



Careers &
Employability Service

Moving On Up

- Higher Education at College
- Higher Level Apprenticeships
- Applying to University

2023/24



INTRODUCTION

If you are undertaking a Level 3 Further Education, or Level 4 or 5 Higher Education programme then this guide is for you. Produced by Belfast Met's Careers and Employability Service this guide will help you:

- Understand your study/employment options such as:
 - Higher Education in College
 - Higher Level Apprenticeships
 - (HLA's) or Degree Level Apprenticeships
- Provide key information about applying through UCAS for UK institutions and CAO for Republic of Ireland
- Help you decide on your next step.

You can read the booklet in full or read the sections which are most relevant to you, either way we hope you find the guide helpful and informative.

The Careers and Employability Team.

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WHAT IS HIGHER EDUCATION?

Higher Education (commonly referred to as HE) is study at an advanced level, normally at age 18 or over. HE courses are provided by Further and Higher Education colleges, Universities, University Colleges, Business schools, Agricultural colleges, as well as at specialist institutions, for example, in music and drama.

An undergraduate course is the higher education course you are studying. Once you achieve a degree you are a graduate and eligible to apply for graduate level employment. Higher Education is mainly full time but there are also some part time options too.

LEVEL 4 CERTIFICATE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

What does it offer?	Belfast Met has 2 Certificates of Higher Education: the Certificate of Combined Social and Behavioural Sciences and the Certificate in Humanities accredited by Ulster University which are equivalent to year 1 of a degree. Entry is possible to year 2 of relevant degrees at Ulster University.
How long is it?	Two years part-time.
What do I need?	Entry requirements to a Cert HE are lower than to a foundation degree or HND, which should be a minimum of a level 3 qualification e.g. 1 A level or equivalent. However, other qualifications and experience related to the subject area may be considered for entry on an individual basis.

LEVEL 4 HIGHER NATIONAL CERTIFICATE (HNC)

What does it offer?	Many HNC courses cover the same subjects as an HND, with an HNC being one level below an HND. A Higher National Certificate can be used to enter the first or occasionally the second year of a full time bachelor's degree or to help people aim for a promotion.
How long is it?	Two year part-time programme or occasionally available 1 year full-time.
What do I need?	Entry requirements to a HNC are lower than to a foundation degree or HND, which should be a minimum of a level 3 qualification e.g. 1 A level or equivalent. However, other qualifications and experience related to the subject area may be considered for entry on an individual basis.

LEVEL 5 HIGHER NATIONAL DIPLOMA (HND)

What does it offer?	A Higher National Diploma is a vocational course provided by Further and Higher Education colleges in the UK. It aims to prepare students for careers in specific industries for example Business and you can if you wish, top up your HND to a full degree in 1 - 2 years.
How long is it?	A HND takes two years to complete full-time (or three years part-time).
What do I need?	Entry requirements to a HND tend to be lower than a full bachelor's degree. A minimum of level 3 qualification or equivalent is expected or a relevant level 4 HNC. In addition, some courses have specific GCSE* requirements.

LEVEL 5 FOUNDATION DEGREE

What does it offer?	Designed and delivered through partnerships between employer organisations, further and higher education colleges and universities, this qualification combines academic and work-related learning to offer you a route into a certain field of employment. You can also 'top-up' to a bachelor's degree by undertaking an additional one or two years of further study. Foundation degrees in Northern Ireland are normally accredited by Queen's University, Ulster University or Open University.
How long is it?	A foundation degree takes two years to complete full-time (or three years part-time).
What do I need?	Entry requirements to a foundation degree tend to be slightly lower than a Bachelor's Degree. A minimum of a level 3 qualification or equivalent is expected. In addition, some courses may have specific GCSE* requirements.

LEVEL 6 BACHELOR'S DEGREE

What does it offer?	Designed to give you a thorough understanding of a subject, it can help you develop the skills needed to enter a specific graduate profession or more general graduate level employment. A degree can also be used to progress onto postgraduate study.
How long is it?	A degree takes three or four years to complete full-time. Some degrees, such as medical courses, can take longer. You can also study for some degrees part-time or through distance/online learning, which usually takes four to six years.
What do I need?	The minimum entry requirement for a full time degree is usually a full Level 3 qualification, such as three A levels, BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma or Access Diploma. In addition, some degrees may have specific GCSE* requirements e.g. Science subjects. Some applicants apply with Level 4 or 5 qualifications also such as an HNC, HND, or FD.

*Generally GCSE English Language and Mathematics are required. Not all institutions/subjects will accept alternatives. Applicants should check this out in advance of application.

N.I FURTHER EDUCATION SECTOR PROGRESSION 2021

TOP 10 UNIVERSITIES

NUMBER OF STUDENTS PLACED

ULSTER UNIVERSITY

1362

QUEENS UNIVERSITY
BELFAST

535

LIVERPOOL JOHN
MOORES UNIVERSITY

181

NORTHUMBRIA
UNIVERSITY
NEWCASTLE

55

STRANMILLIS
UNIVERSITY

46

LIVERPOOL HOPE
UNIVERSITY

32

MANCHESTER
METROPOLITAN
UNIVERSITY

31

UNIVERSITY OF
CENTRAL LANCASHIRE

17

EDINBURGH NAPIER
UNIVERSITY

17

6

UNIVERSITY OF
BRIGHTON

12

QUEENS UNIVERSITY BELFAST

535

ULSTER UNIVERSITY

1362

46

STRANMILLIS UNIVERSITY

LIVERPOOL JOHN MOORES
UNIVERSITY

181

LIVERPOOL HOPE UNIVERSITY

32

17

EDINBURGH NAPIER UNIVERSITY

55

NORTHUMBRIA UNIVERSITY

17

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL
LANCASHIRE

MANCHESTER
METROPOLITAN
UNIVERSITY

31

12

UNIVERSITY OF BRIGHTON

TOP 10 DEGREE AREAS

1 NURSING & MIDWIFERY

2 BUSINESS / ACCOUNTANCY RELATED

3 COMPUTING & IT

4 SPORTS RELATED

5 SCIENCE RELATED

6 ENGINEERING RELATED

7 CONSTRUCTION RELATED

8 WIDER HEALTH RELATED

9 PSYCHOLOGY

10 ECS & EDUCATION

7

WALES - 17 STUDENTS

UNIVERSITY	TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS PLACED
Bangor University	5
Cardiff Metropolitan University	6
University of South Wales	6

SOUTH EAST - 23 STUDENTS

UNIVERSITY	TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS PLACED
Canterbury Christ Church University	5
Oxford Brookes University	6
University of Brighton	12

YORKSHIRE & THE HUMBER - 17 STUDENTS

UNIVERSITY	TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS PLACED
Leeds Beckett University	12
York St John University	5

EAST OF ENGLAND - 10 STUDENTS

UNIVERSITY	TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS PLACED
Anglia Ruskin University	5
University of Essex	5

NORTH EAST - 66 STUDENTS

UNIVERSITY	TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS PLACED
Loughborough College	6
Northumbria University, Newcastle	55
University of Sunderland	5

WEST MIDLANDS - 21 STUDENTS

UNIVERSITY	TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS PLACED
Keele University	7
Staffordshire University	6
University of Wolverhampton	8

SOUTH WEST - 13 STUDENTS

UNIVERSITY	TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS PLACED
Bristol, University of the West of England	8
Plymouth College of Art	5

LONDON - 6 STUDENTS

UNIVERSITY	TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS PLACED
Kingston University	6

135
TOTAL
INSTITUTIONS
PROGRESSED
2691
STUDENTS
FROM OUR
6 FE COLLEGES
IN 2021

HIGHER EDUCATION AT COLLEGE

Higher Education (HE) courses at Further and Higher Education Colleges in Northern Ireland include Level 4 Higher National Certificates (HNCs), CertificateS in HE and Level 5 Foundation Degrees and Higher National Diplomas (HNDs).

