

Early Applicant Session 2026 for 2028 entry

Objective: to understand what we mean by an 'early applicant' and what makes a successful early application.

While we wait, discuss with some people around you:

1. What you are thinking of studying after you leave St John's
2. Which universities you might apply to
3. What you think we mean by an 'early applicant'
4. How much you know about interviews and admissions tests for your chosen university course
5. Why working in healthcare or going to Oxbridge is worthwhile

What are 'competitive' or 'early' applications'?

Some courses have an early application deadline.

- **Usually mid October**
- Applications for any 2028 entry course at the universities of **Oxford and Cambridge**, or for most courses in **medicine, veterinary medicine/science, and dentistry**
- You can add choices with a different deadline later, but you can only have five choices in total.

To get a place on an early applicant course, you will need to:

- Complete an early UCAS application - earlier than for other courses- October 2027 rather than Jan 2028 – including a cracking **personal statement**
- Sit an **admissions test**- you will need to register sometime between August and early September 2027, depending on the course. Tests usually take place in October but some are in September. We don't offer coaching for these or register for you so you will need to find out dates and make sure you register in good time.
- Attend an **interview** – sometimes online, sometimes in person. These usually take place between November and December- so early in year 13
- Secure the **A level results** needed for the entry requirements for your course in the summer 2028

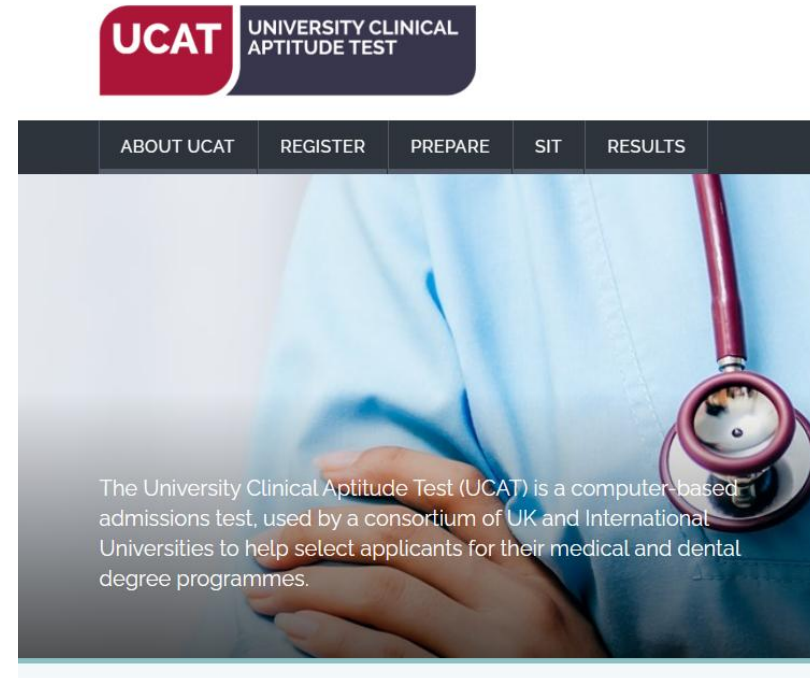
The UCAS website and Hub

The UCAS website has lots of help and information- so start looking at it early

For example:

[About the University Clinical Aptitude Test \(UCAT\) | UCAT Consortium](#)

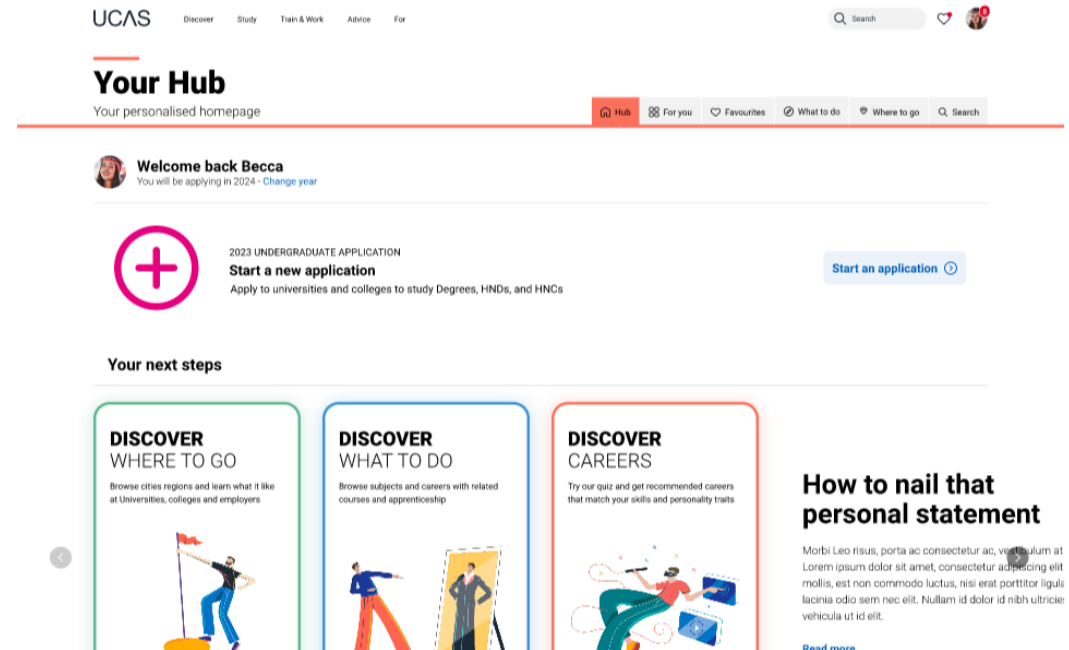
There is a webinar on 18th June for medical students- make sure you register for things like this



