comment section.**

Is the course right for you?

Question	Mark	Comment
Do the modules on offer interest me?	/10	
What facilities are available for me to use on the course?	/10	
What opportunities are available? e.g. Year Abroad	/10	
How will I be taught?	/10	

Is the University right for you?

What is the student accommodation like?	/10	
What social activities can I get involved in?	/10	
What support is on offer?	/10	
What is the surrounding area like?	/10	

TOP TIP

Universities may invite you along to an Applicant Day experience. This is a great opportunity to find out more about a university, and speak to academics and current students.

Focus on your studies

It's easy to get lost in researching universities - it's an exciting topic to get stuck into. However, don't forget to focus on your studies. They are the last piece of the puzzle to secure your place at university so knuckle down for the last few months - **you've got this!**

Responding to Offers

After you've received your offers back, it's decision time!

Now you must select:

- **A Firm Choice**
  The place you really want to go to.
- **An Insurance Choice**
  Your second-choice university.
- **Decline remaining offers**

TOP TIPS on making your final choice:

- **Make sure you wait for all your offers to come through before making any decisions**
- **When picking your insurance choice, pick an institution with slightly lower entry requirements than your firm choice**
- **If you're only applying to one institution, make a plan B in case you aren't offered a place**
- **Make sure you pick two courses that you want to study.**

How long do I have to decide? You will be given a deadline to respond to offers. The exact date will depend on when you received your final university offer. Check **UCAS Hub** for your own individual deadline.

Finance and Accommodation

Apply for Student Finance

Now it's time to apply for your Student Finance loans. You can apply **online** from February/March until the end of May (exact dates change each year).

For more info on how Student Finance works and what you could be entitled to, **check out our finance page.**

Bursaries and Scholarships

Now is also a great time to check if you're eligible for any **Bursaries** or **Scholarships** at the universities you're interested in. Bursaries and Scholarships are **free additional money** given to students by the university, and can help with things like accommodation costs, tuition fees, or living costs. Sometimes there will be an application process for this funding, and sometimes the money is awarded automatically. It's different at each university, which means it's crucial to do your research. At UEA our Bursaries are awarded automatically but Scholarships must be applied for, so don't miss out.

Check out our **Scholarship Resource,** where you'll find more information on what scholarships are available and how to apply.

Parents and Carers Financial Support

If you care for someone you could be eligible for childcare grant, parents' learning allowance, adult dependents' grant or universal credit.
Find out more information **online.**

NHS Funding

Did you know the NHS has a Learning Support Fund that you could be eligible to apply for on top of Student Finance?
Find out more information **online.**

TOP TIP

Remember to apply on time otherwise your loans could be delayed!

- **You do not need to have a confirmed place at a university to apply. Apply with your preferred option at this stage; this detail can always be changed later.**

Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA)

If you have a disability you may be eligible for additional funding from the **Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA)** Disabilities are defined by UCAS, including:

- **Learning difficulty, such as dyslexia, dyspraxia, or ADHD**
- **Mental health condition, such as anxiety or depression**
- **Physical disability, such as if you're partially sighted, have a hearing impairment or have to use crutches**
- **Long-term health condition, such as cancer, chronic heart disease, or HIV.**

Check out our
Guide to Disabled Students' Allowances

Applying for Accommodation

Most universities provide accommodation, also known as 'Halls of Residence' or just 'Halls', for your first year of study. Types of accommodation can vary at each university. **Take a look at the different options on the next page.**

- **Self-catered**
  Where you'll share a kitchen with your flatmates and prepare your own meals
- **Catered**
  Where options might vary between two or three meals a day
- **En-suite**
  Where you'll have your own bathroom attached to your study bedroom
- **Standard**
  Where you'll share bathroom facilities with your flatmates
- **Shared**
  Where you'll share a study bedroom with another student

Your university will get in touch with you about applying for accommodation.

If you have applied to UEA for example, once you have accepted your offer you will receive an email inviting you to complete an accommodation preference form. Keep an eye out for this email and ensure that you **apply on time.**

After the first year, students typically move out of Halls of Residence and rent student houses with their friends in the local area. Universities usually have a list of approved landlords that they can provide to help you find a house. At UEA, we have Home Run website to help students find good private accommodation in Norwich **homerunstudentpad.co.uk.**

Results Day

Results day can be a nerve-wracking experience.
Here is a helpful guide for every possible outcome to make it easier for you.

