



Urmston Grammar Sixth Form

Post-18 Options Evening

May 2024

Session 1

Amy Marshall – Apprenticeships

Sally Merrell (MMU) – Degree Apprenticeships

Session 2

Sixth Form Team – University choices and the application process.



Undergraduate Study

Option 1

Straight into study on an Undergraduate course at university.

Option 2

A gap year, prior to studying on an Undergraduate course at university.

Students planning on a gap year should still apply for university whilst in the sixth form but select 'deferred entry'.



Gap Year

- Gap years can be a very positive thing provided they are used effectively to gain more knowledge, experience or travel.
- Students planning a gap year are actively encouraged to have a plan of study lined up for after the gap year.
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Gap Year



Some Gap Year companies had virtual stands at the UCAS discovery event that students attended earlier this month. Booklets are available to students in the LRC.

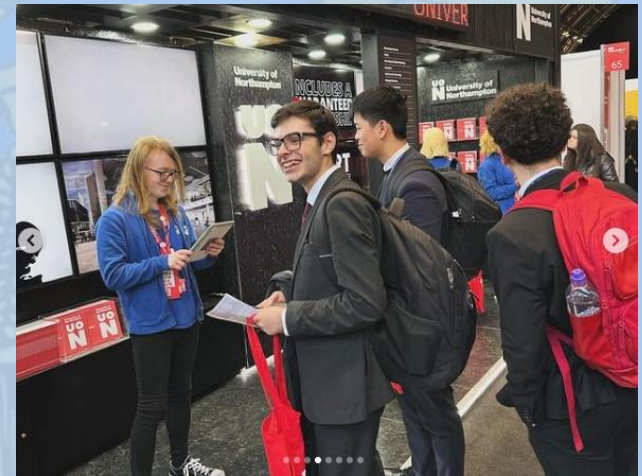




Applying to University

Students have already:

- Visited the University of Sheffield for a taster day (29th January).
- Attended the Northwest UCAS Discovery Day (6th March).
- Had opportunity to apply for a place on numerous summer schools.
- Engaged in 1:1 meetings with Amy Marshall, our careers advisor (ongoing).
- Been encouraged to attend Spotlight Masterclasses.
- Been encouraged to engage in the super curricular programme.
- Have organised summer work experience placements.





Applying to University

Students have already:

Engaged in presentations on;

- Widening participation schemes - e.g. Manchester Access Programme, Sutton Trust and The Social Mobility foundation.
- How to make the most of Y12 – Huddersfield University
- Revision Techniques – UA92
- Stress Less – UA92
- Degree apprenticeships – Manchester Metropolitan University
- Introduction to post-18 careers – Amy Marshall
- Choosing what are where to study – The University of Manchester
- Alternatives to university - Amy Marshall
- Post-18 options – Mr Neale & Miss Lingwood



Applying to University

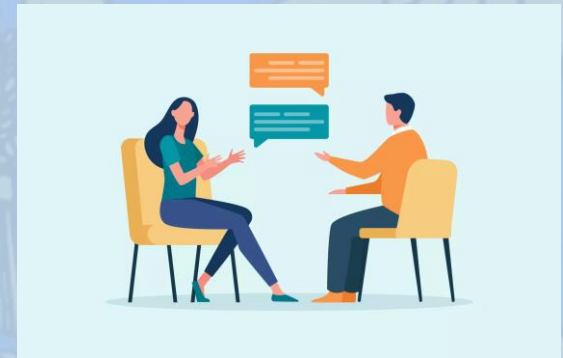
The following support that is yet to come:

Presentations on:

- Interview Preparation – UA92
- Making the most of work experience – Mrs Kinder
- Making the most of open days – Northumbria University
- Making a competitive application
- Introduction to OSCAR, Personal Statement software developed by the Russell Group.
- Student Finance & Budgeting

Engagement in:

- A mock interview for every student.
- Personal Statement writing workshops.





Supporting MDV & Oxbridge students

Students have already:

- Attended preparation for MDV / Oxbridge presentations.
- Had the option to attend a conference held by the University of Cambridge (18th March).
- Attended online Masterclasses in specialist subjects.
- Led societies and arranged/attended meetings held in school by students and professionals.
- Had the option to attend a visit to Oxford University (23rd April).
- Been informed of the UCAT & UAT dates and preparations.



