



# Securing your Dream HE Offer



A virtual lesson aimed at Y12 students.

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# Outcomes of today's session



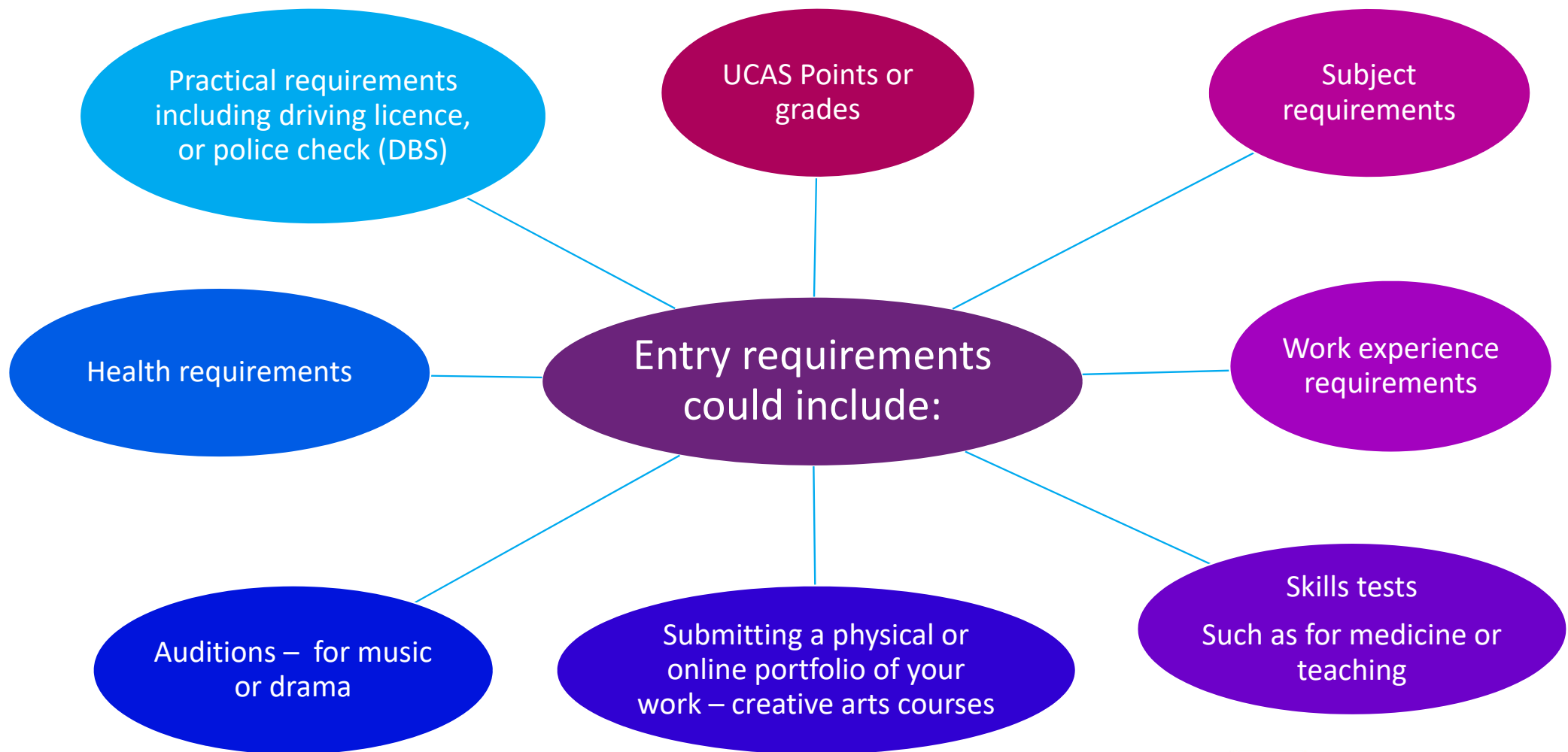
- Self-identify opportunities to enhance your personal profile
- Understand what entry requirements for HE institutions are, and their significance
- Build awareness of additional activities that can support HE progress, with a focus on activities you can do from home and virtually
- Write an action plan to increase your chances of securing a place on your dream a HE course or Higher or Degree Apprenticeship



