

Higher Education

Jargon Buster



Adjustment

A service available on results day for students who have gained higher results than expected and would like to change the institution or course they will be studying.

BA

Bachelor of Arts, the undergraduate degree awarded to those studying an arts or humanities discipline.

BMAT

The Biomedical Admissions Test. Another form of medical admissions test required by certain universities.

BSc

Bachelor of Science, the undergraduate degree awarded to those studying a scientific discipline.

Bursary

A not-repayable award made to students who satisfy certain criteria as set by the awarding universities and colleges.

Clearing

A service that opens on results day for students without a place at a higher education institute to gain a place on courses with spaces still available.

Combined Honours

A degree encompassing more than one subject.

Conditional Offer

In your application, this is an offer of a place on a course subject to conditions. To be accepted on the course, you'll need to meet the conditions - usually related to your exam results.

Deferral

In your application, this is what to do if you'd like to carry an offer over to start it in the following academic year.

Degree Apprenticeships

These are an alternative route into higher education for school leavers, combining full-time work for a company with part-time university study, where you can achieve a full bachelor's or master's degree.

DSA

Disabled Student Allowances are monetary awards made to those students who may need additional support through their studies as a result of a disability or long-term health condition.

Free Waivers

These reduce your tuition fees, either on their own or in a broader package of support with a bursary.

Firm Choice

A student's first choice of higher education, this is the institution and course they will attend if they meet the conditions of their offer.

Hardship Funds

If you find yourself struggling financially at university (i.e. you're from a low income household), you can apply for extra money, the amount of which is decided by the university.

Insurance Choice

A student's second choice of higher education, usually with slightly lower entry requirements. This is the institution and course a student will attend if they do not meet the terms of their Firm choice.

Lecture

A style of teaching whereby staff deliver content to large numbers of students, with students taking notes.

Module

A period of study covering a particular topic. Many programmes are divided into modules with a certain number of modules required to study the course to completion.

Sandwich Course

A course with an additional year where you work in the profession you're studying for.

Seminar

Smaller, more interactive group teaching. Usually centred on group discussion with some work to prepare prior to the session.

SFE

Student Finance England are the body who manage applications for maintenance and tuition fee loans across England.

UCAS

University and College Admissions Service. The central organisation who handle applications for higher education across the UK.

UCAS Extra

An additional period of time to apply for courses through UCAS when someone has not applied during the main UCAS application period or has not received offers of a place.

UKCAT

The UK Clinical Aptitude Test. An admissions test required by some medical and dental schools across the UK.

Unconditional Offer

In your application, this is an offer of a place on a course with no conditions.