

Parents' and Carers' Guide to Higher Education

**Nicola Wilberforce
Director of Progression Guidance**

Tuesday 14 March 2023

Tonight's programme

- 'The Internship 2023' –Sam Crick from 8billionideas
- How to support your student to choose a university and course –Sarah West, Student Recruitment and Access, University of Reading
- Applying to university from Esher Sixth Form College
 - HE in the UK 2023
 - Support we provide for students
- Q & A and closing remarks



07/08/09 JUNE

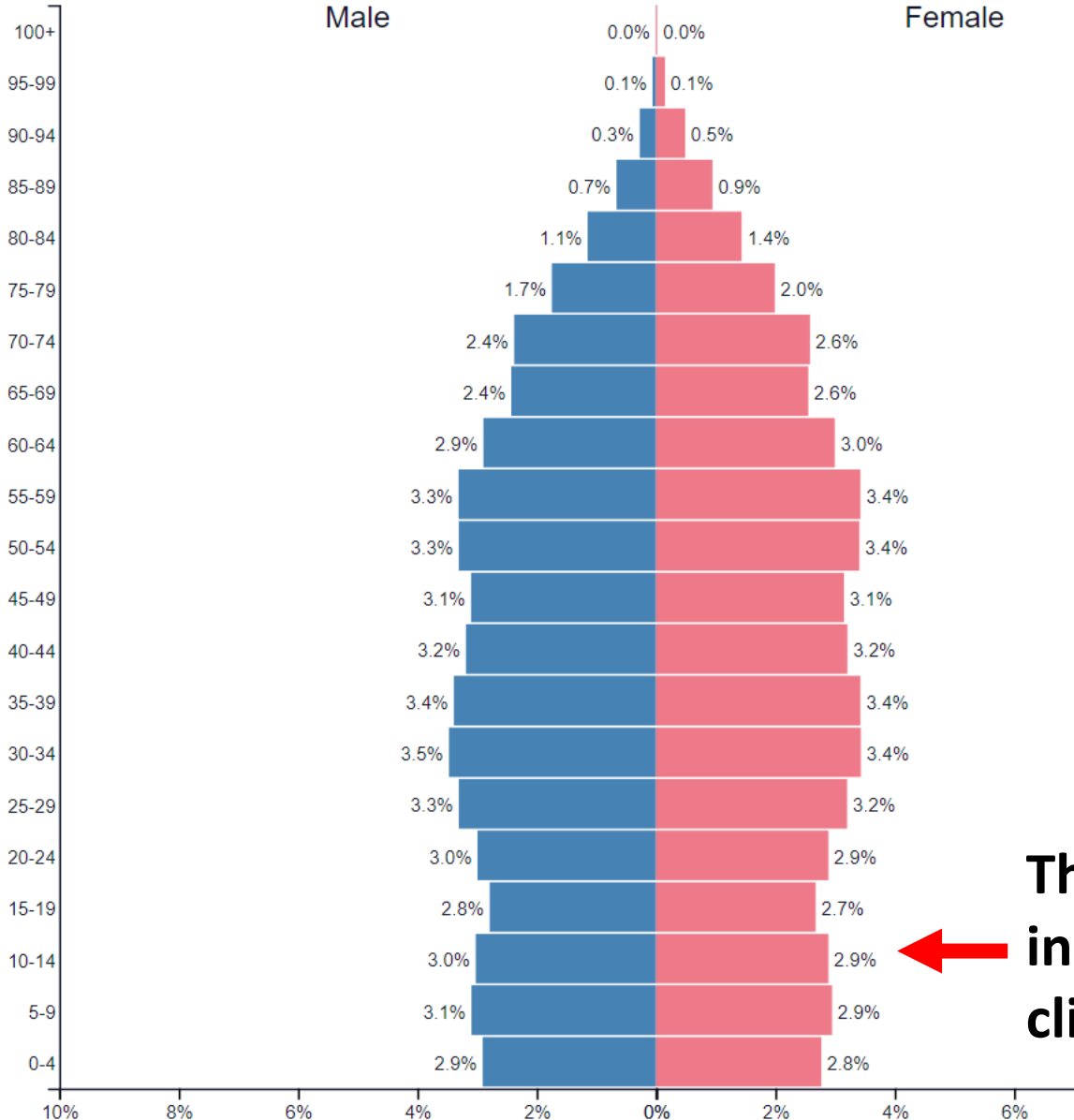
THE INTERNSHIP ²⁰²³

FEATURING GUEST SPEAKERS



Buy tickets on College Shop

The current HE climate



The number of 18 years olds in the UK is just starting to climb.



The current HE climate

- Number of 18 year olds is increasing again
- Covid, CAGs and TAGs skewed the market slightly
- UCAS applications data from the 2022 cycle: **766,775** applications in total (up 2.4%); **563,175** were accepted (up 0.2%)
- Competition for places at top universities will remain as hard as ever
- It is still a very good time to apply to university!

Why Go To Uni?

- You enjoy studying and want to continue!



