

What about after Sixth Form?

Your post 18 options



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It is completely normal to feel overwhelmed or confused about your next steps. This guide is designed to signpost you to some different options but also ensure you contact the school's career's advisor or come and speak to the Sixth Form Team

Applying to University

Which course?

www.ucas.com – Universities and Colleges Admissions Services for applications and information on courses and universities

www.bestcourse4me.com – find the best course for you

www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/student-information-and-data/discover-uni-and-unistats/ – for information and statistics on courses

www.informedchoices.ac.uk/ - information on what A level subjects to take for different courses

Choosing Appropriate Courses

- Do your research. See links above.
- Attend Open Days.
- Careers interviews, as well as the wealth of information the Sixth Form Team can provide you with should help to prepare you for making decisions.
- Ensure you know your predicted UCAS grades, so you can make realistic, informed selections.
- It is vital that your predicted grades will match or be higher than entry requirements for the degree you apply for.
- Check out the Course Entry Profiles and make certain you enter yourself for any necessary additional admissions tests.

Which university?

www.theuniguide.co.uk/ – reliable advice on universities

www.whatuni.com/ – information and advice on universities

www.theguardian.com/education/universityguide - university guide and rankings

www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk – university information

www.opendays.com – the university and college open day directory

Studying abroad?

www.thestudentroom.com - study abroad events designed for you to find out more information

www.astarfuture.co.uk/ - search a range of courses, universities and countries

[/www.ucas.com/undergraduate/what-and-where-study/studying-abroad/applying-study-abroad](http://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/what-and-where-study/studying-abroad/applying-study-abroad) – UCAS guidance on applying to study abroad

The UCAS application process

We recommend that ALL students register with Apply given the opportunity at the end of Year 12, even if you are not planning on going to university, as it provides you with an opportunity to gather all your personal data in one place and practise writing down your skills. You cannot submit an application in error and the process will prompt you to think about your future. **There is no cost to register**; you only pay when you send your application off.

1. Register

1. Go to www.ucas.com
2. Click on “**Apply or track your application**”
3. You are a UCAS Undergraduate. Click on “**Apply or Track**”
4. Click on “**Apply for 202... courses**”
5. As a first time applicant you will need to “**Register**”
6. Read through the information and click “**next**”
7. Read through the Terms and Conditions and **click the box to accept**. You will not be able to click “**next**” until you have accepted.
8. Complete the fields on the following pages using **the drop down lists** where applicable. After each page is complete click “**next**”. *You can click on the question mark at any point to get help and information.*
9. It is always recommended to **use your school email address**.
10. You need to make decisions regarding vacancy and sales and marketing information – this is entirely your choice. Click “**next**”
11. Choose and confirm a password and security questions, click “**next**”.

YOU ARE NOW GIVEN A USERNAME – KEEP THIS AND YOUR PASSWORD RECORDED SAFELY YOU WILL NEED THIS EVERY TIME YOU LOG IN!

2. Log in

1. Click on the login page. 'How are you applying?' Click '**Through my school**' and then "next"
3. Use the BUZZWORD (this will be provided by the Sixth Form Team and changes yearly)
4. Confirm that you are applying through Ashby School; tick 'that is **correct**'.
5. Select Tutor/Application Group, Leavers 201... from the drop down menu. (Do not select 'don't know' or ex-Ashby students). Click "next"
6. You are now given **your personal UCAS ID number** which is essential/vital for communication with universities and UCAS. PLEASE NOTE IT DOWN. Further information boxes are available on this screen; they are worth a read through:
7. You need to **verify your email address using the verification code** sent to you on the email address you supplied previously. Follow the onscreen instructions and click "next".

YOU ARE NOW ABLE TO WORK ON YOUR APPLICATION USING THE MENU ON THE LEFT HAND SIDE. START BY CLICKING ON PERSONAL DETAILS.

3. Apply – completing the application form

- Personal Details Section Country of Birth
 - o Use Drop down menu – for most students this will be United Kingdom.
- Email Address
 - o Use your school email address
- Nationality
 - o Drop down menu - for the vast majority it will be UK National.
- Area of Permanent Residence
 - o County in which you live
- Residential Category
 - o A UK Citizen for the majority
- Fee Code
 - o Drop down menu - Select '02 UK, ChI, IoM, or EU student finances services'
 - o Select '05 DH/Regional Health' for NHS funded courses
 - o **DO NOT SELECT 'PRIVATE FINANCE' OR 'DO NOT KNOW'**
- Student Support Arrangements
 - o The name of your Local Authority –the county to which your household pays Council Tax – not your postcode county.
- Criminal Conviction
 - o Only tick the box if you have a Criminal Conviction.
- General and Sales Information If you ignored this is the general Registration I am afraid it comes up again, and it must be answered before you can move on.

