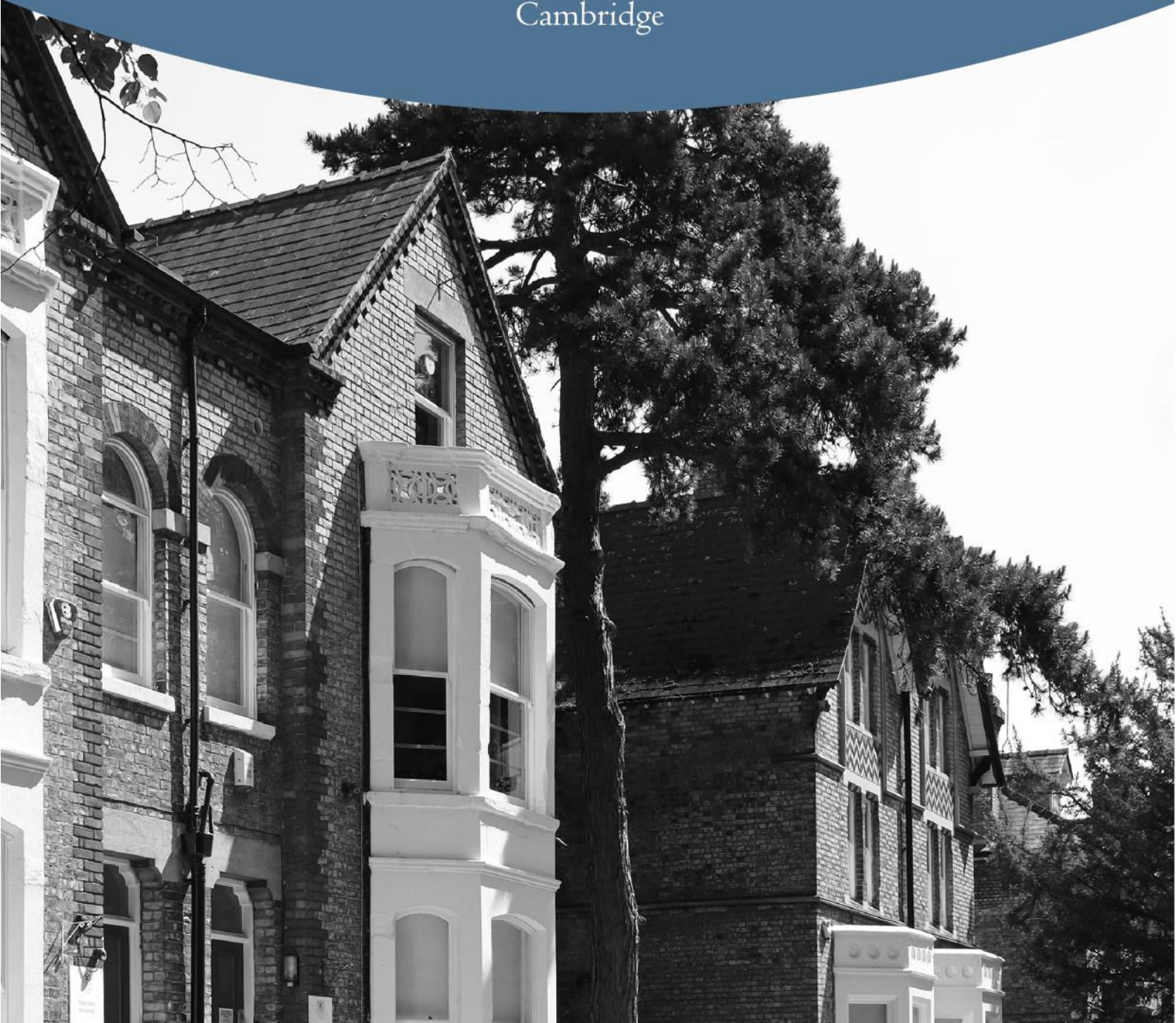




ST. ANDREW'S COLLEGE
Cambridge



UCAS

STUDENT GUIDE 2024 / 2025

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WHAT IS UCAS?

The Universities and Colleges Admissions Service is the organisation responsible for managing applications to higher education courses in the UK. Not only do they process more than two million applications for full-time undergraduate courses every year, but they help you to find the right course for you.

To make things run as smoothly as possible they provide everything you need online: from making your application through to tracking your offers. You can search for courses and follow links to individual university and college websites, read information about finance, order a UCAS card and much more besides. www.ucas.com

A successful UCAS application is best achieved when student, school and agent/parents are all actively involved.

Step 1 – Planning, research, visits

Step 2 – Choosing courses: deciding what and where

Step 3 – Applying online through UCAS.com

Step 4 – Offers: check progress using Track at UCAS.com

Step 5 – Results

Step 6 – Confirmation of placement, or Clearing

Step 7 – Starting University or College

Six good reasons to go to university

- Graduate earnings are still greater than those of non-graduates, so choosing to do a degree is an investment worth making
- Graduates are 50% more likely to get a job and are more likely to receive training and promotion.
- Graduate employees are more likely to experience 'job satisfaction' (challenging jobs with responsibility and inherent rewards).
- A relevant degree is required for entry to some professions i.e., architecture, law, teaching, accountancy, medicine.
- A university education will develop you intellectually and personally leading to an enhanced quality of adult life.
- It is great fun! – a chance to spend three years with people the same age from a wide variety of cultures and backgrounds.

It is probably the biggest decision of your life so far -get it wrong and you could end up losing money if you drop out or spending three very unhappy years in education. You might fail to gain access to the occupation you had hoped for and have to retrain.

CHOOSING A COURSE

Becoming a student in higher education (HE) is a big step, and there are important questions you will need to consider.

There are over 50,000 higher education courses listed in the UCAS database, offered at over 350 universities and colleges. There are also a significant number of Further Education Colleges that offer higher education courses. With so many options available, choosing a course can be a difficult decision.

What are you looking for?

Is your intended profession dependent on a specific degree?

Do you want to study a particular subject or subject combination in greater depth; think about what you enjoy and can do well, both at school and outside. It doesn't even have to be a subject you studied at school: there is a far wider variety of subjects available than in the secondary education curriculum and work experience, a job or a hobby may have triggered an interest.

Use *UCAS Course Search* – a comprehensive online database of available courses which covers about 95% of all full-time HE undergraduate courses in the UK. For each course, there is information on fees, bursaries, and financial support and many have supplementary details, such as course content, specific entry requirements and potential career paths. You can search for courses in your chosen subject and/or institution or UK region.

Single Honours - You study one main subject, usually with the option of taking up to 25% of your degree in another subject.

Joint Honours - Where you study two subjects on a 50:50 basis.

Major/minor Honours - Occasionally you can do a major/minor Honours Degree where the majority of your study is in one subject and the minority in another, for example, Accounting & Finance with Computing.

Part-time study - You can take a full-time degree programme on a half-time basis or do an Honours Degree by working your way through interim awards.

Honours degree with a foundation year - If, for whatever reason, you do not have appropriate qualifications for direct entry, some Honours degrees offer a foundation year.

Foundation degrees are interim higher education awards, which start at a point before Honours degree entry and end at a level significantly below an Honours degree. There are usually good progression routes on to a related Honours degree or a specific top-up Honours degree.

Higher National Diplomas are two year full time (or three year part time) courses which once completed can lead to entry on the final year of a degree course. HND courses are vocational in nature as they prepare you for careers in specific areas of industry. More 'learning by doing' and highly valued by employers, most HND courses require one A level for entry.

Top-up Honours degrees are one-year programmes designed to allow progression from foundation degrees or HNDs to bachelor Honours degree level.

How is a course structured?

- Are you able to diversify and acquire new skills by studying topics outside your main subject area?
- Taking a language normally includes a year of studying or working abroad
- Does a course include a sandwich year of working in industry?
- Science-based subjects can include full-day practical laboratory sessions
- What is the proportion of private study and reading to lectures and tutorials?

Is it the type of university or its location?

For example: a specialist institution for the creative arts, or somewhere renowned for research and development, or a tradition of academia; traditional or modern, city centre or rural town, large campus, or small college, within a 3 hour drive of home or much further afield; does it have a wide and thriving extra-curricular programme with opportunities to continue your favourite hobbies or introduce you to new ones.

Should you put your career choice first?

Before you apply for a particular course, think about the kind of career you would like it to lead to. Some professions require a specific degree i.e., if you want to be a scientist, lawyer, doctor, or vet.

www.aimhigher.ac.uk is a website that can help you with planning and making decisions to put you on the right path for your future. If you want to find out more about different kinds of jobs, you can compare careers online. Then, to find out what qualifications and training are required in each case, you can profile a profession. What you have studied so far will also influence your choice: you can match qualifications to degree types. Finally, you can also identify suitable career options for a particular qualification – or find out what qualifications you need for a particular career.

