UCAS Update

The future of international admissions through UCAS

September 2023

Journey to a million

2030   1,000,000 | +40,000

2029   960,000 | +40,000

2028   920,000 | +30,000

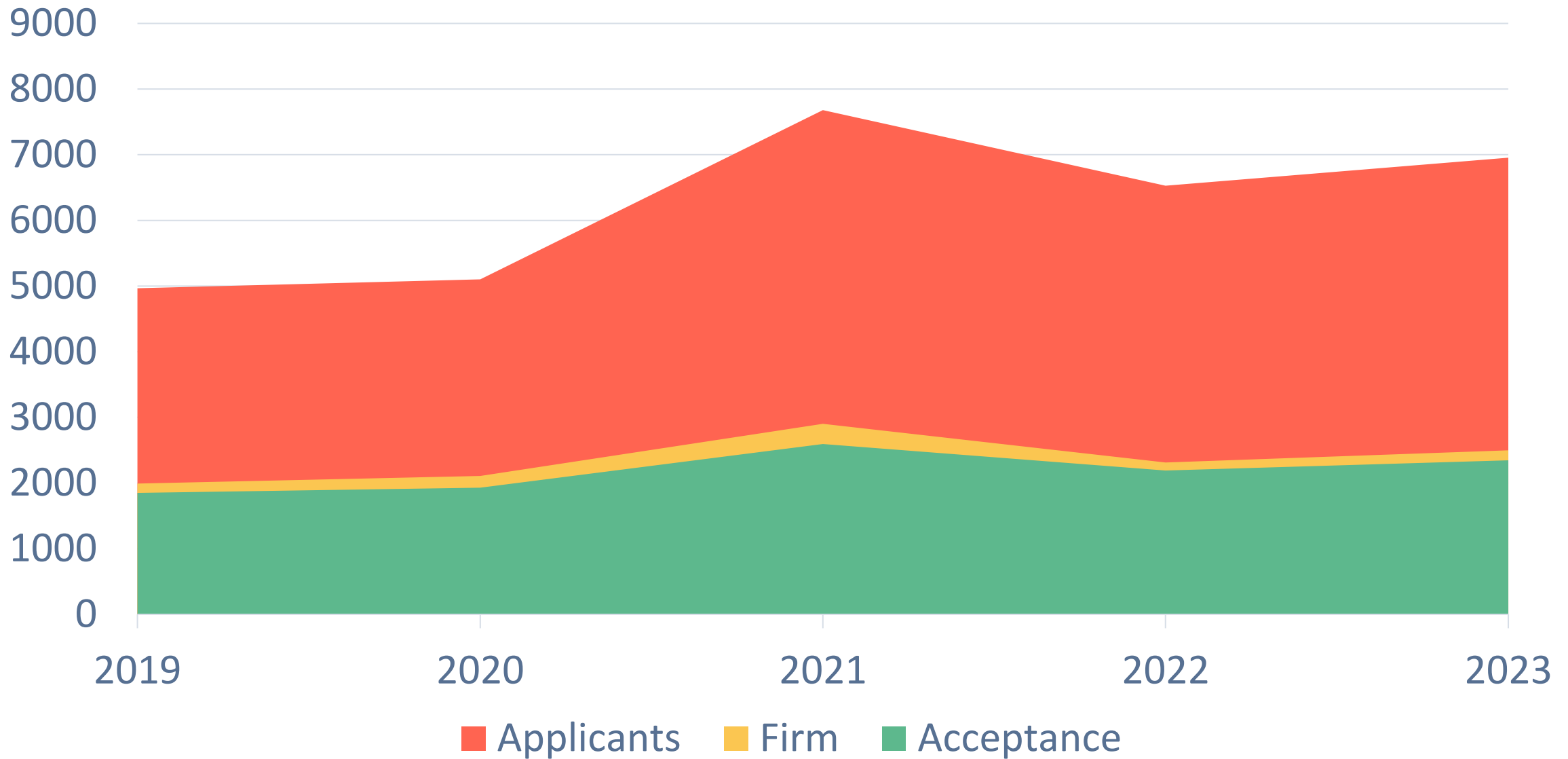**2027**   890,000 | +30,000

2026   860,000 | +35,000

2022 vs **2030** there could be:

