

BETHS GRAMMAR SCHOOL

UCAS AND UNIVERSITY APPLICATIONS LAUNCH EVENING

Mr McBeth - Senior Teacher

Mr Parkes - Head of Year 12

Tom Maude - University of Leicester

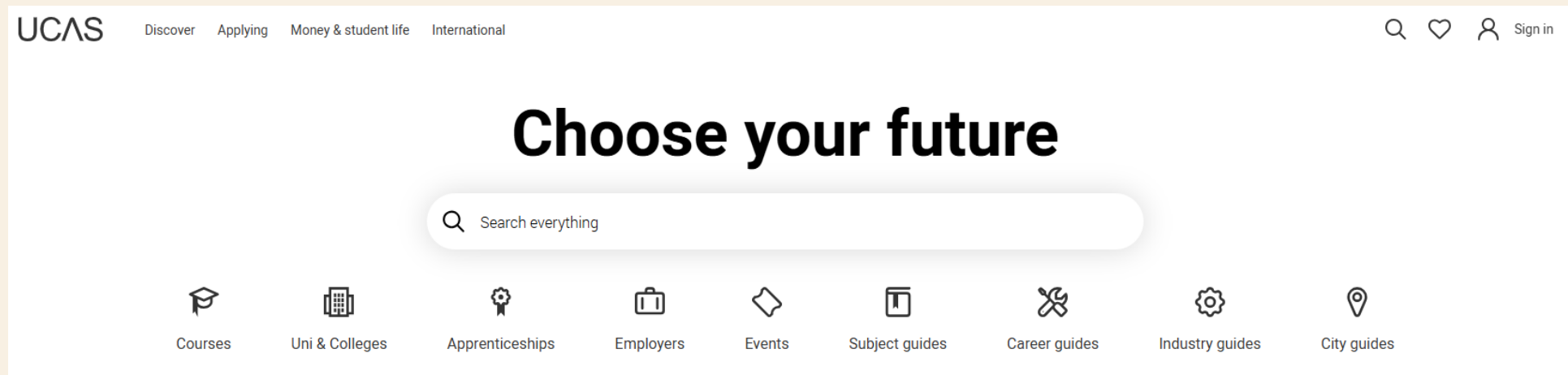


AGENDA

- What is UCAS?
- Timeline of events
- Using unifrog
- Predicted grades
- Teacher references
- Making the application (personal statements)
- Key contacts

WHAT IS UCAS?

- Universities and Colleges Admissions Service
- <https://www.ucas.com/>
- Initially set up just to manage applications and offers
- Now gives a huge amount of advice and information about which courses to do, which universities to attend, apprenticeships, internships, graduate jobs and various events.



TIMELINE

From now -

- Students continue to research courses and universities via Unifrog
- Develop their personal statements (Start thinking about them)
- Get feedback on Year 12 Mocks – look to make improvements for the Autumn Tests
- Upload ‘notes for reference writers’

May/June -Year 12 will set up their UCAS accounts and begin filling in key information during Directed Study sessions.

Autum Tests - Internal assessment used to review predicted grades.

15th October - UCAS Deadline for Oxbridge and Medical/Dentistry/Vets applications.

16th October – For **non-early applicants**, first full draft of PS to tutors – This allows time for feedback. Submitted via Unifrog.

N.B. For those applying for Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Sciences or to Oxbridge there is an accelerated timeline. Miss West has outlined this to you already.

APPLICATION TIMELINE

13th November - Final draft to tutor. After this we cannot guarantee feedback.

July- November - Most aptitude exams take place during this time.

6th November - Final choices confirmed with tutor.

20th November – Student deadline: Application finished, paid (£28.95) and sent – this means sent to the school to review. This allows the school team to have time to process references. Applications submitted to the school after this date may not receive a reference.

Late November and December - Oxbridge interviews take place.

15th January 2026 - Final deadline to UCAS.

End of May 2027 - Student finance applications deadline.

UNIFROG TOOLS

Access all tools on Unifrog to learn what options are available, access good quality information, and search for opportunities to support your child.

