# UCAS Update 31 October 2019

# Charlie Smith, UCAS



# A lot has changed in recent years...

Demographics – falling 18 year old population to 2020 New regulator – Office for Students in England

Uncertainties over future of HE funding





Renewed focus on widening participation and access



Market diversification, intensifying competition for students – HEPs are under financial pressure



Big data, and advances in technology





Changes to qualifications, new T Levels in England, and apprenticeships





# 2019 statistics so far



ıh

15 October 65,870 applicants 7% increase & highest ever

15 January 561,420 applicants 0.4% increase



30 August 482,770 placed applicants 3.4% decrease 11,990 direct to clearing so far 8% increase



# **Applicant – "decline my place"**

For the first time, in 2019 applicants were able to release themselves into clearing via the decline my place button.



This was available from 5 July to 30 August.



28,852 students used this feature this year.



Was introduced following feedback and consultation with our C&C working group.



Applicant were able to do this in Track.



The process was not actively promoted to applicants.



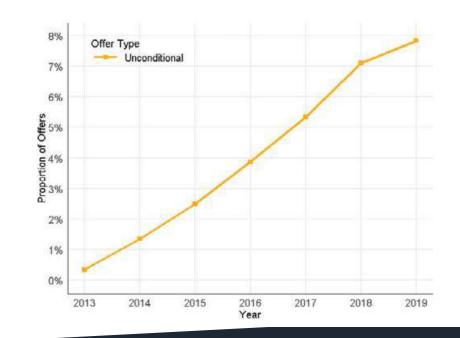
What was your experience?





Read the report here

- The proportion of unconditional offers has increased again.
- 7.8% of offers (75,845) to 18-year old's from ENW were unconditional (was 7.1% in 2018)





# **Good practice resources**

Resources produced **in collaboration** with providers, to support providers, advisers and indirectly, applicants.

<u>UCAS' report</u> on unconditional offers.



# **Unconditional and incentivised offers**

The grade profiles of students receiving these kinds of offers is changing.

Students with top grades are now among the least likely to receive them. In 2014-2015 students predicted AAA were most likely; last year those predicted BBB.

> In 2017, one in five predicted ABB – BBC received an unconditional offer.

**32%** of applicants with a UF offer miss their grades by more than three points...

Compared to 20% of those with a CF offer

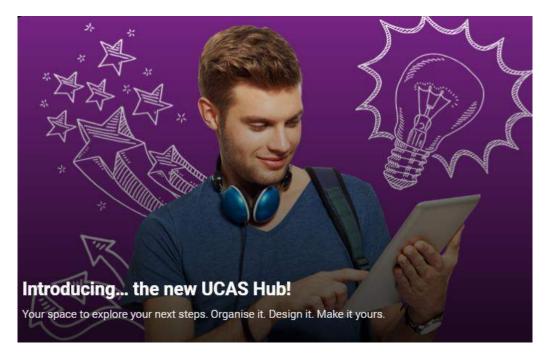


# The UCAS Hub



# New UCAS Hub – released September 2019

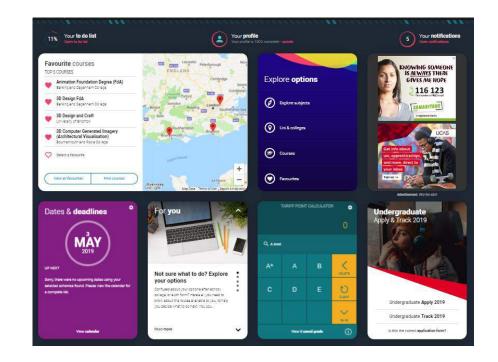
- A central place for students to store all their information and collate their research for HE.
- A personalised experience to tailor information and advice.
- Greater guidance for those students who are unsure what to study.
- A more intuitive and engaging way to find relevant information.





# Why?

- Help students navigate HE options, and make better informed choices.
- Due to the huge diversity we see in society today, it's clear that students need tailored information to help them make the right decision.
- We want to provide an equal service to all prospective HE students, giving them all the available options, to ensure they make the right decision.







