

# Careers & Higher Education Information Presentation 2021



# CHARTERS SCHOOL

# What is higher education?

- Higher education refers to studying for qualifications such as **first degrees, higher national diplomas H.N.D. or foundation degrees**, amongst others.
- Many courses take place in **universities**, but plenty are also taught at **higher education colleges, specialist art institutions and agricultural colleges**.

# Choosing a University

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

# Choosing a University

- Many newer/less traditional universities are now very well regarded and score very well on university rankings
- Employers are not always as focused on which university students went to as you might think – A level results and degree classification are key
- It is worth bearing in mind that some universities are particularly strong in certain subjects

# Deciding what to study

- What subject do they enjoy most?
- What subject are they best at?
- What do they want to do after University?

# Some possible application strategies.....

- Broaden the choice of course – consider joint degrees and less popular courses
- Choose a range of institutions in terms of requirements
- The ‘Best Course’ for a particular subject may not be at one of the traditional/redbrick/Russell Group universities
  - BRUNEL for example is a leading institution for Design
  - LOUGHBOROUGH for Sport Science
  - LANCASTER for Management

# How do they choose the right course?

- There are over 50,000 full time undergraduate courses on offer in the UCAS system
- The curriculum in one subject can be very different depending on the institution

# What should they look for?

- The entry requirements
- The course content
- The length of the course
- The examination system
- The course structure:
  - Single subject degree
  - Joint honours degree
  - Year abroad or in industry
- The style of teaching
- The number of students accepted on the course against the number of students who usually apply
- The sort of jobs graduates on the course go on to do

# The degree they will end up with

- Most first degrees lead to the award of a Bachelors degree i.e. BA or BSc
- Some lead to Masters degrees
- Most degrees are awarded by the universities or colleges they attend or from the university that validates the course
- They are differentiated by classes depending on how well the students have done
  - First class honours degree known as a First
  - Upper second known as a 2:1
  - Lower second known as a 2:2
  - Third
  - Pass

# Applying

- UCAS (University & Colleges Admissions Service) is the central organisation that processes applications for full-time undergraduate courses at UK universities and colleges.
- Students started their applications last Friday and can log in to continue working on it at any time at [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)

# UCAS Points Tariff – 2021

## A level and Advanced VCE

Official title: Advanced GCE and Advanced VCE

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

If a university gives you an offer of 120 points then you would need to get 3 Bs or ABC.

## Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate

Grade	Tariff points
D*	56
D	48
M	32
P	16

An offer of 128 points is ABB.

# How many universities/courses can students select?

- They can choose 5 courses only
- For medicine: 4 medical schools + 1 other
- **THEY MUST BE REALISTIC** – they need a range of universities with different entry requirements
- Use predicted grades they will be given in early September to guide final decisions on where to apply.

# Points about applying:

- Minimum entry requirements
- Achieving minimum entry requirements through predicted grades gets students on the pile that gets considered
  - Then additional sifts are applied e.g GCSE results, personal statements
  - **Everyone** competing for the place your son/daughter wants will also meet the minimum requirements

# The UCAS Application

- Personal details
- Education - Exam results and subjects being taken
- University choices
- Personal statement
- Reference
- Pay and send (£26.50 which covers 5 choices.)

# The Personal Statement

- 47 lines in the UCAS online system or 4000 characters including spaces (whichever is less).
- For most admissions tutors, their main concern is a student's intellectual / academic potential, commitment, curiosity and passion for their chosen subject disciplines compared with other student applicants.
- The UCAS personal statement should be around 75% (or more!) about a genuine commitment to a chosen subject and must demonstrate evidence of having gone beyond the syllabus, with a track record of independent study.

# Plagiarism

- Personal statements are checked against a sophisticated library of those already in the system and the internet
- Each new personal statement is added to the library after processing
- Plagiarism could result in Institutions not making or honouring offers. Be aware of not using 'good bits' from personal statements of older siblings

# What Charters Offers

- Assistance with research into courses
- Guidance on completing UCAS application
- Advice on Personal Statement from tutors (started Friday)
- Reference written usually by the tutor and checked by Head of Year
- Mock Interviews
- Careers interviews

# Reference writing

- The tutor will write a reference (or subject specialist in some cases)
- This will also be 47 lines in the UCAS system
- The focus will be academic
- They will be positive but won't lie! We focus on students' strengths and suitability for the chosen subject.

# How do universities select applicants?

- GCSE results and any AS qualifications
- Predicted A level/BTEC grades
- Personal Statement
- School reference
- Interview (if required)
- Admission tests (if required)

# Will they be interviewed?

- Applicants to Oxford and Cambridge
- Medicine / Dentistry / Nursing / Veterinary Medicine / Physiotherapy
- Foundation Art
- Music /Drama/Dance: Audition
- Law at some universities
- Teaching courses
- Some universities interview everyone for all courses

# Specialised Admissions Tests

- Most admissions tests happen at the start of the academic cycle, so if you do need to take one you'll need to register for it early – possibly before you've sent your application off.
- Many of the courses that use admissions tests are also the courses that have an earlier deadline – so it's worth checking these details in advance.
- Oxford, Cambridge, Maths, Law, Medicine are all likely to have a specialised test.

# What happens next? (Mrs Hill)

- UCAS will send a copy of the application to each of the choices stated on the application.
- Each institution will decide whether they want to make an offer or not.
- Offers can be conditional or sometimes unconditional
- Students are then asked to choose two universities to take forward (**this happens once all five choices have responded**). The first choice called Firm offer, the second choice called Insurance in case they don't meet the requirements for their first choice.

