

Final UCAS Update Spring 2026 what next...

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- 4. Late applications**
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1. Student Finance

This will **open soon** –
[Apply online for student finance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Make sure you **register** and **create an account**.

The process can take a little while and **the deadline is in May**.

You will need your NI number.

GOV.UK Search

Coronavirus (COVID-19): what you need to do [Hide message](#)

Part of [Get undergraduate student finance: step by step](#)

Student finance

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New full-time students

You can apply for a Tuition Fee Loan and Maintenance Loan if your course starts on or after 1 August 2016.

Part of [Get undergraduate student finance: step by step](#)

[Show all](#)

UCAS

Extra
toolkit



2. UCAS Extra

Available from 25/02/26

Why you might use it

How to access 1000s of UCAS
courses still available

UCAS

Extra
toolkit



Why use UCAS Extra?

UCAS Extra gives the option to access 1000s of courses still available at Universities

You're eligible for Extra if you've used all five choices in your application and you're **not** holding any offers. This means that all your choices must be either **unsuccessful**, you've **declined any offers** or **cancelled any choices** you have not received decisions for.

UCAS

Extra toolkit



Go to [UCAS Extra](#) and use the search tool, use filters to show courses with vacancies

Course type and year

Select the year you'd like to study, and the type of course you're interested in to filter your results.

Undergraduate Postgraduate 2025-2026 2026-2027

Conservatoire Teacher training courses in Scotland and Wales

Select the start month for the course you're interested in.

Aug 2026 Sep 2026 Oct 2026 Nov 2026 Dec 2026 Jan 2027
Feb 2027 Mar 2027 Apr 2027 May 2027 Jun 2027 Jul 2027

Full-time Accelerated Part-time/flexible Distance learning
Degree Apprenticeship

HNC or CertHE HND or DipHE Bachelor's Masters
PG Certificates or Diplomas Higher Technical Qualifications Other qualifications

Course vacancies

Where do you normally live? This helps us to show courses that are available to you.

Show all courses Show courses with vacancies England Scotland Wales



How will I know if I am eligible to use Extra?

In the **'Your choices'** section of Track the option to **'Add an Extra choice'** will become available.

Do I have to pay an additional fee to use Extra?

No – providing you are definitely eligible for Extra, i.e. you've already used all five choices, you would have paid all you needed to when you submitted your application.



Universities will decide what courses are available for Extra.

They can open courses for Extra so you can apply.

Universities should decide within 21 days whether to offer you a place through Extra. After this you can decide to wait or reapply for a course elsewhere.

You must reply to any offers by the **date given** in Track otherwise you are automatically declined.

You cannot change your **personal statement** if changing subject choice.



In addition...

Don't be afraid to ring universities and ask them about their entry requirements if you are interested in a course they are offering.

Also, remember your A level subjects might well 'fit' even if you think they might not.

Falmouth University will consider applications to creative degrees such as photography and media without a visual arts / media /film A level. Other universities will do the same.

If in doubt – ask them.

3. Firm & Insure

- If you met the January deadline UCAS asks universities to get out all their offers and rejections by **13 May 2026**
- You have to wait **until all your choices have replied**, either with an unconditional offer, a conditional offer or a rejection. (You can withdraw a choice).
- **UCAS: 3 June 2026 – Reply deadline for offers** If you received all your decisions by 13 May, this is the deadline to reply to your offers. Accept your firm and insurance choices by 6pm (UK time) or risk losing your place.
- [Ucas deadlines and key application dates - The Uni Guide](#)

- **Things that might be helpful to know**
 - * **You will be accepted automatically to your firm choice on results day if you meet the offer**
 - * **If you don't meet the grades you will revert to your insurance choice**
 - * **You can change your mind and apply elsewhere/accept your insurance but you will need to ask your firm offer to release you first. This means contacting them and can take some time depending on the uni.**