Future wise organise 'Careers Experience Events, Insight Visits and gap and volunteering shows. See their website for details www.myfuturewise.org.uk

To help you make your choice

Discuss your options with lots of different people -friends, family, tutors, subject teachers, careers advisers, universities.

You can access loads of information to help you decide. An excellent starting point is the UCAS website – use the course database to search for particular subjects and courses.

Order and read *University and Department Prospectuses*. Search via the *Web* and examine the official (and unofficial student) sites.

Look at *independent university guides* such as Virgin Alternative Guide, Times Guide, Push Guide, Heap's 'Degree Course Offers' and 'Choosing Your Degree Course and University'.

League tables help you investigate which universities are best for particular courses:

www.theguardian.com

www.timesonline.co.uk

www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk

Unistats is the official website to help you make an informed choice when deciding which UK university to apply to. It includes the results of the latest National Student Survey.

www.unistats.ac.uk enables you to:

- See the best universities for your subject
- See National Student Satisfaction results
- See job prospects
- Compare UCAS point

Attending *VIRTUAL Open Days* at universities is a great way to get a feel for the place and to find out more about the courses, accommodation, location and transport links and facilities. You will meet and ask questions of Admissions Tutors, faculty staff and chat to undergraduates for an insider's view.

St. Andrew's College Cambridge will have its own small virtual university fair in October. Your tutors will make you aware of the dates.

Go on *Taster Courses* - a number of universities and colleges offer short 'taster' courses, giving you the chance to experience academic and social life. Most of these courses are free and they vary in length from one day to a full week. There are also a few summer courses available. You would experience lectures and tutorials and have the chance to mingle with students who share your academic interests. Demonstrating your commitment to a course will also look good in the personal statement on your UCAS application.

Attend *subject specific conventions* – the Year 12 visit to the UCAS convention is a great introduction but UCAS also hold others: 'Design your future' focuses on art and design courses, and 'Compose your future' provides a fantastic opportunity for those interested in performing arts, music, dance, drama, broadcasting, and multimedia production. 'Examine your future' covers medicine, healthcare, and allied health professions

So how do you make the decision?

RESEARCH, RESEARCH, RESEARCH

COURSES – WHERE TO FIND INFORMATION

- The UCAS website – www.ucas.com The site has lists of courses offered by all the universities and colleges in the UCAS system. You can search for courses by subject or interest, and discover what is on offer and where: single or joint Honours (i.e., a combination of subjects), length of course, course code, qualification etc. You can refine searches by location and follow links to the providers' website.
- Unifrog.org- Our college offers a students' membership to use all the tools included such as: researching, sorting and locking your courses, linking the common app applications to US, take careers quizzes and follow webinars and instructions in the "how to" section. Additionally, we use unifrog to write teachers references that are then transferred onto UCAS.
- '*University Degree Course Offers*' by Brian Heap. This book gives information on entry requirements for different courses and examples of questions asked at interview. It is very easy to use. There are copies available to refer to on request in the school library.
- '*The UCAS Big Guide*' This book lists courses in subject tables and gives information on entry requirements. It will not be as up to date as the UCAS website. Available in the school library.
- University Open Days. Heads of Faculties and departmental staff will be armed with information for you and are usually available to talk to. Visits are also essential to get a feel for the university, to view the campus and accommodation and find out what else is on offer for students in the way of clubs, societies, Students Union facilities, pastoral and health care etc. Visit www.opendays.com for dates of Open Days.
- The Push Guide – www.push.co.uk, this website gives an independent description of the facilities and campuses at different universities. It is very good for giving you a feel for what a place is like.
- The Guardian league tables – www.theguardian.com/education/universityguide - Use to search league tables to compare UK universities and subjects. Also articles on current affairs in education.
- www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk – includes university league and subject tables in association with The Independent.
- Futurewise - www.myfuturewise.org.uk Careers courses and events for students aged 16+.
- Also try www.careersosimple.com for simple careers information

CHOOSING A UNIVERSITY

By deciding on a course, you will have started to narrow down the choices of University. However, there may be many universities or colleges that offer a course that appeals to you, especially if you are considering a popular or common subject such as English or History, so you will also want to think about other criteria.

Most students have some idea of the location they want to be in – whether it's in the south of England, by the sea, miles away from or close to home. Many people opt for somewhere that is far enough away from their families to be independent but not too far to get home in a crisis, usually two or three hours' drive away. When you've found five to ten universities that appeal to you, you will need to find out more about them.

How do I find out about universities?

University websites and prospectuses are a good place to start finding out more, but by far *the best way to get a feel for a university is to visit*. Before you fill in your UCAS form, visit as many universities as you can. Look out for open days, campus tours, taster sessions, summer courses and master classes. This will give you a taste of what the university is really like, and current students are often on hand to answer your questions. Once you receive an offer from a university you may also be invited to an interview or visit day. It's important to visit your most likely choices before deciding, particularly your firm and insurance choices.

Visit www.opendays.com for dates of Open Days.

More useful websites:

www.unifrog.org

www.qaa.ac.uk – the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education.

<https://unistats.ac.uk> – see the best university for your subject.

<http://www.aimhigherwm.ac.uk/> -Information on what higher education can do for you, how to apply for a course, funding, and student life.

www.scholarship-search.org.uk – another scholarship search site with student finance info.

www.beis.gov.uk – department for business, energy, and industrial strategy. Up to date info on the government policies

For help with understanding qualifications required for a career go to <http://neuvoo.co.uk>

POINTS TO REMEMBER WHEN RESEARCHING UNIVERSITIES

- Do you want to study at a campus or non-campus university?
- How far away from home do you want to be?
- Are the transport links good?
- What sort of location would you like to be in? For example, a country town or large city, or close to the coast.
- What is the local environment like? Do you like the area?
- Will you need to find part-time work? Does the university offer help to find part-time work?
- What is the university's reputation like? League tables published by national newspapers will give you an indication of teaching quality and graduate employability.
- What bursaries/scholarships do they offer?
- How many students attend the university? Is this important to you?
- Is your subject of interest within a large faculty? Will you feel well supported in your studies?
- How does the course compare with similar courses at other universities?
- What is the accommodation like?
- What are the study facilities like? For example, libraries and IT facilities.
- How good are the social and sporting facilities? Does the university offer the sport or society that you want?
- Are the support services good? For example, medical, financial and disability support. Will you need special help, such as dyslexia support?

You will be investing a great deal of time and money in your degree so make sure that you make an informed choice. Of the students who drop out of higher education in their first year, the majority do so because they have chosen the wrong course or the wrong university for them, so do your homework!

JARGON BUSTING

Admissions Office

The university department that processes applications and advises students on the suitability of their qualifications for degree courses.

Alumni

Graduates or former students of a university.

Bachelor's Degree

The qualification studied towards as an undergraduate, also known as a first degree or undergraduate degree.

BA	Bachelor of Arts (e.g., a science, art, humanities subjects)
B.Ed.	Bachelor of Education (e.g., teaching)
BSc	Bachelor of Science (e.g., a science, some humanities subjects)
LLB	Bachelor of Laws
BM	Bachelor of Medicine
BM	Bachelor of Surgery (with BM)

Bursary

Non-repayable financial support for eligible students available from universities and organisations.

Campus

The buildings and grounds of a university or college including teaching, shops, accommodation, sports, and entertainment facilities.

CATS (Credit Accumulation Transfer Scheme)

All courses, or modules, are worth a number of CATS points once they are completed. This means if you change course, move to another institution, take a break from study, or change from full to part-time, you can take the credits with you.

Clearing

A period in August (after A level exam results are released) when late applications can be submitted.

Combined/Joint Honours

A degree in which a student combines two different subjects.

DBS

Disclosure and Barring Service – most health, social care and education courses will require students to be assessed by the CRB.

Deferred Entry

Application for a university place (through UCAS) more than one year before you intend to start the course.

Degree

A qualification awarded by a university after satisfactory level has been achieved.

Dissertation/Research Project

An extended essay or report (8,000 to 12,000 words) on a specific subject area, written in the final year of an undergraduate Honours degree course.

Extended Degree

A degree that includes a one-year foundation stage leading directly to first stage of an Honours degree course.

Extras

Term referring to extra choices if no offers are received or if you change your mind or you are unsuccessful with your firm and insurance choices.

Faculties

Subject departments in a university. Sometimes known as Academic Schools.

FE (Further Education)

FE colleges run A levels, AVCEs, GCSEs, BTECs, HNCs, HNDs, foundation degrees, access, and short courses.

Foundation Course

The course that is taken prior to degree-level study to bring students up to the required standard.

Freshers

What new university students are known as? A Fresher's Week may be organised as an introduction to university life. This can include social events, society fairs, and introductions to the library and computer resources.

Gap Year

Many students take a year out between school and university, often to travel, study or work to gain experience and save money for university.

Graduate

Someone who has successfully completed their first degree.

Halls (of residence)

University-owned accommodation that students often stay in during their first year.

HE (Higher Education)

Study beyond A level, including higher national certificates (HNC) and diplomas (HND), foundation degrees, undergraduate and postgraduate degrees.

