

# Introduction to Higher Education: Why University?

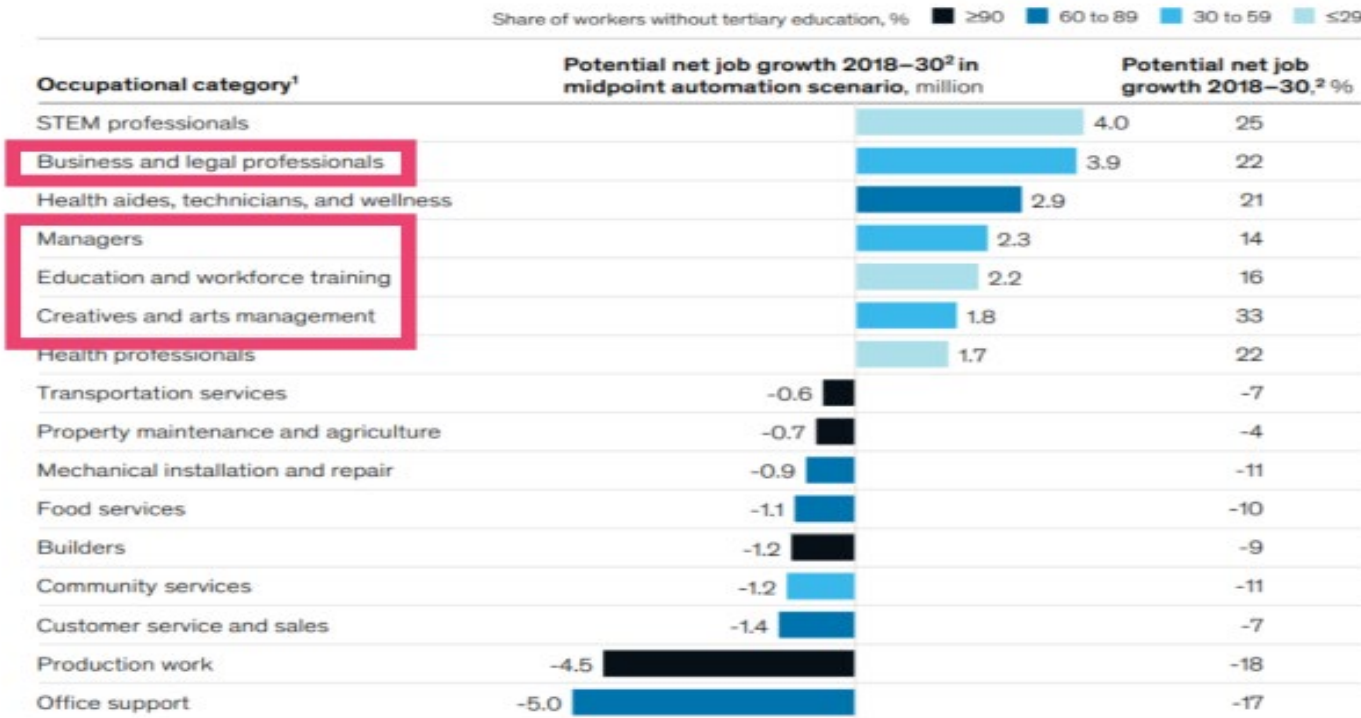
Welcome, please find a seat

# Purpose of this presentation

- To give parents and students the information to make an informed choice about university
- Overview of the application process
- Unifrog and UCAS – resources

# Current trends

## Post-Covid 19 labour market to 2030



Many of the growing occupations require high level skills (i.e. tertiary education)

(From “The Future of Work in Europe, McKinsey Global Institute, June 2020)

# Current trends continued:

- Is a growth in post-18 options.
- Watch out for more accelerated (2 year) degrees,
- 700,000 applicants for entry in 2021 and UCAS forecasting could hit 1 million applicants by 2025.
- Selective courses have had to be (and I believe will continue being) increasingly careful with their contractual offers as Teacher Assessed Grades and Centre Assessment Grades have not resulted in the variance of achievement that typical A-level exams resulted in.
- Increased numbers of students attending their first-choice university also meant a smaller clearing cohort in 2021, with less students exploring other opportunities offered by institutions with spaces.