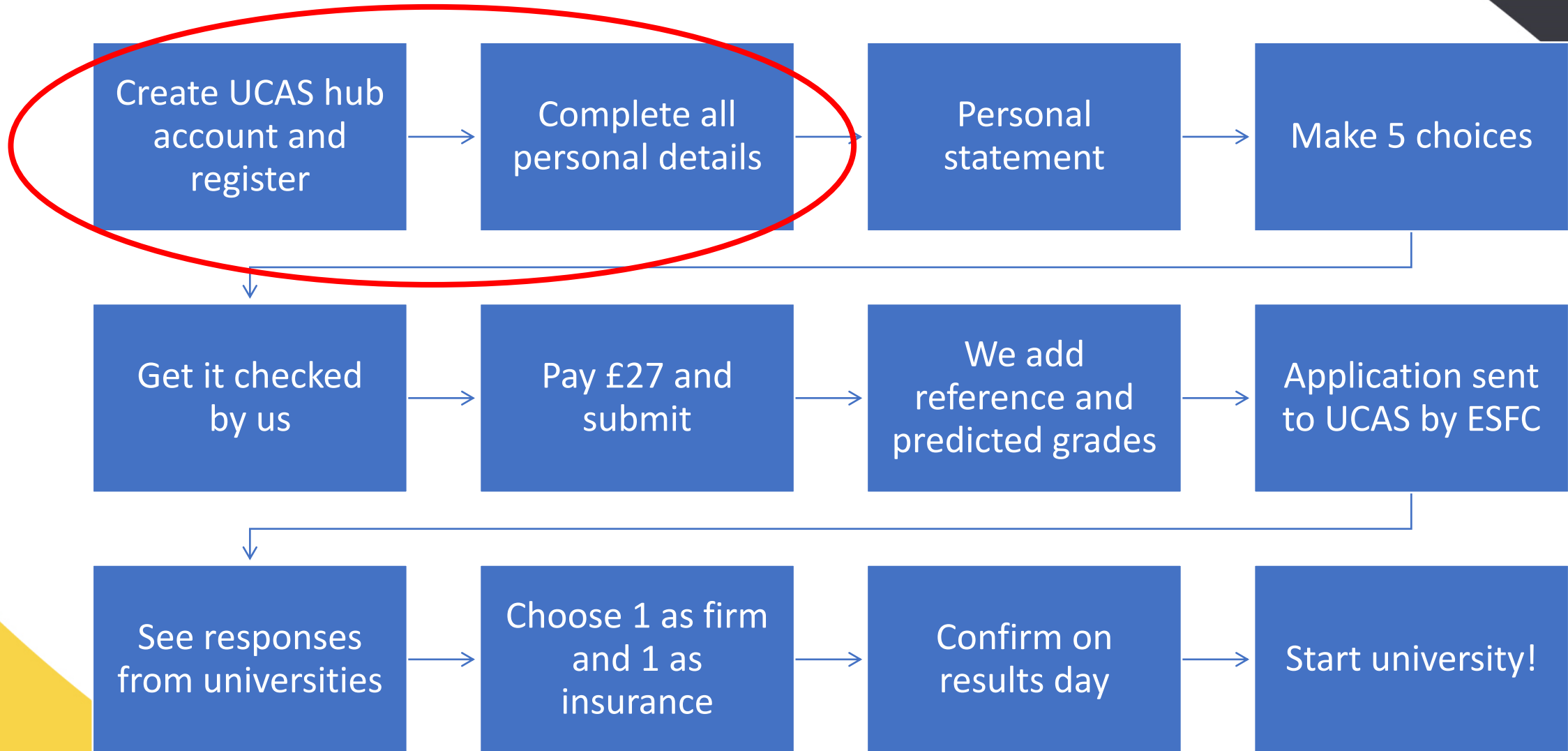
How to support your student

Sarah West from the University of Reading



**University of
Reading**

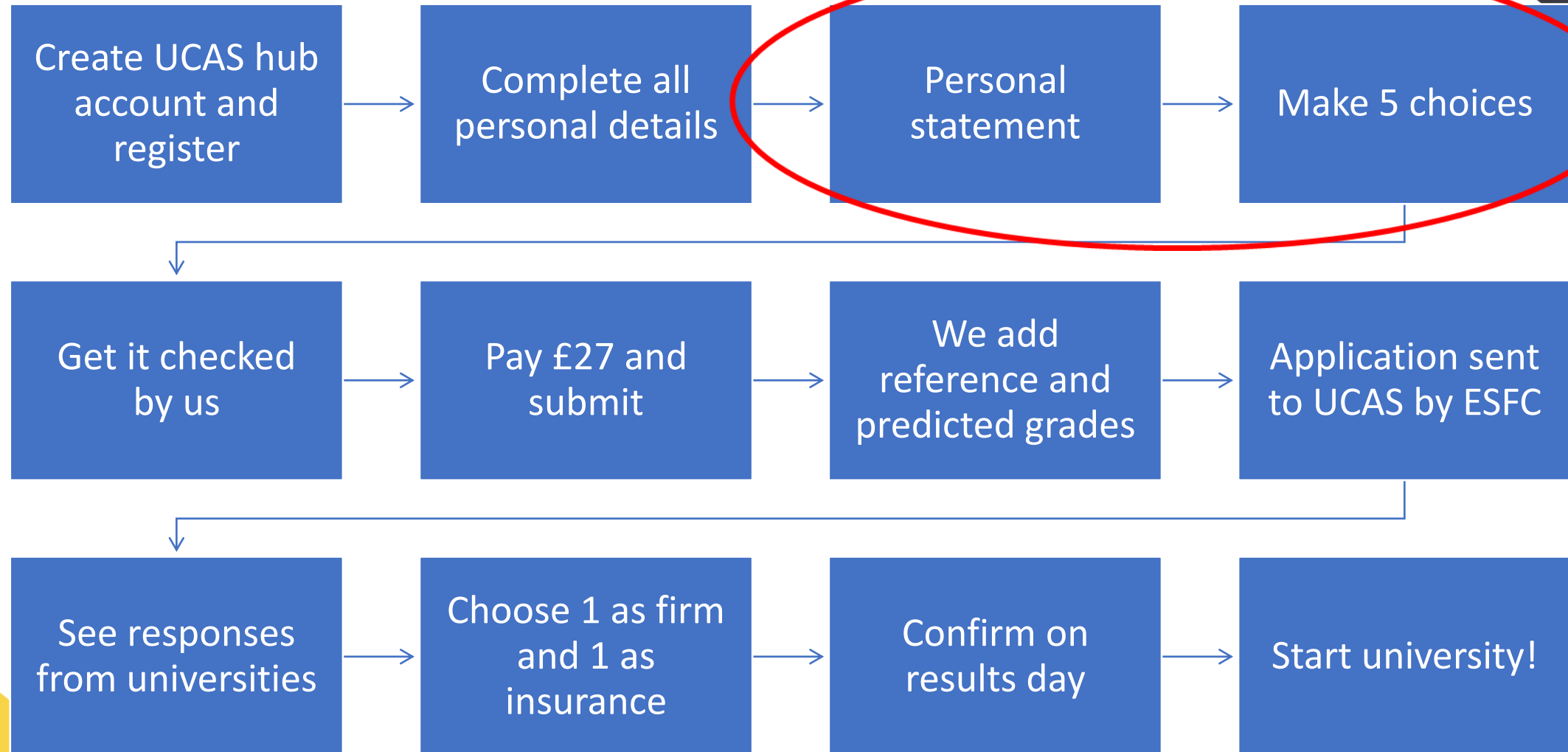
How does Esher SFC support students?