Offer Accepted

If, on results day, you see that your application with your **'firm choice'** is showing as **'Unconditional'**, congratulations! This means that your place at that institution is confirmed. Keep an eye on your emails for information on what to do next.

Awaiting Decision from University

If your application is still showing as **'CF' (Conditional Firm)** on results day, this means that a decision hasn't been made on your application. It may be that the university are missing some information on your application. Check your email or get in contact with the university directly to find out what the problem may be.

Missed Grades – Successful

Accepted Firm

If you miss your grades, check **UCAS Hub** as your firm choice university may still have offered you a place. It depends on how many places they have left on your chosen course. They will look at each candidate holistically on a case-by-case basis and any remaining places will be offered to those who the admissions team feel are best qualified for the course.

Course Change Offer

If you missed your grades and your chosen institution cannot confirm your place, you may be offered a place on an alternative course in a similar subject area. **You could also be offered a place on a foundation year.** It is up to you whether you choose to accept this new offer. Take some time to think it through and make sure you chat to a member of staff at the university to get any questions answered. You'll need to look out for email correspondence from the university concerned, and make your decision on UCAS Hub in the usual way.

Accepted Insurance

Congratulations! You may have missed your offer from your first choice institution but you've been accepted into your insurance choice. On UCAS Hub your offer will show as **'UF' (Unconditional Firm)** with your insurance choice. Keep an eye on your emails for information on what to do next.

Missed Grades – Unsuccessful

Clearing

You may have missed your grades for both your firm and insurance choice. **Don't panic.** If you still want to go to university you will be able to apply for a place at an alternative institution via **Clearing.** Universities will publish the courses that they have available spaces on to their website or via UCAS. You can get in touch with as many as you like to see if they can offer you a place before deciding on the one you want to go to. This can be done over the phone, on live chat, or via **Clearing Plus.** You'll then make one choice, once you've considered all your options, and select that university as your clearing choice on UCAS Hub.

Grade Appeal

If you are unhappy with a grade you have received, you can speak to your teacher about applying for a re-mark. If your university place is dependent on this re-mark, make sure you ask for a priority re-mark to ensure your results make it to the university as soon as possible.

Exceeded Predicted Grades

Clearing

If you have exceeded your predicted grades and would like to apply for a university with higher entry requirements you can do so through clearing. This is completely optional. If you do decide to do this, make sure you have received an offer from another university before declining your original place.

More options

Changed Your Mind?

I Want to Change University

Do you want to change university? If you have been accepted on to your firm choice, your insurance choice will no longer hold a place open for you. If you would like to change university you will need to get in contact with the university you would like to attend to check if they have a place available before you take any action. Once you have received an offer from another institution (either verbally or by email) you can release yourself to Clearing via UCAS Hub and then make your new choice.

Defer Entry

If you have decided to take a year out, you can get in touch with your university to ask whether it is possible to defer your place for a year.

Withdraw

You can withdraw from your course entirely. This can be done by contacting the university directly, or via UCAS Hub. Make sure you are 100% certain you are happy with this decision. If you change your mind there is no guarantee that your place at that university will still be available.

I want to go to university but I haven’t applied previously

Good news. It’s not too late to apply for university this year. To do this, you will need to create a UCAS account, write a personal statement, and speak to a teacher about being your referee. If you haven't studied for a while and are wondering who can provide a reference, get in touch with the admissions teams who will provide guidance. Once you have a UCAS ID number you will be able to apply to universities through Clearing. You can get in touch with as many universities as you like to see if they can offer you a place before deciding on the one you want to go to. This can be done over the phone, on live chat, or via Clearing Plus. You’ll then make one choice, once you’ve considered all your options, and select that University as your clearing choice on UCAS Hub.

Preparing for University

The wait is almost over, and you'll soon be starting your new adventure as a university student! Here are some things you can do to help be as prepared as possible for your transition to university life.

Preparing for University MOOC

At UEA we offer a **free** online course which introduces you to the key skills you'll need for your studies at university, helping you to get ahead before you start your course. Our **Preparing for University MOOC** covers Academic Writing, Independent Study, Referencing, and lots more!

Sign up for the course today.

Do I need to do any reading for my course?

Some universities will send you a reading list before you start which you can look at over the summer. If you haven't received anything, don't worry! This means the university won't have expected you to have done anything.

What support is available when I get there?

