



UCAS

# STUDENT MINDSET CONFERENCE

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2025

THE POWER OF PERSONALISATION

# PERSONALISATION TO BREAK DOWN BARRIERS

The reasons for students not progressing to undergraduate study are complex:

- Cost barriers / Value concerns
- Overwhelming choices
- Confidence barriers
- Understanding deadline and qualifications
- Process in complication

**700K**  
[ -450K ]

400k students do not reach the stage of submitting an application

50k do not receive an offer — most often mature or international students with limited choices

**Their needs:** Interview prep, alternative options | Dates & deadlines Clearing advice



**1M+**  
**REGISTER**

Each year over one million students register with UCAS to start that next step into higher education

**Their needs:** Course & career prospects | Pathway info | Peer connections | HEP visits | Interview prep

**560K**  
[ -140K ]

140K remain unplaced in undergraduate study every year and are eligible to find a place through Clearing

**Their needs:** Reapplying advice | Getting ready to study / next steps

What can I help with?

+ Ask anything





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Technology

Publishers fear AI summaries are hitting online traffic

THE Times Higher Education


IHE Inside Higher Ed

Sponsored by Anthology

Enhancing student engagement through personalised communication

JULY 2025

Me, myself and AI: Understanding and safeguarding children's use of AI chatbots



internet matters.org

EDUCATION TECH

Students demand acceleration of “integration of AI support tools for learning”, according to YouGov–Studiosity research

K-12 EDUCATION

Parent Survey Finds Half of Gen Alpha Students Using AI

An online questionnaire completed by 500 parents shows nearly half of children ages 7 to 14 are using AI tools, with boys slightly more likely to do so than girls, and most commonly doing it for fun.

THE Times Higher Education

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Nine in 10 UK undergraduates now using AI in assessments – survey

One in four students tell Hefi they use text generated by tools such as ChatGPT in submitted work

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## Half of 18-24 year olds say they use AI chatbots on at least a weekly basis

How often, if at all, do you use AI chatbots like ChatGPT, Deepseek, and others? %

	All Britons	18-24yr olds	25-49yr olds	50-64yr olds	65+yr olds
Every day	4	12	6	1	0
Every few days	7	20	10	3	1
About once a week	7	21	8	5	1
Once or twice a month	7	11	8	5	4
Less often than this	20	19	26	17	13
I have never used an AI chatbot	53	17	40	66	79



# OUTPUTS WITHOUT FULL CONTEXT...



UNIVERSITIES

JOBS

TIPS

Russell Group unis are actually the best, since there are about a gazillion different league tables that rank UK unis on slightly different factors. We wanted a definitive, totally objective, entirely fool-proof, super reliable ranking of all the Russell Group unis... so we turned to ChatGPT. It was so, so jarring to read. Oxbridge wasn't top.

SAVE 20%

BUILD A BRACELET

Choose a bracelet with 3 charms from a selection

PANDORA

SHOP NOW

Sail from the UK next summer

**All aboard for full board and beyond**

**£255** per person/night\*

3-night sailing, 21st Aug 2026  
2 adults & 2 kids. Standard double 11A room category. Excluding customary gratuities of \$20 per person/night.

[Book now](#)

Disney CRUISE LINE

Apologies to students at the University of Sheffield and the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE). ChatGPT failed to register that these unis are also part of the Russell Group. I have truly no idea why ChatGPT's is so obsessed with Harry Potter and birds.

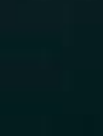
So, here is ChatGPT's ranking of the UK's Russell Group unis, ~~from best to worst~~. Enjoy.



## AI HAS RESHAPED BEHAVIOUR...

60% OF SEARCHES NOW END WITHOUT A CLICK

AI OVERVIEWS ALREADY CONTRIBUTED TO A 15%  
DECLINE IN GLOBAL SEARCH TRAFFIC, WITH SOME SITES  
LOSING OVER 50% OF REFERRAL TRAFFIC.





# WHO IS UCAS IN AN AI-DRIVEN WORLD?





# USING AI TO TRANSFORM PERSONALISED ACCESS TO IAG

1

Closing the advice gap & enabling access

2

Impartial, trusted advice & support

3

Empowered supporters





# LET'S IMAGINE THE STUDENT JOURNEY OF TOMORROW

Building confidence, connection, and readiness at every stage of the journey....



