Contextualised Data Service (CDS) 2023 Applications

If you have pupils in your school who are likely to have received Universal Credit at any time during the six years prior to making a UCAS application then this service may support them.

The Contextualised Data Service (CDS) is specifically for schools in the independent sector who are supporting pupils from financially less advantaged backgrounds to make applications to university through UCAS. This service has been designed to ensure that pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds who are attending independent schools can benefit from contextualised offer-making in University Admissions departments, in the same way as their peers in the state-maintained sector.

This service is provided via subscription and is available to all independent schools via [Bursary Assessment Associates](#) (BAA). Feedback from centres which subscribed during the pilot indicates that a range of universities are considered likely to have made a contextualised offer on the basis of the information shared with them by UCAS resulting from this service. If your centre has not yet subscribed and is considering doing so, please note two important deadlines: If you have pupils who are likely to apply for the UCAS October deadline courses (Medicine, Veterinary Sciences, Oxford and Cambridge) the application from the family to BAA for verification of their status must be with BAA by 30 June 2023. For pupils applying through UCAS for university courses with a UCAS January deadline**,** applications to BAA must be received by 30 October 2023. These earlier deadlines set by BAA are to ensure that the three key stages of the process (eligibility and status verification by BAA, data cleansing by ISC, and receipt by UCAS of the database) can be completed to meet external timescales. To support the process, UCAS prefers to receive the database of successfully verified applicant details from BAA (via ISC) *before* UCAS applications are received.