HE Maintenance Grant

Non-repayable financial support from the Government available to eligible students to help with living costs at university.

HNC/HND (Higher National Certificates/Diplomas)

These are practical two year courses. Students who successfully complete courses may progress onto an appropriate undergraduate degree.

Hons (degree with Honours)

This is a full undergraduate degree – usually requiring the completion of a dissertation or research project.

Insurance Choice

Once you have received all your offers, you have to reduce the offers to two- Firm and insurance. Insurance offers will be typically a little less demanding academically in case you have a bad set of results.

Lecture

A formal presentation of ideas to a large number of students.

Master Class

This is a session designed to give a taste of studying a subject at university.

Open Days

Some universities have subject-specific open days, where students and their families can visit a university to find out more about the course they are interested in and the university.

Offer

An offer of a place on a course at university – this may be a conditional offer, dependent on A-level results, or an unconditional offer.

Oxbridge

Common term used for both Oxford and Cambridge universities – you can only apply to one

Postgraduate Study

A programme of study or research leading to a master's degree or PhD.

Russell Group

A term used to describe the 24 “good” universities in the UK, including Oxford and Cambridge. They are world renowned for their high academic standards and research. www.russellgroup.ac.uk

Sandwich Course

An undergraduate degree that includes a work-placement year, making it a 4-year course.

Scholarship

A non-repayable grant awarded to a student based on a range of criteria. This varies greatly between each institution. Scholarships are frequently awarded for merit. Regional scholarships are also being offered by some institutions to local schools/colleges.

Semester/Term

The university academic year is either divided into two semesters or three terms; this is dependent on the university.

Seminar

More interactive than a lecture. A group of students meet to discuss a subject with a tutor.

Single Honours

An undergraduate degree focusing on one subject area (or group of related subject areas).

SU (Students' Union)

NUS (National Union of Students) this is a national organisation run for students by students. Every university has its own SU which can provide advice and guidance for students on many aspects of university life including finance, accommodation, employment, and academic issues, as well as organising entertainment and social events.

Tariff System

Designed to help students calculate whether they meet course entry requirements.

Taster session

Gives a taste of a subject at the specific university it is held at.

Undergraduate

Someone studying for his or her first degree.

HOW TO GET THE COURSE YOU WANT

All university Admissions Officers will require you to gain certain grades or tariff points in order to be admitted onto a course. Before you apply make sure that you have the right information:

- Research the course to make sure it is right for you. Read about what the university is looking for.
- Ask for help and talk to parents, your tutor, the Principal- don't rely on your friends alone.

- Make sure your predicted grades match those asked for by the course providers, not just overall grades but also subject specific grades
- Be realistic in your choices and include a range of courses with a range of entry requirements
- Visit the universities on Open Days to make sure that they are the right sort of place for you. No two universities are alike!
- Use your Personal Statement to promote yourself in the best possible way
- Apply early – some providers start to interview in October/November. Don't risk missing out on a place by applying late.

If you are applying for a course in *Law, Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary medicine* or related courses, some universities will require you to take an *additional test: BMAT, UCAT, LNAT*. Details of these tests are on the following pages.

Mathematics courses at Cambridge will require the *STEP* test. English at Oxford require the *ELAT*. There are an increasing number of tests for different Oxbridge courses, and you will also be asked to provide a sample of recent work – a marked essay for example.

Always check the course entry requirements on each university's website.

There are many organisations offering support for applications in these fields (interviews, tests, current topics etc.).

OXBRIDGE – ARE YOU A LIKELY CANDIDATE?

GCSE Results – competition for places is strong and almost all applicants have all 9 and 8 grades at GCSE. Unless there are particular extenuating circumstances, we could not be optimistic about your chances of gaining a place at Oxford if you do not have a high percentage of 9 and 8 grades at GCSE. (i.e.,100%)

GCE Results -Following a review of A-level achievements, some degree courses at Oxford have changed their entrance requirements to include one or more A* grades. Conditional offers for students studying A-levels range between A*A*A and AAA, depending on the subject. Oxford University does not require its candidates to disclose information on unit grades, but a candidate may choose to include this in their UCAS application. Conditional offers are made on the basis of final grades alone.

Full details are available on the Entrance Requirements tab of each course page at www.ox.ac.uk

For many Cambridge courses, prior knowledge of certain subjects is required, and all Colleges expect such subjects to be passed, normally with an A or A* grade at A Level. When assessing applicants for all courses they consider not only the individual A Level subjects being offered but also the combination of these. Beside your UCAS application, you will also need to complete a Supplementary Application Questionnaire and, depending on the course or college you apply to, you may be asked to complete either a subject specific test or a TSA (Thinking Skills Assessment) prior to or during the interview process.

Do you have the right GCE combination for your chosen degree course?

For Arts/Social Science there are few restrictions. For example, it is not essential to have studied History at A2 for a degree course, although you will need to have studied related subjects.

Sciences require Maths + at least 1 science subject at GCE.

Extended project, Critical Thinking and General Studies are not included as appropriate qualifications.

Admission tutors are not only interested in the appropriateness of A2 subjects but are also interested in your success over all your subjects.

Do you have the right IELTS for your chosen degree course?

Unless you have a currently an IELTS of 7 overall, with writing at a 7, and everything else at 6.5 or above it is unlikely you will be considered.

Consider whether Oxford or Cambridge is the best place for your chosen course. (You may apply to one or the other, not both.)

Open Days

Oxford open days are during June and July, Cambridge mainly during July and September, although different colleges have open days throughout the year. Book or register online in good time (during March & April). Visit even if they say it is full – all are welcome.

Extra-Curricular Activities -not Extra but SUPER Curricular Activities

On top of 3 A levels, your super curricular activities should be subject related, showing genuine, intellectual interest. For example:

- Summer schools
- Work experience
- Public lectures
- Voluntary work
- Competitions
- Read the broadsheets – but pick out relevant editorials and articles
- Read scientific journals
- Read books
- If you have won awards, put them into perspective: what for, why, national, or local?

What Oxford considers when you apply

- Predicted A2 grades and subject combinations -if you are predicted less than 3 A grades, for good reason, then explain why i.e., illness, constant change of staff, close bereavement
- AS grades, modules – evidence of an upward trend
- GCSE grades
- IELTS
- Test results – UCAT, LNAT, ESAT, TMUA, etc
- Written work – show a liberal view. You may submit a section of your extended project
- Personal Statement
- School reference
- Interview performance – tutors may ask questions based on details in your personal statement.

Personal Statement

- 75% should be devoted to the subject
- What have you particularly enjoyed studying? Why?
- Use specific examples, not general statements
- What have you read outside school? What did you think of it?
- Extra-curricular activities should focus on transferable skills
- Work experience
- Associated skills
- Make it personal but don't be quirky

Interviews (at Oxford)

- Why? Because interviews (as well as aptitude tests and submitted work) help to assess the appropriateness of subject and course choice and show your potential for tutorial engagement.
- Interviews are conducted principally by your preference College.
- Applicants have 2 or 3 interviews, each lasting 20 – 45 minutes, at each College.
- 23% of successful applicants receive an offer from a College to which they did not directly apply.

What to expect?

- Interviews are an academic, subject-focused discussion in which lecturers hope to see applicants thinking problems through for themselves.
- Expect focused and challenging questions, typical of teaching and learning at Oxford.
- They are structured but relatively informal.
- There are no 'trick' questions or 'hurdles' to jump over.

Interviewers are looking for

- Enthusiasm for complex and challenging ideas
- Clarity of thought and analytical ability
- Intellectual flexibility

And After.....

- Almost 22,000 applications made applications for 2024 entry to Cambridge; 3,600 were accepted.
- Every year about 10,000 unsuccessful Oxbridge applicants go on to achieve three or more A*/A grades at A level
- Not receiving an offer is not the end of the world!

Contacts

Oxford Admissions Enquiries Centre

www.ox.ac.uk

Cambridge Admissions Enquiries

www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk

Or contact a College directly

UCAS TARIFF POINT SYSTEM

What is the UCAS tariff?

It's the conversion of further education qualifications such as A levels, BTECs, Diplomas etc. into one points system that universities can use to evaluate applications and make conditional offers.

How does it work?

Each qualification and grade are worth a number of points. All grades and qualifications are added together to give a total tariff point score.

Do all universities use tariff points to make offers?

No. Many universities ask for specific grades for entry and some subjects require qualifications in particular subjects. For example, a mathematics degree may require applicants to have a B grade at A level mathematics. An economics degree may require a higher grade in mathematics than in economics, and also include a specific GCSE Maths grade. It is essential to check carefully before deciding where to apply to.

Look on <https://www.ucas.com/ucas/tariff-calculator> for a full list of the qualifications covered by the UCAS tariff, together with the allocation of points.

Points are also awarded for other skills, including Advanced Extension Awards, LAMDA Speech and Drama examinations, grades 6-8, ABRSM, LCM, Trinity or Guildhall Music examinations, grades 6-8, COPE – Certificate of Personal Effectiveness, HSLA – Higher Sports Leadership Award, to name a few.

