

Supporting the Applicant's Journey



Navigating UCAS and the application process

Understanding offers, results and clearing

Student Finance

Support you can offer as a parent



What is UCAS?

Universities and Colleges Admissions Service

- **Official body** that handles applications to university
- The **online portal** a student makes an application through
 - Also the directory listing all universities and courses

UCAS



Types of university course

Undergraduate Degree

Foundation Year

Foundation Degree

Degree Apprenticeship

Professional Placement Year

BA? BSc?

Just indicate the field of study, eg:

- Bachelor of Arts (BA)
- Bachelor of Science (BSc)
- Bachelor of Engineering (BEng)
- Bachelor of Laws (LLB)

Bachelor?

- Related to old language to do with apprentice knights, *bacca lauri* laurel wreaths recognising academic achievement etc...



Choosing the right course

- Over **50,000** different courses at university level
- You might have a clear idea or need some inspiration...
- **Think about:**
 - What do you enjoy now?
 - What do you dislike now?
 - What do you want to do more of?
 - What are you most excited for in your subject area?
 - What have you not had the opportunity to do at school?
 - Which modules have you enjoyed?
 - Do you want a broad set of options?
 - Do you have a clear career goal?

Choosing courses

- ✓ Encourage discussion about interests and priorities
- ✓ Use UCAS to see what is out there



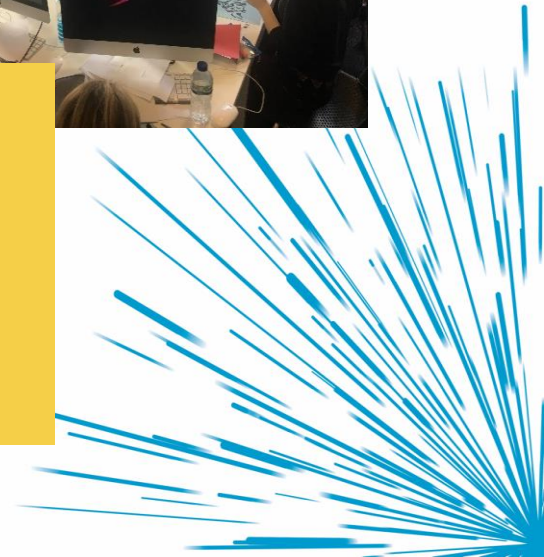
Choosing the right course

University Open Days

- Open Days helpful to find the right university and course
- Mainly between September and Christmas of Y13
- Book in advance
- School/College may be able to support an applicant to travel
- Think together about what you want to find out before you go

Open Days

- ✓ Aim to go to 2-3 if possible
- ✓ Have your own questions (they will be different!)
- ✓ Encourage applicants to explore and ask questions

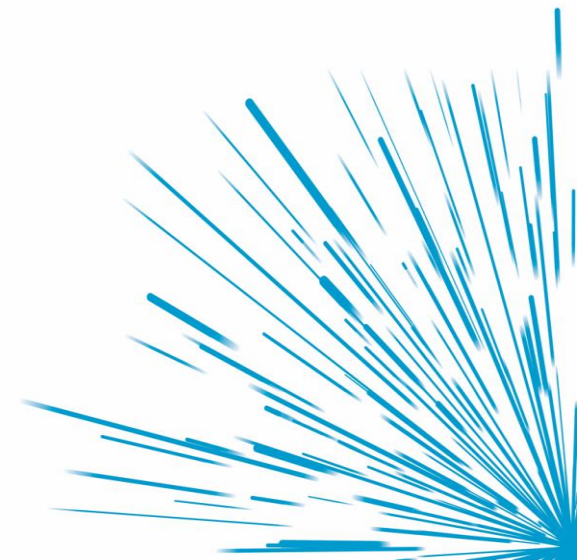


Making an application

- Applicants will **register** on UCAS, create a **profile** and enter their **personal details**
- They will need to write a **Personal Statement**
 - Describes interests and can effect the offers
 - Write 1 statement – is sent to all 5 possible choices
- School will set a deadline for completion
 - Hit this date! Teachers need time to check for errors

Personal Statement

- ✓ Ensure UCAS profile set up
- ✓ Write it even if undecided
- ✓ Help with proofreading
- ✓ Encourage to complete by the deadline



