



SANCTA FAMILIA
CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST



Parents evening Post -18 & UCAS 2026



Ursuline High School



Agenda: Post-18 options

- ▶ UCAS2026
- ▶ International Universities
- ▶ Apprenticeships
- ▶ Gap Year





UCAS 2026





UCAS 2026 timeline

- ▶ 13th May applications open (**Buzzword Ursuline26**)
- ▶ 2nd September applications can be submitted to UCAS
- ▶ 15th October Early Entry deadline
- ▶ 14th January application deadline





UCAS 2026 internal deadlines

- ▶ 13th May applications open, create account
- ▶ 2nd June complete basic information in your application
- ▶ 10th June first draft of personal statement
- ▶ 26th June trip to Southampton University
- ▶ 1st July predicted grades will be available
- ▶ 8th September second draft of personal statement
- ▶ 29th September application deadline for Early Entry
- ▶ 13th October Final version of personal statement
- ▶ 17th November application deadline





Students' "to-do" list

June/July

- ▶ 1. Explore courses & universities (UCAS, Unifrog, University websites, attend Open days).
- ▶ 2. Complete basic information section of UCAS application.
- ▶ 3. Complete as much Extra-curricular as possible: MOOCS, wider reading...
- ▶ 4. Complete first draft of Personal statement by 10th June.
- ▶ 5. In July, make a shortlist of courses

September/October

1. Prepare for admission tests, if applicable.
2. Finalise personal statement (13th October) and make the 5 choices. Submit application asap



Choosing courses / tariff

- ▶ Most courses ask for grades:
 - **AAB / ABB / BBB / BBC / BCC...** for A Level subjects
 - **Dist* / Distinction / Merit...** for T Level courses
 - Courses don't ask for ABC / BCD etc so it is important to have all subjects around the same grade. However, some courses will enable grade differences by asking for a total point score e.g. **112 points, 96 points...**
- ▶ A T Level grade is worth triple one A Level.
- ▶ UCAS points calculator :
A Level: **A* = 56 points A = 48 B = 40 C = 32...**
T Level: **D* = 168 points D = 144 M = 120 Pass A*-C = 96**





After completing UCAS application form

- ▶ Before submission to UCAS, the application goes to the Careers team for checks.
- ▶ Predicted grades and references are entered by the school.
- ▶ The application is submitted to UCAS by Careers team.
- ▶ After submission, students have two weeks to adjust their courses





Deadlines after submission to UCAS

- ▶ **16th May 2026:** Deadline for universities to provide a decision to offer or reject an application
- ▶ **17th May 2026:** Deadline for students to submit an application for Student Finance (loan)
- ▶ **3rd June 2026:** Deadline for students to decide their Firm Choice and Insurance Choice on ucas.com



Choosing Uni / courses

- ▶ Students can choose up to **5** courses.
- ▶ Usually, we recommend a mixture of aspirational courses and others below PGs.
- ▶ Students should have 2 courses with entry requirements below their PGs.
- ▶ Contextual offers can be made by Uni.
- ▶ Do not select only very competitive universities, especially for the most competitive courses. It could result in not getting any offers.





Firm and Insurance choices

- ▶ Students have to make one of their offers a **Firm** choice and one of them an **Insurance** choice.
- ▶ Internal deadline: **20th May 2026**
- ▶ UCAS deadline: **3rd June 2026**.
- ▶ The Insurance offer must always be lower than the Firm choice, and below PGs.
- ▶ The Insurance choice disappears on Results' day as soon as the Firm choice has been confirmed.



Clearing and Extra Choice

- ▶ If students don't receive any offers, they are eligible to use Extra Choice. Extra choice deadline 4th July 2026, clearing opens on 5th July.
- ▶ Extra choice is also available for those who changed their mind about courses during the year. It is an emergency option only before results' day.
- ▶ On results' day, if students don't meet their firm/insurance offer requirement, they go into Clearing, where it is possible to choose courses from available choices.
- ▶ Clearing is for everyone, those who did better than expected can also try to get into a better university.



