

All of our students are supported through the UCAS (university application) process with dedicated mentors, referees, tutors, workshop sessions and guest speakers. Students who do not opt for the university pathway are then given 1:1 support with applications for apprenticeships and employment. All SF students have access to the school's dedicated careers coordinator and can book an appointment or attend a drop-in session.

UNIFROG

All students will be given a log-in for this unique online platform which BSF subscribes to. You will be able to filter-search courses and institutions; log all your activities, experiences and enrichment opportunities and complete short, online courses to enhance your applications. Your personal statement drafts can also be checked, online, by your UCAS mentor who can leave electronic feedback.

'MDV' & Competitive Course Applications

If you are committed to applying for medicine, dentistry, veterinary science and / or Oxbridge (Oxford and Cambridge colleges) we will be able to offer you additional support for these competitive courses; including tailored personal statement writing, UKCAT and BMAT preparation (and test-sitting) and mock interviews.

UCAS Tariff System Explained

UCAS allocates tariff points to level 3 qualifications (such as 'A' Levels and BTEC courses) which most universities use as part of their entry requirements. Each university course has different entry requirements. Find out more on the UCAS website: ucas.com/ucas/tariff-calculator.

| BTECs | | | | 'A' Levels | |
|---|-------------|--|-------------|------------|-------------|
| BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate (Single Award) | | BTEC Level 3 National Diploma (Double Award) | | 'A' Level | |
| Grade | UCAS Points | Grades | UCAS Points | Grade | UCAS Points |
| D* | 56 | D*D* | 112 | A* | 56 |
| D | 48 | D*D | 104 | A | 48 |
| M | 32 | DD | 96 | B | 40 |
| P | 16 | DM | 80 | C | 32 |
| | | MM | 64 | D | 24 |
| | | MP | 48 | E | 16 |
| | | PP | 32 | | |

The Costs of Higher Education

Prior to 18yrs, all educational courses are free of charge unless you are attending a private institution. After 18yrs the course you study may charge tuition fees with the amount depending on what and where you study. The following table is a only a **guide**. There are many variations (e.g. the Degree Apprenticeship where the tuition fees are paid by the sponsoring company and/or government) and the NHS pay the full tuition fees in years 5 & 6 for medicine and dentistry students.

| Level | Course | Tuition Fee Cost p/a |
|-------|--|----------------------|
| 1- 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GCSE (Grades 9 – 1 / A* - G) BTEC Level 2 Level 1 & Level 2 Diploma (Foundation) | No Cost |
| 3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'A' Levels BTEC Level 3 Level 3 National Certificate & National Diploma | |
| 4 & 5 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foundation Degree (Levels 4 & 5) HNC and HND <i>Higher National Certificate, Higher National Diploma</i> | £3,500 - £14,800 |
| 6 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Degree Apprenticeship | No cost |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> University Undergraduate Degree (BA, BSc, LLB,) | £7,500 - £9,250 |
| 7 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Master's Degree (MA, MSc, MPhil) | £2,340 - £8,790 |
| 8 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doctorate (PhD) | Varies |

[Student Finance \(SFE\)](#)

Student Finance England is the government body to whom you can apply to borrow money to afford your tuition fees and (see below) maintenance costs. Once you have a confirmed university place you can apply online to SFE up to 9 months after your course starts. You can find out approximately what loan you are eligible for at: **www.gov.uk/student-finance-calculator**



[Tuition Fee Loans](#)

Tuition fee loans are paid directly from SFE to your university or college in 3 instalments (25% in the first term, 25% in the second term and 50% in the 3rd term.) You are expected to repay this loan, whether you complete your course or not. Loans also carry variable interest charges. For undergraduate courses, you only start to repay your loan when you are earning more than £21,000 per year and approximately 9% of the difference between this figure and what you actually earn. **www.gov.uk/education/funding-and-finance-for-students**

[Maintenance Loans](#)

Aside from tuition fees, you will also have *maintenance* costs (rent, food, travel, entertainment, course materials etc.) The cost of living can vary greatly depending on where your university is located and whether you live on-campus or off-campus. The *average* living costs for an undergraduate is £12,000.

You can apply for a maintenance loan at the same time as applying for your tuition fee loan. Maintenance loans are 'means tested', so the amount you can receive depends upon your personal and / or family's taxable income. To check your eligibility: **www.gov.uk/student-finance-calculator**

Your maintenance loan for the year is paid directly into your bank account and split into two or three instalments, depending on how many semesters you have in the year.

[Grants, Bursaries & Scholarships](#)

Depending on your circumstances, you may be eligible to apply for grants, bursaries or scholarships (e.g. sports, drama, academic, disability.) Check with individual institutions and also see: **www.oodlesof.info**

[Degree Apprenticeships](#)

Launched in 2015, degree Apprenticeships offer an alternative route through higher education. A university course is offered in partnership with an employer so the course is split between university and the work place – like an apprenticeship but you graduate with a Bachelor's or Master's degree and a job, more-or-less, guaranteed at the end of the course.

Two thirds of the tuition fees are paid by the government and the remaining third by the employer, so you do not pay ANY tuition fees at all! You are still responsible for your maintenance costs but you will be earning an average salary of £15,000 p/a, increasing as your course progresses.

There are currently 26 universities where you can study a Degree Apprenticeship, in all different areas of the UK, and this number is set to increase in future years. Some of the courses available include: Aerospace, engineering, aerospace software development, automotive engineering, construction, defence, digital industries, electronic systems engineering, financial services, life and industrial sciences, nuclear, power engineering, public relations and surveying. On average, you will spend 30 hours a week for 30 weeks a year in the workplace. www.gov.uk/government/publications/higher-and-degree-apprenticeships

The Russell Group

The Russell Group is a catch-all term for a group of universities with a shared focus on research and a reputation for academic achievement: <http://russellgroup.ac.uk/about/our-universities/>

Oxbridge

'Oxbridge' is the collective term for the universities of Oxford and Cambridge which are each made up of colleges (more than 40 at Oxford, more than 30 at Cambridge) and prospective students choose one particular college to apply to at one university. www.ox.ac.uk www.cam.ac.uk

Deferred Entry

Deferring means applying for a course and then taking a year out before starting university – for example, you could apply in September 2018 to start university in September 2020. Usually, you can only defer your entry by one year. **Some universities and colleges do not allow deferred entry for some subjects, such as medicine. Ensure** you check with each university or college that they are happy to consider an application for deferred entry – they may not be offering the course the following year, they could be changing it, or may prefer students not to have a gap in studying before they start their degree.

You will still need to meet the conditions of any offers in the year that you apply (unless the university, college, or conservatoire tells you otherwise). **It's very important** that you check the subjects, courses, and universities/colleges you're applying to are open to applications for deferred entry, otherwise you could end up wasting one of your choices. Check the university or college website, read the course information carefully, and/or contact their admissions team to find out if your chosen subject/course will not accept deferrals.

Clearing

The ideas with 'Clearing' is to identify courses with vacancies that interest you and contact the course provider directly to see if they will offer you a place.

You can use the UCAS Clearing system if:

- You did not receive any offers (or none you wanted and declined them)
- You didn't meet the conditions of your offer (e.g. grade requirements)
- You applied *after* 30th June

Clearing is available between July and September every year, with the busiest period around 'A' Level results day. Advice will be available from staff if Clearing is necessary and you can also visit:

<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/results-confirmation-and-clearing/no-offers-learn-how-clearing-works>



UK UNIVERSITIES

