

Higher Education Information Evening



CHARTERS SCHOOL

Please can you switch your mobile phone off!

What is higher education?

- Higher education refers to studying for qualifications such as **first degrees**, **higher national diplomas H.N.D** or **foundation degrees**, amongst others.
- Many courses take place in **universities**, but plenty are also taught at **higher education colleges, specialist art institutions and agricultural colleges**.

Choosing a University

- How far away do they want to go
want to go?
- Would they be able to live
at home?
- What does the town / city
have to offer?
- What is the University
like?
- Do they want catered
facilities or non catered?





Choosing a University

- ❖ The old universities eg: Durham Oxford
- ❖ The 1960s universities/the red brick universities eg: Lancaster Warwick
- ❖ The 1992 universities eg: Brighton Kingston
- ❖ The brand new universities eg: Canterbury Christ Church

Some application strategies.....

- Broaden the choice of institution



50% of independent school applicants apply to these 15 universities

UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM



Imperial College
London

KING'S
College
LONDON



MANCHESTER
1824



UNIVERSITY OF
Southampton



THE UNIVERSITY OF
WARWICK

Choosing a University

- Prospectus
 - Website
- Open day

Deciding what to study

- What subject do they enjoy most?
- What subject are they best at?
- What do they want to do after University?



Some application strategies.....

- **Broaden the choice of course**
- *At the top 5 universities for English, there are 12 applicants with 3 'A's for every place*
- **NOTE THAT THE BEST COURSE MAY NOT BE AT ONE OF THE SO-CALLED BEST UNIVERSITIES.**
- BRUNEL for example is a leading institution for Design
- LOUGHBOROUGH for Sport science
- LANCASTER for Management.



How do they choose the right course?

- There are over 50,000 full time undergraduate courses on offer in the UCAS system
- The curriculum in one subject:
e.g. History can be very different at different institutions

What should they look for?

- The entry requirement
- The course content
- The length of the course
- The examination system over the whole course
- The course structure:
 - single subject degree
 - Joint honours degree
 - Sandwich course
 - Year abroad

What else should they look for?

- The style of teaching
- The number of students accepted on the course/the number of students who usually apply
- The sort of jobs graduates on the course go on to do

UCAS Points / Grade System

- A* = 140
- A = 120
- B = 100
- C = 80
- D = 60
- E = 40

AS counts as 50% of
the above points



BTEC

- Distinction 120
- Merit 80
- Pass 40

Others

- Extended project
- Music/Drama

The degree they will end up with

- Most first degrees lead to the award of a Bachelors degree ie BA or BSc.
- Some lead to Masters degrees
- Most degrees are awarded by the universities or colleges they attend or from the university that validates the course.
- They are differentiated by classes depending on how well the students have done.
- First class /honours degree known as a First
- Upper second known as a 2.1
- Lower second: 2.2
- Thirds

How many courses can students select?

- They can choose 5 courses only
- For medicine; 4 medical schools + 1 other

THEY MUST BE REALISTIC

eg: predicted grades: BBB

- | | |
|-------|-------|
| ▪ AAA | ▪ CCC |
| ▪ AAB | ▪ CDD |
| ▪ BBB | ▪ DDD |
| ▪ BBC | ▪ DDE |
| ▪ BCC | ▪ DEE |

Specialised Entry Tests

BMAT (Veterinary)

UKCAT (medical/ dental)

LNAT (Law)

HAT (History)

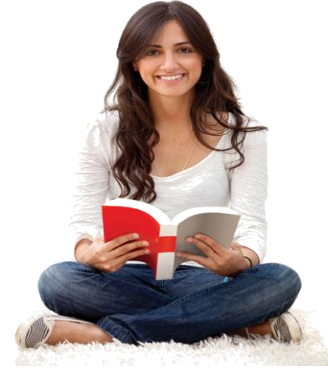
Oxford university tests

How do Universities Select Applicants?

- Predicted grades
- Previous results
- School reference
- Personal Statement
- Interview



Points about applying:



- Minimum entry requirements
 - Are *minimum entry requirements*
- Achieving minimum entry requirements gets you on the pile that gets considered
 - *Then additional sifts are applied e.g GCSE results, personal statements*
 - ***Everyone** competing for the place your candidates want will also meet the minimum requirements*
- Better to apply lower so you are at the top of the pile.

Grade predictions

- A* may be part of some offers from 2012:
- A* predictions so far little used in selection decisions, (except Oxbridge) but could change as confidence in predictions increases
- Declaration of AS results from 2012 (state schools) – will level the AS playing field and could increase universities' use of these results
- In the student's interest to be accurate

Do three A grades guarantee you a place?

