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Applying to University





Today's Session



Introduction
to University

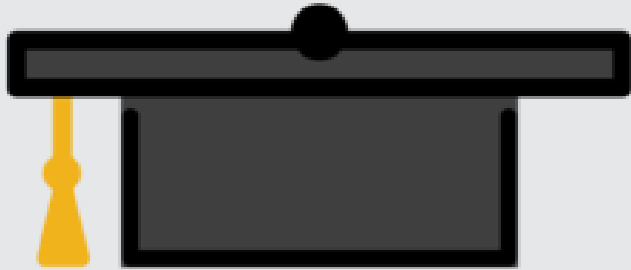
The UCAS
Process

Personal
Statements

What are universities?



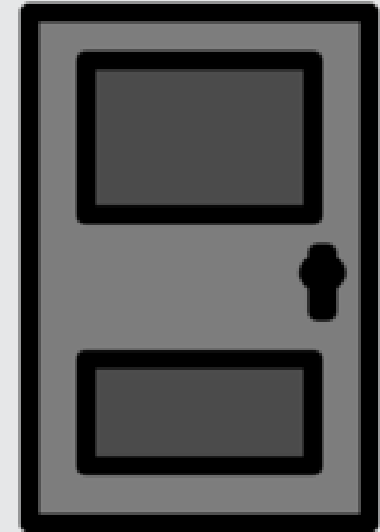
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Institutions of
higher education
that award
academic degrees



Produce research
that impacts
society in a
positive way



Might be the next
step in your
education journey

How do I get there?

5 GCSEs

A Levels/BTecs

Subject specific
requirements



Flexible options

Contextual Offers

Deferring

Foundation years

Part time or online study



What about the cost?

£9250 per year for tuition (3 years), plus living costs

Student loan from the government that you don't have to pay back until after you graduate

A graduate earning £28,000 per year pays £22.50 per month.

Debt is wiped after 40 years.



Don't forget about part time jobs, scholarships and bursaries!



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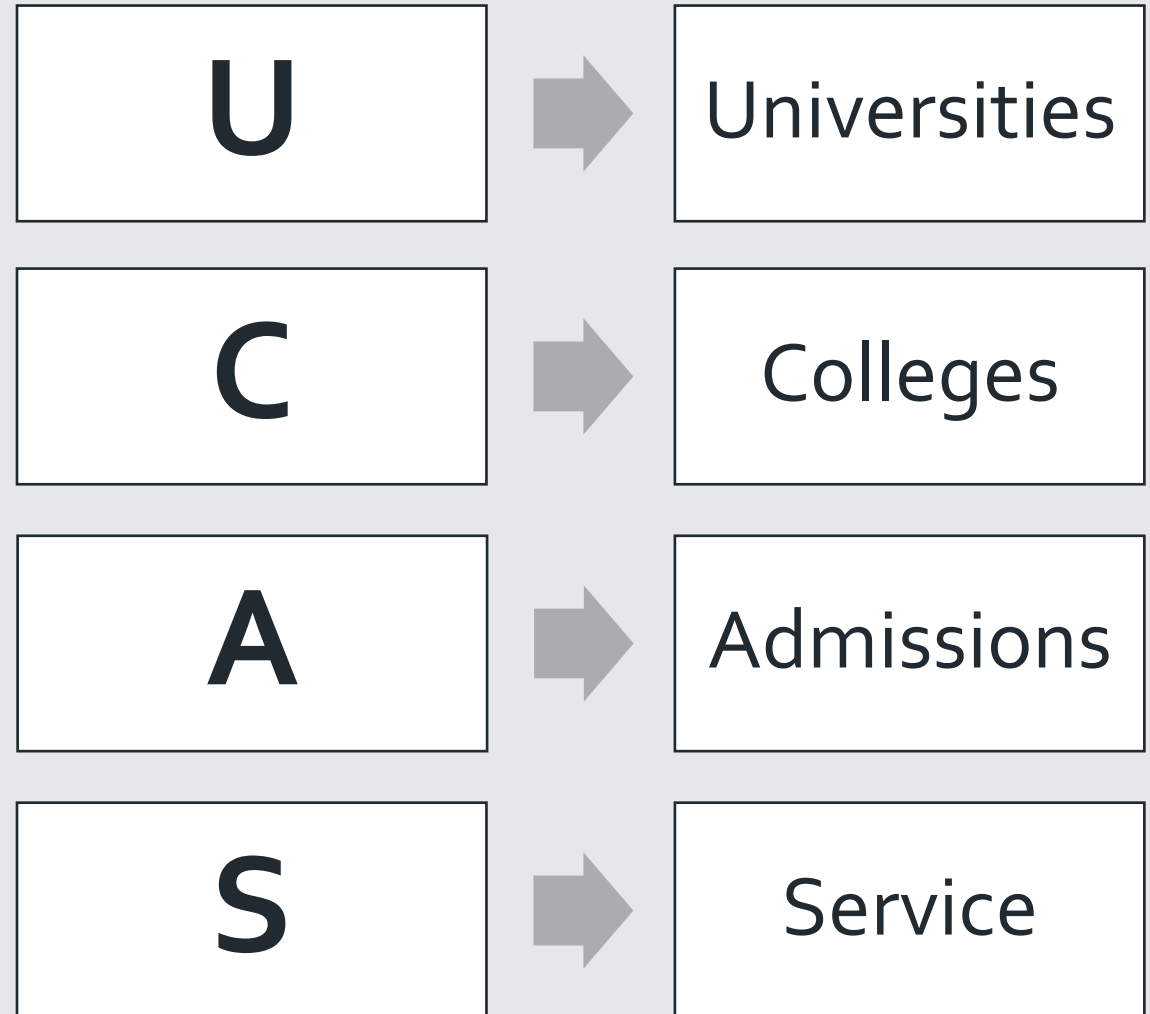
The UCAS process

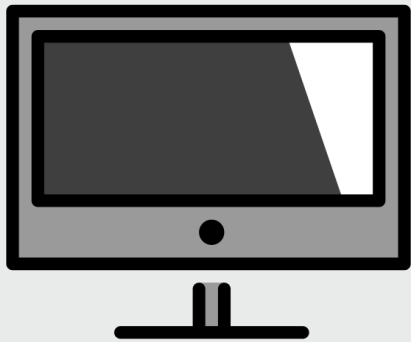
What is UCAS?



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UCAS





All applications are online, you can add up to 5 choices



Application costs
£22 for 1 choice,
£26.50 for 5



Providers can't see other choices when you apply

Application timeline



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May 2022
UCAS opens for
registration



September 2022
UCAS opens – applications can be sent



25 January 2023
'General' application
deadline



Summer 2022
Research and visit
universities



15th October 2022
Deadline for
Medicine, Veterinary, Dentistry and
Oxford or Cambridge

YOUR HUB

0%

Your **to do list**

[Open to do list >](#)



Your **preferences**

[Update for a better experience >](#)

YOUR APPLICATIONS

START

[START APPLICATION](#)

FAVOURITES

[TOP 5](#) [COURSES](#) [UNI & COLLEGES](#) [LOCATIONS](#) [SUBJECTS](#) [PAGES](#)



Add favourite course to top 5



Add favourite course to top 5



Add favourite course to top 5



Add favourite course to top 5



Add favourite course to top 5

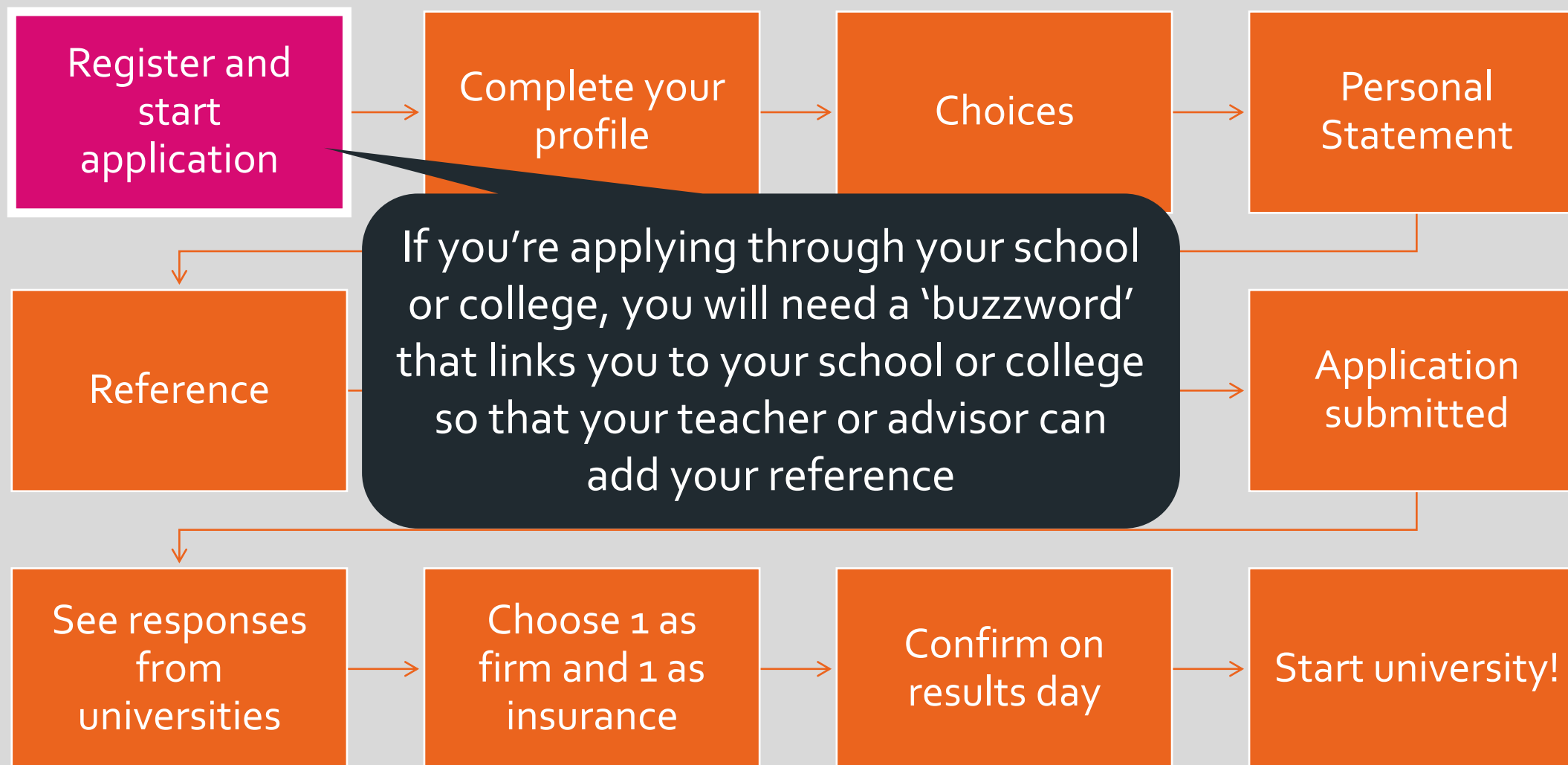
[VIEW ALL FAVOURITES](#)