# Current trends continued:

## Subject trends

- Continued growth in health and social care applications, covering courses such as nursing, midwifery and medicine.
- Rise in interest for: law, media, computing, engineering, biology and psychology.

## University offers and competitive courses

- In 2021, the way universities made offers started to change, meaning students may have received fewer offers for more popular courses. These trends may continue as demand for these subjects increases.

# What will University mean to you?



# Choosing a University and a Course

+ 390 Higher Education  
Institutions



+50,000 Courses



Where to start?

What is your favourite subject at  
Sixth Form/College?

What subject have you been  
most successful in?

What interests you most?

What job do you want after  
university?



## Traditional Courses

English  
Mathematics  
Sciences  
Geography  
Art



## Courses often unavailable in Sixth Forms/Colleges

Accounting  
Medicine  
Linguistics  
Ecology and Conservation





## Specialised Subjects

Circus and Physical Performance  
Ethical Hacking  
Baking Technology Management  
Pollution Science

## Combined Subjects

Politics and Economics  
Management and Languages  
Criminology and Psychology





# Other Courses to consider:

- Liberal Arts
- 2 year Degrees
- Online courses (OU)
- Apprenticeship Degrees (UK residents!)
- Conservatoires
- On-island opportunities (Guernsey Institute – CoFE, GTA and Institute of Health)

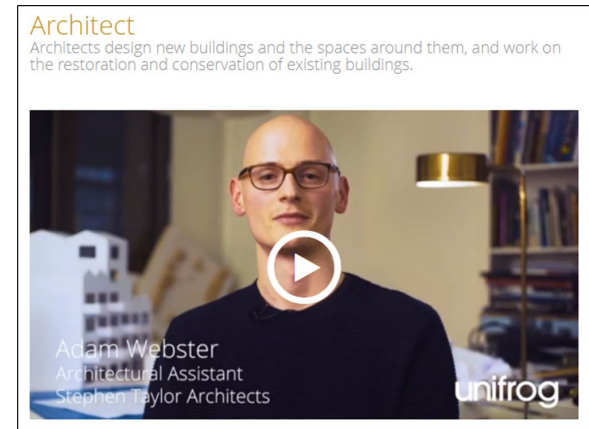
# The Unifrog tools

Exploring pathways	Searching for opportunities	Recording what you've done	Drafting application materials	Making applications
Careers library	UK universities	Activities	Personal Statement	Post 16/18 Intentions
Subjects library	US universities	Competencies	CV / Resumé	Locker
Know-how library	European universities	Interactions	Teacher References	Applications list
MOOC	Oxbridge		Common App Essay	
	Apprenticeships			
	College/ Sixth Form			
	Canadian universities			
	Asian universities			
	Special Opportunities			

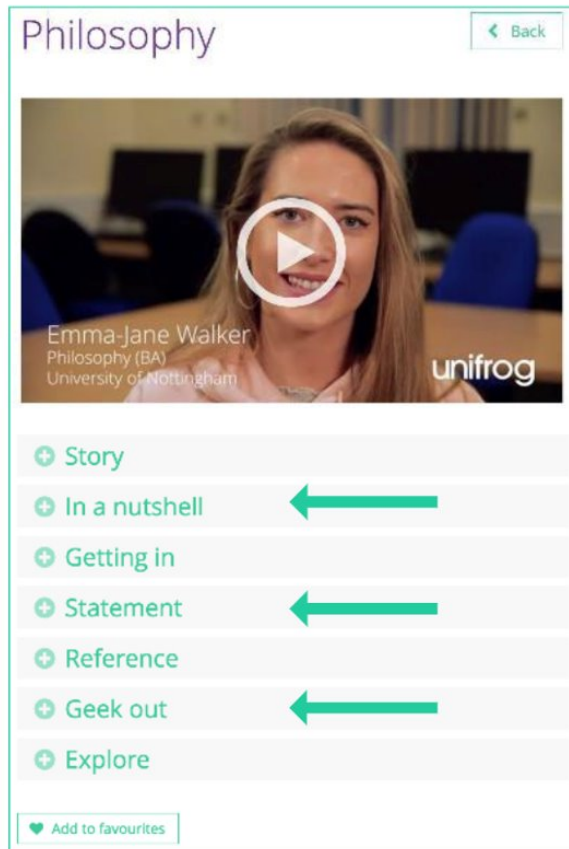
unifrog

# Careers Library on Unifrog

- Over 1000 career profiles
- Presents information from a range of sources
- Includes qualifications and skills needed, interviews with industry professionals and labour market information
- Explores progression opportunities and what a working week really looks like



# Subjects library on Unifrog



Watch interviews with university students, read up on their experience and advice, have a look at their annotated personal statement, or browse the 'Geek out' section for books, articles, podcasts, TED talks and current issues related to your subject.