GCE AS Level	Tariff Points	GCE A Level
	56	A*
	48	A
	40	B
	32	C
	24	D
A	20	
B	16	E
C	12	
D	10	
E	6	

Speech and Drama examinations, grades 6-8, ABRSM, LCM, Trinity or Guildhall Music examinations, grades 6-8, COPE – Certificate of Personal Effectiveness, HSLA – Higher Sports Leadership Award, to name a few.

THE IMPORTANCE OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE

If you do not already have the correct IELTS / English language qualification to enter university it is imperative that you:

- Attend all of your IELTS* lessons
- Speak, read, write, and listen in English outside of your lessons
- Take your IELTS exam with plenty of time left on your course so that if you need to take it again you can.
- Speak to your tutor and your IELTS teacher about the best time to book your exam.
- An IELTS certificate only lasts for 2 years and it has to be UKVI approved.

*IELTS is as important if not more important than your academic qualifications because without the correct grade you will NOT go to your chosen university even if your academic qualifications are achieved or you will have to attend a pre-sessional IELTS course which is expensive and uses up your vacation you have just earned.

The better the university, the higher the IELTS requirements will be. An offer to study will almost always have an IELTS condition, both overall score and a minimum in certain skills (reading, speaking, listening, writing).

E.g., IELTS of 7.0 overall with a minimum of 6 in each element.

E.g. IELTS of 6.5 overall with no element below 5.5

Anything less than a 5.5 will require more tests or a pre-sessional. These courses must be booked in advance, so if you think you need additional support you will have to contact the university you applied to and ask for course dates/booking deadlines and costs.

The Engineering and Science Admissions Test (ESAT)

If you are applying to study an Engineering or Science based subject at Imperial College London or the University of Cambridge, it is likely that you will have to take the ESAT. You must check the university web pages for your chosen course to see if the ESAT is required. Failure to register for your admissions test may invalidate your application.

With many strong applicants for a limited number of places, the ESAT helps to identify those who are most likely to thrive on their chosen course. It can be used for interview shortlisting and in the selection and offer-making stages of the admissions process.

Test Format

The ESAT consists of five modules, each module lasts 40 minutes and contains 27 multiple choice questions.

Most courses will require candidates to answer Mathematics 1 and two further modules.

Please note that you will need to select the relevant modules at the point of registration. You should refer to the course pages for the institutions to which you are applying to find out which modules of the ESAT are required. It will not be possible to make changes at the test centre.

Good to know

- You will not be able to use a calculator or dictionary.
- There is no pass or fail for the ESAT. You should aim to do the best you can.
- Your final scores are based on the number of correct answers you give. You do not lose marks for incorrect answers, so it's worth attempting all questions.

How to Register

You must register in advance to sit the ESAT. Ensure you are familiar with our Key dates and Deadlines. You will sit the ESAT at a Pearson VUE test centre which you will select at the point of registration. The ESAT costs £75 for candidates in the UK and Republic of Ireland, and £130 for candidates sitting elsewhere.

Follow the link: [Register – UAT UK \(esat-tmua.ac.uk\)](https://uat.uk/esat-tmua.ac.uk)

Key Dates & Deadlines

All Cambridge applicants must register for the October test sitting.

Key Dates & Deadlines

Date	Event
1st May 2024	Account creation opens on Pearson VUE for test sittings in October 2024 and January 2025.
October 2024 Test Sitting (All Cambridge applicants must register for this sitting)	
3rd June 2024	Applications open for Access Arrangements and Bursaries
1st August 2024	Test registration opens

Key Dates & Deadlines

Date	Event
29th August 2024	<p>Test registration deadline for candidates requiring access arrangements.</p> <p>Please note that it can take up to ten working days for a request for standard access arrangements to be confirmed. You should apply for access arrangements in advance of this deadline to ensure you still have time to book your test by the deadline.</p> <p>If you are unable to provide the relevant evidence at the time of application, you will be permitted two additional weeks to send this to us, after this date.</p>
16th September 2024	<p>Online test registration closes.</p> <p>Any further bookings can be made by phone via Pearson VUE customer services.</p> <p>Please note that it can take up to five working days for an application for a bursary to be reviewed. You should apply for bursaries, where applicable, in advance of this deadline to ensure you still have time to book your test.</p>
1st October 2024	<p>Deadline for test registration. No further test bookings for the October sitting will be permitted after this date.</p>
15th and 16th October 2024	<p>ESAT Test Window</p>
16th and 17th October	<p>TMUA Test Window</p>
Week commencing 25th November 2024	<p>Test results will be made available to candidates</p>
January 2025 Test Sitting (Not applicable to Cambridge applicants)	
23rd September 2024	<p>Applications open for Access Arrangements and Bursaries</p>
24th October 2024	<p>Test registration opens</p>
21st November 2024	<p>Test registration deadline for candidates requiring access arrangements.</p> <p>Please note that it can take up to ten working days for a request for standard access arrangements to be confirmed. You should apply for access arrangements in advance of this deadline to ensure you still have time to book your test by the deadline.</p> <p>If you are unable to provide the relevant evidence at the time of application, you will be permitted two additional weeks to send this to us, after this date.</p>
9th December 2024	<p>Online test registration closes.</p> <p>Any further bookings can be made by phone via Pearson VUE customer services.</p>

Key Dates & Deadlines

Date	Event
	Please note that it can take up to five working days for an application for a bursary to be reviewed. You should apply for bursaries, where applicable, in advance of this deadline to ensure you still have time to book your test.
23rd December 2024	Test registration deadline. No further test bookings will be permitted after this date.
8th and 9th January 2025	ESAT Test Window
9th and 10th January 2025	TMUA Test Window
Week commencing 17th February 2025	Test results will be made available to candidates.

It is your responsibility to register for your test by the stated deadlines, to familiarise yourself with the test format and rules and to apply for any access arrangements or bursaries in good time.

THE UNIVERSITY CLINICAL APTITUDE TEST (UCAT)

The University Clinical Aptitude Test (UCAT) is a two-hour, computer-based test that's designed to help universities gauge whether a candidate has the attitude, mental ability and professionalism needed to thrive.

The UCAT is a key entry requirement for many Medicine and Dentistry courses.

There are now 36 UK Med Schools that require you to sit this admissions test and over 15 in Australia and New Zealand.

The test consists of five sections: Verbal Reasoning, Decision Making, Quantitative Reasoning, Abstract Reasoning, and Situational Judgement. You'll tackle these sections in order during the test.

UCAT category	Duration	Questions	Topics & Skills tested
Verbal Reasoning	21 minutes	44	Comprehension skills
Decision Making	31 minutes	29	Ability to solve text and visual data-related questions
Quantitative Reasoning	25 minutes	36	Numerical skills
Abstract Reasoning	12 minutes	50	Ability to spot patterns and ignore irrelevant information
Situational Judgement	26 minutes	69	Capacity to understand real-life situations and behave appropriately

Key dates for UCAT – August 2024

Speak to your school or test centre about registering for the test as soon as you have decided to take the test (UCAT). The table below outlines the key dates, but test centres may have their own earlier registration deadlines.

Key Deadline	Dates (2024)
Registration opens	14 May (09:30 BST)
Bursary and access arrangement applications (UCATSEN) open	
Test booking opens	18 June (06:00 BST)
Testing starts	8 July
Access arrangement (UCATSEN) deadline	15 September (23:59 BST)
Booking deadline	19 September (12 noon BST)
Last test day	26 September
Bursary deadline	27 September (16:00 BST)
UCAS application deadline	15 October
Results delivered to universities	Early November

We strongly advise candidates to test as early as possible. If you choose to book a late test date and then encounter illness or other issues which prevent you from attending your test appointment you may not be able to reschedule within the test period.

- It is your responsibility to book and sit your test within the test window.
- Consortium Universities expect international applicants to take the test, which could mean travelling to another country.
- If travel to a test centre is difficult because of distance, pandemic, war, civil unrest or natural disaster or you are not able to go to a test centre due to a significant medical reason (either COVID-19 related or other circumstances), please refer to our [OnVUE online proctored testing](#) information before booking your test.
- Our 'fit to test' policy means if a candidate attends their test, they are declaring themselves fit to take the test. Further details can be found [here](#).
- If you are concerned that illness, injury, or personal circumstances means you will not be 'fit to test' throughout the 2024 test window, you must contact the [UCAT Office](#) for advice before sitting your test. If you choose to sit your test against this advice, UCAT will not accept this as a mitigating circumstance.

What Does The UCAT Cost?

It costs £70 to sit the UCAT exam in the UK. The test fee is the same no matter when you sit your test.

Tests outside the UK cost £115.

Where Can I Find UCAT Test Centres?

You can find UCAT test centres in most UK cities since it's taken at Pearson Vue centres. International students will be able to find centres in their home countries too.

