

January 2026



Year 14 Careers Programme and UCAS Offers

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The purpose of this letter is to provide further guidance on the remaining stages of the UCAS application process. All UCAS applications have now been submitted, and students are beginning to receive decisions from universities. If your child has not yet received an offer, they need not worry, as universities have until 13 May 2026 to respond.

UCAS Offers

Most offers made are conditional, meaning that specific entry requirements must be met. Some offers may be unconditional, guaranteeing a place on the course. It is important that students carefully review each offer to check whether any further action is required. If an application is unsuccessful, this indicates that the university has chosen not to offer a place on that particular course. Further information about UCAS offer types can be found at:

<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/after-you-apply/ucas-undergraduate-types-offer>

Responding to Offers

Students may only reply to their offers once they have received a decision from all chosen universities. At that point, they must select a firm and insurance choice via their UCAS Hub. The relevant reply deadlines are:

- 6 May 2026 – if the final decision is received on or before 31 March 2026
- 3 June 2026 – if the final decision is received on or before 13 May 2026

When replying to their offers, a student's firm choice university is their first choice university. If they accept a conditional offer and meet the conditions, they will have a confirmed place there. The insurance choice is the choice they would want if they did not meet the conditions of their firm choice.

UCAS Extra and Clearing

In the event that a student does not receive any offers, they will be able to go through UCAS Extra where they can add additional options. This remains open until the end of June. If a student does not secure a place at either choice, they will automatically enter UCAS Clearing in August.

University Accommodation

Accommodation application deadlines vary widely between institutions. Students are strongly advised to check individual university websites to ensure they meet the correct deadlines.

Student Finance

Applications for student finance usually open in March and are completed online through Student Finance NI. Students complete their section of the application first, after which parents/carers will receive a link to complete their part. Further information can be found at:

<https://www.ucas.com/finance/student-finance-northern-ireland>

<https://www.studentfinanceni.co.uk/>

Following completion of UCAS applications in Careers lessons, pupils have been focusing on interview preparation, student finance and accommodation, Progress File documentation and CV development. Pupils should continue to check their UCAS Hub regularly to monitor the progress of their applications.

If you or your child have any questions about UCAS or alternative pathways after Senior School, please do not hesitate to contact us. We look forward to supporting you and your child in the months ahead.

Yours sincerely,

GCS Careers Department

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