Student Finance

- ▶ 2 types of loans: tuition fee and maintenance loan
- ▶ **Tuition fee loan:** everyone gets full amount regardless of household income.
- ▶ **Maintenance loan** is means tested, and the amount will vary depending on the household income. For London universities, the amount is usually higher due to the cost of living.
- ▶ Applications usually open around April-May.
- ▶ Students from low-income families will also be eligible for bursaries from universities.
- ▶ SEND students might be eligible for some financial support.
- ▶ Students can and should apply for scholarships (applications open around January time)



Student Finance

- ▶ Tuition fee loan amount £9,535 (2025-26)
- ▶ Maintenance Loan up to £13,762*
- ▶ Average amount of maintenance loan £6,116
- ▶ Keep in mind maintenance loan is not enough to cover all costs.
- ▶ **Students** are encouraged to get part-time job while studying (universities will have some options on campus, they're highly competitive)
- ▶ If considering universities outside London, keep in mind the cost of travelling and travel time.





Student accommodation

- ▶ All first-year students would usually have on-campus accommodation (outside London).
- ▶ Most universities requires to make them as Firm / Insurance choice before booking accommodation.
- ▶ From Year 2, students have to find accommodation outside campus (except Oxford & Cambridge)
- ▶ Cost varies from university to university and depending on the type of accommodation.





Useful websites

- ▶ Ucas.com - to explore courses and universities.
- ▶ Unifrog.org - to explore courses and universities, save courses & universities you liked, keep record of your super curriculum activities, write drafts of personal statement.
- ▶ University websites - to find out more details about courses and universities.
- ▶ League table: universities and courses
- ▶ Student forums and chatrooms.
- ▶ Student Finance Maintenance Loans
- ▶ Student finance





International Universities





International Universities

- ▶ Alternative option to study abroad (EU, North America, Australia, Asia)
- ▶ European universities are less expensive and sometimes free of charge.
- ▶ Separate application for each university.
- ▶ Smaller number of English-taught degrees.
- ▶ US universities are more expensive.





Apprenticeships





What is an Apprenticeship?

- ▶ Mixture of work and studies: often 4 days at work, 1 day in education.
- ▶ Usually, lasts between 1-6 years, depending on the level of apprenticeship. Degree apprenticeships usually 3-6 years.
- ▶ Students get paid. Although it varies depending on the company, the minimum is £10 if you are 18-20 years-old. The higher the level, the higher the pay.
- ▶ Employers do not guarantee employment after apprenticeship, but graduates will most likely receive a full-time offer after their apprenticeship.



Levels of Apprenticeships :

Name	Level	Equivalent
Intermediate	2	GCSE
Advanced	3	worth 2 A-levels
Higher	4-5	Degree level
Degree Apprenticeship	6-7	BSc/BA/MSc/MA



Degree Apprenticeships

- ▶ Blended learning through work in a company and studying at university.
- ▶ Usually lasts anywhere between 3-6 years (most common is 3 years).
- ▶ Students get paid; this can range between £22k and £32K.
- ▶ University cost is covered by the sponsor company.





Degree Apprenticeships

- ▶ Applications usually start in January (some may have Autumn application dates)
- ▶ Use Gov.uk to search for apprenticeships.
- ▶ Unifrog also lists apprenticeships.
- ▶ Apply for as many as possible (20-30 is not uncommon)
- ▶ Multiple stage process (with usually 4 interviews)
- ▶ Extremely competitive, but worth it.





Gap Year



Gap Year

- ▶ Travelling
- ▶ Working
- ▶ Volunteering
- ▶ Completing entry tests
- ▶ Reapplying to university





Support for parents and students

- ▶ Mr Vvedenskiy - Head of Careers (1:1 support)

Email: Evgeny.Vvedenskiy@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk

- ▶ Ms Hoban (Wednesdays & Thursdays only)
- ▶ Tutors and subject teachers (support with personal statement)





THANK YOU

