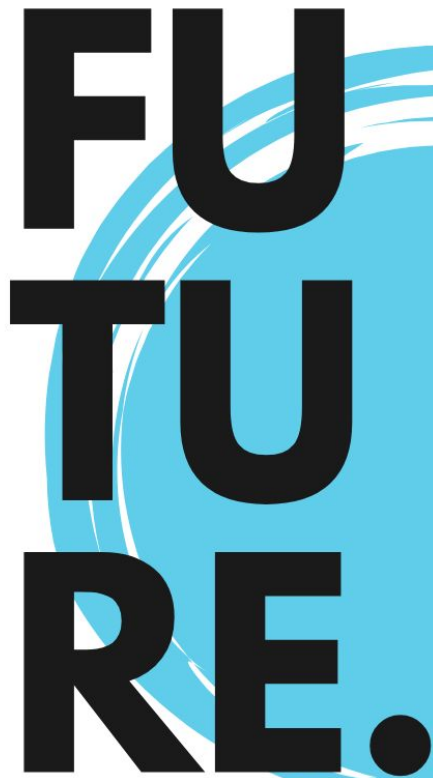


# TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH EDUCATION



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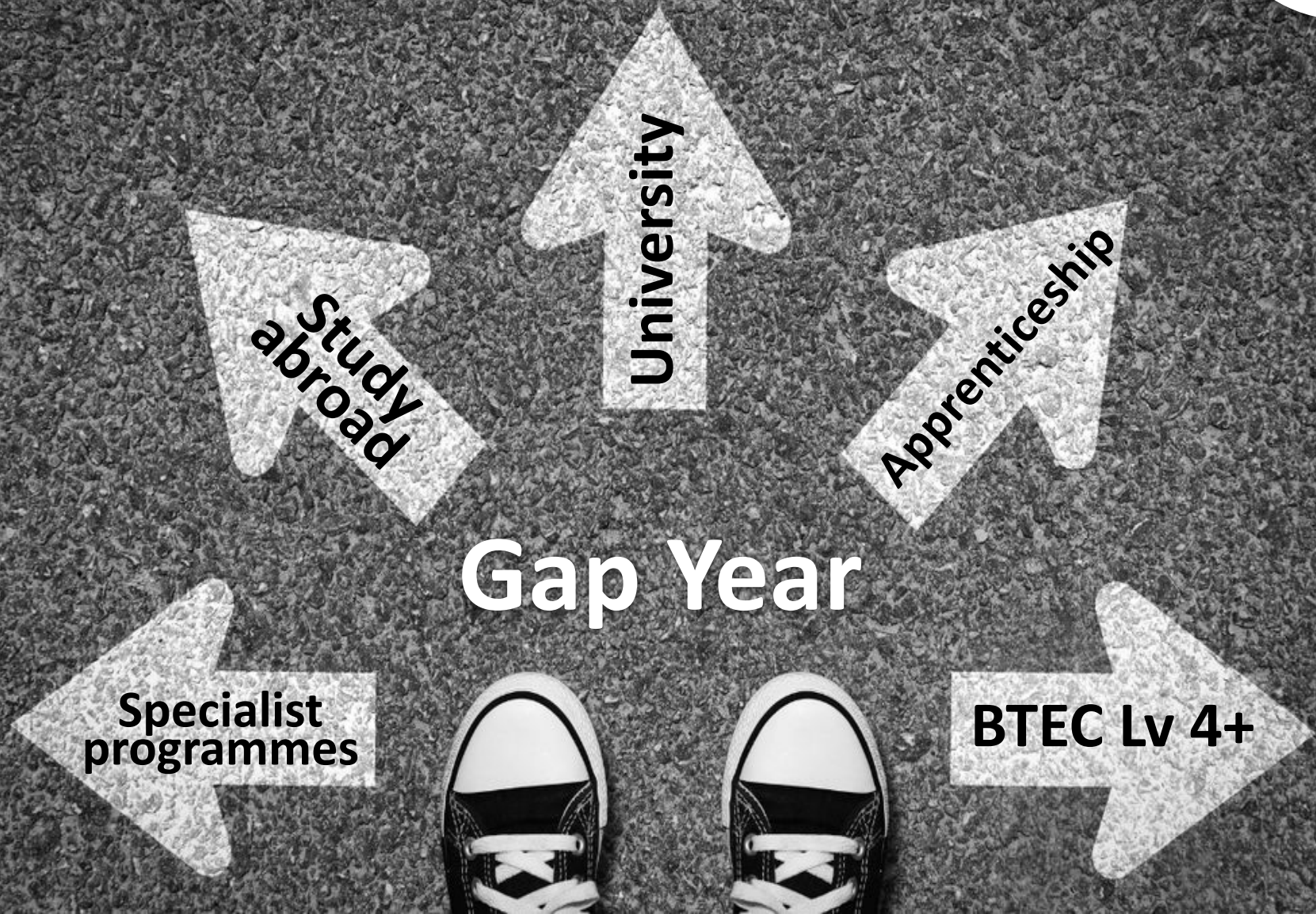
## **Aims of this evening:**