Create UCAS hub account and register

- On **After Esher Day** (27 June)
- Create a **UCAS hub** account
- Link application to ESFC with a **buzzword**
- Complete all **personal details** (*harder than you think!*)

How does Esher SFC support students?



Personal statement

- Use **personal statement** tool on Unifrog
- Every draft saved so every teacher and tutor can see it to give feedback
- **75-80%** of statement needs to be focused on academic and other skills, with evidence
- **Super-curricular** activities are only valuable if they provide **evidence of skills**
- Students will get input on this on **After Esher Day**
- Parents' talk online the evening before
- First part of autumn term PDP is focused on PS

UK Personal Statement

- ✓ Subject added
- ✓ Started
- ✗ Character count
- ✗ Marked as finished

[Go to tool >](#)

What do universities find out from the PS?

- Have they chosen the **right subject** for the right reasons?
- Do they know what **studying the subject** actually involves?
- Do they have real **academic** or **vocational interest** in the subject – evidence?
- Are they **motivated and committed** and can they study **independently**?
- Do they possess good **numeracy** and **literacy** skills?
- Do they possess relevant **'soft skills'** – team work, leadership, resilience, problem solving etc? *(Work experience or The internship will provide excellent evidence for these.)*

Beware!



The screenshot shows the EduBirdie website. At the top, it says "EduBirdie™" and "Writing Services". Below that, it states "We'll do your personal statement starting at just £14.70 a page!" and "Leading personal statement writing service for British students." There is a blue cartoon bird character wearing glasses and a graduation cap. Below the bird, there are three star ratings: "Edubirdie 4.7", "Trustpilot 4.5", and "iStockphoto 4.4". The section "Our Personal Statement Writers" is visible, showing profiles for "Dr. Top Writer Jr" and "Grade Booster".

Do not be tempted to 'buy' a personal statement or use Chat GPT

Plagiarism and AI detection software will check for 'template' answers.

Help to choose

- **5** choices – except for medicine and vets (4 +1)
- **Cannot** change your mind once form is submitted
- Advice: 2 or 3 **aspirational**, 1 or 2 **solid** and 1 **safe**
- If you are very aspirational you might be disappointed
- **Historic entry grades data** can be very useful
- Subjects and institutions **vary** – research is **essential**

UCAS Historic entry data tool - new for 2024



Biomedical Sciences at Bath

A level - Typical offer

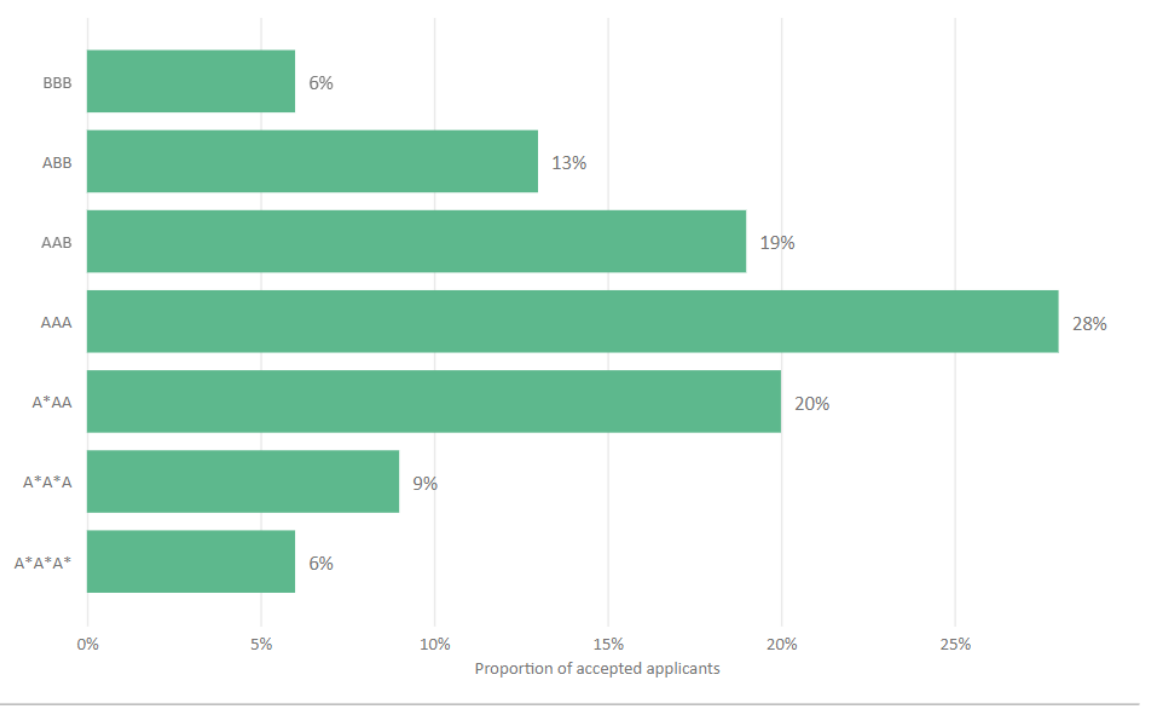
AAA or A*AB

AAA or A*AB in three A levels including A in Biology and A in Chemistry

A level - Alternative offer

AAB

Most of our students will join us with three A levels, but you may have study beyond this (such as a project qualification or additional study in maths) which demonstrates your individual talents that will help you with your degree. We recognise these studies through our alternative offers.