# MEET CHLOE

● First Gen Student



17 years old



London

## MOTIVATIONS

Good career prospects

University reputation

Personal growth

Make her family proud

“KEEPING THE COST OF LIVING DOWN IS A MASSIVE PRIORITY FOR ME. THAT’S WHY STAYING CLOSE TO HOME IS SO IMPORTANT.”

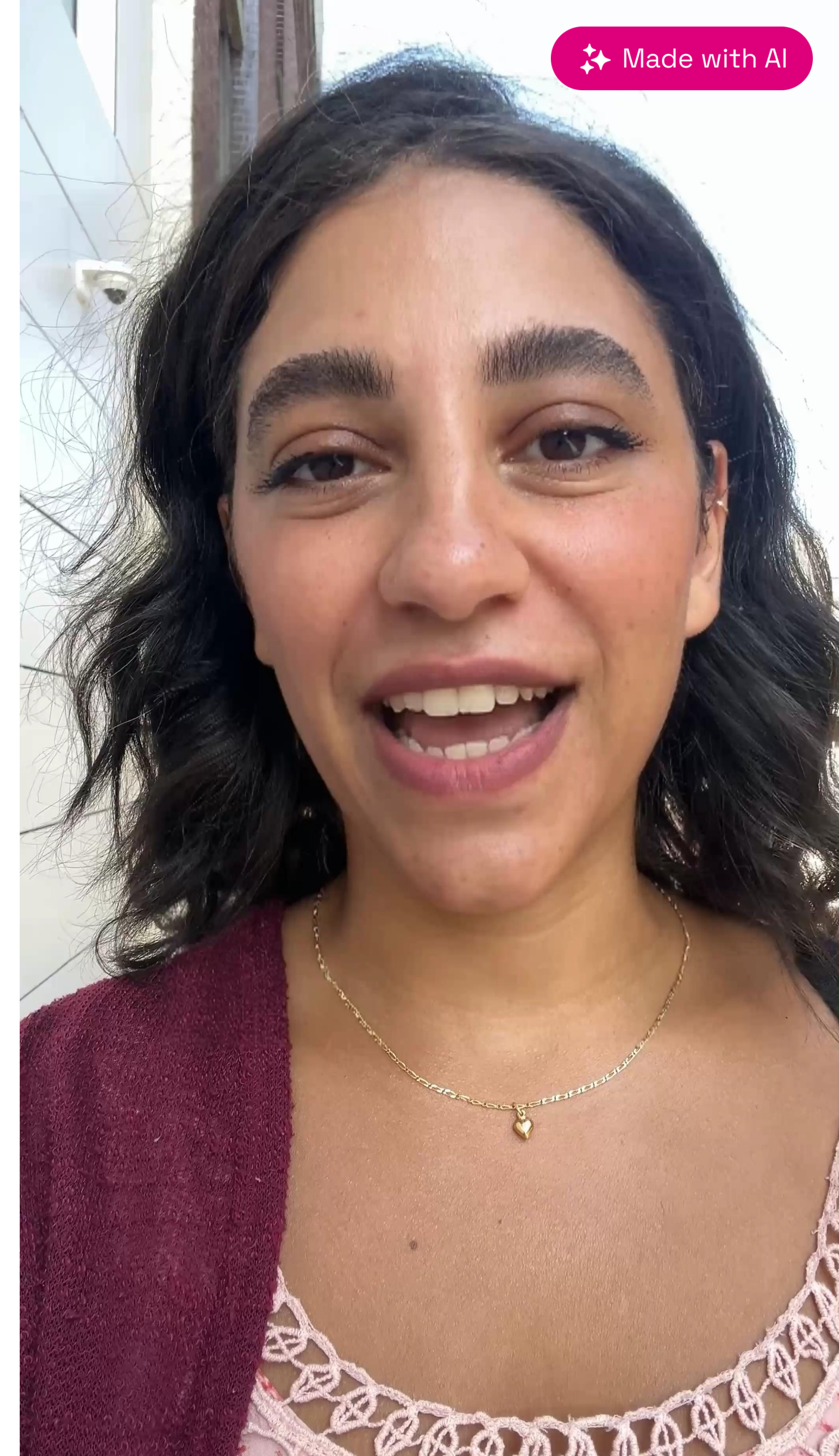


Currently studying for her A Levels

## EDUCATION

Chloe's academic achievements across a range of subjects have led to a welcome but daunting challenge: choosing a university course that best reflects her diverse interests and future aspirations.

