



**UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE
BIRMINGHAM**

ACCREDITED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

**move
to UP
uni**



Parents and carers guide
to moving up to university at

**UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE
BIRMINGHAM**

Next steps after college

As your child comes to the end of their level 3 college course, they will have many questions about what direction to take next. For some, it may be entering into employment, while for others, it may be taking their studies to the next level by progressing to university.

When choosing to move up to university, we understand there may be many questions about how the process works. **Help, however, is on hand.** Whether you are familiar with the university process or not, this guide will tell you everything you need to know about supporting your son/daughter with the move from college to university here at University College Birmingham.

Why university?



Study what you love and develop and expand skills and knowledge.



Broaden employment opportunities and increase earning potential.



Develop essential skills for personal and working life, as well as those necessary for particular careers.



Meet new people, build confidence and expand horizons.

Why choose higher education at University College Birmingham:

1 We are a small and friendly specialist vocational institution that has invested £140 million in superb student facilities and resources over the last five years.

2 Won University of the Year and Best Student Support in 2022. WhatUni Student Choice Awards – voted by students.

3 We offer excellent student support for learning, employability, health and wellbeing.

4 Our lecturers have a wealth of industry experience.

5 Our courses feature an extensive variety of work placements in the UK and overseas.

6 Many of our degree courses are accredited by the University of Warwick.

Jargon buster

When you and your child start looking into progressing to university, there will be a lot of new words and abbreviations that you will come across. To help you understand what these mean, we have listed a few common ones and their meanings below.

➤ Higher education

The next level of education after further education. Higher education includes studying on a course from levels 4-7 and may consist of undergraduate and postgraduate courses.

➤ Foundation degree

Typically, a two-year course you can take in undergraduate higher education after you've finished further education. Once completed, it may be possible for students to transfer onto the final year of a bachelor's degree such as a BA or BSc (Hons) course if transfer criteria are met.

➤ Bachelor's degree

A three or four-year course you can take in undergraduate higher education after you've finished further education. Also known as a first or undergraduate degree, it is usually either a Bachelor of Arts (BA) or a Bachelor of Science (BSc), depending on what subject you choose.

➤ Accredited

Many of our degree courses are accredited by the University of Warwick, which means that while we have delivered the course, graduates receive their awards from the University of Warwick.

➤ UCAS

UCAS is the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service in the UK. They provide a centralised service for applying to university.

➤ UCB Direct

An application system you can use to apply for university courses here at University College Birmingham. The good news is there are no lengthy or complicated forms, no need for a personal statement, and no application fee required with this service.

➤ Conditional offer

This is an offer of a place on a course, subject to conditions set out by the University's Admissions department. To be accepted on the course, you will need to meet the conditions.

➤ UCAS Tariff points

A numerical value given to qualifications and grades. Most qualifications will have a UCAS Tariff value, which will vary dependent on the qualification, and the grade the student achieves. UCAS has an UCAS Tariff calculator to help students calculate their points.

Deciding what course to study

During your child's time with us at college, they will have plenty of opportunities to hear from our university staff about our wide range of vocational degree courses. We also host several events throughout the year – such as open days – for students to explore the university side of University College Birmingham and student life.

Open days are a great way for students to find out more about our degree courses, the exciting topics they will study and the facilities on offer to give them the best real-life working experience. At our open days, there is also the chance to gather information about support services and student finance, as well as the opportunity to meet our current students. For further information about our open days and to book a place, [click here](#).

Course-related questions to ask:

When choosing which course to study, there are a few questions you can discuss with your child:

1. What have they enjoyed about their current college course and why?

Maybe there was a particular topic that they really enjoyed or found interesting? Perhaps there is a degree course that matches these interests?

2. Do they have particular careers or job roles in mind for the future? If yes, are there any particular courses that would lead to these?

Or are there any courses featuring modules that are interesting and relevant to these career aspirations? Would they need to complete an accredited course?

3. How do they prefer to learn? Is there a course with teaching and assessment methods that suit their learning style, such as coursework, project or practical work or exams?

Due to the vocational nature of University College Birmingham, we have lots of courses on offer that emphasise coursework and practical work.

4. Do they want a course that offers a placement?

Many of our courses involve placements to give students the opportunity to develop their skills in the workplace.

Once your child has narrowed down the courses they want to study, they need to check they can meet the entry requirements. Each university has different entry requirements and may ask for specific UCAS tariff points and/or grades, both at level 3 and from certain GCSE subjects. They may even require students to have studied a relevant level 3 qualification. The good news is that for the majority of our university courses, students don't need to have previously studied a relevant subject at level 3*.