# Know-how library on Unifrog

Hundreds of resources linked to FAQs about careers and university applications.

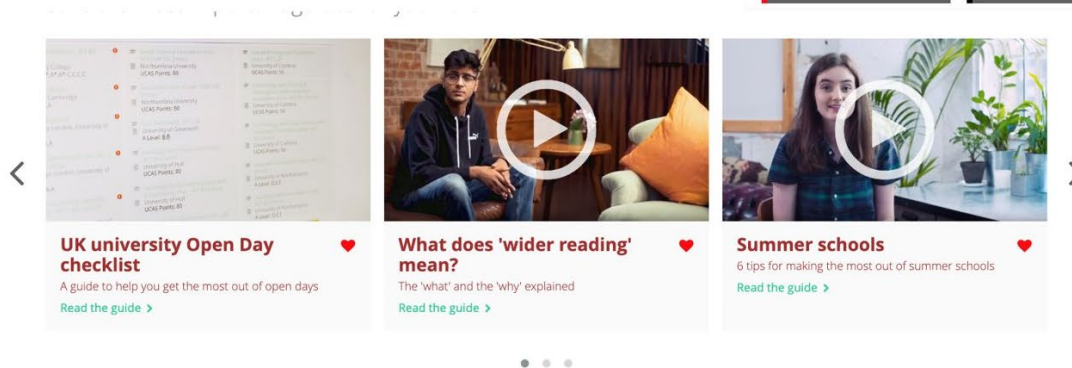
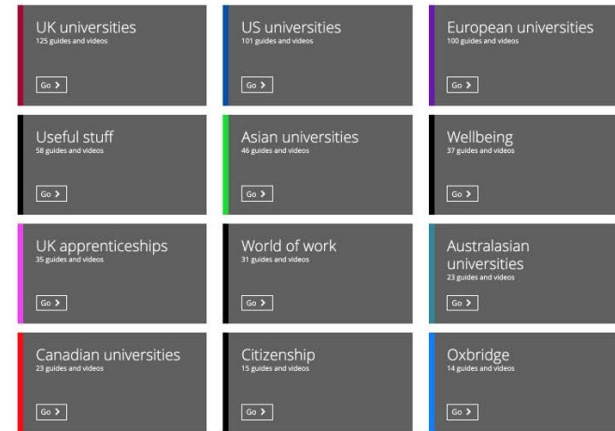
Students can watch video tutorials and get useful hints and tips

## Know-how library

✓ Guides favoured

[Go to tool >](#)

Browse everything here  
620 guides and videos





# Researching Universities

Researching  
Universities

Entry Requirements

Campus or City?

League Tables, TEF and NSS

Learning Opportunities





# Entry Requirements

Traditional  
qualifications or  
UCAS points?  
EPQ?

Require an  
Interview?

Are specific  
qualifications  
needed?

Studied at the  
same sitting?

# Campus or City University?

- **Campus?**

- Community and Safety
- Self-contained and student oriented
- More Part-time Jobs?

- **City?**

- Amenities and Services
- Independence and Freedom
- More Part-time Jobs?

# League Tables

- Independent sources of information
- Looks at both universities and departments
- Examples include The Times and Sunday Times, The Complete University Guide and The Guardian

BE AWARE:

Different league tables use different criteria  
– compare sources!

# Teaching Excellence Framework



Essentially the original TEF no longer exists!

Currently developing a revised TEF scheme which they aim to publish in early 2023.