✦ Made with AI





# PERSONALISED SUGGESTIONS IN JUST A FEW CLICKS

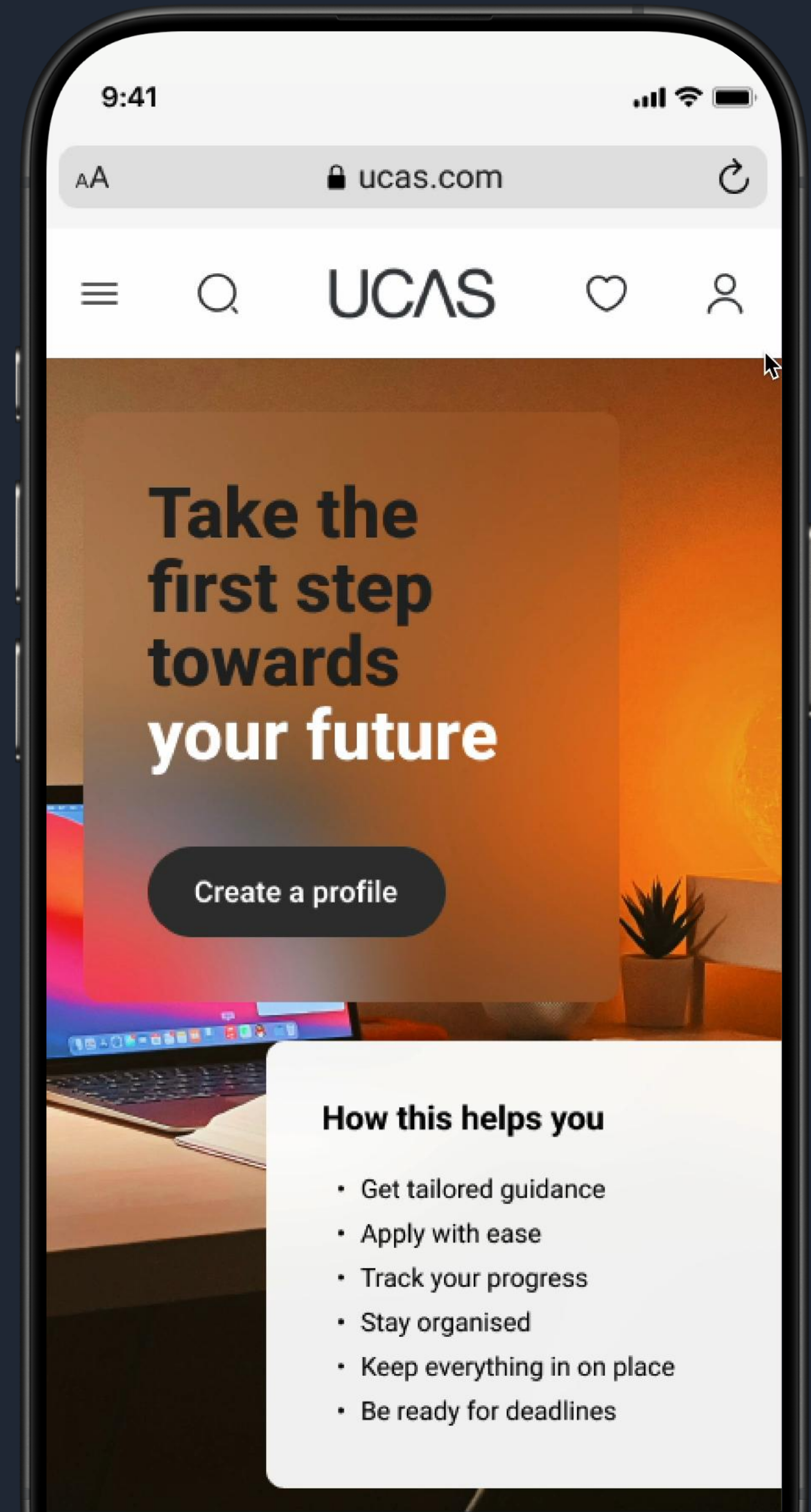


Chloe's UCAS journey starts with a simple profile creation. Key questions about her aspirations and needs are answered via easy sliding scales, instantly personalising her course recommendations – and boosting her confidence. It's maximum impact with minimal data.

