

Higher Education 2024/25

Agenda

- Overview of the Higher Education sector
- Options and making choices
- Finance
- The application process
- Key dates and deadlines
- Costs
- Entry requirements and how predicted grades work

Changes to the Higher Education Landscape

- A range of outstanding courses available
- Many more students applying nationally than in previous years (we had 140 students applying for 2024 – a school record)
- Fewer unconditional offers, compared to pre-pandemic cohorts
- More applications to top-ranking universities, making them more competitive
- Predicted grades remain with us



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SIXTH FORM

Discover your potential



1.3 MILLION INDIVIDUALS

engage with UCAS each year
to discover **their next step**



MORE THAN 700,000

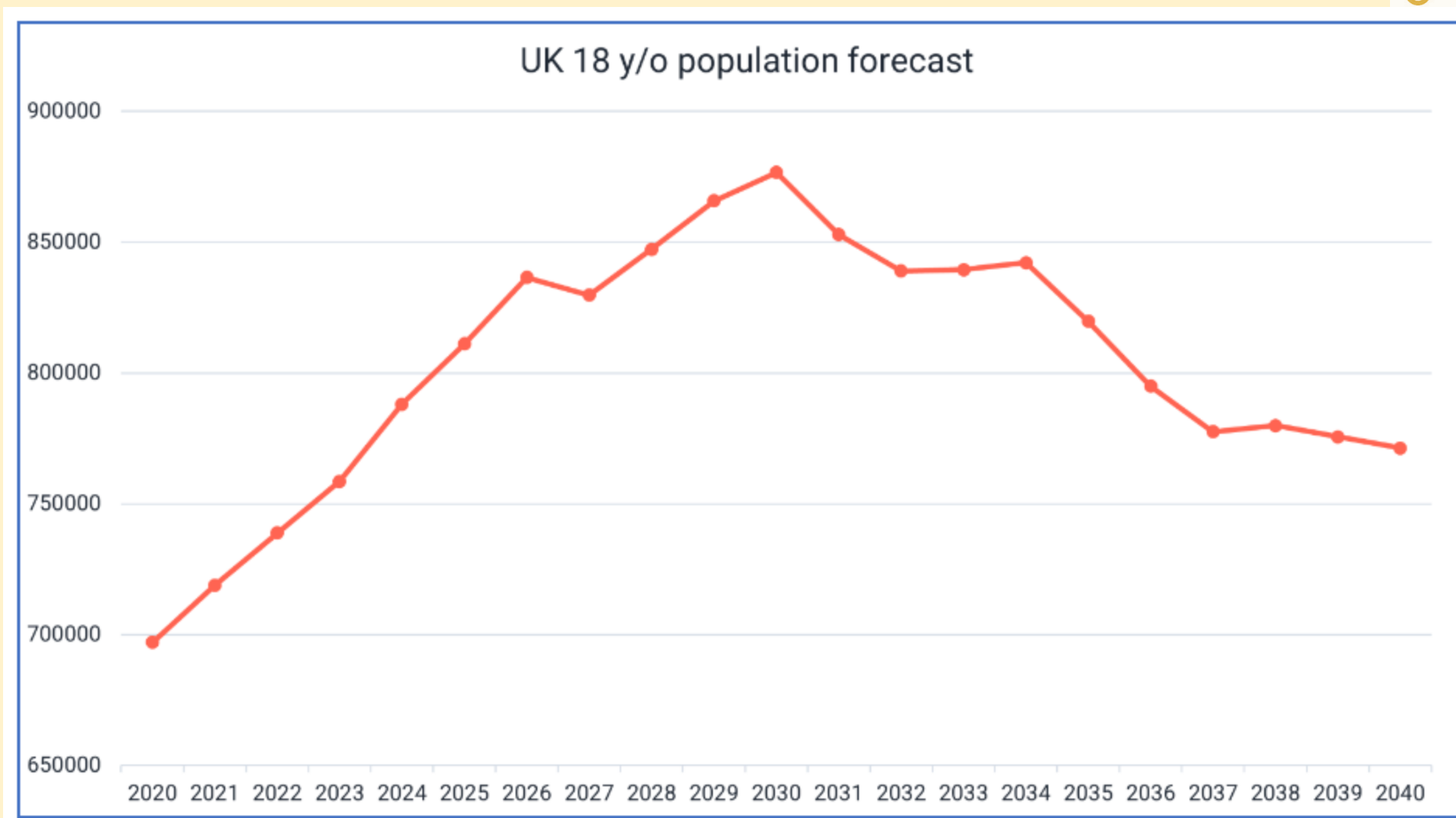
applicants apply **each year**

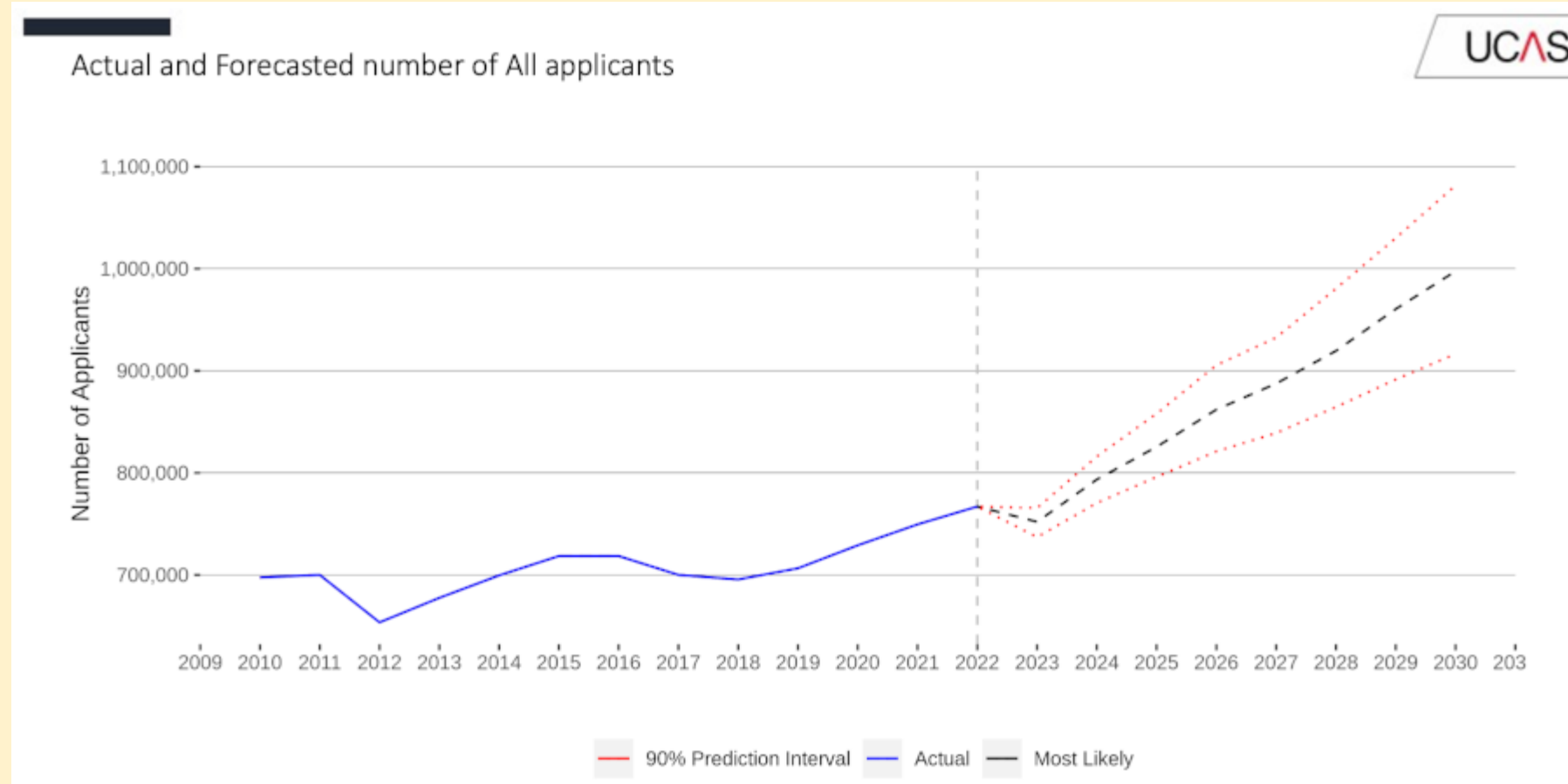


FROM 200

countries and territories with
over **1,000 qualifications**

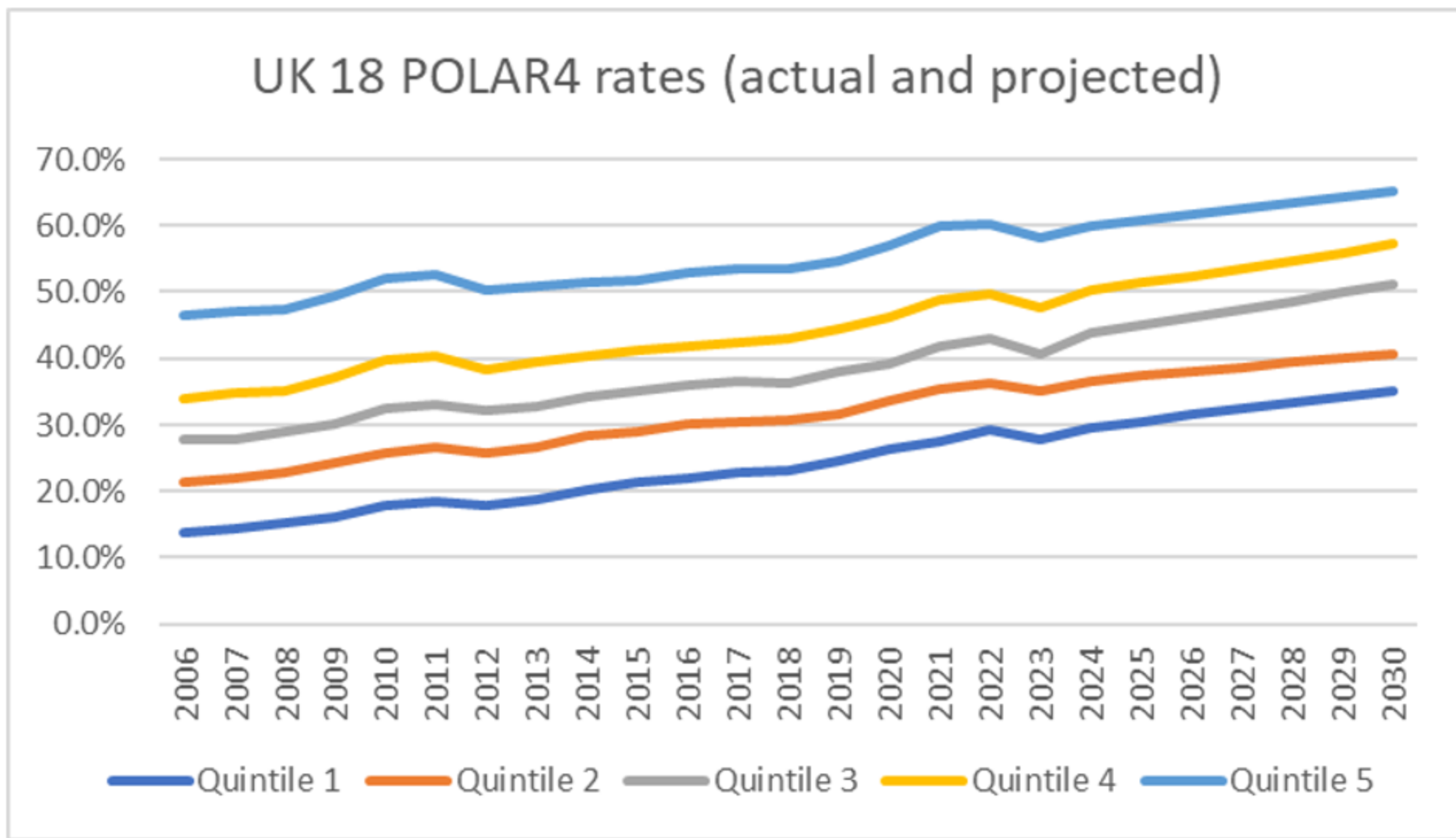
UCAS







Graph 4: Projected application rate by POLAR (using most likely projection)





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ONE IN THREE STUDENTS

considers higher education as early as **primary school**, with advantaged students **40% more likely** to do so



ONE IN FIVE STUDENTS

couldn't study a **degree subject** that **interested them** because they didn't have the right subjects to progress



YOUNG PEOPLE FROM THE

most advantaged backgrounds are **2.09 times more likely to enter higher education** than their disadvantaged peers

UCAS



Some context from the 2024 cycle

- 140 students making 653 choices between them
