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**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: UCAS**

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| **+** |  | **Q: May I apply for a degree course that is not listed in the Progression Routes?** |
|  |  | A: The SWAP student agreement that you downloaded in the first Prep for HE module pertains to progression routes agreed by the partnership.  If you want to apply to one of our partners for a degree that is not listed on the progression routes then you must [contact the SWAP office](https://www.scottishwideraccess.org/west) by email. We will check if the university will accept the SWAP programme for that course, and on what conditions. We cannot fulfil the conditions of your student agreement if we have not checked the position for you prior to submitting your UCAS application.  In addition, to give you the best chance of a positive destination when you finish your programme, you will be expected to apply to at least two options that are included in the published Progression Routes. |
| **+** |  | **Q: When do I choose my 'firm' and 'insurance' choices?** |
|  |  | A: The good news is that you don't have to make that decision right away. You'll decide on your firm and insurance choices only after you've had a response to all of your applications, which is likely to be in May.  For example, if you apply for five different courses, then you don't need to choose a firm and insurance until you've heard from all five.  You need to think carefully about your firm and insurance. Please talk and consider this with your tutor. They will discuss with you, the feasibility of degree options, your anticipated profile grades and the university conditions.  Our best advice is to make your first choice the feasible choice that you really want, regardless of the entry requirements, then choose as your insurance a course that has lower entry requirements.  That usually means the profile grades they request are lower (e.g. your first choice may ask for ABB, so an insurance choice asking for BBB makes sense). But it could be the case that your first choice and insurance choice ask for the same profile grades, but your first choice has additional requirements (e.g. 'subject to interview' or 'pass your external Nat 5 maths exam with a 'B') In that case, it's okay to have a backup with the same profile grades. |

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| **+** |  | **Q: Do I have to use all 5 choices?** |
|  |  | A: No, you are not required to use all five choices on your UCAS application;  It will depend on your curriculum programme.  **Access to humanities, social work, science and medical studies**.  **We strongly advise you to use all 5 choices**  Remember that universities are not obliged to make you an offer. If you apply to only one or two courses and you're unsuccessful, you could be left with no options at all for uni. Think carefully about your options and take advantage of the opportunity to apply to all five partners. Who knows? You could wind up with five offers and be spoilt for choice!  **Access to primary education**  You are part of an unique SWAP process that allows you 4 contingency UCAS choices. Please make full benefit of the advantage this gives you.  **Access to nursing**  Think carefully of the branch of nursing you want to study and the implication of placements. That should be the main part of your research. If you can only feasibly study at one university that is ok. Please remember we work with UWS, GCU and Stirling. UHI are also keen to recruit SWAP students.  **Access to health studies**  We work closely with GCU on a range of allied health professions. These degrees require a carefully crafted personal statement. Talk to your tutor for advice on sensible contingency options. Use them if you can. |
| **+** |  | **Q: May I apply to a university that is not a SWAPWest partner?** |
|  |  | A: We do not have progression agreements with institutions outside the West of Scotland.  If you decide to apply to a university out with our partnership, you must [contact the SWAP office](https://www.scottishwideraccess.org/west) by email in advance, providing details of all five of your choices, at least two of which must come from the SWAPWest progression routes.  If you do not contact the SWAP office first (i.e. before you submit your UCAS application) to clarify the position with a university outside the partnership, we will not be able to fulfil the conditions of your student agreement, and you may find yourself without an offer of a place at university. Likewise, if you neglect to apply to any of our partner universities.  If in doubt, [contact the SWAPWest office](https://www.scottishwideraccess.org/west) for clarification. |