Offers and making choices

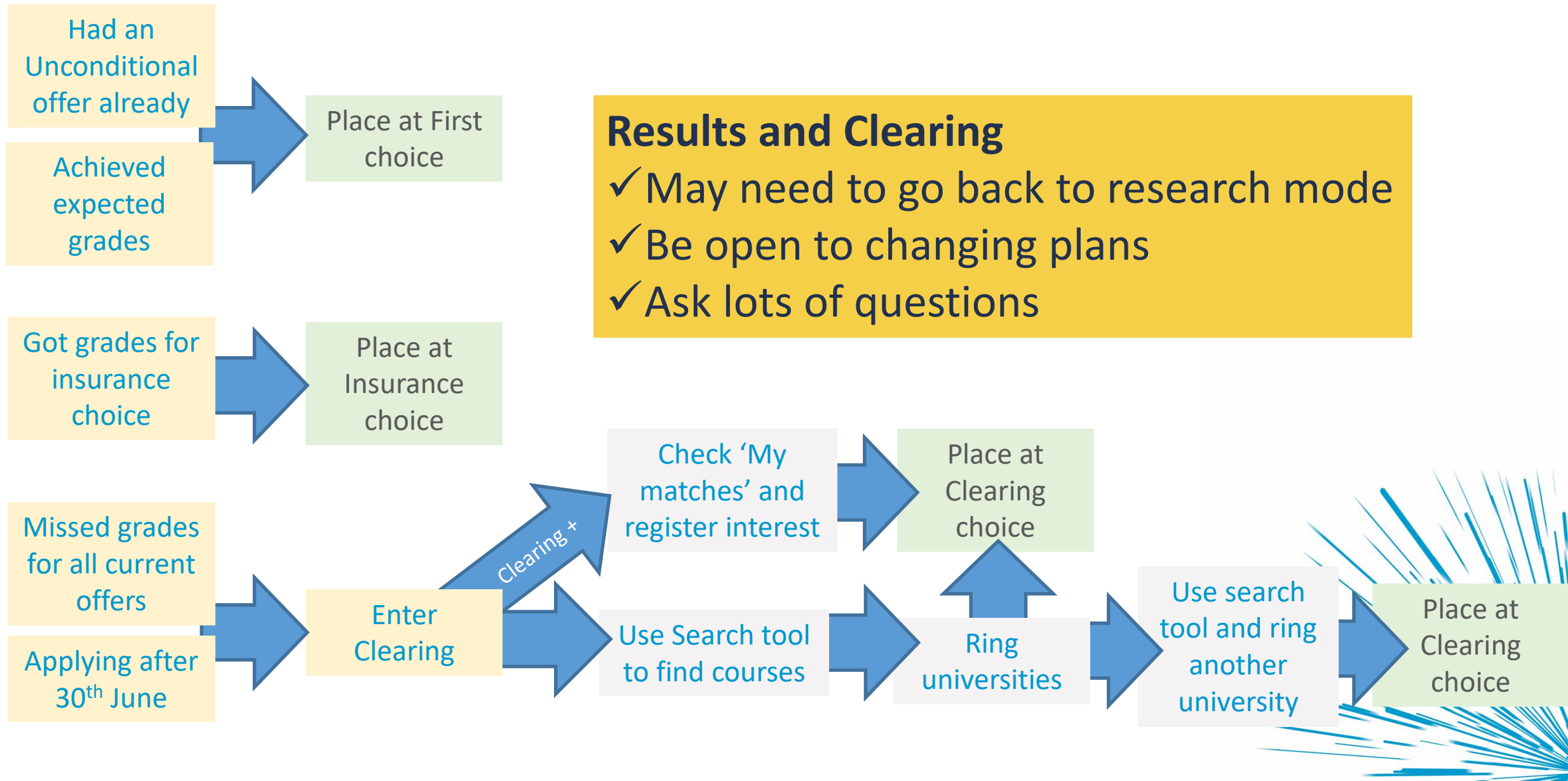
- Offer **decisions** come back to you from the universities
 - Unconditional – Got a place
 - Conditional – Will have a place *if* you achieve certain grades
 - Decline – No place offered
- From offers received, students pick their **Firm** and **Insurance** choice (1st and 2nd)

Offers

- ✓ Need to respond by deadline
- ✓ Rejections can be hard
- ✓ Encourage focus on exams regardless



Flow chart – results to a place at university



Applying for Student Finance

- Apply online - will be prompted by your school around February
- Will need proof of ID
- Asks about household income
 - Part of the Student Loan is 'means tested'
(you might be entitled to more money depending on how much your parents earn)