Making your firm choice: top tips

- * **Revisiting course and university options, especially if it's been a while since you sent off your UCAS form.**
- * **Re-familiarise yourself with the course description and modules on offer.**
- * **Have you been able to visit the university or the city?**
- * **If you meet the conditions of your firm offer, then the place is yours; so make sure you're 100% happy with the course at this university. Don't just choose the course with the highest entry requirements out of all the offers you've received.**
- * **Is the offer achievable?**
- * **Is the offer flexible? While in theory you'll only secure the place if you meet your offer, in practice, some universities will still accept 'near-miss' applicants.**
- * **And if in doubt... Don't be afraid to ask the universities themselves!**

Making your insurance choice: top tips

- * Your insurance choice should normally be a lower grade offer (but sometimes you might do higher if your firm choice has given you a very good offer below your predicted grades anyway).
- * There is no swapping between your firm and insurance once the decision is made
- * Only put down an insurance choice if you'd be happy to go there.
- * If you have an insurance offer that you later decide you don't like, it could delay your chance of finding something that you would prefer through Clearing.
- * Keep in mind that your insurance choice might not be able to guarantee you accommodation, so you may have to find alternative student accommodation if you end up going there.
- * **YOU DO NOT HAVE TO MAKE AN INSURANCE CHOICE**

Once you have made your firm (and insurance choice)

- * All your other offers disappear.
- * You cannot change your mind so do it carefully (on a laptop maybe not your phone!)



4. Late applications

Changed your mind – want to make a late application?

Yes, you can still do it!

We need:

- 1. To know you are applying – please contact your tutor**
- 2. To check your reference is ready to go**
- 3. Check your UCAS form is correct and ready**
- 4. We can also check your personal statement**

If you are thinking of making a late application, we would also suggest you use the search on UCAS Extra or contact universities to check they still have spaces on the courses you wish to apply for.

LATE

5. Deferring

To defer or not to defer?

And ask unis if you can defer...don't tell them!

- * **If you have already received an offer for start in Autumn 2026 – you will need to write/call university choices asking if you can now switch to a deferred offer (2027)**
- * **Unis can say 'no' as the initial offer was based on a 2026 start.**
- * **Of course, in the end, if unis say 'no' and you really want a 'gap year' then you can just decline offers and re-apply (which is my next note) – but I'd definitely not make such a decision yet.**

Taking a gap year and applying as an ex-student?

Every year around 300–350 ex-students apply through BHASVIC to university.

Many after just one year off, some after 3 or 4 – even 10 years.

All you really need to know is.....

You can access the same help as you were able to as a current student.

- **We update and check your reference**
- **We check your UCAS form**
- **We can check your personal statement if you would like**
- **IMPORTANT: *Apply before Xmas***

6. Applying as an ex-student

Information is on our college website.

There are always lots of resources and help as well as contact details.

Important is the instructions of how to register for UCAS.

The screenshot shows the BHASVIC website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'STUDENTS', 'PARENTS & CARERS', 'EX-STUDENTS', and 'CALENDAR'. Below this is a secondary menu with 'THE COLLEGE', 'FAQS', 'ADMISSIONS', 'COURSES', 'STUDENT LIFE', 'NEWS', 'EVENING COURSES', and 'CONTACT US'. A search bar is located on the right side of the navigation bar. The main content area features a large red banner with the BHASVIC logo. Below the banner, there are three icons representing 'Alumni information', 'UCAS for Ex-students', and 'Employment References'. The 'UCAS for Ex-students' link is highlighted with a yellow circle. To the right, there is a section titled 'Important Information' with text about system issues. At the bottom, there are sections for 'UCAS DEADLINE EXTENSION' and 'BHASVIC DEADLINE DATES'.

UCAS DEADLINE EXTENSION
Students may be aware that the UCAS deadline has been extended to 29 of January 2021. This is for the **MAJORITY** of courses and there is **no guarantee** that your choices will be included in the extension.

Although the deadline has been extended, if we receive applications after the 15 January it may well be delayed as staff are committed to working on other projects after this date. Therefore, applications received after the 15 January 2021 cannot be guaranteed to be sent before the UCAS extended deadline.

BHASVIC DEADLINE DATES:
EARLY APPLICATION - 25 September 2020
PRIORITY APPLICATION - 13 November 2020
STANDARD APPLICATION - 11 December 2020
WE CANNOT GUARANTEE TO PROCESS APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AFTER 11 DECEMBER BY THE UCAS DEADLINE.