Search





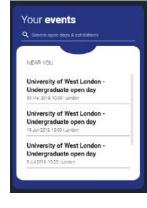
Apply for 2021



**Tariff calculator** 



**Personal Statement Builder** 



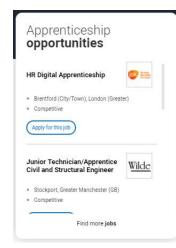
**Events** 



**Dates & Deadlines** 

	the second
Not sure what to do? Explore your options	-
Confused about your options after school, college, or sixth form? Here's all you need to know about the routes available to you, to herp you decide what to do new. You cou	
Read more	~

#### Content

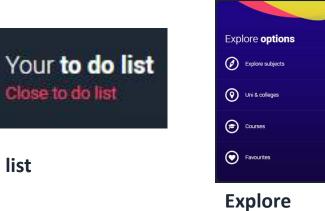


11%

To do list

Close to do list

**Apprenticeships** 



t Your notes Edit notes

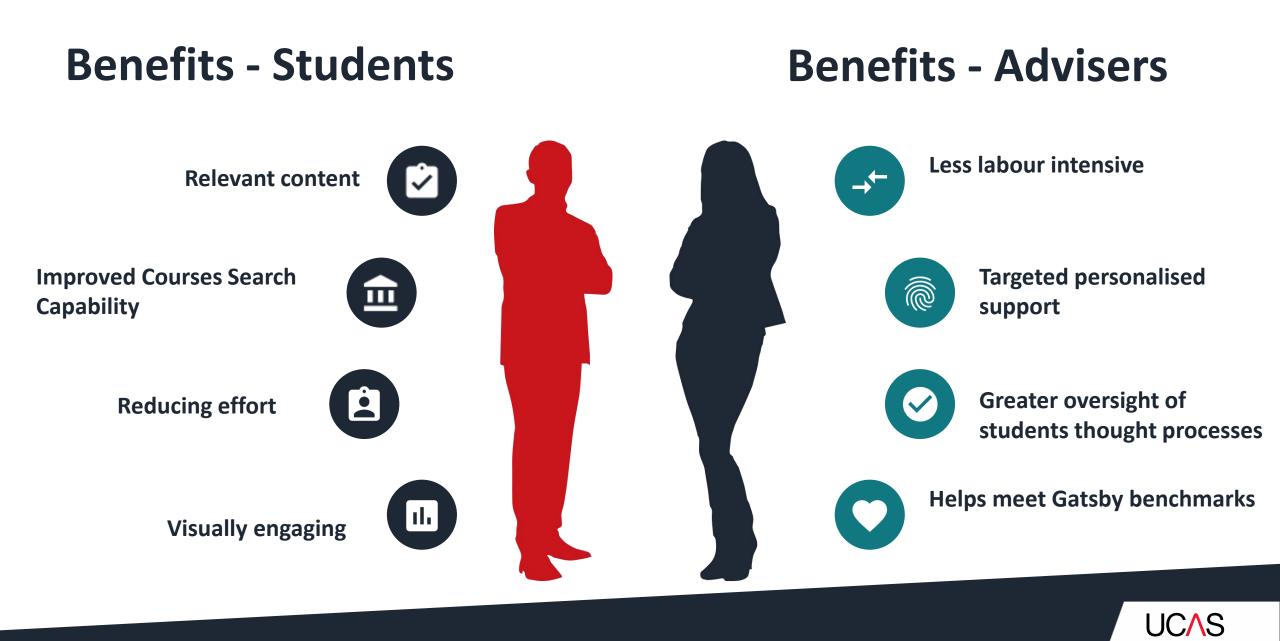
Notes



# How can this be used in schools?

- This can be used in lessons to help students research for university.
- This will be linked to the Gatsby benchmarks.
- Provides students with all the tools they need to explore their post-18 options in one place.
- We will be looking to provide reporting so you can have visibility of what students have done so you know who to chase and what's left to be done.





