

Frequently asked questions for **parents**

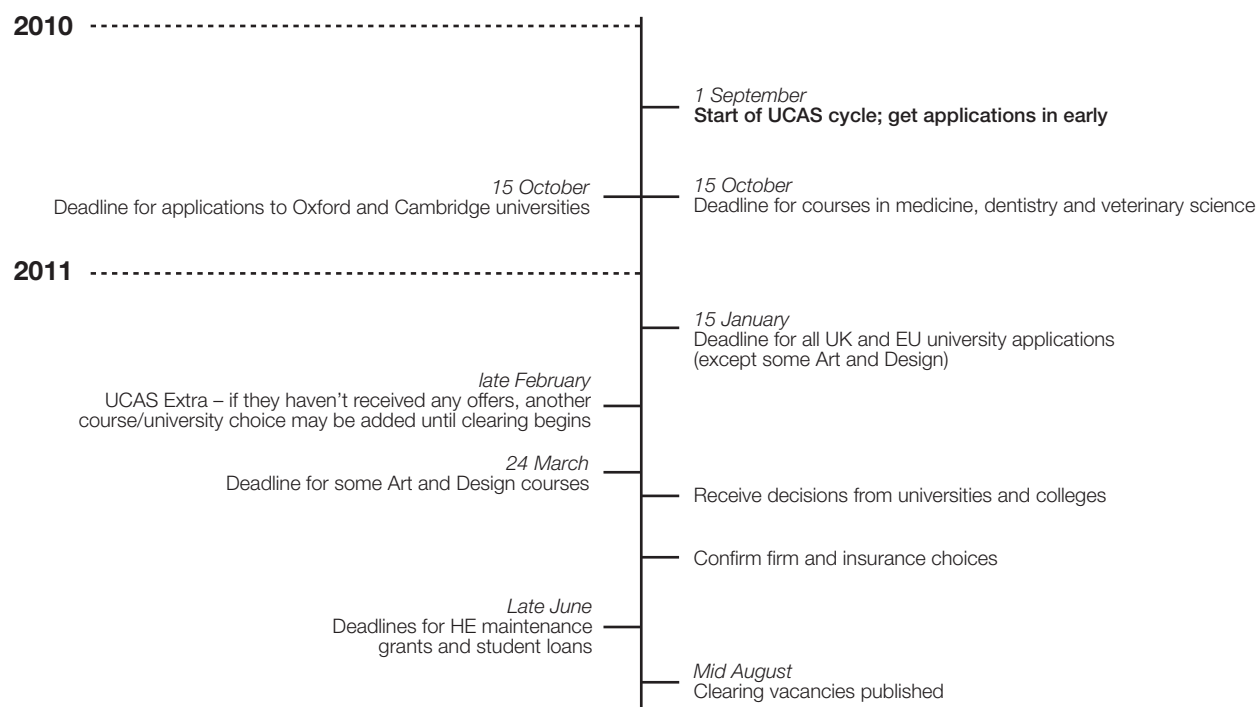
Why should my child bother with university?

Better jobs, better prospects and more choice. Those with higher education qualifications are 50% more likely to get a job. They earn, on average, 50% more than those without a degree (DIUS), and up to £160,000 more over a career (*Universities UK*). Graduates gain independence, confidence, valuable skills, knowledge, friends and experiences they'll never forget.

What courses and universities are available?

There are over 50,000 courses available at 169 higher education institutions, including 109 universities. The *UCAS Directory* (www.ucas.com) provides details of all courses. Other good sources of information include higher education fairs, university websites, prospectuses and course guides, independent university guides, and university and course league tables (<http://education.guardian.co.uk/>, www.timesonline.co.uk/education or www.thecompleteuniversityguide.com). Once a decision has been made on a subject, students should think about course options, length, assessment, employment statistics and entry requirements (more information can be found at www.ucas.com/students/ucas_tariff). Once they have chosen a course, the best way to decide on a university is to visit. To find out when universities are offering open days see www.opendays.com.

What are the UCAS deadlines for applying to university (2011 entry)?



How do students apply to university and how many course choices can they make?

Students need to apply to university using an online application system – www.ucas.com/apply. Their school or college can give them a 'buzzword' that allows them to login to the website. Students may apply for **five** courses through UCAS.