Universities offer a whole range of support to students. At UEA, students can access guidance around wellbeing and mental health, disability support, money management, study skills and lots more! We also have dedicated support for students who have experienced local authority care or are estranged from their parents. Check out our Student Services information **online.**

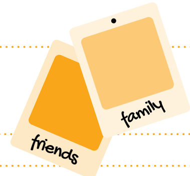
If you have any support needs, such as a learning difficulty like dyslexia, a mental health condition, a physical disability or a long-term illness, it is important that you inform your university. You may have declared your condition on your UCAS form when you applied, in which case your university may contact you before your course starts to discuss if you'd like any advice or support. If not, make sure you get in touch with your university before you arrive. Remember that the **Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA)** is available for eligible students, and you need to apply directly with Student Finance England for this.

It's important to discuss the support and alternative arrangements you might need (in accommodation, or during exams, for example), because any provision you've had in place at school or college won't automatically carry over to university. Don't be worried about giving Student Services a call or an email to discover what support is available to you.

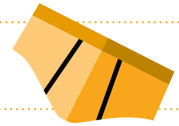
Hear From Current Students

Find out more about our current students' experiences and **TOP TIPS** in our preparing for university blogs:

- **Tackling homesickness**



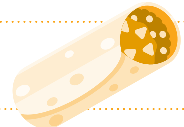
- **Packing for university**



- **Your first days at uni**

- **Budget hacks**

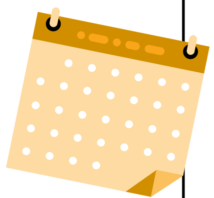
- **Budget busting meals**



Check out our blogs
everwondered.uea.ac.uk

TOP TIPS

- **Keep an eye on your emails! This is the main way universities will communicate with you. Check your spam folder.**
- **Look out for deadlines for Student Finance, Scholarship applications, accommodation preferences, and more. Respond on time to ensure you have a smooth start to your university experience.**



CONTENTS

Comparing the Cost of Your Higher Education Choices

TOP TIP

Your maintenance loan entitlement will vary depending on where in the country you are due to live! This is important to factor into your decision-making process.

Below is a useful way to compare the cost of living at your chosen universities.

- **You can find out the cost of university accommodation online via university websites. There is often a range of prices so pick the accommodation that suits your preferences and budget**
- **You can work out the average cost of living in different cities and towns around the country using the useful UCAS Budget calculator**
- **If you are not moving away from home we would recommend comparing the cost of travel to each of the universities you are considering, either by looking at the cost of a bus/rail pass or calculating the cost of petrol and parking for your journey**
- **Consider if you would be entitled to a bursary or scholarship at each of your chosen universities, and how much that would be. This could make a huge difference to your budget overall.**

Have a go at filling out the grid below. This can be rough figures for now, with more detail being added later. Once you've got all the information in once place rank your choices in order of affordability, with one being the most affordable option.

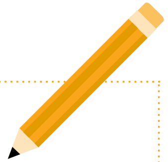
Institution Name	Maintenance loan entitlement (varies on location)	Cost of first year university accommodation	Average monthly living cost (from UCAS calculator)	Average cost of private accommodation (Year 2 onwards)	Extra funding entitlements (scholarships or bursaries)	Total entitlement (add your maintenance loan figure + extra funding together)	Overall Ranking

Planning Your Next Steps

Planning for university can seem difficult when there are so many things to consider. Here is a useful table to help you keep track of your progress.

Action	Where am I now?	What do I need to do next?	Tick when complete
Complete your student finance application A reminder here that you can apply with your preferred choice			
Make your firm and insurance choice • Activity - compare cost of living • Activity - is the course and University right for me?			
Research and apply for extra funding if required A list of additional funding that you may be entitled to can be found online (Check what you are entitled to and make any additional applications that are needed.)			
Research and apply for scholarships at your firm choice university (see our Scholarships workbook for more information)			
Think about what you might need to pack for university			
Work out a budget for the first few months at university			
Reach out to support services at your chosen university			
Plan your first few weeks at university Universities will often host 'Welcome Weeks' for new students. We recommend that all students engage with these weeks, as they are designed to help students make the transition to university life successfully.			
Open a student bank account Compare the different choices on offer from different banks.			
Plan for your first day Familiarise yourself with where you might need to go on your first day or practice your travel route.			

Notes



Good Luck!

University of East Anglia

*Information correct at time of publishing February 2024.

everwondered.uea.ac.uk

ueaofficial

uniofeastanglia

uniofeastanglia

Ueaofficial

uniofeastanglia