Welcome

What we will cover

- Overview of the UK education system
- What to do with GCSE results?
- Transition into Further Education: Six Form or Further Education College?
- How to choose course at college?
- Short overview of pathways to University
- Application dates and system
- Support resources

What does the education system in the UK look like?

Primary School

- Y1-Y6
- Age: 4 - 11
- Full-time (M-F)
- Cost: Free

Secondary School

- Y7-Y11
- Age: 11-16 or
- 11-18 (if there is a 6th Form College)
- Full-time (M-F)

University

- Age: 18+
- Part or Full-time
- Cost: ot free
- (Student Finance and scholarships)

Sixth Form

- 16-18 (Y12-13)
- Full-time (M-F)
- Cost: Free

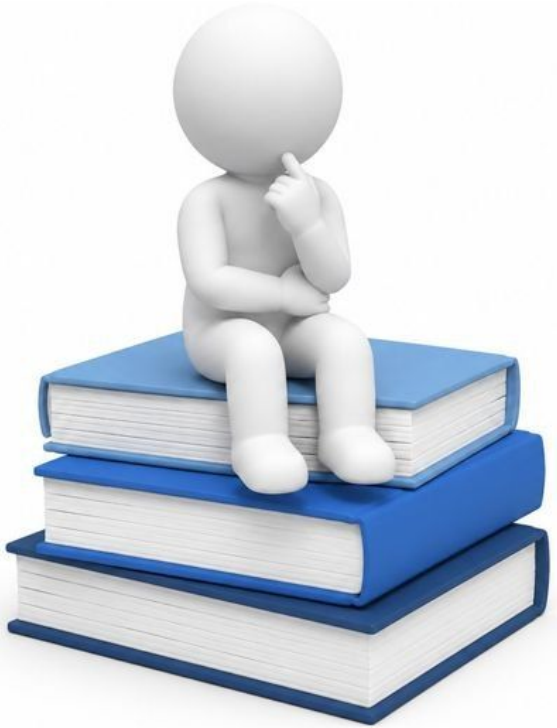
Further Education College

- Age: 16+
- Part or Full-time
- Cost: 16-18 Free, 19+ Some courses are free and others are not free.

GCSE

WHAT TO KEEP IN MIND

- **GCSE – 9 subjects**
- **To pass:** 5 subjects at grade 4 or above
- Choose options in year 8 /9
- **Different exam boards:** AQA, OCR, Pearson Edexcel Eduqas,
- **Foundation** and **higher tier** exam paper
- **Extra time** eligibility
- SENCO / GCSE adviser



Waiting GCSEs results. What's next?

Did you met a Six Form requirements

What to do with my results?

Alternative pathways

https://www.frontup4impact.com/file/view/8903/3d-world-open-doorjpg

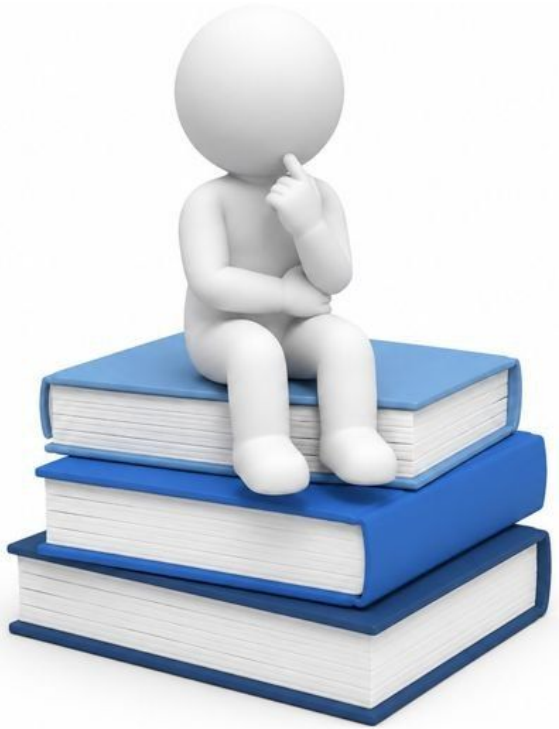
Congratulations!

Six Form School / College

Higher Education

https://www.frontup4impact.com/file/view/8903/3d-world-open-doorjpg

I didn't meet the entry requirements. What I can do?