The best way to find your nearest centre is to search on the [Test Centre Locator](#).

THE NATIONAL ADMISSIONS TEST FOR LAW (LNAT)

LNAT is a test run by a consortium of UK universities (LNAT Consortium Ltd, see below). The test helps universities to make fairer choices among the many highly qualified applicants who want to join their undergraduate law programmes. As well as taking the LNAT, you need to apply for your chosen programmes via UCAS in the normal way. Sitting the LNAT does not constitute an application to any universities.

There are three practice tests on the LNAT website www.lnat.ac.uk, two onscreen simulations and one paper-based test.

The LNAT is a two-part test: multiple choice questions based on passages of text, and an essay. In 2¼ hours you have to complete 2 sections.

Section A consists of 42 multiple choice questions. The questions are based on 12 argumentative passages, with 3 or 4 multiple choice questions on each. Candidates are given 95 minutes to answer all of the questions. Candidates can review their answers at any time during the 95 minutes, but cannot return to the multiple choice section once they begin

Section B. For Section B, candidates have 40 minutes to answer one of five essay questions on a range of subjects and demonstrate their ability to argue economically to a conclusion with a good command of written English.

Dates & Deadlines

You should aim to take the test as early in the academic year as possible for maximum choice of test venue and availability, and to meet admissions deadlines.

Registration for and booking of LNAT tests for entry into university in September 2025 opens on 1 August 2024. Testing starts on 1 September 2024.

The LNAT test can be taken on any day that there is an appointment slot free at the test centre you have chosen. The earlier you book, the more chance you have of getting an appointment on the day of your choice.

You can take the LNAT before or after you send off your UCAS application.

We will attempt to keep this page up to date and accurate, but it is your responsibility to check with your chosen universities for any changes.

Key dates to note in the 2024-25 LNAT cycle for entry into university in Autumn 2024.

2024: LNAT Registration

DO NOT sit the LNAT before the 2024 summer holiday as your result WILL NOT COUNT for 2024/2025

- 1 August 2024: UCAS registration will open. LNAT registration begins.
- 1 September 2024: LNAT testing begins.
- Mid-September 2024: UCAS applications can be submitted.

2024: Deadlines for Cambridge and Oxford applicants

You must meet these deadlines in order to guarantee that your application to Cambridge or Oxford will be considered.

- 1 August -15 September 2024: Register and book your LNAT test slot (in order to sit the test before or on, 15 October 2024).
- 15 October 2024: Submit your UCAS form
- 15 October 2024: Sit the LNAT before, or at the latest on, 15 October 2024.

2024: Deadlines for King's College London (KCL) – London School of Economics (LSE) – and University College London (UCL) applicants

You must meet these deadlines in order to guarantee that your application will be considered.

- 31 December 2024: Sit the LNAT before or on 31 December 2024.

2024/25: Deadlines for all other LNAT universities except the University of Bristol and the University of Durham

You must meet these deadlines in order to guarantee that your application will be considered.

- 20 January 2025: Register and book your LNAT test slot before this date.
- 29 January 2025: Submit your UCAS form by 6:00pm UK time.
- 25 January 2025: Sit the LNAT before or on 25 January 2025.

2024/25: Deadlines for the University of Bristol and the University of Durham

You must meet these deadlines in order to guarantee that your application will be considered.

- 20 January 2025: Register and book your LNAT test slot before this date
- 29 January 2025: Submit your UCAS form by 6:00pm UK time.
- 29 January 2025: Sit the LNAT before or on 29 January 2025.

2025: Late applications

Late application deadlines usually apply to **international applicants only** – it is your responsibility to check with your chosen universities. Your chosen universities may not accept LNAT results taken as late as July.

- 25 July 2025: Book your LNAT test slot before or on 25 July 2025
- 30 June 2025: Submit UCAS form between 16 January and 30 June 2025
- **31 July 2025: Sit the LNAT before or on 31 July 2025**

Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS)

Applicants to Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS) can take the LNAT between 1 September 2023 and 31 July 2024 for the University's January 2025 intake.

OTHER EXAMS:

● ENGLISH LITERATURE ADMISSIONS TEST (ELAT)

About the English Literature Admissions Test (ELAT)

The English Literature Admissions Test (ELAT) is a pre-interview admissions test for applicants to English undergraduate courses at the University of Oxford. It is one of the elements admissions tutors use to decide whether to invite a candidate for interview.

● OXFORD THINKING SKILLS ASSESSMENT (TSA)

About the Thinking Skills Assessment (TSA) Oxford

The Thinking Skills Assessment (TSA) Oxford is a 2-hour pre-interview test for applicants to undergraduate courses at the University of Oxford. It is designed to help tutors assess whether candidates have the skills and aptitudes needed to study the following courses:

- Economics and Management
- Experimental Psychology
- Geography
- Human Sciences
- Philosophy and Linguistics
- Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE)
- Psychology and Linguistics
- Psychology and Philosophy

Because these subjects require a range of abilities, and candidates come from a wide variety of subject backgrounds, admissions decisions are complex. TSA helps admissions tutors make an informed selection.

● HISTORY APTITUDE TEST (HAT) AND PHYSICS APTITUDE TEST (PAT)

About the History Aptitude Test (HAT)

In partnership with the University of Oxford

The History Aptitude Test (HAT) is a 60-minute examination designed to benchmark applicants to History courses at the University of Oxford.

IMPORTANT DEADLINES FOR 2025 ENTRY



15 October 2024 - 18:00 (UK time)

Application deadline for any course at the universities of Oxford and Cambridge, or for most courses in medicine, veterinary medicine/science, and dentistry. You can add choices with a different deadline later, but don't forget you can only have five choices in total.

29 January 2025 - 18:00 (UK time)

Application deadline for the receipt at UCAS of applications for all courses except those listed above with a 15 October deadline, and art and design courses with a 24 March deadline.

<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/dates-and-deadlines-universities#2025-entry-application-deadlines>

International applicants

If your applicants are applying from outside the UK or EU, many universities and colleges will consider their application as long as it is received at UCAS by the end of June 2025. This does not apply to applications for the universities of Oxford and Cambridge, courses in medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine, or veterinary science. For all of these, applicants must apply by 15 October 2024.

Universities and colleges do not guarantee to consider applications they receive after 29 January 2025, and some popular courses may not have vacancies after that date. Advise your applicants to check with individual universities and colleges. They are advised to apply as early as possible.

Please allow enough time for entry clearance or immigration checks, and to make travel and accommodation arrangements, which can take longer during the summer when immigration departments are busy.

Students who think that they may be assessed as a 'home' student (UK or EU or other circumstances) for tuition fees, should apply by 29 January 2025.

YOUR UCAS APPLICATION – THE ONLINE PROCESS

- Registration
- Personal details (Your name needs to be the same as that shown in your passport)
- Additional information (UK applicants only)
- Education
- Employment (if any - paid or unpaid)
- Personal statement
- Choices
- References (by the college)
- Declaration
- Pay and send

Your application does not have to be completed all at once. The system allows you to leave a section partially completed so you can return to it later and change any information you have entered. Full explanations and help text are available for each section.

- You first need to register to make an application for higher education through the online system UCAS. When you register, you provide certain personal details, including first names, surname, title, gender, date of birth, address, telephone numbers and email address. These details are transferred to your application, and you will not be asked to enter them again. If any of these details change whilst you are completing your application, you will be able to amend them.
- Complete your application form following the instructions given on the following pages. Let your tutor know that you are working on your form and discuss your Personal Statement with them. Expect to review your Personal Statement several times – it is a very important aspect of your application, and we are keen to help you make the most of it. Meanwhile, your tutor and teachers will be working on the Reference the school provides on you.
- When you have completed your form, follow the instructions to send to Referee. Remember to print it off and ensure you keep a copy for reference.
- As you go through the process your application will be checked by your tutor. He / She will make a final check, they will then complete the reference with input from your teachers and send your form to UCAS.
- UCAS payment will need to be made by credit card when your application form is ready to be sent.

This process takes time, especially as your tutor will be dealing with several forms at any one time.

Oxbridge, dentistry, veterinary and medical applications must reach UCAS by 15 October. Please allow plenty of time for us to process your application. Aim to send to referee before 1 October latest.

REGISTERING FOR APPLY INSTRUCTIONS

Log onto the Internet and access www.ucas.com

Select **APPLY** on the left hand menu.

Click on **Applicants Register/Log in to use Apply**. This also applies to students who wish to defer entry until the following year and take a Gap Year in the meantime. Click on **Register**

Follow the online instructions to **Register**. This will take approximately 15 minutes (less if you have a UCAS card).

Entering an email address, you will be asked to enter an email address. Your email address will be seen by UCAS **and the universities and colleges**, so please make sure that it does not cause offence. It should be business like.

They need your email address (if you have a Chinese email, please obtain one from Gmail or Apple) so that, once your application is processed, they can send emails alerting you to changes to the status of your application, including decisions made by your chosen colleges or universities. These emails will not list the actual changes or give any decisions; they will tell you to log in to the **Track** service to view any changes.