Universities shouldn't currently be advertising their TEF

If you would like to keep up to date suggest, use this website:  
<https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/teaching/tef-outcomes/#/tefoutcomes/>

# Learning at University

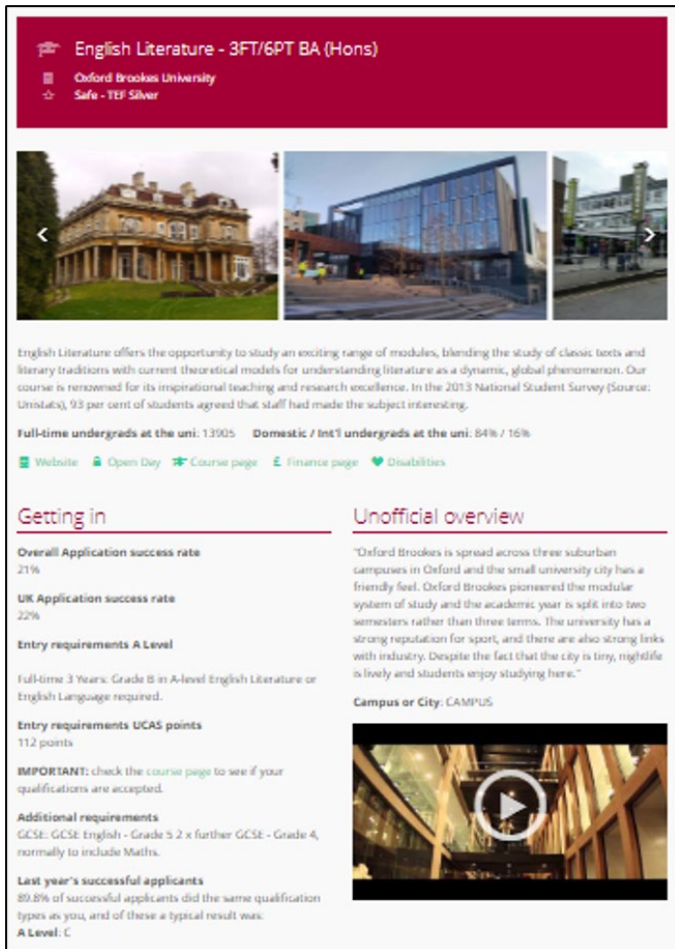


Can Include:  
Lectures  
Laboratory practicals  
Seminars  
Group work  
Independent study

With a variety of Assessments:  
Essays  
Reports  
Group projects  
Lab books  
Presentations  
Worksheets



# Researching UK Universities on Unifrog



The screenshot shows the Unifrog profile for English Literature at Oxford Brookes University. The header includes the course name, university, and a 'Safe - TEF Silver' badge. Below this are three images of the university's buildings. The main text describes the course, highlighting its blend of classic texts and current theoretical models, and mentions its success in the 2013 National Student Survey. It also provides statistics on full-time undergraduates (13,005) and domestic/international student percentages (84% / 16%). A navigation bar includes links to the website, open day, course page, finance page, and disabilities. The 'Getting in' section lists the overall application success rate (21%), UK application success rate (22%), and entry requirements (A Level). It also mentions that full-time students take 3 years, with Grade B in A-level English Literature or English Language required. The 'Additional requirements' section states that GCSE English is required, along with 2 x further GCSEs at Grade 4, normally including Maths. The 'Last year's successful applicants' section notes that 80.8% of successful applicants did the same qualification types as the user, and a typical result was A Level: C. The 'Unofficial overview' section provides a brief description of the university's location and academic structure, mentioning its modular system and strong links with industry. A video player is embedded at the bottom right of the overview section.

English Literature - 3FT/6PT BA (Hons)

Oxford Brookes University

Safe - TEF Silver

English Literature offers the opportunity to study an exciting range of modules, blending the study of classic texts and literary traditions with current theoretical models for understanding literature as a dynamic, global phenomenon. Our course is renowned for its inspirational teaching and research excellence. In the 2013 National Student Survey (Source: Unistats), 93 per cent of students agreed that staff had made the subject interesting.

Full-time undergrads at the uni: 13005 Domestic / Int'l undergrads at the uni: 84% / 16%

[Website](#) [Open Day](#) [Course page](#) [Finance page](#) [Disabilities](#)

### Getting in

**Overall Application success rate**  
21%

**UK Application success rate**  
22%

**Entry requirements A Level**

Full-time 3 Years: Grade B in A-level English Literature or English Language required.