To help inform students, parents, and carers students about...

- the advantages and disadvantages of the main post-18 pathways; and
- how the application processes work.

so that we can all work together to help students find and get a place on the pathway that best suits their individual passions, interests, and talents.

# TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH EDUCATION





# TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH EDUCATION



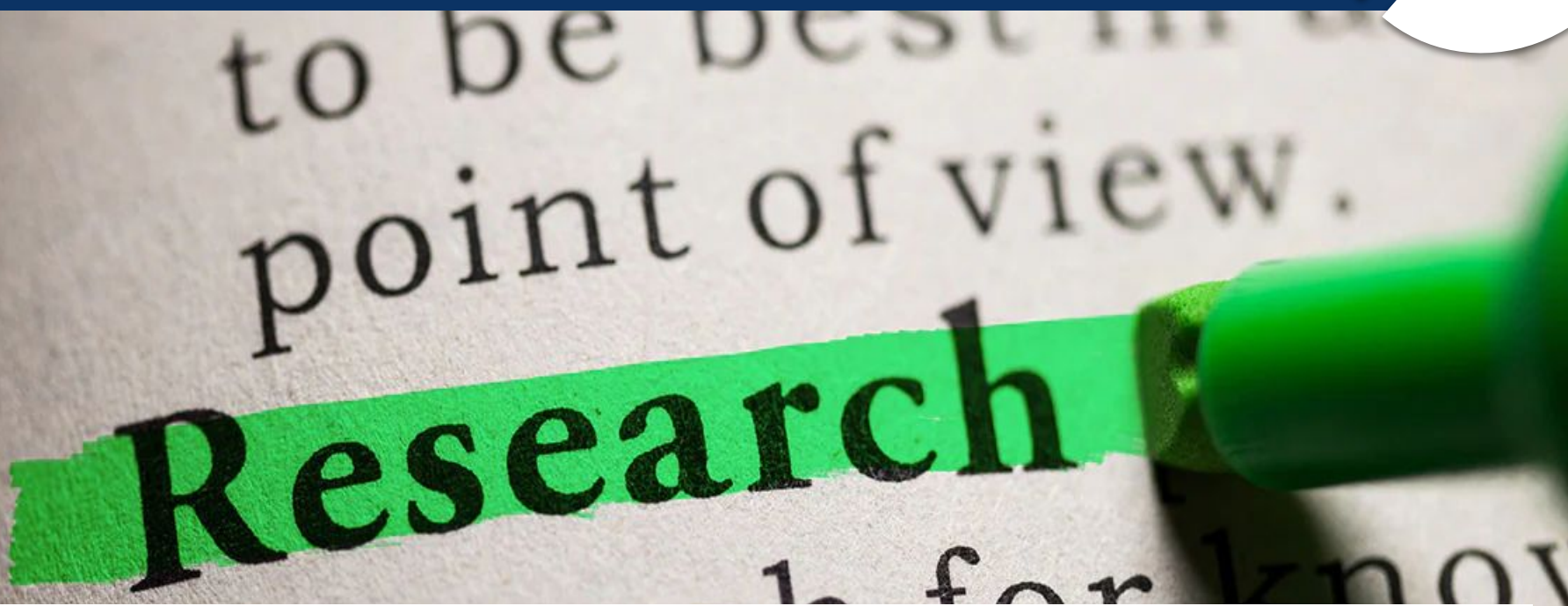
It is almost impossible to earn a decent income in today's economy without either university education, further education at college or technical and vocational training.

