

Post 18 Pathways



The importance of your predicted grades



Your mock exams will be the biggest determinant of your predicted grades.

You will need to know this when considering your course / university choice.

Your predicted grades will be made available to you at the beginning of September.



- A predicted grade is the grade of qualification an applicant's school or college believes they are **likely to achieve in positive circumstances**.
- They are part of the universities and colleges admission process.
- Staff have been asked to complete them along with your reference by **Friday 6th September**.
- Your predicted grades will be:
 - **In the best interests of the applicant.**
 - **Aspirational but achievable.**
 - **Determined by professional judgement.**
 - **Data driven.**
 - **Finalised by the point of submitting an application.**



Why predicted grades cannot be inflated.

- An applicant may receive an offer(s) they are unlikely to meet – leading to disappointment on results day.
- Applicants' might gain admission to a course which they cannot access/succeed in. This can be difficult to change and would still cost the applicant money, time and effort.
- If a university or college has a reason to believe that a predicted grade is grossly inaccurate, they retain the right to withdraw any offers.



Based on your predicted grades you will need to focus on selecting:

- One aspiration choice
- Three solids choices
- One safe choice

For example, if you are predicted AAB your choices should be as follows:

- AAA (aspirational)
- AAB (solid)
- BBB (safe)



**University
Selection**



Tariff Points

Grade	Tariff points
A*	56
A	48
B	40
C	32
D	24
E	16

For all A level courses and Criminology.



For Applied Law, Applied Science, Health and Social Care and Information Technology.

Grade	Tariff points
D*	56
D	48
M	32
P	16

Key Stage 4

Key Stage 5

Life, 18+

GCSEs/A Levels

T Levels

Vocational Courses

GCSEs
& other
courses

Options
16+

Apprenticeships

Foundation
Courses

Employment with
Training

Options
18+

Further Education

Higher Education

Degree Level
Apprenticeships

Employment with Training





Destinations

University or Apprenticeship

How do I choose a university or apprenticeship?

Can I apply for any university or apprenticeship that I want?

What factors do I need to think about?

What to consider:

- Location
- Size of the university/campus/company
- Distance from home
- Facilities
- Courses
- Bursaries, scholarships and schemes (applies to universities)
- Finance/fees
- Living costs and accommodation
- Transport
- Training opportunities
- Career prospects



Universities



Russell Group Universities

- ▶ University of Birmingham
- ▶ University of Bristol
- ▶ University of Cambridge
- ▶ Cardiff University
- ▶ Durham University
- ▶ University of Edinburgh
- ▶ University of Exeter
- ▶ University of Glasgow
- ▶ Imperial College London
- ▶ King's College London
- ▶ University of Leeds
- ▶ University of Liverpool
- ▶ LSE (London School of Economics & Political Science)
- ▶ University of Manchester
- ▶ Newcastle University
- ▶ University of Nottingham
- ▶ University of Oxford
- ▶ Queen Mary University of London
- ▶ Queen's University Belfast
- ▶ University of Sheffield
- ▶ University of Southampton
- ▶ UCL (University College London)
- ▶ University of Warwick
- ▶ University of York



24 of the UK's top higher education institutions and promote excellent teaching and research.

You'll find them all at the top of the UK rankings, as well as some global league tables.

Admission Tests

Be aware that some courses will require you to complete an admission tests, this will include:

Law

- **National Admissions Test for Law (LNAT)** – a computer based law entrance exam to assess a student's aptitude for studying Law. It includes a multiple-choice test and an essay. It last two hours and 15 minutes.

<https://lnat.ac.uk/>

Mathematics

- **Mathematics Admissions Test (MAT)** – aims to test the depth of mathematical understanding of a student. Entries are arranged by the school and the examination in October.

<https://www.maths.ox.ac.uk/study-here/undergraduate-study/maths-admissions-test>

- **Sixth Term Examination Paper (STEP)** – is designed to test candidate that are similar in style to undergraduate mathematics. The entries are arranged by the school and the examination in the summer season.