- 86 institutions received applications from St Peter's students
- 70 distinct subject areas

HOWEVER

- 50% of applications are for just 13 institutions
- 50% of choices are for 11 subjects

Why choose Higher Education?

- Chance to study a subject they are passionate about.
- Achieve a qualification that will lead to their chosen career.
- Higher earning potential
- Gain confidence, independence, and important life skills that will widen their prospects.
- Making lifelong friends
- Many employers target graduates specifically

Career choices with mandatory Higher Education qualifications

- Medicine
- Nursing
- Dentistry
- Architecture
- Teaching
- Law
- Veterinary Science

<http://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk>

Other options

- Degree apprenticeship
- Studying abroad
- Getting a job
- Gap year
- College options

Which subject to study?

- Think beyond just carrying on a favourite A Level subject. UCAS lists over 50,000 courses on their website!
- Check career requirements
- Use the careers library, Mrs Calvert, Mr Martin or go online!
http://www.prospects.ac.uk/options_with_your_subject.htm
- Talk to teachers, tutors, family and friends. They are often good sources of advice.

Informed Choices

RUSSELL
GROUP | Informed
Choices



What you study at sixth form or college can affect your options at university and your future career.
Use Informed Choices to help you understand which subjects open up different degrees, particularly at
Russell Group universities.

I don't know what
degree I would like
to study

I know what
degree I want to
study



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

UCAS Search – 2025 course details go live on Tuesday 7th May