As automation and artificial intelligence make routine and repetitive jobs redundant, this trend towards needing a certificate of some sort will accelerate.

**Baroness Minouche Shafique**  
*President of London School  
of Economics (LSE)*



# TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH EDUCATION



We cannot overemphasise the importance of doing research -- most of our students go on to university so it can be easy to be carried along by the tide. Students should ask themselves if university the right approach for them and their career goals?

- If so, which university? Which programme?
- If not, what are the other options?

# TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH EDUCATION



**Degree  
Apprenticeship**



**Specialist  
Programmes**  
(e.g. Art Foundation)



**University  
Study**



## Degree Apprenticeships

*What are they?*

A competitive alternative to traditional university routes which allows students to earn a salary while studying for a degree.

These programmes combine practical, on-the-job experience with academic study, typically funded by employers.

Due to their fully funded nature and strong employer links, these apprenticeships are extremely competitive to apply for.

# TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH EDUCATION



## Degree Apprenticeships

*Example*

- Offers degree apprenticeships across 17 different programmes, including: Aerospace, Engineering, Electronics, Finance, Project Management, etc.
- Most 4-5 years including BA/BSc degree
- Starting salary: approx £20,000







## Specialist Programmes

*What are they?*

There are a wide range of specialised programmes available in all sorts of fields, however the **Art Foundation** course in particular has been very popular with our students over many years.

The Art Foundation course is a one year course that is free to enrol in. Our students in the past have used completing an Art Foundation course to support their application to other competitive courses in a range of fields.



# TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH EDUCATION



# TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH EDUCATION



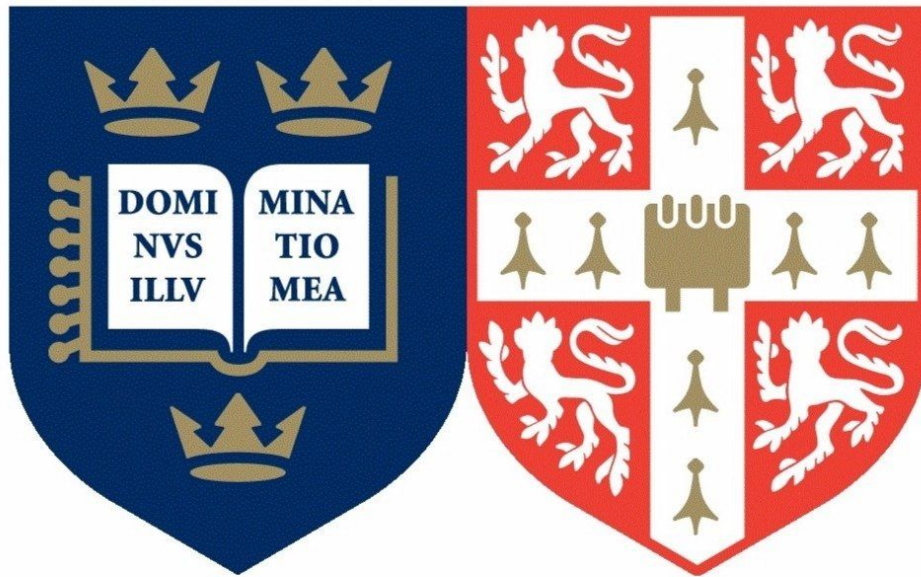
## Choosing your university and course



The course should be the absolute centre of your search. Different universities may have different courses that sound similar, but in reality are very different.

# TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH EDUCATION

## Choosing your university and course



OXFORD AND  
CAMBRIDGE



# TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH EDUCATION



## University League Tables 2025

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Explore our 2025 league tables. Ranking the best universities in the UK, overall and in 74 subject areas. Knowing how best to choose your future university can be tough. Our league tables can help by showing you the top universities in the UK and allowing you to sort them by what's important to you. See the university rankings for your chosen subject and then filter by region, entry standards, student satisfaction, graduate prospects, and more. By comparing universities using our filters and your chosen metrics, you can start to get a clear picture of which one is the right one for you.



# TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH EDUCATION

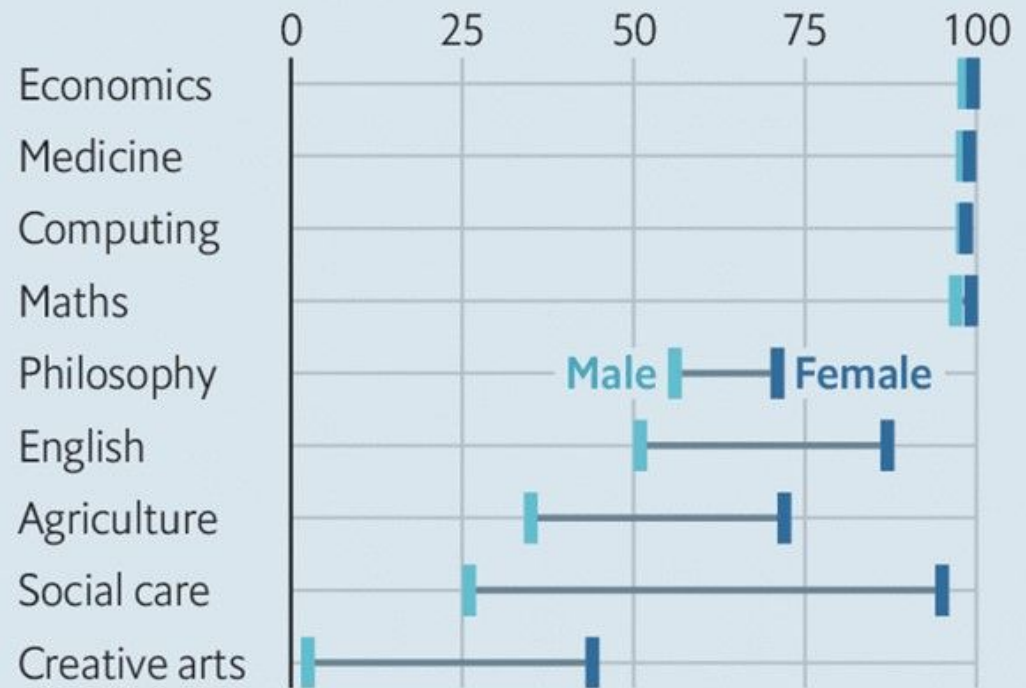


## High demand courses:

- Economics
- Computer Science
- Midwifery
- Medicine
- Veterinary science
- Dentistry
- ...and others.

### The value of nothing

England, students\* getting a positive net return on their undergraduate degree, %



Source: "The impact of undergraduate degrees on lifetime earnings", Britton et al., IFS, 2020

\*2002 GCSE cohort

# TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH EDUCATION



## Choosing your university and course

Applicants do not spread themselves equally over:

