

# Why Higher Education & Choosing Your Course

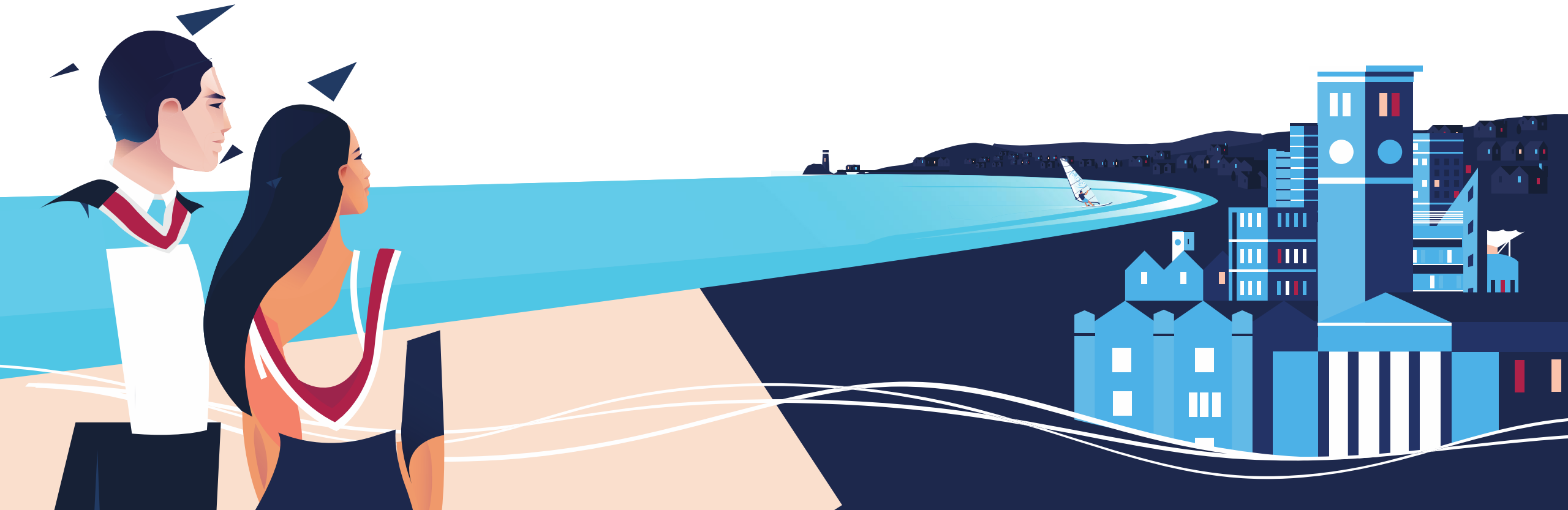
[Study@Swansea.ac.uk](mailto:Study@Swansea.ac.uk)

[swansea.ac.uk](http://swansea.ac.uk)