- The decision is yours mail, text, email? You have to choose 1.
- Nominated Access
 - Someone you are happy to discuss your UCAS application on your behalf should you not be available e.g. on results day you may be on holiday/ill but you are happy for Mum/Dad/Carer to talk on your behalf.
- Disability/Special Needs
 - Drop down list – it is mandatory to make a selection. Include any disability or special need – including Dyslexia. They will be very sympathetic and offer all sorts of support.

That is the end of the section. Tick the box when complete and remember to save.

Additional Information Section

- Equality Monitoring
 - Three new equality questions have been introduced to the additional information section in Apply for UK applicants. The questions ask applicants to
 - Select their religion or belief
 - Select their sexual orientation
 - State if they identify as transgender
 - Their completion is optional and all three have the option 'I prefer not to say'.
- Activities in preparation for Higher Education
 - This is an opportunity for you to record summer schools, university workshops, even Open Days. The sponsor would be if the summer school or workshop was sponsored by an organisation e.g. Sutton Trust.

Occupational background

Applicants are asked to type the job title into a search box and will be presented with a list of job titles to select from. The more characters they type the easier it will be to find the job title they want.

Tick box when complete and save.

Student Finance Section

Read the information. If you will, or think you will, be applying for student finance do you give permission for UCAS to share some of your details with the Students' Loans Company.

The recommendation is to say **YES to all 3 questions**. As a student you are NOT committed to receiving finance at this stage **Tick box when complete and save**.

Choices Section

You do not need to put your choice of course and university in order of preference

They will appear on the form in alphabetical order. Universities only receive the part of your application form relevant to them, so will not know where else you will have applied.

What if I want to defer entry until the next year? Deferring means applying 'now' to start in 20...

Select deferred entry 20.. from the drop down box

Point of Entry

If you wish to start in the first year of the course, **please leave the box blank**, you will automatically be considered for the first year.

Enter 0 if you intend to take a **foundation year** e.g. Art Foundation – not all universities offer a foundation year so please check before applying.

Tick box when complete and save

Education Section

UCAS need to know any **qualifications** you have taken or are currently taking.

Please answer the FIRST question and click 'save', then enter your education details. Use the prompting sheet given to correctly enter your data. Students make more mistakes in this section than any other!

Please state the highest level of qualification you expect to have before you start your course.

- From the drop down menu pick 'Below Honours Degree Level'.
- Where have you studied? - You only need to put Ashby School, unless you joined us in the 6th Form. In which case you need to put your 'GCSE School' as well. Use the search facility for this, it will automatically pull through the address and centre number
- Date of joining Ashby School

Tick box when complete and save.

Once you have entered your school, you can enter your qualifications.

- Click, add qualifications.
- The most common qualifications are already in a list.
- Click on GCSE's and find the exact subject description.
- You will need to know your exam board, date sat and grade achieved.
- You need to enter ALL GCSE courses. Put the correct date
- For Science - Core and Additional are not listed so enter this in the 'other' box, but do them individually. For Triple Science pick Physics, Chemistry and Biology from the list. You then enter the Grades received.
- For other qualifications (taken pre 16) click add qualification and put into the search box.
- For AS levels if taken, click on GCE AS Level (First Award 2001) then select subject from list.

- Full A Level – click on GCE A Level and select from list – again Grade is Pending. Date is June of next summer.
 - Remember to include your Enrichment Subjects: EPQ, Core Maths for example
- Tick box when complete and save.

Employment Section

Self-explanatory, include your part time and holiday jobs

Tick box when complete and save.

Statement (applicable until changes in 2023/4)

This is a very important element of the application form. This is your chance to tell the admissions tutor why they should offer you a place. Approximately 2/3rds should be explaining what excites you about the course, and what you have done/or do, outside the curriculum, to demonstrate your passion for this subject; this will include wider reading, visits etc. Remember you only have 47 lines or 4000 characters (including spaces). The system will automatically put it into Verdana font type and size 10.

Ensure you have sought feedback for a teacher or form tutor before completing.

Tick box and save on completion

View all Details

This gives you the opportunity of checking and changing the information you have supplied.

Tick box and save on completion. Pay and Send

Please note when you 'send' you are sending it to the school UCAS administrator

We will email you if we need you to correct some of your details, so once you have paid and sent, check your emails. The school will then attach your reference and send it to your chosen universities. Once this is done you will receive an email welcome letter and a track code.

How do I write a personal statement?

In the last half term of Year 12 you will be provided with a booklet and sessions on how to write a personal statement. There are also examples of personal statements on the student shared area and guidance from a variety of institutions on the school website.

[Personal statement writing - a guide by De Montfort University](#)

[Personal statements - A guide by the University of Leicester](#)

UCAS Reference

At all stages you should keep communication with your Form Tutor, as this is the person who will write the all-important UCAS Reference. Your Tutor will need to know where you are applying and for which courses. If you want the best reference it is vital that your Form Tutor has a copy of your UCAS application, and your Personal Statement. Your UCAS Reference must tie up what you are saying in your Personal Statement with your choice of degree.

