

# UCAS Parents Information Evening



July 2018





# Why Higher Education?

- Need a degree for chosen career
- Salary prospects
- Enjoy studying
- Opportunity to leave home and gain independence
- Student life





# What subject?

- Professional or vocational subject
- Current subject
- Related subject
- Hobby or interest
- Something completely new





# Course options

- Degree – BA, BSc, LLB, MEng
- HND or Foundation Degree
- Single honours: one subject
- Joint honours: two subjects
- Combined honours: 3+
- Sandwich course: placement outside education
- Study abroad





# What to look for?

- The course – length, structure, content
- Teaching and assessment methods
- League tables: teaching, research, employment
- Entry requirements: GCSE + AS/A level; admissions or aptitude tests





# What to look for?

- Admissions tests
- Medicine - UKCAT/BMAT
- Veterinary - BMAT
- Dentistry - UKCAT/BMAT
- Law - (LNAT)
- Oxford TSA - (thinking Skills Assessment)
- Cambridge admissions test
- STEP - **Sixth Term Examination Paper** (maths)

BioMedical Admissions Test (BMAT) – October

Classics Admissions Test (CAT)

English Literature Admissions Test (ELAT)

History Aptitude Test (HAT)

Mathematics Admissions Test (MAT)

Modern Languages Admissions Test (MLAT)

Oriental Languages Aptitude Test (OLAT)

Physics Aptitude Test (PAT)

Philosophy Test

Thinking Skills Assessment (TSA) Oxford



# Where to study?

- Stay at home or move away  
– Compact schemes
- Distance and accessibility
- University type – collegiate, Russell group, city, town, campus
- Accommodation
- Extra-curricular activities
- Social life





# Russell Group Universities

- University of Birmingham
- University of Bristol
- University of Cambridge
- Cardiff University
- University of Edinburgh
- University of Glasgow
- Imperial College London
- King's College London
- University of Leeds
- University of Liverpool
- London School of Economics & Political Science (LSE)
- University of Manchester
- Newcastle University
- University of Nottingham
- Queen's University Belfast
- University of Oxford
- University of Sheffield
- University of Southampton
- University College London
- University of Warwick
- **In 2012 joined by...**
- Durham University
- University of York
- Exeter University
- Queen Mary (University of London)





## Students register to UCAS Apply

- Register UCAS day and in Futures– students will be given a username and asked to choose a password.
- Work on your personal statement with your referee (usually your HAM or member of SF team)
- Mr Howell, HAMs:
  - Baggaley – Ms McLeish
  - Buxton - Miss Smith
  - Fanshawe – Mr Varley
  - Gosforth – Dr Jones
  - Millican – Mr Shortman
  - Spaven – Miss Watkin

# UCAS Tariff

Extended Project Qualification	GCE & VCE AS levels	GCE & VCE A levels	Tariff	BTEC (QCF) Extended Diploma	BTEC (QCF) Diploma	BTEC (QCF) Subsidiary Diploma	BTEC (QCF) Certificate
			168	D*D*D*			
Or grade offer ABB							
			112	DMM	D*D*		
			104		D*D		
			96	MMM	DD		
			80	MMP	DM		
			64	MPP	MM		
		A*	56			D*	
		A	48	PPP	MP	D	
		B	40				
		C	32		PP	M	
A*			28				D*
A		D	24				D
B	A		20				
C	B	E	16			P	M
D	C		12				
	D		10				
E			8				P
	E		6				



# Writing a Personal Statement

A 4000 character (inc spaces) document to highlight the necessary skills and qualities to enable an offer to be made.

**Students will need to draft and re-draft their personal statement and show it to their referee for checking**

**When writing their personal statement they should answer the following questions:**

- **Why have I chosen this course?**
- **How to come across as enthusiastic (without using the word 'enthusiastic').**
- **What knowledge/skills have I gained from my studies (include work experience).**



# PS – some thoughts

- **What activities have they been involved in at school? (stress responsibilities and skills gained)**
- **What interests do they have out of school? (include skills gained)**
- **Do they have paid work; if so, what do they gain?**
- **MORE IMPORTANTLY – HIGH VALUE WORK EXPERIENCE**
- **Why are they taking a Gap Year? What are their plans?**
- **What are their future career plans?**

# Hints

- Avoid 'from a young age', 'since I was a child', 'I've always been fascinated by', 'I have a thirst for knowledge', 'the world we live in today'... You get the idea. They constantly recur in hundreds of personal statements and don't really say an awful lot.
- The word 'passion' (or 'passionate') is incredibly over-used. Try to convey your passion without using the word 'passion'. See, it loses its effect.

