

## I want to go to university next year but I'm aware of early UCAS deadlines

### Would NEC's one-year Structured Fast Track A levels be a good option?

A majority of NEC students are looking to go to university and we aim to do all we can to help facilitate that goal. [Structured Fast Track A levels](#) allow you to complete an A level within a year so it may be possible to get to university sooner than you think.

Courses such as medicine, dentistry and veterinary science have an early UCAS application deadline. For 2026 entry, this is 15th October 2025 at 6pm. The early deadline also applies to all courses at Oxford and Cambridge.

NEC requires students to have completed 50% of course assignments before providing a predicted grade or an academic reference to ensure that the tutor has seen sufficient work to be confident in their prediction. On a Structured Fast Track course, you will not be able to complete 50% of the assignments until the end of December. However, with prior confirmation from your university, we can provide a predicted grade directly, beyond the October deadline.

### What do you need to do?

- ☐ **Step 1:** Contact your chosen universities to see if they are willing to accept a predicted grade from NEC at a later date.
- ☐ **Step 2:** Complete the SFT October UCAS Request Form (found in *Five Steps to Getting Started*) as soon as possible to let us know you are working towards the early deadline.
- ☐ **Step 3:** Let us know the email addresses of your chosen university Admissions departments and your UCAS personal ID so that we can send them the predicted grade later.

Once you have submitted the form, we can liaise with you further to get everything organised!

Following these steps now means that you can concentrate on your studies and get the best grades possible once your Structured Fast Track A level course begins.



## Is there anything else you can do to prepare?

### Go to open days!:

Universities have Open Days at various points throughout the year, whether virtually or in-person. It's a great way to get a feel for the local area, the university itself, allowing you to make the best decision before applying.

### Look into the interview process:

Not all universities require an interview but when a course or university is particularly competitive, it is good to have an idea of the types of questions asked and when the interviews will take place.

### Prepare for admissions exams:

Some universities and courses will have additional testing or deadlines throughout the application process, which you can check on the university website or by contacting their Admissions Department.\*

\* Most admissions tests take place between August and November of the year before you are due to start your studies. **We recommend applying as soon as you can.**

For further information see: <https://www.ucas.com/admissions-tests>

## Can NEC help you prepare for admissions exams?

We offer [Critical Thinking](#) and [Problem Solving](#) self-study courses specifically designed to help you prepare for university admissions tests. These flexible online courses will help you develop the key skills that you will need for university admissions exams and beyond. With the introductory price of £80 (down from £105) or £145 for both, these courses are the best way to supplement your studies and prepare you for your next step.

## Have any questions or want to enrol?

Contact our Course Advice Team on **0800 389 2839** or [contact us](#).