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Linking your application



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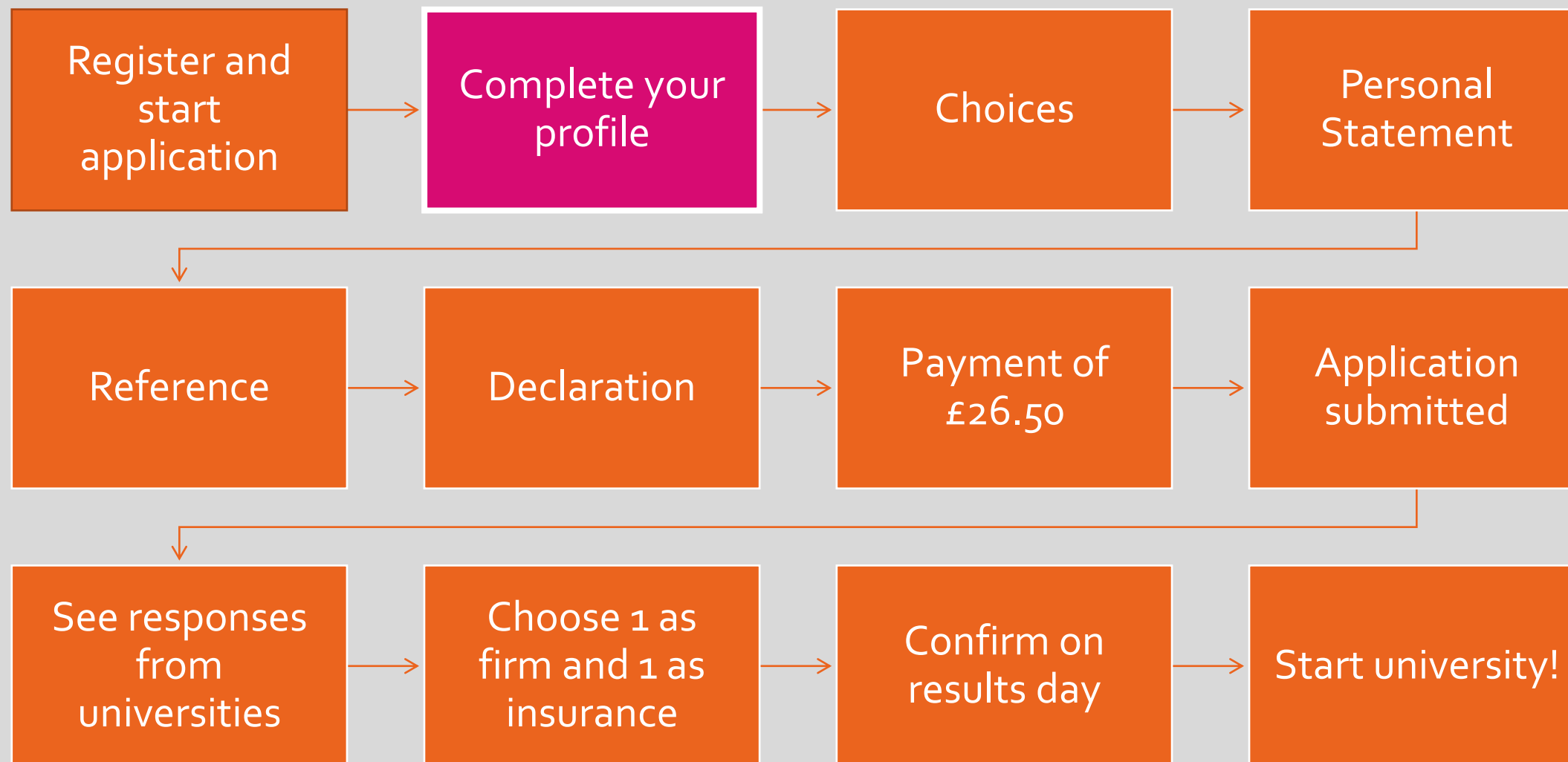
The screenshot shows the UCAS application linking interface on a tablet. At the top, the UCAS logo is visible. Below it, a navigation bar includes links for Further education, Undergraduate, Postgraduate, Alternatives, Careers, and a search icon. The main heading asks, "Are you applying from a school, college, or centre?". There are two large circular buttons: a teal "Yes" button and a pink "No" button. Below these, the text "Enter the Buzzword from your school, college, or centre" is displayed, followed by a smaller note: "Buzzwords are case-sensitive and will be given to you by your school, college or centre." A text input field labeled "Enter Buzzword here:" is present, with "Save Buzzword" and "Cancel" buttons below it. A confirmation message states, "You have linked your application to UCAS Training London". At the bottom, a "Select group" dropdown menu is open, showing options: "I don't know", "Default Group", and "Training Group 1".

- Enter the **buzzword**, and confirm the details are correct.
- Once your application has been linked, you can then select a group (if this has been set up by your school or college) for your application.

The UCAS process



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Complete your profile



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The image shows a tablet screen with a profile completion form. The form is divided into seven sections, each with a title, a brief description, and a 'Start this section' link. The first two sections, 'Personal details' and 'Contact and residency details', are highlighted with orange borders. The sections are arranged in a grid: the first row contains 'Personal details', 'Contact and residency details', and 'Education'; the second row contains 'Employment', 'Nationality details', and 'Supporting information'; the third row contains 'English language skills' and 'Finance and funding'.

Section	Description	Start this section
Personal details	Name, age, title and gender	Start this section
Contact and residency details	Address, email, telephone and where you live	Start this section
Education	Qualifications and periods of study	Start this section
Employment	Employment, paid, unpaid, or volunteer work	Start this section
Nationality details	Birthplace and nationalities	Start this section
Supporting information	So that providers know how to support you during your studies	Start this section
English language skills	Is English your first language?	Start this section
Finance and funding	Tell us how you'll fund your study	Start this section

Personal details Contact & residency details

- Name, date of birth, gender
- Phone, address
- Nominated Access
- Residency status

Complete your profile



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The image shows a tablet screen with a profile completion interface. The interface consists of seven white rectangular sections arranged in a grid on a dark blue background. Each section has a title, a brief description, and a 'Start this section' link at the bottom. The 'Education' and 'Employment' sections are highlighted with orange borders.

Section	Description	Start this section
Personal details	Name, age, title and gender	Start this section
Contact and residency details	Address, email, telephone and where you live	Start this section
Education	Qualifications and periods of study	Start this section
Employment	Employment, paid, unpaid, or volunteer work	Start this section
Nationality details	Birthplace and nationalities	Start this section
Supporting information	So that providers know how to support you during your studies	Start this section
English language skills	Is English your first language?	Start this section
Finance and funding	Tell us how you'll fund your study	Start this section

Education Employment

- Add in your schools/colleges, then qualifications (e.g. GCSEs) one by one including what you are currently studying
- Paid employment – not mandatory, but you must mark complete

Complete your profile



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The image shows a tablet screen with a profile completion interface. It features six sections arranged in a 2x3 grid:

- Personal details**: Name, age, title and gender. [Start this section](#)
- Contact and residency details**: Address, email, telephone and where you live. [Start this section](#)
- Education**: Qualifications and periods of study. [Start this section](#)
- Employment**: Employment, paid, unpaid, or volunteer work. [Start this section](#)
- Nationality details**: Birthplace and nationalities. [Start this section](#)
- Supporting information**: So that providers know how to support you during your studies. [Start this section](#)
- English language skills**: Is English your first language? [Start this section](#)
- Finance and funding**: Tell us how you'll fund your study. [Start this section](#)

The 'Nationality details' and 'Supporting information' sections are highlighted with orange borders.

