

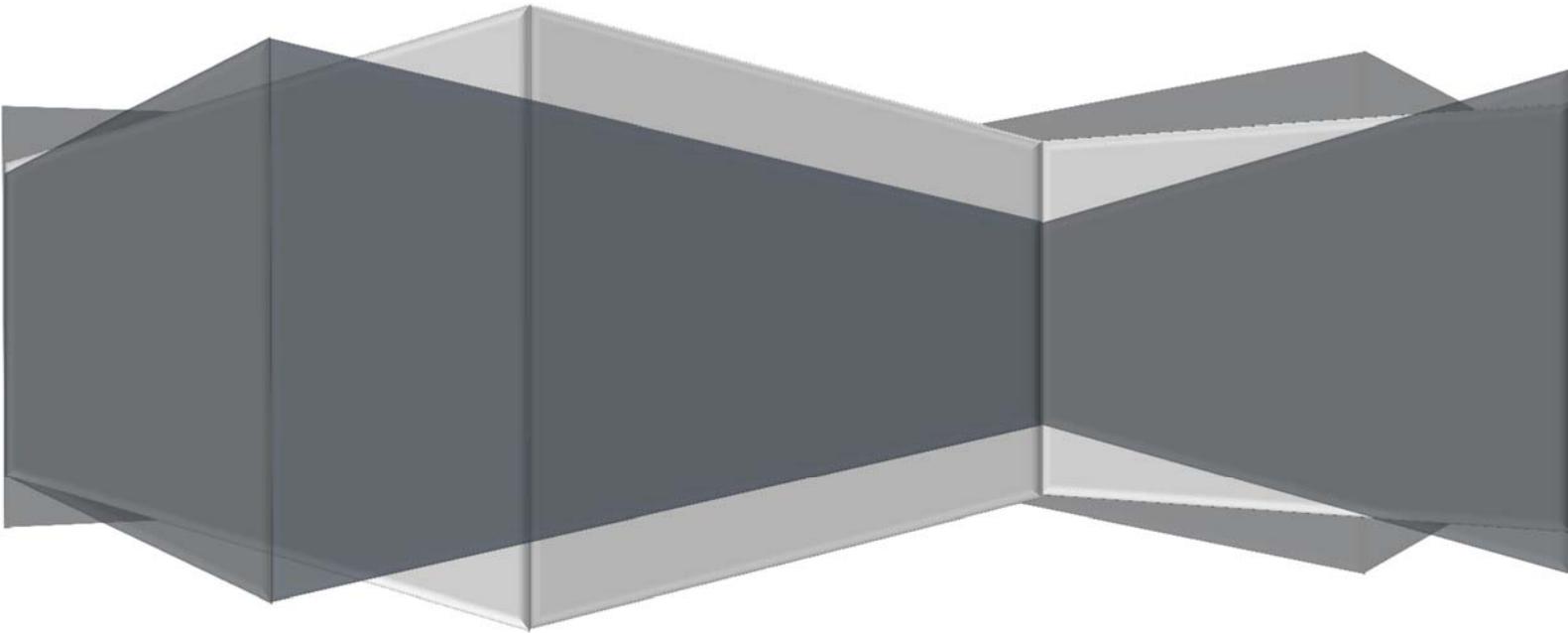
# Dronfield Henry Fanshawe School

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## UCAS Information Pack

Name:



## Planning your future

Decide what's right for you.

It might take you a while, but keep thinking about it.

If you don't find anything you like the sound of right away, at least you'll be narrowing down your ideas.

Once you've chosen a subject or career, check out [which type of study is right for you](#) and [how to choose a course](#).

There are other ways below to prepare for higher education too and [alternatives if you'd rather not apply for a course at the moment](#).

## Different types of study

### **Undergraduate courses.**

**Most students study for a degree.**

**Usually a three or four year course** – also known as a bachelor's, undergraduate or first degree. These are dynamic academic environments with lectures and seminars, usually made up of different modules adding up to the full degree.

You might get to choose some of the modules you take, so you'll be able to study the parts of your subject you're most interested in.