# Plagiarism, lies or exaggeration

- UCAS uses stringent **similarity and plagiarism software** and your universities will be told if you copy anything from another source.
- And as for exaggeration, don't say you've read a book when you've only read a chapter – you never know when it might catch you out at a university interview.
- 'If you didn't do it, read it or see it, don't claim it.'

# Typos – genuine personal statements

- "Having been head of my form and captain of the debating club, I have grate communication skills."
- "I am well-respected by my classmates. At school, I hold the position of head bog and it is a post I am performing well."

“I'm nosy. I like to see into living rooms. I read to look into the beautiful and dysfunctional lives of normal people and to understand and further confuse myself about how humans work. I write about the details of a person, the tiny stories that make up a life...”



"**Economics** is a diverse subject, as **economics** can be related to anything, especially during **economic** crisis, which forces to think **economically**, whereas **maths** has been long one of my favourite subjects, as **mathematics** can be applied everywhere, moreover, **mathematics** is useful in everyday life."

“When I visited your campus on November 2007, I knew we were made for each other! You made me feel at home... your unique liberal arts focus is quite enticing, and you stood out dramatically...”

“You must be wondering about my past relationships...I need a more mature academic environment to extend my mind, and I know you can offer it... you must be curious about your admirers interests. I have a love of foreign cultures, a love you share...”

“Hi, my name is Alex. I know you might not know much about me, but I know you very well...”

...As a lover of drama I seek out the chances to watch, perform and read. If a play catches my imagination I need to perform it; soft toys become my audience, my bedroom my set.

I take the role of director, producer and every character in the play.

My sympathy is with the toys that watch me murder the works of literary giants;

the toys will not be pleased to hear that I have no intention of growing out of this...



UCAS

# Filling in the UCAS form

**This is done using the Electronic Application System. Your referee will be your HAM or Mr Howell**

**Mr Howell- October 15<sup>th</sup> deadline. For those people applying for Oxbridge, Dentistry, Medical and Veterinary courses.**



# Filling in the UCAS form

- **Complete the online form – there is no spellcheck on the application programme, students should therefore use Word and then cut/paste the personal statement into the form**
- **See their referee to check their completed form and *'send to referee'***
- **When their form is completed, pay online**



# What happens next?

- Their HAM/Mr Howell (referee) will write their reference and upload to UCAS.
- Mr Howell will check the reference and form
- Their form will have a final check for errors and it will be returned to them if amendments are required.
- Students to email min/max entry requirements to Mr Howell or meet to discuss.
- When their form has been approved Mr Howell will send it to UCAS.



# Filling in the UCAS form

## Internal Deadlines

**Oxbridge/Medical/Dentistry/Veterinary:**

**1<sup>st</sup> October**

**Others:**

**1<sup>st</sup> November**



# What happens next?

- **UCAS will email the student a acknowledgement of the receipt of their application form**
- **Students will receive a letter from UCAS. This contains:**
  - **Their UCAS Personal ID number**
  - **Their password which will enable them to monitor the progress of their application via the UCAS Track website**



# What happens next

**Each institution will contact the student. They may:**

- **Invite them to interview**
- **Invite them to an Open Day**
- **Make them an offer**
- **Reject their application**

**When all their institutions have informed them of their decisions UCAS will write to them again. They will ask students to decide on:**

**A Conditional Firm Choice**

**A Conditional Insurance Choice**

**Or**

**An UNCONDITIONAL !!!**



# What happens next?

**UCAS will give students a date by which they should inform them of their choice. If they miss the deadline they may forfeit the offers made to them.**

**Students should then concentrate on their examination preparation to make sure that they meet these offers.**



## UCAS Extra

- **This is an extra service for students who do not hold any offers. It is similar to clearing in the way it operates and begins April/May 2019.**

# THE UCAS FORM

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jpUpQg0a-vs>

Personal Details

Additional Information

Student Finance

Choices

Education

Employment

Personal Statement

References

**Personal details**

Personal

Title	[REDACTED]
Gender	[REDACTED]
First/given name(s)	[REDACTED]
Surname/family name	[REDACTED]
Preferred first name	
Previous surname at 16th birthday	
Postal address	[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Is your permanent home in the UK?	Yes
Home address	
Home telephone number	01246 [REDACTED]
Mobile number	[REDACTED]
Email address	[REDACTED]
Date of birth	[REDACTED]
Country of birth	United Kingdom
Date of first entry to UK	
Nationality	UK national
Dual nationality	
Area of permanent residence	Derbyshire
Residential category	UK Citizen or EU National

Reference numbers

Unique Learner Number (ULN)	
Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) Number	
International English Language Testing System (IELTS) TRF Number	

## Student support

Fee code

02 UK, ChI, IoM or EU student  
finance services

Student support arrangements

Derbyshire

Have you ever lived or worked  
in the EU (excluding the UK),  
European Economic Area  
(EEA) or Switzerland?