<https://www.ucas.com/explore>

UCAS

Further education

Undergraduate

Postgraduate

Apprenticeships

Careers



Sign in



EXPLORE

Not sure what to do? Explore subjects, locations, universities, and colleges.

Explore

Uni & colleges

For you

Favourites

Search

Explore **subject** guides

See all >



Accounting



Aerospace engineering



Agriculture and related sciences



Anthropology

Explore **industry** guides

See all >

Paying for a degree

- Most institutions charge the full fee of £9,250 per year.
- Loan applications open in March of the year the course is to start

How much you can get

The maximum amount you can get depends on where you live.

	2023 to 2024 academic year	2024 to 2025 academic year
Living with your parents	Up to £8,400	Up to £8,610
Living away from your parents, outside London	Up to £9,978	Up to £10,227
Living away from your parents, in London	Up to £13,022	Up to £13,348
You spend a year of a UK course studying abroad	Up to £11,427	Up to £11,713

Is it the right place?

- Read the prospectus and explore the website. They will spend a long time and a lot of money there. Make sure it is what they want.
- Visit open days. <http://opendays.com/>
- See for themselves how straightforward the journey is and whether they like the accommodation. They will need to reserve your open day place online.



Collegiate, campus or city university?



League tables

Data and league tables are available from:

Discover Uni

<https://discoveruni.gov.uk/>

Newspapers e.g. the Guardian

<http://www.theguardian.com/education/universityguide>

Remember - they will be receiving teaching from the institutions. Look at this grade in particular and also the number of tuition hours.