* Exceptions to this apply to our Physiotherapy and Professional Chef courses.

Choosing the right university for you

As well as asking questions about what your child wishes to study, there are also questions that need to be asked about where to study.

DO THEY WANT A BIG OR SMALL UNIVERSITY?

Did you know that University College Birmingham is considered a small university with just under 5,000 undergraduate students?

DO THEY WANT TO LIVE AT UNIVERSITY OR COMMUTE?

Did you know that University College Birmingham manages accommodation for more than 800 students in our purpose-built halls of residence in central Birmingham?

DOES THE UNIVERSITY OFFER ANY FINANCIAL SUPPORT?

Have you heard of our Kick-Start Scheme? You can receive £300 in each year of study! For more information, go to page 7.

WHAT ARE THE FACILITIES ON OFFER LIKE?

Having invested more than £130 million in our student facilities and resources over the last five years, there is no better time than now to join University College Birmingham.

ARE THERE ANY OPPORTUNITIES TO PURSUE HOBBIES AND INTERESTS?

We have a wide variety of sports and societies that are available to students when they become a member of our Guild of Students. For further information, go to page 10.

Financing your studies

Fees and loans

Student Finance is the organisation set up by the UK Government to provide students with financial support to pay for their course and assist with living costs while studying. There are two main types of support students can apply for:

Tuition Fee Loan

English students studying their first full-time undergraduate qualification have the opportunity to get a loan to cover the full amount of tuition fees without making any upfront payments.

Maintenance Loan

This is available to students to help with general living costs while studying.

Some students might also be able to apply for:

- Childcare Grant
- Parents' Learning Allowance
- Disabled Students' Allowances
- Adult Dependents' Grant
- NHS Bursaries

Further information about financial support for higher education students can be [found here](#). You can also contact our student finance team on ucbstudentfinance@ucb.ac.uk.

Student loan repayment

Students will only start to repay tuition fees or maintenance loans from the April after they leave their course and only if they are earning over the repayment threshold.

Repayment will be at 9% of income above the threshold. If their salary falls below the repayment threshold, their payments will be suspended. Repayments are based on earning as opposed to the amount borrowed.

If a student loan has not been repaid after 40 years, the outstanding balance will be written off.

Further information on fees, loans, the repayment threshold and the repayment process can be found on the student finance website:

www.gov.uk/student-finance



University College Birmingham Kick-Start Scheme

We want to support our students to make the best of their time at university. This is why we have set up the Kick-Start Scheme. The scheme helps improve access to the tools and resources students need to support their studies.

All eligible students receive £300 credit per year of study that they don't have to pay back. A further £500 is also available for households with an income below £25,000. This credit does not have to be paid back at the end of their studies.



Funds can be spent on a dedicated website to purchase course-related materials, or on selected items on campus such as society membership fees, university branded clothing, optional trips, printing credits and in our cafés.

Find out more about the [Kick-Start Scheme here](#).

UCB Direct

If your child has their heart set on joining us for university, why not make the application process a breeze by applying direct to University College Birmingham.

To apply direct to University College Birmingham, students must satisfy the following criteria:

- They must only wish to apply to University College Birmingham (if they would like to apply to more than one institution, they must apply via UCAS)
- They must not have previously applied via UCAS
- Current college students at University College Birmingham can apply direct by [clicking here](#).

Why apply direct?