Level 5 Foundation Degrees and HNDs are usually delivered as two year full time courses, and are well recognised by employers across the UK. These courses have lower entry requirements than undergraduate degrees but may usually allow you to progress into the second or sometimes the third year of a university degree, provided you achieve the required grades. Our Level 4 and 5 courses may be your first choice option to continue your studies or can act as a back up option to your university applications.

All colleges in Northern Ireland offer Level 4 Higher National Certificates (HNCs), either delivered on a part-time basis across two years or 1 year full time. HNC's have lower entry requirements than a HND or Foundation Degree and usually allow you to progress to year one of a university degree. Belfast Met offer full-time one year HNC's including: Applied Sciences (Biology), Engineering, Healthcare Practice, Social and Community Work and Public Services.

Applying to Courses

For higher education courses in Northern Ireland you should apply directly to the relevant college as early as possible. Higher Education courses at Belfast Met usually open in November for the following year's entry.

Some Foundation Degrees in NI require an application through UCAS. The equal consideration deadline is 31st January (your application is given equal consideration with all other applications, after this date it is considered if places are available). Belfast Met, for example, requires you to submit a UCAS application to be considered for the following Foundation Degrees:

- Early Childhood Studies
- Physical Education and Sport
- Mechanical Engineering
- Biological Sciences

Meeting the entry criteria

It is important to carefully check the course entry requirements on college websites. Entry criteria is based on UCAS tariff points, see the calculator on the UCAS website: <https://www.ucas.com/ucas/tariff-calculator> There's also a table you can download: <https://www.ucas.com/files/tariff-tables> There may be specific GCSE requirements for some higher education courses. You should also be aware that Essential Skills Level 2 Literacy and Numeracy qualifications are not always considered an acceptable alternative to GCSE English or GCSE Mathematics.

For further information about entry criteria and the application process check the course website and contact the college or university directly if it's not clear.

Higher Education at Belfast Met

Belfast Metropolitan College (www.belfastmet.ac.uk) offers a great variety of Higher Education qualifications to help satisfy the high level of skill needed to progress into many careers, including lots of new and emerging job areas to the economy. Our Higher Education courses usually open for applications in November for entry for the following September. You can download a HE prospectus from our website: <https://www.belfastmet.ac.uk/siteFiles/resources/docs/prospectus/HigherEducationProspectus.pdf>

You will see not only Foundation Degrees, HNDs and HNCs but we also have degrees in Social Work, Fashion Production and Business, Professional Development in Leadership & Management and several IT degrees.

Benefits to studying Higher Education at Belfast Met.

It is also worth noting the advantages to be gained when studying HE in a college setting:

Cost – Tuition fees are often less than the fees for an Honours degree at university

Work experience – Foundation Degrees, Higher Level Apprenticeships and some HNDs provide professional work experience which allows students to put their learning into practice.

Route to university – Students who successfully complete a Foundation Degree or HND can top up their qualification to a relevant Honours degree in 1 to 2 years.

Skills gap – HNCs, HNDs and Foundation degrees cover level 4 and 5 – the levels at which our Northern Ireland skills gap is greatest, therefore opening up many opportunities for those who achieve these qualifications.

Smaller classes – are common in college.

UCAS TARIFF POINTS FOR SOME POPULAR QUALIFICATIONS

				BTEC				
Access Diploma	Certificate	Subsidiary Diploma	Diploma	90 Credit Diploma	Extended Diploma	A Level	AS Level	Tariff Points
					D*D*D*			168
					D*D*D			160
					D*DD			152
75%+					DDD			144
70-74%								132
					DDM			128
65-69%								120
			D*D*		DMM			112
60-64%								108
			D*D					104
55-59%			DD		MMM			96
50-54%				D*D*				84
			DM		MMP			80
				D*D				78
45-49%				DD				72
			MM		MPP			64
41-44%				DM				60
		D*				A*		56
40%		D	MP	MM	PPP	A		48
						B		40
				MP				36
		M	PP			C		32
	D*							28
	D			PP		D		24
							A	20
	M	P				E	B	16
							C	12
							D	10
	P							8
							E	6

HIGHER LEVEL APPRENTICESHIPS

A Higher Level Apprenticeship (HLA) is a job combined with studying for a qualification, such as a Higher National Certificate, Higher National Diploma or Foundation Degree. You are an employee of a company, working usually 4 days a week and studying one day a week. Your employer covers the cost of the qualification, and you can achieve a qualification without accruing student debt.

In NI there are currently HLAs available in over 20 occupational areas including ICT, Professional Services, Engineering, Life Sciences, Accountancy and Health Care. You will need to have achieved level 3 qualifications, such as a BTEC Level 3, A levels or an Access Diploma, and may need to have gained certain GCSE grades: Further details here: <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/higher-level-apprenticeships>

What do I need to do?

Further Education Colleges provide information about HLAs on their websites since they are advertising their ability to deliver the off-the-job training element of HLAs. You are responsible for finding the employer and will need to be employed or about to take up employment with a company in NI working for at least 21 hours per week. You will need to research the position and company thoroughly, complete a good application and perform well at interview.

How do I find an apprenticeship?

Opportunities are advertised by employers throughout the year usually from January onwards. Check the NI Apprenticeship search facility: <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/services/search-apprenticeship-opportunities>

Workplus is a website where you can find soe apprenticeships and it opens for applications in January and closes in February, see <https://www.workplus.app/get-hired> for further details.

If you are interested in an IT Apprenticeship Belfast Met usually advertises from the end of April to early July. Check our website for further details on the application and recruitment process: <https://www.belfastmet.ac.uk/it-apprenticeship/Centre for Skills & Apprenticeships> ([belfastmet.ac.uk](https://www.belfastmet.ac.uk)). You can also apply directly to employers for an IT apprenticeship.

Regularly check job websites such as: www.jobapplyni.com
www.indeed.com
www.nijobs.com
www.nijobfinder.co.uk

You should also ask around for apprenticeships, let family and friends know you're looking for one.

For further advice on finding an apprenticeship, CV advice and interview preparation, check out the Looking for Employment section of our Careers Canvas page. In addition we can review draft CVs and offer advice on interview preparation for our students. See pages **46 and 47** for details on how to contact us.

See the next page for additional information on degree level apprenticeships.



DEGREE LEVEL APPRENTICESHIPS

A degree apprenticeship is a job combined with studying for a university degree. You'll be working with an employer for most of the time, with your tuition fees paid by the employer and studying for the rest of the time. Within Northern Ireland there are a small number of degree level apprenticeships.

Deloitte.

