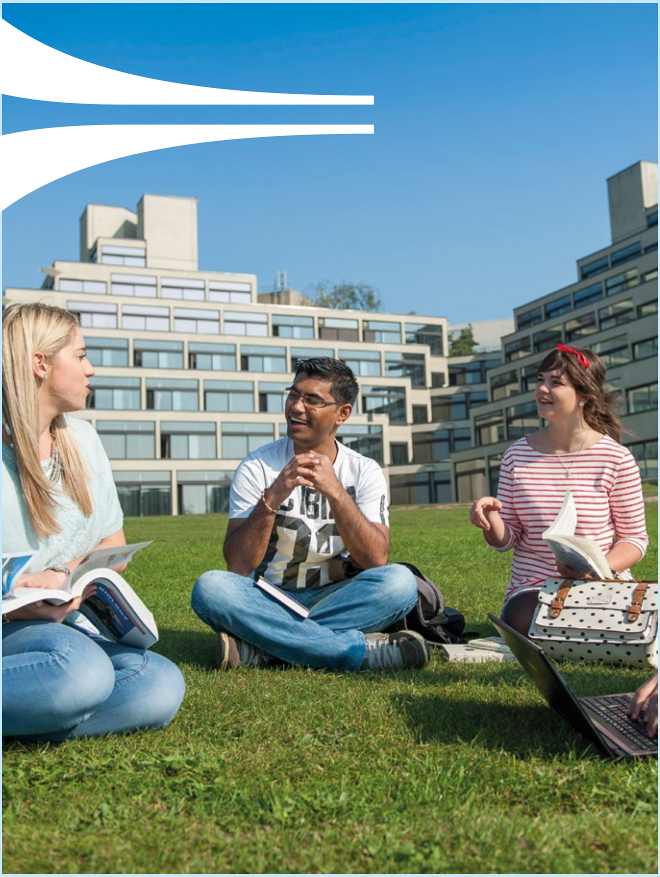
University of East Anglia Norwich

Next Steps

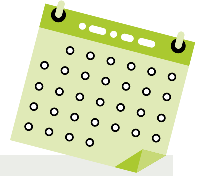
What happens after I apply for university?



Contents

This guide will help you navigate the 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.

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.

May/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

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.

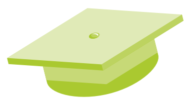
July/August

Results Day and Clearing

Your results are out and you'll know which university you will be attending. Clearing can help you secure a university place if you've changed your mind about your chosen course or missed out on the grades you needed.

Exact dates vary each year, so keep checking your emails and UCAS hub for key deadlines.

What's 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 you meet the entry requirements for the course, you will be given a place. If you don't achieve the grades you need, the university will decide whether or not to offer you a place. When making this decision, universities look at many factors, including the number of places still available, your grades in individual subjects that are relevant to the course, 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 could be a foundation year or a different course in a similar subject. Before you accept this offer, think carefully about whether this course is something you are interested in.

4. Interview:

Some universities (and certain courses, such as medicine) will require you to attend an interview before making an offer. University websites usually include guidance on interview formats and what to expect.

5. Unsuccessful:

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

Responding to offers

After you've received your offers, 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, choose an institution/course 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 that you would be happy to study with either your firm or your insurance choice

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 receive your final university offer, so don't assume you have the same deadline as friends or classmates. Check UCAS Hub for your own individual deadline.

Applying for Student Finance

How to apply

You apply for student loans through the Government website at **www.gov.uk/student-finance** (typically via the Student Finance England portal). Applications usually open in late February or March and the deadline is typically in May. You should apply for Student Finance the year you start your course - remember this if you're taking a gap year. To ensure you receive your student loan by the start of your course, you must apply before the deadline – however, you can still apply up to 9 months after the deadline. To apply, you'll need the following information:

Household income

Household income refers to the taxable income of your parent(s) or guardian(s)*. This is taken from the previous tax year. If your parents are separated or divorced, Student Finance England will use the household income of the parent you are financially dependent on, which is usually the parent you live with. If you are living with a parent and their partner, their partner's income will also be taken into consideration. If your household income drops by more than 15%, you can ask Student Finance England to look at the likely income for the current financial year, which may change your maintenance loan amount.

Bank details

This is the bank account that you will receive your maintenance loan into.

Course details

If you haven't decided on your course, put down the one you think you will attend. You can change this later on if you need to.

* Some students are assessed as 'independent', which means parental income won't be taken into account when your maintenance loan is calculated. Independent status can apply in lots of different circumstances so if you think this might apply to you, this is a great time to do some research to check your eligibility.

Students who are estranged from their parents, meaning they have no contact with any living birth or adoptive parents, may be recognised as independent. More information about independent student status and estrangement is available on the UCAS and Student Finance England

Check out our Student Finance page for more information

Additional support

University-specific support

What is a scholarship?

Scholarships are financial awards given directly by the university. Scholarships do not need to be repaid and most universities offer a range of scholarships that you can apply for. Other organisations like charities and employers may offer scholarships too; use websites like the Scholarships Hub to browse opportunities.

At UEA, we offer a range of scholarships, including individual sports, team sports, and music. Other scholarships are based on household income, your residential location or subject choice. UEA also offers scholarships for international students and Sanctuary Scholarships for students seeking asylum in the UK. **www.uea.ac.uk/scholarships**

What are bursaries?

