

GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND SUPPORTERS



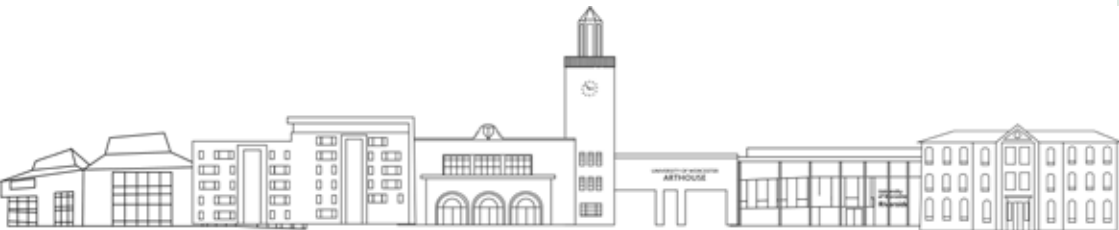
University
of Worcester

For your child, university is the start of a new and exciting phase of their life where they will discover who they are and what they can achieve. As parents and carers, you may be wondering what you can do to best prepare them for this new chapter. You may also be curious about how we care for our students during their time with us and beyond.

At Worcester, there is lots of support available to students to help them settle into university life. We want to work with you to ensure that the transition to university is a positive experience for both you and your child. This guide addresses some key questions you may have about the application process and the University of Worcester.



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for more
updates
here.



Why university?

University is one of several options your child might consider after finishing school. Here are just some of the reasons why university might be the right next step for them.

Increased self-confidence and independence

At university, students are treated as independent adults. Unlike school, there will be no parents' evenings or report cards, and they will be expected to organise their independent study time when not in lectures. This increased responsibility allows students to develop self-sufficiency and academic confidence, and in turn leads to a great sense of personal achievement when that hard work pays off.

Subject interest

Students will be learning about subjects they are passionate about in greater depth.

Job prospects

Having a degree boosts employability. Furthermore, students are presented with many opportunities to develop in-demand transferable skills and network with industry professionals.

Earning potential

On average, graduates tend to earn more than non-graduates.

Career requirements

Some professional career paths, such as teaching or law, require a degree.

Why Worcester?

There are so many reasons why students choose to study here at the University of Worcester. Our university is a truly inclusive place where everyone is valued. It is a place where your child will receive a high-quality education and be supported to unlock their full potential.

Small-group learning

If your child chooses to study with us, they become part of a friendly, small-knit community of learners. At Worcester, we see our students as individuals, not as faces in a large crowd. Our emphasis on small-group learning means your child will quickly get to know their lecturers and classmates in a relaxed, interactive learning environment. This makes it easier for them to ask questions and contribute to discussions, and for our lecturers to offer personalised support to help your child develop.

Employability

We have some of the best employability statistics in the country. **Our courses** are designed with your child's future career in mind. Throughout their studies, they will have access to work placements, volunteering opportunities, and earn-as-you-learn jobs relevant to their field of study.

Location

The historic **City of Worcester** offers all the benefits of a big city but has the friendly, community-driven feel of a small town, where residents and students live together amicably. The city's rich medieval history has resulted in a visually unique high street, from restaurants in 16th-century Tudor houses to coffee shops under railway arches and there's a diverse range of independent shops and businesses. Everything the city has to offer is easily accessible on foot, with our sites all situated close to the scenic River Severn and its riverside paths. Worcester's strong road and rail links, including a bus connection between the City and University, means students can get home easily and regularly, or commute in to attend lectures.

TOP 5 IN THE UK FOR QUALITY EDUCATION

THE University Impact
Rankings 2019-2022

TOP ENGLISH UNIVERSITY FOR SUSTAINED EMPLOYMENT

(excluding specialist
institutions) further
study or both
3 and 5 years after
graduation. Longitudinal
Educational Outcomes
Survey 2022

RATED OUTSTANDING FOR TEACHER TRAINING

Ofsted 2023





Preparing Your Child for University

Many parents and carers are unsure how best to support their child during the application process. We've put together some top tips for you to help them navigate this important decision.

Attend Open Days

Be available for you and your child to visit lots of prospective universities. **Open Days** are fantastic opportunities to find out more about the courses they are interested in, speak to teaching staff and current students, tour campus facilities and assess whether they like the surrounding area. Most universities will publish their Open Day dates for the year in advance, so you can plan ahead on when to go to them.

Prepare them for independent living

Whether your child is moving away or staying at home, independence is a key skill for any university student to have. Tasks like preparing some simple meals or doing a load of laundry are helpful and can be something you show them. You may also want to

develop some budgeting techniques together to make the most of their student loans (more on those later).