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An earn-while-you-learn higher apprenticeship with the chance to gain a professional qualification in:

- Audit & Assurance
- Business & Financial Advisory
- Cyber
- Human Capital
- Governance, Risk & Regulation
- Legal
- Real Estate
- Strategy & Operations
- Tax Consulting
- Technology

Apply Direct: <https://www2.deloitte.com/uk/en/pages/careers/articles/early-careers-programmes.html>

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FinTech

This programme is designed to produce industry focused graduates with an in- depth knowledge of core finance and technology principles and a strong practical understanding of how theory informs professional practice. See Ulster website for up to date details on how to apply.

<https://www.ulster.ac.uk/courses/202425/financial-technology-33132>

Further details on apprenticeships available through Ulster University can be found here: <https://www.ulster.ac.uk/apprenticeship-hub>



Queen's University Belfast

Employed as an apprentice in a leading technology firm and the apprenticeship combines traditional university study with valuable work-based learning. <https://www.qub.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate/software-engineering-digital-technology-partnership-beng-g606/#overview>

Apply via UCAS to QUB.

Further details on apprenticeships available through Queens University can be found here: <https://www.qub.ac.uk/directorates/sgc/careers/recruit-queens-students/HigherLevelApprenticeships/>



For details of other apprenticeships in the UK visit University websites \and UCAS website: <https://www.ucas.com/apprenticeships>



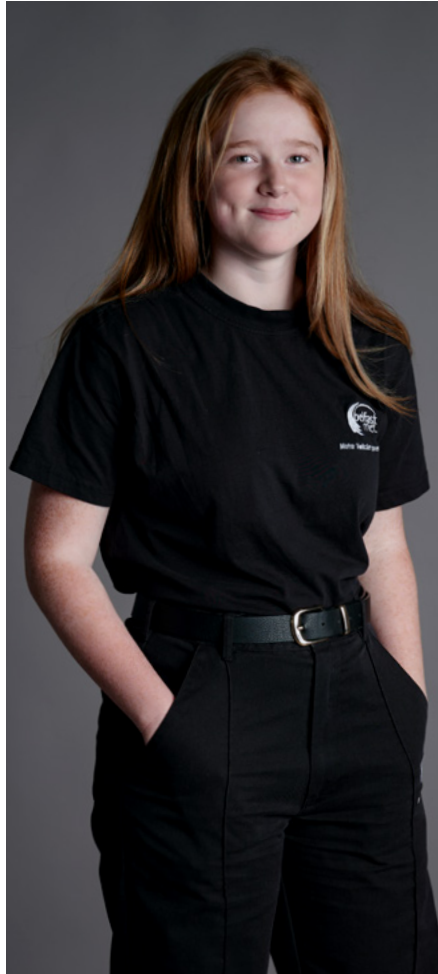
SELF EMPLOYMENT

Many people consider self-employment at some stage in their lives. Being your own boss, enjoying the financial rewards and job satisfaction sounds very appealing. It's a big leap, so it's important to think carefully first and get as much as advice and help as you can. For further information and advice on becoming self-employed, check out:

NI Direct

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/starting-your-own-business-and-becoming-self-employed>

Don't forget to check out the Looking for Employment section of the Careers Canvas page for job search advice and sample CVs.



GETTING A JOB

If you wish to move into employment after your studies, we advise you to research thoroughly the areas of work you are interested in. This is to ensure you match the entry criteria and that no further study is required. There are many ways you can search and apply for jobs and our Looking for Employment section of our Canvas page is a great starting point.

You may also wish to come along to one of our Job Fair events during the academic year such as the Part-time Jobs Fair, Apprenticeship Fair and Health and Social Care/ Public Services/ Childcare job fair.

At these events, you will have access to employers offering live job opportunities.

Follow us on our social media accounts for news on upcoming job opportunities and employment events.



GOING TO UNIVERSITY

UCAS Application deadlines

Choosing a course and a university or college is a major decision so do as much research as possible and start as early as you can. For degrees starting in 2024 the first UCAS deadline is **16th October 2023**. However it's only for applications to most courses in **medicine, dentistry and veterinary science** and courses at Oxford or Cambridge. For other courses the equal consideration application deadline is **31st January 2024 (and some courses may not accept applications after this date)**.

Choosing where to study

Choosing where to study requires some careful thought. Don't forget that tuition fees in England, Scotland and Wales are higher than in Northern Ireland (see the Funding for Higher Education section for more information) so you may wish to take this into consideration.

You may also want to consider:

Reputation of the university

What is its track record for graduate employment and where is the university placed in the league tables.

Location of the university

Consider travel options for getting to the university and whether you want to study at a university campus or one that is based in a town or city.

Accommodation

What is available to you, especially in your first year, and are you happy with the options?

Cost of living

How much are costs such as the accommodation, transport etc?

N.IRELAND

Apply via UCAS
Fees: £4,710*

SCOTLAND

Apply via UCAS
Fees: Up to £9,250*

IRELAND

Apply via CAO
Fees: Up to €3,000*

WALES

Apply via UCAS
Fees: Up to £9,250*

ENGLAND

Apply via UCAS
Fees: Up to £9,250*

*Please Note:

Fees quoted are correct at time of writing.

Make use of the following resources to help in your research

League tables and subject rankings

The Guardian:
www.theguardian.com/education/universityguide

The Complete University Guide:
www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk

University websites

The most up-to-date information on degree content, entry criteria, student support, accommodation etc.

University Open Days

Explore the campus and get insights from staff and students. You can find details of open days including online ones, and virtual tour videos on www.ucas.com and university websites.

Prospectuses

Copies of some prospectuses may be available in the Careers Resource Centres in Titanic Quarter and Millfield. You can also download a copy from the university website or order directly from the University.

Universities & Colleges Events

Check our Careers canvas page and our social media accounts for details of events where you can find out more about course options.

CHOOSING WHAT TO STUDY

Choosing what to study.

You may know what you want to study, however many students are unsure about their choices. Selecting which course to study is a key decision that needs plenty of research. Consider these points before making your choices.

Find a course that suits your interests, skills and career aspirations. Ask yourself:

- What job would I like to do after studying
- What qualification will I gain
- What are my strengths
- What subjects interest me

Some professions require a specific higher education course. If you know what career you want after graduating, research the job in detail to see what specific higher education qualifications are required by visiting the Prospects Graduate Careers website: <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles>

Attend Talks and Events

Get the inside track by attending any Talks held in the college or attend University events usually in September and October delivered by university representatives or the Careers team. Check our Canvas Page and social media for details closer to the time.

Use Course Search facilities

Get help by using Course Search facilities such as:

- www.ucas.com
- <https://www.theuniguide.co.uk/>
- www.discoveruni.gov.uk

In UCAS you can search for undergraduate courses offered by UK Universities and Colleges, including drama and music courses available from conservatoires. You can filter the search by location, UCAS tariff points and also year of entry eg if you have a Level 4 HNC/Certificate of Higher Education you may be able to enter at year 2 of some degrees. If you have a Level 5 HND or FD then you may be able to enter at year 2 or 3 of some degrees. Many of the courses listed will provide details about the course, start dates, entry requirements, selection criteria and admissions policy. Check directly with admissions of the university if it's not clear on the course search facility you are using.

Visit www.ucas.com/connect/videos for video guides on how to choose courses, apply, navigate student finance and use additional features such UCAS Extra or Clearing.

Want to study more than one subject?

Use the course search facility on UCAS to find combinations of subjects you wish to study. You can often decide how much time you would like to spend on each subject

E.G. Joint = two subjects studied equally 50:50,
Major/Minor = time spent is usually 75:25.

