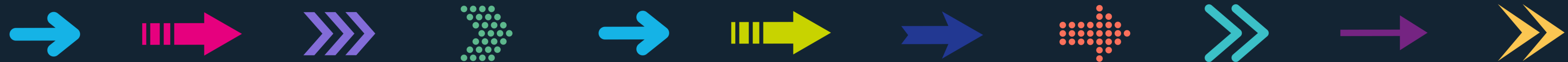


# 5 STEPS TO THE FINAL FIVE



SAM SYKES, UCAS

MEG GRIESSEL, ST MARY'S UNIVERSITY, LONDON

KRISTEN PILBROW, ST MARY'S UNIVERSITY, LONDON



# TODAY IS ALL ABOUT

1

## **Understanding the University Perspective:**

Explore key insights on how learners should address five critical areas before finalising their UCAS choices.

2

**Discovering UCAS Resources:** Gain a clear overview of tools and resources available from UCAS to support learners in their decision making.

3

**Promoting Best Practices:** Identify or encourage best practices from colleagues in the room



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# Step

## 1

### What are their top twenty?



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Whilst students often focus on selecting five UCAS choices, it's important to remind them that there are over 160 universities across the UK.

Students should embrace this wide range of options by identifying what truly matters to them—whether it's conventional factors or **unique, outside-the-box considerations**.

Students may feel under pressure to pick the right university. Learners should be encouraged to identify their heart-over-head aspects first to help narrow down their options.

Adviser portal

For registered centres supporting UG applications

Student Hub activity

View your students' preparatory activity in the Hub

[Go to student Hub activity](#)

Application management

View details of your students' progress, application details, and references

[Go to 2024 applicant list](#)

[Go to 2025 applicant list](#)

Tracking offers & decisions

View details of your students' offers and decisions

[Go to 2024 tracking offers & decisions](#)

[Go to 2025 tracking offers & decisions](#)

Outreach Connection Service

Search, find and filter for outreach opportunities

[Go to Outreach Connection Service](#)

Centre management

Here you can view and manage details about your centre(s) including buzzword and groups

[Go to 2024 centre management](#)

[Go to 2025 centre management](#)

Data & reporting

This tool will show you the A level, BTEC and SQA Higher grades students held when they were accepted on to undergraduate courses.

[Go to historic entry grades](#)


Your paid for data and reports.


[View reports](#)

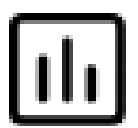
Staff management


Here you can view and manage staff and permissions at your centre(s)

[Go to staff management](#)

 **Sam**  
Edit your Account

 Adviser Homepage

 Adviser Portal

 **Student Hub**

 Sign out

# Student Hub activity

UCAS Training School

UCAS centre number: 19048

Found 8 Hub users

Filter by:

2025 entry

All years of entry

2023 entry

2024 entry

2025 entry

2026 entry

◆ First name	▲ Last name	◆ Intended year of application	Other schemes	Subjects	◆
Type here	Type here		Type here	Type here	Type here
		2025	Apprenticeships	Accounting and finance Biology Computer science	18 May 2024 09:47
		2025	Apprenticeships	Accounting and finance Health Hospitality, leisure, and tourism	13 Mar 2024 15:04
		2025	Conservatoires	Health Nursing Social work, childhood, and youth studies	28 Mar 2024 15:23
		2025		Chemistry Criminology Policing	20 May 2024 14:21
		2025	Apprenticeships	Civil engineering Environmental and earth sciences Medicine	20 Feb 2024 20:01
		2025		Art Building and construction English language	15 May 2024 17:08
		2025	Apprenticeships	Agriculture and related sciences Civil engineering Engineering and technology	27 Apr 2024 16:14



# BUILD YOUR OPTIONS. FAVOURITE AS YOU GO.

## Favourites

Shortlist Courses Uni & colleges Locations Subjects Pages

Manage favourites >



### Agricultural Business Management with Foundation

University of Reading  
10/2025 • 4 Years • BSc (Hons) • Full-time  
Tariff points: N/A



### Animal Science (Zoo and Wildlife Conservation)

Anglia Ruskin University  
15/09/2025 • 3 Years • BSc (Hons) • Full-time  
Tariff points: 96/96



### Animal Bioscience and Management

University Centre Askham Bryan  
08/09/2025 • 3 Years • BSc (Hons) • Full-time  
Tariff points: 84/84



### Animal Behaviour with Foundation Year

Liverpool John Moores University





**What would be on  
your own personal  
checklist?**





# Step

2

**Try  
before  
you  
apply**



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**Most students will decide on their subject of interest before choosing a university, making it crucial that they explore where they'll thrive academically and personally**