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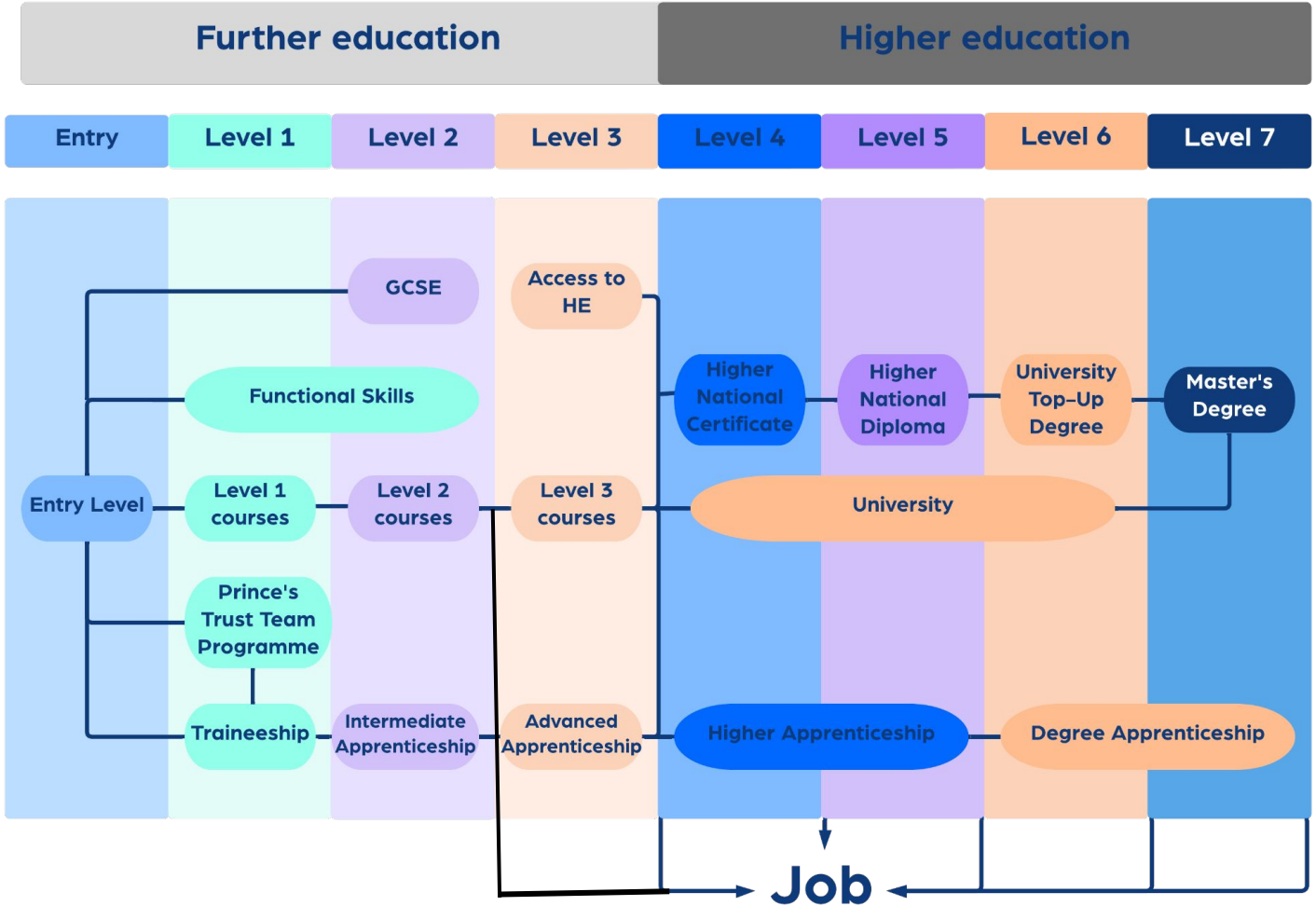
Options

Levels of Education



For information about career routes, visit
https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/
and select 'Search job profiles'

Six Form School

- Part of a secondary school
- Age: 16 - 18
- Part-time or full-time
- Cost: Free