# Activity 1

What are the Entry Requirements? –  
Complete questions using Google or  
<https://digital.ucas.com/search> as a starting point, think  
about the different types of entry requirements



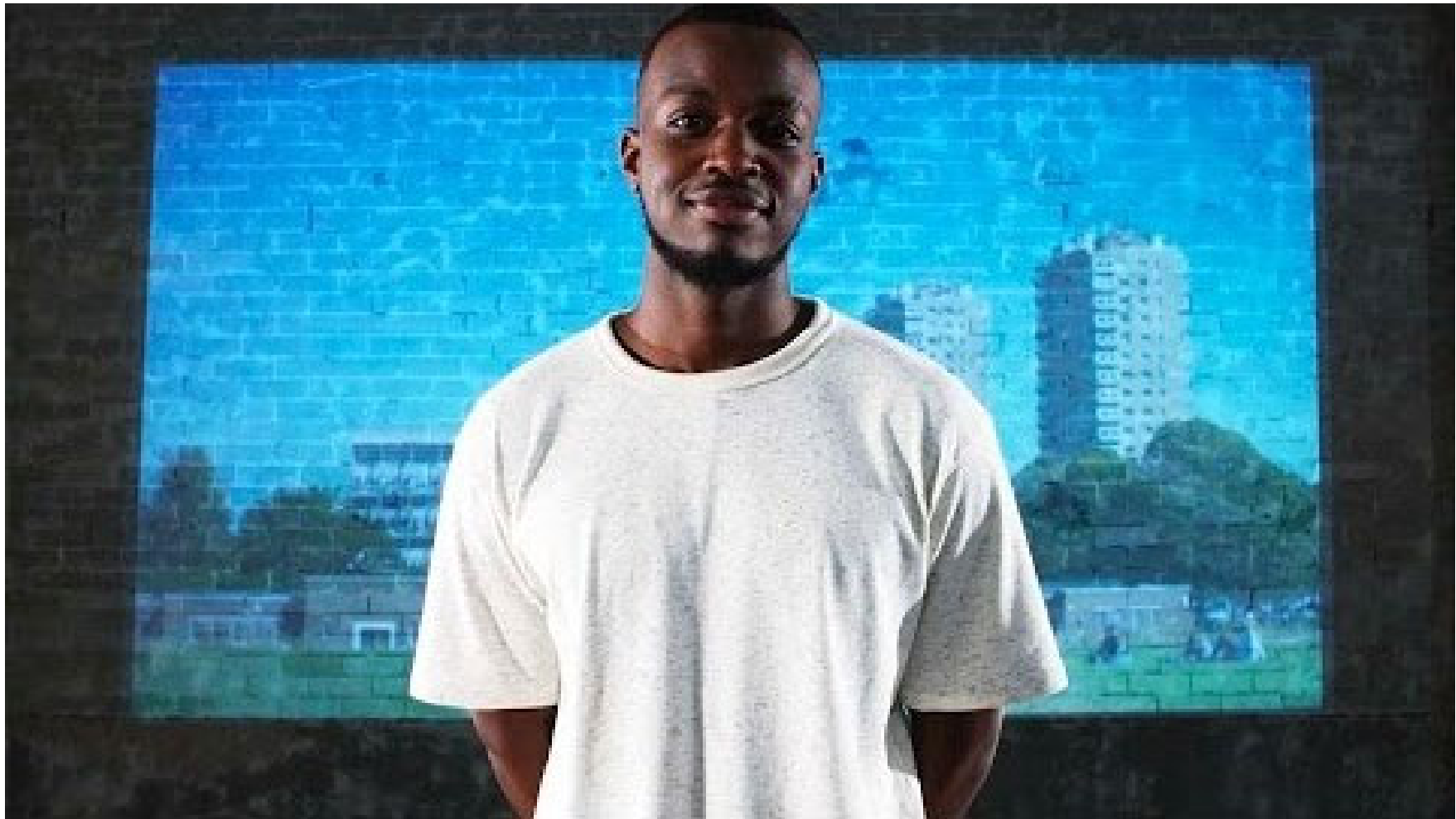


# Entry requirements – a summary

- Different courses have different entry requirements...and some can be very specific about what you need!
- It's important to be aware of ALL of the entry requirements that courses have, this can help you plan to make
- The same course offered at different universities can have different entry requirements
- It's important to be aware of when certain entry requirements must be met – e.g. before applying, at the interview stage, before the start of your course

Today we're going to focus on five activities you can do during this time of social distancing to increase your chances of meeting these entry requirements for courses you may be interested in.