Don't be afraid to do something different

Check out UCAS Subject Guides to find out about a wide range of courses. If you have specific universities in mind go through their undergraduate course list. There may be some courses you've never heard of or considered before and you may find a subject of interest. Some degrees also may not be taught widely at level 3 e.g. Radiotherapy, Operating Department Practitioner, Prosthetics and Orthotics, Anthropology, Energy, Paleocology to name just a few.

Attend University Webinars/ Information Sessions

Check the university website for details of presentations on areas such as degree subjects, accommodation and virtual tours of the university.

Check if your course offers an industry placement or study abroad opportunities

Some courses include a work placement, usually in the third year of a degree or the second year of Foundation Degree and, depending on the employer, may be paid. This introduces you to the world of work and provides valuable relevant experience which greatly enhances your employment prospects once you graduate. Some courses also provide the opportunity to study abroad for a term or year.

Check the university's website for further information

Discover Uni

www.discoveruni.gov.uk allows you to search for and compare undergraduate course information across the UK. This is a useful resource to gain insight into student satisfaction rates, graduate destinations and salaries, the percentage of students continuing on the course after a year, tariff points held by students who entered the course previously, as well as accreditation or professional recognition of the course.

Deferred Entry

If you wish to take a year out before starting higher education, check whether your chosen universities will accept a deferred application before applying. More information on applying for a deferred entry can be found at: www.ucas.com/deferred-entry

Additional Information

Visit Careers and Employability regularly on our social media accounts for details on higher education events and news.

Visit www.ucas.com/connect/videos for video guides on how to choose courses, apply, navigate student finance and use additional features such UCAS Extra or Clearing.

Talk to **friends/family** have or who are attending the universities you are interested in to get an insight into what life is like at these institutions. You could also do a **virtual tour** of the university or visit the universities you are keen on.

MEETING ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

In order to meet entry requirements you will require qualifications at a minimum of Level 3 such as A Levels, BTEC Level 3 or an Access Diploma. Some applicants also apply with Level 4 qualifications such as HNC, Certificate of Higher Education or Level 5 qualifications such as HND or Foundation Degree.

Some universities will specify grades and others tariff points in their offers. About a third of universities in the UK use the UCAS tariff with the majority, including Queens University and Ulster University, making offers based on your highest level qualification and grade.

Tariff points are awarded for Level 3 qualifications only. If you need to work out your UCAS points check out the Tariff points calculator on the UCAS website. www.ucas.com/ucas/tariff-calculator

Entry requirements including grades required are noted on the course information for the university and must be met by the start date of the course you're applying to.

If you are studying on a BTEC Extended Diploma or Higher National Certificate/Diploma, it is recommended you seek clarification by email from your chosen universities regarding the distinction/merit profile required.

NB Universities don't always list all the qualifications they accept. If your qualification is not referred to in the entry requirements for the course or you are not clear about the entry requirements, then contact Admissions at the university to check.

It's crucial to also check the [GCSE requirements](#) as well. Not all universities accept Essential Skills Level 2 Numeracy to meet the maths requirement of a degree eg: Queen's University of Belfast does not accept Essential Skills Maths for their Nursing or Social Work degrees.

SUPPORT FROM UNIVERSITIES FOR 'DISADVANTAGED' STUDENTS

Universities are particularly keen to attract students from disadvantaged backgrounds onto their programmes. For example Queen's University Pathway Opportunity Programme provides young people completing year 1 of A Levels or a BTEC Level 3 with the opportunity to learn more about the university and receive additional support to make a successful UCAS application.

Applications usually open in October with the deadline in November. You can find out more at from the Widening Participation Unit of Queen's University Belfast. www.qub.ac.uk

And Ulster University Care Leavers - Flexible Education <https://www.ulster.ac.uk/flexible-education/community/care-leavers>

Support for those from a care background

Many universities also offer support to students with experience of being in care see the following links for details of Queens. www.qub.ac.uk

UNIVERSITY SELECTION PROCESSES

To reach a decision on your application some universities may use one or more of the following: your UCAS personal statement, an interview, admissions test, audition or portfolio review.

Interviews

Some universities will choose to interview for competitive courses. In the past few years video interviews have been used for courses such as Nursing, Social Work and many health courses such as Diagnostic Radiography, Dietetics, Occupational Therapy, Paramedic Science, Podiatry, Physiotherapy, Radiotherapy and Speech and Language Therapy. The process for 2024 has not been finalised at the time of writing. Queen's University Belfast uses Multiple Mini Interview (MMI) format for Dentistry and Medicine degrees.

Admissions Tests

For medical and dental degrees in the UK you will be required to undertake a test such as the University Clinical Aptitude Test (UCAT) or the Biomedical Admissions Test (BMAT) or GAMSAT. Queen's University Belfast uses the UCAT for their Medicine and Dentistry degrees. Ulster University uses the Graduate Medical School Admissions Test - GAMSAT for their medicine degree (requiring a minimum requirement of a 2:1 Honours degree). The Health Professions Admissions Test (HPAT Ireland) is used for health and medical courses in the Republic of Ireland. Bear in mind that you need to apply

for these tests well in advance of the 16th October UCAS deadline for these type of degrees. Dates may be subject to change so check their websites directly.

The **UCAT** test for example must be taken between 10 July and 28 September 2023 if you are intending to apply for entry in 2024 – see the website for further details: <https://www.ucat.ac.uk/about-ucat/eligibility/#:~:text=The%20UCAT%20is%20a%20compulsory%20entry%20requirement%20for,entry%20in%202024%20%28or%20deferred%20entry%20in%202025%29.>

To find out if your chosen course(s) have an admissions test, visit the admissions test section on the UCAS website, check the entry profiles, contact your chosen universities and/or check their websites. <https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/admissions-tests>

For courses in the Republic of Ireland check **www.cao.ie**.

It is your responsibility to find out whether the course(s) you have chosen are subject to any form of admissions test and to register and pay for any such test by the relevant deadline.

INTERVIEW ADVICE AND MOCK INTERVIEWS

The Careers Team will organise presentations from Universities and other professionals regarding the interview process. Details of these will be sent out to college emails when organised as well as posted on social media and careers canvas.

Careers Canvas page

The College's Careers and Employability Service Canvas page 'Looking for Employment' section has useful information to help you prepare for these interviews and we can also provide additional support: and/or an interview advice session.

To book an Interview Advice Session:

Telephone **028 9026 5066**

or email: **careers@belfastmet.ac.uk**



APPLYING TO UK UNIVERSITIES

The UCAS Process

If you are considering applying to full time degrees in the UK you will need to apply through the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS). Belfast Met also has a small number of courses which require application through UCAS: Degree in Social Work and Foundation Degrees in Early Childhood Studies; Physical Education and Sport, Biological Sciences, and Mechanical Engineering.

Please note that St Mary's University College, Belfast does not use the UCAS scheme and applicants should apply directly to the college, check out their website for more info:

www.stmarys-belfast.ac.uk

Key Dates

Listed below are key dates for communication with UCAS for applicants applying to full-time degrees. When you complete your part of the UCAS application with your Personal Statement, you then send it to your tutor who has their part to complete and add a reference before it can be sent to UCAS.

Check with your Tutor for the deadline they require your completed Personal Statement by but it's usually September for applications with an early closing date in October and November for those with the January closing date.