Applying to Oxbridge?

Once you have made this decision let the Sixth Form team know as early as possible. They can then help guide you through the super curricular to ensure your application is as strong as it can be. Check out the **students guide to Oxbridge on the school website**.

Cambridge University website: www.cam.ac.uk

Oxford University website: www.ox.ac.uk

Paying for University – Student Finance

Around February/March of Year 13 you will get the opportunity to attend a talk from a local university on how to apply for student finance. Everyone going to university will need to do this unless you are privately funding it. Policies and numbers can change each year dependent upon the government but utilise the below links for help. Check out the school website for helpful guides.

www.ucas.com/sfe - some useful guides on how to apply

www.gov.uk/browse/education/student-finance - all information on how to apply, check for grants, information on NHS bursaries etc

www.gov.uk/student-finance-calculator - input your household income and work out how much you can borrow.

www.ashbyschool.org.uk/uploads/files/Student%20Finance%202023%20-%20student%20form%20time%20version.pdf

Admissions Tests

Oxford and Cambridge tests:

<http://www.admissionstestingservice.org/>

LNAT (National Admissions Test for Law) Law admissions tests required for some universities:

<http://www.lnat.ac.uk/>

BMAT – (BioMedical Admissions Test) Medicine/Vetinary course test required for some universities : **beware of changes from 2024/25 – Unis may be providing alternatives**

<http://www.admissionstestingservice.org/for-test-takers/bmat/>

UCAT – (UK Clinical Aptitude Test) Medicine course test required for some universities :

<https://www.ucat.ac.uk/prepare/practice-tests/>

Step – (Sixth Term Examination Paper) Mathematics test required for some universities :

<http://www.admissionstestingservice.org/for-test-takers/step/about-step/>

Please check your chosen university and course for more information

Alternatives to University:

<https://www.ashbyschool.org.uk/uploads/files/Alternatives%20to%20University.pdf>

Gap Year?

UCAS

If you intend to take a gap year and you know what you want to apply for at university you can still apply to UCAS in this cycle but defer your entry for a year.

Considering a gap year? Consider these pros and cons:

Pros

Feeling more refreshed for studies after a year out

Gaining valuable work experience

Opportunity to travel and experience other cultures

Opportunity to gain new experiences

Opportunity to earn some money

Gain new skills and develop existing ones

Time to consider your future career plans in more detail

Cons

Might find it difficult to settle back into studies after a year out

Independent study may be difficult after a year away from education

Can be expensive

Experiences not always paid

Friends going off to university

If you don't spend it productively it could be a waste and not look good for future employment

Website advice

www.theguardian.com/education/gapyears - gap year advice and experiences

www.campsinternational.com/gap-year - Camps International

www.yearoutgroup.org - UCAS endorsed gap year site

www.volunteerworld.com/en Organisations and placements in the UK and abroad

www.gapyear.com Numerous gap year opportunities and information

www.ncvo.org.uk/#/ England based volunteering opportunities

www.objectivegapyear.com Travelling safely

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/gap-year> - jobs and work experience in your gap year

Jobs and Apprenticeships

Jobs

If you require any careers information or help with job-seeking, students can make an appointment to see the careers adviser who is based in school.

Alternatively, they can speak with The Sixth Form Team.

Useful websites:

National Careers Service: <https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk>

Fast Tomato: <https://www.fasttomato.com> registration code: knux

Applying for jobs: <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/careers-advice/applying-for-jobs>

Information on industries in Leicestershire: <https://lep.org.uk/app/uploads/2022/09/LLEP-WOW-GUIDE-LEICS-2022-23-web.pdf>

For information regarding CV writing and some example CVs, visit

http://www.prospects.ac.uk/how_to_write_a_cv.htm

A Guide to Employment and Training

Apprenticeships

Go to www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship to see which apprenticeships are available and the levels that they offer them at. You can also use this site to search for apprenticeships and create an account. They will then email you if they have any suitable vacancies in your area.

Apprenticeships: <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/apprenticeships>

You could also apply for an apprenticeship **through a local college or training provider**. It would be worth attending the *colleges' open days* to find out more about the apprenticeships and the levels that they offer as well as finding out more about the colleges in general.

Leicester City Council has an apprenticeship hub where they advertise latest vacancies so it would be worth having a look at this too: www.leicester.gov.uk/your-council/our-jobs-and-careers/

Links

- [Find an apprenticeship](#) - Search and apply for an apprenticeship
- [A guide to apprenticeships](#) - A guide to apprenticeships
- [A parent's guide to apprenticeships](#) - A guide by the National Apprenticeship Service
- [A to Z of apprenticeships](#) - Find a full list of all the current apprenticeships on offer
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/higher-and-degree-apprenticeships> - Higher & Degree Apprenticeships