# INTRODUCING SYNC

# THE UCAS APPLICATION MANAGEMENT SERVICE

# **Benefits for providers**

## Streamlined

# Flexible

## Personalised

Insight



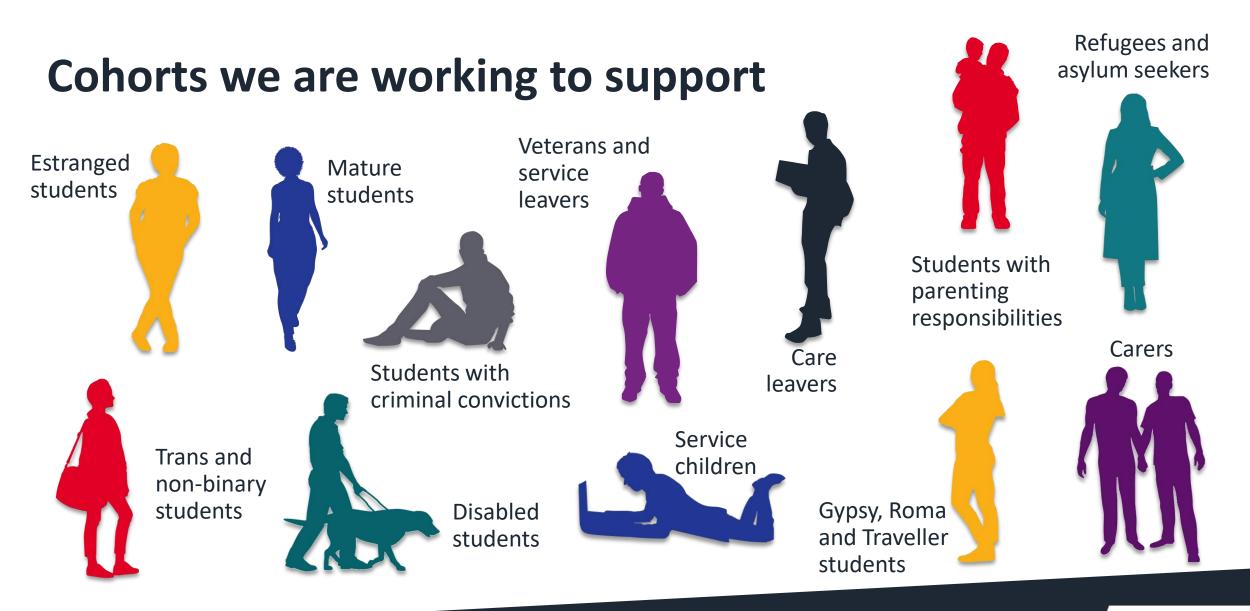
# Fortnightly webinars

Test and training environments

**Relationship Manager** 

Sync Roadshows

Champion for sync





# A new gender question

#### I describe my gender as:

- Man
- Woman
- In another way

You can give more information here (optional, tick all that apply)

- Agender
- Androgyne
- Bigender
- Demi-girl
- Demi-boy
- Genderfluid
- Genderqueer
- Gendervoid
- Non-binary
- Pangender
- None of these



#### For 2020 launch

# Public 'launch' of this question this month.



# The new question in UCAS Sync

Would you consider yourself estranged from your family (i.e. not supported by your family)?

- Yes
- No

An estranged person is someone who no longer has the support of their family due to a breakdown in their relationship which has led to ceased contact. This might mean your biological, step or adoptive parents or wider family members who have been responsible for supporting you in the past.

Tick **Yes** if you feel this description applies to you.

If you select **Yes**, your information will be treated in confidence, to help the university or college provide support for you. It may also be used for monitoring purposes to inform and improve support for future students who are estranged from their family. Find out more about applying to university if you are estranged from your family.

*If you have been in local authority care, you may be considered a 'care leaver'. Find out more about applying to university if you have been in care.* 



# Estranged students

For 2020 launch



# A (brand) new question for UCAS Sync

Do you have a parent or carer that currently serves in the UK Armed Forces, or who has done so in the past?

- Yes
- No

Select Yes if you have a parent who currently serves in the regular UK Armed Forces or as a reservist, or who has done so at any point during the first 25 years of your life.

If you select Yes, your information will be treated in confidence, to help the university or college provide support for you. It may also be used for monitoring purposes to inform and improve support for future students who are from a military family.

<u>Read more about applying to university if you are from an</u> <u>Armed Forces family</u>.

# Service children

For 2020 launch

Provider good practice briefing on the way



# A revised question (and help text)

Have you been in care?

Yes

No

Select Yes if you have ever lived in public care or as a looked-after child, including:

- with foster carers under local authority care;
- in a residential children's home;
- being 'looked after at home' under a supervision order;
- living with friends or relatives in kinship care.

This does not refer to time spent in boarding schools, working in a care or healthcare setting, or if you are or have been a carer yourself - there is a separate question for students who are responsible for the care of another person.

There is no age limit for ticking this box and you can have experienced care for any length of time.

If you select Yes, your information will be treated in confidence, to help the university or college provide support for you. It may also be used for monitoring purposes to inform and improve support for future students who have care experience.

Find out more about applying to university if you have been in care



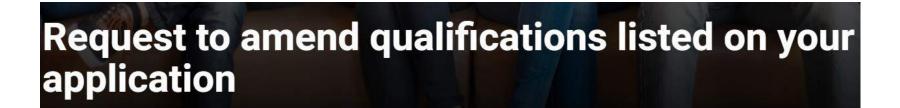


# **Other Updates**



# **Changes to qualifications?**

If a student changes their qualifications after submitting their UCAS application, they can <u>update their details online</u>.



Please use this form to let us know about any changes to your qualifications.

Do not use this form to submit results you've received after sending us your application. Go to our sending exam results page for advice on what to do.