# DISCOVER EVENTS

## YOUR EVENTS

🔍 Search events

LATEST

### Campus Visits

4 Oct 2023, 10:00 | Yorkshire

### RWCMD Scenic Arts & Scenic Construction tour of our Llanishen Workshop | OPEN INVITATION

4 Jan 2024, 11:00 | Llanishen

### Campus tours

6 Mar 2024, 12:00 | London

### McTimoney College of Chiropractic - Chiropractic for Animals Open Day Event

11 Apr 2024, 10:00 | Oxfordshire

## Extra support

UCAS has produced [Mission Cards](#) that you can pick up at Discovery events, or download here, to help you prepare for an event. You'll get inspiration for relevant questions that can get you the information you need to narrow down your choices and make more informed decisions.

[Download Mission Cards](#)

[Download Mission Cards - for student with individual needs](#)





# VIRTUAL WORK EXPERIENCE

All filters

Sector

Organisation

Reset filters

POWERED BY **Springpod**  
UCAS Media Service



## AtkinsRéalis Virtual Work Experience

Engineering

This programme will explore an array of career opportunities available at AtkinsRéalis

Available 11/11/2024 - 30/06/2025

[Start now](#)



## Allied Health : Virtual Work Experience with Health Education England

Healthcare & Medicine

This programme will explore an array of career opportunities available at Health Education England

Available 16/09/2024 - 25/03/2025

[Start now](#)

- ☐ Accounting, banking & finance (9)
- ☐ Agricultural & environmental (1)
- ☐ Business, administration & consulting (3)
- ☐ Construction & trades (2)
- ☐ Digital, it and computing (2)
- ☐ Energy & utilities (6)
- ☐ Engineering (7)
- ☐ Government & politics (1)
- ☐ Healthcare & medicine (12)
- ☐ Hospitality, catering & events (2)
- ☐ Law & legal services (1)
- ☐ Property & surveying (1)
- ☐ Publishing & journalism (1)
- ☐ Retail (1)
- ☐ Science & research (4)

[Show more](#)



## mydentist Virtual Work Experience with mydentist

Healthcare & Medicine

This programme will explore an array of career opportunities available at mydentist

Available 11/11/2024 - 30/06/2025

[Start now](#)



## Severn Trent Sustainability: Water Industry Virtual Work Experience

Energy & Utilities

This programme will explore an array of career opportunities available at Severn Trent

Available 09/09/2024 - 29/04/2025

[Start now](#)



## HR Career Insights: Virtual Work Experience with CIPD and Springpod

Business, Administration & Consulting

This programme will explore an array of career opportunities available at Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development

Available 13/11/2023 - 31/10/2025

[Start now](#)



## Engineering a Sustainable World - Work Experience with IChemE

Engineering

This programme will explore an array of career opportunities available at Institution of Chemical Engineers

Available 30/09/2024 - 30/04/2026

[Start now](#)



## Skills for Success: Forvis Mazars Work Experience

Accounting, Banking & Finance

This programme will explore an array of career opportunities available at Forvis Mazars

Available 28/10/2024 - 15/06/2025

[Start now](#)



## Legal Realities Unveiled: Virtual Law Careers with TLT and Springpod

Law & Legal Services

This programme will explore an array of career opportunities available at TLT LLP

Available 01/09/2024 - 31/08/2025

[Start now](#)



# SUBJECT SPOTLIGHTS

All filters

Subject

University or College



**Teaching: A Profession And A Passion**  
with Damien Maguire from Liverpool Hope University



**Cancer, Brain Tumours & Rogue Cells: The Science Behind The Killer Disease**  
with Dr Shafiq Ahmed from University of Sunderland

- ☐ Anglia Ruskin University (20)
- ☐ Canterbury Christ Church University (4)
- ☐ City St George's, University of London (3)
- ☐ Coventry University (4)
- ☐ Coventry University London (2)
- ☐ Durham University (1)
- ☐ Leeds Arts University (3)
- ☐ Leeds Beckett University (4)
- ☐ Liverpool Hope University (3)
- ☐ Manchester Metropolitan University (3)
- ☐ Middlesex University London (1)
- ☐ Queen's University Belfast (1)
- ☐ Teesside University (5)
- ☐ The University of Law (8)
- ☐ UCL (4)

[Show more](#)



**Understanding**  
with Dr. [Name] from [University]



**Computer Science: Is Generative AI The Problem Or The Solution?**  
with Dr Aminu Usman from the University of Sunderland



**And Breathe: The Respiratory System Explained**  
with Charlotte Anderson from the University of Sunderland



**Computer Science: Space Exploration And Beyond**  
with Dr Paul Sant from The University of Law



# Step

# 2

## Try before you apply



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Open Days	Masterclass Days	Subject Tasters
Virtual Open Days	UCAS Discovery Exhibitions	Campus and accommodation tours
Online Campus Tours	Summer Schools	Explore the local area

St Mary's is hosting their first UCAS Discovery Event on the 14<sup>th</sup> October 2025!