Exploring pathways	Recording what you've done	Searching for opportunities	Drafting application materials	Making applications
Careers library	Activities	UK universities	UK Personal Statement	Post 18 Intentions
Subjects library	Competencies	US universities	Classes	Locker
Know-how library	Interactions	European universities	Subject References	Applications list
MOOC		Oxbridge	CV / Resumé	
Personality profile		Canadian universities	Writing tool	
Interests profile		Asian universities	Common App Essay	
Read, Watch, Listen		Australasian universities	US recommenders	
Webinars		ME and African universities	Notes for Reference writers	
		Irish universities		
		Special Opportunities		
		Events		

SO HOW DO WE CALCULATE UCAS PREDICTIONS?

1. Teacher prediction + 2 sub grades
2. Convert to a whole grade

Student 1's Report

Subject	Teacher Prediction	+2 subgrades	UCAS prediction
Maths	AH	A*M	A*
Economics	AH	A*M	A*
Biology	AL	AH	A

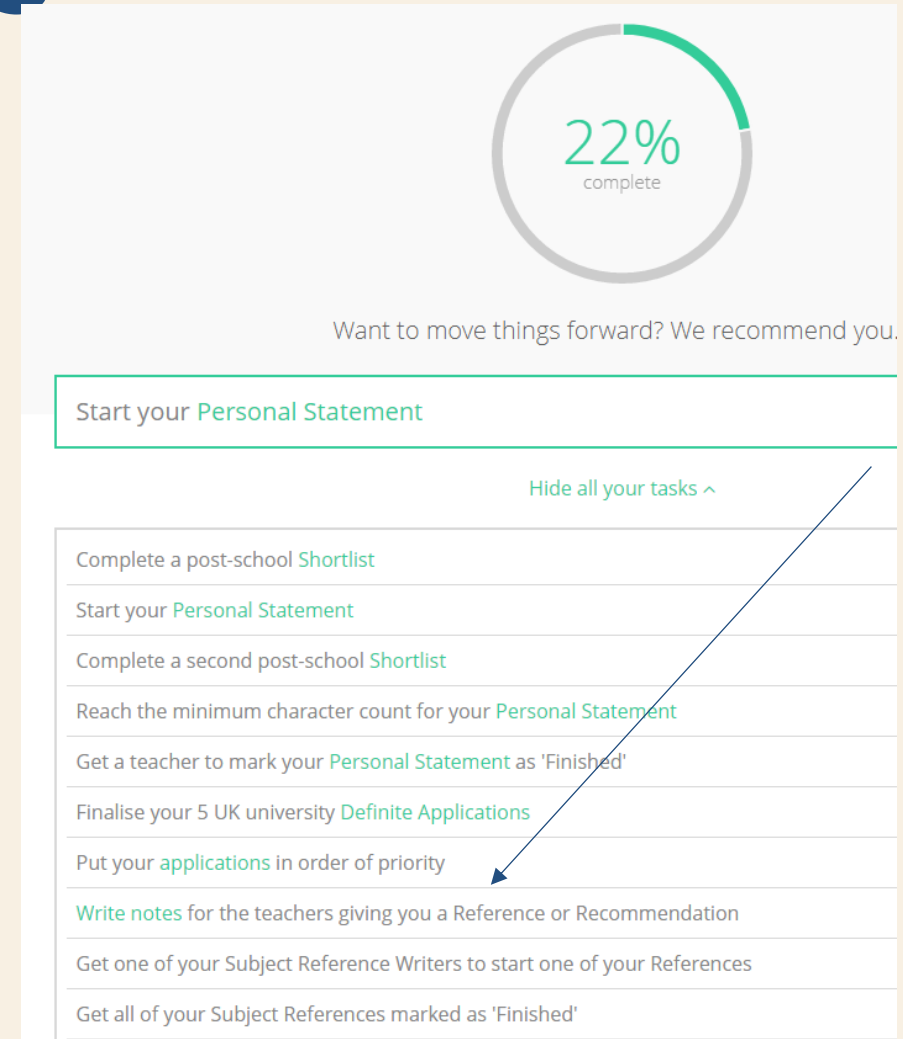
Student 2's Report

Subject	Teacher Prediction	+2 subgrades	UCAS prediction
Maths	CM	BL	B
Economics	CH	BM	B
Biology	BL	BH	B

Teacher predictions can be H,M,L within each grade

TEACHER REFERENCES

- Teachers will be as positive as possible, and students will be consulted on attributes they want highlighted.
- Students will write their notes for their reference writers this week. This helps to guide tutors/teachers.