	2024	2023	Institution	Guardian score/100	Satisfied with teaching	Satisfied with feedback	Student to staff ratio	Spend per student/10	Average entry tariff	Value added score/10	Career after 15 months	Continuation
	1	1	St Andrews	100	90.7	76.2	11.9	6.2	212	6.4	91	97.2
	2	2	Oxford	96.5	n/a	n/a	10.3	10	203	6.1	94	98
	3	3	Cambridge	94.8	n/a	n/a	11.6	9.9	208	5.5	94	99
	4	4	London School of Economics	89.7	81.9	65.4	12.8	8.9	192	6.8	92	96.6
	5	5	Imperial College	82.2	85.2	57.4	11.9	8.7	204	6.6	96	95.6
	6	7	Bath	81.4	84	61.6	15.3	6.2	180	6.1	92	96.8
	7	6	Durham	81.2	83.7	64.6	13.5	6.2	185	6.2	90	97.5
	8	9	UCL	77.4	81.8	60.8	10.9	7.3	183	5.9	90	96.4
	9	8	Warwick	76.7	83.7	68.9	13.9	7.6	179	4.1	89	96.3
	10	10	Loughborough	75.6	82.1	61.9	14.1	4.5	162	5.5	89	96.6
	11	14	Lancaster	75.3	84	65.9	14	6.7	154	5.7	85	96.8
	12	13	Aberdeen	74.5	85.7	69.3	15.1	5.4	187	7.5	84	94.2
	13	11	Glasgow	73.7	82.7	59.6	14.4	5.3	211	5.5	85	94.7
	14	12	Edinburgh	73.5	80.1	51.6	12.3	8.2	197	6	87	97.1
	15	19	University of the Arts London	73	71.2	73.6	11.5	9.6	153	6.3	71	91.3
	16	16	Strathclyde	70.5	84	65.5	18.8	7.2	210	4.2	87	93.6
	17	16	Bristol	69.8	79.8	58.2	13.9	7.4	174	5.5	88	96.6
	18	15	Exeter	69.7	83.2	65.2	16.3	4.7	163	6.1	87	96.2
	19	21	York	68.4	82.5	63.9	14.2	7.2	157	4.1	85	96
	20	16	Southampton	67.3	82	65.7	14	6.2	156	5.7	85	95.1
	21	30	Sheffield	66.5	82.9	65.5	14.4	5.7	157	5.2	86	95.7
	21	24	Surrey	66.5	83.4	69.8	14.4	5.5	142	4	87	93.7
	23	29	King's College London	65.9	78.1	58	14	7.9	169	5.6	89	94.6
	24	30	Manchester	65.8	76.7	57.5	13.9	7.7	167	5.5	87	96.2
	25	22	Aston	65	78	63	17	5.8	134	6.2	86	95

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WITH FORM

over your potential

Student forums




Like **Chemistry?**




[Home](#) [Forums](#) [GCSE](#) [A-level](#) [Grow your Grades](#) [Applying to uni](#) [University](#) [Careers & jobs](#) [Relationships & health](#) [Student finance](#)

The Student Room is the UK's largest online student community

75% of UK students aged 14-24 visit us



240,000+
posts a month



10 million
students online a month

[Check out our A-level and GCSE help](#)


[Get help with applying to uni](#)


Join now in 30 seconds


Birthday

Gender ☐ Female ☐ Male ☐ Other


By registering, you agree to the [Ts & Cs](#) and [site rules](#). Please read our [privacy policy](#) to see how we use your personal data and about the service and marketing communications we send.

 **slide to join now**






What to expect from an exam
Feel fully prepared with our guide



What do all these words mean?
Delve into the world of uni applications



Halls vs home
Deciding whether to move out for uni?

[Latest discussions](#) [Trending](#) [My feed](#) [Can you help?](#)

Have you seen...?

Russell Group

- **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**
- **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**
- **University College London**
- **University of Warwick**
- **University of York**

Entry requirements

- Look on <http://search.ucas.com/> or use the online or paper prospectus
- More competitive courses ask for higher grades
- Some courses, such as Nursing, require work experience.
- Some courses require you to take exams or tests in addition to your A Levels e.g. UCAT, LNAT, TSA
- Some courses require a portfolio of A Level work
- Vocational courses may place greater emphasis on interview performance
- **Highly oversubscribed courses don't look for reasons to make offers – they look for reasons to reject**

New for the 2025 cycle

The **student access to grades** tool will allow students to see not only universities' published entry requirements, but the actual grade profiles of successful students over a five-year period.

This improves transparency and allows students to consider choices they may not previously have thought viable.

Note that this doesn't give a complete picture of applicants' profiles – only their grades on entry.

Selection processes

What we look for – subject specific

Motivation to
study the subject

Consideration of
career options

Relevant work
experience

Wider reading or
research

What we look for – general skills

Analytical and
problem solving

Communication
skills

Independent
thinking

Awareness of
contemporary social
and cultural issues

Where we find the evidence

Personal
statement

References

Admissions tests

Interviews

Differentiation between
strong candidates

UCAS points

	EPQ	A Level Points	BTEC Extended Certificate
Grade A*	28	56	Distinction*
Grade A	25	48	Distinction
Grade B	20	40	
Grade C	16	32	Merit
Grade D	12	25	
Grade E	8	16	Pass

My qualifications

A level

Psychology

A

Points 48

A level

English Language

B

Points 40

Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate (first teaching from September 2016)

Applied Science

D

Points 48

Extended Project

Subject (optional)

B

Points 20

Add another qualification

Clear all

Total points 156

Use the UCAS tariff calculator to work out how specific combinations of qualifications translate to points

<https://www.ucas.com/ucas/tariff-calculator>



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Select courses then order by:

Course

Uni

Choose 1 Area below

Order Areas by:

[WHAT'S AN AREA?](#)
[WHERE'S THE DATA FROM?](#)



Aspirational

The top of your range

- History - 3FT BA (Hons)
University of Cambridge
A-level: A*AA
- History - 3FT/2PT BA (Hons)
Durham University
A-level: A*AA
- History - 3FT BA (Hons)
University of Bristol
A-level: AAA
- History - 4FT MA (Hons)
University of Edinburgh
A-level: AAA-BBB
- History - 3FT BA (Hons)
University of Liverpool
A-level: AAA
- History - 3FT BA (Hons)
King's College London, University of London
A-level: AAA