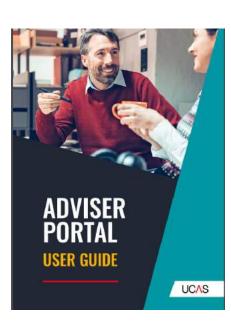
Personal ID (PID) *	
ull name *	

Advisers can also update students' exam details online.



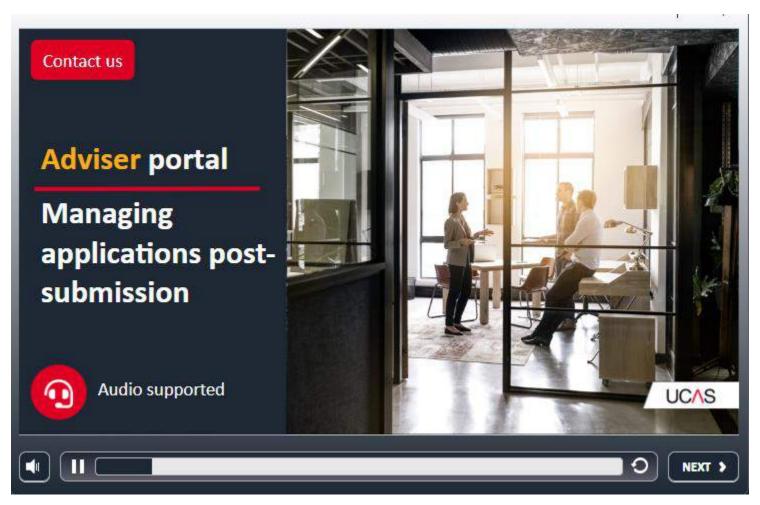
# Modules to support the new portal

- Setting up your centre
- Managing applications pre-submission
- Managing applications postsubmission



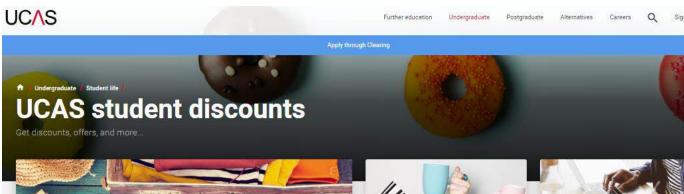
Our <u>professional</u> <u>development platform for</u> <u>advisers</u> gives you access to a series of short digital training modules.

The <u>adviser portal user</u> <u>guide</u> provides a comprehensive overview of the portal.





### Student Discounts – Before you get to Uni







Tech Be tech savvy, and save with the latest deals on top brand laptops, mobile phones, and tablets,



Argos - Bedroom and Bathroom **Offers** 

Make your digs feel like home



Student banking & insurance Keep on top of your money, with offers on banking, insurance, and keeping your bills under control.





**Offers from UCAS** 

Find out more.



Travel and transport Whether you want to explore the world, or just travel to uni, check out the latest offers on everything from package holidays to student travel cards.



Fashion Discover great deals on the latest men and women's fashion - from outfitters to footwear, with deals on top brands.

Argos - Back to Uni Tech

All the Tech you need for Uni



Argos - Kitchen Essentials

Kit out your Kitchen

Food and drink Get deals on fresh food, nutrition, and meals out, with UCAS student discounts - the perfect recipe for saving money.



# **Student mental health and wellbeing**

student minds

We are working closely with **Student Minds** to support students with concerns or queries about mental health and wellbeing.

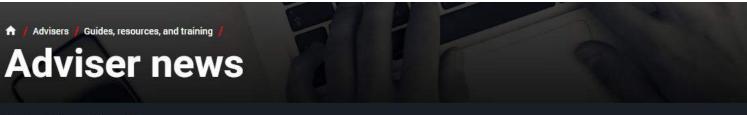
We are also gathering feedback from advisers and providers in our satisfaction survey about:

- what additional services could be provided to support student mental health and wellbeing
- whether UCAS should review how we offer applicants the chance to declare a mental health condition

If you would like to provide feedback, please let us know.



# <u>Sign up to adviser</u> <u>newsletter to keep up</u> to date



#### Explore this section $\Xi$



#### It's personal statement week!

#### 1 Oct 2019

30 September - 5 October - encourage your students to get involved



Get ready for our new and improved services

13 Sep 2019 Make sure you and your students get the full

Applications can now be submitted for courses starting in 2020!

4 Sep 2019



The UCAS Hub – coming soon! 1 Aug 2019 Tailor-made for every student.



### Contact UCAS' Schools Team 0345 123 8001 adviserhelp@ucas.ac.uk



# Thank you c.smith@ucas.ac.uk