18 YO +126,000
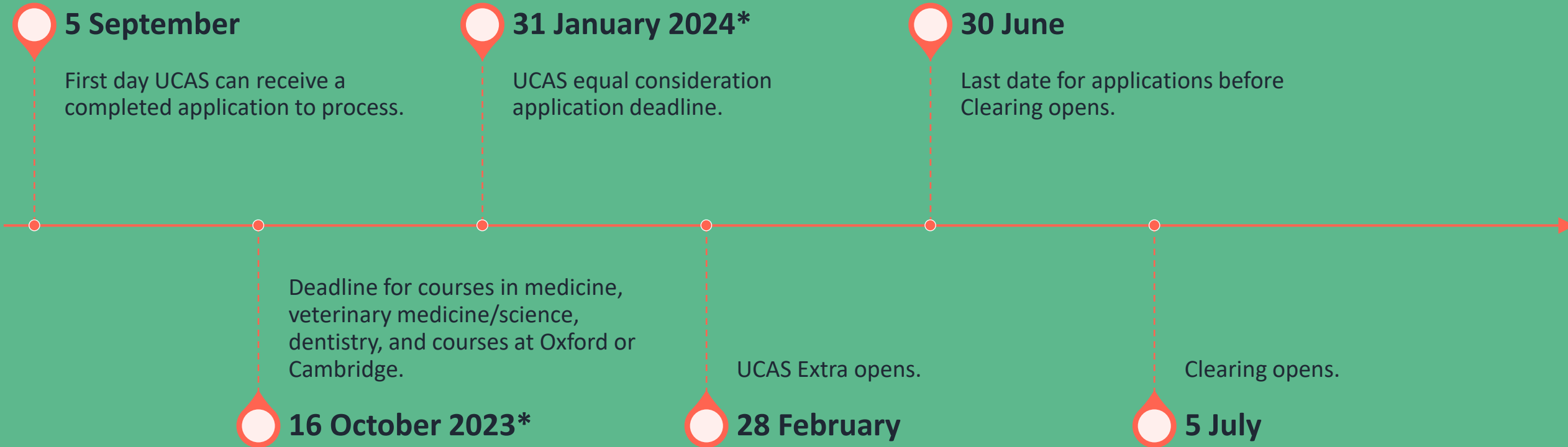**International** +90,000

USA: Applicants, Firms & Acceptances

Acceptances by Subject

Legend: 2023 (red), 2022 (yellow)