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/students/step-mathematics/>



Admission Tests

- **Test for Mathematics for University Admissions (TMUA)** – allows candidates to demonstrate their essential mathematical thinking and reasoning skills which is needed for undergraduate Mathematics or mathematics-related courses. An entry is arranged by the student and the examination in October or January.

<https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/apply/how/maths-admission-test>

Medical courses

- **Biomedical Admissions Test (BMAT)** – it is a subject specific test for certain medicine courses at certain universities. It is a two hour written paper consisting of three sections such as Thinking Skills which one hour and includes 32 multiple choice questions. The second section is based on scientific knowledge and application which is 30 minutes long and has 27 multiple choice questions. The final section is a writing task where a candidate select one essay question from a choice of three and it last 30 minutes.

<https://www.theuniguide.co.uk/advice/ucas-application/bmat-when-it-is-what-it-costs-and-how-to-prepare>



Admission Tests

Thinking Skills Assessment

- **Thinking Skills Assessment Oxford (TSA Oxford)** – this includes a 90 minute multiple choice Thinking Skills Assessment and a 30 minute writing task. Both parts are applicable for courses relating to Experimental Psychology, Human Sciences, Philosophy, Politics and Economics and Psychology, Philosophy and Linguistics. The first part would only be used for courses such as Economics and Management or History and Economics.

<https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/applying-to-oxford/guide/admissions-tests/tsa>

- **University of Oxford**– have individual course admission tests for Ancient History and Classical Archaeology, Biomedical Sciences, Classics, History, Law, Mathematics, Modern Languages, Physics, Philosophy, Fine Art and Music Performance.

<https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/applying-to-oxford/guide/admissions-tests>



Admission Tests

- **University of Cambridge**– have individual course admission tests for Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic, Archaeology, Architecture, Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology, Classics, Computer Science, Design, Economics, Education, Engineering, English, Geography, History with Modern Languages or Politics, History of Art, Human, Social and Political Sciences, Land Economy, Law, Linguistics, Mathematics, Medicine, Modern and Medieval Languages, Music, Natural Sciences, Philosophy, Psychological and Behavioural Sciences, Theology, Religion and Philosophy of Religion and Veterinary Medicine.

<https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/apply/how/admission-tests>

- **Health Professional Admissions Test (HPAT)** – it assesses generic skills, including logical reasoning and problem solving skills as well as non-verbal reasoning and the ability to understand the thoughts, behaviour and/or intention of people. This test is two and half hours long and is completed by students who wish to study medicine in Ireland.

<https://www.medentry-hpat.ie/blog/what-is-hpat>



Admission Tests

- **University Clinical Aptitude Test (UCAT)** – it is a two hour computer based tests which is used to select applicants to their medical and dental degree programmes. The test includes tasks relating to problem solving, communication, numerical skills, spatial awareness, integrity and empathy. The candidate can also demonstrate their ability to evaluate written and numerical information.

<https://www.ucat.ac.uk/>



Admission Tests

If you apply for a course that requires an admissions test, you will need to check:

- The registration deadline for the test.
- When you will complete it.
- What it includes.

Many courses require students to complete a test before 15th October and others are between August and November.

Each test will have a deadline that you have to register by and a date or dates that the test needs to be completed by.

<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/admissions-tests>

Check the key dates and deadlines for your course.

Contact our Exams Officer, Miss Lewis on hlewis@stfrancis.cc if you are applying for a course with an admissions test.

Some can be completed at school whilst others require specific test centres.



Oxbridge



If you were in the top 5% of your school in terms of GCSE results you will be considered.

2021-22

4 applicants
3 offered interviews
3 conditional offers

2022-23

1 application

2023-24

3 applications
3 offered interviews
1 conditional offer



Structure of courses

Full time course

- Typically 33 hours of study per week.
- Combination of both independent and in-person teaching
- Teaching is approximately 21 hours per week.