# Visiting university handbook for your learners





# Step

## 2

Try  
before  
you  
apply

- Organise interactive sessions where students can share valuable insights from their recent Open Day visits
- Admissions teams and central services are accessible at Open Events. Encourage students to explore the application process and ask about non-standard qualifications, contextual offers, and more.
- Universities are continually developing new courses to meet evolving demands and interests
- Provide students with practical guidance on understanding and effectively using the various university league tables available, so they understand the statistics being presented to them at events



# Discussion point

“  
What advice would you give to colleagues who have faced challenges in encouraging students to visit universities or sign up to class trips to university events?  
”



# Step

3

**Connect  
with  
current  
students**

**Current students will give your learners  
the most authentic advice and opinions**

Using their personal checklist, they should  
frame their questions around what they  
most want from their university experience



# Step

3

**Connect  
with  
current  
students**

## Student-led opportunities that we've found most effective



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“Speed networking” events

Student Ambassadors returning to previous sixth forms or colleges

Q&A panels at Parents’ Evenings

Requesting that university students deliver the sessions you request from the Student Recruitment and Widening Participation teams you work with



# PEER TO PEER SUPPORT

All filters

University or College

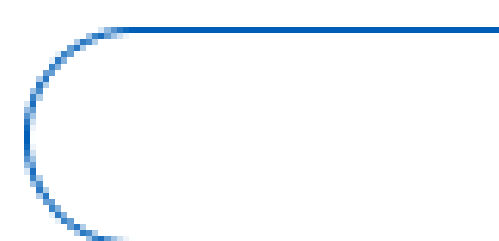
Subject

Country of origin

Search for filters



Hi, I'm Aaliya  
Games Art st



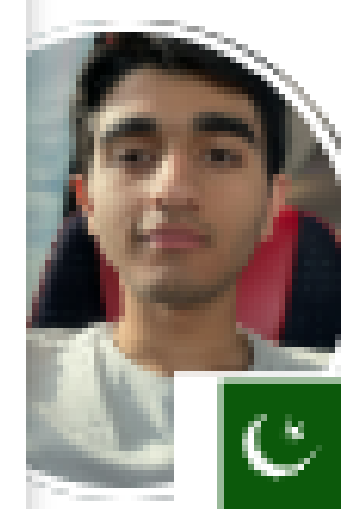
Hi I'm Abbie  
education st



Chat with Abbie

- ☐ Abertay University (10)
- ☐ Bangor University (7)
- ☐ Bournemouth University (37)
- ☐ Brunel University of London (45)
- ☐ Buckinghamshire New University (8)
- ☐ City, University of London (26)
- ☐ Coventry University (38)
- ☐ Durham University (7)
- ☐ Lancaster University (75)
- ☐ Leeds Beckett University (1)
- ☐ Leeds Trinity University (22)
- ☐ Liverpool John Moores University (15)
- ☐ Northeastern University London (7)
- ☐ Rose Bruford College (6)
- ☐ Southampton Solent University (21)

Show more



**Aayan**

City, University of London  
Actuarial Science BSc (Hons)



d my Foundation year from  
O City, University of London....

Chat with Aayan



**Abby**

Swansea University  
Sport and Exercise Science, BSc  
(Hons)



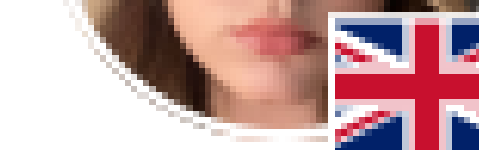
n a keen swimmer and am part  
the University Swim team and...