CHOOSING YOUR UNIVERSITIES

- Students can select a maximum of 5 university choices on UCAS
- 1x '**Aspirational**' choice, where entry requirements **match your UCAS Predictions**
- 3x '**Solid**' choices, that **match your Teacher Predictions**
- 1x '**Safe**' choice, where the standard offer is **lower than your Teacher Predictions**

Select courses below

Pick the best courses for you by ranking, filtering and searching. Click next when you're done.
Stuck on a strange term? Check out the [glossary](#) ▾



Rank ▾



Filter ▾



Keyword search



Aspirational (81)



Top of your range



 **Political Economy - 3FT BA/BSc (H)** ⓘ
 King's College London, University of London
RG
A Level: A*,A,A

 **Politics - 3FT BA/BSc (H)** ⓘ
 King's College London, University of London
RG
A Level: A*,A,A

 **European Politics - 3FT BA (Hons)** ⓘ
 King's College London, University of London
RG
A Level: A,A,A



 **Politics - 3FT BSc (Hons)** ⓘ
 London School of Economics and Political Science, University of London
RG
A Level: A,A,A



 **Politics and Data Science - 3FT BSc (Hons)** ⓘ
 London School of Economics and Political Science, University of London
RG
A Level: A,A,A



 **Politics - 3FT BA (Hons)** ⓘ
 University of Exeter

Solid (58)



In the middle



 **Politics - 3FT BA (Hons)**
 University of Leicester
A Level: B,B,B-A,B,B



 **Politics - 3FT BA (Hons)**
 Goldsmiths, University of London
A Level: B,B,B

 **Politics with Placement - 4SW BSc (Hons)**
 Brunel University London
A Level: B,B,B

 **International Politics with Placement - 4SW BSc (Hons)**
 Brunel University London
A Level: B,B,B



 **International Politics - 3FT BSc (Hons)**
 Brunel University London
A Level: B,B,B



 **Politics - 3FT BSc (Hons)**
 Brunel University London
A Level: B,B,B



 **International Politics - 3FT/4FT/4SW + Abroad BSc (Hons)**
 City, University of London (2)



Safe (44)



At the bottom


 **Politics with Foundation - 4FT BA (Hons)**
 Durham University
RG
Foundation year

 **International Relations and Politics with Foundation Year - 4FT BA (Hons)**
 University of Sheffield
RG
Foundation year

 **Politics with Foundation Year - 4FT BA (Hons)**
 University of Sheffield
RG
Foundation year

 **Politics with Foundation Year - 4FT BSc (Hons)**
 University of Surrey
TT
A Level: C,C,C
Foundation year

 **Politics with Foundation Year - 5SW BSc (Hons)**
 University of Surrey
TT
A Level: C,C,C
Foundation year

 **Politics with a Foundation Year - 4FT BA (Hons)**
 University of East Anglia UEA

next ▶

or go back

CITIZENS OF A STATE OF MIND

It's your turn to take your place



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le.ac.uk



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LEICESTER

UCAS Process

Tom Maude

UK Student Recruitment Officer





Thank you for joining me!

Who am I?

Tom

**Where am I
from?**

Newcastle

What did I study?

