

# UCAS DEADLINES FOR 2021

## Main dates to remember:

### 15th October 18:00 UK time.

- This is the UCAS deadline for applications to courses offered by the universities of Oxford and Cambridge.
- This is also the deadline for most Medicine, Dentistry, and Veterinary Medicine or Science course.
- You do not have to add all five choices by this date, however, as long as you have submitted the one due by this date, and do not add more than five in total.

### 15th January 2021 18:00 UK time.

- This is the UCAS deadline for the majority of other courses.
- If you are not applying to Oxford or Cambridge, or for Medicine, Dentistry, or Veterinary Medicine or Science, this is your deadline.

You may also be required to register for extra admissions tests or complete additional questionnaires. The best way to avoid missing a deadline is to write down all of your relevant dates so you know what to do by when.

It is a good idea to apply as soon as possible. Not only will this get the stress of the application process out of the way, but you will also have plenty of time to apply for student finance.

If a UCAS late application is received after **30th June** your application will be entered into Clearing.

By your relevant deadline, you will need to make sure you have completed all elements for your application. Don't be sloppy – you don't want to miss a place at university just because you forgot when your UCAS late application was due!

## UCAS APPLICATION FORM

The [UCAS application form](#) requires you to register first of all. You can do this via the 'Apply' button on the UCAS page. After you have filled in all your personal details, you will be asked to add any qualifications and exams you have taken since going to secondary school. Some questions on your national identity and parent's occupation will be next. Not all of these questions are compulsory though – some are just used to gather data for statistics on undergraduate applications.

Once you have added your maximum of five choices, you then submit your personal statement. After this, your referee will be required to add their reference, and then you will pay your application fee.

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If you are applying for one course, you only need to pay £20. If you are applying to more than one, you will need to pay £26 for 2021 entry.

## HOW TO CHOOSE YOUR COURSE OPTIONS

You don't want to be picking courses last minute. To ensure that you are applying for courses you actually want to study, make sure you research all your options well in advance. There is no harm thinking about what course to apply for months before you start your application.

- When thinking about what courses to choose, here are a few points to consider.
- What do you want to achieve out of your time at university?
- Are there any particular goals you want to reach? These could be professional or academic.
- What subject have you enjoyed studying at school?
- What topics are you passionate about?

There are plenty of vocational or applied degrees on offer, and this can be fantastic for some. There is also an incredible range of traditional and non-traditional subjects you can study. Traditional subjects like Geography and History allow students to develop many of the key transferable skills that employers look for. Don't be scared to study a subject that is not directly linked to a vocation.

## UCAS APPLICATION DEADLINE 2021: KEY DATES

Applications for 2021 entry opened on the 8th September 2020. As mentioned above, other than those applying to Oxford, Cambridge and for Medicine, Dentistry, and Veterinary Science, **15th January 2021** is the deadline for all UCAS applications.

This deadline is in place to ensure that universities consider all applications submitted before this date are considered equally. Whilst you can apply after the deadline, there is no guarantee a university or college will consider you if there are no places left on the course.

- From the **25th February**, eligible students will have access to UCAS Extra.
- By **5th May** you must have replied to any offers you received before the 31st March.
- By **3rd June**, you must reply to any offers you received before the 6th May.
- By **17th June**, you must have replied to any offers you received before the 3rd June.
- Applications submitted after the **30th June** will automatically be put into Clearing
- The **19th October** is the final deadline for applicants to apply through Clearing.

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## UCAS LATE APPLICATION

If you missed your deadline, it is not the end of the world. You can still apply to many courses, including those you had initially intended to. If this is the case, it is best to ring up the course provider to see if they have any vacancies left on their course and will consider your application. This is far more likely for courses which have the 15th January deadline, and extremely unusual after the 15th October deadline as these courses are often the most competitive.

## UCAS CLEARING DATES

Clearing opens on UCAS in July and remains so till October as long as there are still places available.

**UCAS Clearing** is the system universities or colleges use to fill any vacant places they still have on their courses. Depending on your exam results and when you got them, you can apply through it from July to October. If you failed to meet the required grades of your conditional offer or even got better ones than expected, it offers the perfect opportunity to explore different options.

If you already know your exam results, you can apply from July if you have yet to receive any viable offers. If you did receive conditional offers, i.e. dependent on your exam results, but didn't get the grades required, you can access it from 15:00 (GMT) on A-Level results day.

On Track, you will have the option to 'Add Clearing Choice' where you will fill in all the details you have been given about the course. The best way to receive an informal offer and get these details is to ring up the university once you have found a course.

"You apply to Clearing through Track. Remember – you can only add a place if you have received a formal or informal offer from that university. "

Once you have added a choice, this means you have accepted an offer. As a result, you can only submit one choice at a time.

## HAVEN'T HEARD BACK?

Sometimes it may take some time for university's decisions to be updated on Track. Don't worry if this is the case. It may be that they are dealing with a lot of applications and have a backlog to get through. Rest assured that Track will be updated as soon as the admissions team has seen all of your application and your exam results and made a decision.

## ADMISSION TESTS

For some universities and courses, you may be asked to sit an admissions test as part of your application. The exact type of assessment depends on what course you are studying and where.

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Most of the time you need to register to take an admission test, so make sure you find out when these deadlines are as soon as possible!

If you are applying for a course which has a 15th October deadline, chances are you will also have to take some kind of test. You can find out whether you have to on the course descriptions in UCAS search.

You will likely take these tests in the autumn, but some may be earlier so again, check!