Know the deadlines

UCAS have application deadlines, and these can differ depending on what your child wishes to study. Any course at the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, and most courses in Medicine, Veterinary Medicine and Dentistry will have an October deadline. Most other courses will have a January deadline. **Visit the UCAS website** and make a note of the dates relevant to your child's application.

Sixth forms and colleges may also have internal deadlines for students applying to university, often before the Christmas holidays. This is to ensure that each application has been thoroughly checked and that there is sufficient time for tutors to write their references.

The Application Process

1. MAY – AUGUST:

As Year 12 draws to a close, you and your child may want to begin researching and attending University Open Days if you haven't done so already.

3. MID OCTOBER

is the UCAS deadline for courses at Oxford and Cambridge, and for most Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Medicine courses.

5. FEBRUARY: This is typically when students can apply for Student Finance. They may also be invited to attend interviews and Offer Holder Days by their university choices during this period.

7. JULY AND AUGUST: BTEC results come out early summer and A-Level results arrive mid-August. Your child will accept their university offer or enter Clearing via UCAS.

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2. SEPTEMBER –

OCTOBER: As your child settles into Year 13, they will begin drafting their UCAS application and personal statement. They can choose to apply for up to five courses.

4. END OF

JANUARY is the UCAS deadline for most courses.

6. MAY: Your child will confirm their first and insurance choices and sit their final exams. The deadline for Student Finance typically falls at the end of May.

8. SEPTEMBER:

Time to head off to university!

Money Matters

We understand that student debt can be a worry for prospective students and their parents/carers. However, plenty of financial support is available for your child during their studies.

Student Finance

UK students preparing to study at university can apply for a student loan through the **Student Finance website**. Student loans are made up of two parts, explained below.

Tuition Loan

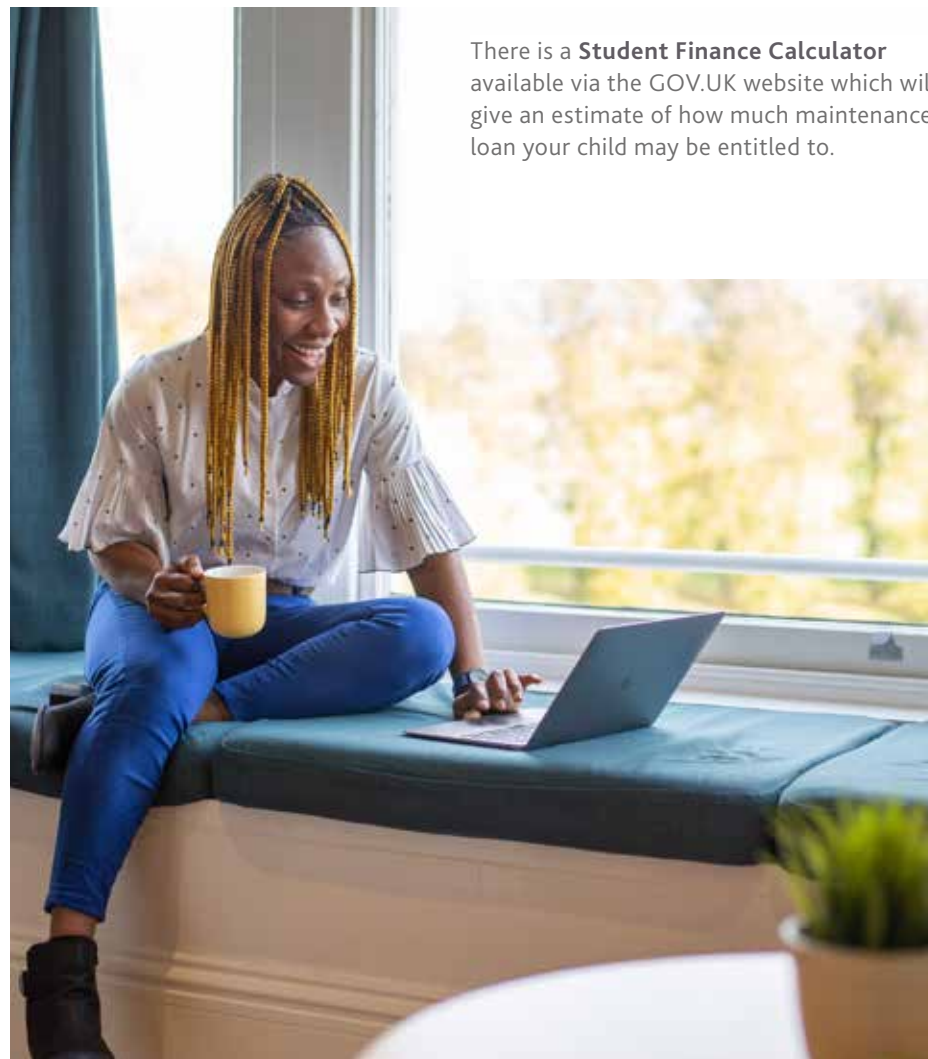
This loan covers the cost of your course. It is paid directly to the university each term, so your child will not have to worry about handling the fees themselves.