**Entry requirements UCAS points**  
112 points

**IMPORTANT:** check the [course page](#) to see if your qualifications are accepted.

**Additional requirements**  
GCSE: GCSE English - Grade 5 2 x further GCSE - Grade 4, normally to include Maths.

**Last year's successful applicants**  
80.8% of successful applicants did the same qualification types as you, and of these a typical result was:  
A Level: C

### Unofficial overview

"Oxford Brookes is spread across three suburban campuses in Oxford and the small university city has a friendly feel. Oxford Brookes pioneered the modular system of study and the academic year is split into two semesters rather than three terms. The university has a strong reputation for sport, and there are also strong links with industry. Despite the fact that the city is tiny, nightlife is lively and students enjoy studying here."

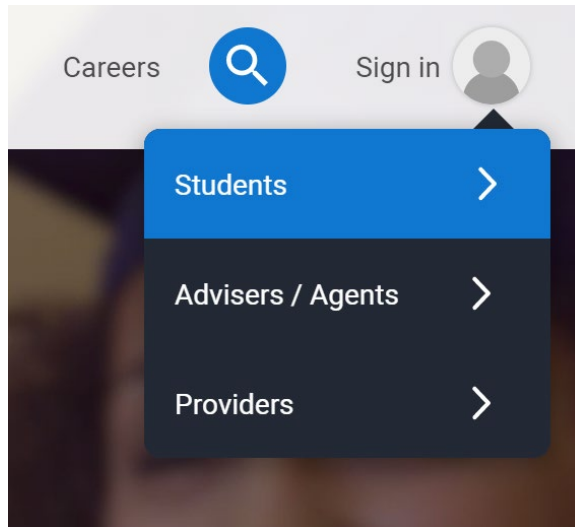
**Campus or City: CAMPUS**

- Students can enter subject of interest and projected grades to see all relevant university courses available in the UK
- Rank and filter opportunities by factors like hours of lectures, price of accommodation and graduate job rates
- Get direct links to university information pages, with impartial information on courses and institutions
- Save unlimited shortlists to refer back to later

# Researching UK Universities on UCAS

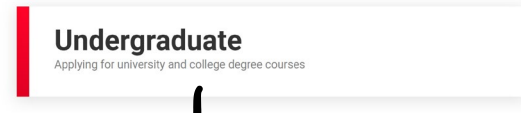
**Create a UCAS HUB Account**  
**(useful for everyone even if you are not thinking of going to Uni!)**

- From the UCAS homepage – [ucas.com](https://ucas.com)



## STUDENT SIGN IN

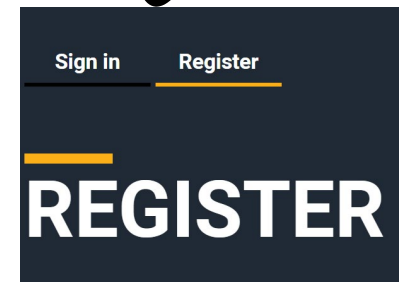
Please select an education scheme.



### 2022 entry

Applications for 2022 entry open in May 2021 but you can start your research now with the UCAS Hub!

Whether you want to compare courses or apprenticeships, or get your head round the personal statement, the UCAS Hub has it covered.





# Researching UK Universities on UCAS continued

- Once you have a UCAS account you can filter your options:
  - Type of University
  - Course vacancies
  - Which university
  - Subject
  - Entry requirements
  - Where to study (location)
  - How far you want to travel

# Finances for University

- Most **tuition fees** in the UK are currently £9,250 a year
- Exceptions include:
  - Clinical courses (Medicine, Veterinary and Dentistry) fees are around £19,000
  - Some performing arts courses
- **Living costs:** e.g. accommodation costs:
  - Halls of residence: £100 - £200 per week (approx. 31 weeks for an Undergraduate course) includes bills and some prices will also include full or part catering.
  - Private accommodation: £70 - £150 per week, this excludes utility bills and food (you will likely have to pay rent for 52 weeks)

(Accommodation costs in parts of London are considerably higher with some Universities charging in excess of £200 per week for halls of residence)

Other living costs, e.g. food, travel/petrol, insurance, social, clubs/societies/teams, clothing, books, study materials, TV license, internet, mobile and utility bills.