Chat with Abby



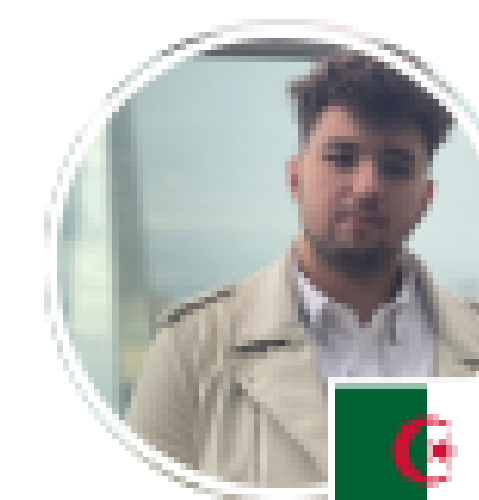
**Abbey**

Leeds Trinity University  
Criminology with Police Studies  
BA Combined (Hons)



I am looking at going into the  
police after university and doing...

Chat with Abbey



**abdeldjouad**

University of Westminster  
Finance and Business  
Management BA Honours



Hi everyone! my name is  
Abdeldjouad, I'm an international...

Chat with abdeldjouad



A levels

Clear selection

- ☐ Biology
- ☒ Business studies
- ☐ Chemistry
- ☐ Creative arts and design
- ☒ Design and technology
- ☐ Economics and financial studies
- ☐ Economics
- ☒ English
- ☐ French
- ☐ Further mathematics
- ☐ General studies and critical thinking
- ☐ Geography
- ☐ German
- ☐ History
- ☐ IT (informatics technology)
- ☐ Italian language
- ☐ Law
- ☐ Mathematics
- ☐ Media studies and journalism
- ☐ Music
- ☐ Physical education
- ☐ Politics
- ☐ Psychology
- ☐ Religious studies and philosophy
- ☐ Science
- ☐ Physics
- ☐ Social sciences
- ☐ Technology
- ☐ Spanish

Change qualifications

BETA

WHAT PEOPLE LIKE YOU APPLIED FOR

Select a subject to find out more

Art and design 22.88%

Business, management, and administrative studies 19.40%

Publishing, media, and information management 12.92%

Marketing 11.02%

Architecture, building, and planning 5.3%

Engineering and technology 4.87%

Hospitality, leisure, and tourism 2.75%

Creative arts 2.54%

Media studies 2.33%

Agriculture and related sciences 2.12%

Nursing 1.91%

Teaching 1.69%

English 1.48%

Education 1.48%

Medicine and allied subjects 1.27%

Law 1.27%

Psychology 1.27%

Social work 1.27%

Journalism 1.06%

Social studies 1.06%

Media studies 2.33%

Agriculture and related sciences  
subject guide



Add Agriculture and related  
sciences to favourites



Explore Agriculture and related  
sciences courses



Cancel

WHAT TO  
STUDY NEXT?

Art and design 31.95%

Business, management, and administrative  
studies 27.22%

Publishing, media, and information  
management 18.05%

Marketing 15.38%

Architecture, building, and planning 7.4%

CHANGE SUBJECTS

Medicine and allied subjects 1.27%



# Discussion point

“  
How do you connect your own alumni or university students with your learners?  
”

What challenges have you faced? How did you overcome these?  
”



# Step

## 4

### Explore careers and outcomes



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**Students don't need to know what career they want after university**

However, they should explore what support is available at different institutions before they narrow down their top 5

Employability statistics:  
what do they really mean?

Does the university offer career support for life?

Are there work placement opportunities on a wide range of courses?

Navigating different course accreditations



## Your top matches

[Retake the quiz](#)