Maintenance Loan

This loan can contribute towards some living expenses such as rent, travel expenses, food and course materials. It is paid directly to the student in 3 instalments. The amount of maintenance loan a student is entitled to will vary depending on their household income and whether they are living away from home while they study. This means you will need to provide information on your earnings from the previous tax year to support your child's application.

If you are planning on visiting us for an Open Day, why not pay a visit to our friendly Finance Team in Firstpoint? They can answer any additional questions you may have regarding fees, loans and additional financial support.

There is a **Student Finance Calculator** available via the GOV.UK website which will give an estimate of how much maintenance loan your child may be entitled to.



Additional Funding

Additional Government Funding

Further financial help may be available to your child if they are eligible. Examples of additional funding available include a Disabled Students' Allowance, a Childcare Grant and Healthcare Grants for certain courses.

Access to Learning Fund

This is a **non-repayable grant** administered by the University of Worcester to help eligible students who are experiencing financial difficulties.

Scholarships and Bursaries

We offer a range of **scholarships and bursaries** to eligible students. These currently include an Academic Achievement Scholarship, Sports Scholarships and a Sports Kit Bursary.

On-campus paid work

There are also several paid employment opportunities available for your child through our **Earn as You Learn** scheme, including our Student Ambassador programme.

Finance FAQs

We know you may have questions about how and when the student loan is paid back. The best place to find all the latest information on this is the Government finance website www.gov.uk/get-undergraduate-student-loan





Accommodation

There are no right or wrong decisions when it comes to choosing accommodation. The key is to find an arrangement that suits your child's needs and budget, and that will allow them to feel safe and comfortable during their studies.

See our
Accommodation
webpages
for tours and
further details:
[worchester.ac.uk/
accommodation](http://worchester.ac.uk/accommodation)



There are several factors to think about when helping your child decide where they want to live during their studies. These include:

- Whether or not your child will be moving away from home
- Whether your child wants to live independently or in a shared space
- Whether your child has any accessibility requirements
- Whether your child has any special preferences, such as wanting their own bathroom
- Your budget

Visit us at an Open Day to look around our Halls and speak to the Accommodation Team.

University of Worcester Accommodation

If your child accepts a conditional or unconditional offer at the University of Worcester as their firm choice and applies for accommodation before 31 May, they are guaranteed a place in our university-managed accommodation. Not all universities offer this, so remind your child to familiarise themselves with the accommodation policies of each of their choices.

Your child will be able to apply for university-managed accommodation once they have firmly accepted an offer of a place with us. When they confirm their acceptance, accommodation application details will be sent to them. We offer halls of residence to suit a variety of needs and budgets. Accommodation is allocated on a first-come-first-served basis, so the earlier your child applies, the better chance they have of securing their preferred accommodation option.

Types of Accommodation

Traditional: A series of single study bedrooms. Groups of 8-10 students share a kitchen, two bathrooms and toilet facilities. All rooms have a washbasin.

Standard: Flats with 4-6 study bedrooms. Each flat has a shared kitchen and lounge area, one bathroom, and toilet facilities.

Standard Plus: Flats with 6 study bedrooms. Each flat has a shared kitchen and lounge area, two bathrooms and toilet facilities. All rooms have a washbasin.

En-Suite: Flats with 6-7 study bedrooms. Each flat has a shared kitchen and lounge area. All rooms have en-suite bathrooms with a washbasin, shower and toilet.

En-Suite Extra: Each flat has a large, shared kitchen and lounge area. Flat screen TVs can be found in the communal areas. All rooms have en-suite bathrooms with a washbasin, shower and toilet.

En-Suite Premium: Each flat has a large, shared kitchen and dining area, and a shared cinema room. All rooms have en-suite bathrooms with a washbasin, shower and toilet. Rooms come provided with their own TV and double bed.

24-hour Security

All halls of residence operate 24-hour security and 24-hour emergency maintenance. Contents insurance, cleaning of communal areas, internet access, utility costs and gym membership are all included at no extra cost. Wheelchair-accessible accommodation is also available.

Local Amenities

Key facilities, including a laundrette, shop, cafes, and canteen are located on St John's Campus. There are also several familiar supermarket chains located in the surrounding area, and Worcester City Centre is just a short walk away.

On-Site Parking

There is ample parking available on St John's Campus and across our other sites. If your child is commuting or plans to bring their vehicle to the University, they can purchase a parking permit. If they decide not to purchase a parking permit, we have several pay and display machines available that are a mixture of cash-only and contactless.