Qualification type: A level

[Change course selection](#)

Minimum grade held by accepted applicants (excluding outliers):

BBB

Most common grade held by accepted applicants (mode):

AAA

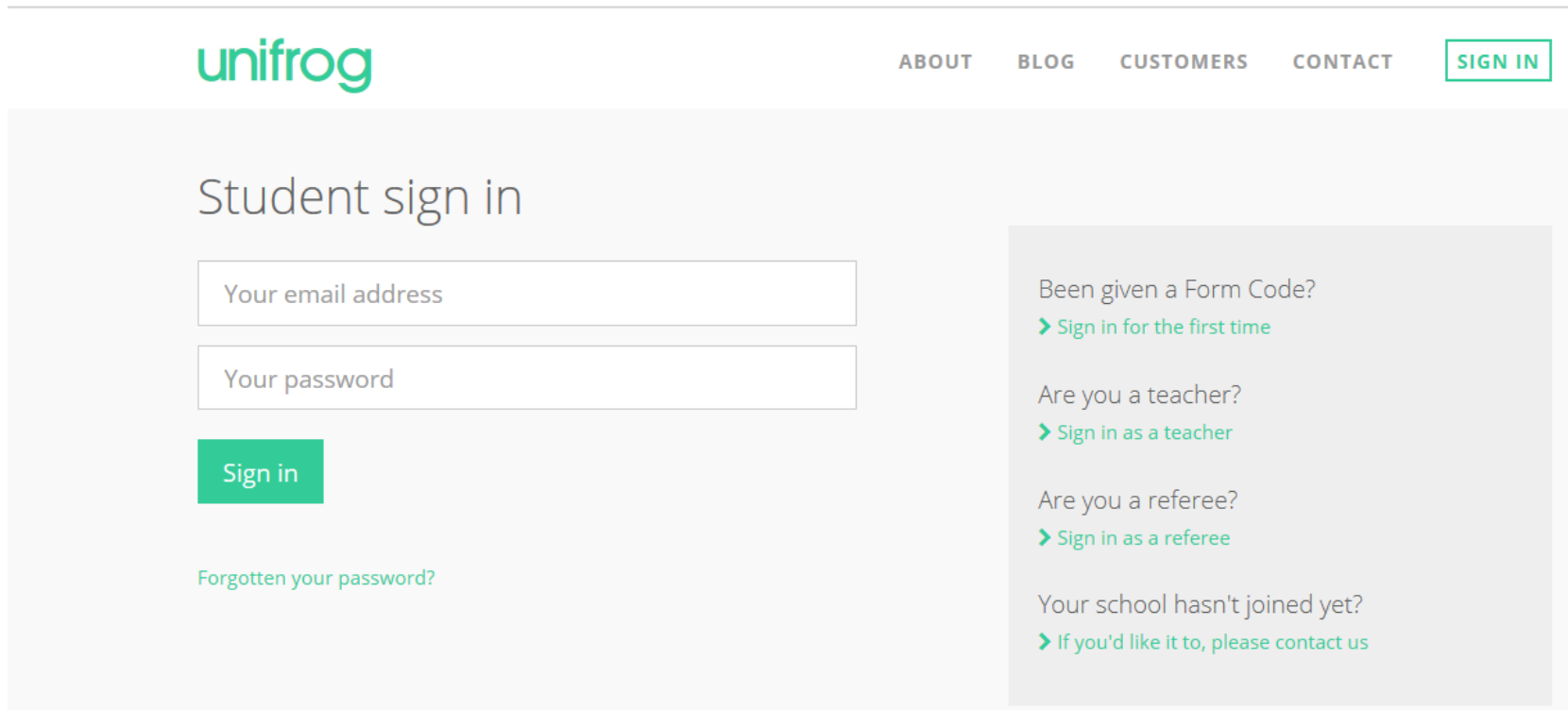
Maximum grade held by accepted applicants (excluding outliers):

A*A*A*

*To remove outliers the top and bottom 5% of accepted applicants have been removed.

Unifrog – our destinations platform

- **Unifrog** is our main research tool
- Unifrog was launched to students before Christmas
- Unifrog parent form code: **COJBparents** (*only valid for 90 days from 14/03/23*)



The screenshot shows the Unifrog website's student sign-in interface. At the top left is the 'unifrog' logo in green. To the right are navigation links: 'ABOUT', 'BLOG', 'CUSTOMERS', 'CONTACT', and a 'SIGN IN' button with a green border. The main heading is 'Student sign in'. Below it are two input fields: 'Your email address' and 'Your password'. A green 'Sign in' button is positioned below the password field. A link for 'Forgotten your password?' is located below the sign-in button. On the right side, there is a grey box containing four questions with corresponding links: 'Been given a Form Code?' with a link 'Sign in for the first time'; 'Are you a teacher?' with a link 'Sign in as a teacher'; 'Are you a referee?' with a link 'Sign in as a referee'; and 'Your school hasn't joined yet?' with a link 'If you'd like it to, please contact us'.

Exploring pathways

Interests profile

✓ Quiz last taken 14 Apr 20: S and I and C

Start >

Personality profile

✓ Quiz last taken 4 Mar 20: ESFP

Start >

Work environments profile

✓ Quiz last taken 4 Jul 22

Start >

Skills profile

✗ Quiz not taken

Start >

Careers library

✓ Careers favourited

Go to tool >

Subjects library

✓ Subjects favourited

Go to tool >

Know-how library

✓ Guides favourited

Go to tool >

MOOC

You have [5 shortlists](#)

Start >

Webinars

Hear directly from the experts

Go to tool >

Read, Watch, Listen

✓ Profiles favourited

Start >

Placements

✓ 1 placement added, 0 completed

Go to tool >

Recording what you've done

<p>Locker ✓ 2 student items saved</p> <p>Go to tool ></p>	<p>Activities ✗ Recorded at least 10</p> <p>Go to tool ></p>	<p>Skills ✗ Completed all 12</p> <p>Go to tool ></p>
<p>Interactions ✗ Missing 17 Interaction types</p> <p>Go to tool ></p>	<p>Academics ✗ No Classes selected</p> <p>Go to tool ></p>	

Searching for opportunities

<p>UK universities (22 shortlists)</p> <p>Start ></p>	<p>Oxbridge (1 shortlist)</p> <p>Start ></p>	<p>Apprenticeships (17 shortlists)</p> <p>Start ></p>
<p>College / Sixth Form (0 shortlists)</p> <p>Start ></p>	<p>Special opportunities (0 shortlists)</p> <p>Start ></p>	<p>Events (0 upcoming events)</p> <p>Go to tool ></p>



- 1 Start
- 2 Subjects
- 3 Longlist
- 4 Shortlist
- 5 Complete

What are the **best grades** you're likely to get by the time you leave school / college?

* Qualification 1	A Level	B (40 points)
Qualification 2	A Level	B (40 points)
Qualification 3	A Level	C (32 points)
Qualification 4	Extended Project (stand alone)	B (20 points)
Qualification 5	--- please select a qualification ---	
Qualification 6	--- please select a qualification ---	

1 Start

2 **Subjects**

3 Longlist

4 Shortlist

5 Complete

What do you want to study at university?

