



HIGHER EDUCATION JARGON BUSTER

FE

FE stands for Further Education; this is what you study after year 11 and includes apprenticeships, traineeships, college or sixth form.

HE

HE stands for Higher Education; this is optional after you turn 18 and complete your FE studies. It includes university and apprenticeships.

UNDERGRADUATE

You are an undergraduate if you are studying your first degree (which usually takes 3-4 years).

GRADUATE

Someone who has successfully completed their degree.

FRESHER

This is slang for a person in their first year of studies.

COURSE AND MODULE

Your course is the overall title of your degree and the modules are sub-topics you will study as part of your course in each semester of university. It's important to research modules as they will be different for each course at each university.

FOUNDATION YEAR

You may be asked to complete a Foundation Degree/Year if you didn't study an appropriate A Level or achieve the desired grade. It's a great way to be able to still do the degree you've always wanted and enhance your knowledge!

HND AND HNC

A HNC (higher national certificate) is a one year course, equivalent to the first year of university. An HND (higher national diploma) is a two year course, equivalent to the first two years of university. This type of course can be studied at both college and university.

SANDWICH COURSE

This is a four-year degree course where you spend one year on a work experience placement between studying.



UCAS JARGON BUSTER

UNCONDITIONAL OFFER

An offer of a place on a course with no conditions – the place is yours if you want it.

CONDITIONAL OFFER

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. This is a common type of offer for students applying directly from college or school.

UCAS EXTRA

Extra is a service you can use to apply for alternative places if you do not hold an offer from your first five choices.

ADJUSTMENT

If you've met and exceeded your conditions and you'd like to see if you can get on a course with higher entry requirements – all while still holding your original confirmed place.

CLEARING

Clearing is another service you can use to look for alternative courses. If you didn't get a place on a course – whether you didn't receive offers, declined your offers, or didn't get the grades you needed – Clearing allows you to apply for courses that still have vacancies.

PROSPECTUS

Printed or online brochures produced by a university or college to advertise themselves and their courses to encourage students to apply.

FIRM CHOICE

An offer you accept as your first choice.

INSURANCE CHOICE

An offer you accept as your second choice – just in case you don't meet the conditions of your firm offer.

UCAS TRACK

Where you can see how your application is progressing. Here you can reply to offers and make amendments, like changing your email address etc.