Northampton College



Applying to University

Where do I start?

To apply for university, search for courses, and find all the information you need, go to www.ucas.com. Current and former students can register on the UCAS website using the Northampton College buzzword which is available from the Futures team or academic staff. Remember to keep a record of your ID and password!

How do I choose a course?

You will need to decide what you want to study and where before you apply, so it's important to spend as much time researching this as possible, as it can be a life-changing decision. This can seem daunting with so many courses available. When deciding on a course you should consider:

- Which subjects interest you?
- Which subjects do you enjoy?
- What are your talents?
- What are your career plans for the future?

There are different types of qualification that may suit you:

- **Higher National Certificate (HNC)/ Higher National Diploma (HND)/ Foundation degree:** a one or two year course which, if completed with high grades, can lead to the second or third year of a degree
- **Degree:** usually a three or four year course, either a single subject or more than one through a combined honours programme
- **Sandwich course:** a degree with a year spent working in a relevant industry to gain valuable skills and experience.

Understanding entry requirements

Each university or college has different requirements that their students need to meet before they can start a course – these can be particular grades in subjects studied at level 3, grades for certain GCSE subjects, tariff points, or non-academic requirements such as a health check.

Some courses require you to take an admissions test. If this is the case, you need to find out how to apply for it.

The entry requirements for each course will be listed on the universities' websites as well as UCAS. Be realistic about what grades you may achieve and speak to your tutors for advice if needed.

It is also important that you understand the UCAS tariff system, so you are aware of exactly what grades you need to meet a certain offer. If you are unsure, the tariff is explained on www.ucas.com and on the UCAS Hub once you've registered.



How do I choose where to study?

Choosing where to study may seem difficult with over 300 institutions in the UK!

Open days are a brilliant way to find out about courses and the place you will be studying, and whether you will be comfortable spending three or four years there. Different universities will suit different people, so take time deciding on the right one for you.

Consider:

- **Where you will stay** – would you like to stay close to home, in a different part of the country or a different country?
- **Transport links** – how easy will it be to get home and back? How expensive will this be?
- **City/town** – what is it like? What can it offer students?
- **Location** – would you like a campus based university, or a city based one?
- **Facilities** – what can the university offer you?
- **Halls of residence and accommodation** – what is it like? How much will it cost?
- **Other commitments** – is part time study an option for your chosen course? Would this be easier for you?

What happens after I've applied?

Once your application has been received by your chosen universities it will be reviewed and a decision made which can take some time. You may be invited to an interview or audition first depending on the course.

You can follow the progress of your application on the UCAS Hub; check whether you've received any offers, and the deadlines to respond to your offers. To log in you'll need your UCAS Personal ID and password.

Remember to keep these details somewhere safe!

Completing the online application

Once you have registered on the UCAS website with the College buzzword you will need to choose between a conservatoire application or an undergraduate one.

Conservatoires specialise in performing arts courses with a focus on practical learning and performance, where a university course tends to be more academic. You can apply directly to some conservatoires.

An undergraduate application is for your first degree, usually a Bachelor of Arts (BA) or Bachelor of Science (BSc).

The ? symbol will help you to complete each section, including:

- **Your choices** - you can add up to five choices, so choose wisely!
- **Profile** - e.g. personal details, finance and funding
- **Experience** - education and paid employment
- **Personal Statement** – your chance to explain why you want to study the course(s) you're applying for. It's important you spend time carefully drafting all three sections.

  Email a copy to the Futures team for expert feedback: **futures@northamptoncollege.ac.uk**

There is a fee to be paid online at the time you submit your completed application. If you have had free school meals at college or secondary school you will not need to pay the fee. You must declare this on your application.

(This will be checked by College staff before the application is sent.)

If you are care experienced you will not need to pay the fee. Indicate this on the application and upload supporting evidence.

Once you have submitted your online application it is then sent to an administrator in your department here at college.

A reference from your tutors is attached and the form is checked and approved, then sent to UCAS. Your application may be returned to you if any changes need to be made.

Be aware of the College deadline for submitting your application.

Still not sure?

There are many university prospectuses available in the DARC which provide information about the institutions and the courses available, which can also be easily found on the institution website.

There are also websites which can help you compare university options:

www.theuniguide.co.uk

www.whatuni.com

www.universitycompare.com

Accepting offers

You can only accept one firm and one insurance offer. Ensure you are happy with both choices as you are entering into an agreement with these universities.

You must decline all other offers.

Please be aware of the deadline to respond to offers; this will be made clear on the UCAS Hub and will depend on when you received your replies from universities.

If you need to contact UCAS call

0371 468 0 468

UCAS Extra and Clearing

You can make an additional choice in UCAS Extra if you do not receive any offers or choose to decline your offers.

You can use Clearing from early July if you're not already holding an offer from a university or college.

More details are available on the UCAS website.

For advice and support Email the Futures Team:

futures@northamptoncollege.ac.uk

Alternatively, you can visit the **Futures Team** based in **E1.01 at Booth Lane**, or pop into **Student Services at Lower Mounts or Daventry** to make an appointment with an advisor.

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