### Human Resource Managers and Directors

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

99% Match



### Head Teachers and Principals

PUBLIC SERVICES

99% Match



### Barristers and Judges

PUBLIC SERVICES

96% Match



### Housing Officers

HEALTH, SOCIAL AND CHILD CARE SERVICES

94% Match

## Your top pathway

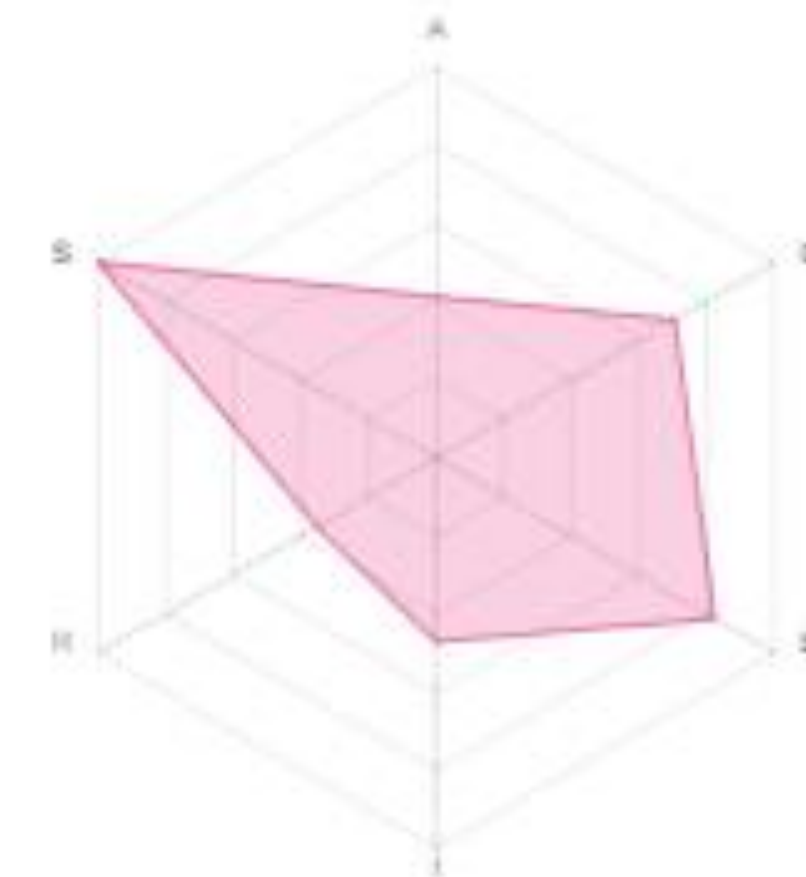


### Teaching and Lecturing

## Your personality traits

We've broken your personality down into 6 different traits. Find out what they all are and how they relate to your career matches.

[View your traits](#)



## What should I study next?

WHAT TO  
STUDY NEXT?

[Get Started](#)

[View more job matches](#)



# HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGERS AND DIRECTORS

Human resource managers and directors plan, organise and direct the personnel, training and industrial relations policies of organisations, advise on resource allocation and utilisation problems, measure the effectiveness of an organisation's systems, methods and procedures and advise on, plan and implement procedures to improve utilisation of labour, equipment and materials.

## Wages



New workers start around £24,107. Normal pay is £44,206 per year.  
Highly experienced workers can earn up to £95,706.

## Available jobs

In the past year there were **186,888** vacancies for this type of job

**1.70%**

Projected job growth over the next 8 years

## Related courses

People work towards these careers by taking these courses at college and uni.

[View courses](#)



# Step

5

**Assess the  
affordability of  
their choice**



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**What essential, and individual, expenses  
might students have overlooked?**



# Step

5

## Assess the affordability of their choice

Students should calculate their estimated maintenance loan **before** they pick their top 5 choices



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Is there anything on their personal checklist that could come at an unexpected cost?

What is the cost of joining a club or society? Are there bursaries available?

Can they afford to commute to the university?

Does their funding cover additional requirements they may have, if not supported by the DSA?

Can they afford to park at the university, if they must drive?



# Step

## 5

**Assess the  
affordability of  
their choice**



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London

**Only 25% of students receive funding in the form of grants, bursaries and scholarships.**

You can receive grants for being a vegetarian or even having the surname 'Graham', but much of this money goes untouched.



# Discussion point

“Are there any cost or finance related questions that have arisen from your learners that colleagues may not have considered?”