*Streamlined onboarding*

*Minimal data*

*maximum impact*





# AN OVERWHELMING SEARCH, SIMPLIFIED



University suggestions tailored to Chloe’s data and preferences appear as engaging visual cards. Interactive elements, including virtual tours and course content, provide immersive insights, helping Chloe visualise her university life and make a confident, informed decision.

Personalised  
university discovery

UCAS

Discover

Applying

Money & student life

International

Your Hub

Your personalised homepage and discovery hub

Hub

For you

Favourites

What to do

Where to go

Search

Welcome Chloe

Universities & colleges

All universities

All courses

City

Radius

London - 5 miles

University College London (UCL)

About the university

Entry requirements

Courses

London - 12 miles

University of the Arts London (UAL)

About the university

Entry requirements

Courses

Manchester - 50 miles

The University of Manchester

About the university

Entry requirements

Courses

Feedback

Empowered  
student choices



# A TRUSTED COMPANION, EVERY STEP OF THE WAY



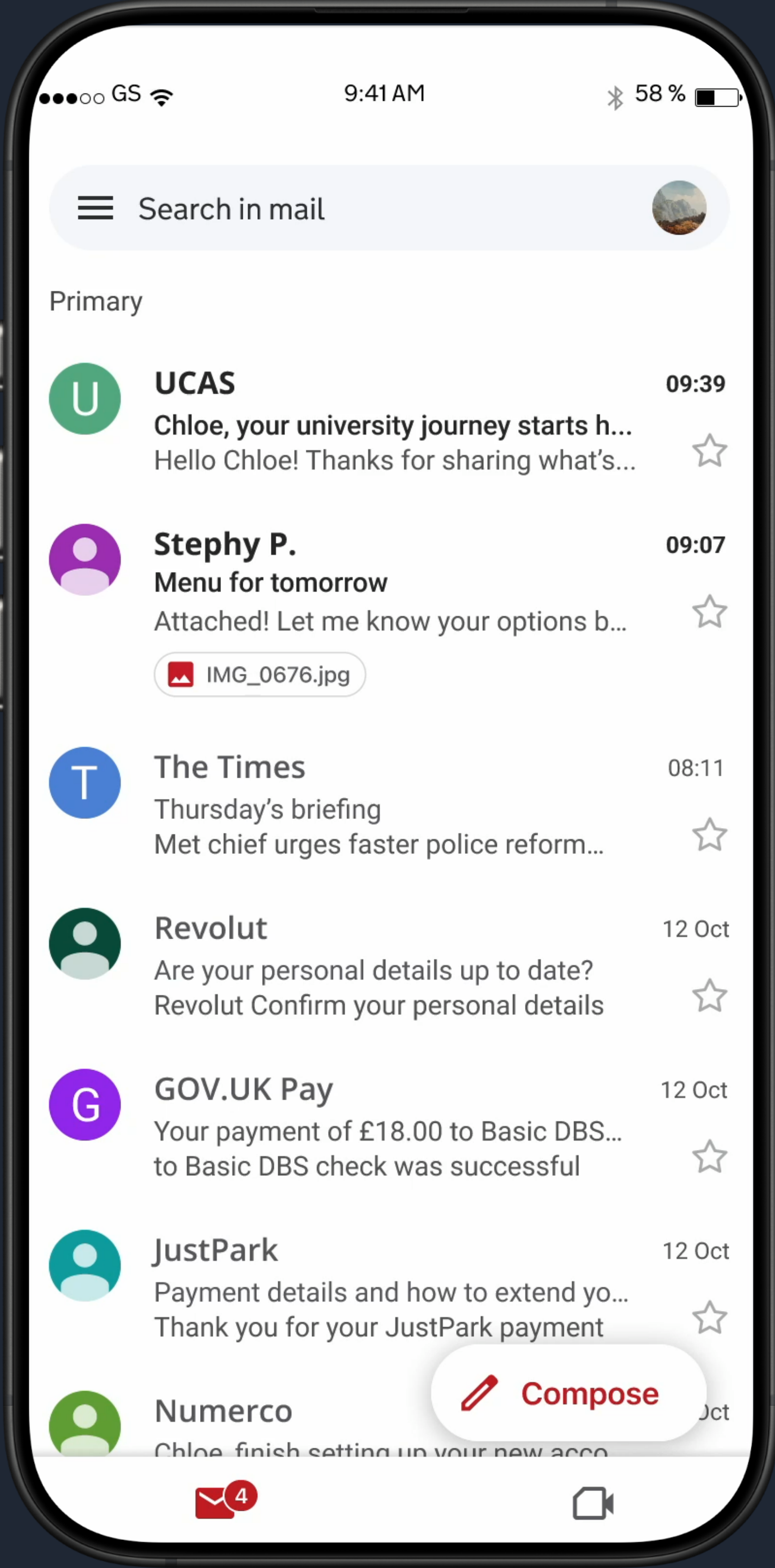
UCAS provides ongoing support via personalised messages on Chloe's preferred channel (email, text, or UCAS AI assistant), tailored to her specific areas of concern or interest. Curated content, deadline reminders, and scholarship opportunities keep her informed and empowered throughout her journey from application to university.