Further details available at:
<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/after-you-apply/tracking-your-ucas-application>

Distance/Online Learning

Some courses are also available via online learning also known as distance learning or home study. For further details see the UCAS website.

<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/what-and-where-to-study/distance-learning>

Part-time degrees

Students wishing to apply to part-time degrees should apply directly to their chosen institutions. See the "Studying Part Time Degrees" section for further details.

UCAS SCHEDULE FOR 2024 ENTRY

16 th May 2023	UCAS Apply for 2024 available
5 th Sep 2023	First date completed applications can be submitted to UCAS
2 nd Oct 2023	UCAS Conservatoires music applications deadline.
16 th Oct 2023 (6pm)	Deadline for receipt of most courses in medicine, dentistry, and veterinary medicine/science and for all courses at the universities of Oxford and Cambridge .
31 st Jan 2024 (6pm)	Deadline for applications for the majority of degrees except those with a 16 th October deadline. Also closing date for most conservatoires: dance/drama/musical theatre applications.
Feb 2024	UCAS Extra opens – applicants who have used all five choices and are not holding any offers may be able to add another choice.
30 th Jun 2024 (6pm)	Applications received by this deadline will be forwarded by UCAS to universities and colleges. After this time, applications are automatically entered into Clearing.
Jul 2024	Last date to add an Extra choice through UCAS Track.
Jul 2024	Clearing vacancies will be displayed in the UCAS search tool.
Aug 2024	A Level results published.
Dates to be finalised	Last date you can submit applications to 2024 courses.
Dates to be finalised	Last date to add 2024 entry Clearing Choices
Dates to be finalised	Last date for Unis/Colleges to make decisions

Dates provided were those available at the time of writing.

How to Use UCAS Apply

UCAS Apply is an online application system that allows you to apply for up to five full-time undergraduate courses at universities and colleges in the UK. The system allows you to leave a section partially completed, so you can return to it later. You can only complete one application in each UCAS cycle.

Registration

Creating an account in the UCAS Hub is the first step and it will generate your username and password, which you will need every time you log in to your application. Keep your login details safe and secure.

1. Go to the UCAS Hub
2. Create your account and click on Get Started.
3. Follow the online instructions to register
4. Write down your password
5. When asked "How are you applying?" choose "Through my school /college". Enter your campus college buzzword exactly as shown below:

Castlereagh Campus enter:
Castlereagh24

E3 Campus enter:
Millfield24

Millfield Campus enter:
Millfield24

Titanic Quarter Campus enter:
Titanic24

6. Select your course co-ordinator from the drop-down list.
7. Make a note of your Personal ID as you'll need this if you call UCAS Customer Services.

You are now ready to start completing the application. The following sections must be completed:

- Registration
- Personal Details
- Additional Information
- Choices
- Education
- Employment
- Statement
- Declaration
- Pay and Send

Application Fee

The fee should be paid by credit or debit card online.

- If you apply to more than one course, university or college, the cost is **£27.50**
- You pay when your application is finalised and are in the process of sending it to your referee.

Have a question about the process?
Talk to your Personal Adviser in the first instance. UCAS can also be contacted through telephone, Facebook messenger and Twitter
<https://www.ucas.com/contact-us>

NB Your Tutor submits your application

- Your Tutor checks your UCAS application
- If any changes to be made, your tutor returns it electronically to you
- If it's in order the reference and predicted grades are added and the Tutor submits your application to UCAS, so ensure you leave sufficient time for this.
- You will be notified by UCAS Track that your application has been submitted.

• NB check with your Tutor that the application has been submitted, if you haven't received a notification from UCAS

After the application arrives at UCAS

UCAS will contact you by email when each university makes a decision about your application. You can also check the progress on Track. The following decisions can be made:

Invitation

You may be asked to attend an interview or audition, or to provide a portfolio of work, an essay or other piece of work. You reply to this via Track selecting either accept, decline or request alternative date/time (To change the date you should contact the university not UCAS).

Conditional Offer

The university is offering you a degree place on the condition that you will meet the academic entry criteria set out in their offer to you. You usually need to meet these conditions by the 31st August.

Unconditional Offer

can be made if an applicant already meets the entry requirements at the time of application. Some universities also make unconditional offers based on predicted grades or after interviews and auditions. Effectively, it means that the university will accept you regardless of what grades you actually receive on your current course. See Accepting Unconditional Offers overleaf for more information.

Unsuccessful Application

The university has decided not to offer you a place. This could be for a variety of reasons such as not meeting the entry requirements, personal statement or after an interview process.

Conditional Offers

Once you have received decisions from all your choices, you need to decide which one(s) you want to accept. If you receive a conditional offer you can accept two offers – a “**firm**” and an “**insurance**” – and you need to decline any others. The date you must reply by is shown in UCAS Track.

Firm Acceptance

This is your first choice out of all the offers you’ve received. If you accept a conditional offer you are agreeing to attend the course at that university if you meet the conditions of the offer once you receive your results.

Insurance acceptance

If your firm acceptance is a conditional offer you can accept another offer as an insurance choice. This can act as a back-up, so if you do not meet the conditions of your firm choice after your results but meet the conditions of your insurance, you will be automatically allocated to the insurance choice.

Usually the entry requirements for this choice are lower than the firm choice.

Decline

Once you have decided which offer to accept firmly and which (if any) to accept as an insurance, you must decline all other offers. If you do not want to accept any of the offers and decline all, you will be eligible to use **Extra** or **Clearing**, depending upon your circumstances and the date.

Unconditional Offers

Universities in England, Scotland and Wales sometimes make unconditional offers where you have a guaranteed place at university irrespective of your results. Before accepting an unconditional offer it is worth considering a few factors:

- A university may stipulate that their offer is only unconditional if you make them your firm choice. If this is the case then you cannot have an insurance choice or be entered into Clearing. Check any terms attached to their offer before you reply.
- If they don’t stipulate that you must make them a firm choice then you may be able to accept an unconditional offer as your **insurance choice**.

Think your grades don’t matter if you have an unconditional offer? Think again!



If you decide the course or university is not suitable, and your grades are low you could find it a challenge to find another course. You may have to consider redoing qualifications depending on the grades you achieved. It could also impact on future employment prospects as many employers will look at all your grades.

Full details of how and when to reply to your UCAS offers can be found at: <https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/after-you-apply/types-offer/replying-your-ucas-undergraduate-offers>

Remember before replying:

- Make sure the course and university are right for you.
- Try to visit the universities before you make your decision. If that’s not possible then attend their virtual Open Days.
- Once you accept offers, including an insurance offer, you are committed to those courses.

If you are holding no offers don’t panic!

If you are not offered a place at any of your five choices you can use UCAS Extra to apply to other universities and colleges that still have vacancies. You can only apply to one choice at a time so you will need to get in touch with each university you are interested in to see if they will consider you. Find out more at UCAS Extra: <https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/after-you-apply/types-offer/extra-choices>

Extra is available from 25th February to 5th July.



Please ensure you reply to your offers by the appropriate deadline.

PERSONAL STATEMENT



You will probably take the most time over the personal statement section and you should be prepared to draft and redraft it getting feedback as you go along.

You have or **47 lines** or **4,000 characters** to explain why you are interested in studying at university, what it is about the degree(s) that most attracts you, why you are a suitable candidate and what relevant experiences you have. For some high demand courses your personal statement will be a core part of the selection process.