**Two subjects?** Take a joint course (50/50) or a major/minor (75/25).

**Work experience?** Do a sandwich course and work for a year in the industry your subject is based on.

**What next?** After you graduate you'll be closer to a career, or you can move on to postgraduate study.

**There are other shorter undergraduate courses**

**These are ideal if you want a quicker qualification.** Do one year of a degree – a Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE) – or two years – a Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE), Higher National Diploma (HND) or Foundation degree. These don't lead directly to postgraduate study, but you can go into the second or third year of a full degree if you change your mind and want to graduate after all.

**Performing arts**

**If you're looking for performance based courses in music, dance or drama, studying at a conservatoire could be the answer for you.** While academic music, dance or drama classes are more theory based, performing arts courses are much more practical.



# How to choose a course

## Compare course content.

Take a look at how courses are delivered, [search for different courses](#) in the subject you want to do and check out the details.

### What are the modules like?

Which are the most interesting or relevant to your career direction?

### How's the course assessed?

Exams, coursework, presentations etc – what do you prefer?

### What are the tutors like?

Are they experts in areas you want to learn about?



## Compare course providers and locations

Read prospectuses and websites, or speak to course providers in person by [visiting their open days](#) or by coming to [UCAS events](#).



### What do they offer?

Do they have sports facilities or societies you'd want to join?

### What extras can they provide?

Can you study abroad or get help with work placements?

### Where are they in the country?

How near home or a city centre are they?

## See what other people think.

Talk through your ideas with family, friends, teachers or advisers. See what you find online.

**Get the student viewpoint** at [Unistats](#) for subject and course provider reviews.

**Read course provider reviews** on [The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education](#) website.

**Check league tables that rank course providers.** Make sure you check the sources though – some are biased. (The Guardian, The Times and The Complete University Guide are more impartial places to take a look.)

# **Entry requirements.**

## **How entry requirements work.**

**They're set by the course providers as a guide to the kinds of qualifications, subjects and exam grades you need.**

As well as these, your overall suitability to the course will be considered.

You might be asked to pass an **admissions test**, **interview** or **audition**, or even a **health check**.

Course descriptions often mention other skills, interests or experience it's good to have too applications can be quite competitive, so look out for these extra details.

**Be aware that meeting the entry requirements doesn't mean you'll be guaranteed a place though.**

If you're offered a conditional place, you must meet the conditions you're given to be accepted.

These conditions can be higher or lower than any entry requirements the course provider has recommended.

Course providers have internal benchmarks and although we don't encourage any changes to entry requirements during the academic year, this can happen based on the applications they receive.

If you have any questions about entry requirements please contact the course provider direct.

## Admissions tests

Many course providers ask you to take an admissions test, particularly for certain subjects. They often happen early in the academic cycle, so it's worth researching whether you'll need to take one before you've sent in your application.

Some universities require you to sit an admissions test as part of the application process – discover the different types of assessment here.

If you apply for a course that requires an admissions test, you'll need to check the registration deadline for the test, when you will sit it, and what it includes, as well as the deadline for your UCAS application.

Many courses that require you to sit a test have a 15 October deadline, but your course may be different, so it's important you check key dates and deadlines. To see if your course requires you to sit an admissions test, check the course description in the search tool [www.digital.ucas.com/search](http://www.digital.ucas.com/search)

Most admissions tests happen between August and November the year before you're due to start your studies – some even earlier, before you've sent your UCAS application!

## Course-related admissions tests

### Law

- [Cambridge Law Test](#)
- [LNAT – National Admissions Test for Law](#)

### Mathematics

- [Mathematics Admissions Test \(MAT\)](#)
- [Sixth Term Examination Paper \(STEP\)](#)
- [Test of Mathematics for University Admissions](#)

### Medical courses

- [BioMedical Admissions Test \(BMAT\)](#)
- [Graduate Medical School Admissions Test \(GAMSAT\)](#)
- [Health Professions Admission Test \(HPAT Ulster\)](#)
- [UK Clinical Aptitude Test \(UKCAT\)](#)

### Thinking Skills Assessment

- [Thinking Skills Assessment Cambridge \(TSA Cambridge\)](#)
- [Thinking Skills Assessment Oxford \(TSA Oxford\)](#)
- [Thinking Skills Assessment University College London \(TSA UCL\)](#)

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## University admissions tests

### University of Cambridge

If you're considering a course at the University of Cambridge, you will need to check whether you need to sit an admissions test.

