



CHARTERS SCHOOL

HIGHER EDUCATION INFORMATION EVENING



A guide for parents

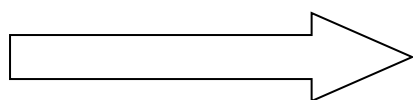


CHOOSING A UNIVERSITY

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

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 vary enormously at different institutions



It is very important to look at the course content over the 3 or 4 years and NOT just the first year

WHAT SHOULD THEY LOOK FOR EXACTLY?

- The entry requirement
- The course content
- The length of the course
- The examination system over the whole course
- The number of students accepted on the course/the number of students who usually apply
- The drop out rate
- The sort of jobs graduates on the course go on to do

■ The course structure:

- ❖ Single subject degree
- ❖ Joint honours degree
- ❖ Sandwich course
- ❖ Year abroad
- ❖ The style of teaching

UCAS POINTS / GRADE SYSTEM

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

AS counts as 50% of the above points (but no A* for AS)

BTEC NATIONALS			Tariff points
Grade			
Diploma	Certificate	Award	
DDD			360
DDM			320
DMM			280
MMM	DD		240
MMP	DM		200
MPP	MM		160
PPP	MP	D	120
	PP	M	80
		P	40

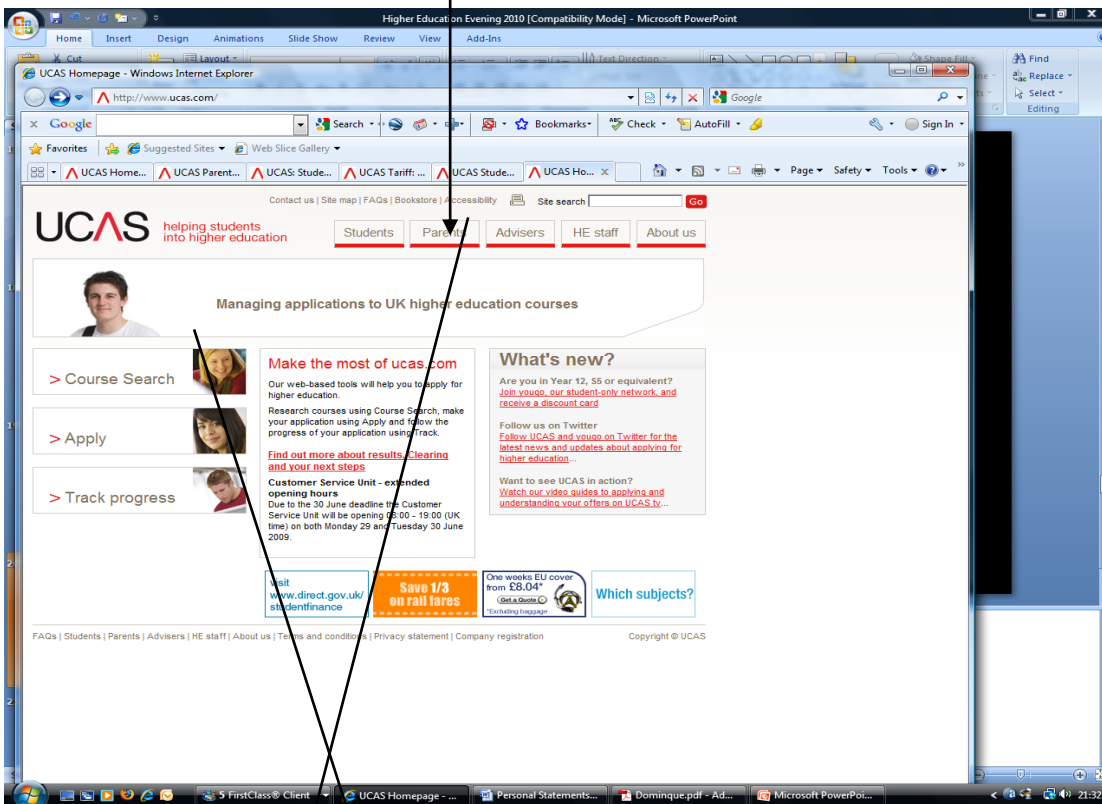
Applying



www.ucas.com

Students once they have registered, have a username and ID number. They must keep it in a safe place. They cannot log on again without it.

Information for parents



To research courses and universities

Information for students

If you follow this link you will access all the UCAS/University jargon.

[Home](#) > [Students](#) > UCAS terms explained

How many courses can they select?

- They can choose 5 courses only
- Once they have had offers they keep only 2:
 - Their favourite one (it will be called **firm** offer)
 - Their back up choice if they don't make the grades for their firm offer (it will be called **insurance**)

THE UCAS FORM

Personal details

Examination results

Choices

Personal statement 47 lines 4000 characters

School reference

Pay and send (Pay on line)

DEADLINES

- **30th September: Charters Deadline for applications to Oxford, Cambridge, medicine, dentistry and veterinary medicine/science.**
- **28th November: Charters Deadline for other subjects and universities**
- **17th March: Charters Deadline some Art and Design courses**

Writing a personal statement (advice for students)

The UCAS Personal Statement is your opportunity to tell universities about your suitability for the course(s) that you have decided to study. You need to demonstrate your enthusiasm and commitment and, above all, ensure that you stand out from the crowd. Remember that the admissions selector reading your statement is an academic in your chosen area of interest, and will therefore want to know the reasons why you connect with the subject.

Remember that you only write one personal statement which should be relevant to all your university choices. Therefore, try to allow some consistency in your course choices. If you are applying for a joint course, you will need to explain why you are interested in both aspects of this joint programme.

Example format for a personal statement

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

- **4000 characters**
- **47 Lines**

The Reference

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!

Other important points:

- Be realistic with grade predictions
- Ensure insurance offer is lower than firm offer
- Broaden choice of institution
- Broaden choice of course
- Personal statements will be checked for plagiarism
- The personal statement must focus on passion for the subject
- Search the best university for the subject. The best course may not be at the so called 'best university'

Useful websites to research courses

www.ucas.com

www.opendays.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.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/single.htm?ipg=6524>

Some of these sites list the best universities for each subject and give you information on what it is like to study each subject at university.

Guide to finance

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

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

If you have any questions feel free to contact me:

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