Supporting MDV & Oxbridge students

Students will:

- Have the option to attend an Oxbridge evening held by the University of Cambridge & Oxford University at AGSB (7th May).
- Practice essay writing, UCAT & UAT skills.
- Practice interview skills.





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Any student planning to go to university must take the following steps:

- 1. Decide WHAT to study**
- 2. Decide WHERE to study**
- 3. Complete their UCAS application online, including their personal statement.**
- 4. Some universities and courses may also require:**
 - Aptitude Assessments**
 - Submit essays**
 - Interview/MMI**



I. Decide **WHAT** to study


- Many students already have a specific career path in mind.
- Many students know a general area of study.
- Some students don't know where to start!

Subjects you enjoy	Subjects you are good at	Discussion with teachers
Joint honours courses or 'Natural Science'	Sandwich Courses 'Year abroad' 'Year in industry'	Which courses lead on to good career opportunities/salaries
Qualification: BA, BSc → MSci	Duration of course: 3,4,5+ Years	Foundation Year
discoveruni.gov.uk	ucas.com/explore/subjects	www.myunichoices.com

Approximately 70% of jobs are open to all graduates.




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 MyUniChoices

FIND A COURSE OR UNI USEFUL INFORMATION SIGN IN/REGISTER **TAKE THE TEST** >

You're only 4 steps away from finding your ideal Uni course...

Start here



What you'll get...

- A list of ideal university courses based on your interests and expected grades
- Access to information on 50,000 university courses in the UK and beyond
- Ability to filter your results by grades and location
- Access to uni rankings and open days

Why not convince your parents to pay...

- Over 750,000 students have used our test to help them choose the right university course
- All our information is up-to-date using UCAS' live course database
- Getting the wrong uni can cost your parents or guardians a lot of money and heartache

Only £68.00

Takes only 20 minutes to complete



2. Decide **WHERE** to study

- **CITY University**



- **CAMPUS**



- **NEW**



- **RURAL**



- **COLLEGIATE**





2. Decide **WHERE** to study

- **Location:** Live at home, nearby, far away.
- **Cost of living:** Closer to London, more expensive
- **University Rankings:** Oxbridge, Russell Group.....
Guardian, Times, Complete University Guide
- **Open Days / Prospectuses / Website**

3+ years is a long time. Go visit!	Speak to the academic staff
See the buildings, lecture theatres, labs etc.	Find out the structure of the course
See the accommodation and student areas of the city.	See how easy/costly it is to get there
Speak to current students who are there	Check entry criteria/Interviews



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In school we will provide as much tailored guidance and support as we can:

- Mentoring System
- 1:1 careers interview with Amy Marshall
- Enrichment Sessions & Assemblies
- Informal discussions with tutors, subject teachers, sixth form team.

If we feel any student's post-18 plans are inappropriate, the sixth form team will provide more firm guidance.



UCAS Personal Statement

- Competitive universities/courses actively discourage irrelevant extra curricular and enrichment information from Personal Statements
- Students need to have lots of subject specific content: Supercurricular
 - Background reading
 - Additional lectures/TED Talks
 - Work Experience
 - Relevant hobbies/projects/portfolios
- This year we have set up a super-curricular programme in school to provide more structure for students.
- Students to work on their personal statement with their mentor. May take up to 6, 7, 8+ drafts to get to the finished article.
- Students need to be proactive!