Before you start your Statement check out the wide range of resources we have on Personal Statements on our Careers canvas page in the Applying to Higher Education section. Once you have a draft you should get feedback from your Personal Tutor. Once you've done that you can book a Personal Statement Review with a Careers Adviser by contacting Careers through email, phone or calling into the office.

Further help and advice:

Check out UCAS for more help on personal statements:



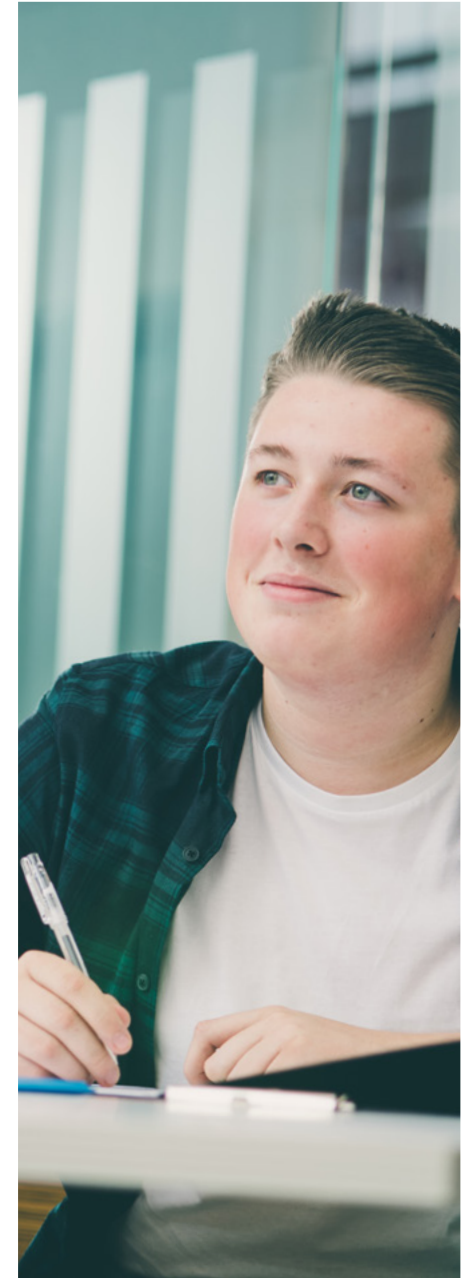
<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/writing-personal-statement/how-write-personal-statement>

Search 'UCAS personal statement' on www.youtube.com for some useful videos.

Once you have a draft you should get feedback from your Personal Tutor. Once you've done that you can **book a Personal Statement Review with a Careers Adviser** by contacting Careers through email, phone or calling into the office.

Top Tips:

- Start as early as possible as it takes time to write and get feedback from others.
- Describe the experience(s) that first made you think about a career in nursing or computing etc. or when you knew for sure that you wanted to study history at university.
- Avoid phrases such as "I have always wanted to be..." – it's overused and impersonal.
- Your academic experiences should be in the order of 60-80% of your personal statement rather than social content. Write about your current course - What aspects have you found most interesting and why? What skills have you developed that you will use in university e.g. critical thinking, independent research, essay writing, presentation skills. Don't forget any technical skills you have learnt.
- Type up your statement in MS Word and check and double-check your spelling and grammar. Ask someone you trust to proofread it. (UCAS apply does not have a spellchecker).
- When you have finalised your Personal Statement copy and paste it into UCAS Apply.
- **UCAS uses computer software to detect plagiarism so ensure you don't copy from the internet.**



UCAS CLEARING

UCAS Clearing is another way to find a university place. You can become eligible for Clearing at different times, for one of the following reasons:

- You apply after 30 June.
- You receive no offers.
- You decline all your offers and as a result, do not hold any.
- You do not get the examination results you hope for and your university choices do not confirm your place.

Note: Most universities publish details of their clearing arrangements on their websites in **early July**. You will need to act quickly if you want to secure a place through Clearing after A level results day in August. Some places are accepted by the end of A Level results day.

Lists of courses with vacancies in Clearing are published from around 5th July until mid October in the search tool on ucas.com. You should check the list for suitable courses and then contact the university to find out more and see if they will offer you a place.

Clearing Plus is an additional tool available in UCAS along with Clearing where it suggests courses which may be of interest to you.

See the [ucas website](https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/results-confirmation-and-clearing/what-clearing) for further details: www.ucas.com/undergraduate/results-confirmation-and-clearing/what-clearing

You must have permission from a university before adding your course choice in UCAS Track.

If you do better than expected

If you meet and exceed the conditions of your firm choice, and you want to change universities you can release yourself into Clearing, using the 'decline your place' button in your application.

NB Only use this if you no longer wish to take up your place at your firm choice, **and** you have spoken to the University and an Adviser at the College.

See <https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/results-clearing> for further details.

STUDYING ABROAD

If you want to do your degree outside of the UK or Ireland you should start your research at least 12 to 18 months in advance, ideally in year 1 if you are studying a 2 year course. Be prepared to do extensive research exploring individual university websites and contact them to clarify any queries such as entry requirements, the application process and funding. Check out websites such as: <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/studying-overseas-university> | <https://www.eunicas.ie/> | <https://www.fulbright.org.uk/>

The studying abroad section of our Belfast Met Canvas page (in Applying to Higher Education) has some further information. Information on studying in the Republic of Ireland is on the next page.



APPLYING TO UNIVERSITIES & COLLEGES IN THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

There are 7 traditional universities in the Republic of Ireland (ROI) : Trinity College Dublin, Dublin City University (DCU), University of Limerick, University College Dublin (UCD)*, Maynooth University*, University of Galway*, NUI Cork*. There are a further 5 Technology Universities - as a result of the merger of regional Institutes of Technology (IoT), these are TU Dublin, Munster TU, TU Shannon, Atlantic TU and South East TU. The remaining 2 IoTs (Dundalk and Dun Laoghaire) are continuing to look at options to upgrade to, or merge with the new Technological Universities. There are also 7 Colleges of Education.

* These four NUI universities will have enhanced entry requirements around having studied GCSE Languages.

Universities, TU's / IoT's offer a full range of higher education courses, degrees and post-graduate level studies.

In addition, a number of other third level institutions provide specialist education in such fields as Art and Design, Medicine, Business Studies, Rural Development, Theology, Music and Law. Check out this site for a full list of institutions. www.educationinireland.com/en/Where-can-I-study-/

Applications for entry to undergraduate courses within these Higher Education Institutions are processed by the Central Applications Office (CAO). The CAO processes and timescales are very different to the UCAS process and we would advise you to thoroughly research options and take care in filling out your form.

Just like in the UK, the Bachelor's Degrees offered by universities in the Republic of Ireland come with "honours" and are listed in the ROI as Level 8 qualifications. Institutes of Technology offer these Level 8 Honours Degrees.

As well as offering Ordinary Bachelor Degrees (Level 7) and Higher Certificates (Level 6). Length of study and entry requirements can vary so make sure you do your research carefully. There are many ways to find out information on ROI courses:

- Download the CAO Handbook from www.cao.ie. This provides full listings of all courses available at all HE institutions. It also provides vital information on the CAO process and how to apply.
- Check out course search on www.cao.ie. You can search by institution or course name, which brings you directly to the institution's website or course webpage to find details about the course, the university offering the course, start dates, entry requirements and selection criteria. You can also find out what points were accepted for courses in previous years in 'Points by Year' in the 'Student Resources' section.
- Attend university or college open days and get a feel for what's actually like to be a student there.