Starting your research

Register with the UCAS Hub to:

- explore careers, subjects, places, and courses
- search for open days, events and virtual tours
- speak to those in the know using [Unibuddy](#)
- speak to career, higher education, and application specialists by attending [Hub lives](#)
- take the [UCAS Quiz](#) to find your career matches
- start your application



Start planning your personal statement early

For Oxford and Cambridge, you need to prove you are an outstanding student, with a passion for your chosen subject that goes well beyond the classroom and just your A levels. Extra-curricular reading, (perhaps including online courses (MOOCs) and personal research) are key to doing this,

For Law, Engineering, Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science, work experience- virtual or face-to-face is an important way of setting your application apart- and a requirement for many courses.



What to do now?



Start researching. Are you going to consider Oxford or Cambridge? Do you know you are going to apply for an early applicant subject such as medicine? Where are you planning to go?



Sign up to UCAS Hub- use this to help support your explorations



Super-curricular evidence. Make sure you are doing things to go on your application which show passion for your chosen area of work or study – reading, volunteering, relevant work experience and work shadowing



Start researching summer residences and open days for the universities and courses you might be interested in.

Why apply to Oxford or Cambridge?

Every year around 40,000 people apply for about 7,000 undergraduate places at the University of Oxford and Cambridge University - known together as 'Oxbridge'. You will need top grades to earn a place at Oxbridge. But why is it such a great place to study?

- **Academic excellence**- Oxbridge sets the standard for academic excellence. The University of Cambridge is currently ranked as the second best university in the world, while Oxford is just behind in the number three spot.
- **The world's smartest people** - Studying at Oxbridge means you are learning from some of the smartest people in the world. Lord of the Rings Author J.R.R. Tolkien was a Professor of English Literature at Oxford, while Stephen Hawking was a Professor of Mathematics at the University of Cambridge. You are going to be taught by some of the leading thinkers in your chosen field- in small group settings rather than big lecture theatres
- **Get hired easily** - 95% percent of Oxbridge students are in full-time employment within six months of graduating. And many of them would have had their pick of career paths.



Jenny Shaw-
Liaison Officer,
Merton College
Oxford

[Join the meeting now](#)



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Next steps?

- Start researching Universities and/ or Oxford/ Cambridge colleges, entry requirements, course content and then attend some open days.
- Unfrog has a helpful comparison tool to use for Oxford and Cambridge- just put 'Oxbridge' in the search bar.
- Then make sure your extra-curricular activities will get you an interview- you need to have completed most of your extra-curricular activities by the end of year 12- so start thinking about what you will do and when- especially work experience for Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary.
- Open days? When and where? Look at the websites to find out when they happen. For example: Robinson College Cambridge: **Thursday 9th and Friday 10th July 2026** (with a smaller one in September): [Open Days | Robinson College](#) That seems very soon right? It's never too soon to start!

Links and resources

- UCAS: [UCAS Hub - Why should you sign-up?](#)
- Dentistry: [Ultimate Guide to Studying Dentistry in the UK | Blog | Medify UK](#)
- Medicine: [How to Get into Medical School: 17 Key Questions | Blog | Medify UK](#)
- Medic Portal- for UCAT webinars [Get into Medicine | Free Webinars & In-Person Events - The Medic Portal](#)
- Free online courses: [MOOC.org | Massive Open Online Courses | An edX Site](#)
- Oxford and Oxford open days: [Undergraduate admissions and outreach | University of Oxford](#)
- Cambridge: [Applying to Cambridge | Undergraduate Study](#)
- Unifrog- use the 'comparing Oxbridge' tool