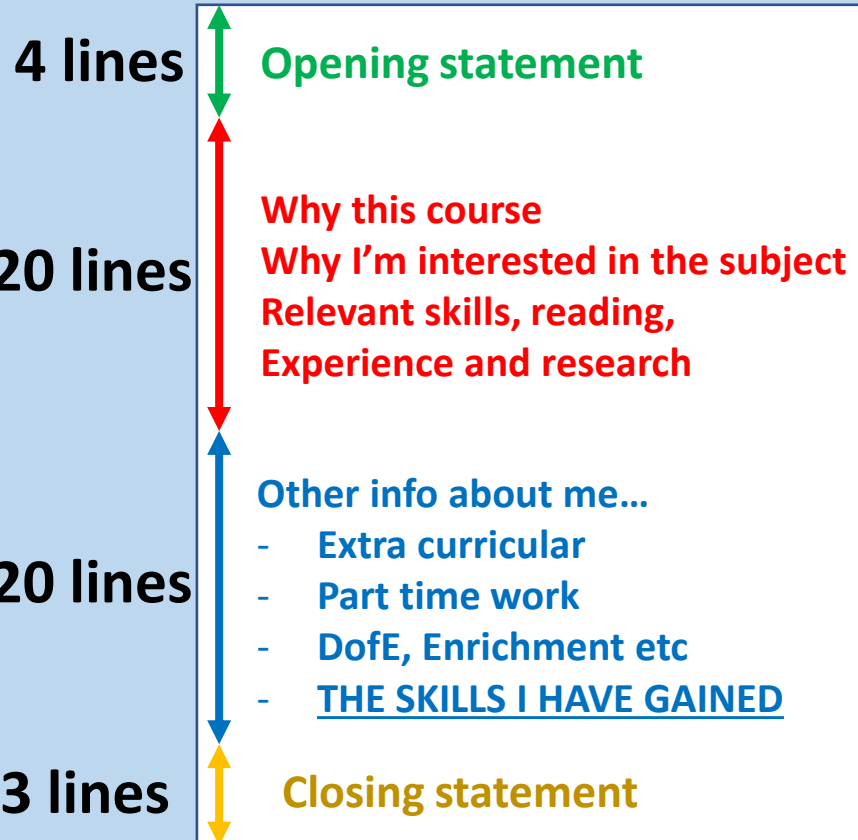
3. Completing UCAS Application

- UCAS stands for 'University and College Admissions Service.
- Towards the end of this month, Year 12 students will set up their '**UCAS Track**'
- Much of the application is straight forward to complete.
- Students can apply for 5 universities/courses.
- Students must write a 4000 character/47 line 'Personal Statement' and this is an extremely important part of the application.
- Students gain guidance on writing their Personal Statement later this month.
- There is a fee of £28.50

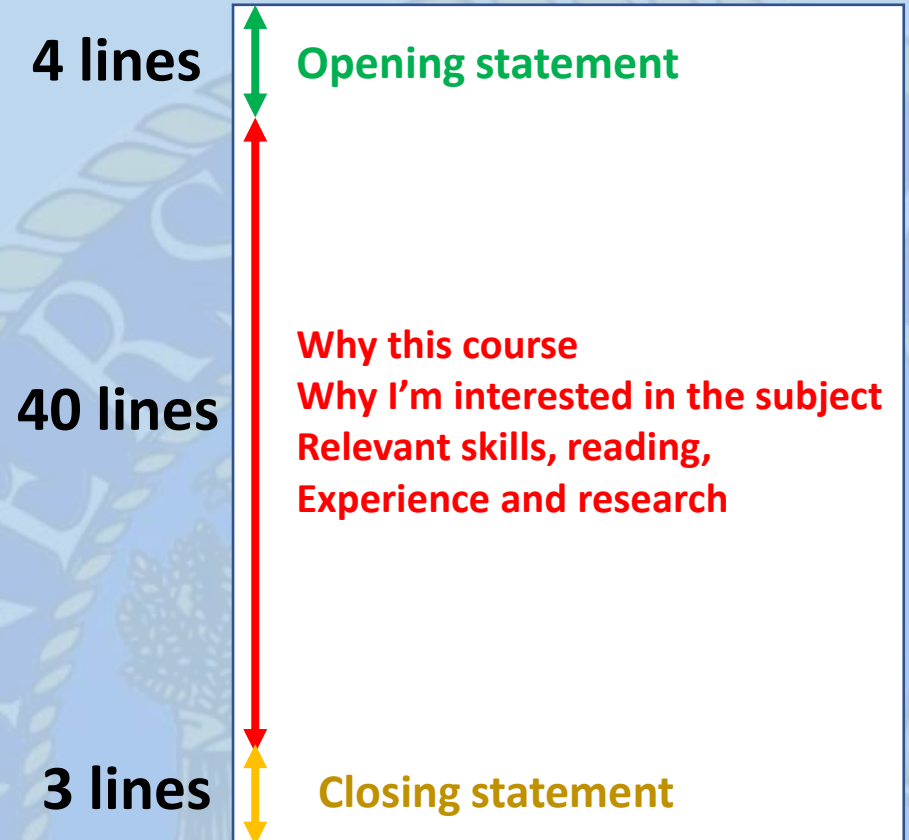


UCAS – Personal Statement

Many Universities....