# Topics

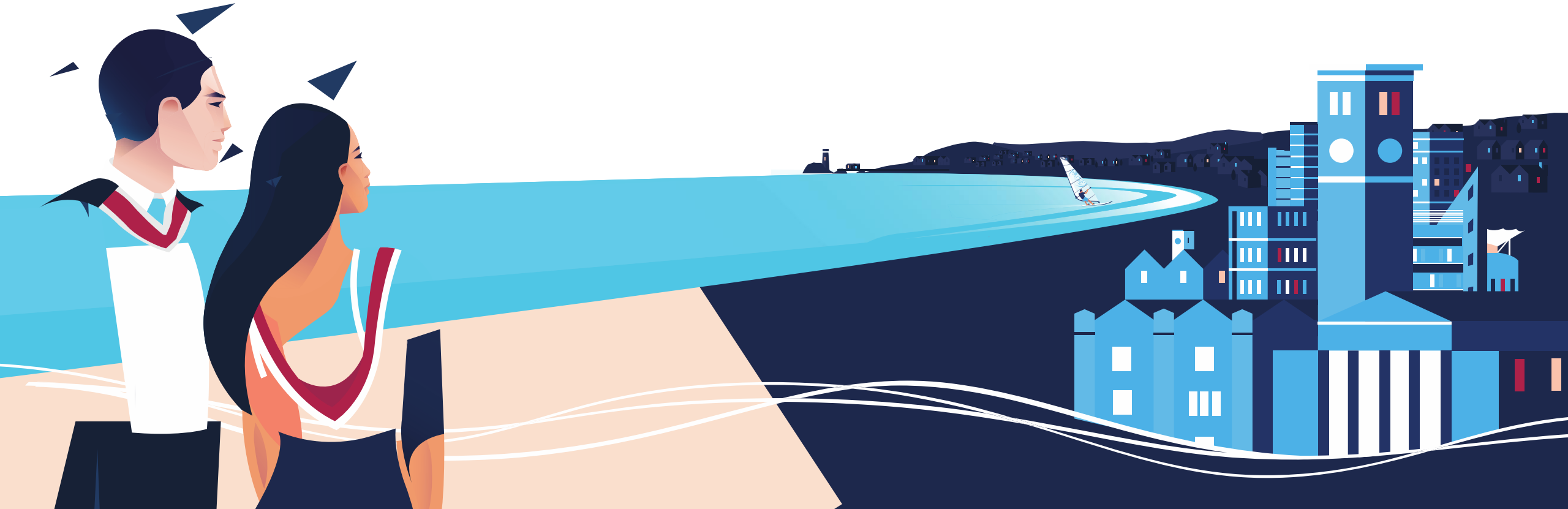
- Why go to university?
- Introduction to UCAS
- Choosing what and where to study
- Swansea University
- Student life
- Next steps



# Swansea University



- UK's first **campus** university – opened in 1920
- Approximately 24,000 students from across the world
- Two campuses on the beach close to the city centre







WITH TWO GREEN CAMPUSES ON  
THE EDGE OF ONE VIBRANT CITY,

# THIS IS YOUR FIRST STEP TO A *Bright future*



**SWANSEA IS:**  
4hrs from Manchester  
3hrs from Birmingham and London  
2hrs from Bath and Bristol  
1 hr from Cardiff

Cardiff and Bristol airports are easy to get to from Swansea too!

## **GOWER PENINSULA**

Blue flag beaches – from chilled out coves, perfect for revision, to beach barbecue hotspots. Gower is the ideal playground for outdoor adventures.

## **MUMBLES**

Bike, jog or just amble along the promenade from Singleton Park all the way to this quirky, quaint seaside village... and the best ice creams in town.

## **SINGLETON PARK CAMPUS AND BAY CAMPUS**

Scientists and social scientists, artists and linguists, aspiring doctors and inspiring engineers; no matter which campus you're based on you can experience the great student facilities at the Bay and at Singleton Park.

## **MARINA & MARITIME QUARTER**

When the sea calls, there's nowhere better. Come here for big night out bars and even bigger 'morning after' breakfasts.

# Why go to university?



Pursue a  
passion



Make lifelong  
friends from  
all around  
the world

UK TOP  
**5** GRADUATE  
PROSPECTS

(Guardian University League Table 2020)

Improve career  
prospects



Gain  
independence



Develop  
Key skills



# What are key skills?

Graduates can be more attractive to potential employers. As a student you will develop a range of transferable skills, such as:

 LEADERSHIP

 PROBLEM SOLVING

 COMMITMENT

 TIME MANAGEMENT

 TEAMWORK

 INTERPERSONAL

 COMMUNICATION

 CRITICAL THINKING

 MOTIVATION

 USING INITIATIVE

 ORGANISATIONAL

These can prove to be beneficial when it comes to applying for jobs and attending interviews.