Bursaries are financial support offered to students based on household income or social factors. Bursaries do not need to be repaid. At UEA, you do not need to apply for a bursary – it is awarded automatically using the information we receive from Student Finance England. If you're eligible, we'll contact you during the September before you start your course. You can choose to take the bursary as either a fee waiver, as a UEA accommodation discount, or as cash.

Emergency funds

We understand that circumstances can sometimes change and you may occasionally need to access extra funds. UEA students who find themselves in financial difficulty can apply for discretionary, non-repayable financial support through the Student Services Fund or a short-term, interest-free cash loan from the Emergency Loan scheme.

Check out our Scholarships page

Extra financial support

If you are a parent or carer, you could be eligible for a Childcare Grant, Parents' Learning Allowance, Adult Dependents' Grant or Universal Credit.

Find out more about Student Finance

NHS Funding

If you are planning to study an NHS-related course, you may be able to access additional financial support via the NHS Learning Support Fund or NHS Bursary.

Find out more about the NHS Learning Support Fund

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 for Student Finance. List your preferred course in your Student Finance application for now; you can change it later if you need to.

Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA)

Disabled Students’ Allowance (DSA) is financial support to cover specific study-related costs you may have because of a mental health condition, learning difference, long-term illness or any other disability.

The support that you receive from DSA will vary from person to person, but could include specialist equipment or non-medical helpers like a note-taker or interpreter. There are no age restrictions on getting the support you need and you can apply whether you’re studying full-time or part-time.

To find out if you are eligible for DSA, you should visit the Disabled Students’ Allowance website. You will need to submit some kind of evidence of eligibility - the DSA website will offer more guidance on this.

You can apply for DSA when the general Student Finance application service opens. Apply as early as you can to make sure all the services/equipment you need will be in place by the time you start your course.

Find out more about Disabled Students’ Allowance

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 vary between universities.

Self-catered

Where you’ll share a kitchen with your flatmates and prepare your own meals

Catered

Where some or all meals are provided for you

En-suite

Where you’ll have your own bathroom attached to your room

Standard

Where you’ll share bathroom facilities with your flatmates

Shared

Where you’ll share a room with another student

Your university will contact you about applying for accommodation. It’s important to apply on time, so check your emails regularly.

If you're planning to live off-campus and commute to university, make sure you plan your journey and explore the transport/parking options available to you.

After the first year, many students move out of university accommodation and into private rented accommodation in the local area. Many universities and students unions have a list of approved landlords to help you find good private accommodation.

Results day

Results day can be a nerve-wracking experience. This section explains every possible outcome you might see on your UCAS Hub.

Offer accepted

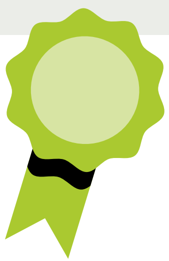
If, on results day, you see that your application with your firm choice is showing as **'Unconditional'**, congratulations! This means that your place at that institution is confirmed. Keep an eye on your emails for information on what to do next.

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 is missing some information on your application. Check your emails or contact the university directly to find out what you need to do next.

I want to go to university but I haven't applied yet

You can apply for a place through Clearing even if you haven't previously submitted a UCAS application. First, you'll need to create a UCAS account, write a personal statement, and add a reference, then you should follow the Clearing process on page 14.



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.

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, and make your decision on UCAS Hub in the usual way.

Find out more about foundation years

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 this year, you will be able to apply for a place at an alternative institution via Clearing. Universities will publish the courses that have spaces available via their website or via UCAS. You can get in touch with as many institutions as you like to see if they can offer you a place, before deciding on the one you want to go to. Once you've considered all your options, you can add your chosen university as your Clearing choice on UCAS Hub.

Find out more about Clearing

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 and let the university know that you are appealing your grade.

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.

Changed your mind?

I want to go to a different 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 contact 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 add your new choice.

Defer entry

If you have decided to take a year out before starting university, you can get in touch with your institution 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 on this decision before you withdraw from your course. If you change your mind, there is no guarantee that your place at that university will still be available.

Preparing for university

With your university place confirmed, you can look forward to starting your course and discovering student life! Here are a few ways to get a head start on your transition to university.

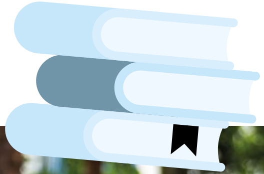
Preparing for University online course

At UEA we offer a **free** online course which introduces the key skills you'll need for your studies at university, helping you to get ahead before you start your course. **Preparing for University** covers academic writing, independent study, referencing and lots more - with loads of advice from current students and staff. It's open to anyone, not just incoming UEA students!

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 expect you to have done anything.

Sign up to our Preparing for University online course



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.

If you have any support needs, such as a learning difference like dyslexia, a mental health condition, a physical disability or a long-term illness, it is important that you inform your university. If you declared your condition on your UCAS form when you applied, 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. Call or email your university's Student Services team to discover what support is available to you.

Check out our Student Support information here

Making your firm and insurance choices

Use this chart to weigh up your university options. Write an **F** and **I** in the final column to indicate your firm and insurance choices.

University and course	**Entry requirements**	**Modules available**	**Student support available**	**Societies/ activities on offer**	**Course options** e.g. year abroad, internships etc.	**On-campus accommodation options**	**Location and cost of living**	**My decision**

Good luck!

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Chat online with UEA students, staff, and advisers

University of East Anglia
Norwich

* Information correct at time of publishing May 2026.