* Subject

×

next ▶

or go back

Any of these interest you?

Select up to 10 at a time by clicking on the subjects you like

Direct matches (1)

Psychology

Subjects you might like
(51)

Advertising and Psychology

Biology and Psychology

Business and Management and Psychology

Business Management and Psychology

Counselling Psychology

Creative Writing and Psychology

Criminal Psychology

Criminology and Criminal Psychology



















next: 1 subject ▶ or go back












Rank ▾ Filter ▾ Search ▾











Aspirational (117)

Solid (189)

Safe (180)

	Psychology - 3FT BSc (Hons)	
	University of Birmingham	
RG	A Level: A,A,A	
	Psychology - 4FT MPsych	
	Lancaster University	
TT	A Level: A,A,A	
	Psychological Sciences - 4FT MPsycholSc	
	University of Liverpool	
RG	A Level: A,A,A	
	Psychology with a Placement Year - 4FT BSc (Hons)	
	University of Kent	
	A Level: A,A,A	
	Psychology - 4FT MA (Hons)	
	University of St Andrews	
TT	A Level: A,A,B	
	Psychology - 4FT BSc (Hons)	
	University of St Andrews	

	Psychology and Sociology - 3FT/4SW + Abroad BSc (Hons)
	Keele University
	A Level: A,B,C-B,B,B
	Psychology - 3FT BSc (Hons)
	University of Gloucestershire
	A Level: B,B,B
	Forensic Psychology - 3FT/4SW BSc (Hons)
	University of Portsmouth
	UCAS Points: 120
	Psychology - 3FT/4SW BSc (Hons)
	University of Portsmouth
	UCAS Points: 120
	Criminology and Criminal Psychology - 3FT BSc (Hons)
	University of Greenwich
	UCAS Points: 120
	Psychology and Criminology - 3FT

	A Level: B,C,C
	Criminology with Psychology - 3FT BA (Hons)
	De Montfort University
	UCAS Points: 104
	Psychology/Criminology - 3FT BA (Hons)
	University of Northampton
	A Level: B,C,C
	Criminology with Psychology - 3FT BA (Hons)
	University of Winchester
	UCAS Points: 104-120
	Criminology with Psychology - 3FT BA (Hons)
	Leeds Beckett University
	UCAS Points: 104
	Sociology/Psychology - 3FT BA (Hons)
	University of Northampton

next ▶

or go back

Rank ▲ Filter ▼ Search ▼

Entry requirements	Average points	% Graduate jobs	Fees	Starting salary	Dropout rate	Hours of lectures	Hours of tutorials
Hours of workshops	% Satisfaction	% Application success (Overall)	% Application success (UK)	Size of uni	% international		
Guardian rank	Guardian Psychology rank	Guardian Education rank	QS world rank	Accommodation cost	Distance from home	Social life	
Spend on Access							

Aspirational (117)

Solid (189)

Safe (180)

Aspirational (117)	Solid (189)	Safe (180)
🎓 Psychological Sciences - 4FT MPsychoSc 🏢 University of Liverpool RG A Level: A,A,A	A Level: B,B,B 🎓 Forensic Psychology - 3FT/4SW BSc (Hons) 🏢 University of Portsmouth UCAS Points: 120	🎓 (HONS) University of Northampton A Level: B,C,C
🎓 Psychology with a Placement Year - 4FT BSc (Hons) 🏢 University of Kent A Level: A,A,A	🎓 Psychology - 3FT/4SW BSc (Hons) 🏢 University of Portsmouth UCAS Points: 120	🎓 Criminology with Psychology - 3FT BA (Hons) 🏢 University of Winchester UCAS Points: 104-120
🎓 Psychology - 4FT MA (Hons) 🏢 University of St Andrews TT A Level: A,A,B	🎓 Criminology and Criminal Psychology - 3FT BSc (Hons) 🏢 University of Greenwich UCAS Points: 120	🎓 Criminology with Psychology - 3FT BA (Hons) 🏢 Leeds Beckett University UCAS Points: 104
🎓 Psychology - 4FT BSc (Hons) 🏢 University of St Andrews	🎓 Psychology and Criminology - 3FT	🎓 Sociology/Psychology - 3FT BA (Hons) 🏢 University of Northampton

next ▶



or go back



Rank ▼ Filter ▲ Search ▼



Aspirational (4)



Solid (11)



Safe (1)


 Psychology with a Year Abroad - 4FT + Abroad BSc (Hons)
 University of East Anglia UEA
 TT A Level: A,B,B



 Cognitive Psychology with a Year Abroad - 4FT + Abroad BSc (Hons)
 University of East Anglia UEA
 TT A Level: A,B,B

 Psychology - 4FT + Abroad BSc (Hons)
 Northumbria University, Newcastle

 Psychology - 3FT/4SW + Abroad BSc (Hons)
 Keele University
 A Level: A,B,C-B,B,B

 Criminology and Psychology - 3FT/4SW + Abroad BSc (Hons)
 Keele University
 A Level: A,B,C-B,B,B

 Psychology and Sociology - 3FT/4SW + Abroad BSc (Hons)
 Keele University

 Psychology with Science Foundation Year - 4FT + Abroad BSc (Hons)
 Keele University
 Foundation year
 UCAS Points: 64

next ▶

or go back

Aspirational 1 Solid 1 Safe 1

You have 3 courses selected - **now click save**

save ▶

Psychology - 3FT BSc (Hons)

University of Lincoln
Aspirational - TEF Gold



The BSc (Hons) Psychology degree aims to provide students with a strong foundation of knowledge and expertise within the subject. The degree is taught by research-active academics with specialist areas of expertise including cognitive neuropsychology, vision and attentional processing, infant cognition and language, mental health, forensic psychology and life span development. Students are encouraged to participate in original research projects with staff throughout the course, and may have the opportunity to publish and present findings. Students have the opportunity to learn through a combination of theoretical, lecture-based teaching, small group seminar discussion and practical experimentation.