Nationality details Supporting information

- Country of birth, when entered UK
- Any additional needs – mental, physical, learning

- Vision Impairment
- Deaf or hard of hearing
- Mental health conditions (depression, anxiety, OCD, eating disorders, PTSD, personality, bipolar etc)
- Learning disability (dyslexia, dysgraphia, language processing, nonverbal etc)
- Autism spectrum disorder
- Physical disability
- Autoimmune (Diabetes, rheumatoid arthritis, Lupus etc)

Complete your profile



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Personal details >
Name, age, title and gender
Start this section

Contact and residency details >
Address, email, telephone and where you live
Start this section

Education >
Qualifications and periods of study
Start this section

Employment >
Employment, paid, unpaid, or volunteer work
Start this section

Nationality details >
Birthplace and nationalities
Start this section

Supporting information >
So that providers know how to support you during your studies
Start this section

English language skills >
Is English your first language?
Start this section

Finance and funding >
Tell us how you'll fund your study
Start this section

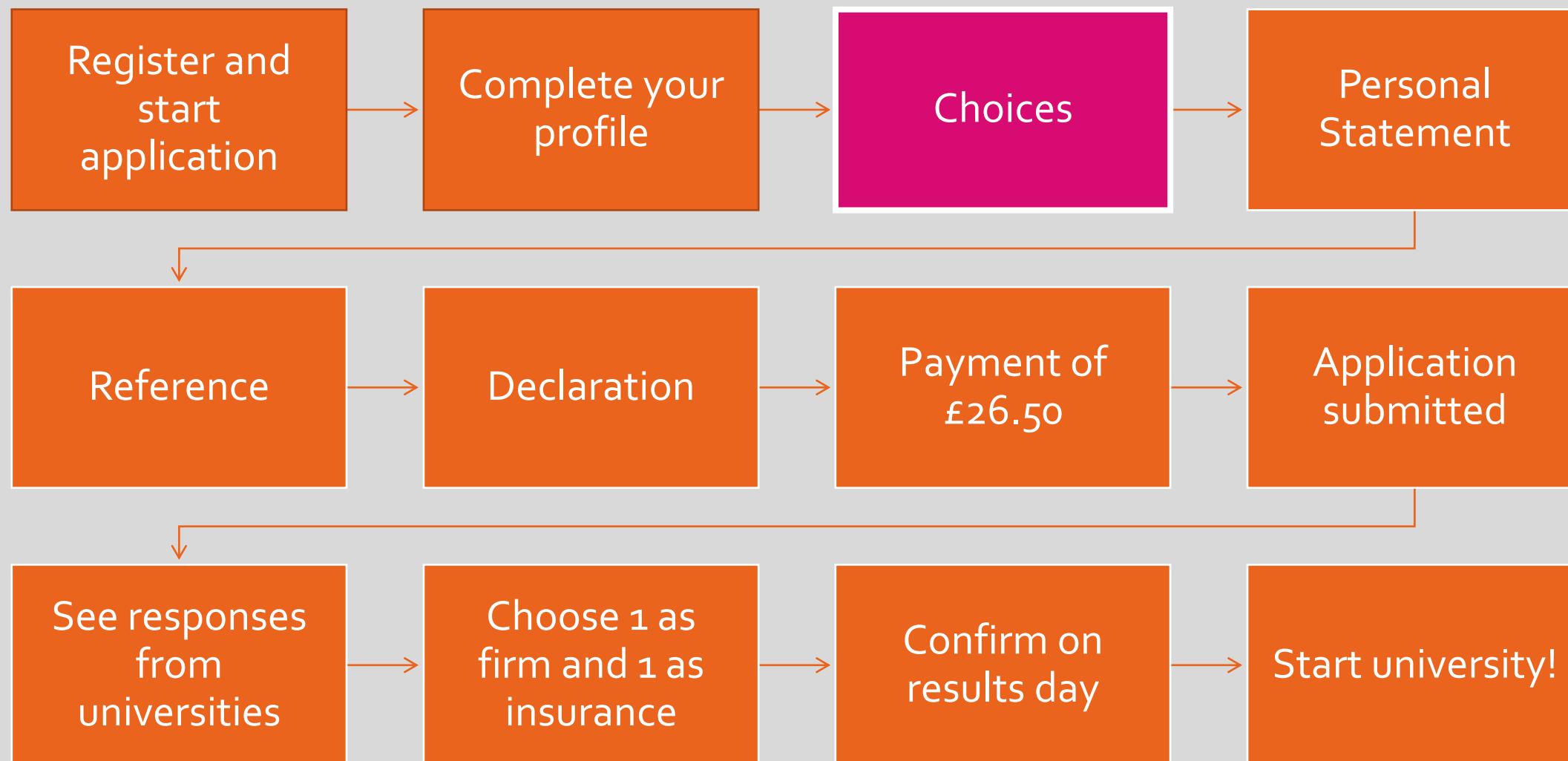
English language skills Finance and funding

- Is English first language?
- Funding e.g. government loan

The UCAS process



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The UCAS process



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The screenshot shows the UCAS application interface on a tablet. At the top, the 'Application status' section displays progress for 'Centre information' (0/5), 'CHOICES' (0%), 'PROFILE' (0%), 'PERSONAL STATEMENT' (0%), 'REFERENCE' (0%), and a 'Review and submit' button. Below this, the 'Your choices' section features a search bar and a prominent blue '+ Add choice' button, which is highlighted with an orange border. Underneath, there is a 'Confirm choices' button. The 'My profile' section contains several expandable cards for 'Personal details', 'Contact and residency details', 'Education', 'Employment', 'Nationality details', 'Supporting information', 'English language skills', and 'Finance and funding', each with a 'Start this section' link.

Choices

1. **History** at Royal Holloway
2. **History** at Queen Mary
3. **History** at Kings College London
4. **History** at Kingston University
5. **History** at Brunel University

OR

1. **History** at Royal Holloway
2. **Ancient History** at Royal Holloway
3. **Classics** at Royal Holloway
4. **History** at Queen Mary
5. **History** at Kings College London

*Only write 1 personal statement for ALL 5 courses.

How do I choose?



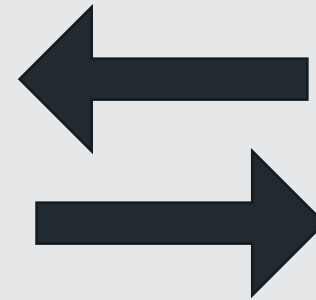
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Reflect on your
plans and priorities

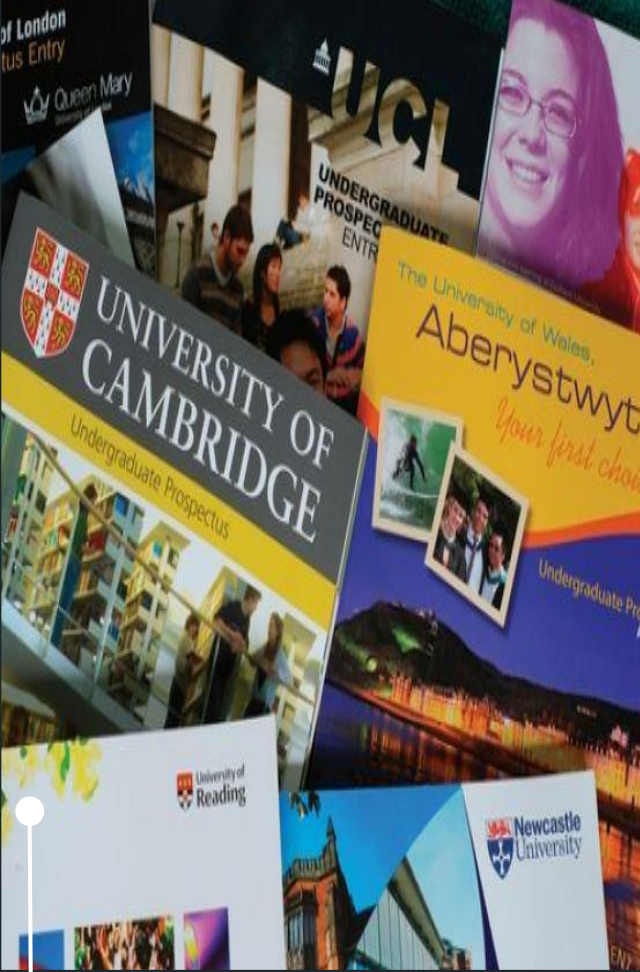


Research your
options



Make a shortlist

How can I research?