# Your choices

- There are over **50,000 undergraduate** courses in the UK – so it is vital that you do your research
  - Use the **UCAS search tool** e.g –
    - Law** – 1517 courses from 144 providers
    - Psychology** – 1746 courses from 161 providers
  - Even if you are not sure if you want to go to university, apply through UCAS to give yourself more opportunities
  - You can make up to **5 choices**. You can apply for more than one course at the same institution
- 

# The variety of courses available at universities are endless...

- Engineering Aerospace
- Pharmacy
- Audiology
- Egyptology
- Paramedic Science
- Medicine
- Computer Science
- Mental Health Nursing
- Criminology
- Marine Biology
- Politics
- Biochemistry
- English Lang & Lit
- Media & Communications
- Psychology
- Geography
- Education
- Chemistry
- Sports & Exercise Science
- Zoology
- Physics

# What to consider?

- You will spend 1 to 5 years immersed in the subject area
- You will perform better if you are excited by and have an aptitude for subject
- What assessment suits you? Exams, coursework, presentations
- Tuition fees to pay, so make sure you make the right choice!
- Types of degree
- Lots of things to consider!



But your choice doesn't have to define your future....

Do you know what degrees these famous faces have studied?



Jason Mohammad  
Radio & Television Presenter

**Welsh & Politics**



Romelu Lukaku  
Football Pro

**Public Relations and Tourism**



Chris Martin  
Coldplay Frontman

**Greek & Latin**



Rebel Wilson  
Actress

**Law**



Alun Wyn Jones  
Captain of Welsh Rugby Team

**Law**



Lisa Kudrow  
Actress

**Biology**

# Finding Courses

- UCAS Course Search
- Prospectuses
- University Websites
- HE Fairs
- WhatUni.com
- Discoveruni.gov.uk
- UCAS TV - How to guides
- League Tables
- Social Media
- UCAS Connect
- UCAS Social Media

UCAS



# What type of course?



## Single Honours

One main subject, with optional modules throughout each year.



## Joint or Combined Honours

Studying two subjects, which are split 50:50 throughout your degree, giving you a broader knowledge of two different areas.



## Year Abroad or Year in Industry

An opportunity to gain real-world experience, making you an attractive candidate for jobs after graduating.



## Integrated Masters

A four-year degree that extends your studies to Master's level.



## Foundation Year

An opportunity to gain real-world experience, making you an attractive candidate for jobs after graduating.

# Modes of Study

Lecture

Seminar

Tutorial

Practical

Independent  
Study



# How much work is involved in gaining a degree?

- This depends entirely on the subject that you're studying but not all of your time will be taken up by lectures, seminars, etc
- A big part of your time at university involves researching independently, completing reading, undertaking group work and projects
- You may think that you have a quiet timetable but it's important to allow time for independent study





# Which university to choose?

## Think about...

- Distance from home
- Campus or non-campus university?
- Traditional or modern University
- Family and friends – accessibility
- Teaching facilities
- Support services
- Sporting facilities
- Finance – bursaries/scholarships
- Accommodation options
- Size/student number/class sizes/contact time
- Local area – what is there to do?






# Find your Accommodation

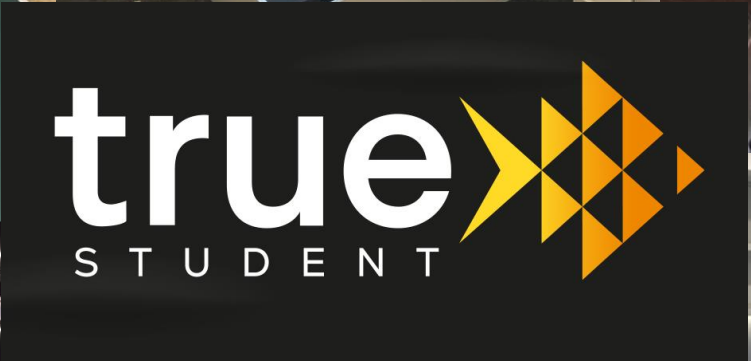
Most first year students tend to live in university halls of residence.

