



# Education Jargon Buster

## A Levels

Academic qualifications often studied straight after GCSEs at a sixth form or college, but can be studied at any age at some FE colleges.

## Adjustment

A service available via UCAS on results day for those students who have gained higher results than expected. Adjustment students to change the institution and/or course that they have applied for.

## APL

Accreditation of Prior Learning - A process used by some education providers to take into account previous study to allow entry or advanced entry onto a course.

## Apprenticeships

Offer paid positions in multiple sectors and at various levels. Apprenticeships combine on the job training with time spent at college or university.

## BA

Batchelor of Arts - An undergraduate degree awarded to those studying an arts or humanities degree.

## BSc

Batchelor of Science - An undergraduate degree awarded to those studying a scientific degree.

## Bursary

a non- repayable monetary award made to students who fulfil certain criteria as set by the government or a college or university.

## Child Care Grant

Monetary support that may be available to help with childcare costs if students are studying full time and have children under the age of 15, or under the age of 17 if they have Special Educational Needs.

## Access Course

Courses designed to help adult learners return to education. They can range in length from a few weeks to a year, (longer if studied part - time) and usually help students access higher education.

## Adult Dependents Grant

Monetary support that may be available to full time students if they have an adult who depends on them financially.

## APEL

Accreditation of Prior Experience and Learning - A process used by some education providers to take into account previous experience to allow entry or advanced entry onto a course.

## Assessment

The method of evaluation and/or grading used on a course. For example, coursework, exams, presentations and portfolios.

## BMAT

Biomedical Admissions Test - A pre entry test used by some universities for medical and health related courses.

## BTEC

Business and Technology Education Council - Vocational qualifications available in a range of subjects and levels.

## Campus

The buildings and grounds where a university or college is based.

## Clearing

A service that usually opens on A Level results day whereby students without a place at a higher education institution can apply for available places on the course of their choice.

### Combined Honours

An undergraduate degree that allows you to study more than one subject.

### Deferral

When a student carries an offer of a place on a course over to the next academic year.

### DSA

Disabled Student allowance - Monetary support given to students who may need additional support throughout their studies due to a disability or long term health condition.

### FE

Further Education refers to post 16 qualifications, usually at Level 3, (eg Access to HE Diploma, A Levels, BTEC etc.)

### Foundation Degree

A higher education qualification combining academic and work-based learning. A foundation degree equated to the first 2 years of an undergraduate degree and can usually be topped up to a full honours degree with further study.

### GCSE

General Certificate of Secondary Education. Usually taken at the end of a student's secondary education in year 11 but can also be studied at a later date, often at an FE college.

### Halls

A term often given to university accommodation.

### HNC

Higher National Certificate - Level 4 qualifications, often in vocational subjects. HNCs usually take 1 year full time or 2 years part time to complete and can allow the student to move onto a HND or the second year of a relevant undergraduate degree course.

### Conditional Offer

An offer of a place on a degree course, providing the student meets certain criteria before the start of their programme.

### Degree

Qualifications in a huge range of subjects that usually take 3 years full time to complete, (longer if studied part time.) Completion will give students a Level 6 qualification.

### Entry Requirements

The minimum result, grade or qualification needed to be accepted onto a course.

### Firm Choice

A student's first choice higher education institution. Usually the university or college they will attend to study their degree if they meet the conditions of their offer.

### Fresher

An informal term given to first year university students.

### Graduate

An Individual who has been awarded a degree from a Higher Education provider.

### HE

Higher Education - Qualifications taken at Level 4 or above.

### HND

Higher National Diploma - Level 5 qualifications, often in vocational subjects. HNDs usually take 2 years to complete full time, (longer if part time) and can allow students to move onto the third year of an undergraduate degree.

### Hons

Shows a level of attainment at degree level, usually attached to a BA or BSC.

### Insurance Choice

A student's second choice at Higher Education. An insurance choice will usually ask for slightly lower attainment. The student may attend their insurance choice institution if they do not meet their conditional offer at their firm choice institution.

### Lecture

An educational talk usually delivered to a large audience.

### Maintenance Loan

Low interest loans that allow students to borrow money from Student Finance England to help with living costs whilst studying at Higher Education level.

### Parent's Learning Allowance

Monetary support that may be available for full time students who have children who are financially dependent on them.

### Prospectus

A booklet provided by education providers to advertise their institution and courses. Prospectuses can also be available online.

### Tuition Fee

The money it costs you every year to study your degree course.

### Scholarships

Non-repayable monetary awards awarded to students normally to reward excellence or support lower income families.

### IELTS

An English Language qualification often taken by overseas students to show language competence before starting a degree.

### Joint Honours

An undergraduate degree course that allows students to study 2 different subjects.

### Levels

A term used to quantify the difficulty of qualifications. For example, GCSEs and Functional Skills are L2, Access to HE Diplomas and A Levels are L3, Years 1-3 of an undergraduate degree are levels 4 - 6 respectively and postgraduate level is level 7+.

### Module

A period of study on a particular topic. Each year of a degree will usually be made up of a number of modules.

### Postgraduate

The level of study after an undergraduate degree.

### Sandwich Year

A year taken out of a degree course to work in a relevant industry or study abroad.

### Tuition Fee Loans

Low interest loans available to cover the cost of Tuition fees. Paid directly to the Higher Education Institution.

### Semester

Describes a period of study. For example, universities usually split their academic year into 2 semesters.

**Students Union**  
(SU) A national group that represents students and students interests.

**Term**  
A period of teaching time in an academic year.

**UCAS Extra**  
An additional period of time to apply for courses if a student has not applied or been offered a place before the UCAS deadline.

**UCAS Track**  
An online service that allows students to track the status of their Higher Education applications.

**Unconditional Offer**  
An offer of a place on a degree course with no conditions attached.

**Vocational Qualifications**  
Courses that relate to a particular sector or area of work.

**SFE**  
Student Finance England -the government body that manage applications for financial support for students. For example Tuition Fee Loans and Maintenance Loans.

**UCAS**  
Universities and Colleges Admissions Service – the service students use to apply to most full time Higher Education courses in the UK.

**UCAS Tariff**  
A system used by Higher Education institutions to translate qualifications into a numerical value. UCAS tariff points will often form the basis of a conditional offer for students.

**UKCAT**  
The UK Clinical Aptitude Test – an admissions test used by some medical and dental schools in the UK.

**Undergraduate**  
A student taking a degree level course. Once they have completed their course they will be known as a graduate.

# Contact Us

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