Solid

In the middle

- American History - 6PT BA (Hons)
Manchester Metropolitan University
UCAS Points: 260
- American Studies - 3FT/4PT BA (Hons)
University of Derby
UCAS Points: 260
- History - 3FT/5PT BA (Hons)
York St John University
UCAS Points: 260
- History - 3FT/4PT/4SW BA (Hons)
Coventry University
A-level: BCC
- History - 3FT BA (Hons)
Liverpool Hope University
UCAS Points: 260
- History - 3FT/5PT BA (Hons)



Safe

At the bottom of your range

- American Studies - 4FT BA (Hons)
University of East Anglia UEA
A-level: CCC
Foundation year
- History - 4FT BA (Hons)
University of East Anglia UEA
A-level: CCC
Foundation year
- History - 3FT BA (Hons)
Bishop Grosseteste University
UCAS Points: 240
- History - 3FT/4PT BA (Hons)
University Campus Suffolk
UCAS Points: 240
- History - 3FT BA (Hons)
University of East London
UCAS Points: 240
- History - 3FT BA (Hons)



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A broad strategy

Choice 1	A*AA	Aspirational
Choice 2	AAA	Aspirational
Choice 3	136 points	Solid
Choice 4	128 points	Solid
Choice 5	120 points	Safe

2025 Entry – key dates

7th May 2024

UCAS search tool goes live for courses starting in September 2025

15th October 2024 (18:00)

Entry deadline for Oxbridge, Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science degrees

29th January 2025 (18:00)

General application deadline. All applications received by 18:00 must be given fair and equal consideration.

Resources for parents

UCAS UNDERGRADUATE: ADVICE FOR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

Explore this section ▾

We've got lots of resources and information dedicated to helping parents and guardians support students applying to uni.

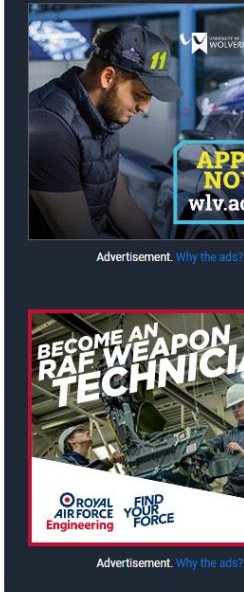
What's on this page?

- [Parent newsletters – sign up](#)
- [Top ten tips](#)
- [What you need to know about the application process](#)
- [Guides to help you](#)
- [Know your rights!](#)

Parent newsletters – sign up

Get updates and all the information you need, along with timely explanations of the application process.

[Sign up for our monthly parent newsletters](#)



<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/ucas-undergraduate-advice-parents-and-guardians>

Virtual tours

[Home](#) / [Undergraduate](#) / [What and where to study](#) / [Open days and events](#)

VIRTUAL TOURS

Explore this **section** 

Here's a list of virtual tours and videos from universities and colleges, so you can see what it's like on campus and what facilities are available.

If the uni/college you're interested in isn't listed, take a look at their website or YouTube channel instead, or see if they're on Unibuddy.

Speak to current undergraduate students on Unibuddy

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P
Q R S T U V W X Y Z

A

[University of Aberdeen](#)
[Abertay University](#)
[Aberystwyth University](#)
[Academy of Contemporary Music](#)
[AECU University College](#)

<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/what-and-where-study/open-days-and-events/virtual-tours>

Completing the application

Maximum of five choices

Some choice restrictions:

- Medicine, Veterinary, Dentistry – maximum of four
- Oxford **or** Cambridge

Application cost: £28.50

Institutions cannot see other choices

Choices are not ranked; firm and insurance choices are selected only once all university decisions are in.

The personal statement

- **No changes to personal statements are expected for the 2025 entry cycle**
- The only section the applicant has direct control over
- The applicant's opportunity to market themselves individually
- One personal statement for all five choices
- **Show, don't tell**
 - *Max. 4000 characters or 47 lines (whichever is reached first)*
 - *No integrated spelling/grammar check*
 - *No formatting*

Personal statement tips

Focus on the course

- Around 80% of the statement should be related to the subject you're applying for
- Remember that the statement will be read by an expert; don't be afraid to get technical

Don't write lists

- Explain how your achievements have benefited you and how they relate to the course you're applying for

Think super-curricular rather than extra-curricular

- In your own time, follow up interesting threads within your subjects
- Extra-curricular achievements still need to be related to the course you're applying for

Lay the groundwork now

- Don't wait until the summer holidays to start reading around your subject!
- Apply for summer schools and work experience



Changes to References

From 2024, UCAS will no longer be accepting full school references for undergraduate applications. Instead the school is asked to account for the following three areas only:

Enter a general statement about your school/college
(mandatory for applications sent via a registered centre)



Enter any information about extenuating circumstances which may affect this applicant's performance in examinations or other assessments (optional)



Outline any other circumstances specific to the applicant that you think universities/colleges should be aware of (optional)



