Jargon Buster

**Alumni** refers to a group of graduates, particular a group of graduates from a specific institution

**BA** stands for Bachelor of Arts, a qualification awarded to students who complete an undergraduate degree in the arts, humanities, or social sciences.

**BEng** stands for Bachelor of Engineering, a qualification awarded to students who complete an undergraduate degree in engineering (software, robotics, and physics).

**BSc** stands for Bachelor of Science, a qualification awarded to students who complete an undergraduate degree in the sciences.

A **bachelor’s degree** is the qualification a student receives when they complete an undergraduate degree. BA, BEng, and BSc are different types of bachelor’s degree.

A **bursary** is a non-repayable sum of money awarded to a student by a university or college.

A **campus** is the main site of a university, often hosting university accommodation and teaching/leisure facilities.

**Clearing** is a system UCAS use to fill remaining spaces on university courses between July and October. It gives applicants an opportunity to apply directly to a university or college if they are not holding an offer from another institution.

A **college** is an educational institution thatprovides further education courses, including A-Levels, T Levels, Highers and BTECs. 240 colleges in the UK also offer higher education courses, such as full-honours degrees, Higher National Certificates and Higher National Diplomas. Some universities also have colleges, which provide higher education courses. Unlike a college providing further education courses, university colleges operate as part of a larger university.

A **conditional offer** means a student is guaranteed a place on a course at a university or college on the basis that they meet certain conditions. These conditions might be achieving specific grades in pending qualifications, providing a financial guarantee, or successfully passing a DBS, a PVG or AccessNI application depending on the country you are studying in.

**Deferring** is the formal term for taking a year out or gap year between applying to and starting a university or college course.

A **dissertation** is an extensive essay, report, or research project normally completed in the final year of an undergraduate degree.

**Entry requirements** are criteria applicants need to meet to be considered for a degree course. For example, many universities and colleges will expect applicants to have specific qualifications, subjects, and exam grades to be considered for a degree course.

**Freshers' Week** is a week of events and activities designed to welcome new students when they arrive at university.

A **foundation year** is an additional year at the beginning of an undergraduate degree which prepares students for a full-degree programme by covering the foundations of a subject as well as key skills.

**Further education** refers to any study after secondary education (high school) that is not a degree. A Levels, Scottish Highers, and T Levels are examples of qualifications offered in further education.

A **gap year** is a year-long break away from education some students choose to take before going to university.

A **graduate** is someone who completes a university undergraduate degree.

A **graduation ceremony** is a formal event for graduating students to officially collect their degrees. Students can invite some friends and family to these events and wear traditional robes and a mortarboard.

**Halls of residence** refers to accommodation provided by or affiliated with a university.

**Higher education** refers to the stage of education following further education. It can be taken after the age of 18 at either a university or college and usually leads to a degree. Scottish students, however, can enter higher education from the age of 16 as long as they meet the entry requirements.

An **honours degree** is a distinguished type of undergraduate degree. It is often abbreviated to Hons.

**Joint honours** refer to a university degree composed of two related subjects to degree level. Examples joint honours might include English and History or Mathematics and Economics.

A **lecture** is a formal lesson or talk delivered by an academic to a large group of students. Traditionally, students listen and take notes in lectures but there can be some interaction between speaker and students.

**LLB** stands for Latin Legum Baccalaureus, meaning Bachelor of Laws, and is the qualification students receive after completing an undergraduate degree in law.

The **maintenance loan** is a loan designed to contribute towards and in some cases cover student living costs like food, rent, and travel. A student’s household income dictates the amount of maintenance loan they receive. The amount a student receives also depends on whether they live away from home while studying and where they study.

A **master’s degree** is the qualification a student receives after completing a postgraduate degree. Students need to have graduated from their bachelor’s degree to complete a master’s degree. Master’s degrees last for one to two years.

A **mature student** is a student who is over 21 when starting their course.

A **personal statement** is a key component of the UCAS application to study for a degree. It gives applicants the chance to explain why they are a strong candidate for the degrees they are applying for.

**Postgraduate** is a student who continues studying after completing their first degree.

A **Russell Group** university is one of 24 universities with a shared focus on research and a reputation for academic achievement.

A **scholarship** is a merit-based form of non-repayable financial support, usually awarded to students who are exemplary in their discipline.

A **semester** refers to a term at university.

A **seminar** is a university or college class in which a member of staff leads a discussion between students. They often last for around two hours and give students the chance to discuss a topic in greater depth. They can also be referred to as tutorials.

A **society** is a student organisation who arrange events and activities around a shared interest. They are supported by a Students’ Union and can be built around a range of interests, such as gaming, drama, or politics.

**Student finance** refers to the money students borrow to support the cost of studying at university as well as tuition fees.

A **student loan** is a loan available to students to support with the cost of studying at university. It is comprised of the tuition fee loan which covers tuition fees and a maintenance loan designed to cover living expenses. Tuition fee loans are paid directly from the loan company to the university.

A **Students' Union** (or ‘SU’ for short) is a body representing the interests of students at a university. They are at the heart the social activities and events on campus. People also use the term ‘Students' Union’ to refer to the physical building where the Students' Union is located.

**Tuition fees** are the fees charged by a university per year of academic study.

**UCAS** is the platform all students use to apply for UK university and college courses.

**UCAS Tariff Points** are a way of measuring the relative value of all post-16 qualifications in the UK. The UCAS Tariff assigns a numerical score to the possible grades that can be achieved in each type of qualification, e.g. an A is A Level is 48 points, and an A in a Scottish Higher is 33. Although Scottish qualifications carry UCAS points, Scottish universities tend to look more at grades and not points.

An **unconditional offer** means a student will be accepted on a university or college course regardless of pending exam results or grades.