*It's your choice*

When the time comes, you can apply for:

-  Self-catered or pre-paid dining in certain residences
-  A Single Ensuite, Twin Room, Studio Apartment or Shared Flat
-  Flexible ways to pay – online, by direct debit or one-off







SEREN



# What can help you decide?

## Look at the numbers

[university.which.co.uk/student-budget-calculator](https://university.which.co.uk/student-budget-calculator)

## Attend open days and visit universities

- What's the journey like?
- Campus/ How close to the city centre?
- Clubs and societies
- Academic activities
- Extracurricular activities
- Accommodation



## Make your own pros and cons list

This can help you get an idea of which option will best suit you so that you can get the most out of the experience.

## Do your research

Distance, area, course/department information.

**Take your time and think about what's important to you**



Go Global



Most universities offer the chance to study abroad as part of your degree



At Swansea University, all of our courses offer the opportunity to study abroad as well as the chance to:



Volunteer Abroad



Research/Field Trips Overseas



Overseas Placements



Partner Institutions

# Scholarships and Bursaries

**£3,000**

**EXCELLENCE SCHOLARSHIPS**

for AAA at A Level\*

UP TO

**£1,000**

**SPORTING**

scholarship package\*

**£2,000**

**MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS**

for AAB at A Level\*

- Universities offer a range of extra financial support for students based on either grades or lower income backgrounds
- Make sure you research what scholarships and bursaries are available at the institutions you're interested in
- Often these are only published on universities' websites/prospectuses

\*Terms and conditions apply, please visit: [swansea.ac.uk/undergraduate/scholarships](http://swansea.ac.uk/undergraduate/scholarships)



# Student Life

- Clubs, societies & sports
- Campus facilities
- Social events
- Health and wellbeing





# Think sport...

## Think Swansea



Home to world-class facilities

Become a Sport Swansea member and join any of the university sports teams – from American Football to Ultimate Frisbee.

Universities compete against each other in the BUCS

Welsh Varsity – Swansea v Cardiff is the biggest student sports event in Wales.

Swansea is home to real rugby and championship football





# Swansea

BY NIGHT



From campus to Mumbles, Wind Street to Uplands, we have a great selection of bars and clubs to keep you entertained.