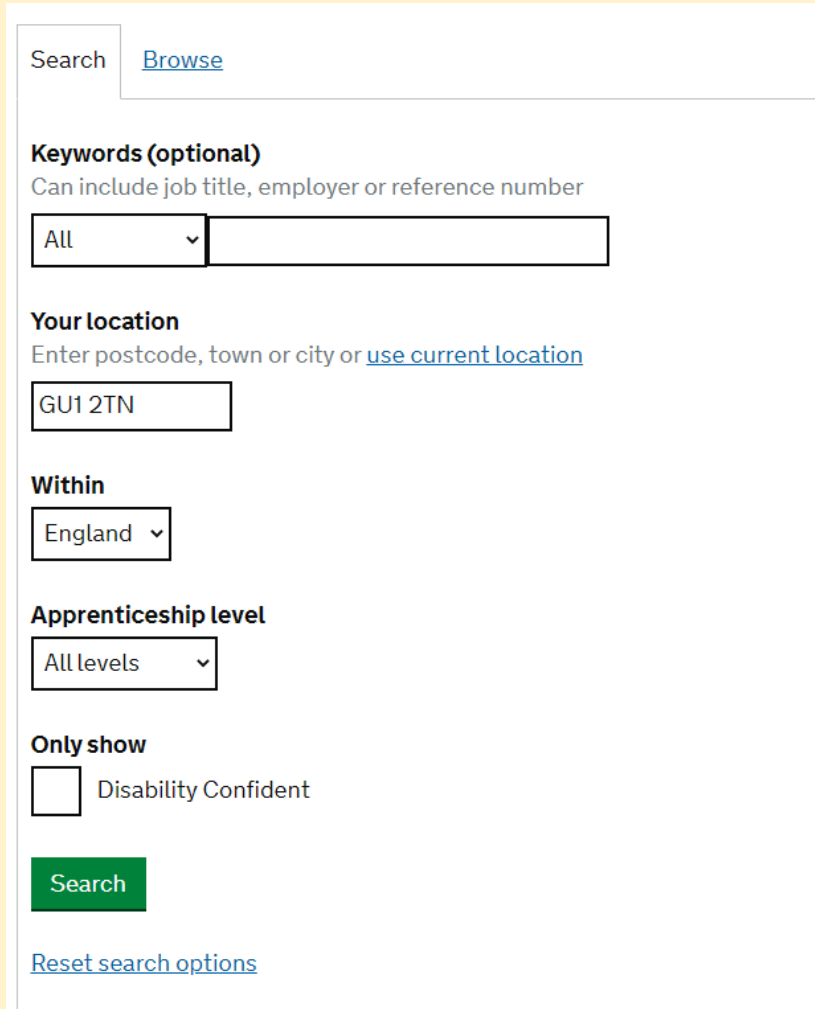
KEY BENEFITS



- ▶ Advisers have built-in clarity and confidence they are providing information that is useful.
- ▶ Advisers have more time and resources to allocate to students on the discovery phase of their application journey
- ▶ Students have more transparency over the information shared about them.
- ▶ Providers can easily find information to make selection decisions and target support

Apprenticeships

- Advanced (level 3)
- Higher (level 4-5)
- Degree (level 5-6)



The screenshot shows the 'Find Apprenticeship Search' form. It has a 'Search' button and a 'Browse' link. The 'Keywords (optional)' section has a text input field and a dropdown menu set to 'All'. The 'Your location' section has a text input field containing 'GU1 2TN' and a link to 'use current location'. The 'Within' section has a dropdown menu set to 'England'. The 'Apprenticeship level' section has a dropdown menu set to 'All levels'. The 'Only show' section has a checkbox for 'Disability Confident'. A green 'Search' button is at the bottom, and a 'Reset search options' link is below it.

Search [Browse](#)

Keywords (optional)
Can include job title, employer or reference number

All

Your location
Enter postcode, town or city or [use current location](#)

GU1 2TN

Within

England

Apprenticeship level

All levels

Only show

☐ Disability Confident

[Search](#)

[Reset search options](#)

<https://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/apprenticeshipsearch>



Business to Business Sales Degree Apprenticeship (London)

Experian

London

Apprenticeship level	Salary
England - Degree	£25,400.00
Apprenticeship - Level 6	

Industry	Apply by Start date
Business and office administration	14/03/2024 01/09/2024



Civil Engineering Degree Apprenticeship in Central London

Simpson Associates Consulting Ltd

London

Apprenticeship level	Salary
England - Degree	£16,500.00
Apprenticeship - Level 6	

Industry	Apply by Start date
Architecture and planning	30/06/2024 02/09/2024



Civil Engineering Degree Apprenticeship position in Henley on Thames available

Simpson Associates Consulting Ltd

Henley On Thames

Apprenticeship level	Salary
England - Degree	£16,500.00
Apprenticeship - Level 6	

Industry	Apply by Start date
Architecture and planning	30/06/2024 02/09/2024



Civil Engineering Degree Apprenticeship positions in Gloucester available

Simpson Associates Consulting Ltd

Gloucester

Apprenticeship level	Salary
England - Degree	£16,500.00
Apprenticeship - Level 6	

Industry	Apply by Start date
Architecture and planning	30/06/2024 02/09/2024



Commercial Apprentice - Chartered Manager Degree

Gestamp Tallent Limited

County Durham

Apprenticeship level	Salary
England - Degree	£20,000.00
Apprenticeship - Level 6	



Requirements

Skills

Communication skills, IT skills, Attention to detail, Problem solving skills, Number skills

Qualifications

Desired / A Level or equivalent / Maths / B. Desired / A Level or equivalent / Physics / B. Desired / BTEC or equivalent / Engineering / Distinction.