Prospectuses



Student reviews



Open days and taster talks

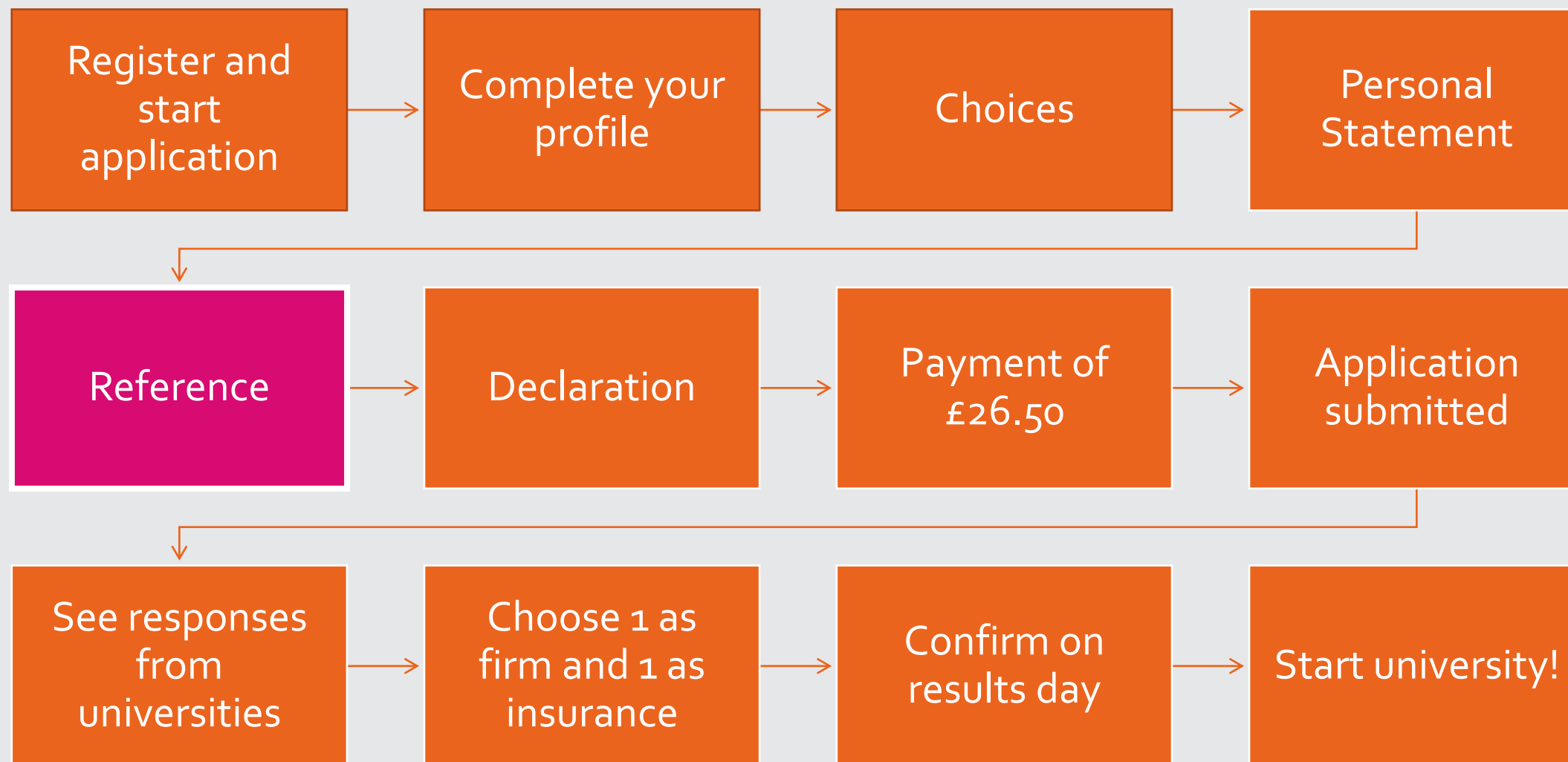


Online resources

The UCAS process



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Teacher references

Written by a teacher, careers adviser or personal tutor

Provide universities with an informed and positive academic account of you

Provide information about extenuating circumstances

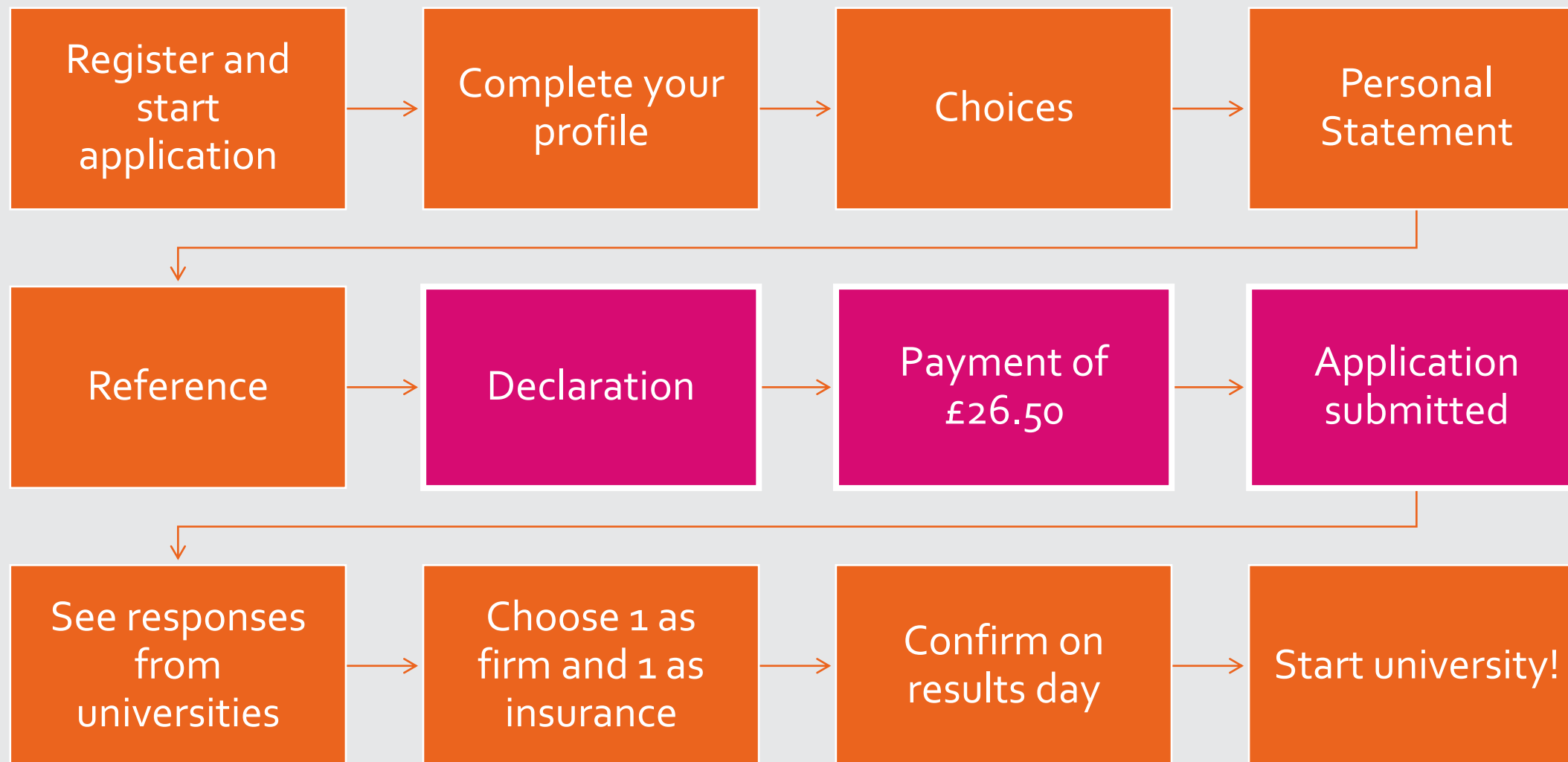
Assist in the selection/ decision making process



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What about student finance?



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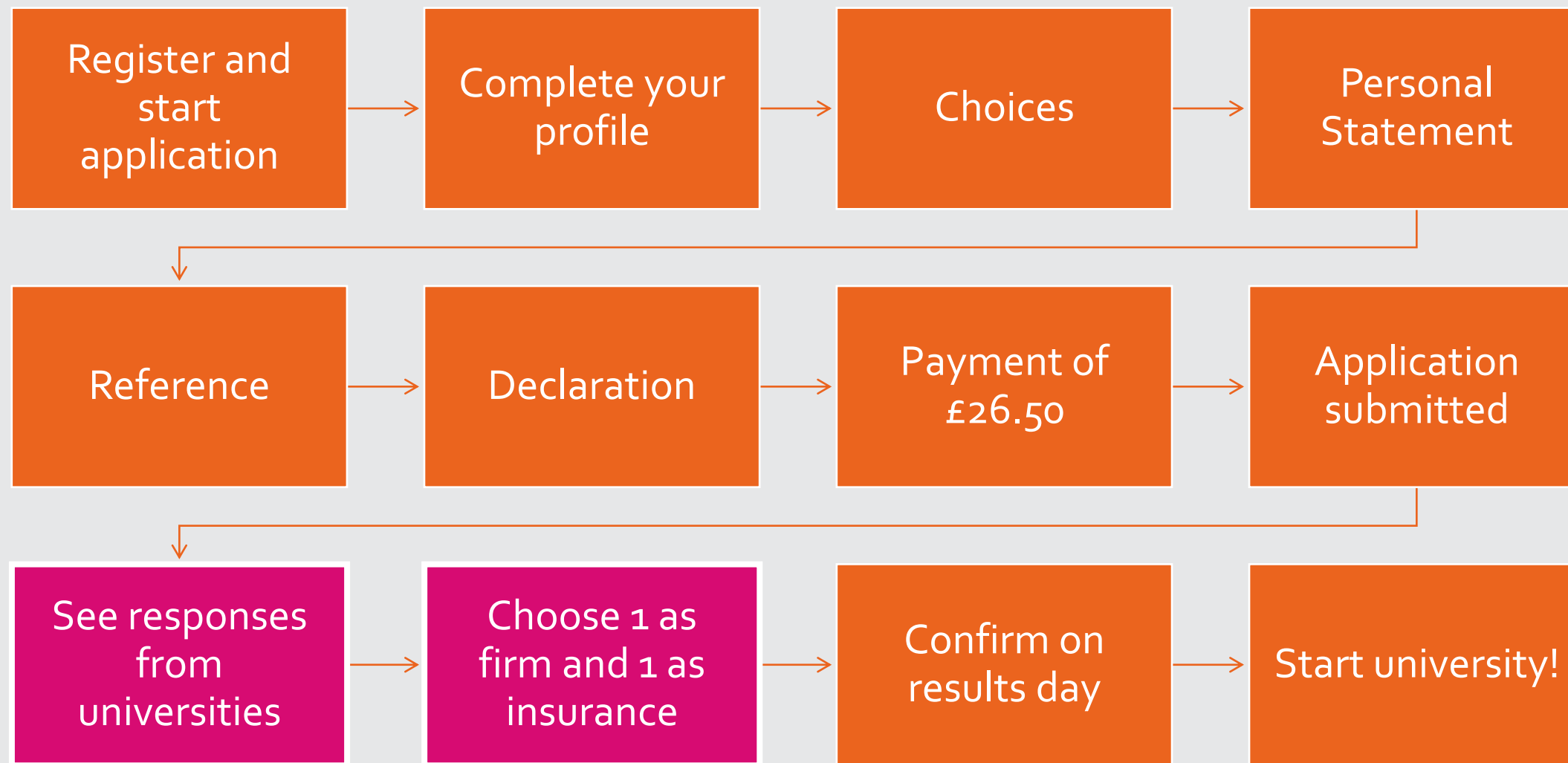