A-levels, T-levels and BTEC qualifications

Sixth Form College

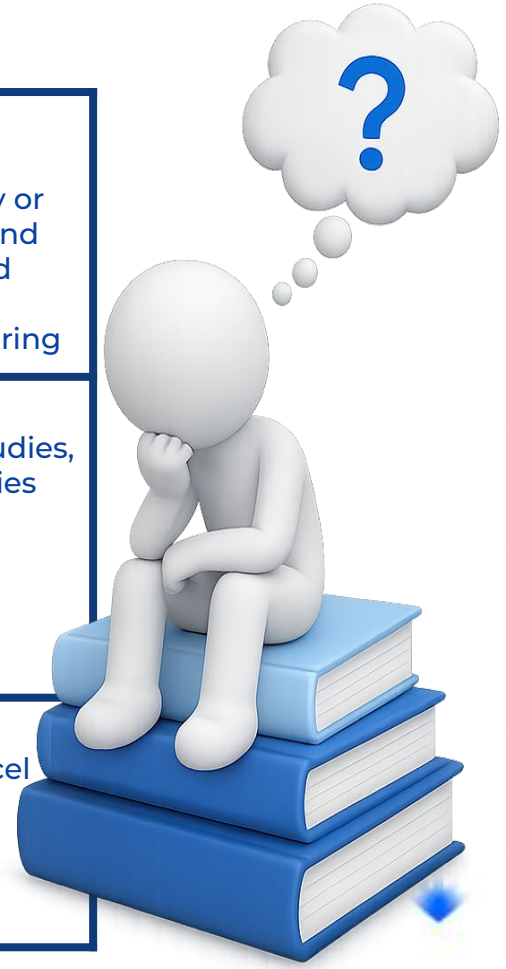
- Part of a further college
- Age: 16 - 18
- Part-time or full-time
- Cost: Free

Explore – Year 10
Apply – Year 11 (by the end of Oct)
Enroll – August

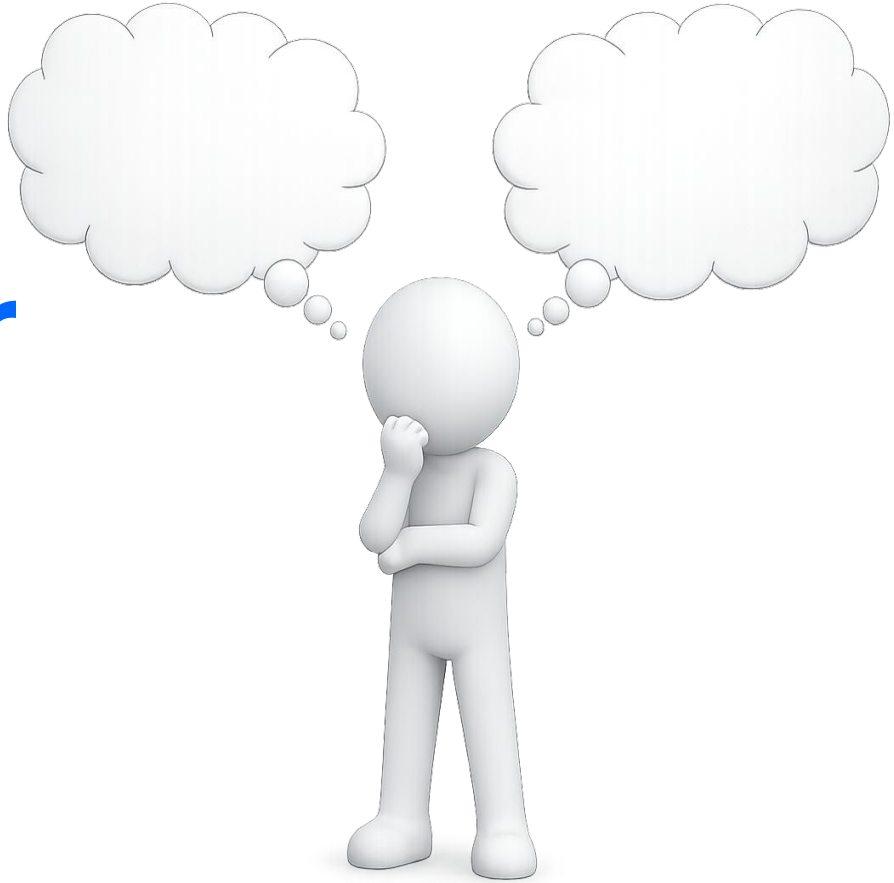
A — Levels

AS Levels — Advanced Subsidiary levels — 1 year
A-Levels: Advanced levels — 2 years

English English Language English Literature*	**Maths** Further Maths* Mathematics	**Science** Double science* physics, chemistry, biology or double science (physics and chemistry or biology and chemistry) Computer science, Engineering
Design and Technology Health and Social care Food and Technology	Liberal Arts Art and Design, Politics, Economics, Geography, History, Humanities Law, Philosophy, Psychology, Language and Culture, Journalism,Criminology,	Arts Art, Drama, Music, Media Studies, Art and Design, Film studies
Languages Modern Ancient/ Classics	Business Accounting, business management	Exam Boards AQA, OCR, Pearson Edexcel and WJEC Eduqas



I can’t do A-Levels. Is there any other courses



BTEC

Business and Technology Education Council (BTEC) (Designed for students aged 16+.)

