

Early Connect Pilot

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why do students need to register for Smart Alerts?

By registering for Smart Alerts, DfE and Education Development Trust (EDT) will receive specific student data based on individual interests. When they sign up via UCAS, the students will be sent a link to a DfE form for some additional information, and once they have completed this form, EDT will contact them to offer support. The support offer will be open until the end of August.

2. Is there a deadline for students to register by?

No, there is no specific deadline, however the earlier they register and sign up for Smart Alerts the quicker they will receive support.

3. Are we encouraging all students to register on the UCAS hub – not just those who want to apply for Uni?

Yes! By registering once on the UCAS Hub, students can search for higher education courses as well as apprenticeships, meaning they can make more informed choices about their pathway.

4. And it won't affect their number of choices? i.e. 5 choices for university PLUS ability to apply for apprenticeships?

Yes, that is correct! There is no limit on this, and students can twin track their applications between university and apprenticeships. The apprenticeship applications are separate from the 5 university choices.

5. I couldn't attend the live CPD sessions, is a recording available?

The CPD sessions have all been recorded and will be made available on-demand; we are also planning to repeat some of the sessions and further info about this will follow once the dates are confirmed.

6. Is the support for finding an apprenticeship limited to current 6th formers, or could students who left last year and are currently not in employment with training be eligible?

While we can't guarantee that the additional support will be available for 6th form leavers, there is no harm in them registering on the UCAS Hub and signing up to Smart Alerts. If there is capacity to support these students, we will do our best to reach them.

7. Is UCAS pulling all levels of apprenticeship into their system or just degree level?

All levels of apprenticeships will be on offer from Level 2 upwards (equivalent of GCSE grade 4)

8. Is there a way to filter apprenticeship vacancies by location on UCAS?

Yes, filters are available to reduce the radius of opportunities based on student locations and how far they would be willing to travel.