- 120 universities
- 600 subject areas
- 50,000 degree courses

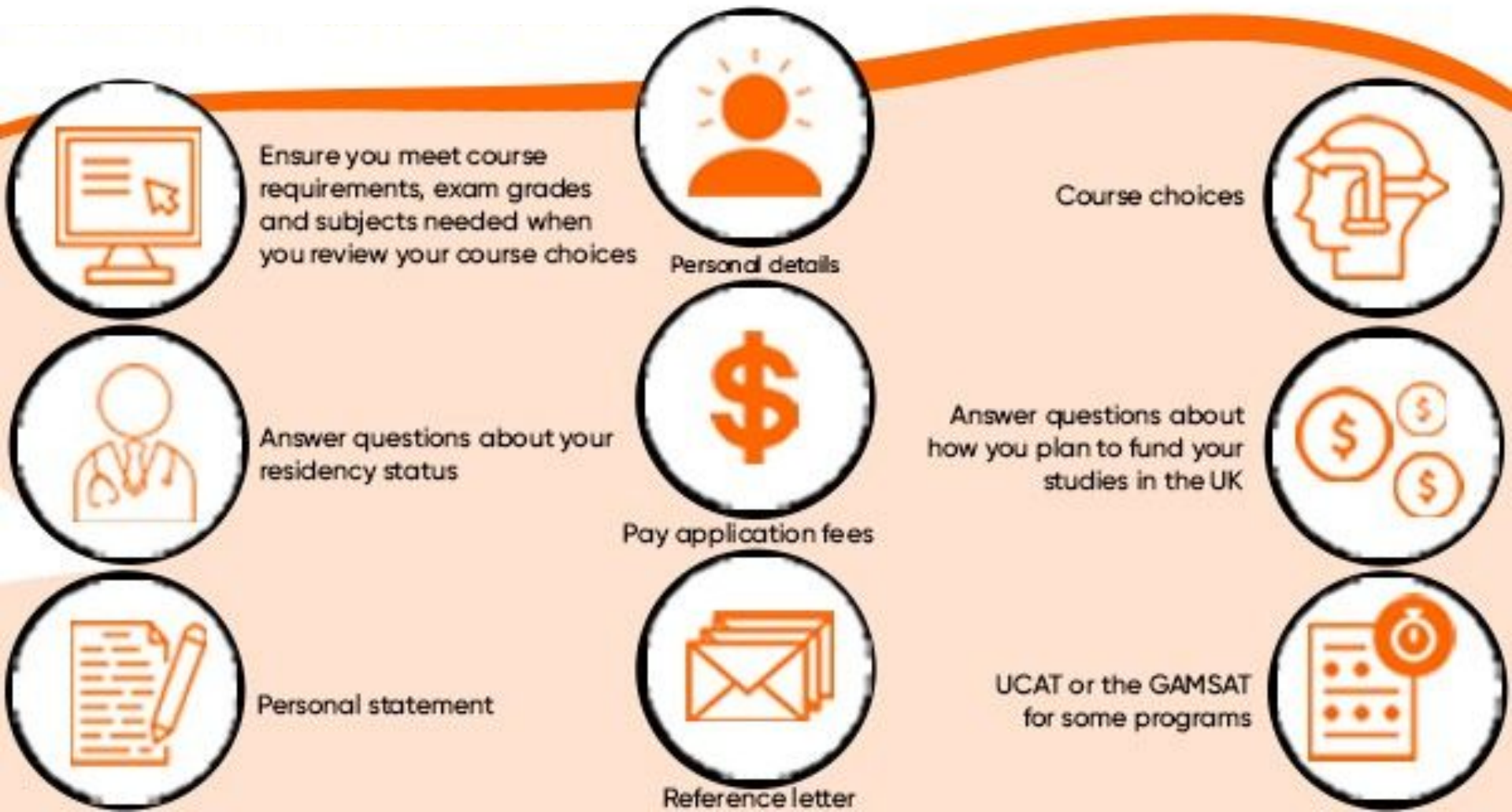
Aspirational candidates often choose from too narrow a range of courses and institutions.

It is important to research a range of courses and a range of institutions and think about **aspirational** choices alongside some **safer bets**.

# TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH EDUCATION



## Applying through UCAS



**TRANSFORMING LIVES  
THROUGH EDUCATION**



**APPLYING TO START  
UNIVERSITY IN 2026?  
PERSONAL STATEMENTS  
ARE CHANGING**

**UCAS**



# TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH EDUCATION

## 1 Why do you want to study this course or subject?

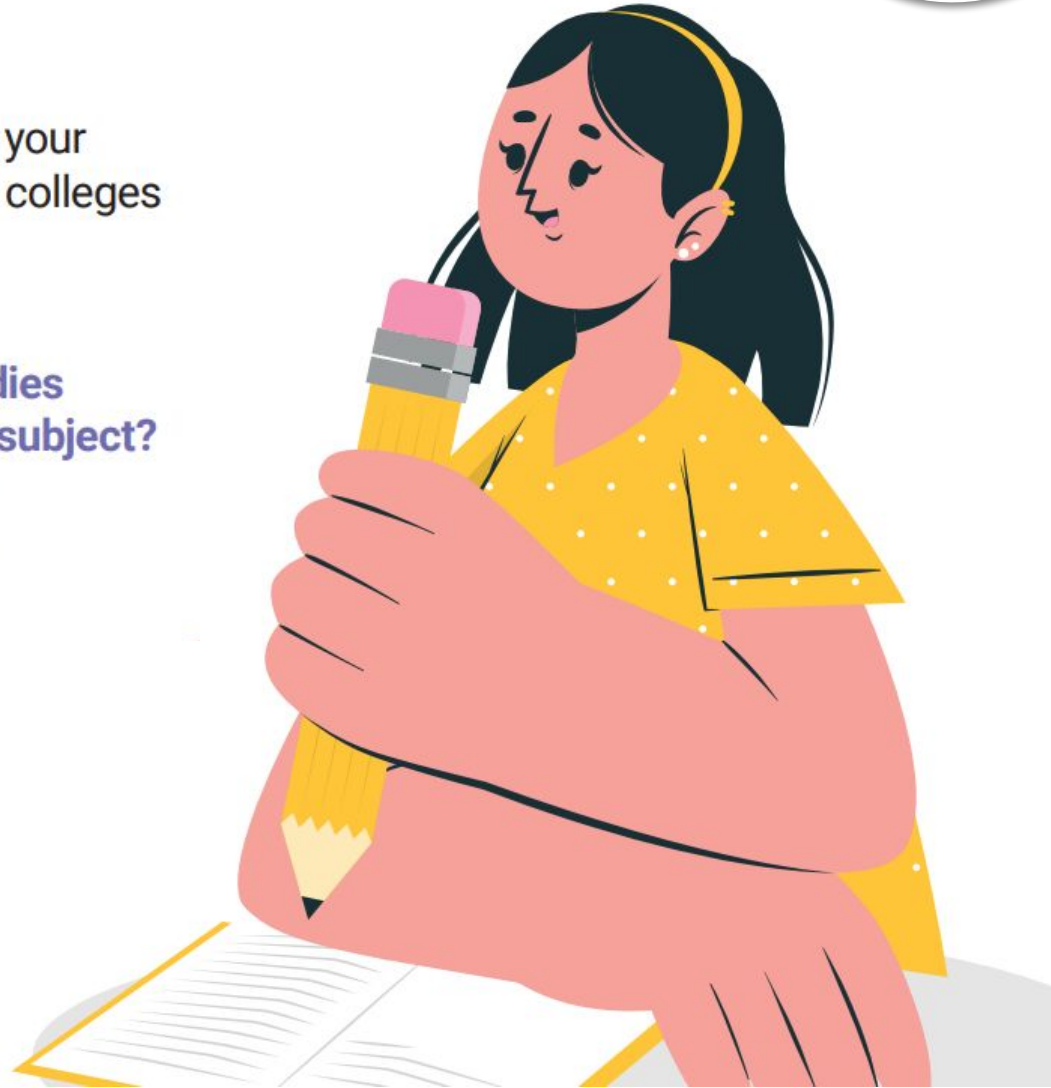
Show your passion and knowledge for your chosen subject. It lets universities and colleges know why you're a good fit.

## 2 How have your qualifications and studies helped you prepare for this course or subject?

Talk about the skills you've developed in your education, and how they'll help you succeed.

## 3 What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?

Reflect on any other activities or personal experiences outside the classroom that make you suited to the course.





# EVIDENCE

The new personal statement format puts more emphasis on **what you have done** over **what you write** to judge your suitability for the course.

This is also true of applications for degree apprenticeships!



# TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH EDUCATION



## Key Dates and Deadlines

There are two sets of deadlines to be aware of: the school's deadline and the UCAS deadline.

The school's deadlines are a little earlier than the UCAS deadline because all applications need to be checked before they can be sent -- and we find a large proportion of applications have errors.

We also work to ensure all UCAS applications submitted **before school breaks up at Christmas** for two reasons:

- Students who apply early often also receive offers early.
- Over the Christmas break, students can refocus on the most important part of the process -- getting excellent grades!

# TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH EDUCATION



## Key Dates and Deadlines

Application Type	School Deadline	UCAS Deadline
Music Conservatoire	Monday 22 September 2025	Thursday 2 October 2025
Oxford, Cambridge, Medicine, Veterinary Studies, and Dentistry	Monday 6 October 2025	Wednesday 15 October 2025
All other UCAS applications	Friday 5 December 2025	Wednesday 14 January 2026

**N.B.** Art Foundation, and Degree Apprenticeship applications have a range of different application deadlines -- your teachers and tutors will work with you to meet these on a more varied timetable.



# TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH EDUCATION



The following half hour sessions will run twice,  
with start times at 5:30 and 6:00.

**Degree Apprenticeships**  
*L Bailey - S13*

**Medicine and allied  
health courses**  
*C Cockerham/S Kalantari - S15*

**Oxford and Cambridge**  
*G Lewis - S19*

**Economics**  
*M Renner - S11*

**Art Foundation**  
*M Powell - S17*

**Researching courses and building a  
competitive application -**  
*L Common/B Kenny - Hall*