A word of warning – Facebook, Twitter and other social networking sites can provide admissions officers an extra view of you and your character, habits, interests etc. If these are a dubious reflection of you - check your accessibility settings. What may seem cool to your friends may have an adverse influence on a decision to offer you a university place.

Choose a password, select four security questions, and enter relevant answers.

Click next to complete the first part of your registration and to create a username.

Make a note of your username and password, you will need them to start your application and every time you log in. Write it down in a safe place – in your Planner/diary/phone etc. Take a picture of the screen on your phone.

It is vital that you record this. You may also record it on the form on the previous page and hand it in to your tutor so that it can be stored in your student file.

Continue to **Log in now** to start work on your application form. If you want to continue with it another time, go to UCAS Homepage to exit or to explore the site.

You can also search for courses and follow links to universities to find out about entry requirements, open days, accommodation etc.

Remember, **Apply** is not only used by school leavers; mature students, returning students, transferring students use the same form so not all the questions will be relevant to you. If you are unsure, please ASK.

COMPLETING YOUR APPLICATION FORM

Each time you want to access your application form you must go to the UCAS homepage and log into *APPLY – Student Login 2021 Entry*

You will now need to use the username you have been given, and your password, in order to access the form.

Any changes you make to the form will be automatically saved when you *LOG OUT*.

There are some initial questions to complete:

How are you applying?	Through my school/college
BUZZWORD:	STAN2025
You are registering through your School. Is this correct?	Yes
Tutor/application group?	This will be given to you by your tutor/college advisor
Welcome – your Personal ID is: ***_***_****	Whatever it is – write it down and add it to the form on the previous page!
Verify your email address	follow the instructions

Students now have to *opt in* to share the progress of their application with their school on the declaration page.

This allows advisers to see their students in adviser track and their Applicant Status Reports. Previously this was automatically ticked.

<input type="checkbox"/> I agree to allow details of my application and its progress to be shared with my school/college/centre.
--

You now complete all the sections listed on the left of the screen. You will need to refer to your GCSE certificates, course codes etc. etc. You are extremely unlikely to complete the form in one session. You can dip in and out of sections, adding information as you go. It will tell you whether you have completed the section or not. If it will not let you complete the section, check back for any areas highlighted in red or green; these still require an answer.

Remember to *Log Out* in order to save any changes you have made.

COMPLETING THE “PERSONAL DETAILS” SECTION

Personal

Your personal information will be sent to your chosen universities and colleges your title, gender, name (needs to be the same as that shown in your passport) and address and date of birth will be filled in automatically with the details provided during registration.

You are asked for extra information so that the universities and colleges can decide what tuition fees you should be charged and what entitlements or special requirements you might be qualified to receive. They need to know your residential status, where/whether you will be looking for funding and/or sponsorship, and if you have any special needs or disabilities which they would need to consider.

Student Support

This is about financial arrangements. We would recommend most international students use code 01 unless you qualify for Regional Health grants or other awards. 02 is appropriate if you are likely to apply for the tuition fees loan, the maintenance loan, or the maintenance grant. For more info, go to Student Finance England website. There is also a very helpful file in the Library – yellow lever arch named Student Finance, located on the bottom shelf of HE Prospectus’s.

Mailings from UCAS

3 tick boxes – watch the last question!

Nominated access

If you are likely to be away at any time during the application period, for example on a gap year, you may wish to nominate someone who can make decisions on your behalf and discuss your application with us if necessary.

This section of your application is not compulsory -you do not have provide details if you do not wish to nominate anyone. If you do, you enter their name and their relationship to you.

Universities and colleges have their own policies for discussing applications with third parties.

Please put the following under this section:

Elisabetta Incollingo
UCAS & Careers Assistant

Remember to tick box and save.

Any questions still requiring an answer will be flagged up in green type.

COMPLETING THE “CHOICES” SECTION

You cannot complete this section unless you have chosen your courses and the institutions you want to apply to. When you complete this section, you need to accept that you are willing to attend ANY of the choices you make. If you don’t want to go to a particular institution, do not put it in your choices. You can choose up to five courses, which Apply will arrange into alphabetical order. Each university and college will only see details of their course or courses for which you have applied. They will not see your other choices until you have received your final decision.

The combination of choices allowed depends upon your chosen course(s).

You can apply to a maximum of:

Four courses in any one of medicine/dentistry/veterinary medicine/veterinary science

One course at either the University of Oxford or the University of Cambridge

You can use your remaining choice(s) for any other subject. For example, if you have made four choices for medicine, you could still make one choice for veterinary medicine.

Specific courses and institutions have different entry dates -find out when to apply.

Additional requirements

Some courses require an admissions test. It is your responsibility to find out whether your chosen course(s) need you to take one, and to register by the relevant deadline. Visit the admissions test section to find out more.

If you are applying for medicine, dentistry, nursing, midwifery or certain other health courses, UK health authorities recommend you should be immunized against Hepatitis B before you start training. Universities and colleges may also ask you for certificates to show that you are not infected. If you are applying for one or more of these subjects, you should check the immunisation and certification requirements with the universities and colleges you have chosen.

Some courses in fields such as social work will require that you undergo a check through the Criminal Records Bureau and/or become a member of the Independent Safeguarding Authority or its Scottish equivalent. Check with the universities and colleges you have chosen for their requirements and advice on how to fulfil them.

For information on courses please check the Course Search section of the UCAS site.

- **Institution Code**
- **Course Code**
- **Campus Code** –this will default to the main site. If a university has several campuses in different towns offering similar courses or combinations of courses, other codes will be generated. Make sure you select the correct one.
- **Start Date** – choose either a current or deferred start date. If you intend to take a Gap Year and start, HE in 2025/26 a place will be held for you on your chose course so long as you meet the entry requirements.
- **Live at Home** Enter Y if you will be living at home and commuting to a university.
Enter N if you will be living away from home i.e., on campus or in lodgings.
- **Point of Entry** -leave blank, unless you are taking a Foundation Year in which case enter 0. See drop down help box for more info.

If you are happy that all is correct, *tick box and save*.

REMEMBER – YOU COULD END UP ATTENDING ANY OF THE CHOICES YOU MAKE, ONLY CHOOSE PLACES WHERE YOU WANT TO STUDY

COMPLETING THE “EDUCATION” SECTION

UCAS needs to know where you have studied and which qualifications you are taking/have taken. You fill in details of your schools or colleges, and then list your qualifications, one by one. You must include all schools, colleges, and universities that you have attended since the age of 11, even if you withdrew from your course. There is space to enter up to 10 centres.

For each school and college, you must provide details of:

All qualifications for which you have accepted certification from an awarding body (e.g., AQA, Edexcel), even if you are retaking all or part of the qualification

All qualifications for which you are currently studying or for which you are awaiting results (results pending). Include the name of the external examining body – E.g., AQA or Edexcel

GCE qualifications (AS & A level, single & double award) College Centre 22139

You must list all subjects that have been certificated (also known as ‘claimed’ or ‘cashed in’) at GCE AS level.

If you have any doubts about the certification of your AS subjects, ask.

You may include your unit grades for certificated qualifications. Giving this information is optional – disclosing good grades may improve your chances of being offered a place. Visa versa – disclosing poor grades may not do you any favours.

Foundation Course Qualifications – NCFE Accredited

All our Foundation courses are level 3 qualifications, accredited by NCFE. You should include the subject modules that you are taking e.g., Business, Economics, Mathematics, and International Relations. These are pending qualifications – you won’t have the results until you finish the course and pass the exams.

Select: “Foundation Year”

Then manually insert all the single subjects

English Requirements- IELTS

You need to list your most recent IELTS results including date taken, as well as showing IELTS as a pending qualification.

Music, dance, drama, or speech qualifications

If you have music qualifications, such as ABRSM or equivalents, dance qualifications, such as RADA or equivalents, drama, or speech qualifications, such as LAMDA, only enter each subject once with the highest grade you achieved.

Additional admissions tests

Some universities and colleges require applicants applying for certain subjects to sit additional admissions tests as part of the admissions process. View a list of admissions tests.

You should enter details for any admissions tests you have already taken with results and any you still need to take. (Please remember that all your chosen universities and colleges will see the qualifications you enter. Only certain universities and colleges require specific admissions tests for particular courses so when you provide details for an admissions test, you may give some indication of the universities, colleges, and courses you have entered in the choices section of your application. The universities and colleges will not, however, have the details of any of the other institutions or courses you have chosen.)

You should not send any examination certificates or other papers to UCAS, or to your chosen universities or colleges, unless requested to do so.

Tips:

- If you have transferred to your School from another school since Year 7, add in the other school(s) and use the search facility to find the centre code. If your centre code is not listed, then you will need to look on your examination results slip.
- Click save and you will see a summary of all the schools you have attended.
- Add awards such as LAMDA, music examinations, COPE, HSLA, Extended Project etc. *Add qualifications – click on “add qualification type not in this list”* and search the drop down list.
- You can go “back to summary” at any time. Look for red warnings of any incomplete entries. When you have checked all the details and are happy that every qualification is entered and correct, tick “section complete” and Save.