No

Do you have a parent, step  
parent, spouse or civil partner  
who is an EU (excluding the  
UK), EEA or Swiss national?

No

## Keeping you informed about your UCAS application

I want to receive targeted  
course vacancy information if I  
am unplaced.

Yes

I want to receive sales  
information by email

Yes

I want to receive sales  
information by text message to  
my mobile phone

Yes

I want to receive sales  
information by post.

Yes

## Nominated access

Full name of nominee

[REDACTED]

Relationship to you

Father

## Criminal convictions

Criminal convictions

No

## Disability/special needs

Category

No disability

Please give details of any  
special needs

Usually 02,  
but  
different if  
NHS  
funded etc

Do not tick this  
box unless YOU  
HAVE A  
CRIMINAL  
CONVICTION



**Additional information**

Ethnic origin	White
National identity	English
Dual national identity	

Activities in preparation for higher education: 1

Sponsor	Other
Start date	October 2013
Duration (days)	1
School year	13
Location	The University of Sheffield

Activities in preparation for higher education: 2

Sponsor	Other
Start date	July 2010
Duration (days)	1
School year	9
Location	The University of Nottingham

Have you been in care?	No
Duration in care	
Parental education	Yes
Occupational background	<del>Unknown</del>
I would like correspondence from Welsh universities, colleges and UCAS to be in Welsh	No

Not open days,  
only outreach  
courses

**Student finance**

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I will be applying for student finance	Yes
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I want to share my details with the Student Loans Company	Yes
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I want UCAS to send me a reminder of when and how to apply for student finance	Yes
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## Choices

The University of Birmingham (B32)

Chemical Engineering (Industrial Experience) (5 years) (H802)

Campus: Main Site (-)

Live at home while studying?: No

Start date: October 2014

Deferred entry?: No

Point of entry:

5 choices anywhere, any type of course.

You will need your BTEC code from exams office

Your AS grades, you can add the grades when you have them (NOTICE DIFFERENT TYPE OF QUAL)

### BTEC Certificate (QCF)

[redacted]	08/2012	Edexcel	Entry
[redacted]	08/2012	Edexcel	Entry

### GCE Advanced Level

[redacted]	08/2014	Edexcel	
[redacted]	08/2014	OCR	
[redacted]	08/2014	WJEC	
[redacted]	08/2014	Edexcel	

### GCE Advanced Subsidiary (first award 2001)

Biology	08/2013	Edexcel	
Unit 1			
Unit 2			
Unit 3			
Chemistry B (Salters)	08/2013	OCR	
Chemistry For Life			
Chemistry of Natural Resources			
Chemistry in Practice			
French	08/2013	WJEC	
FN1			
FN2			
General Studies	08/2013	AQA	
Unit 1			

A Level predictions USE PENDING

You will need this code

This is the same for everyone

### OCR National First Award

ICT 08/2012 2

BTEC Registration Number [redacted]

Please state the highest level of qualification you expect to have before you start your course Below honours degree level qualifications

**Employment**

[REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED]

Nature of work: Waitress

From [REDACTED] part-time

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[REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED]

Nature of work: Sales assistant

From O [REDACTED] 2011, part-time

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# Sources of information



- Staff, parents, and friends
- School careers library and Connexions service
- Prospectuses and departmental brochures
- Open Days [www.opendays.com](http://www.opendays.com)
- Internet – [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)
- <http://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/league-tables/>
- <http://www.studential.com/university/applying>
- <http://www.russellgroup.ac.uk/>
- University websites e.g. [www.leeds.ac.uk](http://www.leeds.ac.uk)
- A copy of these slides can be found at:  
[www.dronfield.derbyshire.sch.uk](http://www.dronfield.derbyshire.sch.uk) **->Sixth Form->Next Steps-> UCAS**