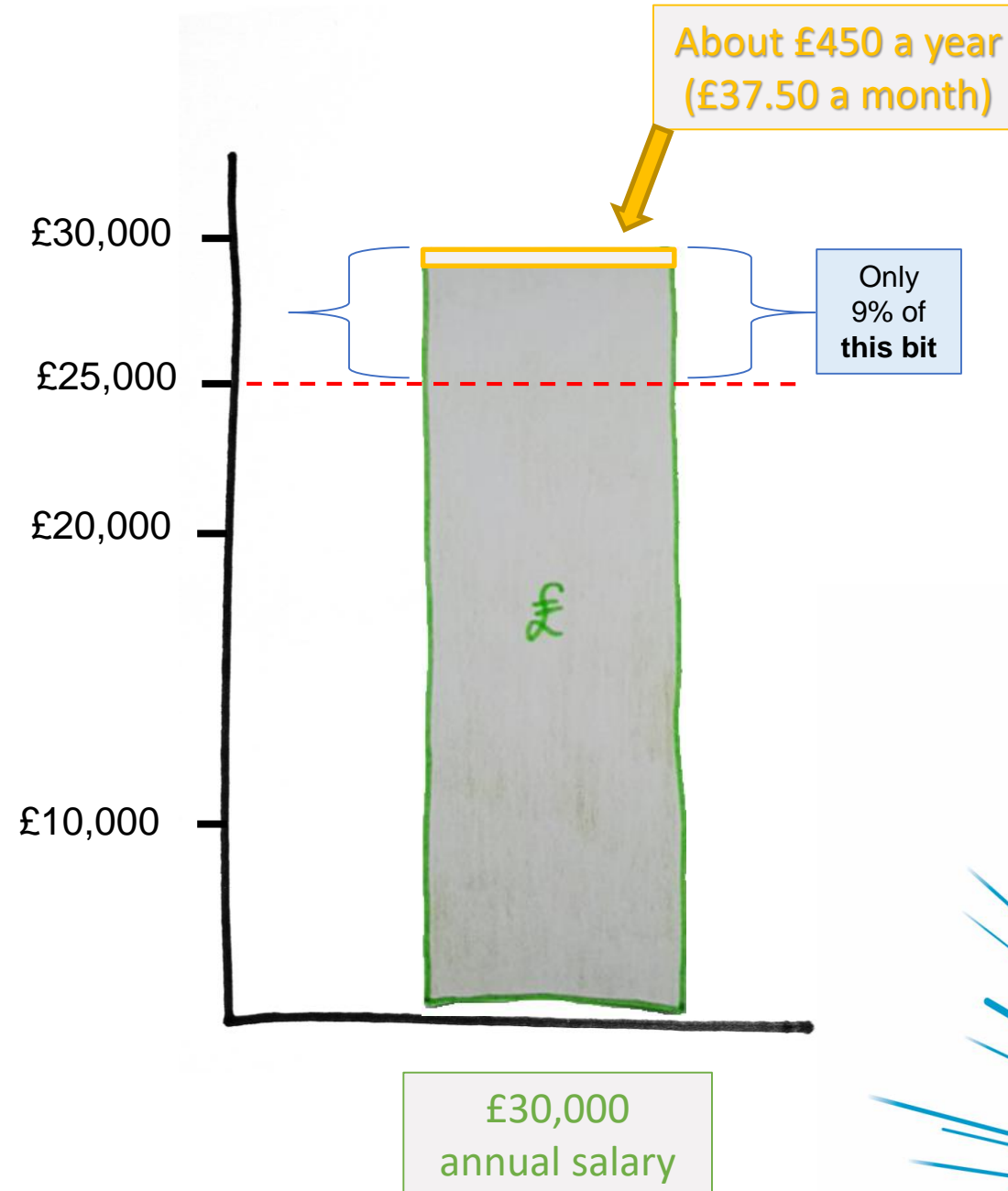
Student Finance

- ✓ Apply even if undecided
- ✓ Keep on top of deadlines

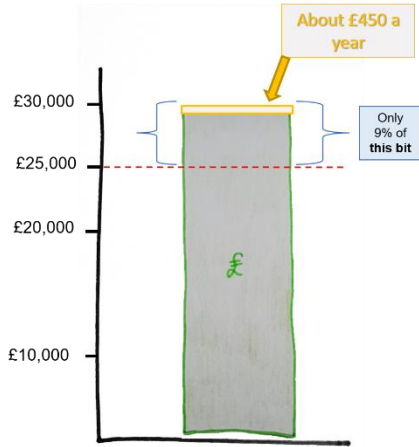


Student Loan repayments

- You only pay for university:
 - After you have finished studying
 - Once you are earning over £25,000 a year
 - The repayments are 9% of your earnings that are **over** the threshold
- Average graduate salary is ~ £30,000
 - Not guaranteed that salary after university, but getting a degree can open doors
 - Here is an example of repayments for someone earning that kind of salary...



Is it affordable?



- You are only paying if you are earning
- With an average graduate salary (around £30,000) you would be paying roughly £450 a year (£37 per month) ...comparable to a monthly broadband bill



EXAMPLE PAYSHEET

Basic Pay £2,500 per month

Tax	£250
National Insurance	£200
Pension	£162.50
Student Loan	£38
<i>Net Pay (£2,500 - Deductions)</i>	<i>£1,867.50</i>

Student Finance

- ✓ Don't panic
- ✓ Look into other funding available (bursaries, scholarships etc.)
- ✓ Encourage to find part time work





Key points for parents

- ✓ Keep track of deadlines
- ✓ Plan for Open Days
- ✓ Ask lots of questions
- ✓ Do your own research
 - ucas.com
 - moneysavingexpert.com