Competitive Universities...





UCAS Personal Statement

Similarity Detection

- Personal statements are checked against a library of those already in the system, and from a variety of websites and paper publications.
- Each new statement is added to the library after processing.

Make sure that your personal statement is your own work

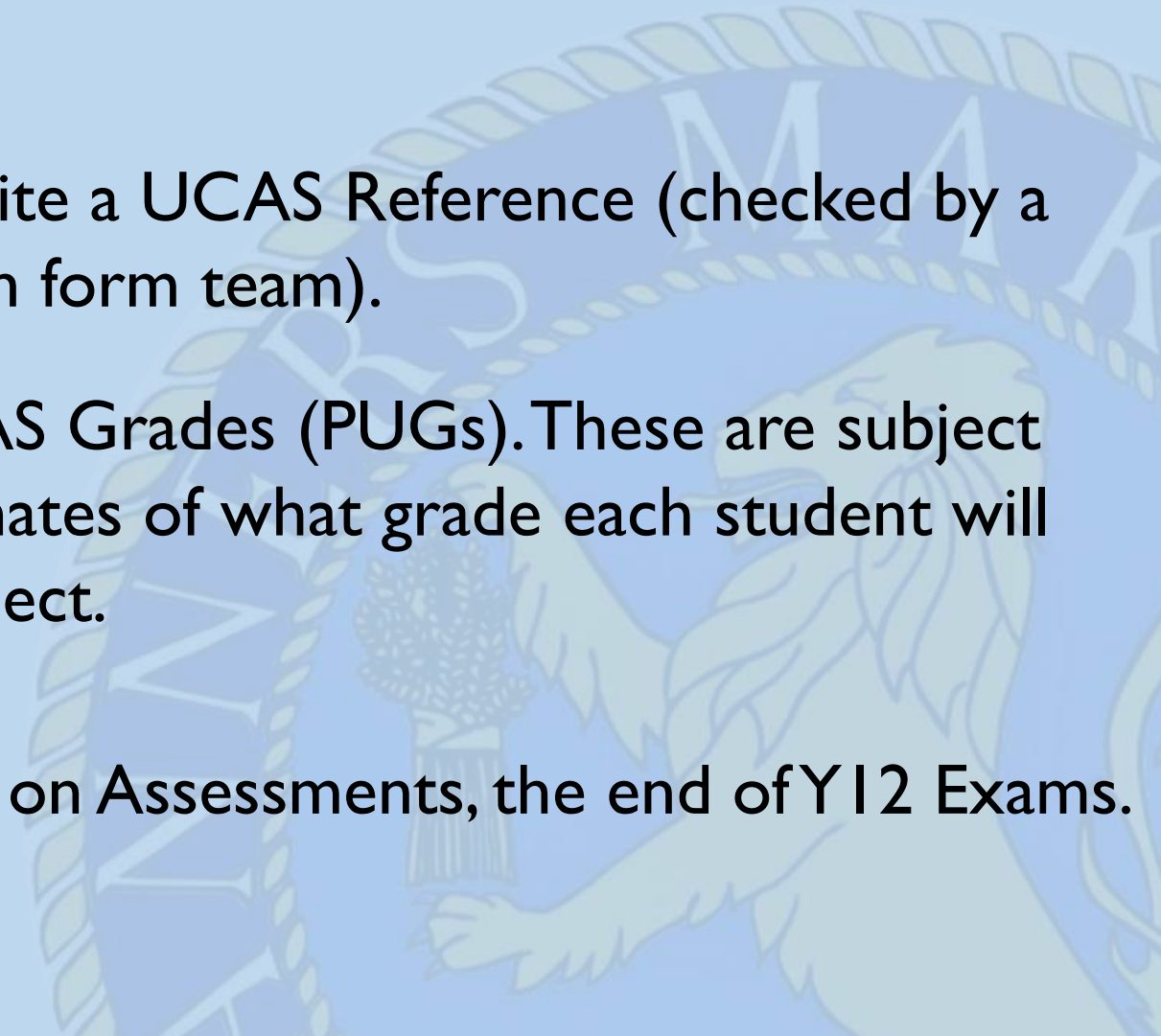
We will carry out checks to verify that your personal statement is your own work. If your personal statement appears to have been copied from another source we will inform the universities and colleges to which you have applied. They will then take the action they consider appropriate. We will also contact you by email.