Full-time undergrads at the uni: 11420 Domestic / Int'l undergrads at the uni: 92% / 8%

[Website](#) [Open Day](#) [Course page](#) [Finance page](#) [Disabilities](#)

Getting in

Overall Application success rate
21%

UK Application success rate

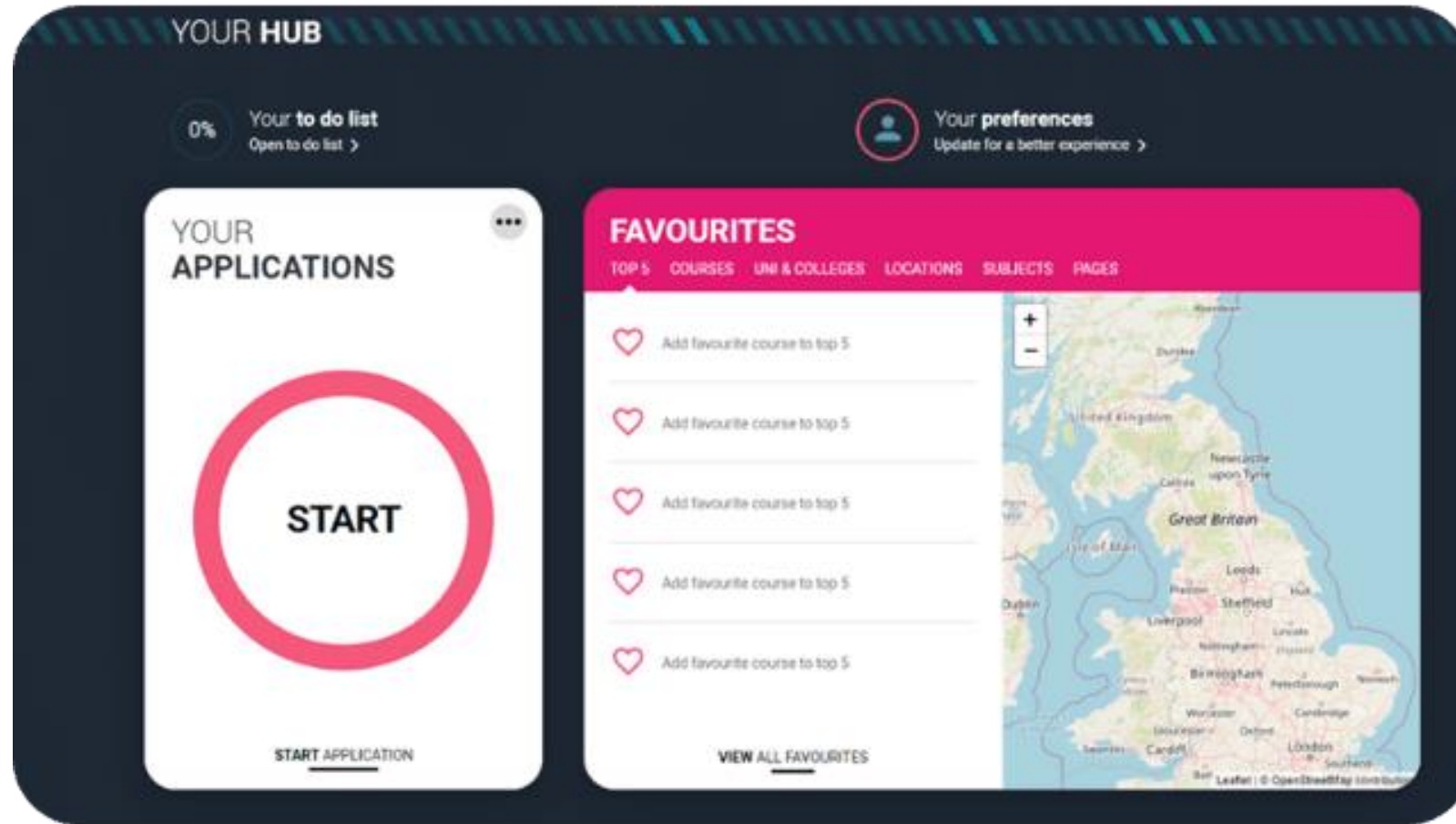
Unofficial overview

"The University of Lincoln has sites in Brayford, Lincoln, Hull, Holebeach and Nettleham. Recent work has included an impressive engineering building built in partnership with Siemens, and a performing arts centre. The university is also home to the

save: 3 courses ▶ or go back

UCAS Hub

- An invaluable source of information, as well as the method by which applications are made



UCAS Hub


- Lots of tools, a bit like Unifrog

READ NEXT

HOW TO WRITE A PERSONAL STATEMENT

The personal statement is your chance to describe your ambitions, skills, and experience to uni admissions staff – find out what to write, and how to write it.

[READ MORE](#)



PERSONAL STATEMENT BUILDER

4000 characters of 4000 remaining



[View personal statement guides](#)

[CONTINUE WRITING](#)

WHAT TO STUDY NEXT?

Medicine and allied subjects 44.43%

Biological sciences 21.28%

Molecular biology, biophysics, and biochemistry 16.37%

Chemistry 9.52%

Physiology, physiotherapy, and pathology 8.4%

[CHANGE SUBJECTS](#)

YOUR CAREERS QUIZ

[View my matches](#)

[BROWSE CAREERS](#)

Discover subjects

Subject guides

Discover what subjects you can do

> [See all](#)



Food science



Materials science and engineering



Anthropology



Criminology

Subjects based on what you are studying

Discover what subjects you can do

> [See all](#)



Physical sciences



Art and design



Chemistry

Biological sciences

> [See all](#)



Biological sciences

University of Salford
BSc (Hons) · 3 Years · Full-time · Salford · 2023-2024

[26 related courses](#)



Biological sciences

University of Brighton
BSc (Hons) · 3 Years · Full-time · Brighton · 2023-2024

[2 course options available](#) >

[12 related courses](#)



Biological sciences

Oxford Brookes University
BSc (Hons) · 4 Years · Sandwich · Oxford · 2023-2024

[3 course options available](#) >

[12 related courses](#)



Biological sciences

Bournemouth University
BSc (Hons) · 3 Years · Full-time · Poole · 2023-2024

[2 course options available](#) >

[19 related courses](#)