UCAS DEADLINE DATES:
UCAS Deadline for Oxbridge/Medics/Vets/Dentistry - 15 October 2020
UCAS External Deadline - 1 October 2020 - please check deadline dates with individual institutions
UCAS Deadline - 15 January 2021

7. DSA

- * You may well be entitled to DSA.
- * This is useful to explore.

Are YOU eligible for extra funding?



You don't have to think of yourself as disabled to be eligible for Disabled Students' Allowances (DSAs).

If you are a UK student and have a disability, long term health condition or specific learning difference you may be eligible for Government funding, which can pay towards the cost of software, hardware and study support.

ADHD • ANOREXIA • ANXIETY • AUTISM

BI-POLAR • CANCER • CHRONIC FATIGUE

CROHN'S DISEASE • DEPRESSION • DIABETES

DYSLEXIA • EATING DISORDER • EPILEPSY

FIBROMYALGIA • IBS • MIGRAINES

MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS • SPINA BIFIDA

SPECIFIC LEARNING DIFFERENCE • TINNITUS

VISUAL AND HEARING IMPAIRMENT and more

To apply for DSAs, go to <https://www.gov.uk/disabled-students-allowances-dsas>

To find out more about DSAs, or for support completing an application, contact the **Sussex Regional Access Centre**

Phone 01273 678497

Email srac@sussex.ac.uk **Website** www.sussex.ac.uk

The DSA Claim It Campaign is supported by:



8. University Bursary Information

- * Before you firm and insure if you are WP, a young carer, care experienced or have access to a BHASVIC bursary you might want to check out the bursaries unis offer.

Some really good info here

[Bursaries, DSA & Scholarships](#)

The screenshot shows a webpage header with the title 'Bursaries, DSA & Scholarships' and a user profile for 'Nikki Fabry, Guidance Manager'. The main content area features a red text box stating: 'This page contains information about Widening Participation, Contextual Offers, Bursaries & Scholarships - all of which can make a huge difference to any university application. Please see our separate page on Student Finance.' Below this is a video player for 'UCAS Bitesize 3 WP Contextual Offers Bursaries Scholarship 25-26' and a document icon for 'BHASVIC Contextual Offers WP and Care-experienced schemes 25-26'. To the right, there is a section titled 'Links to contextual info pages for some of our most popular unis. Check out the offers as sometimes you need to complete an activity/form and register to gain a contextual offer.' This section contains a grid of 12 buttons, each with a globe icon and a university name and URL.

| | | |
|--|--|------------------------------------|
| All Access AUB - AUB - Arts University Bournemouth | www.birmingham.ac.uk | Discover Bath - University of Bath |
| AccessBU - Bournemouth University | blogs.brighton.ac.uk | www.bristol.ac.uk |
| Discover Bristol | www.cardiff.ac.uk | www.dur.ac.uk |
| www.edgehill.ac.uk | Exeter Scholars Exeter Scholars University of Exeter | www.lancaster.ac.uk |

9. It all goes wrong....

- * Increasingly we have supported students who feel they have made the wrong choice.
- * **Wrong subject choice at the right uni** – talk to the uni and they may well be able to change your course
- * **Right subject choice at the wrong uni** – you can withdraw your place and start again. The quicker you decide (be sure) then the less student loan you will have to pay back. You will likely re-apply through UCAS and can do this as an ex-student (see earlier slides)
- * Remember you have 4 years student loan so it allows for an extra year if you need to change.
- * Any extra help email he@bhasvic.ac.uk