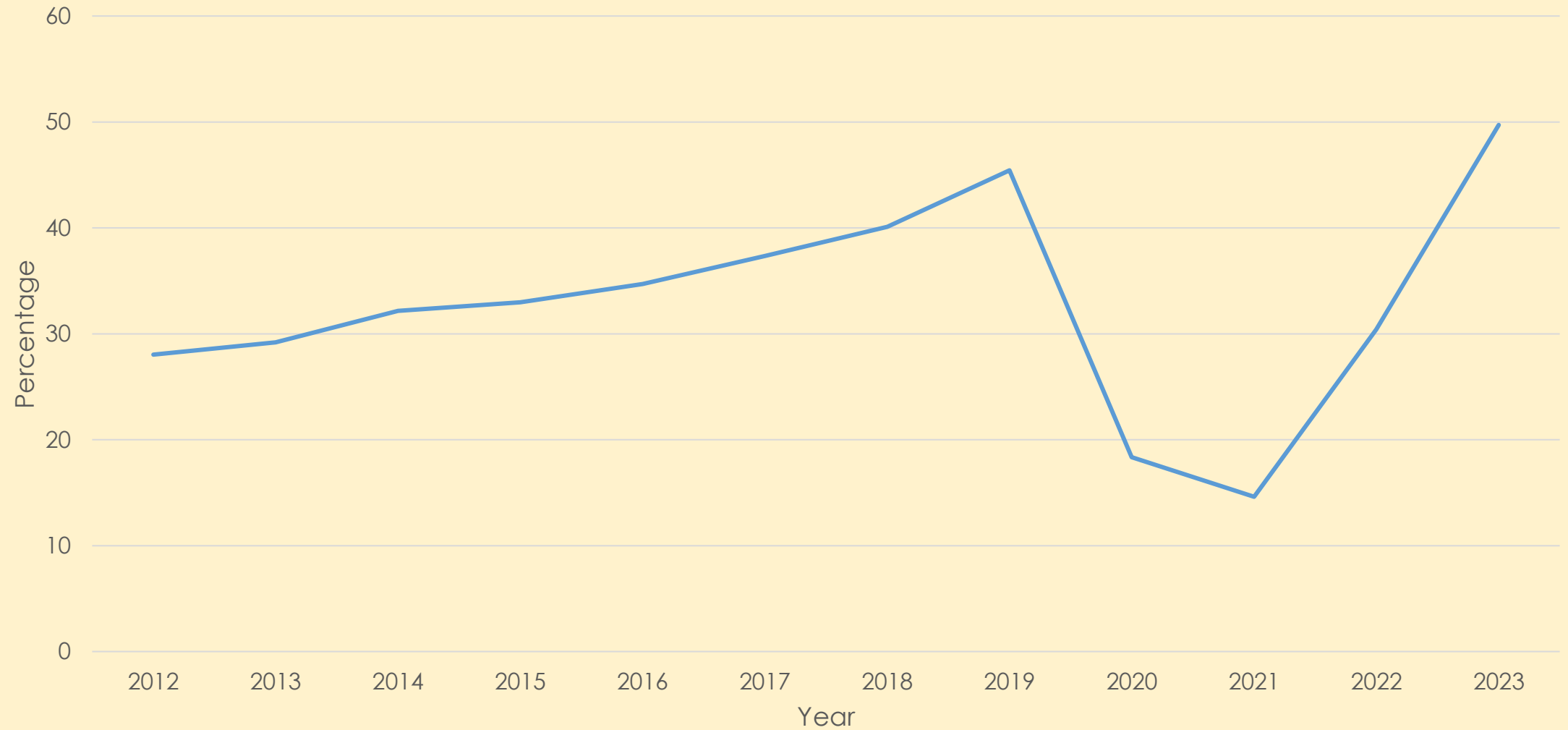
Benefits of a degree apprenticeship

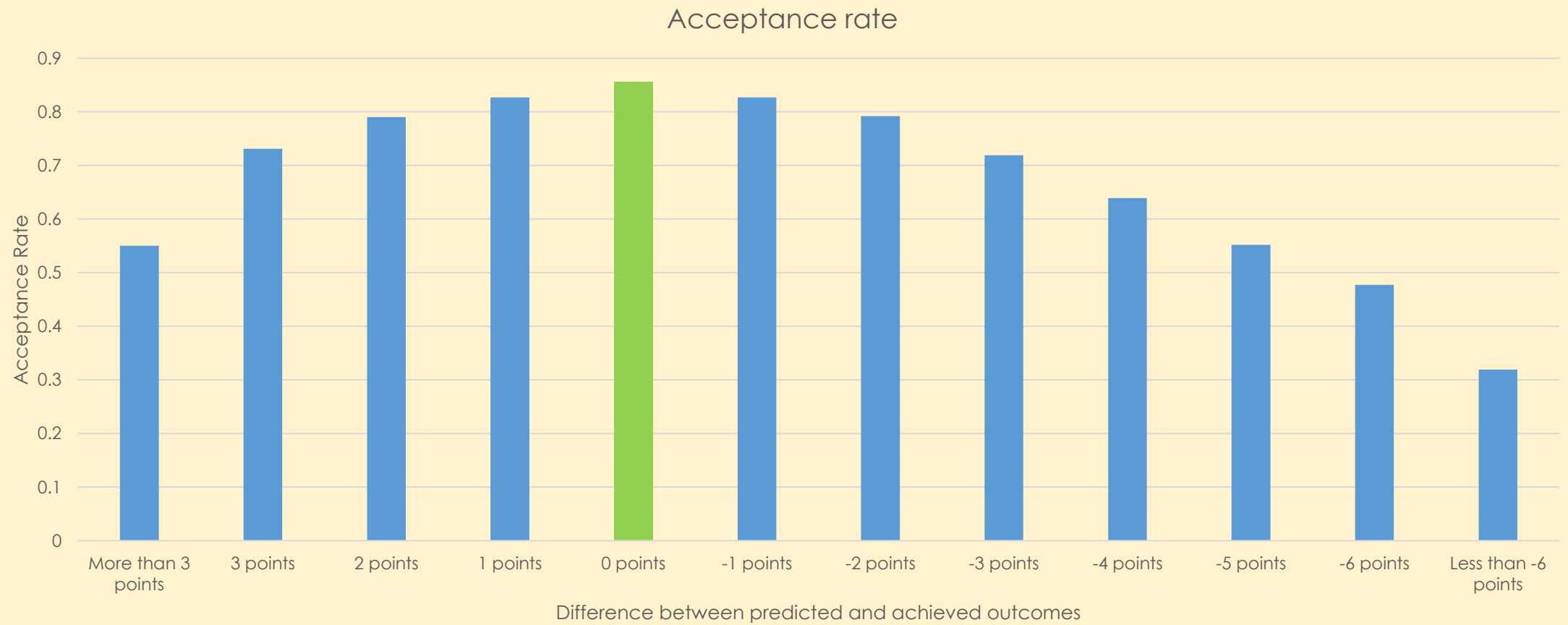
- Apprentices are employed and paid a wage throughout the course.
- Apprentices will gain a full degree without needing to pay student fees.
- Apprentices will gain a head start in their chosen profession.
- Allows apprentices access to careers requiring graduate-level skills
- Employers can attract and retain new talent — particularly high calibre school-leavers who are keen to earn a degree in a work-based environment.
- Training costs are co-funded by the government and the employer.