**STUDENT HUT**

**9<sup>TH</sup> IN THE UK**  
**STUDENT CITIES**  
**FOR NIGHTLIFE 2020**

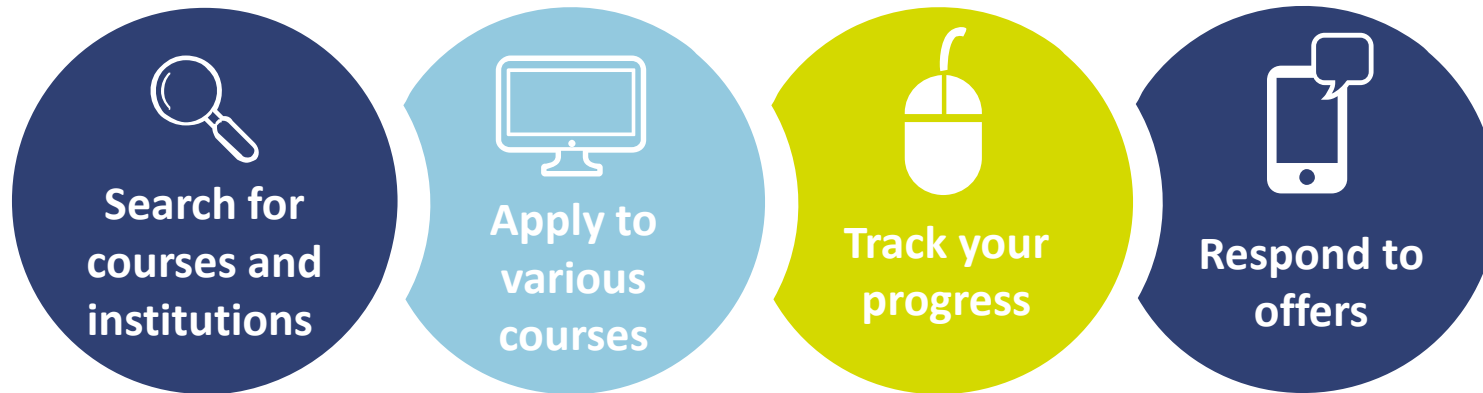




# What is UCAS?

UCAS is the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service. They are the organisation responsible for processing applications to UK universities for undergraduate courses. It is a resource for parents, advisers, teachers as well as students.

## You use UCAS to:




# How do you apply?

- All of your application is done online via the UCAS website.
- You will need to register with UCAS at [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com) and your application is on your **UCAS Hub Dashboard**
- Select 'Sign In' and then 'Register'
- To start an undergraduate application, select the year you want to start your studies
- – usually 2025 ENTRY and select 'Undergraduate'



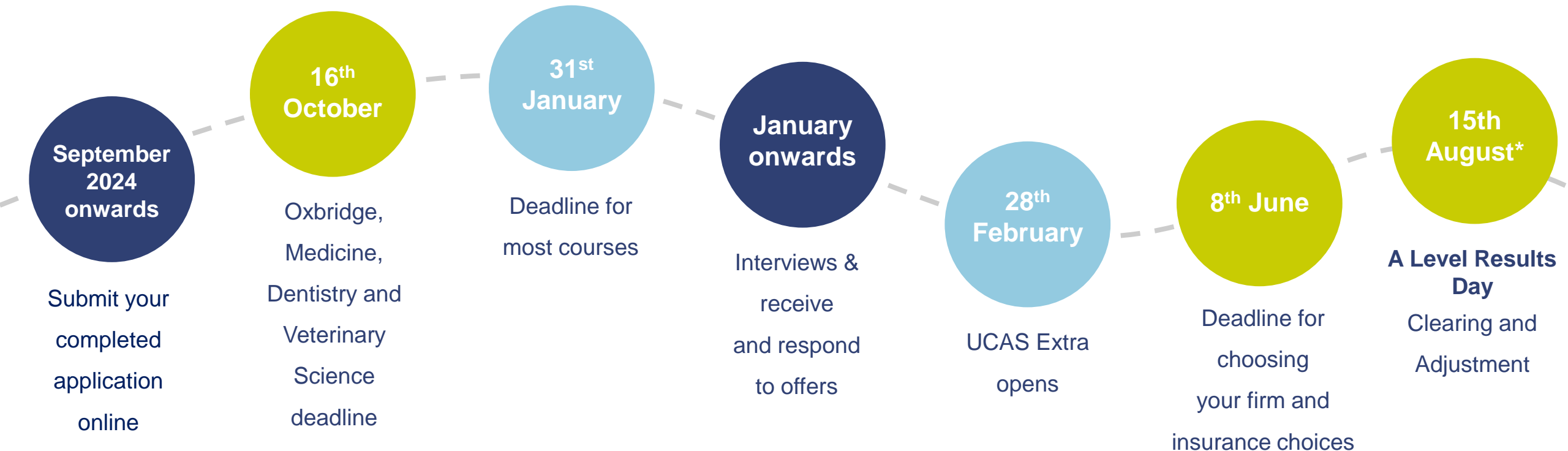
# UCAS Hub

UCAS Hub lets you organise everything including your application – in one place. Explore your options, favoriting subjects, and using the handy tools.

1. Explore tool – search for subjects and courses.
  2. Notepad – So you can keep all thoughts together.
  3. Apprenticeship finder – vacancies, locally and nationally
  4. Personal Statement Builder – helps you structure your writing and introduce yourself.
  5. Tariff Calculator – tally up your UCAS points to see what requirements you meet.
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# Deadlines – 2025 Entry

Spring/Summer 2023 – Research course/university choices and attend open days!