- Apply online
- Applications open around March so start early
- You don't need a confirmed place at university
- You can change details later on
- Apply for tuition fee loan, maintenance loan, or both

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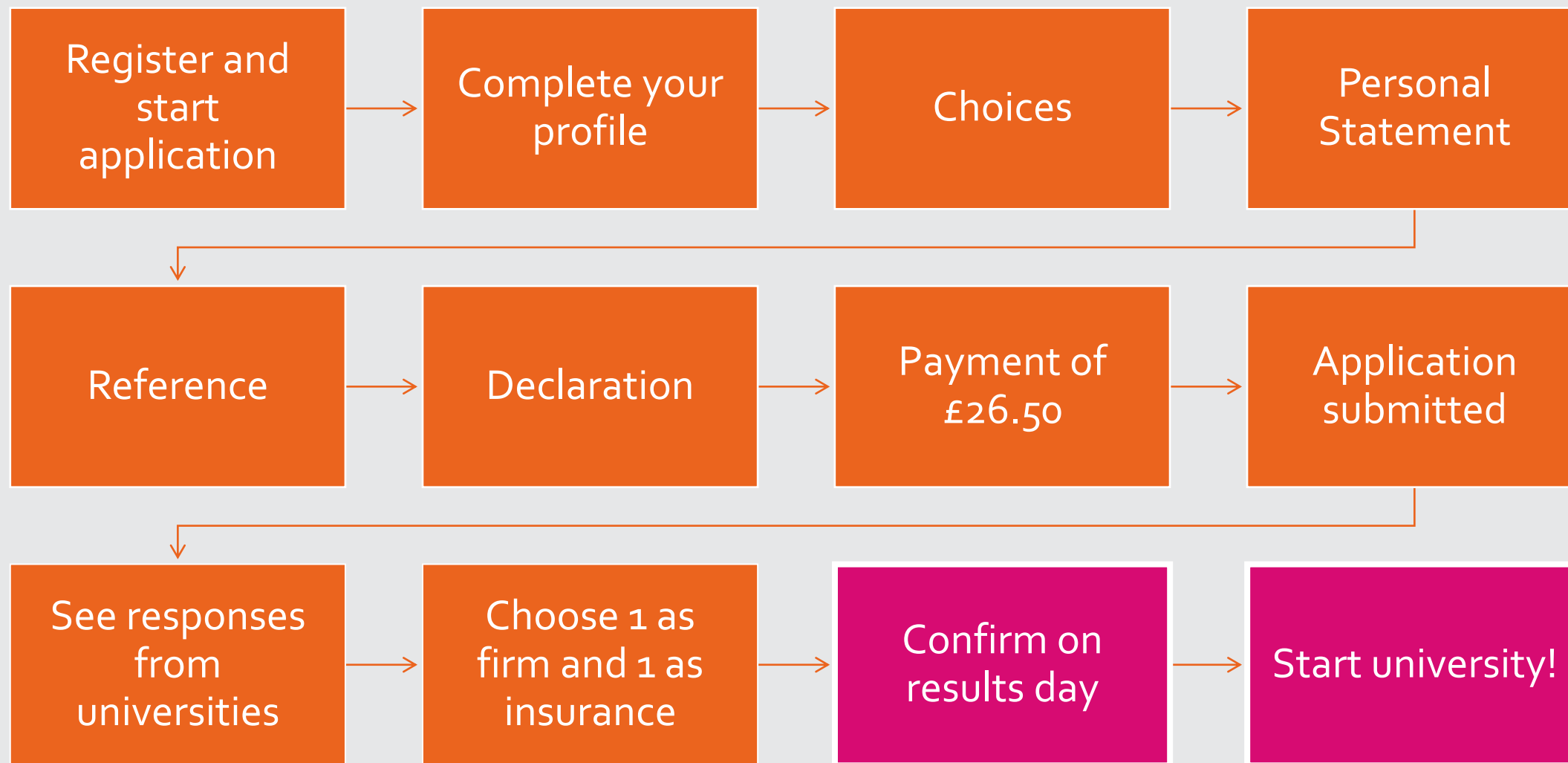
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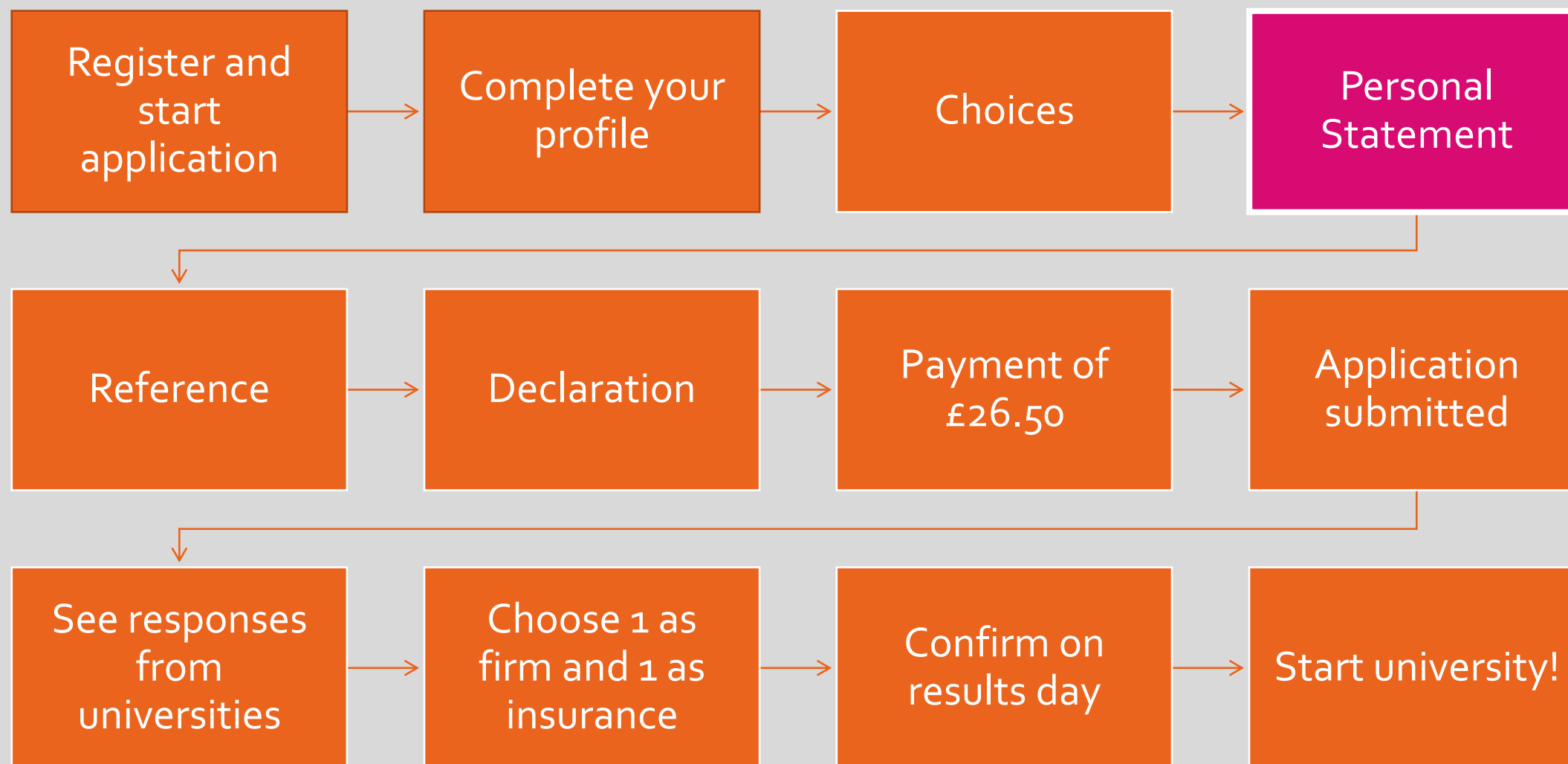


Personal Statements

The UCAS process



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True or False?



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There is a
word limit?



FALSE



4000 character
limit or 47 lines

True or False?



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You write a
different personal
statement for
each course
option?



FALSE



Only write 1 personal statement
sent to all universities.

True or False?



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Your statement is
checked for
plagiarism.



TRUE



UCAS scans all
personal statements.

True or False?

You need to
include your
predicted grades.



FALSE



The university receives your whole application, which includes your grades in a different section.

True or False?

It's a reflective
essay to
demonstrate why
you are an **excellent**
candidate to study
the course.



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TRUE



Allows universities to get to know you.
Use examples of your knowledge, skills
and experience to show your passion for
your chosen field.

Personal statement *

Your completed statement must be between 1,000 and 4,000 characters (maximum 47 lines) including spaces.