**DON'T
PANIC
DON'T
PANIC**

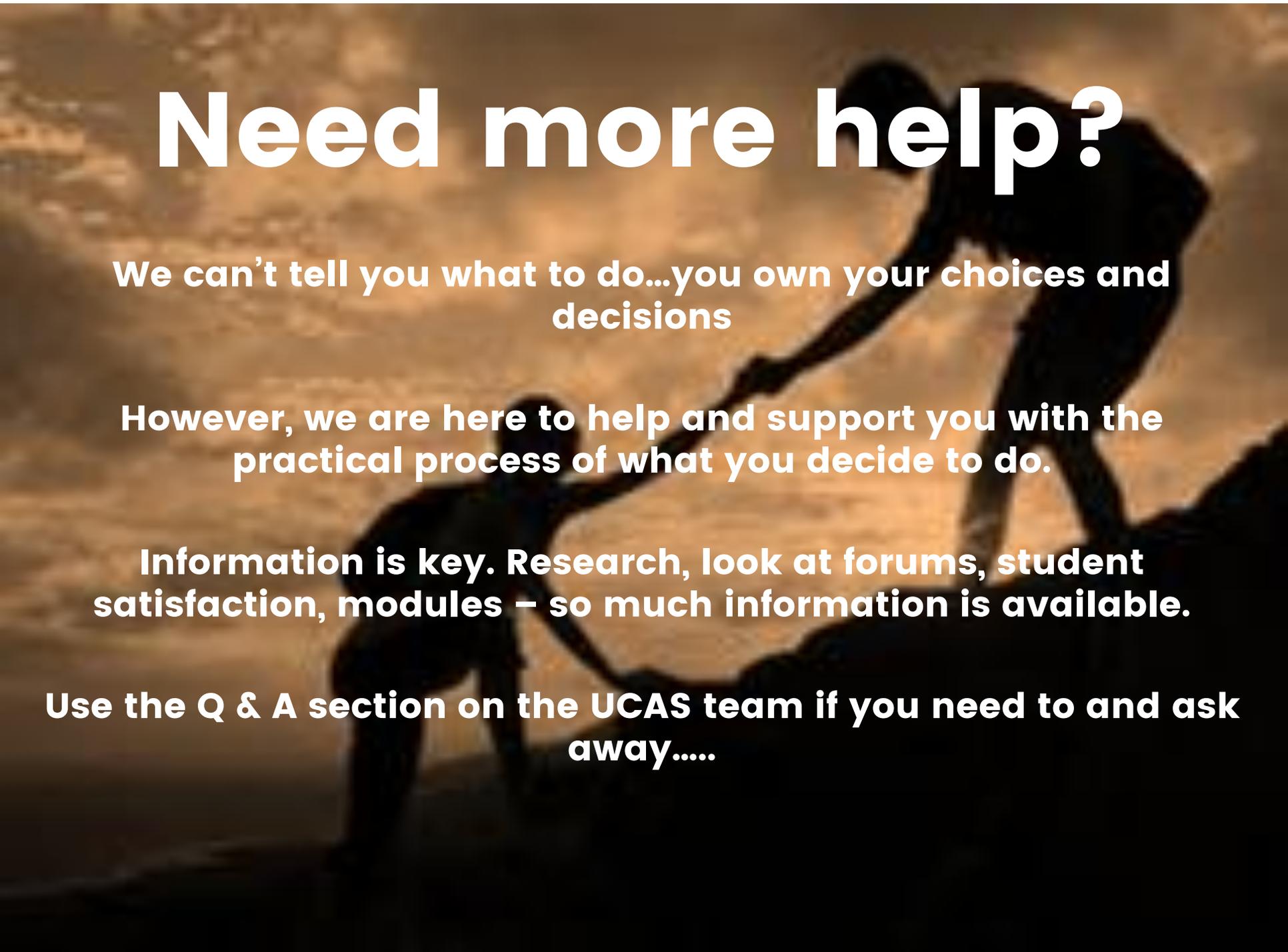
9. College References (for jobs)

* **Please use**

* **generalreferences@bhasvic.ac.uk**

* **Please do not use individual teachers or staff. Using this email means your reference will be dealt with quickly (usually by guidance managers) and may lead to delay if that teacher is ill/move to another job etc etc).**

Need more help?

The background of the slide features a warm, golden sunset sky. In the foreground, the dark silhouettes of three people are shown from behind, holding hands in a line. They appear to be walking or standing on a dark, uneven surface, possibly a beach or a path. The overall mood is one of support and guidance.

We can't tell you what to do...you own your choices and decisions

However, we are here to help and support you with the practical process of what you decide to do.

Information is key. Research, look at forums, student satisfaction, modules – so much information is available.

Use the Q & A section on the UCAS team if you need to and ask away.....