UCAS
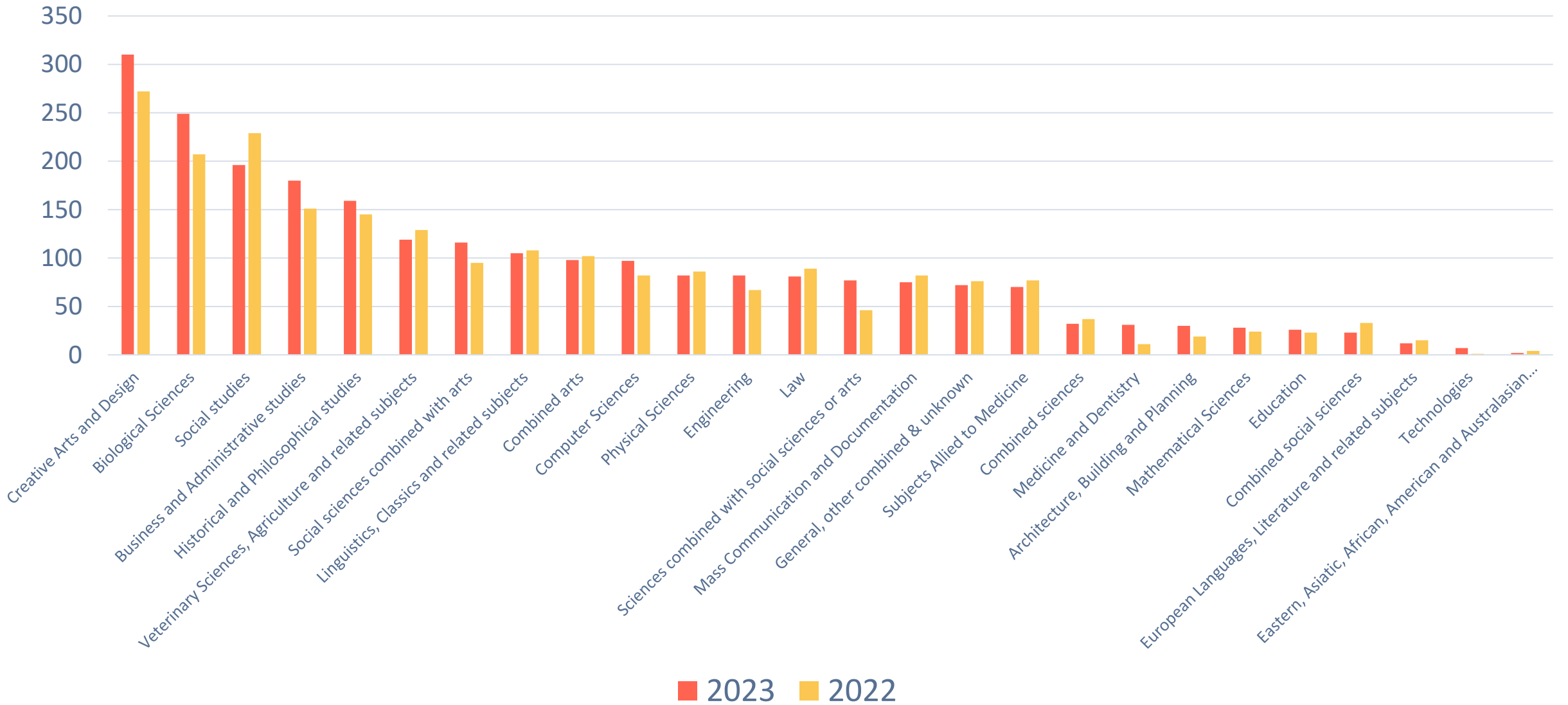
2023/24 Updates

Key Dates – 2024 entry

UCAS

5 September

First day UCAS can receive a completed application to process.

31 January 2024*

UCAS equal consideration application deadline.

30 June

Last date for applications before Clearing opens.

Deadline for courses in medicine, veterinary medicine/science, dentistry, and courses at Oxford or Cambridge.

16 October 2023*

UCAS Extra opens.

28 February

Clearing opens.

5 July

* 18.00 UK time

Updates: What you need to know right now & what's coming up

Application fee:
- Simplifying our application fee to support student choice, with 'single application fee' no longer be available
- Fee for all 2024 undergraduate applications will be £27.50

Changes to the gender question
- introducing two additional responses:

Gender *

Select the gender you most identify with at this time. You can tell the university or college directly if you'd feel more comfortable identifying in another way, or if this changes.

○ Man ○ Woman ○ I use another term ● I prefer not to say

Student access to grades tool – To be launched after the ECD, exact date tbc
- historic entry grades tool is currently an adviser portal feature;
- students told us this information help them make informed decisions when narrowing down their application choices.
- Later this year the entry grades tool will be available on ucas.com
- it will give students visibility over a range of grade profiles accepted for entry, to courses over a five-year period (where data is available).

References - background to the changes

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- The **reference** is useful to share information about an applicant to help providers make selection decisions or plan support for a student post-enrolment.

- Universities and Colleges have told us in the current free text format it's becoming challenging to meaningfully compare applicants using the academic **references**, as content varies significantly.

- Advisors report increasing pressure to invest more and more time in compiling references to increase the chances of applicant success

- The current approach is minimising potential for comparison and significant time is being invested by advisers but not always on what adds value, and therefore changes will allow streamlining to save advisers time and help focus on what providers want to know.

Reference guidance support

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- [Reference examples](#) for each section.

- A [reference guidance presentation](#) which can be downloaded and edited

- Additional [FAQs](#) which we will be adding to from the questions received at our webinars.

- Watch our [references deep dive sessions](#)

- Advice from admissions officers in a shareable video.

UCAS.COM/ADVISERS/REFERENCES2024

Enter a general statement about your school/college/centre.

If applicable, enter any information about extenuating circumstances which may have impacted the applicant's education and achievement.

Outline any other supportive information specific to the applicant and relevant to the course(s) applied for that you think universities/colleges should be aware of.

2025 and beyond

How can UCAS improve the experience for Providers, Applicants and Advisers?

The Personal Statement – What's the issue?

Widening the gap

- Creates a further disadvantage to students with less guidance.

- Demonstration of 'fear' amongst students with less guidance that they won't be able to shine as more advantaged peers do.

- Concern over how providers use the PS to make decisions.

- 72% of student surveyed wanted it to remain to give them a personal voice & advocate for themselves BUT 83% found it stressful & 79% said it was very hard without guidance.

Personal Statements – update

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Motivation for courses

Extenuating circumstances

Preparation for course

Relevant experience outside of studies

Preparedness/readiness for studies

Strengths around learning styles/assessment methods and how they link to course

Credibility – visa sponsorship

UCAS Advisor Hub

2024 Cycle Toolkit

www.ucas.com/advisers

UCAS ADVISER LIVES
FREE WEBINARS TO SUPPORT YOU

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Title	Date	
Adviser Live: September international update	14 September – 09:15	[Book now](#)
Expert voices: AI and the future of admissions	28 September – 15:45	[Book now](#)
Adviser Live: October international update	12 October – 09:15	[Book now](#)
Expert voices: Supporting international students	26 October – 13:30	[Book now](#)
Adviser Live: November international update	9 November – 09:15	[Book now](#)
Adviser Live: December international update	7 December – 09:15	[Book now](#)

ADVISER LIVE