

Applying to UK Universities

All applications have to go through an organisation called UCAS (see link using tile below) which is a centralised undergraduate application service for all the UK universities and colleges.

PREPARATION BEFORE APPLYING.

- Research universities using either the search tool on the:
 - UCAS site – www.ucas.com
 - <https://university.which.co.uk/>
 - <http://www.heaponline.co.uk>
 - HEAP books
 - <https://russellgroup.ac.uk>
- You have 5 choices of university. If you want to do medicine, dentistry or vet science you can choose no more than 4. You can only choose one of Oxford or Cambridge, not both.
- Start working on your personal statement (see some useful documents below)

HOW UCAS WORKS

- You apply to up to 5 different universities (or you may choose to use two of your choices with one university, but two different courses).
- UCAS sends your applications to the (up to) 5 universities. They do not let the universities know what your other choices are.
- The universities reply to UCAS with their decisions about your application. These could be “Yes, accepted” or “conditionally accepted” or “No, not accepted”
- UCAS contacts you to tell you the results of your application and advise you what to do for the next step.

WHEN AND HOW TO APPLY.

- All applications have to go through the Career Centre. You need to see the Career Counsellor when you are ready to begin the process. You need to do this by mid term three.
- Go onto the UCAS site and register – you will need to create a username and password.
- Watch the small video clip online about how to apply.
- UCAS charges £18.00 for a single application and £24.00 for more than one choice. Make sure you pay once you have entered all the details that you are responsible for, otherwise the application will not proceed.

Once you have made your application the Career Counsellor will be able to go online to check that it is OK, add in the school reference and predicted grades and then submit it to UCAS.

CONFIDENTIAL REFERENCE

Your confidential reference will be compiled from comments made on your reports and using feedback from your teachers. You will need to complete the Principals Reference Application form and a list of your extracurricular involvements and awards and submit these to the Career Counsellor.

PERSONAL STATEMENT

- Many useful resources on UCAS and the various university sites.
- Do not make it university specific as it is going to five different universities
- Should not be a list of achievements and involvements
- Must have an academic focus

KEY DATES (it is your responsibility to check the accuracy of these from year to year):

Note that the 15th October is usually immediately following the school holidays. You should aim to have your part of the process completed by the last week of Term 3.

- 22 May – UCAS usually opens
- 5th September – UCAS applications can be submitted
- 1st October for UCAS Conservatoires music applications.
- 15th October for Oxford, Cambridge and all courses involving medicine, dentistry and vet science. COPA (for Cambridge) to be completed by 19 October. SAQ (for Cambridge) to be completed by 22 October (for most courses – check carefully in case you have a different deadline) – link will be sent once you have submitted your UCAS application.
- 15th January (following year). All other courses except those above.

Please be aware that this is in our summer holidays and the Career Counsellor may not be readily available to assist if you leave it beyond the end of term 4 (early December)!

- Special Note: University of Cambridge. International students also need to complete Cambridge Online Preliminary Application Form, (COPA). There is an additional fee for this. This will need to be received by the same deadline as your UCAS application. There is a guide on the University of Cambridge site to assist you in completing this. You will also be asked to complete an additional form (SAQ) after your application has been processed.
- There are two scholarships for NZ students awarded annually for University of Cambridge – Girdlers' and Douglas Myers.

It is strongly advised that you begin the process during the holidays between Terms 2&3 as Term 3 is short and you should be preoccupied with school exams!

Oxbridge

Note that you are only able to apply for either Oxford OR Cambridge, but not both.

Many courses at Oxford and Cambridge have Admissions tests. Make sure you see the Career Counsellor early in the year to arrange this.

Cambridge will require additional application forms to be completed as well as your main UCAS application.

<https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/applying/copa>

<https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/applying/saq>

Deadline for Oxford and Cambridge applications:

- 20th September for University of Cambridge if you wish to be interviewed in China, Singapore, Malaysia. COPA and SAQ should be completed by this date also.
- 15th October for Oxford, Cambridge. COPA (for Cambridge) to be completed by 19 October. SAQ (for Cambridge) to be completed by 22 October (for most courses – check carefully in case you have a different deadline) – link will be sent once you have submitted your UCAS application.

Studying Medicine in UK

Remember that your application has an earlier deadline – usually 15 October.

Many UK Med schools expect you to have done some work experience/work shadowing in a related field so you can comment on this in your personal statement.

<https://www.themedicportal.com/application-guide/work-experience/>

Many UK Med schools will have additional application requirements - e.g. separate forms etc. You will also have to sit a test - e.g. BMAT or UKCAT.

Applying for medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine or veterinary science?

For these subjects you can only apply to a maximum of four courses in any one of medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine or veterinary science.

You can add choices with a different deadline later, but don't forget you can only have five choices in total.

Thanks to Kaye Griffiths of Pinehurst School for allowing us to use this information.