



Guidance for College Applicants to university: September 2021 Entry

UCAS key dates

15 October 2020 | Application deadline for Medicine, Veterinary Science, Dentistry and degrees at Oxford or Cambridge.

15 January 2021 | Application deadline for all courses (except art & design courses with a 24 March deadline)

31 March 2021 | Universities will *aim* to have made their decisions for applications received by 15 January

5 May 2021 | Deadline for responding to offers.
Replies = Firm, Insurance or Decline

10 August 2021 | Scottish Clearing starts

Research your choices carefully

- Will you be able to meet the entry qualifications? Don't forget to check for Nat 5 English and Maths requirements, as these may be required.
- Is your Access course accepted at the university of your choice? Use the [SWAP Progression Finder](#) to check.
- Does your HN qualification get you 2nd or 3rd year entry to the degree of your choice?

Open Days:

Open Days are a fantastic opportunity for you to see the university; its campus/es and facilities, as well as speak with current students and members of staff who teach on the degree programme(s) you are interested in.

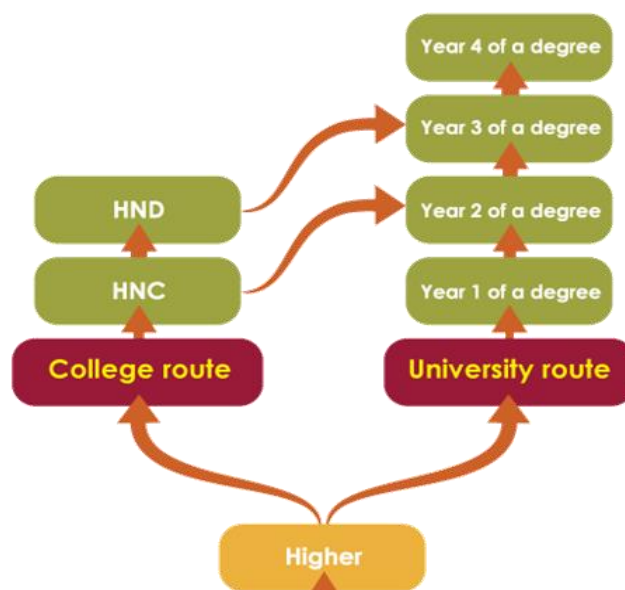
More information about Open Days, including how to book on to them, is available on each university's website in the run up to the dates.

For 2021, Open Days will be virtual and you will need to have registered in advance in order to access the e-platforms.

Articulation Routes

Your HNC qualification might enable you to move directly into 2nd year of a degree, or your HND could lead to 3rd year entry. This means you could achieve your degree within the usual 4 year timescale, get into the workforce quicker and reduce your student debt.

Your college will be able to tell you about the articulation routes they have agreed with universities.



Pathways

[Pathways.ac.uk](https://pathways.ac.uk) is a new web based app that has been developed to show all the articulation routes that exist in the South East of Scotland. Please use this resource to research articulation opportunities.



Guidance for College applicants to university:

September 2021 Entry

Your Personal Statement

1. Make the space count. Don't waste precious space by telling us your information that can be found elsewhere in your UCAS Application, and we don't need "Dear Sir/Madam" at the beginning or "Yours sincerely" at the end.
2. Think creatively about your experience for your chosen subject, for example have you been on a visit anywhere related to your subject, or perhaps you keep up to date with sector developments by reading journal articles.
3. You don't have to tell us everything. We would prefer to see a few examples of things you have done that really demonstrate your key skills, rather than a list of everything you have ever taken part in!
4. Your course choices should all be in a related field. It will be very hard to impress an admissions tutor with your personal statement if you are trying to make it applicable to very different courses eg. Law and Dance Performance!
5. Don't plagiarise – your statement will be compared to thousands of others in the system from previous years, and against websites, and any copying will be detected.
6. Make an impact with your opening sentence. Avoid commonly used phrases like: "From a young age, I have always been interested in...", "For a long time I have always been fascinated by...." or "....is an area I have always been interested in". And avoid using quotes!
7. Don't try to be funny. Remember the admissions tutor will probably not have the same sense of humour as you, and any jokes may mean they do not give your application the consideration it deserves.
8. Use academic style language and check your spelling and grammar.

Responding to offers

You must respond to your offers by the deadline or your offers will all be declined by default.

- **1 x Firm acceptance (your first choice)**

This can be unconditional (UF) or conditional (CF). If it is conditional, you will need to meet the conditions of the offer.

- **1 x Insurance acceptance (your back-up choice)**

This can be conditional (CI) or unconditional (UI), but should be lower conditions than your firm choice (make sure it is still somewhere you are happy to study)

- **Decline all other offers**

Additional Support?

If you've had additional support at college, please forward your **support plan and evidence of need** to the disability team at your new university. The college will not do this for you.

If you want to apply, or learn more about Disabled Student Allowance, you can find more information here: <https://www.saas.gov.uk/guides/disabled-students-allowance>

Student Award Agency Scotland (SAAS) Funding

SAAS will open for applications in April 2021. Apply once you have an offer of a place and before the deadline of 30th June. Don't wait until your College results are confirmed before applying. If you miss the 30th June deadline your funding may not be in place for you starting your course in September.

www.saas.gov.uk

Need help? Contact us! We are here to help you and support you on your journey.

We are working remotely at the moment so email is the best way to get in touch:

Edinburgh Napier University: wideningaccess@napier.ac.uk

Heriot Watt University: WP@hw.ac.uk

Queen Margaret University: wpo@gmu.ac.uk

We look forward to meeting you!