- Check out the ROI prospectuses from your campus Careers Resource Centre or request a prospectus directly from the universities or colleges you are interested in.

Meeting Entry Requirements

It is very important that you check the entry requirements for the courses you are interested in by visiting the institution's website and contacting the relevant admissions team by email if necessary.

A-Level Applicants

A-level qualifications are widely recognised in the ROI and you can find out the admissions points system for A-levels by visiting www.cao.ie and clicking on Student Resources – Applicant Scoring. It is worth noting, however, that Applied or Vocational A Levels are rarely accepted by ROI universities and, in addition, you may not be eligible if you have not completed GCSEs, AS and A2 level in consecutive years or have cashed in all A Levels in the same session. The IoTs / TU's may be more flexible in their entry criteria and admission requirements. However, it is advisable to contact the institutions directly for guidance on your own particular circumstances.

BTEC Applicants

Please note all of the 7 traditional universities in the Republic do not normally accept BTEC Level 3 or HNC/HND qualifications. IoTs / TU's do, although they rarely provide guidance online regarding the grades required. You should make direct contact with the admissions teams of the institutions to clarify their requirements.

Access Applicants

Mature applicants, such as those completing Access diplomas, who are 23 years old on or before the 1st January in the year of entry may be considered by both Universities and TU's / IoT's.

Applying through CAO

- You must apply for courses either online at www.cao.ie or by completing and returning a paper application form to CAO. It is important that you read the CAO handbook (available on the website) before submitting your application.

Course Choices

There are 2 course choice lists on the CAO application & applicants may make up to 10 course choices on each list:

- 10 choices may be made on the level 8 list (Honours degree level)
- 10 choices may be made on the level 7/6 list (Below honours degree level)

Please note: You need to rank your courses in order of preference. That is different to a UCAS application, in which courses are not listed in any particular order.

Key Dates

CAO applications open 6th November 2023.

- 20 January 2024 (5.15pm) – apply by this date to avail of discounted fee of €30.
- 1 February 2024 (5.15pm) – normal closing date for applications, €45.
- 1 May 2024 (5.15pm) - TU's late application deadline.

Change of mind

Unlike the UCAS process, you can change your course choices. The CAO online 'Change of Mind' facility opens in early May and closes on 1st July at 5:15pm.

You can use the online facility as many times as you like to add, remove or re-order your courses for no extra charge until the 1st July at 5:15pm.

This will allow you the time and opportunity to really know if the courses you have listed are really the courses you want to study. You should make sure to attend open days, talk to lecturers, other students, friends and family as it's much easier when you get it right the first time round.

Offers

Unlike the UCAS system in which universities make offers based on your predicted grades, institutions in the Republic usually only issue offers once they have received your actual results. For NI applicants with A level results this means decisions on applications are not normally taken until mid-August at the earliest.

The table below shows the four main rounds of offers:

Round A (early July)	Deferred applicants; mature applicants; mature nursing/ midwifery code applicants; some graduate entry pathways; applicants who may be required to make visa arrangements; applicants who have completed an Access course.
Round Zero (early August)	Graduate entry medicine applicants; additional mature, deferred and Access applicants; and applicants presenting QQI FET/FETAC for consideration for entry to courses with a quota for QQI FET/FETAC applicants.
Round One (mid-August)	All applicants applying on the basis of school leaving examination results, regardless of year completed.
Round Two and subsequent offers (late-August to mid-October)	Offers are issued until the offer season closes, or until all places are filled, whichever comes first.

Acceptance

Offers will be presented online at the CAO website www.cao.ie and you may record your acceptance online. In addition, offers of places will be sent by post from the CAO together with the necessary instructions as to how to proceed.

Offers will be issued independently in respect of Level 8 and Level 7/Level 6 courses, so that some applicants may receive two offers of places simultaneously. If you receive more than one offer (i.e. a level 8 course and/or level 7/6 course) you are permitted to have only one current acceptance in the entire CAO system.

Funding your study in ROI

Students who normally live in Northern Ireland and choose to study at a HE institution in ROI (public university or college) are not charged a tuition fee, but may be required to pay a student contribution charge of no more than €3000. Student Finance NI has traditionally provided a Student Contribution Loan to help cover this charge.

Following Brexit students from Northern Ireland will continue to be treated the same as EU students. Student may also be eligible to apply for student funding from the Irish Government and can apply through www.susi.ie.

For further information check out our Applying to Higher Education section of our canvas page which has a section on applying to Republic of Ireland institutions.



STUDYING PART-TIME DEGREES

Studying full-time for three or four years is not the only way to get a degree. Some students choose to study for a degree on a part-time basis often to combine with work or other commitments. Often it may be a cheaper option and funding is also available for part-time HE study. (see page 43-45 for details).

It normally takes anywhere between 4 – 6 years to gain a degree through part-time study, depending on the time you have available to study. Most universities have entry requirements for these degrees but will also take relevant prior experience/ employment into account when considering your application.

Applications for part-time degrees are submitted directly to your chosen institutions(s), rather than through UCAS.

The Open University

Offers part time, flexible degrees with no entry requirements. Learning is completed entirely online.

You can find out the details of all the programmes open to Northern Ireland based students here: <https://www.open.ac.uk/northern-ireland/study-us>

Ulster University

Offers part-time degrees in which teaching is delivered on campus or entirely online or a combination of both: <https://www.ulster.ac.uk/study/part-time/undergraduate>. Ulster University have an online portal for applications for part time study.

FUNDING FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Going to university or college is an investment in your future. You will need to consider tuition fees, accommodation and living costs. Finding out how much it will all cost and what funding is available is an important part of your research.

Tuition Fees

Tuition fees for NI students studying full-time undergraduate degrees are currently:

- If studying in Northern Ireland: £4,710* per year
- If studying in England, Scotland and Wales: Up to £9,250* per year
- If studying in Republic of Ireland: €3,000* per year

Tuition fee costs for full-time Foundation Degree and HND courses at Belfast Met are in the order of £2,905 or more per year.

**Fees quoted are for 2023 entry. Fees for 2024 entry were not available at time of print. Check institution websites for up-to-date information.*

Tuition fees for part-time undergraduate degrees and other part time HE qualifications, such as Higher National Certificates, will vary depending on the institution and the course intensity. Check out university or college websites for a list of their current fees.

Accommodation

University websites have information about the range and costs of accommodation options such as halls of residence, purpose built student housing and private rentals.

You can also contact the university accommodation office directly for more guidance. Check out: <https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/student-life> accommodation and <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/information-and-services/student-life/student-housing> for more information on the options available.

Funding

Full-time study

Regardless of the type of higher education course you are interested in, you need to apply for financial support through www.studentfinancenl.co.uk. Applications for funding for full-time study usually open around March or April. You do not need to wait until you receive an offer of a place from your university or college and you can apply for a tuition fee loan, maintenance loan and maintenance grant.

All eligible students entering full time higher education can access a tuition fee loan to cover the full cost of their tuition fees. It is paid directly to your university or college.

The maintenance loan is to cover accommodation and living costs. The exact amount you can borrow will depend on several factors, including your household income, where you live while you are studying and whether you are in the final year of your course. It's also affected by any help you get through the maintenance grant. Student Finance NI will usually pay the money into your bank account in three instalments - one at the start of each term.