# Review



3

**Things on your checklist**



2

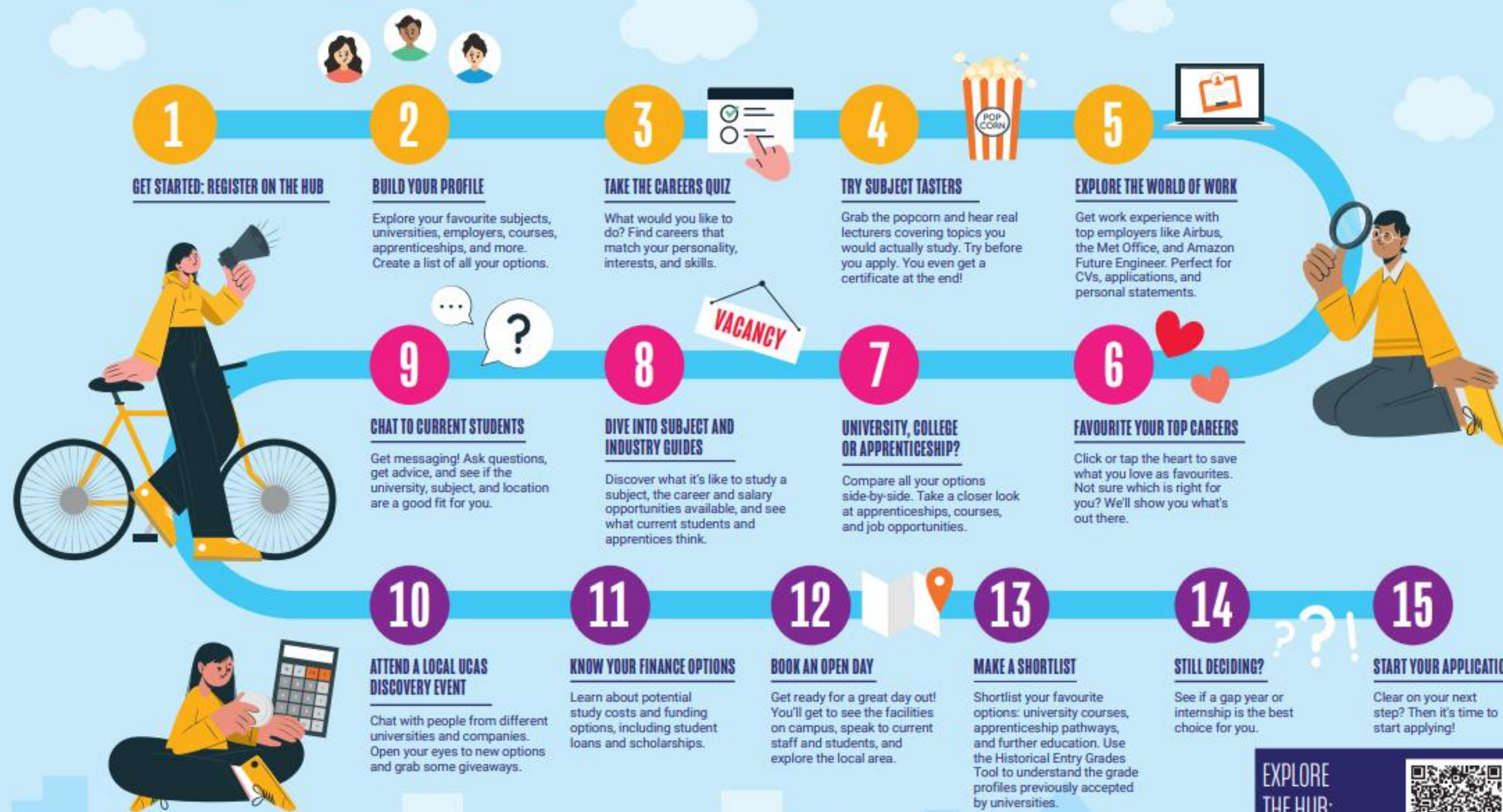
**Things you're taking away  
from this session**



# YOUR HUB JOURNEY



UCAS



EXPLORE  
THE HUB:  
[UCAS.COM/HUB](https://ucas.com/hub)