*Relevant help driving application completion*

*Sustained engagement*

*Personalised guidance*

*to stay on track*





# MEET TOM

● Career changer

 38 years old

 Father of two

 West Midlands

## MOTIVATIONS

Meaningful impact

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Stable work

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Respected career

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“ I’VE SPENT YEARS CARING FOR OTHERS, AND I’M READY TO TAKE THE NEXT STEP AND BECOME A QUALIFIED NURSE. ”

 Currently works part-time in a care home

## EDUCATION

Tom has spent years in informal and paid care roles. He’s now exploring how to turn his experience into a formal nursing qualification.





# COURSE RESEARCH MADE EFFORTLESS



Tom uses UCAS to explore nursing courses near home, prioritising providers with strong placement support and flexible schedules. He filters by location, course type, and study mode. He reads course descriptions, checks entry requirements, compares student support services, and checks out subject tasters to confirm he’s on the right path.

UCAS

DiscoverApplyingMoney & student lifeInternational

Search

All results

HubFor youFavouritesWhat to doWhere to goSearch

Nursing

251Courses

39Apprenticeships

15Unis & colleges

18Ambassadors

8Subject spotlights

4Subject guides

20Work experiences

11Location guides

Courses

251 nursing courses from 124 providers

Course type


Study mode

Year

Location

Clear filters

Exeter



MSc Nursing

University of Exeter

Exeter campuses

Msci (Hon)


4 years

Full-time

21/09/2026

Entry requirements

London



Nursing (Adult Nursing)

University of Greenwich

Multiple Locations

Msci (Hon)


4 years

Full-time

21/09/2026

Entry requirements

Manchester



Nursing (Children's Nursing)

University of Manchester

Main Site

Msci (Hon)


4 years

Full-time

21/09/2026

Entry requirements

Manchester



Nursing

University of Manchester

Main Site

Msci (Hon)

4 years

Full-time

21/09/2026

Entry requirements

Filter by  
what matters

Key information

All in one place

Personalised

comparison



# NAVIGATE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS WITH EASE



Tom investigates whether he needs to take an Access to HE Diploma, foundation year, or other qualifications. He uses UCAS guidance to understand what different universities expect and what support is available for mature learners.

*University*

*expectations*

*made clear*

The screenshot displays the UCAS website interface. At the top, the UCAS logo is followed by navigation links: Discover, Applying, Money & student life, and International. On the right, there are icons for search, favorites, and a user profile. Below the navigation bar, the 'Favourites' section is active, showing 'All results'. A secondary navigation bar includes links for Hub, For you, Favourites (highlighted), What to do, Where to go, and Search. The main content area is titled 'Course Shortlist' with a sub-header '4 courses'. It features four course cards, each with a university image, name, location, and entry requirements. The first card is for 'Nursing (Adult Nursing)' at the University of Edinburgh, located 12 miles from Birmingham. The second card is for 'Nursing' at King's College University, located 20 miles from Birmingham. The third and fourth cards also show courses 20 miles from Birmingham. To the right of the course cards, a chat window is open with a user named Sarah. The chat history shows Sarah saying 'Yes, please.' and the user replying 'All done! I've pre-filled your details. Take a look to make sure everything's correct, and feel free to update anything if needed.' The user then clicks a 'Go to application' button. Sarah responds with 'Sounds great! Thanks!'. The chat input field at the bottom says 'Ask anything...'. A red 'Feedback' button is visible on the right side of the chat window.