No application fee



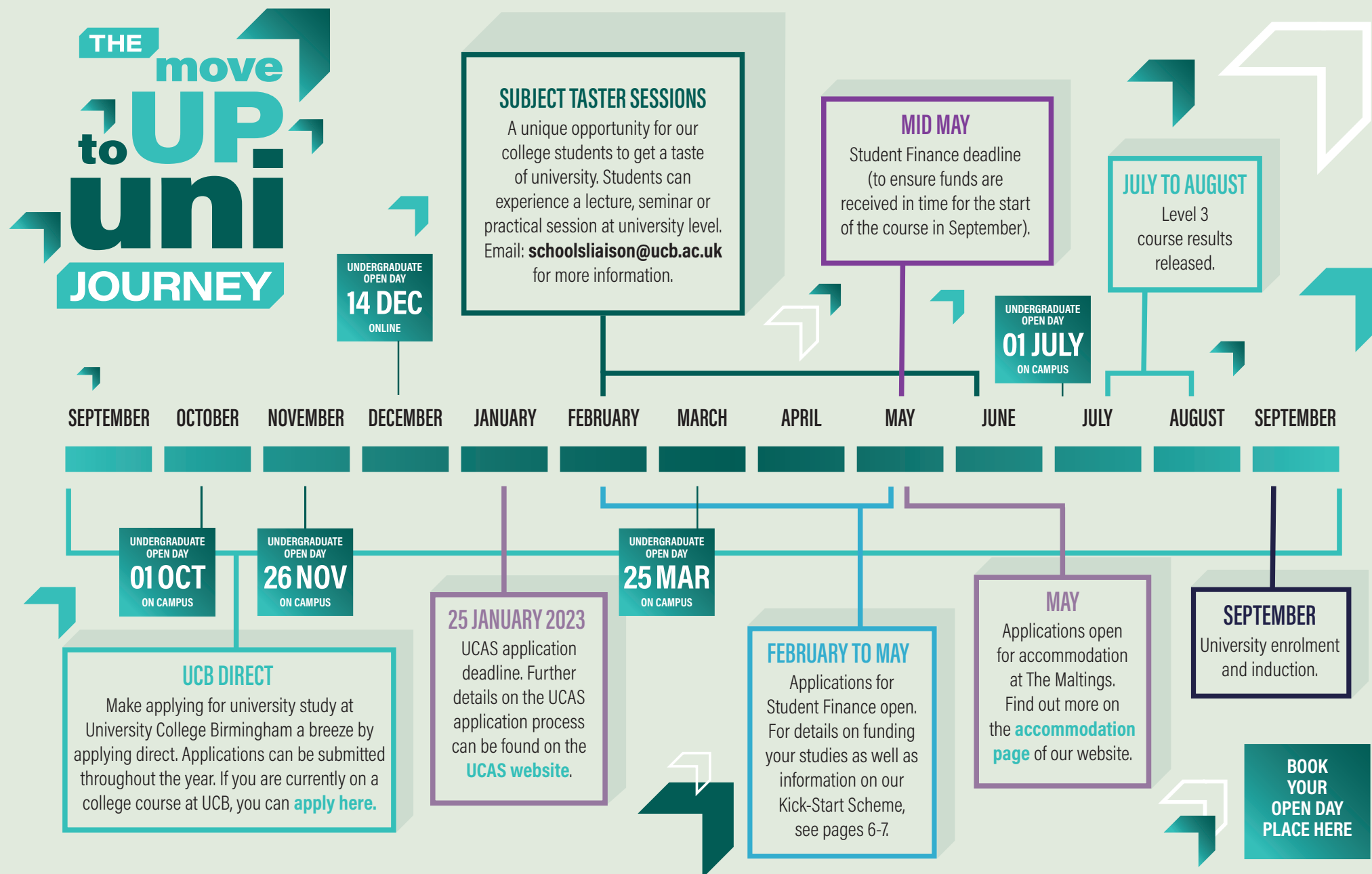
No need for a personal statement



No lengthy or complex application forms



Dedicated admissions team on hand to help



Centre for Academic Skills and English

The Centre for Academic Skills and English (CASE) aims to provide tailored support for all students during their time with us. Its mission is to enhance the student experience while helping students achieve their goals.

How CASE support students:

- In-class skills and development sessions and one-to-one, small group support in academic skills
- Online skills materials (CASE Toolkits)
- Individual support for students with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND)

Find out more about CASE [here](#).



UCB Guild



By the students, for the students!

Welcome to UCB Guild, the home of student life at University College Birmingham.

The Guild is an independent charity, led by a team of students elected every year by the students at University College Birmingham. They exist to make sure that all our students have an amazing experience while studying with us.

It provides students with opportunities to lead and develop, as well as offering support and guidance to take the lead and grow futures. From sports clubs and societies to making the student voice heard, UCB Guild has got it covered.

Explore more at www.ucbguild.co.uk



HIRED

hired@UCB is the University's one-stop shop for all careers, placements, work experience and employability support. They help students with invaluable advice, tips and support as they plan their future career.

Find out more about the services and support offered by hired@UCB [here](#).

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Part-time work

A part-time job at university can not only provide students with extra money, it can also help them develop key employability skills.

Unitemps is our in-house recruitment agency. They source part-time and seasonal work for students and often have roles that offer flexible hours of work, meaning students can accept or decline work to fit around their studies.

For more information, [click here](#).

Don't just take our word about the benefits of moving up to university – hear from our students and their parents.