- Reflective essay – promote yourself
- Character limit of 4,000 (or 47 lines)
- 1 statement for all 5 choices
- Don't mention a university by name
- Checked for plagiarism
- Don't need to include grades

Characters used: 0 of 4000 characters

Save draft

Save & Preview



Opportunity to demonstrate skills, experiences and thoughts



Lets universities know who is behind the grades



Allows you to stand out from the crowd



Chance to practice writing about yourself

Year 12



September - December

Think about next steps and
work-experience



Summer

Begin drafting your statement



Year 13



October - January

Finish and send off your
application!



January - July

Begin building your
experience (academic and
non-academic)



September - January

Work on your Personal Statement
draft with help from your
school/college



What are universities looking for?



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ABLE TO STUDY
INDEPENDENTLY



MOTIVATED AND
HIGH ACHIEVING



INTELLECTUALLY
CAPABLE



INTEREST IN
STUDYING
SUBJECT



CAN CONTRIBUTE TO
UNIVERSITY LIFE



SIGNIFICANT
SUBJECT
KNOWLEDGE



POTENTIAL TO
SUCCEED

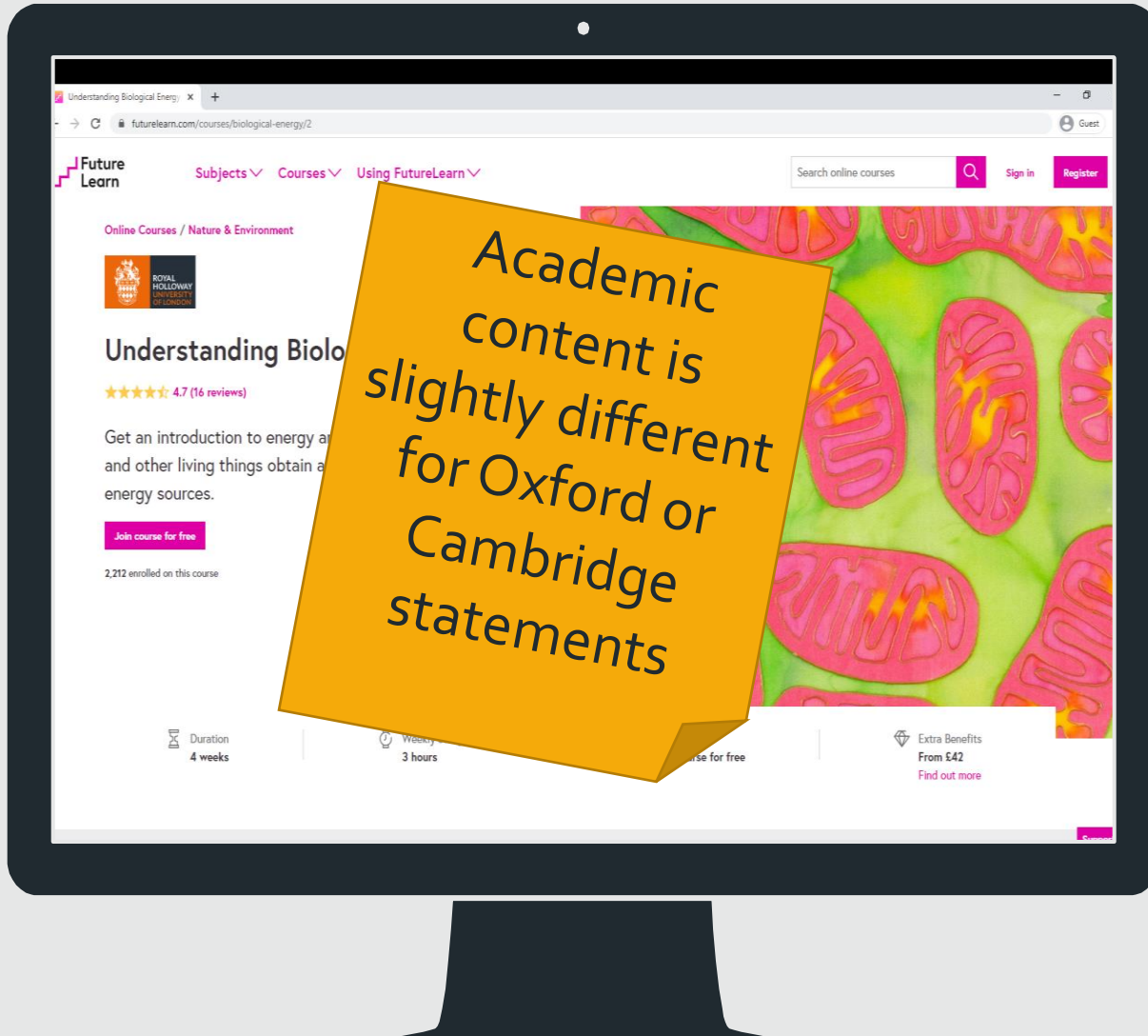


**What is one thing you can
write about on your personal
statement?**

Academic content



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- Podcasts
- Documentaries
- Free online courses
- Summer schools
- Museums
- Public Buildings
- TED talks
- Taster days
- Journal articles

Work experience



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- Part-time work
- Voluntary work
- Work shadowing
- Online programmes
- School-run programmes



Extracurricular activities



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Every UCAS
application will
benefit from wider
interests outside
your studies



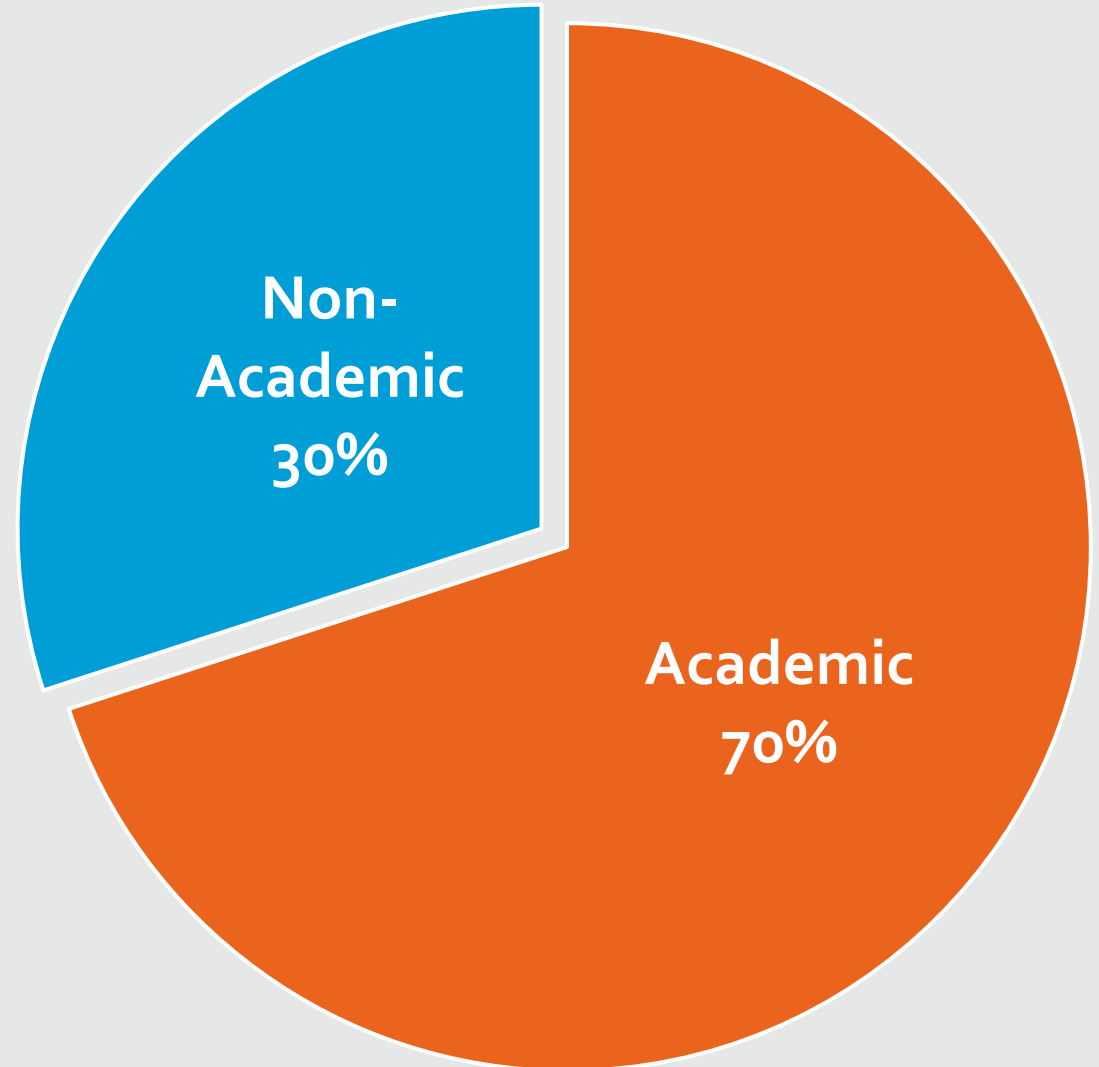
Finding the right balance



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Non - Academic (30%)

- What other skills and experience do you have?
- What have you done outside of your studies?
- How are these activities relevant?



Flow Structure



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Part 1

- **Introduction**
 - Why are you interested in this course?
 - Why do you want to study it at degree level?

Part 2

- **Discuss your subject academically**
 - How do your A-Levels link to your chosen course?
 - What independent reading or research have you done?
 - What other course-related activities have you taken part in?