3. Completing UCAS Application

Once the student has completed their part of the UCAS Application...

- The mentor will write a UCAS Reference (checked by a member of the sixth form team).
- Add Predicted UCAS Grades (PUGs). These are subject teachers' best estimates of what grade each student will achieve in their subject.
- PUGs will be based on Assessments, the end of Y12 Exams.





3. Completing UCAS Application

- Those applying to Oxford or Cambridge, or for Medicine, Dentistry and Vet Science Courses have a UCAS deadline of 15th October 2024.
- School deadline is 1 week before this.
- UCAS closes for applications on January 29th 2025.
- All students applying to university should have their UCAS forms completed by the end of November 2024.
- As a Sixth Form we aim to have applications sent off within 2 weeks of when the student has completed their part.





4. After Submitting UCAS Application

- Many universities choose to make an offer (or reject an applicant) based on the information in the application. Students are informed about through 'UCAS Track'
- Some universities/courses require interviews. Some are quite academic and rigorous (e.g. MDV/Oxbridge/Physiotherapy), others are more informal. Interview support provided in school.
- Some courses may require a portfolio of work i.e. architecture, arts etc.



4. After Submitting UCAS Application

- Students can only apply to either Oxford OR Cambridge, not both.
- Many courses require students to complete an aptitude test. E.g. PAT, GAT, ELAT, MAT etc. Completed in school in early November. Students not given their results. Support in subject areas for these assessments.
- Some subjects require essays to be submitted.
- Interviews during December. Sometimes a good amount of notice given, at times only told a few days in advance. Multiple mock interviews held in school to help prepare.
- Offers usually made mid-January.



4. After Submitting UCAS Application

- Students can only apply to 4 MDV courses.
- 5th choice should be related: Biomedical Science, Dental Technician.
- Medicine courses require completion of the UCAT. We provide support for this in school.
- Interviews usually between December and February. Many interviews are 'MMI'. Significant preparation for these in school.
- Offers usually made mid-January to late-March.



4. After Submitting UCAS Application

Other information to be aware of:

- Some universities offer to reduce their entry requirement if:
 - Students put them as their first choice.
 - Students offer a strong grade in their EPQ
 - Students fulfil certain socio-economic criteria
(i.e. first generation to go to university, certain postcodes)
- Some universities make unconditional offers, however the **'Fair admissions code of practice'** (2022) states that universities *“should avoid applying pressure through their offer making practices, including by avoiding the use of ‘conditional unconditional’ offers, restricting the use of unconditional offers to specific circumstances, and using incentives appropriately and transparently.*



5. What if it doesn't go to plan?

We of course hope that all students achieve the grades needed for their first-choice university, or if not their insurance choice. Every year there are a small number of students who don't get the grades they need though. If this occurs the following options are available:

- On A level results day apply for a priority paper review.
- Find a university place through Clearing Plus.
- Delay going to university for a year. Re-apply the following year (still with the support of Urmston Grammar), completing some re-sits if necessary.



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Money - For current information on loans visit:

[Student finance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

- The average debt among the cohort of borrowers who finished their courses in 2020 was £45,000.
- The Government expected that before its 2022 reforms only 25% of current full-time undergraduates who took out loans would repay them in full. They forecast that after the reforms this would increase to more than half among new students from 2024/25.
- Over a full career, graduates are estimated to out-earn non-graduates by up to £500,000, but this is dependent on subject and university.



Student Loans

Repayment Plan 5

If a student starts an undergraduate university course on or after the 1st of August 2023, the new 'repayment plan 5' means students will pay 9% of their income over the new lower repayment threshold of £25,000 a year, £2,083 a month or £480 a week in the UK.