# Insurance choice...

- You can only go to your insurance choice if you do not meet the grades for your first choice.
- The grades for the insurance choice, should be lower than those required for the first choice
- Little point choosing a course with the same or higher grades, as if you meet the grades for the first choice, you are obliged to take that offer.

# Oxford and Cambridge

## What do they look for in applicants?

- Passion for their chosen subject and appropriate choice of course
- Very strong examinations record:
  - Applicants will have a strong GCSE record – mainly 8s and 9s
- Outstanding school/college reference
- Potential to succeed academically in Oxbridge, meaning:
  - Enthusiasm for complex and challenging ideas
  - Clarity of thought and analytical ability
  - Real intellectual flexibility
- Vocational commitment (where appropriate)

# Oxbridge - Selection criteria

Admissions decisions are based on:

- A level (or equivalent) grades and subject combinations
- AS grades and module marks (Cambridge)
- GCSE grades
- UCAS personal statement and school/college reference
- Submitted work (where requested)
- Admissions test results
- Interview performance

# Oxbridge and Medics - Application

- Students apply via UCAS to Oxford OR Cambridge by 15 October – **internal school deadline is Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September**
- Cambridge applicants also fill in an online questionnaire after they have submitted their UCAS form.
- Aptitude/admissions tests in early November (may be half term)
- Most applicants choose a College but many take the ‘open’ application route; choice of College has no impact upon likelihood of success
- Typical Oxford offer:           A\*A\*A to AAA
- Typical Cambridge offer:    A\*A\*A to A\*AA

# Timeline

- 9<sup>th</sup> July 2021 – start of UCAS process.
- Further support - tutor period 20 July 2021 plus morning tutor time
- 24<sup>th</sup> Sept 2021 - school deadline for Oxbridge/ medicine/ dentistry/ veterinary
- 15<sup>th</sup> Oct 2021 - UCAS deadline for above
- 26<sup>th</sup> November 2021 - school deadline for other applications
- 26<sup>th</sup> Jan 2022 at 6pm - UCAS deadline

# Timeline cont.

- 15<sup>th</sup> March 2022- application deadline for the receipt at UCAS of applications for Art and Design courses except those listed with a 26<sup>th</sup> January 2022 deadline
- From submission of UCAS application up until 19<sup>th</sup> May 2022: Offers come through at any time.
- If all offers received by 15 May, make choices by 1 June 2022
- If all offers received by 19 May, make choices by 9 June 2022

# Student Finance

Student's home region	Studying in England	Studying in Scotland	Studying in Wales	Studying in Northern Ireland
England	Up to £9,250	Up to £9,250	Up to £9,000	Up to £9,250

<https://www.ucas.com/finance/undergraduate-tuition-fees-and-student-loans>

## Tuition Fee Loans

Tuition Fee Loans are available to cover the full cost of tuition fees upfront.

They're paid directly to your university or college, so you don't have to worry about them too much (until it comes time to repay them).

Usually you can get a Tuition Fee Loan for the duration of your course plus one extra year, e.g. in case you drop out and return at a later date.

## Maintenance Loans

Maintenance Loans are available to help with some of your living costs at university, e.g. accommodation, transport, food, and books. It's unlikely this will cover all your living costs, in which case it's up to you to make up the shortfall.

How much you get will work on a sliding scale, based on:

- **where you're studying** – students studying away from home in London receive more to account for the higher cost of living here, compared to those living at home
- **your household income** – students from lower income backgrounds are eligible for more – this is often referred to as 'means-tested' finance, and requires your parents/guardians to provide evidence of their income

# Range of Financial help for full time students

- Student Loan for tuition fees
- Student Loan for maintenance (living costs)
- Maintenance grants no longer available
- Bursaries and scholarships
- Extra help if you have a disability
- Many students have a part time job during term time and/or holidays
- If your son/daughter is the first member of the family to go to university, some universities give bursaries
- Apply for loans in May 2022 online at <https://www.gov.uk/student-finance-register-login>

# Repayment Threshold

- Graduates only start repaying their loans once they are earning above £26,575
- The Institute of Student Employers (ISE) reports the median average graduate starting salary in the UK as £29,000.
- Graduates repay their loan at the rate of 9% of what they earn above £26,575

# Repayment Example

- It is important to realise that repayment is based purely on income of the individual and is not dependent on the total amount of loan taken out.
- Example: If you earned £2,500 a month (or £30,000 a year), you'd repay 9% of the £286 above the relevant monthly pay period threshold (just over £25 a month)
- <https://www.ucas.com/ucas/conservatoires/finance-and-support/undergraduate-tuition-fees-and-student-loans/repaying-your#what-you-have-to-repay>

# These arrangements have been in place since 2012

- All outstanding repayments will be written off after 30 years
- Around a quarter of graduates, those with the lowest lifetime earnings, will pay less than under the previous system
- Not everyone will pay
- <https://www.moneysavingexpert.com/students/student-loans-tuition-fees-changes/>

# Useful websites for research

- [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)
- [www.opendays.com](http://www.opendays.com)
- <https://www.theuniguide.co.uk/>
- <http://education.guardian.co.uk/universityguide>
- <http://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk>
  
- Some of these sites list the best universities for each subject and give you information on what it is like to study each subject at university.

# Other paths

- [www.notgoingtouni.com](http://www.notgoingtouni.com)

Support in school with:

- Apprenticeships and sponsored degree courses
- Employment
- College courses
- Voluntary work and work experience
- Gap years
- Also see presentation from Adviza, our careers service