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[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sMGfo3YpjGk&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sMGfo3YpjGk&feature=emb_logo)

ofs Uni Connect  
Programme



# 1. Reflect on what you have to offer and plan how you can build work experience in the future

Remember all the activities you have done so far can evidence your skills and commitment to university admissions teams. Take some time to think through these and note down what skills you have gained. These could include:

Part time jobs    Volunteering    Work Experience    Achievements  
Sports    Charity fundraising    Hobbies    Careers trips and visits

You can plan ahead to when the COVID 19 crisis is over by searching for work experience or volunteering opportunities to benefit your application and help you meet entry requirements using sites such as:

<https://do-it.org> or your local volunteer centre, <https://www.studentladder.co.uk>



## 2. Build work experience and insights virtually

At this time of social distancing a lot of the traditional work experience methods aren't possible. However here's a few ideas for things you can do from home:

- Barclays Lifeskills Virtual Work Experience

"You'll get to see the inner workings of Freeformers, a 'digital transformation' agency, and actively work with different departments on one exciting project, helping them solve problems and complete real-life tasks."

- Whyte and Case – Legal Work Experience programme

"Our virtual programme allows students to gain first-hand insight into life as a White & Case lawyer and experience the realities of cross-border law."

- Apply for homebased volunteering for charities through [www.do-it.org.uk](http://www.do-it.org.uk) including this specific portal to help your community in the fight against Coronavirus <https://doit.life/ours>

**WORK.**  
**EXPERIENCE.**  
**DISCOVER.**





### 3. Build your subject knowledge and career knowledge

If you've got some ideas about the course you would like to study or the career you would like to go building your knowledge of that specific area further can help you stand out in your application. For vocational courses such as social work or engineering or any degree apprenticeships this will be especially important

#### Career insights:

- Use good quality careers websites such as Career Pilot, I Could, Prospects or National Careers Service to find out more about roles that interest you
- Watch videos giving an insight in to roles such as [The WOW Show](#)
- Find out about your local labour market using our [Shape Your Future](#) booklet
- Watch videos from local employers such as these from [Opportunities Doncaster](#)



# Subject insights: Examples of online courses through Future Learn

Courses / Science, Engineering & Maths

## Biochemistry: the Molecules of Life

Explore the impact of biochemistry on bioenergy and health, discovering why graduates are in demand; with the Biochemical Society.



Join course for free

Courses / IT & Computer Science

## Video Game Design and Development: Video Game Character Design

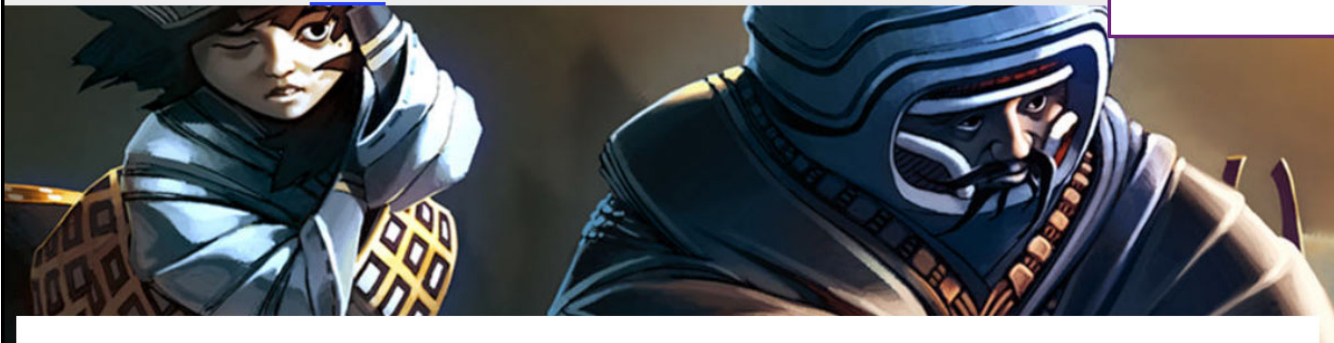
How and why do video gamers identify with the characters they control? Find out with this introduction to character design.