Comparison to A-levels:

1. BTECs are practical and vocational, focusing on skills for the workplace or higher education.
2. A-levels are academic and suited to theoretical studies, often required for competitive and research-based programs.

Target Audience:

- Ideal for students preferring practical, skills-based education.
- Prepares for specific careers or industries.

Level and Equivalency

BTEC Keep in mind

The Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Foundation Diploma

equivalent to 1.5 A levels

The Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Certificate

equivalent to 0.5 of an A level

The Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate

equivalent to 1.5 A levels

The Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma

equivalent to 2 A levels

The Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma

equivalent to 3 A levels

T — Levels

Technical levels — 2 years (for 16-19 yo)

1. **Duration and Structure:**
   - A T-level program lasts for two years, with 80% of the time spent in the classroom and 20% on-the-job training.
   - The practical training includes a mandatory industry placement of around 45 days, where students gain real-world experience in their chosen field.
2. **Subjects and Qualification Areas:**
   - T-levels cover a range of subjects, including construction, digital technology, health and science, engineering, business management, creative industries, and more.
   - Each T-level course offers both technical knowledge and practical skills tailored to industry needs, providing a well-rounded education that combines theory with hands-on learning.
3. **Who T-levels Are For:**
   - T-levels are ideal for students who prefer a career-focused, practical approach to education. They're especially suited for those who are interested in technical professions and want to gain hands-on experience alongside theoretical learning.

Further Education College

- Age: 16+ **(incl adults)**
- Part-time or full-time
- Cost: 16 - 18 Free, 19+ Fee

Full Level 2

- BTEC Extended Diploma (L2)
- 5 GCSEs grade 4-9
- Intermediate Apprenticeship

Full Level 3

- 3 A-Levels
- Access to HE Diploma (19+)
- BTEC National Extended Diploma (L3)
- Foundation Year (University)
- Advanced Apprenticeship

Apprenticeships

Work-based learning

Earn money whilst studying

Vocational qualifications

Examples: construction, accounting, electrical installation, car mechanic etc.

Find an apprenticeship

<18	all courses fully funded (free education for under 18s)
19-23	most courses fully funded (issues at Level 2)
24+	some courses fully funded (issues at Level 3)

How to choose a course?

1. **Research**

   Work backwards, university entry requirements

2. **Appointment**

   Make an appointment with Careers adviser

3. **Attend**

   Visit college open days

4. **Decide**

   Make your choice.

UCAS example, National Career Service: anaesthetist, auditor, solicitor

What to bring to enrolment?

- **Proof of immigration status**
(e.g. ARC card, BRP card, Bail 201 letter), E-Visa sharecode

- **Proof of income**
(Universal Credit, wage slips, NASS support/ Section: 95, 98 or 4, ASPEN card)
- Careleaver: Section 23C, In care/ looked after (UASC)- Section 24

- **Proof of current address**
(GP letter, Home Office letter, Accommodation letter: Clearsprings Ready Homes, Mears, Serco)

- **Proof of previous qualifications**
(any certificates from previous education)