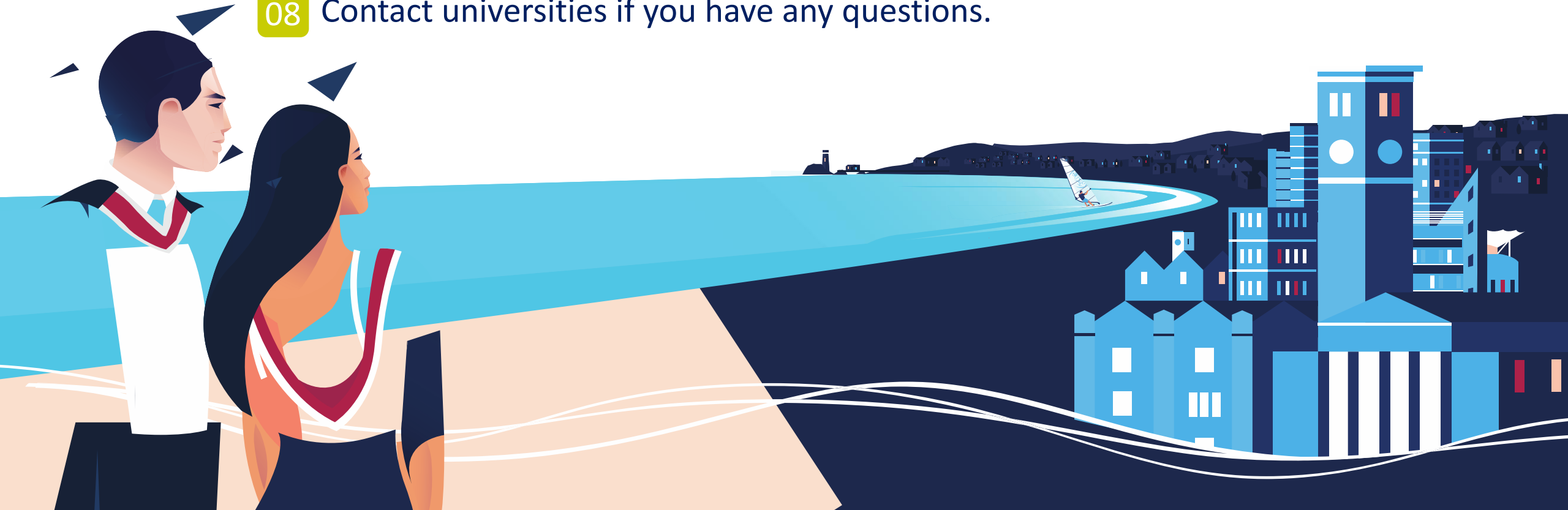


# Next steps

- 01 Research courses online at **UCAS.com**
- 02 Familiarise yourself with different university websites
- 03 Follow universities on social media to find out what's going on
- 04 Book onto open days and allow plenty of time to visit different universities



- 05 Chat to friends, family, teachers, etc about your options
- 06 Attend HE conventions prepared with questions about different universities and courses
- 07 Think about what you would like to do after university – it may seem far away but it will go so quickly
- 08 Contact universities if you have any questions.



# REASONS TO STUDY AT *Swansea University*



**93%** OF GRADUATES ARE IN EMPLOYMENT,  
STUDY AND/OR OTHER ACTIVITIES  
SUCH AS TRAVELLING

15 MONTHS AFTER LEAVING SWANSEA UNIVERSITY

(HESA 2022)

**The  
Guardian**  
GUARDIAN UNIVERSITY GUIDE 2023

15<sup>TH</sup> IN THE UK  
COURSE  
SATISFACTION

# Come Visit Us

Discover Swansea University at one of our  
**On-Campus Open Days:**

**23<sup>rd</sup> March 2024**  
**15<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

<https://www.swansea.ac.uk/open-days/>