Youth Work and Community
Development



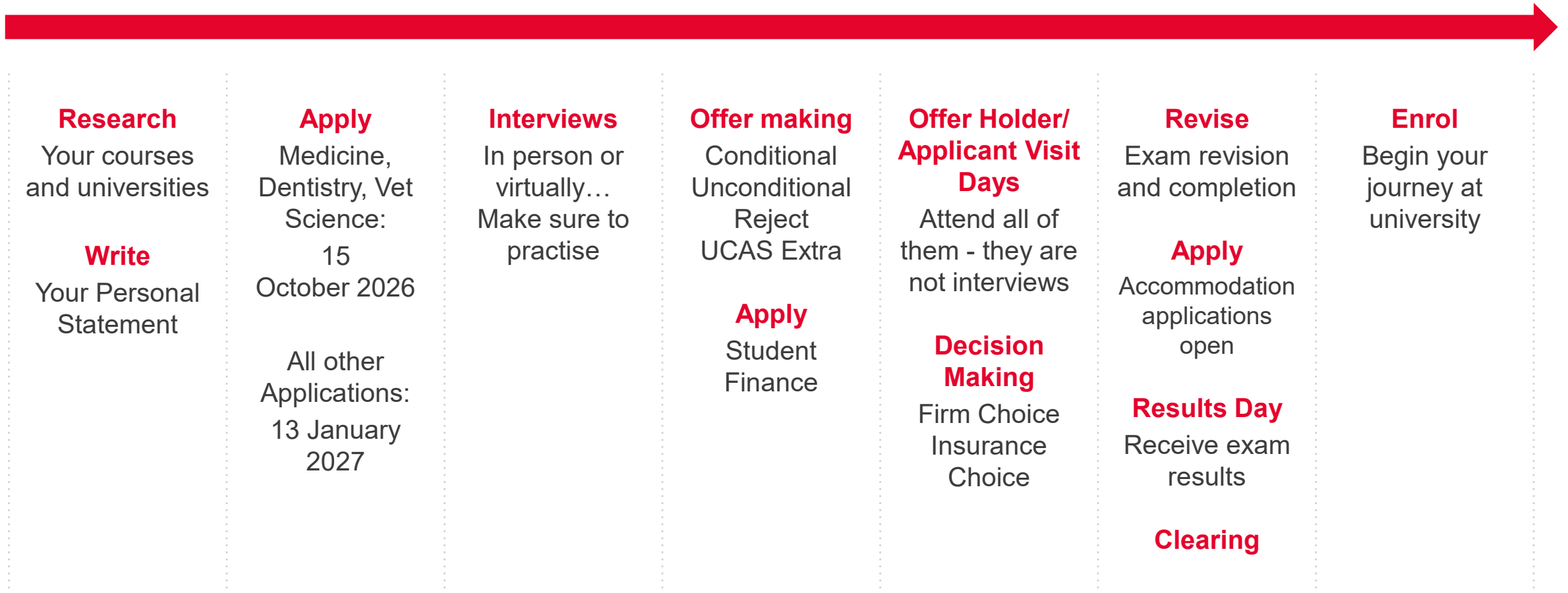
Applying to University

Presentation Overview

- Application timeline and process
- Top tips
- Personal Statements
- What happens on results day?



The Application Timeline





Your UCAS Application

- You submit 1 application via UCAS
- You have a maximum of 5 choices
- If you chose Medicine, Dentistry or Vet Science then you have a maximum of 4 choices for these courses + 1 alternative
- Your place of study will provide a reference to you



- Personal Details
- Contact and residency details
- Nationality Details
- Supporting information
- English language skills
- Fees and funding
- Diversity and Inclusion
- More about you

Profile



Personal Details

- Once you've completed a section you must remember to mark the section as complete and save it at the bottom of each page

Personal details

[Nationality details](#)

[Where you live](#)

[Contact details](#)

[Supporting information](#)

[Finance and funding](#)

[Education](#)

[Employment](#)

[Personal statement](#)

First and middle name(s) *

Make sure your name is as it appears on any official documents, such as your passport, birth certificate or driving licence.

Last name *

Make sure your name is as it appears on any official documents, such as your passport, birth certificate or driving licence.

Previous name(s)

Tell us any other names you've been known by (for example maiden name), as it helps when we're matching educational records.

Preferred first name

Let us know what we, and your chosen universities and colleges, should call you in our correspondence.