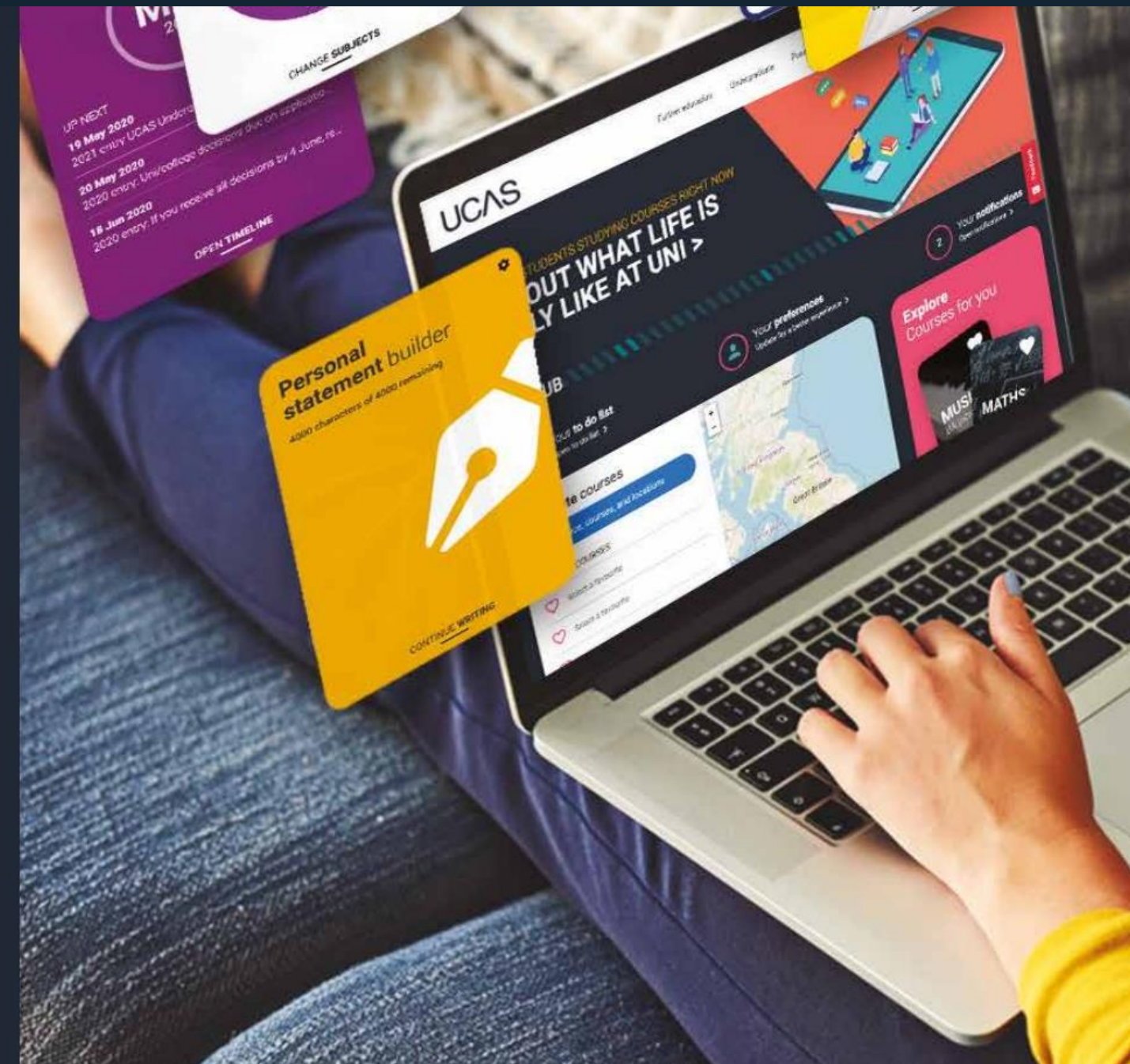




# WHO'S READ?

## WHERE NEXT?

WHAT INFLUENCES  
THE CHOICES SCHOOL  
LEAVERS MAKE?