*Informed*

*decisions*



# AI-POWERED APPLICATION SUPPORT



Tom learns that nursing courses often have an early UCAS deadline. He turns on automatic reminders so he won't miss any key tasks, and uses UCAS tools to stay on track. He starts drafting a personal statement that reflects his care experience and motivation, guided by the UCAS personal statement wizard.

*Automatic reminders  
that keep students  
on track*

UCAS

DiscoverApplyingMoney & student lifeInternational

Nursing (Adult Nursing)

University of Birmingham

14

JAN

This is the deadline for applications to be completed and sent for this course. If the university or college still has places available you can apply after this date, but your application is not guaranteed to be considered.

Turn on notifications for the key tasks and updates

Write personal statement

Ai+

Submit your references

Upload all required documents

Submit your application

*Personal statement  
wizard*

*Helpful*

*feedback*

*& suggestions*



# PERSONALISED INTERVIEW PREP



After submitting his application, Tom begins preparing for interviews. He explores UCAS resources to understand the typical interview process, and prepares to talk about real-life scenarios and his commitment to the profession with the help of 'Sarah', UCAS' AI-powered interview prep tool.

*Sample questions*

*Live practice*

*Interview answer feedback*

**“ TOM, HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT...? ”**



Listen to Sarah's feedback on Tom's interview response

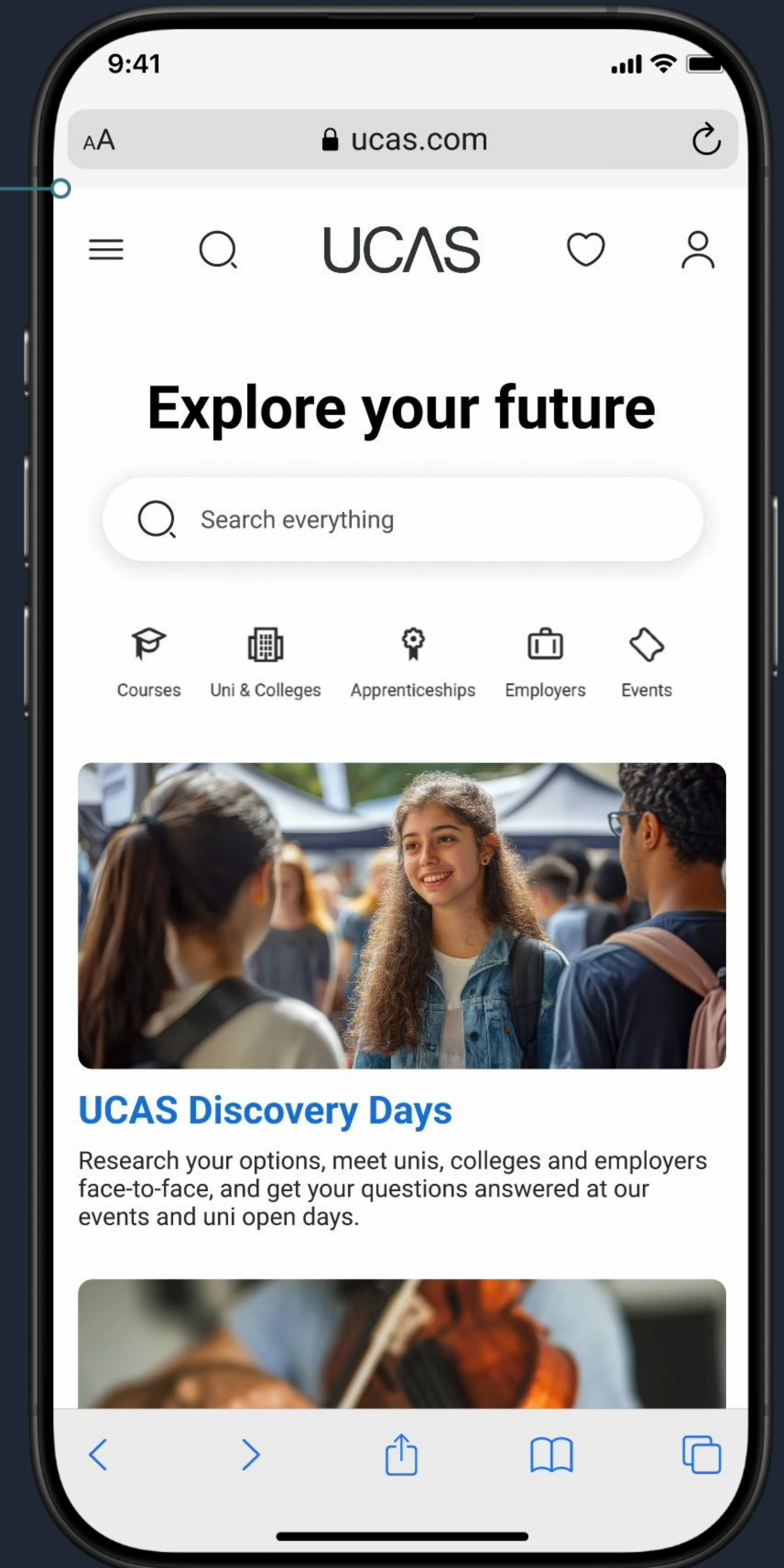
Smarter support

Retrieve student profile data

Check course requirements  
& personal statement

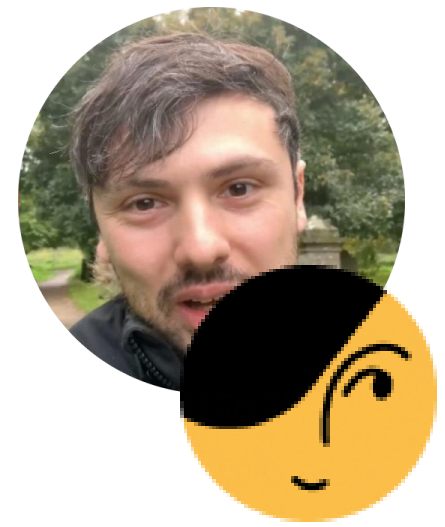
Generate questions

Offer feedback





# FUNDING OPTIONS, SIMPLIFIED



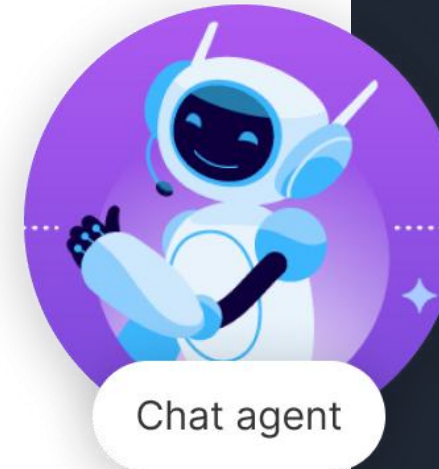
Tom explores student finance, NHS bursaries, and support for mature students, guided by 'Sarah', who gets him to the right partners and introduces him to UCAS' new scholarship search tool.