Biological Sciences
University of Salford
Main Site, Salford

 BSc (Hons)  3 Years


 Full-time  2023-2024

 **£21k**
Average grad salary

 **104/112**
UCAS Tariff



 **60%**
Student satisfaction


26 related courses >





Biological Sciences
University of Brighton
Brighton

 BSc (Hons)  3 Years

 Full-time  2023-2024


 **£23k**
Average grad salary

 **104/120**
UCAS Tariff



 **42%**
Student satisfaction



2 course options available >


12 related courses >





Biological Sciences
Oxford Brookes University
Main Site, Oxford

 BSc (Hons)  4 Years

 Sandwich  2023-2024

 **£23k**
Average grad salary

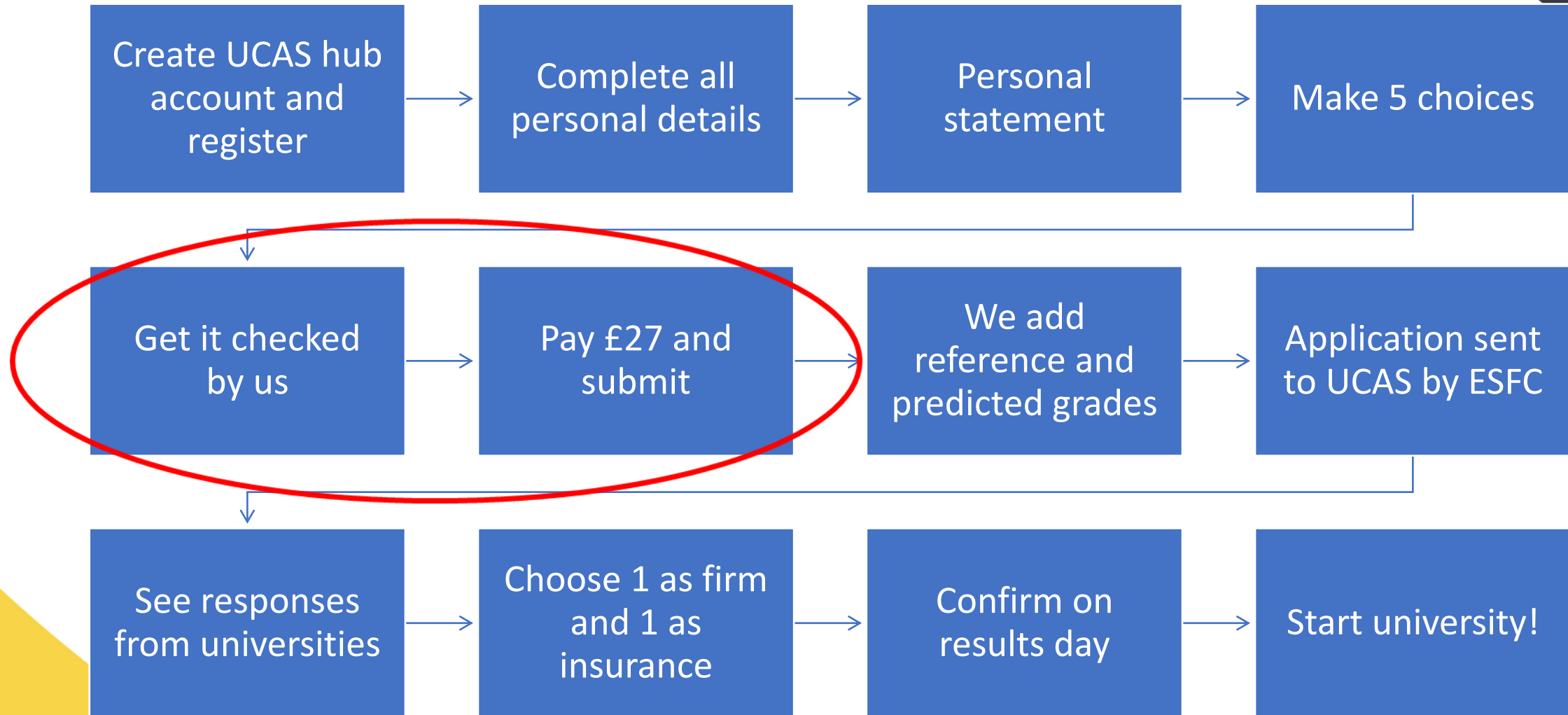
 **104/104**
UCAS Tariff

 **92%**
Student satisfaction

3 course options available >

12 related courses >

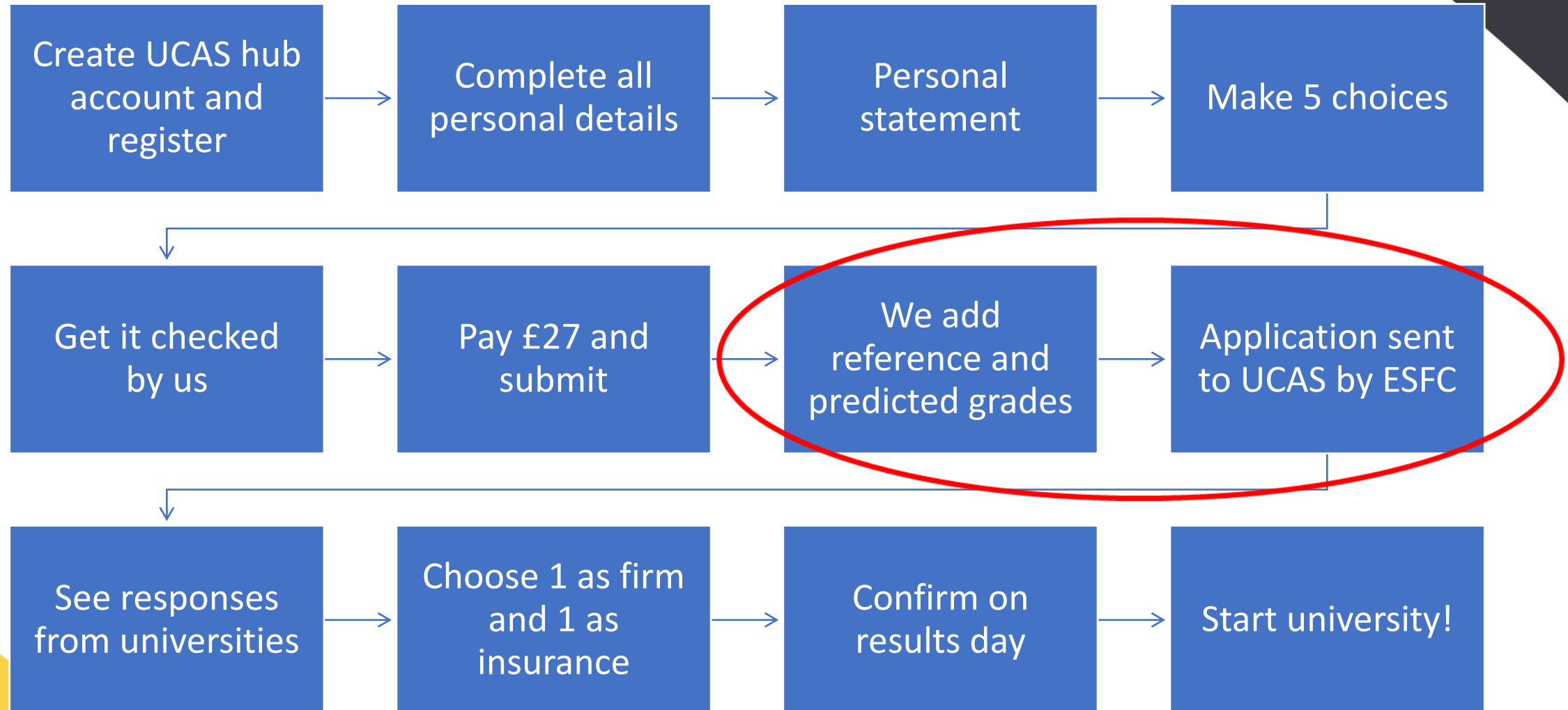
How does Esher SFC support students?



