Applying to uni isn’t as difficult as you might think. The most important thing is to make sure you know what to do and do it at the right time. Here’s an overview of the key things...

Search for the right course – there are 35,000 to choose from. Make sure you find the one that’s right for you.

Start your application – you’ll need to register using ‘Apply’ our online system – there are quite a few sections to fill in...

- **Personal details** – including your contact details, residential status, and any individual needs.

- **Your student finance arrangements** – this isn’t your actual student finance application, but if you’ll be looking for financial support we can speed up the process by sharing your info with the student loans or awards organisation you apply to (if you give us permission to).

- **Course choices** – you can apply for a maximum of five courses.

- **Your education so far** – include where you’ve studied, when you studied, and which qualifications you have or will have by the time you go to university or college.

- **Your employment history** – you can leave this section blank if you’ve not had any paid employment.

- **Personal statement** – your opportunity to showcase your personality and ‘sell’ yourself, while demonstrating to universities and colleges that you’re committed to your chosen subject.
When you've got your exam results, if you don't meet the conditions of your offer, you can use Clearing to find another course. But if you meet your conditions, your place will be confirmed – then you'll need to get ready to start your studies.

Allow plenty of time – your teacher will need to attach a reference to your application before it can be sent to us, so make sure they've got enough time to do you justice to ensure your application gets equal consideration, please submit your application to us by 18:00 UK time on:

- 15 October for the universities of Oxford, Cambridge or most professional courses in medicine, veterinary medicine / science and dentistry
- 15 January for the majority of courses
- 24 March for some art and design courses

Check deadline details on our search tool – search.ucas.com.

Wait to hear back – when your chosen unis and colleges process your application they will decide whether to make you an offer. Some offers may come with conditions – for example, you may need to get certain exam grades – or some may be unconditional.

Reply to your offers – when you’ve heard back from all your choices you’ll need to reply – you’ll be given your own deadline depending on when you received your offers. Don’t miss it!

If you don't have any offers you can make additional choices with Extra or Clearing.

When you’ve got your exam results, if you don’t meet the conditions of your offer you can use Clearing to find another course. But if you meet your conditions, your place will be confirmed – then you’ll need to get ready to start your studies.