*Simple, human-like &  
tailored guidance*

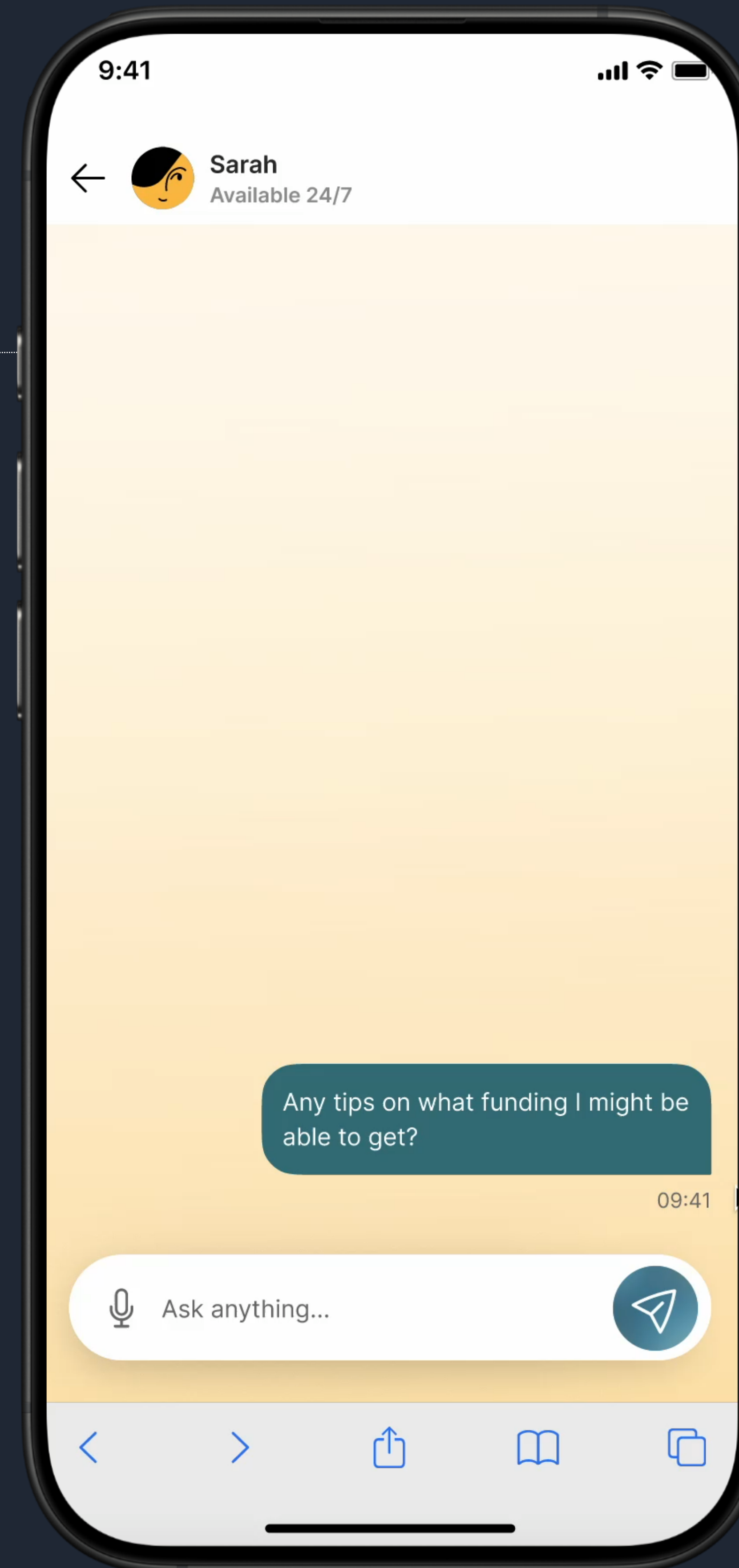
*Adaptive*

*context-aware agent*

*Links to all the right places*

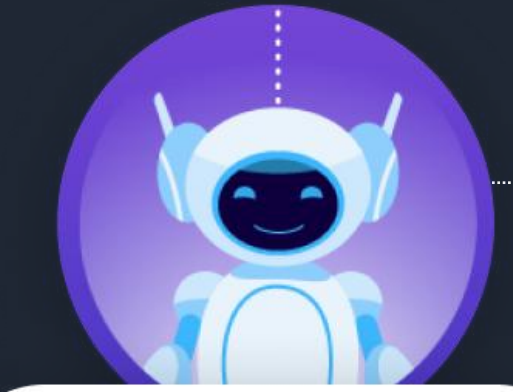


Chat agent



Any tips on what funding I might be able to get?

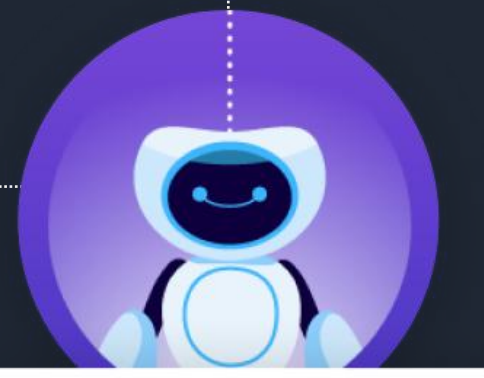
09:41



Recommendation agent



Finance agent



Personal statement Assistant agent



Information Retrieval agent



Reminders agent



# A STRUCTURED, PERSONALISED APPROACH FOR HIGHER EDUCATION SUCCESS

UCAS





# BENEFITS FOR YOU

Better-informed applicants

Stronger connections

Higher conversion & retention

Greater diversity & inclusion

more effective, earlier introductions

Richer insights