UCAS unifrog

Get it right, get it checked,
get it in!

How does Esher SFC support students?



Reference – new format



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)

UCAS grades

- We add predicted grades (**UCAS grades**)
- Based on a variety of information, but especially **6.1 Formal Exams**
- UCAS grades released on student and parent portal on **27 June**
- Students should apply aspirationally but not stupidly!

What do the universities do?

- **Sometimes** additional tests, interviews, auditions, portfolios necessary
- Unis make **offers** or **rejections** – ongoing until May
- Offers - **grades** or UCAS **tariff points**
- **Students decide which offers to accept** and reject the others – in May
- **Firm** offer – top / best / most aspirational
- **Insurance** offer - usually lower or more flexible
- If **5 rejections** - **UCAS Extra** from February until they receive an offer from somewhere

What do the universities do?

- **Market principle** applies – grade offers reflect this
- Published **entry requirement** may be different to **grades on entry**
- Modern Languages at Leeds: offer ABB; only 42% of students starting gained this grade or above
- Maths at Imperial College, London: offer A*A*A; All students met or exceeded this (80% of students had A*A*A*!)
- Fashion Marketing and Comms at AUB: offer 120 Ucas points; 52% met or exceeded this

Use UCAS **historic entry grades data tool** to help

Confirmation and Clearing

- Results issued in **mid August** when offers are confirmed
- If student **meets** firm offer they go to their **firm choice** university
- If student **misses** firm offer but **meets conditional offer** they go to their **insurance choice** university
- If they miss both, they are automatically in **Clearing**

Confirmation and Clearing

- Students can also enter **Clearing** by releasing themselves
- Students can apply '**Direct to clearing**' on results day, if places available
- Students can also **withdraw and re-apply** the following year for other courses or places
- Can't hold a deferred place in one round and reapply for a 'better' place in the next

Esher College Dates and Deadlines

- All **deadlines** are in the parents' information sheet
- They may seem early but...
- Lots of **checking** of the form necessary
- Over **900 forms** sent from Esher in last cycle
- **Most** universities will accept late forms but are not obliged to consider them

Oxbridge applications

- Helen Humphreys - Oxbridge coordinator
- Presentation on applying to Oxbridge at Higher Education Day next week
- **Encouragement** of potential students already taking place
- Online and in-person **talks, conferences and visits**
- **Open Days** in July
- **Early deadline**, tests, interviews etc
- Typical GCSE profile **8 x grades 8-9s**
- Typical A level offer **A*AA, typical achievement A*A*A**

Art / Art Foundation Applications

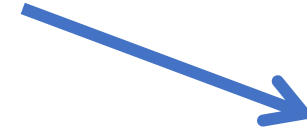
- **James** Leonard - Art Foundation Coordinator
- Individual applications to **each** art college separately
- Foundation course - a one year diagnostic **pre-degree** course
- Separate system to UCAS and students may apply to both
- **No tuition fees** for students under 19 at start of course
- **Portfolio** progression pathway or creative **EPQ**

Higher Education Day 2023 – Tuesday 21 March

Period 4 (12.40) onwards

Morning: Introductory tutor session before lunch

Afternoon - 4 sessions, rotating



Researching
universities and
courses and
apprenticeships

Student life talk

How to choose
a university and
course talk

Higher Education
exhibition in Sports
Hall and Drama studio

Evening: 6.00 - 8.00 pm including further talks for parents and students

Mock assessment
centre activities

Psychometric testing
and competency
questions

Interview and
presentation
techniques

Apprenticeship and Employment option



After Esher Day
Tuesday 27 June 2023



University option

Register with UCAS

Using Unifrog
to research
options

Motivational talks
and careers advice
from Esher College
alumni

Master Class on
Personal Statement

And finally.....

- **Thursday 15 August 2024** – probably Results Day
- Please **don't be away** on holiday!
- College staff available on the **Thursday and Friday** for assistance with Clearing

Help is available!

unifrog UCAS

- The Parents' Information Sheet -uploaded to parents > events area of College website so weblinks are active
- Personal Statement Booklet - buy tonight for £2 cash
- 'Higher Education' and 'After Esher' Days
- Tutors and extensive PDP programme
- Progression Guidance Staff progression@esher.ac.uk

Questions?



Thank you!



Presentation and information sheet will be uploaded to the College website:
Parents > Events > Higher Education Evening.

Please come again in person next **Tuesday 21 March, 6-8pm** for **Higher Education** fair and exhibition, plus more talks

Employment and Apprenticeships evening online: **Tuesday 18 April, 6.00 pm**

progression@esher.ac.uk