Date of birth *

Day Month Year



Education

- You must enter all your qualifications from secondary education onwards
- You need to include any qualifications you're still waiting for results for (choose 'Pending' in the Grade field)
- Make sure you use the correct qualification type and title
- It's up to you whether you include module information



Education

- This is an important part of your application. It shows your qualifications and helps universities decide if you meet their requirements.
- Double check the details are correct, especially qualification titles, levels and awarding organisations.

Tip! School / college can help you with this if you're stuck

Name of the school, college, or university *

Exam centre number

This may be automatically filled in based on your school, college, or university

Start date *

Month Year

End date *

Select the date you left or plan to leave.

Month Year

Attendance type *

Full time Part time Exam only

Study Mode *

If you had lessons that were taken online over COVID lockdowns but now returned to school-based, please select "In person".

Online In person

Save and add Qualification

Save and return to Education Section

Cancel



Employment and Extra Activities

- Only enter paid work here (work experience/volunteering goes in your personal statement)
- Please add in any activities you have done to prepare for University (e.g. summer schools / Realising Opportunities / Access programmes)
- You can use your personal statement to talk more about these activities, the skills you learned and how this prepared you for University



Extra Activities

- This includes activities such as national or regional schemes, university-run programmes, summer schools, taster courses and booster courses.
- Employment is for any paid employment relevant to the courses or subjects you're applying for.

Extra activities

Have you attended an activity to prepare you for higher education?

Please select any activity you have taken part in to prepare for higher education. For example: national or regional schemes, university-run programmes, summer schools, campus days, taster courses, and booster courses. You can also use your personal statement to include more details about the activities you took part in, the skills you learned, and how this prepared you for higher education.

Note: Open days are not relevant to this question.

If you haven't attended any such activity, please leave this section blank.

If this section is relevant to you, please provide the following details:

+
Add activity

Mark this section as complete *

You must complete all mandatory fields in this section before you can mark it as complete. All sections must be marked as complete before you can send your application.

Save this section



Gap Years

Top Tips

- Universities like to see that their students have life experience outside of their academic career.
 - A gap year is a great chance to pick up new skills, that can help you at University
- What did you do during your gap year?
- What skills did you gain/ what did you learn?
- How does this relate to your course?



Personal statement

To showcase you as a person and prove you deserve to be made a university offer

- Submitted as part of your application with **UCAS**
- Total **4000** Characters
- **1 statement** for all **5 applications**
- 3 questions to answer
- UCAS detection service



Personal Statement Questions:

1. Why do you want to study the course?
2. How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?
3. What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?

A photograph of a modern, multi-story glass building at dusk. The building's interior lights are on, and the sky is a deep blue. In the foreground, there are some outdoor tables and chairs.

The Questions

You need to write a minimum of 350 characters for each question



Top tips

Top-Tips from Admissions Tutors

- Reduce: Be concise, don't repeat yourself
- Proofread: Grammatical and spelling errors are such easy mistakes to fix
- Redraft: Write multiple drafts and ask friends, family and teachers to read through it
- Be yourself: Showcase your selling points as a potential student
- Be on time: Do not miss your internal deadlines



Top Tips

- Use a non-school related email (this is how UCAS and universities will contact you)
- Start early and don't miss internal and external deadlines
- You can apply to the same university multiple times for different courses
- There is a slightly different form to apply to conservatoires
- £28.50 application fee upon submission. For those receiving Free School Meals or similar bursaries, this is free – talk to your school / college