## English for Academic Study

Prepare to study at university, explore the qualities of a successful student, and learn key vocabulary in an academic context.

[Overview](#) [Topics](#) [Start dates](#) [Requirements](#) [Educators](#) [More courses](#)



[www.futurelearn.com](http://www.futurelearn.com)



## 4. Build your professional online presence

Now could be a great time to develop your online presence and create a positive impression about you to employers or course providers or give you something additional to discuss in your personal statement

### Quick task:

- Try Googling your name and see what comes up
- Think: Would you be happy for a course provider or potential employer to see this information?
- What impression do these pages or feeds give about you? Is it positive or negative? Do they confirm your course and career interests?



# Steps to building a professional social media presence

- Keep personal feeds private if it is intended just for friends. Check your privacy settings for feeds like Instagram and Facebook
- Comment on topics or news articles that show your interest in the subject you hope to study
- Artist, designer or writer? Share your work online through an online portfolio or website. This can be useful for university interviews too
- Follow employers, you could learn more about what they do or hear about future work experience opportunities
- Consider setting up a LinkedIn profile to connect with professionals in the type of work you're interested in going in to



## 5. Gain insight into universities you hope to attend

The more insight you can gain into the university, courses or apprenticeship you hope to apply to, this will increase your chances of making a strong application and securing a place. Currently it is not possible to visit open days but other ways you can gain this insight include:

- Online research on the university's website, Discover Uni or [Student Room](#)
- Watch videos on the university's You Tube Channel and any that have "Ask a Student" channels such as [Loughborough](#) and [Chester](#)
- Visit virtual tours <https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/what-and-where-study/open-days-and-events/virtual-tours> to view the campus and facilities
- Sign up for a virtual summer school or taster course. You can find examples of these on sights like [www.unitasterdays.com/](http://www.unitasterdays.com/)





# Higher Education Open Days

- Open Days, including virtual open days, are an opportunity for students to **get first hand experience** of what a **Higher Education environment** is like.
- To find an Open Day, search for **Undergraduate (UG) Open Days here**  
<https://www.opendays.com/calendar/>
- **Plan** your Open Day experience:
  - what **talks and/or tours** you'll attend
  - Make the most of the open day by preparing the questions you would like to ask
  - **Make a note** of the information you receive including your feelings and next steps
  - Talk to people, call a friend or chat to your friends and teachers about your thoughts after the open day



Useful tips for online open days from [The Complete University Guide](#)





# Questions for Open Days



# Activity 2

Think about which actions you can take over the coming weeks to maximise your chances of securing your dream HE offer.

Complete the action plan on your worksheet





# Summary

- Researching entry requirements can help you secure a Higher Education offer
- As well as grades other factors that can be increase your chances can include your work experience, subject knowledge, career insight and online presence. Think about what can give you the edge and be confident in what you have to offer!
- Gaining insight into specific universities, apprenticeships or courses you are interested in will help tailor your application
- Actions you take now can help you show to recruiters that you are a strong candidate for their course or opportunity



**Well done for completing the session!** We hope you have enjoyed it and found it useful.



# Where next...

## Ask!



About:

- Entry requirements
- Work + voluntary experience
- Summer schools
- Anything else!

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## Talk!



To:

- Parents / Guardians
- Teachers
- Careers advisers
- Friends and siblings

## Research!



At:

- [ucas.com](https://www.ucas.com)
- [futurelearn.com](https://www.futurelearn.com)
- [studentladder.co.uk](https://www.studentladder.co.uk)
- [opendays.com](https://www.opendays.com)



# Share your views on the session

Please take two minutes to share what you have thought of the session today. This will help us to keep improving our resources. Thank you

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Teachers and advisers: Click [here](#)