# Finances for University

- Grants available from the States of Guernsey and the Education department
- There are three types of award:
  - Assessed Award
  - Fee Subsidy Only
  - Independent Student Bursaries
- For Assessed Awards and Fee Subsidy Only awards, the closing date for applications is 31<sup>st</sup> May prior to the commencement of the course.
- For Independent Student Bursaries the closing date is 30th June prior to the commencement of the course.
- If you require further information on funding for higher education courses, please contact a member of the Student Finance team.

<https://www.gov.gg/studentfinance>

# Apply Key Facts

- Application is entirely online
- Maximum of five choices of degree courses
- Some choice restrictions:
  - medicine, veterinary medicine/science, dentistry
  - maximum of four plus a non-medical insurance choice
  - e.g. Biomedical Science
  - You can only apply to Oxford **or** Cambridge, not both!

# Application Process

- Students will do this in lessons from September. PLEASE DO NOT DO THIS OUT OF LESSON TIME as we need to ensure it is correct

## Sections to complete:

1. Personal details
2. Additional information
3. Student finance
4. Choices
5. Education
6. Employment
7. Personal statement
8. **Referee details**



Tutor adds reference



UCAS



Universities/colleges



# Application Process – What happens next

Universities and colleges will review:



personal statement



qualifications

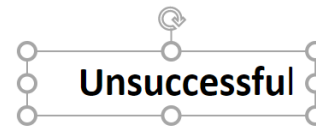


reference

And make one of three decisions:

Conditional offer

Unconditional offer



They may also ask for:



Portfolio/audition



Admissions test



Interview

UCAS

Security marking: PUBLIC



# Application Process – What happens next

- Once you have heard from all your universities you will then be asked to choose x2 Universities
- Your Firm (1<sup>st</sup> Choice) – normally grades equivalent to your predicted grades
- Your Insurance (2<sup>nd</sup> Choice) – normally a grade below your Firm and potentially your predicted



# When to apply for 2023 entry

- UCAS are yet to release dates but approximate dates:

	The Ladies' College	Elizabeth College
Early applicants	3rd October 2022	End of September
All other applicants	End of November 2022	End of November 2022
Decisions made	May 2023	May 2023

- Results August 2023 (predicted to be 17<sup>th</sup>)

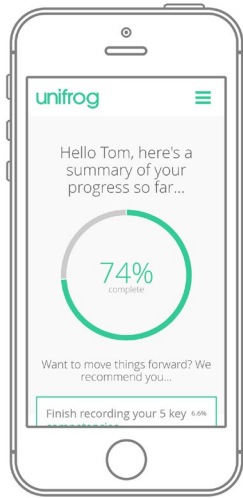
# Students what should you be doing now?

- **Research** – Use UCAS and Unifrog to research courses, we will be working on this in Careers lessons
- **Creating university shortlists** – Use Unifrog ‘Applications’ tool, we will be working on this in Careers lessons
- **Open days?**
  - There are lots of virtual open days and in life open days, start looking at dates!

## Go beyond the syllabus

- Extra reading, Moocs etc
  - use the ‘Geek out’ sections in the ‘Subject library’ on Unifrog

# Parents what should you be doing now?



Go to [www.unifrog.org/student](http://www.unifrog.org/student) and click

‘Sign in for the first time’

You’ll be asked for some details and a form code. This is what you need:

**ladiesparents**

**elizabethparents**

After signing up, log into Unifrog using your email address and password via the student sign-in page!

# Parents what should you be doing now?

- Sign up for information designed for parents <https://www.ucas.com/parents-signup>
- Talk to your son or daughter about the various options
- May be attend a virtual open day together.....

# Upcoming events

## **Higher Education Fair:**

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March, from 1500 – 16.30, Performing Arts Centre

## **National Careers Week:**

Networking and Careers Fair:

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March, Grammar School Sports Hall (14.30-17.00)

# Virtual University events

- **Unifrog: Next Steps student Fair** - Tuesday 8th March, 17:00-20:00.  
sign up for this event through the 'Webinar' tool on their Unifrog homepage.

- **UCAS Discovery days** - UCAS has lots of virtual events happening over the year. Use UCAS Hub to find out more.

- **UK University Search - Virtual Fair** on March 30th.

[UK University & Apprenticeship Search Virtual Fairs March 2022 \(vfairs.com\)](https://vfairs.com)

- **Meet the Russell Group** - Webinar on Wednesday 27th April -

[Russell Group - April 2022 \(vfairs.com\)](https://vfairs.com)

# Questions?