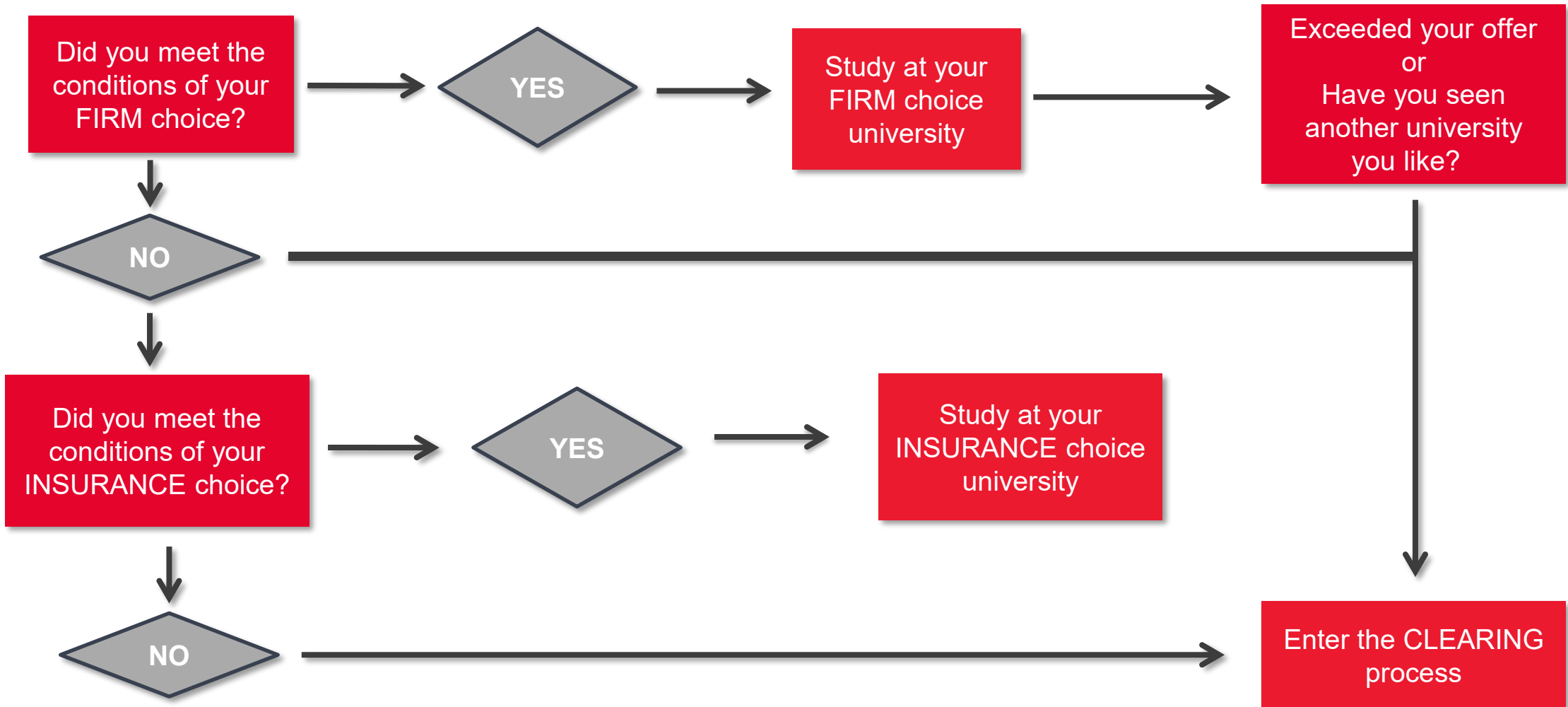
What next?

What happens after submitting your application?

- Universities review your application and may make you an offer based on certain grades
- For some courses, they may invite you to an interview
- From your offers (max. 5), you choose to make a **firm** choice and an **insurance** choice
- Then you'll complete your qualifications and wait to find out your results



Results Day





Next steps for now

- Get logged in and familiar with the UCAS hub pages
- Read their guidance on the application and answering the personal statement questions
- Decide on your universities
- Check if you need to do any admissions tests before applying (e.g. LNAT / UCAT)
- Get started on your application and find out your school deadlines
- Speak to your careers team and teachers if you need help



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Thank you

Any questions?

WHO TO CONTACT?

- **Form tutors**- First port of call (emails on the website>staffing)
- Mr Parkes - Head of Year mrparkes@beths.bexley.sch.uk
- Miss West- Top universities, Oxbridge & Medics coordinator
topuniversities@beths.bexley.sch.uk
- Careers Team careers@beths.bexley.sch.uk
- Mr McBeth – Senior Teacher (Key Stage 5) mrmcbeth@beths.bexley.sch.uk