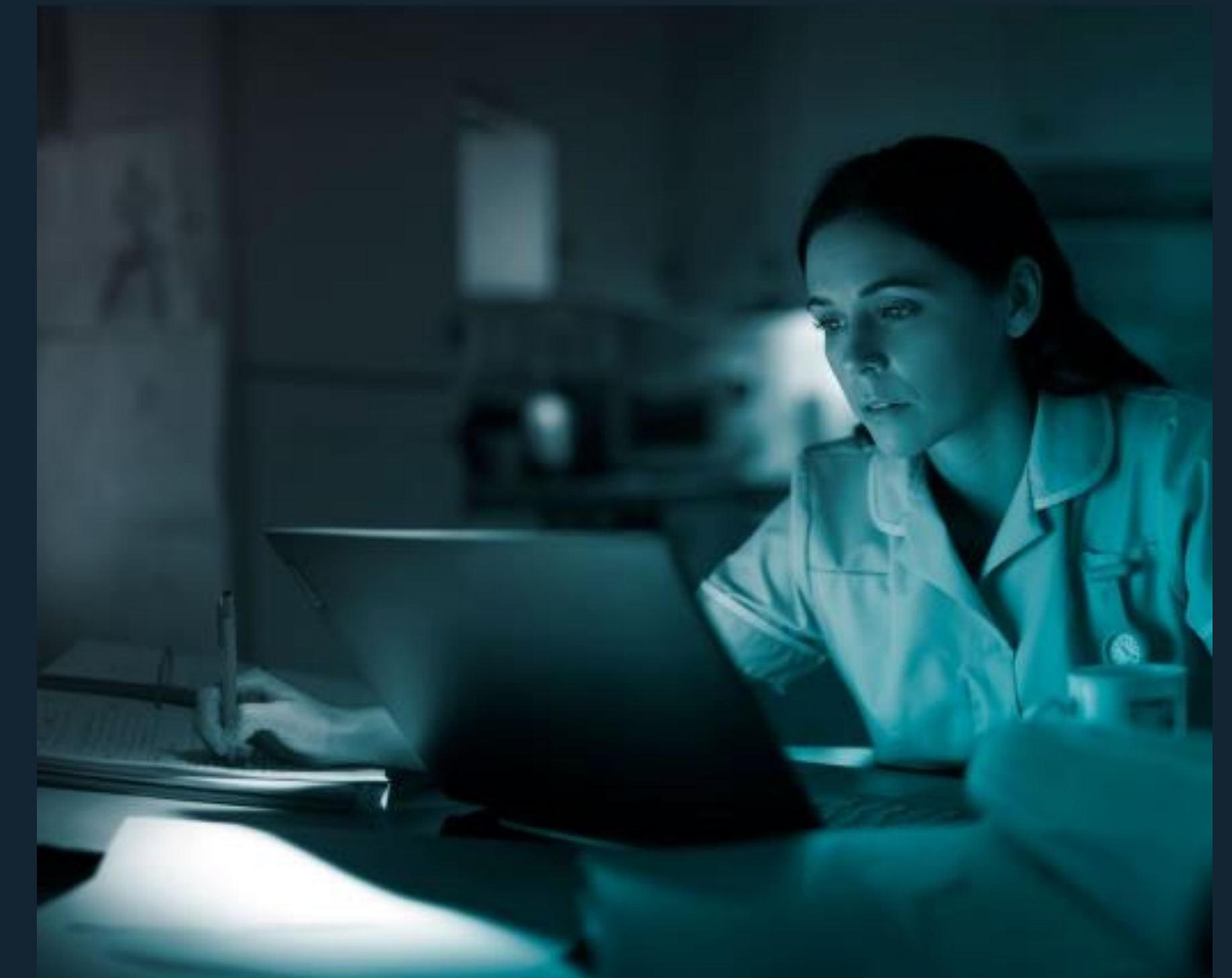
## PROJECT NEXT GENERATION

SIX THEMES THAT INFLUENCE STUDENT CHOICE

UCAS

## WHERE NEXT?

WHO APPLIES TO LEVEL 4 AND 5 QUALIFICATIONS?



UCAS

UCAS reports that shine a light on pertinent issues in education and skills



# YOUR KEY LINKS

## UCAS Hub guide for Advisers

Useful links mentioned:

- [UCAS Virtual Tour A – Z](#)
- [UCAS Discovery Events 2025](#)
- [Unibuddy via UCAS Hub](#)
- [UCAS Hub live recordings](#)
- [Springpod via UCAS Hub](#)
- [UCAS Careers Quiz](#)

UCAS insight reports:

- [Where next? What influences the choice school leavers make \(2021\)](#)
- [Project Next Generation: Six themes that influence student choice \(2023\)](#)
- [Where next? Who applies for Level 4 and 5 qualifications? \(2024\)](#)

### Meeting the Gatsby Benchmarks and CDI Framework

Wondering how the UCAS Hub can support you in implementing the Gatsby Benchmarks and CDI Framework? Our free download explains how the Hub and a variety of UCAS tools can help.

[Download your free guide to the Hub](#)



### Hub lesson plans

Each student can use their Hub to explore their own personal page one, six, and attributes and create a dashboard with their tailored requirements. Use our free lesson plans to discover how to explore the Hub in the classroom.

[Lesson plans](#)

### Useful resources for the classroom

You may have received our latest mailing out to schools which included lots of handy resources which you can also download here:

- [UCAS Big Map](#) (289.3 KB)
- [Student journey poster](#) (151.61 KB)
- [Personal statement poster](#) (165.46 KB)
- [Springpod poster](#) (167.49 KB)
- [Historical entry grades tool poster](#) (113.4 KB)
- [UCAS apprenticeships](#) (1.11 MB)

[Sign up for Adviser Updates](#) to receive future resources straight to your inbox.



### Subject tasters and virtual work experience

UCAS is collaborating with Springpod to offer students free access to their Subject Spotlights and Virtual Work Experiences. From university course tasters to work experience, Springpod's programmes enable young people to explore, understand and learn about university and the world of work before they apply.

[Find out more](#)

[Explore Subject Spotlights](#)

[Explore Virtual Work Experiences](#)



## 3 KEY TAKEAWAYS

- **Support** students in writing a personal checklist to help guide their early-stage research and assist in shortlisting.
- **Explore** the UCAS Hub tools via your current UCAS login. Make the most of all the ready-made resources to help save you time.
- **Empower** students to use a variety of sources for their research, to help them get a well-rounded understanding of all their options as they narrow down their top 5.







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