Sandwich course

- A degree course that includes time spent on a placement, often in industry or business, away from the university.
- Can be 'thick' with one long placement or 'thin' which two or more shorter period on a placement.
- Placements will usually take place after the second year of the degree course.
- The courses are usually one year longer due to the placement.



Year in industry

- Industrial placements are structured programmes where a student works within the industry for a company within their chosen subject as a full-time paid employee.
- A year in the industry can usually be 9 – 15 months.
- They will return to university to complete their degree.



Year abroad

- The course would include the student spending one year of their university degree studying or gaining work experience in another country.
- Student discover how to adapt to new environments and cultures, communicate with others and gain independence.



Foundation year

- It is an extra year at the beginning of a university course.
- It leads into a degree course at the same university.
- It is a qualification in itself.
- This year can be used to help prepare a student to study for a full degree or to allow students to enrol for a degree even if they haven't managed to meet the entry requirements for their degree course.
- It can also help to bridge the gap if a student hasn't studied a subject at A level which is needed for the degree.



Gap year (deferred entry)

Gap year

- When a student decides to take a year out after their Post 16 studies before applying to university.
- This may be to gain relevant work experience.

Deferred entry

- Applying for a course and then taking a year out before starting it.



Sponsored Degrees

- Would be a full time student at university, usually fees fully paid for by a company (conditions would apply).
- Would work at the company during holidays, or have a year placement or block placements with the company.
- Entry requirements would include good UCAS points and strong employability skills.
- Some are obliged to continue working with their employer for a certain period following the completion of their degree.
- Students often earn a standard salary of approximately £15,000.
- Less formal programmes rates may vary.





Apprenticeships

Higher Level Apprenticeships

- Provide an opportunity to gain a Level 4 qualification or above relating to the area that they are employed in.
- May take two years or longer to complete.
- The Level 4 or 5 qualifications are equivalent to a HNC, HND or Foundation degree.
- Level 6 qualification is equivalent to a Degree or Graduate Diploma.
- Time is typically split as 20% studying and 80% working.
- Entry requirements are a minimum of two A levels or equivalent (BTEC Level 3), or an Advanced Apprenticeship.



Higher & degree apprenticeships

- Levels 4,5,6,7
- 24 months+
- Equivalent to foundation degree level+

Degree Level Apprenticeships

- Degree apprentices are a Level 6 or 7 qualification which are equivalent to a Bachelor's or Master's degree.
- Typically last 4 years but they can last from 3 to 16 years to complete.
- Includes engaging in work based learning and training, the same as with other apprenticeship levels.
- Entry requirements are that Degree apprenticeships have the same (if not higher standard to meet as university applicants). May include UCAS tariff points, often specific A levels are required.
- Time is typically split as 20% studying and 80% working.
- Most employers will want to keep a student after they complete their degree, and some may have a retention agreement built into their contract.
- Starting salary is approximately £16,000.



Medical Doctor Degree Apprenticeships

- The apprenticeships will be starting in September 2024 – check the NHS Jobs website.
- Any medical school offering the Medical Doctor Degree Apprenticeship being approved by the General Medical Council.
- The healthcare provider organisation employing the apprentice will meet some of the cost of the apprentice's tuition .
- In January 2023 that funding would be made available for the first 200 medical doctor degree apprentices, who are expected to undertake their learning at one of a few selected universities from September 2024.
- It provides individuals with a new route to train as a doctor, particularly those who, for a multitude of reasons, may be unable to attend university full-time.
- The apprentices will be employed and paid a salary.