- 3000+ with three A grades 'missed out'
 - *broaden your choice of institution and course*
- Only 63% of those predicted Grade A actually achieve it
 - *HEIs use other evidence from the application to test the validity of your predictions*



Will they be Interviewed?

- Applicants to Oxford and Cambridge
- Medicine / Dentistry / Nursing / Veterinary
Medicine / Physiotherapy
- Foundation Art
- Music / Drama / Dance : Audition
- Law at some universities
- Teaching courses
- Some universities interview everyone for all courses e.g. UCL

Oxford and Cambridge

What do they look for in applicants?

- Passion for their chosen subject and appropriate choice of course
- Very strong examinations record:
 - Applicants have, overall, an average of ~ 6 A*s at GCSE and ~ 90% across their three best AS levels
- Outstanding school/college reference
- Potential to succeed academically in Oxbridge, meaning:
 - Enthusiasm for complex and challenging ideas
 - Clarity of thought and analytical ability
 - Real intellectual flexibility
- Vocational commitment (where appropriate)



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE



UNIVERSITY OF
OXFORD



Selection criteria

Admissions decisions are based on:

- A level (or equivalent) grades and subject combinations
- AS grades and (Cambridge) unit marks
- GCSE grades
- UCAS personal statement and school/college reference
- Submitted work (where requested)
- Test results (chiefly Oxford)
- Interview performance



Application



- Students apply via UCAS to Oxford OR Cambridge by 15 October
- Cambridge applicants also fill in an online questionnaire after they have submitted their UCAS form; this essentially gathers AS scores
- Many Oxford applicants sit an aptitude test in early November; so do Medics and Vets for Cambridge
- Most applicants choose a College but many take the ‘open’ application route; choice of College has no impact upon likelihood of success
- Typical Oxford offer: A*A*A to AAA
- Typical Cambridge offer: A*AA or A*AAA – *but could be revised during the summer of 2011*

Applying

UCAS (University & Colleges Admissions Service) is the central organisation that processes applications for full-time undergraduate courses at UK universities and colleges.

www.ucas.com





Managing applications to UK higher education courses

Course Search



Apply



Track progress



Make the most of ucas.com

Our web-based tools will help you to apply for higher education.

Research courses using Course Search, make your application using Apply and follow the progress of your application using Track.

[Find out more about results, Clearing and your next steps](#)

Customer Service Unit - extended opening hours

Due to the 30 June deadline the Customer Service Unit will be opening 08:00 - 19:00 (UK time) on both Monday 29 and Tuesday 30 June 2009.

What's new?

Are you in Year 12, S5 or equivalent?
[Join yougo, our student-only network, and receive a discount card](#)

Follow us on Twitter
[Follow UCAS and yougo on Twitter for the latest news and updates about applying for higher education...](#)

Want to see UCAS in action?
[Watch our video guides to applying and understanding your offers on UCAS tv...](#)

The UCAS Form

Personal details

Examination results

Choices

Personal statement

Pay and send (£21)

The Personal Statement

- 47 lines
- 4000 characters including spaces



Personal statements

Opening Section

Provide insightful reasons for choosing the subject
Demonstrate commitment to the subject
(this section should be at least 70% of statement)

Middle Section

Opportunity for the writer to identify themselves as a reflective and mature individual with appropriate skills, knowledge and attitudes

Final Section

Needs to be 'punchy' and leave the reader with a firm impression of a strong desire to study the subject chosen

A Good Personal Statement

- Why do you want to study this course?
- What are your longer-term aspirations?
- Have you any related work experience?
- What skills do you possess?
- Why did you chose their other subjects?
- What are your interests/hobbies?

Plagiarism

- Personal statements are checked against a library of those already in the system and from a variety of websites and paper publications
- Each new personal statement is added to the library after processing

What Charters Offers

- Help from the Tutors
- Explanation on how to apply
- Help with Personal Statement
- Help with Entrance Exams
- Mock Interviews

Timeline

- **7th and 8th July 2011**- UCAS days. Course search available
- Fees information from July 2011
- **End of Sept**- school deadline for Oxbridge/ medicine/ dentistry/ veterinary
- **15th Oct**- UCAS deadline for above
- **End of November**- school deadline for other applications
- **15th Jan**- UCAS deadline
- **4 March 2012** - application deadline for the receipt at UCAS of applications for art and design courses except those listed with a 15 January deadline.

- BUT- can't afford to wait until after Christmas

What happens next?