70%

Part 3

- **Extra-curricular activities**
 - What additional activities do you take part in?
 - How could these show skills that are relevant for studying at university level?

30%

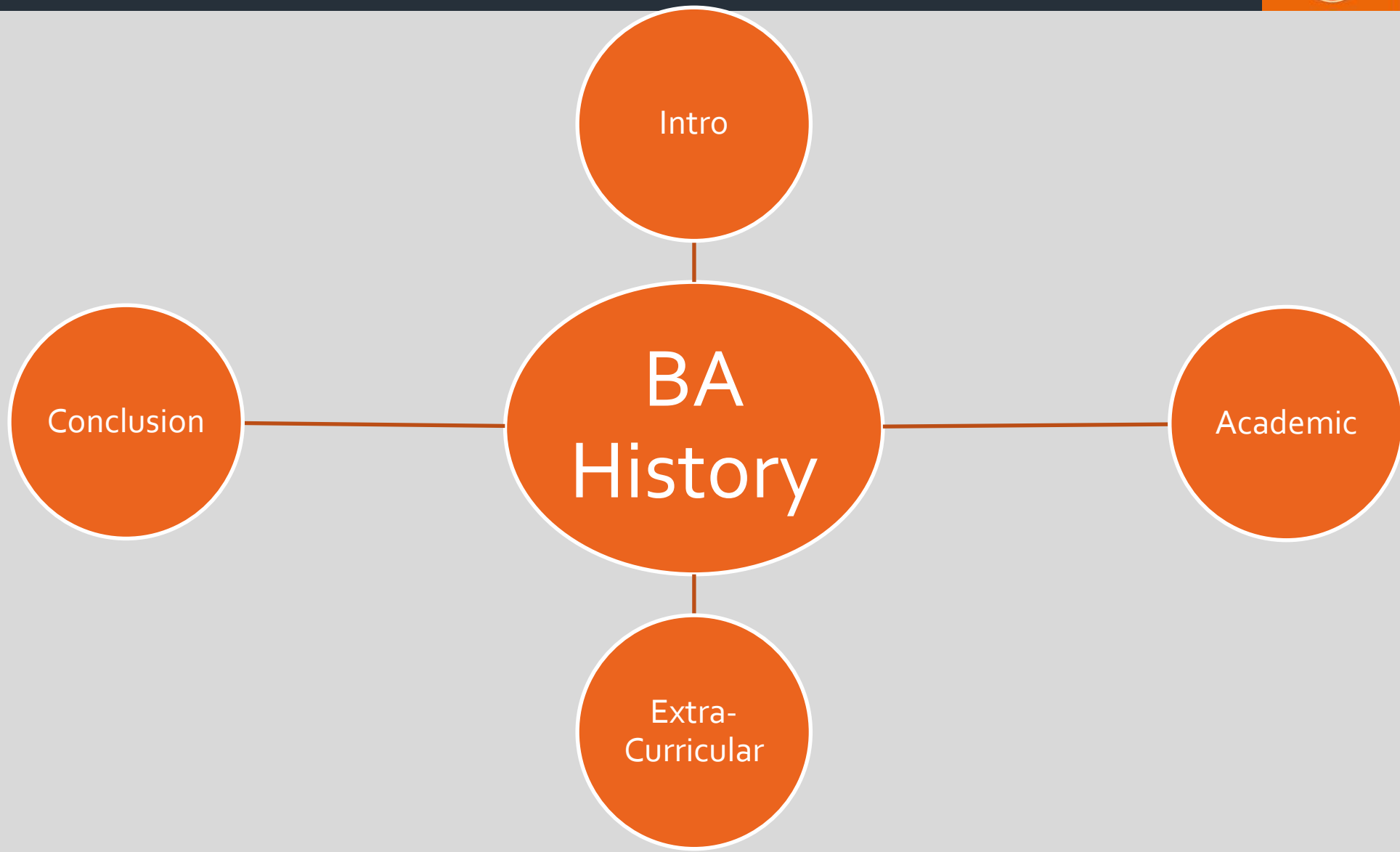
Part 4

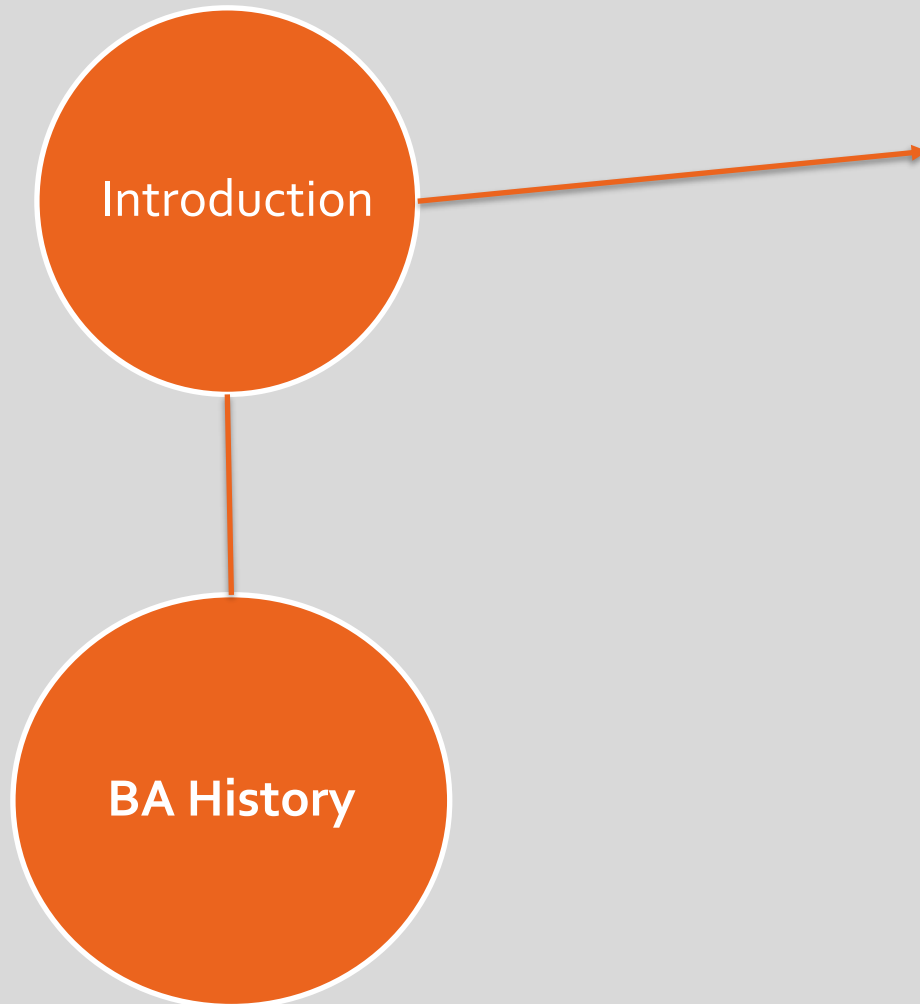
- **Conclusion**
 - Career ambitions

Planning your statement – Humanities



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- **Why have you chosen this subject?**
 - I have chosen History because ...
 - I enjoy telling different stories
 - I like learning about peoples lives in different periods
- **What particularly interests you about this subject?**
 - I'm really interested in the role of history in society because...
 - History is fluid
 - History is different for different people
 - History is about both fact and fiction.
- **Where has this interest come from?**
 - When I visited/met/watched/read ...