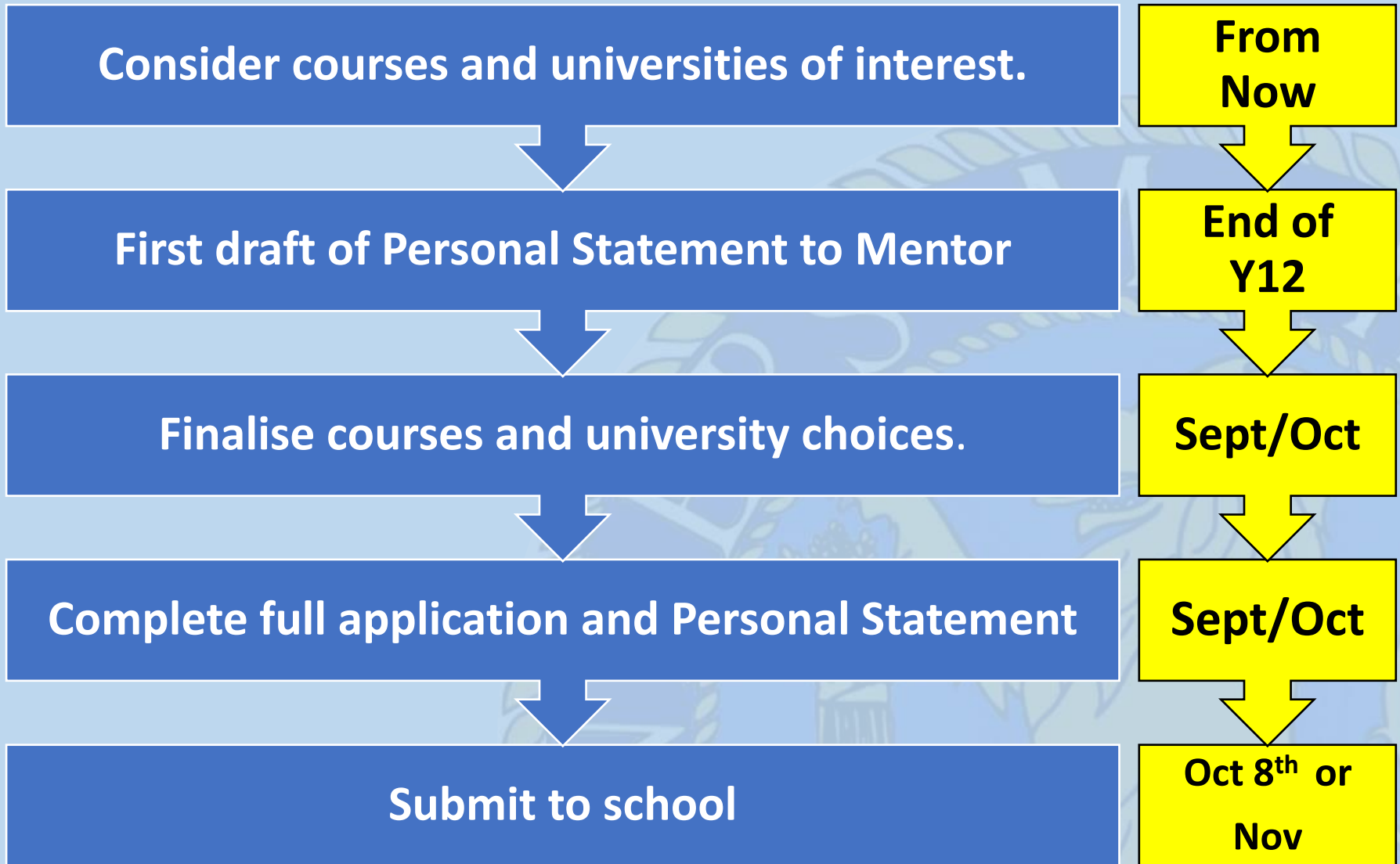
This means you'll start paying your loan back at a lower level and monthly payments will be higher at every level.

Income each year before tax	Repayment plan 2 approximate monthly repayment	Repayment plan 5 approximate monthly repayment
£26,000	£0	£7
£27,000	£0	£15
£27,500	£1	£18
£28,000	£5	£22
£29,500	£16	£33
£31,000	£27	£45
£33,000	£42	£60

Any loan plus interest remaining still unpaid 40 years after graduating is written off.



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Thank you for joining us this evening,
please let us know if you have any
questions.