- UCAS will send a copy of the application to each of the choices stated on the application.
- Each institution will decide whether they want to make an offer or not.
- Offers can be conditional or sometimes unconditional
- Students are asked to choose 2 courses only. The first choice called firm offer, the second choice called insurance in case they don't meet up the requirements for their first choice.

Insurance choice...

- It's a backstop not a second option
 - In a competitive market, use it as a backstop
 - 42% had Insurance choice harder or equal to Firm offer
-
- Post qualifications admission



Reference writing

- The tutor will write a reference.
- This will also be 47 lines.
- The focus will be academic- help from subject teachers.
- They will be positive but won't lie!



Finance

- Please look on: direct.gov.uk/studentfinance
- Fees have increased from £3290 to £9000 in most cases
- Apply in April 2012 online. All information on the website

Financial help for new full time students.

- Student Loan for tuition fees
- Student Loan for maintenance
- Maintenance grant
- Bursaries
- Extra help if you have a disability

Repayment Threshold

- Under the current system, graduates start repaying their loan once they are earning above £15,000.
- Under the new system from 2012, graduates only start repaying their loans once they are earning above £21,000. (Note: The £21,000 threshold will increase in line with earnings from 2016 onwards.)
- As the average starting salary of graduates in England is between £18,00 and £19,000, this will mean that a significant proportion of graduates won't have to repay anything for the first few years (and possibly longer) of their working life.

Repayment Calculation

- Current system: graduates repay their loan at the rate of 9% of what they earn above £15,000.
- New system: graduates repay their loan at the rate of 9% of what they earn above £21,000.

Repayment Examples

- In September 2015, when most of the graduates under the new system will be starting work, these examples compare what they will be repaying per week compared to graduates under the old system. It is important to realise that **repayment is based purely on income** and is not dependent on the total amount of loan taken out.

A graduate earning £21,000

- Under the current system would pay back approximately £10 per week (regardless of the size of their loan)
- Under the new system would pay back nothing (regardless of the size of their loan)

A graduate earning £24,000

- Under the current system would pay back approximately £16 per week (regardless of the size of their loan)
- Under the new system would pay back approximately £5 (regardless of the size of their loan)

A graduate earning £30,000

- Under the current system would pay back approximately £26 per week (regardless of the size of their loan)
- Under the new system would pay back approximately £16 (regardless of the size of their loan)

A graduate earning £40,000

- Under the current system would pay back approximately £43 per week (regardless of the size of their loan)
- Under the new system would pay back approximately £33 (regardless of the size of their loan)

Interest on loan

- Interest on your loan will be charged at inflation plus 3% while you are studying, and up until the April after you leave university.
- From the April after you leave university if you are earning below £21,000, interest will be applied at the rate of inflation.
- Graduates earning between £21,000 and £41,000 will be charged interest on a sliding scale up to a maximum of inflation plus 3%.
- Graduates earning above £41,000, will be charged interest at the full rate of inflation plus 3%.

The Government says that under the new arrangements:

- All graduates will pay less per month than they do under the current system.
- All outstanding repayments will be written off after 30 years
- Around a quarter of graduates, those with the lowest lifetime earnings, will pay less than under the current system.
- The Browne Report suggested that only the top 40% of earners on average will pay back the full amount of their loan over the 30 year repayment period. This percentage was based on its recommendations and may be different under the government's proposals.

Maintenance Grants

- From 2012, these will be slightly more generous than under the present system

Other paths

- www.notgoingtouni.com
- 1st class: Careers Path folder containing:
 - Apprenticeships and jobs
 - University
 - College
 - Voluntary work
 - Careers web
 - Gap year
 - Careers events

Coming up.....

- **LOOKING BEYOND UK: UNIVERSITIES IN THE AMERICAS, ASIA, AUSTRALIA & EUROPE – HOW TO GET IN. Conference on Friday 30th September will be hosted at Wellington College. There will be a representation from universities from the US, Australia, Europe, Canada, Dubai and Asia.**
- **More information on the Wellington College website**

**University Challenge: A workshop for parents
advising prospective university students**

- **Friday 2 September 2011, 10am to 1pm at the University of London in central London.**
- For further details and to book a place, please visit www.careers.lon.ac.uk/challenge.
- Places are limited so it is advised to book early.

Useful websites for research

www.ucas.com

<http://www.unistats.com/>

<http://education.guardian.co.uk/universityguide>

[http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/life and style/education/good university guide/](http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/life_and_style/education/good_university_guide/)

<http://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk>

Guide to finance

<http://www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance>

<http://www.bis.gov.uk/studentfinance>