In addition, and dependent on personal or family income levels, some students may be able to access a maintenance grant which is not repayable. There is also support for childcare.

Please Note: Special arrangements are currently in place for students applying for the following degrees in NI: Social Work, Nursing, Midwifery and Allied Health Professional degrees e.g. Physiotherapy.

You can find further details at: <https://www.ulster.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/full-time-fees/funded-courses> and also Student Finance NI: https://www.studentfinancenl.co.uk/media/1656/sfni_hyap_guide_2324_o.pdf

Part time study

A part-time student studying at least 25% of an equivalent full-time course, can apply for a tuition fee loan to the current maximum amount of £3,532.50. You may also be eligible for a tuition fee grant (up to £1,230) and course grant (up to £265 for books), with the amount available depending on the course intensity (at least 50%) and your own household income. A maintenance loan is not available to part-time students.

Repayment

Full information on repaying your student loan can be found here: <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/repaying-your-student-loan>

Additional Financial Support

a) From Universities and Colleges

You may also be entitled to extra financial support from your university or college. This could be a bursary or a scholarship if you meet certain conditions set by your university or college. You can find out if you are eligible by visiting the scholarships sections on university and college websites.

For example go to <https://www.ulster.ac.uk/scholarships> and Queen's University at <https://www.qub.ac.uk/Study/Undergraduate/Fees-and-scholarships/Scholarships/> to see the range of scholarships available.

b) Specific Scholarships for HE (full study)

SCHOLARSHIPS

In addition to the funding options outlined above some of our students have successfully applied for scholarships eg. Washington Ireland and Uversity. Check the University scholarships section in Applying to Higher Education on our Careers Canvas page.

All Ireland Scholarship Scheme

This scheme provides financial support of £5,500 per academic year to the top-performing students from low-income households, intending to do an undergraduate course in the UK or Republic of Ireland. Six scholarships are available to the top

Level 3 Extended Diploma students from further education Colleges. www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/all-ireland-scholarships

Uversity Scholarships

Uversity Scholarships provide financial support to individuals 23 years or older who wish to pursue a Bachelor's degree in any subject in one of their participating institutions in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. Past Belfast Met students have been successful recipients of this scholarship award.

Scholarship amounts vary depending on the recipient's circumstances and are allocated on a needs basis, which is assessed via application and interview. Check out Uversity.org for more information and to apply.

Some charities and educational trusts also offer grants and awards. For more information check out: www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/bursaries-scholarships-and-awards

Check out following site for more information: <https://www.belfastmet.ac.uk/life-at-the-met/students-support/student-finance/>

CAREERS AND EMPLOYABILITY SERVICE

Figuring out your next step may seem like a challenging process but help and support is at hand from the college Careers and Employability Service.

Follow us on social media to make sure you don't miss out on any of our job fairs, workshops, higher education events, talks or job vacancies. We also send out details through email and the Belfast Met Engage App.

Facebook:

Belfast Met Careers Service

Twitter:

@careersbmet

Instagram:

@careersbelfastmet

Higher Education Presentations

Our service can deliver in class and online presentations to classes applying or thinking of applying to university including applying for Higher Education and UCAS and also Writing 'Personal Statement'. Ask your tutor to contact us about this.

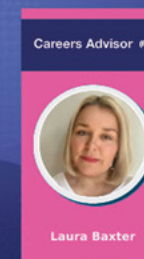
1:1 Careers Advice and Guidance

The Careers Adviser will help you to explore your options to facilitate effective decision-making on your higher education choices.

Book an appointment by emailing:

careers@belfastmet.ac.uk or
telephoning 028 90265 066

Careers and Employability: Meet the Team



USEFUL CONTACTS

Belfast Met Careers and
Employability Service
careers@belfastmet.ac.uk
028 9026 5066

Belfast Met Student Funding Team
studentfunding@belfastmet.ac.uk
028 9026 5183

Student Finance NI
0300 100 0077

UCAS Customer Service
0371 468 0468

Queen's University Admissions
admissions@qub.ac.uk

Ulster University Admissions
admissions@ulster.ac.uk



OPENING HOURS

Careers offices are located in
Titanic Quarter and Millfield
campuses.

If you have a query drop in,
phone or email us in the first
instance to discuss and/or book
an appointment.

Appointments are also available
at Castlereagh Student Hub and
the E3 campus.

Titanic Quarter Campus
Careers Resource Area Level 2,
Room 60

Millfield Campus
Building 1, Level 2, Room 14C



CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Events Calendar 2023 - 2024

MONTH	DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	WHAT'S ON OFFER
Sept	w/c 11th Sept	Introduction to Careers and Employability Service	In class by arrangement with Tutors	How the Careers and Employability Service can help you.
Sept - Nov	Ongoing	Applying to Higher Education for 2024 entry	In class or lecture theatre by arrangement with Tutors	Presentation on applying to Higher Education for 2024 entry
Nov/Dec	TBA	Moving On Up - Higher Education at Belfast Met	On campus (Times/dates/ rooms TBC)	Insight into what HE courses are available at Belfast Met
Dec	w/c 4th Dec	Study/Work in the USA	TQ L2, R60	Gain an insight into studying abroad with SUSA and WIP programmes, also meet with employers offering summer employment in the USA

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Events Calendar 2023 - 2024

MONTH	DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	WHAT'S ON OFFER
Jan	w/c 22nd	Moving On Up - Further Education at Belfast Met	On campus (Times/ dates/ rooms TBC)	Insight into what FE courses are available at Belfast Met
Feb	w/c 5th	Apprenticeship Fair	E3	Meet employers offering Apprenticeship Opportunities in a range of disciplines
Mar	w/c 4th	UCAS Exhibition	Eikon Complex, Sprucefield	Meet University representatives from across the UK for 2024/2025 applications
Mar	w/c 25th	Jobs Fair: Health, Wellbeing & Inclusion Careers Fair	E3	Talk direct to employers about jobs/placements in the Health & Social, Public Services & Early Childhood Sectors
Mar-June	Ongoing	Gear Up for Higher Education – open to students in first year of level 3 or level 5 course.	In class by arrangement with Tutors	Presentation on applying to Higher Education for 2025 entry

Students

'The service was great, I'm glad I made use of it. Thank you very much for all of your help!'

'Fantastic advice and service. I felt like I could be open and honest and felt comfortable speaking to the advisor. The meeting was great and she sent me all the information that we have discussed. Really friendly and helpful staff! Thank you so much!'

'Extremely helpful and reduced stress. The information I received was great and very helpful which lead me in the right direction to achieve what I would like too.'

'Great resource with lots of options and advice.'

'Thanks to the advisor who was extremely helpful I have decided to go further. He was able to send me valuable information regarding my qualification and future.'

'I had a mock nursing interview with Careers back in March. It was very informative, and I learnt a lot from it. It definitely helped me prepare for the actual interview. I was offered a conditional offer with Queen's to study adult nursing and an unconditional offer to study adult nursing at Magee. I have just received my Access results and I am on my way to Queen's in September!'



Careers and Employability Service

Contact us

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The information contained within this booklet is accurate as of July 2022.

Requests for the provision of all or part of this document in alternative formats (Braille, Daisy, large print, audio, digital or alternative languages) will be considered.

To submit a request, please contact email: marketinganddesign@belfastmet.ac.uk