Living in Private Accommodation

If your child would prefer to live off-campus, our Accommodation Team can help them find suitable **private housing**. Whether they wish to live independently or in a shared house, there is plenty of student accommodation available within walking distance of the university. We work closely with private landlords and Worcester City Council to ensure all private student accommodation is licensed and in line with current legislation.

Living at Home

If you live within a commutable distance, your child may choose to remain at home for the duration of their studies. Students living at home are still eligible for the Maintenance Loan, although they will receive less money than a student living away from home. For those choosing to live at home, the University of Worcester hosts a variety of commuter-friendly events during Welcome Week and beyond, so there will still be plenty of opportunities for them to meet new friends.

Safety on Campus

At the University of Worcester, we take the **safety** of our students very seriously. If your child is living on campus, you can rest assured that each hall is well-equipped with the necessary fire and smoke detection equipment and alarms. Additionally, all the off-campus accommodation we advertise has been inspected and licensed by Worcester City Council.

The University has a team of Security Officers on site 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. The team deals with emergency and pastoral issues, from locked-out students to first aid. Our Control Room Operators monitor CCTV systems, fire status and alarms across all the University's campuses. We also work closely with West Mercia Police and have a **Police Community Support Officer (PCSO)** of our own within the team. The **Callmy Alert** app is the University's official safety app for students, through which they can easily and immediately get in touch with the security team and PCSOs.



Student Support

The well-being of your child while studying at university is understandably a key consideration for many parents and carers. We have a wide range of services available to help and support your child throughout their time with us. Most of our student support services can be accessed through **firstpoint**, which is based in the Peirson Study and Guidance Centre.

Careers and Employability Service

The **Careers and Employability Service** provide career information and guidance, host employability workshops and promote suitable job vacancies. Graduates can access the service for up to three years after the conclusion of their course, meaning your child will continue to be supported as they take their next steps.

Chaplaincy

Our **Chaplaincy Service** provides spiritual support to all our students, regardless of their faith.

Counselling and Mental Health

Our **Counselling and Mental Health team** provide a free service to all students who need extra support during their studies.

Disability and Dyslexia Service

The **Disability and Dyslexia Service** offers confidential, one-to-one guidance to students with disabilities, learning difficulties and medical conditions. Our advisors can support screening and diagnosis, adjustments, and advisory visits to the University before your child submits their application.

Money Advice

Our **Money Advice team** provides students and prospective students with welfare and financial advice and support. In addition, they administer the Access to Learning Fund, which is available to students experiencing severe financial hardship.

Study Skills, Exams and Assessment Prep

Effective study skills are a vital element in your child achieving academic success in their course. There are a **wide range of resources** available to students to assist them in developing their study skills, including online resources, Academic Liaison Librarians and Academic Writers in Residence.

Personal Academic Tutors

As a new undergraduate student, your child will be appointed a Personal Academic Tutor. This is typically a member of teaching staff from their course who will remain with them throughout their studies.

Clearing

If your child has not received an offer from their UCAS choices or wants to rethink their original choices and apply for something different, then they may choose to apply through Clearing.

In summer, many universities will still have vacancies for courses starting in September. Clearing is the process of finding courses that still have places available and applying for them. Applying through Clearing often takes place over the phone. In this section, we will address some frequently asked questions about the process.

Who can apply in Clearing?

Your child can use Clearing if they:

- Want to go to university but didn't apply before the UCAS deadline
- Did not receive the exam results they were hoping for
- Get better exam results than they were expecting

- Change their mind about their current course choices
- Applied through UCAS but are not holding any offers, or have declined all their offers

When can my child apply through Clearing?

Clearing typically starts in July and ends in October. However, it is important to note that your child will not be able to enter Clearing until they have their exam results. This means that for many students, Clearing begins on A-Level results day.

Find out more about Clearing at www.ucas.com

Key Terminology

Bursary

Money a student might be awarded by a university or their local authority if they meet certain criteria, which does not need to be paid back.

Clearing

A system run by UCAS each year after results day, which matches students with university courses with available places.

Degree

A Higher Education qualification which is taken after A Levels or their equivalent.

Enrolment

The process of registering for a university course.

Firm Choice

Your child's preferred university and course. This will be chosen once they have received all their offers.

Induction

The introductory weeks of a university course, where your child will meet their new lecturers and classmates. University welcome events help new students settle in and meet new friends.

Insurance Choice

Your child's backup university and course. This is there in case your child does not secure their firm choice. This will be chosen once they have received all their offers.

Scholarship

Like bursaries, scholarships are cash sums awarded to students by a university that do not need to be paid back. Most scholarships are awarded for academic achievement.

UCAS

The Universities and Colleges Admissions Service. They are responsible for managing applications to Higher Education courses across the UK.



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