

Educational Jargon Buster

- ★ **A Levels:** The academic qualification gained from studying at a sixth form or college after completing GCSEs.
- ★ **Adjustment:** A service available from A Level results day for students who have gained higher results than expected and would like to change the institution or course they want to apply to.
- ★ **BA:** Bachelor of Arts, the undergraduate degree awarded to those studying an arts or humanities discipline.
- ★ **BMAT:** The Biomedical Admissions Test. A form of medical admissions test required by certain universities.
- ★ **BSc:** Bachelor of Science, the undergraduate degree awarded to those studying a scientific discipline.
- ★ **BTEC:** Business and Technology Education Council. Vocational qualifications that provide theoretical and practical knowledge in a range of subjects.
- ★ **Bursary:** A non-repayable monetary award made to students who satisfy certain criteria as set by the awarding universities and colleges.
- ★ **UCAS Clearing:** A service that opens on A Level results day for students without a place at a higher education institution to gain a place on courses with spaces still available.
- ★ **Combined Honours:** A degree made up of more than one subject (e.g. BA (Hons) English Language and Linguistics).
- ★ **Conditional offer:** In your application, this is an offer of a place on a course subject to conditions. To be accepted on the course, you'll need to meet the conditions – usually related to your exam results (e.g. getting a BBC at A Level)
- ★ **Deferral:** In your application to a degree course, this is what to do if you'd like to carry an offer over to start it in the following academic year.
- ★ **Degree:** A qualification achieved at university or college.
- ★ **Degree Apprenticeships:** These are an alternative route into higher education, combining full-time work for an organisation with part-time university-level study, where students can achieve a full bachelor's or master's degree.
- ★ **DSA:** Disabled Student Allowance. Monetary awards made to those students who may need additional support (e.g. specialist equipment, printing costs, or a

note taker) through their studies as a result of a disability or long-term health condition.

- ★ **Further Education (FE):** Refers to the qualifications taken after school between the ages of 16 and 18, usually in college or sixth form.
- ★ **Fee waivers:** These reduce your tuition fees, either on their own, or in a broader package of support with a bursary. Who can receive a waiver, and how much, is decided by each individual university. You can apply for them through a university.
- ★ **Firm choice:** A student's first choice of higher education, this is the institution and course they will attend if they meet the conditions of their offer.
- ★ **Gap year:** Students may decide to take a year out of their studies before beginning a higher education course, this year can be used to work, travel or volunteer.
- ★ **GCSE:** General Certificate of Secondary Education. The qualifications are achieved in Year 10 and 11.
- ★ **Hardship funds:** If you find yourself struggling financially at university, you can apply for extra money, the amount of which is decided by the university.
- ★ **Higher Education (HE):** Refers to the qualifications that are taken at level 4 or above, i.e. taken after A Levels or equivalents. This includes university degrees, higher apprenticeships and degree apprenticeships. This qualification can be studied at university or college.
- ★ **Insurance choice:** A student's second choice of higher education, usually with slightly lower entry requirements. This is the institution and course a student will attend if they do not meet the terms of their Firm choice.
- ★ **Lecture:** A style of teaching whereby staff deliver content to students on a course, with students taking notes.
- ★ **Master's degree:** Refers to a degree achieved at level 7. They are usually studied after an undergraduate degree (or equivalent) and are 1 – 2 years in length.
- ★ **Module:** A period of study covering a particular topic. Many programmes are divided into modules with a certain number of modules required to complete a course.
- ★ **Sandwich course:** A course with an additional year in which you work in the profession you're studying for.
- ★ **School Direct:** Part of the UCAS Teacher Training application scheme – for students studying postgraduate teacher training programmes based in a participating school.

- ★ **Seminar:** Smaller, more interactive, group teaching. Usually centred on group discussion with some work to prepare prior to the session.
- ★ **SFE (Student Finance England):** [Student Finance England](#) manage applications for maintenance and tuition fee loans across England. You can also find information for [Student Finance Wales](#) and [Student Finance Scotland](#).
- ★ **UCAS:** [University and College Admissions Service](#). The central organisation who handle higher education applications across the UK.
- ★ **UCAS Extra:** An additional period of time to apply for courses through UCAS when someone has not applied during the main UCAS application period or has not received offers of a place.
- ★ **UCAS Track:** The online service allowing applicants to track the status of their higher education applications.
- ★ **UKCAT:** The UK Clinical Aptitude Test. An admissions test required by some medical and dental schools across the UK.
- ★ **Unconditional offer:** In your application to a course, this is an offer of a place on a course with no conditions (e.g. needing BBC at A Level).
- ★ **Undergraduate degree:** A qualification achieved at level 6 which usually last around 3 or 4 years. This is also called a 'Bachelor's degree'. Available to those who have completed A Levels, BTECS or equivalent.