BA History

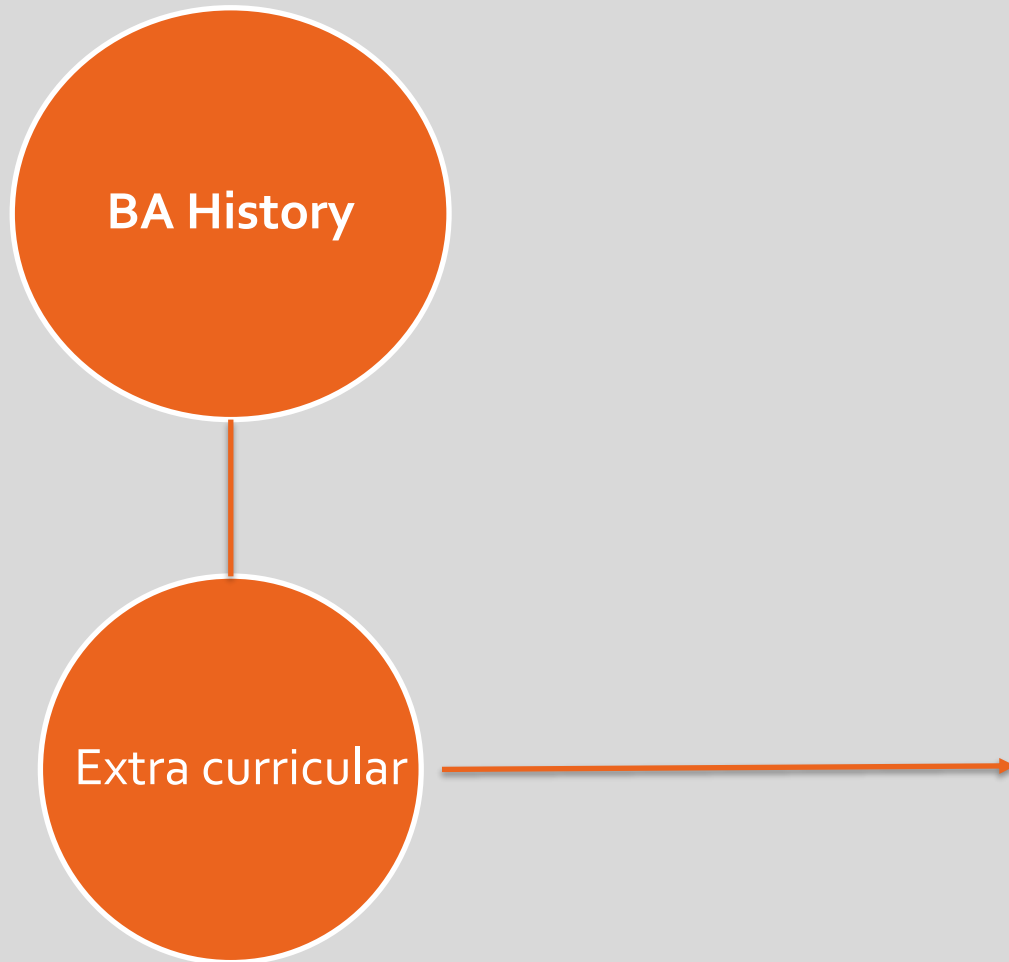
Academic

- **School studies**
 - History – Essay writing skill & critical thinking
 - Important because...
 - English – Close reading & building arguments
 - Important because...
 - Maths – Problem Solving
 - Important because...
- **BBC article about statues of controversial people...**
 - Article says...
 - Opposing article says ...
 - I think...
- **Online Taster Day**
 - We did... A lecture and a seminar as well as spoke to current students.
 - I learnt... How students study at university and about the Tudors
 - Important because ... I have a better idea about History at uni.

Extracurricular



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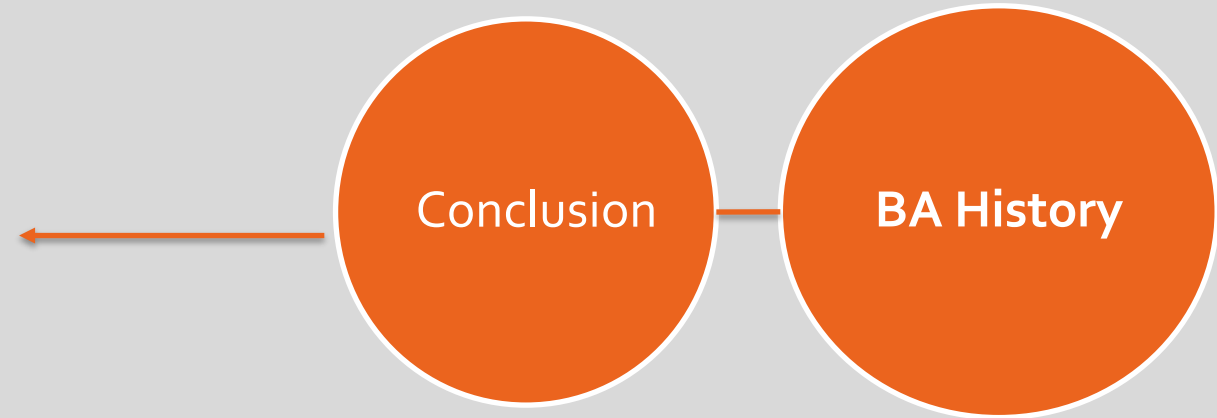
- **Football Club**
 - Vice captain of 1st team
 - Skills - Leadership, communication, teamwork, determination, commitment.
- **Duke of Edinburgh**
 - Skills – Perseverance, leadership, communication, independence, organisation.
- **Volunteering**
 - Volunteering at Care Home
 - Skills - Patience, communication, maturity, independence
- **Part-Time job at Nandos**
 - Skills – Working under pressure, teamwork, communication, maturity.

Conclusion



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- **Career aspirations**
 - After uni, I'd like to work in museums as I'd like to help tell more people about history.





A ctivity - what did you do?

B enefit – what skills or experience did you gain?

C ourse – how does it relate to your course?

S pecifics – numbers, names and titles



ABCs method

A

Completed the online MOOC
"Understanding Biological Energy" by Dr
James McEvoy.

B

I gained knowledge in how modern
biotechnology and bio fuels can reduce
humans reliance on fossil fuels.

C

This demonstrated how biology can be used
in combating climate change creating a
green revolution something I wish to study
further.

S

MOOC, understanding Biological energy,
James McEvoy, Biotechnologies. Bio fuels,
fossil fuels, green revolution.



ABCs method

A

I led on a fundraising campaign raising £2800 for the netball team, of which I am an active member, to travel to Scotland to compete in a tournament.

B

I worked with the team and learned to communicate with 11 volunteers.

C

When completing group projects within Business Management I will be able to communicate clearly with a range of people to complete the given task.

S

£2800, netball, Scotland, 11 volunteers, 2 weeks

Editing your personal statement



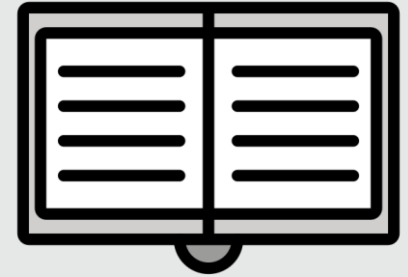
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Try reading it out loud



Utilise teachers / friends /
family members



Check names, dates and
technical language.



Keep checking even when
you are sick of it



Make sure there is no passive
language (e.g. 'I feel')



Spelling, grammar and
punctuation need to be perfect!

Tips for UCAS Success

Start Early

Note down your username,
password and UCAS number

Use all resources available



Questions?



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Gap years?

UCAS Deadline?

Commuting vs halls?

Joint honours?

Societies/ Clubs?

Subject I haven't studied before?

Study Abroad or Placement?

When should I start?

Spelling and grammar?

Not applying to university?

Clearing & Adjustment?

Student Finance?

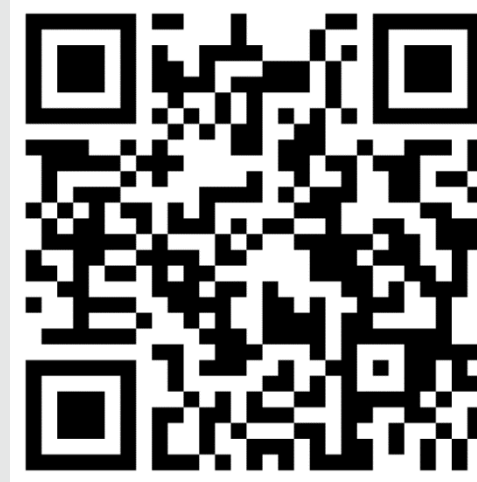
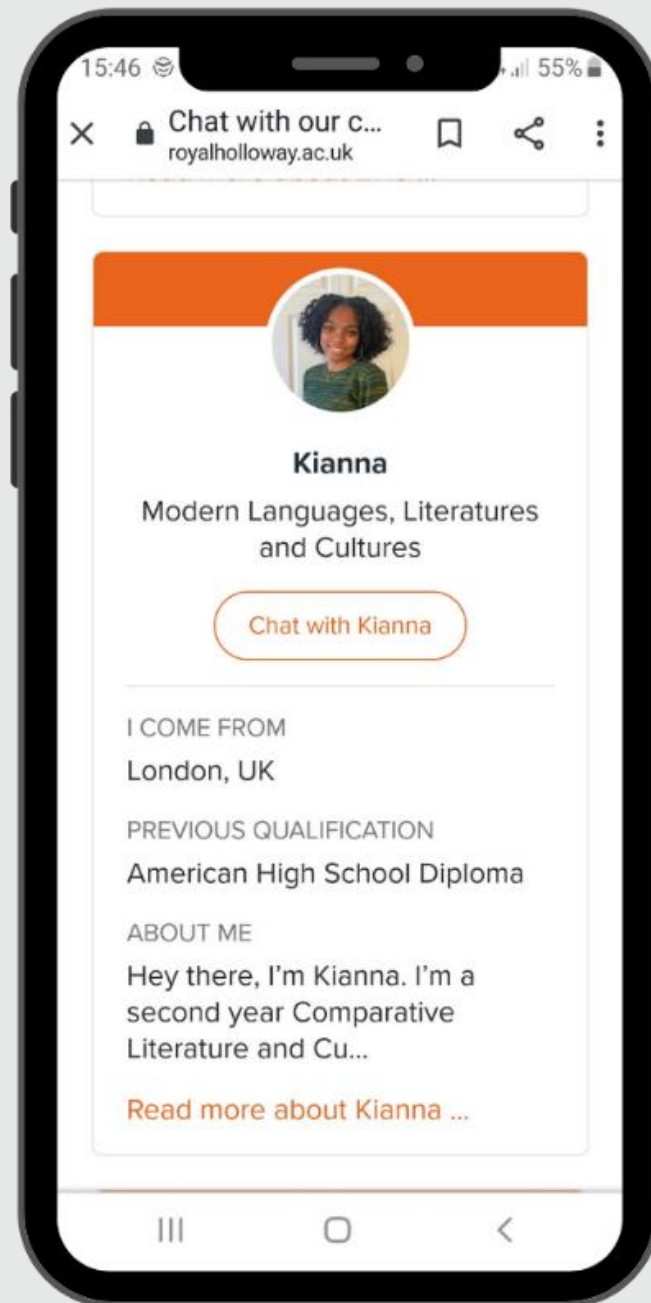
Career plans?

What is a contextual offer?

TOP 25
UK UNIVERSITY
TIME S AND SUNDAY TIMES
GOOD UNIVERSITY GUIDE 2023

**GREAT MINDS
DON'T THINK
ALIKE.**

**WHERE THERE'S A WILL,
THERE'S ROYAL HOLLOWAY**



bit.ly/rhul-chat