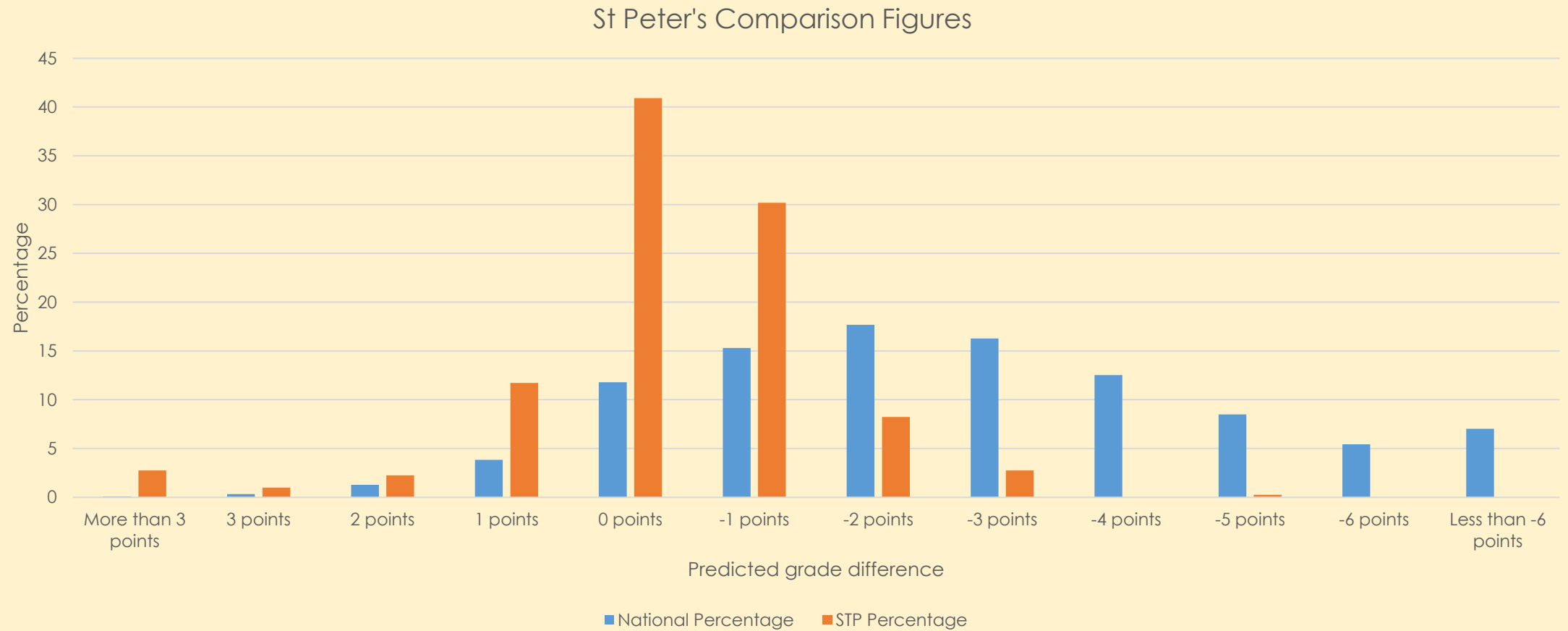
FAQs

- The UCAS form has an “employment” section – am I at a disadvantage if I don't have a job?
- Should I mention personal problems or health issues in my application?
- What if I just don't know what I want to do?
- What about predicted grades?

Percentage -3 or worse







Source: <https://www.ucas.com/data-and-analysis/undergraduate-statistics-and-reports/ucas-undergraduate-end-cycle-data-resources-2023>

St Peter's approach to predicted grades

- Predicted grades come from subject teachers who have followed the applicant's progress from the start of Year 12. They are independent professional judgements
- We want predicted grades to allow students to follow their aspirations, but they need to be realistic too
- Predicted grades should be grounded in data
- Predicted grades will not be lower than the most recent published forecast grade
- Teachers have the opportunity to make changes to predicted grades up to the moment the form is sent
- Any changes must be evidence-based