COMPLETING THE “EMPLOYMENT” SECTION

This section is where you give brief details of up to two employers, including company name and address, a description of your job, and start and finish dates. You will also be asked to say whether you worked full-or part-time. This includes weekend and holiday jobs. This section is valuable as you can use it to demonstrate key skills – communication, resilience, and leadership.

If your work experience has been unpaid, please include the details in your personal statement.

COMPLETING THE “STATEMENT” SECTION

Does it matter?

Some course tutors find personal statements crucial when making decisions, whereas others might not put as much emphasis on them. Since you do not know who will be looking at your statement, the safest thing is to do a good job. In many cases, applicants are not interviewed, so this may be your only chance to make the case for you to be offered a place. Remember that the person reading your statement is an expert in your chosen area of interest so they will want to know the reasons why you have chosen the subject.

Type or paste in your statement when you have had it finally checked and approved by your tutor Use the notes in the following section to help you write your P.S. You must remember to save your work as you go in this section. To edit it, click on Preview, and then click on Edit. You have 47 lines or 4000 characters to use (including spaces). If you log out without saving, then all will be lost! When you are happy with your statement, go to Preview, tick “section complete” and Save.

WARNING -make sure that your personal statement is your own work. *UCAS put all applications through similarity detection tests*, which identify statements, or part off, that have been copied from another source. Do not be tempted to copy another person’s application materials or download your personal statement from a website. There could be serious consequences to using other people’s work. If any part of your personal statement appears to have been copied, UCAS will inform all the universities and colleges to which you have applied. They will then take the action they consider to be appropriate. They will also contact you by email. Click on the similarity detection link to find out more.

COMPLETING THE “PAY/SEND” SECTION

Paying for your application

There is a fee for making an application for higher education. The amount depends upon how many courses, universities, and colleges you apply to.

How much will it cost?

If you choose to apply to more than one course, university or college, the cost is £27.50. The application fee includes VAT.

How do I pay?

You will pay by using your Credit / Debit card.

Select the final section “View all details” and check the form over, paying attention to course codes, university codes, spelling, punctuation, and grammar. If you spot any mistakes or want to make changes, go back to “edit”, remembering to save when you have finished.

Print out a copy. Show this to your tutor, who will check it and advise you if any alterations need to be made.

Only “Send to Referee” when we have told you to.

Congratulations – you have now completed your part of the application!

Now we will add the school’s reference.

UCAS LON ON RECORD FORM

UCAS APPLICATION STUDENT FILE RECORD

Name of Student:

.....

UCAS username (given to you by APPLY):

.....

UCAS password:

.....

Personal ID

number:.....

Hand this form to the Principal or your tutor. It will be kept confidential.

WRITING A PERSONAL STATEMENT

The Personal Statement section is one of the most important elements of your application. It is your chance to catch the university admissions officers' eye and the best opportunity to present yourself and stand out from the crowd. It is crucial that your statement reflects your personality, as well as showing your motivation and commitment to your chosen course. This is not the time for modesty!

It could make the difference between

- being selected for an offer or rejection
- being selected for an interview

Admissions Officers (AOs) may use it

- to ask questions at interview
- if you are a 'borderline' case (i.e., course requires BBB, you are predicted BBC)
- if you miss the required grade in August, AOs may be influenced by your statement, if they have spare places to offer.

The Key Points Admissions Officers are looking for in a Personal Statement:

- Enthusiasm and motivation for the subject
- Awareness of what you are applying to do
- The potential to succeed.
- What makes you different?

It allows only exactly **4000** characters (3300 is the minimum. We suggest you structure your Personal Statement around the following sections:

PARAGRAPH 1 -Writing about your choice of course: Why do you want to study this subject?

Show enthusiasm, be eye-catchingly different and say why you are interested and what sparked your interest? What specific topics do you enjoy? If you're applying for more than one course, try to identify common factors. Show you have researched your chosen course.

Reason	Explanation
Enjoy the subject	State why
Enjoy specific aspects of the subject	State which aspects
Look forward to studying in greater depth	State specific interests
Look forward to putting theory into practice	Anything in particular?
Post degree aims – particular career path	How does the course fit?
Any other reasons	Explain

- Has a particular experience or event influenced your choice?
- How about holidays and hobbies – are they connected to your subject?

PARAGRAPH 2 -Writing about your academic journey and past experience: What have you done in the past that makes you particularly suitable to study the subject?

Show any links between your current studies and your intended course and career. Mention any relevant fieldwork, coursework, or research you have undertaken.

- Have you been on any study visits and attended any conferences?
- Have you taken part in any relevant academic competitions?
- Write about any relevant books, articles, journals you have read or that have inspired you.
- Are you a member of a relevant society?
- Have you spent time on any holiday/weekend courses or exchanges?

Is there anything in particular that shows your personal qualities or personal development? Determination, perseverance, desire for a challenge, sociability etc. etc.

PARAGRAPH 3 -WRITING ABOUT INTERESTS AND EXPERIENCES IN OR OUTSIDE SCHOOL: What else have you done that would contribute to the university community?

Write about experiences you have had that relate to the course:

House Captain	Sixth Form Council	School Council
Sports events	Sports teams	Coaching/ CSLA
Drama performance	Behind the scenes	Directing/producing
Music concerts	Choir/Band/Orchestra	Teaching/rehearsing
Charitable events	Fundraising	Sponsorships
Subject Captain	Teaching assistant	Department helper
Pupil mentor	Tutor group helper	Paired reader
Open Evening guide	Year 8 Camp	Drama Festival
Club organizer	Event's organizer	House trips organizer
Future Leader Programme	Duke of Edinburgh Award	Young Enterprise Scheme

If you are planning a Gap Year, describe what you intend doing – voluntary work, paid employment, travel plans, working overseas etc. and whether it is relevant to your course and what you expect to gain from it. Write about interests and experiences outside school if you have something of interest to say. Talk about achievements of which you are most proud. Mention any sports you are involved in – success in competitions, county standards, club membership, position of responsibility. This will give the Admissions Officer a ‘flavour’ of you and how you are already a ‘rounded’ individual.

This is of particular interest to the Admissions Officer if it tells him something about you i.e., was it an unusual placement, and/or does it relate to your chosen course?

Has work experience consolidated your interest? If so, state how and be specific about what you have learnt. Mention what skills you have developed:

Communication	Listening, Speaking
Problem Solving	Using Initiative
Diplomacy	Confidentiality
Teamwork	Working Independently
Managing Others	Leadership
Time Management	Working To Deadlines

YOUR CONCLUDING STATEMENT

This section should bring the reader's attention back to either your choice of degree or your ability to succeed at university. It should be a summary short paragraph about your strengths, dedication, what you have to offer or why they should make you an offer.

To summarise:

The key points in presenting an effective personal statement that fulfils what Admissions Officers are looking for are:

- Interest in the course
- Free of spelling or grammatical mistakes
- Clearly written
- Motivation
- Ability to balance studies with non-academic life
- Interesting person

Top Tips from the Admissions Officers

- Get your application in as early as possible: use the UNIFROG practise tool and share it with your tutor/career advisor to get in checked
- You'll need to write several drafts of your statement in order to get it right
- Use half the space to write about your chosen course and the other half about yourself
- Write in a positive style, using simple words and short sentences
- Be original but don't try to be funny – it can appear trite and undermining
- Be honest – you may be asked questions on your statement in an interview
- Only use 12 point font as the form is reduced in size when sent to the universities
- Don't rely on the spell checker. Proofread a hard copy. Ask other people to proofread for you too.
- Make sure all the details are correct – your address, email, qualifications, and course code. Errors can delay your application.

What you should avoid

- Irrelevant material
- Starting with “I have always been interested in....”
- Using complicated wording or phrases
- Statements with no examples or evidence
- Very ordinary interests – going down the pub, babysitting, clubbing
- Making things up to sound impressive
- Becoming somebody, you are not
- Copying other statements or only use AI
- Rushing
- Thinking you can write it without advice

GAP YEAR – A GOOD IDEA?

A growing number of our students organise a Gap Year between school and university. Most university departments approve of these if they are well organised and purposeful, and especially if there is some relevance to courses applied for. However, some departments have reservations (Maths for example), and it is best to ask university departments before deciding.

- Is the university/course admissions officer happy? There is nothing to be lost in contacting them and discussing their views on a Gap Year. And it will put your mind at rest.
- You stand to gain the most from a gap year if it is planned in advance, is well structured, offers new experiences and widens your life skills.
- If you make your UCAS application and defer your entry, you will have a secure place waiting for you at the end of it (dependent on you meeting the entry requirements).
- It will give you a break from education to re-charge your batteries and enthusiasm.