It may be that you have to sit an assessment before your interview, or at the interview stage of the application process. To do this, you'll need to register separately to your UCAS application – the deadlines for these vary, so make sure you [check the university's website](#).

The deadlines for registrations are as follows:

- **12 August at midnight (UK time):**
  - [BioMedical Admissions Test \(BMAT\)](#) – September session
- **1 October at 18:00 (UK time):**
  - [BioMedical Admissions Test \(BMAT\)](#) – October session
- **15 October at 18:00 (UK time):**
  - [all other pre-interview assessments](#)

In addition to your UCAS application, you will also need to complete a [Supplementary Application Questionnaire \(SAQ\)](#).

The University of Cambridge runs the following assessments as part of their application process:

- [Cambridge Admissions Assessments](#)
- [BioMedical Admissions Test \(BMAT\)](#)
- [Sixth Term Examination Paper \(STEP\)](#)
- [Thinking Skills Assessment Cambridge \(TSA Cambridge\)](#)
- [Cambridge Law Test](#)
- [Other course-specific admissions tests](#)

Full details of the tests you will need to sit as part of your application can be found in the course description in our [search tool](#).

## University of Oxford

If you're thinking of applying to the University of Oxford, there's a very high chance you will need to sit an admissions test. The majority of courses require them, but check the course description in our [search tool](#) to be sure.

You will need to register separately to your UCAS application to sit the exam. The deadlines for registrations are as follows:

- **1 October at 18:00 (UK time):**
  - [BioMedical Admissions Test \(BMAT\)](#) – please note, the University of Oxford will **only** accept results from BMAT September for A101 Graduate Medicine.
- **5 October at 18:00 (UK time):**
  - [LNAT – National Admissions Test for Law](#)
- **15 October at 18:00 (UK time):**
  - [Classics Admissions Test \(CAT\)](#)
  - [English Literature Test \(ELAT\)](#)
  - [History Aptitude Test \(HAT\)](#)
  - [Mathematics Admissions Test \(MAT\)](#)
  - [Modern Languages Admissions Test \(MLAT\)](#)
  - [Oriental Languages Admissions Test \(OLAT\)](#)
  - [Physics Aptitude Test \(PAT\)](#)
  - [Philosophy Test \(PHIL\)](#)
  - [Thinking Skills Assessment Oxford \(TSA Oxford\)](#)

Full details of the tests you will need to sit as part of your application can be found in the course description in the [search tool](#).

## **Qualifications, subjects and exam grades.**

**Most course providers set entry requirements based on one or a combination of these.**

Sometimes they might only accept quite specific qualifications, subjects or high grades. If this is the case, it'll be stated in their requirements.

Some may recommend a combination – for example a high grade in a certain subject or subjects relevant to the course you're applying for.

Don't worry if you don't meet the exact requirements or your qualification isn't listed. If you have a qualification of a comparable level, it's likely your application will be considered. Feel free to contact the course provider to confirm this.

**For undergraduate courses some universities and colleges also use UCAS Tariff points in their entry requirements.**

Many applicants have a broad range of further education qualifications, so the Tariff converts them into points to make it easier to compare them. Not all qualifications are included in the Tariff. Those that aren't, but are of an appropriate level, might still be considered so contact the course provider to check.

Universities and colleges can set a Tariff points total they recommend you achieve as part of their entry requirements.

Many courses don't refer to the Tariff, and of those that do, most still specify relevant grades, qualifications or subjects you'd need to achieve as well as the points total.

## **Interviews and auditions.**

**If you have one of these a course provider might send you an invitation to an interview or audition.**

If it's likely you'll have an interview or audition you might want to do some preparation ahead of time, or put together a portfolio

Please note if you decide to make an undergraduate or teacher training application, any invitations to interview will appear in Track, (our online service where you track the progress of your application), so remember you'll need to check there.

## **Key UCAS Dates**

### **June 2018**

Application process opens June 2018.