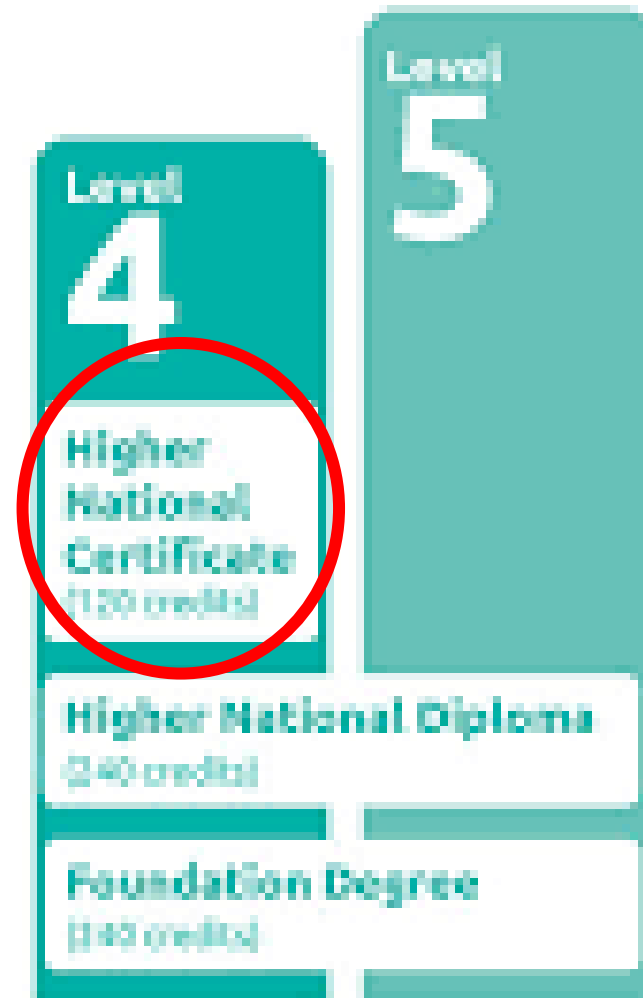
Medical Doctor Degree Apprenticeships

- The apprenticeship lasts five years to complete all academic elements of medical training, including a medical degree and the Medical Licensing Assessment to be able to enter the Medical Register.
- Once completed, apprentices can qualify as a medical doctor if they take up a Postgraduate Doctor in Training role for which they are paid whilst undertaking postgraduate medical training after they have completed their apprenticeship.



HNC

- Known as a Higher National Certificates.
- It is a work-related, or vocational, higher education qualification.
- Level 4 qualification.
- Highly regarded by both small and international companies.
- Can be used to apply for further undergraduate study at a university.
- Ideal for students that want to pursue a career and prefer practical learning and teaching.
- Courses are broken down into modules or unites with practical tasks and ongoing written assessment and projects.
- Take one year to complete (full-time) or two years (part time)



HND

- Known as a Higher National Diploma.
- A level 5 qualification.
- Vocational qualification.
- Can take two years (full time) or four years (part time) to complete.
- It is equivalent to the first two years of university.
- Used to prepare student for a particular job and/or career.
- Uses a combination of studying and practical element.
- Assignments are specifically developed for the world of work.
- Valued by companies and employers.
- Can help a student to progress in their career and be valuable to prepare themselves for university life.



HNCs and HNDs are available in a wide range of subject areas, including:

- Agriculture
- Computing and IT
- Construction and civil engineering
- Engineering
- Health and social care
- Business and management
- Sport and exercise sciences
- Performing arts
- Retail and distribution
- Hospitality management



Important Dates

- UCAD registration – **Monday 4th May.**
- Personal statements – draft copy is to be submitted on Unifrog to your tutor – **Monday 19th June.**
- SFA application deadline (Oxbridge, Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Medicine/Science) – **Friday 27th September.**
- SFA deadline for all applications – **Friday 22nd November.**

Note: REMEMBER we need time to approve, quality assure your application and process them.



UCAS final deadlines

**Tuesday 15th October
at 6p.m. - Oxbridge /
Medicine / Dentistry /
Veterinary applications**

**Wednesday 29th
January at 6p.m. – all
other applications**

Today's structure

- Period 1 – Post 18 Launch with ADA and SSH.
- Period 2 and 3 – Set up and complete your UCAS application / search for apprenticeships.
- Period 4 – Personal statement / covering letter session with ADA and SSH.
- Period 5 and 6 – Complete personal statement in Unifrog / covering letter in Word. BCU supporting with the process.