Prepare yourself:

- When deciding what to do, make sure you understand your reasons for a gap year, as this will point you in the right direction.
- Research the options so you make the right decisions – there are a lot of organisations which can give you gap year ideas and more information about what is involved.
- Gap year organisations can be helpful, but you don't have to use one. Make sure you shop around to find the best deal and the gap year that's right for you.
- Set yourself goals, so you know what you want to accomplish in your year out.
- Plan your finances, so you don't get into debt. Think about how much you need to earn and/or how much you will spend.

Useful Websites

www.gapyear.com

www.yearoutgroup.org.uk

www.gapwork.com

www.i-to-i.com

www.projecttrust.org.uk

www.projects-abroad.co.uk

www.lattitude.org.uk

<http://www.notgoingtouni.co>

[.uk](http://www.notgoingtouni.co.uk)

<https://frontier.ac.uk>

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT? – FAQ'S

- Q. I have not heard back from all of my universities yet and it has been ages. Is there a problem?
A. Not at all. Universities work at different speeds. Some are slower than others. If in doubt ring the admissions officer at the University and make an enquiry. They won't mind and it will put your mind at rest. Not hearing back promptly does not mean they will not make you an offer.
- Q. Brilliant! I have heard back from all of my Universities. What happens next?
A. You do nothing until you receive a letter from UCAS detailing all of the offers and asking you to decide about which offers to accept. If you feel you have been waiting for this for a while, then give UCAS a phone call.
- Q. Once I have got the letter from UCAS confirming my offers, what do I do then?
A. You need to choose the University you definitely want to go to. In the box alongside this University, you write CF. You also have to choose an 'insurance' University and you write CI in the box alongside this. You have to reject all of the rest, so think carefully! The form explains what to do. You may have 3 or 4 weeks to make your mind up. If you haven't already visited your choices, try and do so now. Make sure you inform UCAS of your decision by the date they give you.
- Q. What do they mean by an Insurance Offer?
A. Your insurance choice is a University where the entry requirements (grades) are lower than your first choice. This is just in case your results are not as you would want them to be. If your first choice is the lowest offer you do not need to make an insurance choice. Make sure your insurance choice is a University you are happy to study at.
- Q. What do I do if I have not received any offers, only rejections?
A. Firstly, do not panic! You must come and see your tutor or the Principal straight away and they will explain UCAS Extra, which is a scheme that allows you to make extra applications. Extra operates from 25 February to the end of June. You will be notified by UCAS if you are eligible to use Extra. You can apply for several courses in Extra, but only one course at a time. Students who originally applied for high-demand courses could consider applying for courses in related or alternative subjects. Details of this are also on the UCAS website.
- Q. What do I do about accommodation?
A. You do not have to anything at this stage. Once you have accepted an offer then the University of your choice will be in touch with you. Do not expect things to happen too quickly. If in doubt, just phone your chosen University.
- Q. What do I do about Finance / Loans / Fees etc.?
A. Register online with Student Finance England in the first instance. Finance applications may be available via the UCAS website in the future.
- Q. I have changed my mind about the whole thing and wish I had not applied. What should I do?
A. You can withdraw by phoning UCAS. Also, if you do not decide on a first and insurance choice of university by the given date (stated in your letter), UCAS will assume you have declined all your offers.
But we would advise you to follow your application through as if you hadn't changed your mind. It is easy to pull out but difficult to apply again. Better to withdraw your application at the end of year in case you change your mind again. See us if in doubt.
- Q. I did not apply by the deadline. Is there anything I can do?

A. Yes there is. UCAS will still accept your application and process it.

Q. What if I do not get the results for my first or insurance choice University?

A. First of all, think positively! The Principal will be available on Results Day and will make sure that you have all the information, advice, and guidance that you need. There is a system called Clearing, which we will explain to you.

ANNEX I

UNIFROG

<https://www.unifrog.org>

The universal destinations platform.

We help students compare every university course, every apprenticeship, and Further Education courses - then apply successfully.

**Supporting students to find
the best next step for them**

At the start of the academic year at St Andrews, each student will be given a log in and a password to join the platform. It will look like this:

The screenshot shows the Unifrog user interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for HOME, FAVOURITES, LOCKER, APPLY, HELP, and a search icon. Below the navigation bar, a personalized message greets the user: "Hello Elisabetta, here's a summary of your progress so far...". A large circular progress indicator shows "55% complete". To the right, a star icon indicates the user is in the "5th in year group". Below the progress indicator, a recommendation box says "Want to move things forward? We recommend you..." and "Start your Personal Statement" with a "1.4%" progress indicator. Underneath, the "YOUR NEXT TASKS" section includes two tasks: "Start your Personal Statement" and "Reach the minimum character count for your Personal Statement". The "Searching for opportunities" section features a grid of buttons for various categories: UK universities (0 shortlists), US universities (0 shortlists), European universities (1 shortlist), Oxbridge (0 shortlists), Apprenticeships (0 shortlists), Canadian universities (0 shortlists), Asian universities (0 shortlists), Australasian unis (0 shortlists), MidEast & Africa unis (0 shortlists), Irish universities (0 shortlists), Latin American unis (0 shortlists), Special opportunities (0 shortlists), Intl Foundations (0 shortlists), and For you (0 upcoming opportunities).

Tools available to you:

- you can search for university courses, entry requirements and a short description
- worldwide universities
- see and track what you do on the platform and lock favourites, so that teachers/advisors can see what you do and assist
- consult the job library and explore career pathways
- practise writing your personal statement
- consult the "know how" library full of helpful videos, tips for your applications

ANNEX II

UCAS AND BEYOND “DIRECT APPLICATIONS”

As an international student, you can apply directly to universities and you have an extended deadline to do so (30 June).

This is true only for a small group of universities therefore you should always check with your tutor/university adviser which are the ones that accept direct applications.

You will still need to meet all the entry requirements and write your personal statement and fill in a form, but you are not limited to 5 choices (like on UCAS) and you can apply for as many universities as you want from those who accept it.

Advantages:	Disadvantages (or things to consider):
More than the UCAS 5 choices	It is unlikely that aspirational university accept direct applications
No fees - direct applications are free of charge	
Deal directly with admission office	
You can apply anytime - before the deadline that applies to you	If you send your application with UCAS you have to respect the UCAS deadlines. If you apply to OXBRIDGE you still have to apply by the October deadline.
	You might have to wait that universities receive all applications, before they consider a direct one.
	Universities might ask you for a deposit to secure your place (earlier than your UCAS results)

If you want to know more or think about the best strategy to apply, speak to our career adviser in college.

ANNEX III

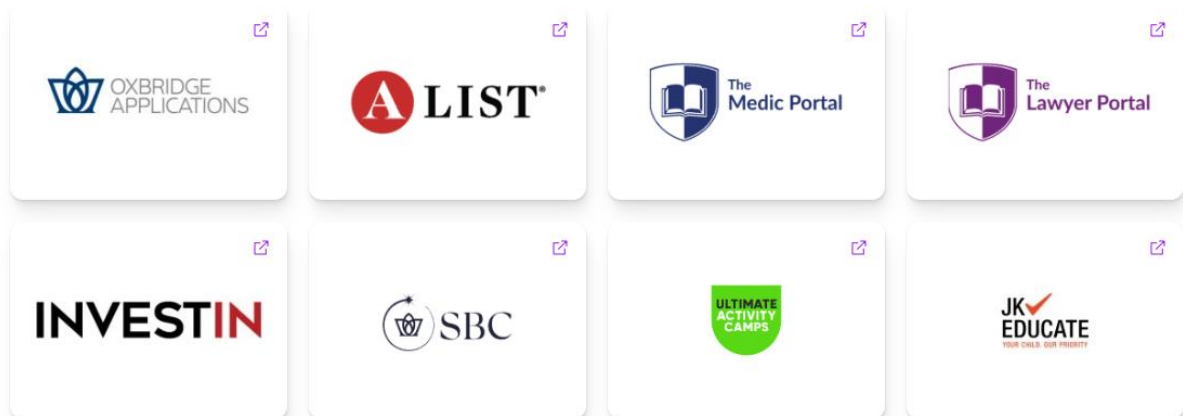
DUKES PLUS CONSULTANCY

<https://dukesplus.com/>

Dukes Plus is a family of specialised consultancy services and educational experience providers, including the highest standards of university preparation, once-in-a-lifetime industry experiences, tuition, summer schools and day camps.

Our Family

By consolidating the offerings of these distinguished brands under Dukes Plus, we're able to deliver a comprehensive suite of industry-leading services that support students throughout their educational journey, fostering their growth and laying the foundation for a promising future.



- **Oxbridge applications** - provide support to all Cambridge and Oxford applicants with interview preparation, personal statement
- **A-list:** number 1 provider for applications to US (and overseas) applications and consulting in SAT/ACT preparation
- **The medic portal** - support for your exam preparation (UCAT) to entry Medicine
- **INVESTIN** - supporting students with career pathways and career experience programmes with a focus on transferable skills. All STAN year 11 students join the Dukes Career School offered by Investin.