### **15 October 2018**

Applications for Oxford, Cambridge or courses in medicine, dentistry and veterinary medicine/science should arrive at UCAS by 18:00 (UK time). The reference has to be completed before the application can be sent to us.

### **15 January 2019**

Applications for the majority of courses should arrive at UCAS by 18:00 (UK time) today (check course details for the correct deadline). The reference has to be completed before your application can be sent to us.

### **25 February 2019**

Extra begins.

### **24 March 2019**

Applications for some art and design courses should arrive at UCAS by 18:00 (UK time) today. (Others have a 15 January deadline – check course details to confirm the correct deadline.) The reference has to be completed before your application can be sent to us.

### **1 May 2019**

If you receive all your uni/college decisions by 31 March you must reply to any offers by this date (except for Extra) or they'll be declined.

### **2 May 2019**

If you applied by the January deadline and you're still waiting, unis will decide whether they're making an offer by now (otherwise those choices are automatically made unsuccessful).

### **6 June 2019**

If you receive all your uni/college decisions by 2 May you must reply to any offers by this date (except for Extra) or they'll be declined.

### **20 June 2019**

If you receive all your uni/college decisions by 6 June you must reply to any offers by this date (unless you applied in Extra) or they'll be declined.

### **30 June 2019**

If you send your application to us by 18:00 (UK time) today, we'll send it to your chosen unis and colleges; after this date you enter Clearing.

### **4 July 2019**

Last date to apply through Extra.

### **11 July 2019**

If you applied by 30 June and are waiting for decisions, unis and colleges will decide whether or not they'll make you an offer by this date.

**18 July 2019**

If you receive all uni/college decisions by 11 July – including Extra choices – you must reply to any offers by this date (or they'll be declined).

**15 August 2019**

GCE and Advanced Diploma results day – and the start of the full Clearing vacancy search. Adjustment opens for registration.

**31 August 2019**

The deadline for any remaining conditions to be met – otherwise the uni or college might not accept you – plus Adjustment ends.

**20 September 2019**

The final deadline for applications to 2019 courses. Applications must arrive at UCAS by 18:00 (UK time).

**30 September 2019**

The Clearing vacancy search closes; you can still add Clearing choices in Track, but contact unis/colleges to discuss vacancies first.

**22 October 2019**

The deadline for adding Clearing choices and unis or colleges accepting Clearing applicants.

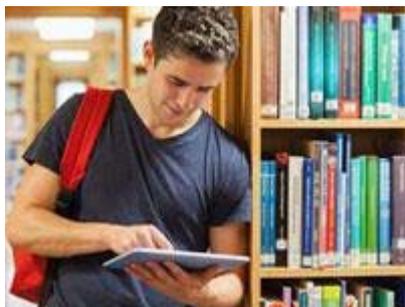
# StepsToApply.

## 1. First you register to use Apply

Add some **personal details**, get a **username**, create a **password** and set your **security questions**.

Include the **buzzword** your school, college or centre gave you, or if you're applying independently answer a few questions.

## 2. Then log in to fill in the rest of your personal details



**Funding and sponsorship** options, **residential status**, any **special needs or disabilities** and any **criminal convictions** – plus you can give a parent, guardian or adviser **nominated access** if you'd like them to be able to speak on your behalf.

Add your **email address** – we'll show you how to verify it with us. Then we'll be able to let you know whenever your application is updated online, ready for you to log in and check.

## 3. Some additional info (UK applicants only)

Your **ethnic origin**, **national identity**, any **summer schools/taster courses** you attended, **care** and **parental education** and **occupational background**.

This info isn't for selection purposes – it's helpful for producing statistics, but it's not compulsory if you'd rather not fill it in.

## 4. Your student finance arrangements (UK applicants only)

**This isn't your actual student finance application**, but if you'll be looking for financial support we can speed up the process by sharing your info with the student loans or awards organisation you apply to (if you give us permission to).

Don't worry if you can't see the page – it only shows after certain questions are answered in the 'personal details' section.

## 5. Then you add your course choices

You can **choose up to five courses** (all now or some later) – **there's no preference order** and your universities/colleges won't see where else you've applied until after you reply to any offers you get.