Bank account for bursaries: Metro, Lloyds, Halifax, Bank of Scotland, NatWest

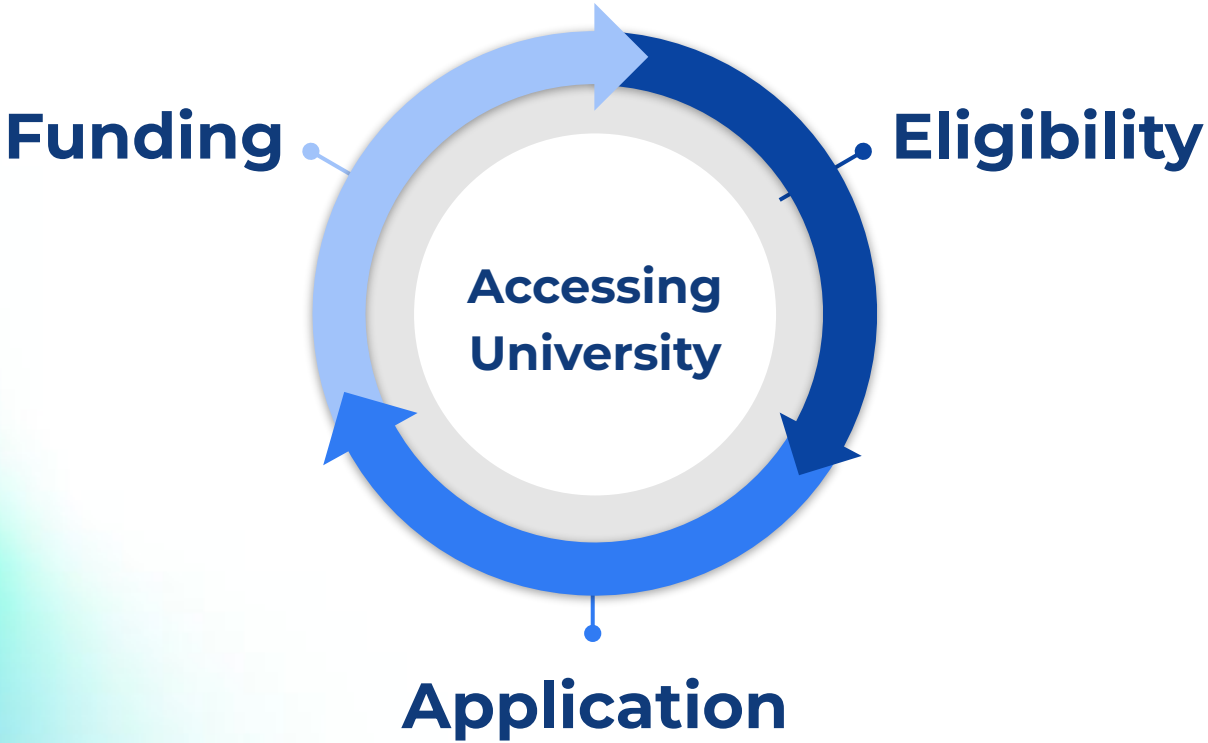
Bursaries and financial support (£)

College bursaries
- Travel costs
- Meals at college

Advanced learner loan
- Tuition fees for unfunded Level 3 courses
- Some bursary support

Other financial support
- Some charities may be able to help with certain costs (e.g. Hope for the Young, Kings Trust, Schwab, Black Heart Foundation, etc.)

