

The UCAS Checklist

Your month-by-month guide to a strong university application

June - August: Build your shortlist

- Research 8-10 courses across universities that fit your predicted grades
- Narrow to 5 UCAS choices, balancing ambition with realistic backup options
- Check entry requirements, required subjects and admissions tests for each course
- Book open days or virtual tours for your top 3 choices

August - September: Personal statement

- Draft 1: get your genuine reasons for the subject on the page, don't self-edit yet
- Draft 2: cut anything generic, add specific evidence for every claim you make
- Draft 3: tighten to the character limit, check every sentence earns its place
- Get a teacher or mentor to review for tone, clarity and structure

Mid-October: Early deadline

- Oxford, Cambridge, medicine, dentistry and veterinary science close mid-October
- Submit at least a week early to avoid last-minute technical issues
- Register for any required admissions test (TMUA, LNAT, UCAT, ESAT, etc.)

October - December: Tests and interviews

- Practise admissions tests under timed conditions, at least 3 full papers
- Research each course's interview style and typical question types
- Run at least 2 mock interviews before the real thing
- Prepare 2-3 questions to ask your interviewer

Late January: Main deadline

- All remaining UCAS choices submitted
- Reference and predicted grades confirmed with your school
- Double-check personal details and course codes before submitting

August: Results day

- Know your firm and insurance choices before results morning
- If you miss your firm choice, call the university directly, don't just wait
- If you're eligible for clearing, have a shortlist of backup courses ready

Want 1-to-1 support at every stage? ClassOn mentors help with shortlisting, personal statements, admissions tests and interview practice. classonuk@gmail.com