One restriction on the combinations you can have is a maximum of four courses in any one of medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine or veterinary science.

Another restriction is that you can only apply to one course at either the University of Oxford or the University of Cambridge. There are exceptions though – if you'll be a graduate at the start of the course, and you're applying for graduate medicine (course code A101) at the University of Cambridge, you could then also apply to medicine (course code A100) at Cambridge, as well as graduate medicine (course code A101) at the University of Oxford. (Some applicants will need to complete an additional application form to apply – visit the [University of Oxford](#) and the [University of Cambridge](#) websites for more information.)

## 6. Your education so far

You must enter **all qualifications you have a result for, including any which were ungraded.**

You must also enter **any exams you're waiting to take, and any qualifications for which you're waiting results.**



**If you need help adding your AS and A levels check our [Advisers' blog](#).**

It's important to include your **full education history**, including the most recent school, college or uni you've attended, or are attending.

**For course results you're still waiting for, [these are the exam results we're able to process and forward on to unis and colleges](#).** If any of your pending qualifications aren't on here then just remember to send the results on to your choices when you get them. (But either way you still need to add all your qualifications into this section, even if they're not on the list.)

## 7. Your employment history

If you've had **any paid jobs** – full-time or part-time – here's where you can enter details for up to five of them. Include company names, addresses, job descriptions and start/finish dates.

Mention any unpaid or voluntary work in your personal statement.

## 8. Then you write a personal statement

This is your chance to **show course providers why you want to study the course and why you'd make a great student.**

Take a look here if you'd like advice on [how to write a personal statement](#).

## 9. Double check the view all details page

See if you need to make any edits, then **mark it as complete, save it and agree to the declaration** (which allows us to process your info and send it to your universities/colleges).

## 10. Then get a reference, pay your fee and send your application to us



Then the **reference** and **pay and send** sections go one of two ways, depending on whether you're applying individually or through a school, college or centre registered with UCAS.

You'll be getting a reference from **a teacher, adviser or professional that knows you.**

Pay either **£18 if you're applying to just one course, or £24 for multiple courses and for applications sent after 30 June.**

[Find out how references, payment and sending works](#), including advice on who should write your reference.

### A few things to note

**You can only apply once in a cycle.** Please don't apply more than once in a cycle, as you can't receive a refund for further applications.

**If you've applied in previous cycles and want to apply again,** you'll still have to submit a new application.

**You'll need to mark every section as complete** before you can get to the declaration/payment/reference stage.

**Everyone needs a reference,** unless you get permission from all your universities or colleges.

# Apply

## how to complete the personal statement

This worksheet is to help you think about what you could include in your personal statement. There are a few sections to give you an idea of the areas that you could write about. We have included space to allow you to write down any notes as you go along. If you need more help, ask your teacher or a parent/guardian.

### Writing about the course

Why are you applying for your chosen course(s)?

Somebody who wanted to work with animals might write for instance: I would like to study BTEC in Animal Care as I am passionate about looking after animals. I already look after two dogs and it will help me in my future career plans.

Why does this course (or these courses) interest you?

You can write about anything that you have read about the course(s) that you find interesting and would like to find out more about.

Why do you think that you are suitable for the course(s)?

In this section you can write about any experiences you have had that are related to the course(s) or any skills that you have learnt that might help you e.g. if you have done any volunteering or work experience that is related, or if you have a part time job e.g. babysitting that shows more general strengths such as responsibility/commitment.

Do your current studies (e.g.GCSEs) relate to the course(s) you have chosen? If so, how?

You can let the provider know how much you enjoy a subject by writing about a course that you have already studied at GCSE that you found really interesting or that you were good at.

#### Skills and achievements

Write about anything that you have done that might help with your application

Write about anything that you are proud of e.g. passing Grade 2 in piano or being selected for a sports team. Also include any awards you have done e.g. Duke of Edinburgh. You can also add any positions of responsibility that you have held e.g. prefect or helping with young students at school.

## Hobbies and interests

Make a list of your hobbies, interests and anything that you do socially

Think about how they show your skills and ability. Try and link them to skills and experience you might need on your chosen course(s).