What accommodation is available?

Most universities provide first-year students with hall accommodation. Facilities provided may include kitchens, laundries, TV rooms, telephones and internet access. Students should apply for halls of residence as soon as they have received a firm offer of a place from a university.

For students who do not get a place in a hall, many universities provide managed housing and accommodation offices that help find alternative accommodation.

How much will university cost?

There are two main costs: tuition fees and living costs.

The financial information for 2011 has not yet been released by the Government so the following information is based on that for 2010 entry.

Tuition fees

- At almost all universities tuition fees of £3,290 per year (2010 figures) will be charged on all undergraduate courses. Students can choose not to pay this until after they graduate by taking out a **tuition fee loan** – see the table below.

Living costs

- A rough indication of living costs is £220 per week, totalling £8,360 for a 38-week year.
- You can use our budget calculator to work out how much university will cost each year, see www.brookes.ac.uk/studying/finance/calculator.
- The National Union of Students (NUS) provides tips on managing money and has information on the best student bank accounts, overdrafts, discounts and finding work, visit www.nus.org.uk.

What help is available?

Many students may be worried about the cost of going to university but there is financial support available. They will receive help towards the cost of their tuition fees and living costs in the form of bursaries, student loans and grants. The table below contains 2010 figures.

Name	Amount (per year)	Criteria	Apply to	Repayment	More information
Tuition fee loan	Up to £3,290	UK full-time undergraduate students	Student Finance England	After graduation when they earn more than £15,000 per year. The interest is very low so in real terms they only payback what they borrow and at a manageable amount – 9% of their salary above the £15,000 threshold.	Student Finance England www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance SLC www.slc.co.uk
HE maintenance grant	Up to £2,906	Amount depends on your household income	Student Finance England	Not paid back	Student Finance England www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance SLC www.slc.co.uk
University bursaries and scholarships	Amounts vary by university	University/college criteria	Universities/colleges	Not paid back	http://bursarymap.direct.gov.uk
Student maintenance loan	Up to £4,950	Amount depends on your household income and HE maintenance grant received	Student Finance England	Repaid in the same way as the tuition fee loan	Student Finance England www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance SLC www.slc.co.uk

Typical amounts available

The amount of financial support a student is eligible for will depend on your household income and the number of dependent children in the family. The table below gives a summary of the support available for students starting university in 2010 living away from home outside of London.

2010-11 fees and support available for new students*

Household income up to...	£25,000	£30,000	£40,000	£51,000	Notes
Tuition fee loan (UK/EU students)	£3,290	£3,290	£3,290	£3,290	This is non-means tested
Student maintenance loan (UK students only)	£3,497	£3,997	£4,595	£4,950	Means tested against household income
HE maintenance grant (UK students only)	£2,906	£1,906	£711	£0	This is means-tested No need to repay
Total available loan and grant (excluding fees loan) (UK students only)	£6,403	£5,903	£5,306	£4,950	
2010 Brookes Full-Time Bursary	If you are full-time, paying tuition fees of £3,290 and get an HE maintenance grant, you may also be entitled to an Oxford Brookes Bursary, of between £150 – £1,800. To qualify your residual family income needs to be assessed as less than £36,000. This bursary does not need to be repaid. Further details can be found here: www.brookes.ac.uk/studying/finance/support/ug_home				

- * (1) Excluding nursing, midwifery, occupational therapy, physiotherapy and PGCE students
 (2) Loans paid back after end of study when earning more than £15,000
 (3) Please note the amount of loan increases with higher income because these students will be receiving little or no maintenance grant.

Additional support

There is additional financial support available for certain groups of students including NHS and social care students, disabled students and those with children, as well as students who find themselves in a financial crisis.

For more information on student finance visit www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance.

For more information on student finance for NHS courses visit www.nhsstudentgrants.co.uk.

What support do universities provide?

Universities provide all sorts of support services for students. These include: advice centres for help with accommodation, finance and academic support, as well as counselling, disability and dyslexia support, chaplaincy, financial aid and debt management services. Job shops for part-time work opportunities and careers centres to help students write CVs and find full-time employment are also available.

For more information on the range of services Oxford Brookes provide visit www.brookes.ac.uk/studying/brookeslife/support