Higher Education



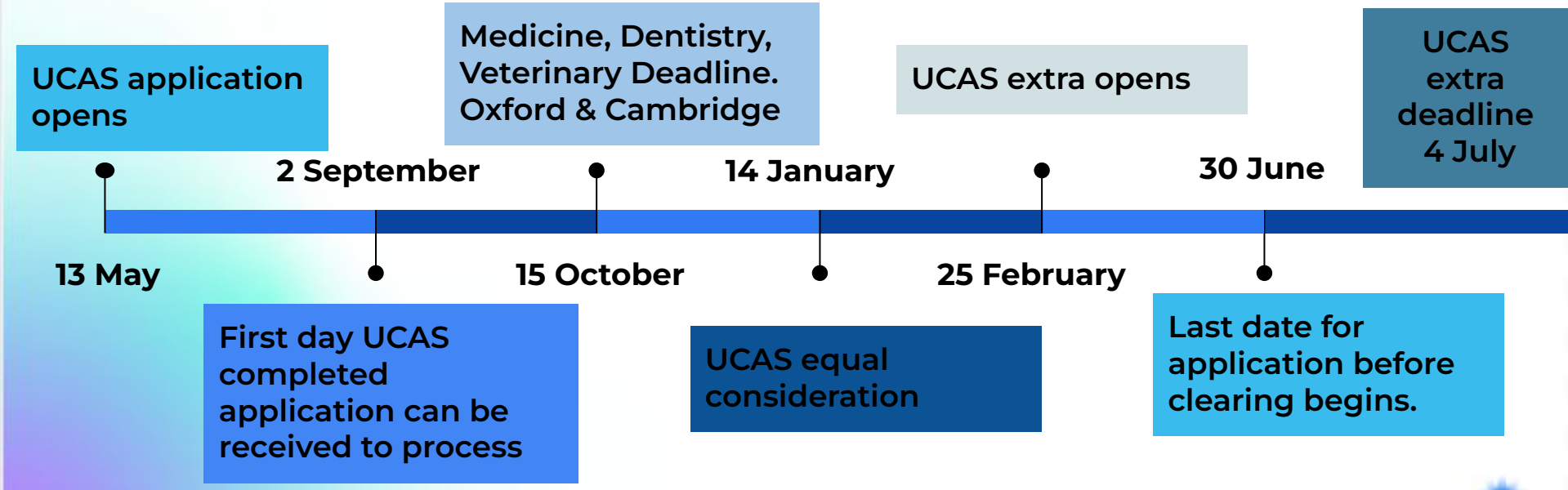
Admissions Tests

Medical

Prerequisites Qualifications	Admissions Tests	UCAS Application	Work Experience	Personal Statement
GCSE or equivalent in: Maths, Science, English	University Clinical Aptitude Test (UCAT)	Complete UCAS application	Caring or service role	Why you want to study medicine
A-level Chemistry, Biology, Mathematics and Physics	Biomedical Admission Test (BMAT) – **no longer needed**	Deadline 15th October	Volunteer	Personal interests/ hobbies
Access Course/ Foundational Year	**GAMSAT-**	No transfers from other universities	Paid work	Achievements- academic/ personal
				Experience

https://www.medschools.ac.uk/

UCAS application entry dates 2026



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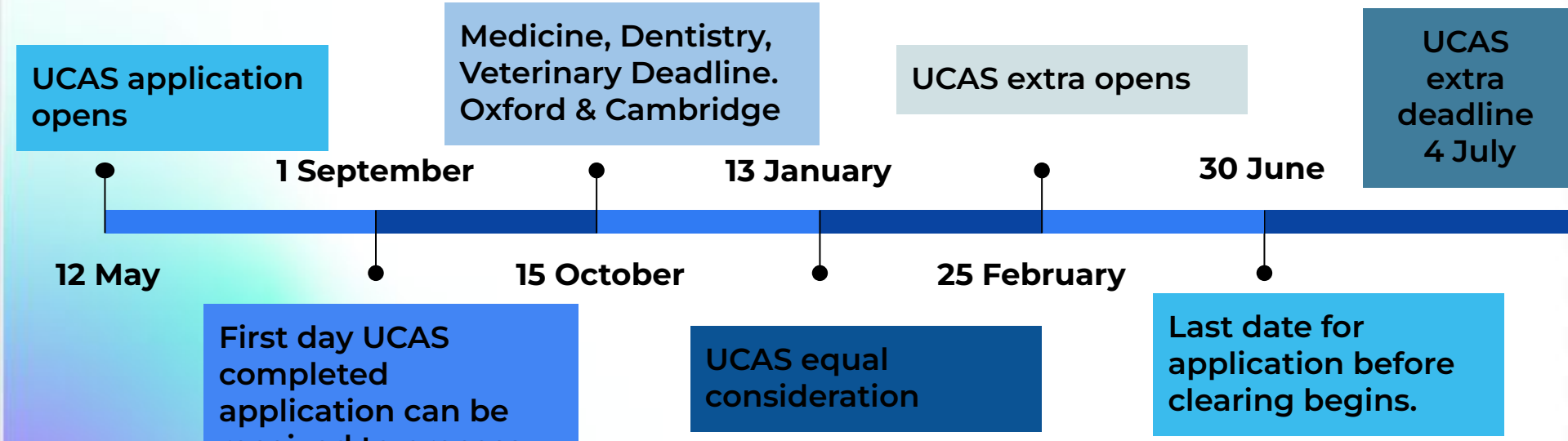
UCAS application entry dates 2027



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Decision

Universities will review your:

Personal Statement

Qualifications

Reference

They may also ask for:

Admission Test

Interview

Portfolio/ audition

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CuJ3jQAPy5odgfsyoiJXtzpP9I6EC5q3/view

Acceptance

- Conditional vs Unconditional
- Firm vs Insurance choice
- Scholarships
- Interview for Scholarships

Deferring offers

How to find us

- **Advice Line: advice@reuk.org**
- Facebook: Refugee Education UK
- BlueSky:@refugeeeduk.bsky.social
- Instagram: @RefugeeEdUK
- Sign up to our newsletter (www.reuk.org/keepupdated)