## Work history

Include details of placements, work experience, voluntary work or jobs, especially if it is relevant to your chosen course(s)

Try to show how this experience gave you new skills or made you think about your future plans e.g. things you really enjoyed or were good at. Also include any part-time work that you are still doing e.g. a Saturday job or babysitting.

## Career plans

Use this section to tell the provider what you might like to do in the future as a career after completing the course

Explain how you would like to use the course(s) you have applied for to help you reach your goal.

### Dos and Don'ts when writing a personal statement

- **Do** use your best English and check for spelling and grammar to make sure it is right.
- **Do** be enthusiastic – if you show your interest in the course it will help you.
- **Do** ask people that you trust e.g. your teacher/adviser or parent/guardian to read through what you have written and give you feedback.
- **Don't** exaggerate – you may well be asked about what you have written if you attend an appointment with the provider.
- **Don't** leave it until the last minute – it is a good idea to give yourself time to think about what you write to make sure that you don't forget anything.



# MY UCAS PERSONAL STATEMENT



| Grade points | Tariff |
|--------------|--------|
| A*           | 56     |
| A            | 48     |
| B            | 40     |
| C            | 32     |
| D            | 24     |
| E            | 16     |

AS and AS VCE

Official title: Advanced Subsidiary GCE and Advanced Subsidiary VCE

| Grade | Tariff points |
|-------|---------------|
| A     | 20            |
| B     | 16            |
| C     | 12            |
| D     | 10            |
| E     | 6             |

## How much are the tuition fees?

Fees can vary quite a bit, even for similar courses – check how much they'll be when you [search for courses](#).

The table below shows the current maximum tuition fees.

| Student's home region | Location of university or college |              |              |              |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
|                       | England                           | Scotland     | Wales        | NI           |
| England               | Up to £9,250                      | Up to £9,250 | Up to £9,000 | Up to £9,250 |
| Scotland              | Up to £9,250                      | No fee       | Up to £9,000 | Up to £9,250 |
| Wales                 | Up to £9,250                      | Up to £9,250 | Up to £9,000 | Up to £9,250 |
| NI                    | Up to £9,250                      | Up to £9,250 | Up to £9,000 | Up to £4,160 |
| EU                    | Up to £9,250                      | No fee       | Up to £9,000 | Up to £4,160 |
| Other international   | Variable                          | Variable     | Variable     | Variable     |

## What help can I get?

### Tuition Fee Loans

These are loans from student finance companies for the different regions in the UK – England, Northern Ireland, Wales and Scotland. These organisations are listed below.

- x **How much can I borrow?** You can take out a Tuition Fee Loan for up to £9,250, rather than paying up front (or up to £6,165 for a private university or college).

- x This loan will be paid directly to the uni or college. **You won't start paying it back until after your course finishes, and only when you're earning above a certain level.**
- x If you're applying for '**equivalent or lower qualifications (ELQs)**' – for example if you've already finished an undergraduate degree and you want to do another – fees may be higher and you might not be able to get the same financial support.

### **Maintenance Loans**

**If you're a full-time UK applicant, you might also get a Maintenance Loan to help with your living costs** – you can apply for these when you apply for a Tuition Fee Loan.

- x **Maintenance Loan** – you have to pay these back later. You get money at the start of each term (or monthly if you study in Scotland). The amount varies, depending on your household income, where you study, where you live and how long for.

x

### **How to apply for help**

Contact the relevant organisation listed below, depending on where you are applying from:

#### **England**

**Apply to Student Finance England** – and for an independent view of what it costs go to **Money Saving Expert**.

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## Useful websites.

**UCAS = [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com).**

**Application costs = [www.ucas.com/students/applying/howtoapply/cost](http://www.ucas.com/students/applying/howtoapply/cost)**

**UCAS Conventions = [www.ucasevents.com/conventions](http://www.ucasevents.com/conventions)**

**Help/Questions = [www.ucasconnect.com](http://www.ucasconnect.com)**

**Student Finance = [www.ucas.com/students/studentfinance](http://www.ucas.com/students/studentfinance)  
[www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance](http://www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance)**

**UCAS Points calculator = <http://www.ucascalculator.com>**