Steph Harrison

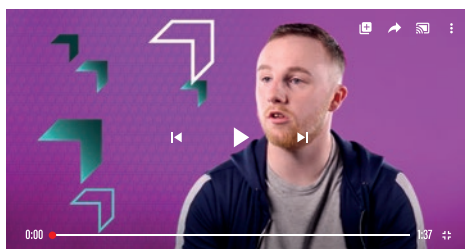
Steph's journey with University College Birmingham started with the Theatrical Special Effects, Hair and Media Make-up Level 3 course. Since then she has perfected her craft on the Specialist Hair and Media Make-up BA (Hons) course and has pursued a career as a renowned make-up artist making a big impression in the sector.

[Discover more about Steph's university success here](#)

Jamie-Ben Parker

From level 3 to level 7, Jamie has taken on all that University College Birmingham has to offer. From the early days studying Level 3 Travel and Tourism to studying for a master's degree in International Tourism Business Management, Jamie has taken every opportunity available.

[Watch Jamie's story here](#)



Progressing onto university has enabled me to get a job within the industry on a more technical level that I wouldn't have been able to do with just my Level 2 and 3 diploma. Having a degree that looks at the science behind baking is also desired by a lot of employers in the industry, so when they see this on your CV or on LinkedIn, it really sets you apart. You get to showcase all the skills you learned in every module throughout your degree.

Natalie Brown

Bakery Level 2 and 3, recently graduated from Bakery and Patisserie Technology BSc (Hons)

“

We were delighted when Natalie decided to go on to degree level after her college course. We felt it would be an excellent transition into higher education, as her time at college was an amazing and positive experience. We feel Natalie has benefited massively from doing her degree in Bakery and Patisserie Technology, as she has grown in confidence, become more creative and knowledgeable, explored new opportunities and excelled as a student.

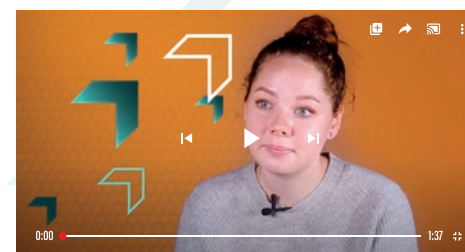
Natalie's parents
Maxine and Joel Brown



Jaye Dean

A stand-out element of Jaye's university experience has been the friends she has made. Hear more from Jaye about her move up from our Level 3 Childcare and Education course to our Childhood Studies BA (Hons) degree. (now known as Early Childhood Studies)

[Hear Jaye talk about her move up to university journey here](#)



Quiz!

Why not have some fun with your child and have a go at our Move up to Uni quiz.

(Answers can be found below)

- Approximately how many undergraduate students does University College Birmingham have?
A. 7,000 B. 5,000 C. 1,000
- How many universities are there in Birmingham?
A. 5 B. 3 C. 8
- How much has University College Birmingham invested in student resources and facilities over the past five years?
A. £140 million B. £110 million C. £90 million
- After how many years is the outstanding balance of a student loan written off?
A. Never B. 50 years C. 40 years
- How many campus buildings does University College Birmingham have?
A. 4 B. 6 C. 9
- How much credit per course year do all eligible students receive as part of University College Birmingham's Kick-Start Scheme?
A. £100 B. £200 C. £300

Answers. 1.B, 2.A, 3. A, 4. C, 5. B, 6. C (with an additional £500 if your household income is below £25,000, plus don't forget this doesn't have to be paid back!)

Next steps for your child

01 FIND YOUR COURSE

Search **online** or contact us to find the course that is right for you



02 BE INSPIRED

Come to one of our **open days** and find out more about UCB from our **student ambassadors**



03 FOUND THE COURSE FOR YOU?

Now it's time to apply via **UCAS** or **UCB Direct**



06 APPLY FOR A PLACE IN OUR HALLS

to secure your place in our accommodation at **The Maltings**



05 APPLY FOR STUDENT FINANCE

for your tuition fee and maintenance loans



04 ATTEND AN APPLICANT DAY

to explore your course further and meet potential course mates



07 RESULTS AND ENROLMENT

If you get the results you need, great, you can now relax! But if you've not quite achieved what you expected, please give us a call.



UNIVERSITY COLLEGE BIRMINGHAM





Key contacts

ADMISSIONS:

Email: admissions@ucb.ac.uk

Phone: 0121 604 1040

MOVE UP TO UNI:

Email: schoolsliaison@ucb.ac.uk

Phone: 0121 232 4300

University College Birmingham,
Summer Row, Birmingham B3 1JB

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