

# Conyers School

## Simple Guide to University Applications 2024 - 2025



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## [A] The Application Process in Conyers

Students have to complete five tasks:

[1] **Register** on the UCAS website and fill in personal details and exam results.

[2] **Research university courses.** It is important to carefully consider the entrance criteria for specific courses.

[3] Request [if necessary] **references** from subject teachers.

[4] Write a **personal statement**.

[5] Monitor progress on the UCAS website through **'Track'** and respond to any correspondence.

### **What's goes on the UCAS form?**

- Personal details
- Up to 5 university course choices
- Exam results and information about exams that have yet to be taken
- The Personal Statement
- A school reference which includes predicted 'A' level / BTEC grades
- Additional information [jobs, schools, etc.]

Students should use the summer to work on their Personal Statement and search for appropriate university courses [which can be a laborious task!]

The UCAS fee is £28.50

## [B] Deadlines for Applications

- Early entry courses (Oxbridge / Dentistry / Medicine / Veterinary Science): **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2024**
- Remaining students complete Personal Statement by **October half term**
- The deadline for **all** other applications is **Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

### **UCAS A-level points**

A\* = 56 / A = 48 / B = 40

C = 32 / D = 24 / E = 16

Some universities will make a 'grade' offer, others will make a 'points' offer.

Some courses require **interviews** and some courses may also ask students to take an '**admissions test**'

Students can apply for up to **five** courses. Students then accept one **firm choice** and one **insurance choice** from the offers they receive

### **Applications must be realistic!**

We will provide a predicted grade based on the Year 12 monitoring data & mock exams.

Students who do not receive any offers [or decline their offers] go into '**Clearing**'

### **[C] Some Useful Web Links**

[www.UCAS.com](http://www.UCAS.com)

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

[www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) [for information regarding finance]

### **[D] What Makes A Good Personal Statement?**

The personal statement can be broken down into three main sections:

#### **Paragraph 1: Why does the student want to study this subject or course?**

This is arguably the most important section of the personal statement. A student has to demonstrate that they have a genuine interest in their chosen subject.

*(approximately 250 words)*

#### **Paragraph 2: What has the student done in the past and what are they currently doing to make them suitable to study this subject?**

Here, students can talk about their 'A' level / BTEC courses, their EPQ and Work Experience placement.

*(approximately 250 words)*

#### **Paragraph 3: What else has the student done that makes them an interesting and unique individual?**

*(approximately 150 words)*

## **[E] Frequently Asked Questions [there are probably many others!]**

### **What if the student does not get the required grades?**

*Students are automatically transferred to 'clearing', where they can search for remaining courses.*

### **How many courses can a student apply for?**

*A student can apply for a maximum of **five** courses [usually at five different universities]. If students are not given any offers for their five chosen courses, they have the option of accessing '**extra**' for a further choice.*

### **Will students be asked to attend an interview?**

*It depends: there is no standard procedure for this. Check on the UCAS website or via the specific university.*

### **How many offers can a student accept?**

*Two - Students will accept one **firm offer** [usually their favoured course] and one **insurance offer** [this will usually require lower grades, and as the name suggests, can be used if the student does not achieve the grades for their first choice].*

### **What if a student no longer wishes to attend their firm or insurance choice university?**

*They are placed into the '**clearing**' system, or they may be able to defer their place for a year*

### **Do students need work experience?**

*It depends on the course, but any extra experience is useful. Veterinary Science and Medicine Courses [and some others] require compulsory work experience: check with the university! However, universities are well aware that students are currently not able to access work experience placements.*

**Do universities consider the Extended Project?**

*As a rule yes, as this is becoming much more popular and acceptable. 'Points' based universities will include the EPQ in the offer; 'grades' based universities may lower an offer by a grade if a student has completed an EPQ*

**Do students have to enter all exam grades?**

*Students must include all GCSE grades, but not any Year 12 assessments, although we may mention this in the reference. Extra curriculum grades (e.g. music or drama awards can be added)*

**What if a student changes their mind about a chosen course?**

*Students would have to decline all five offers and make an extra application through 'extra'. There would be an extra cost to make such applications.*

**Do universities have to accept a student who achieves the required grades?**

*Yes! A university has to honour their offer - but a student does not have to accept the offer.*

**When are students informed of their offers?**

*Most universities make offers two / three weeks after they receive an application (apart from 'early entry' courses). The final deadline for a university to make an offer is in May.*

**What is 'Track'?**

*This is how a student tracks the progress of their application on the UCAS system. Students should check this regularly.*

**Can a student apply for a different course if their achieve than expected grades in in August**

*Yes. This is carried out through a facility called 'Adjustment' on the UCAS system.*

**How does Clearing work?**

*This is often described as 'the mad rush for surplus places' in August. Universities will make offers to students for their surplus places. This can take up to a week after the 'A' level results have been published. It is the responsibility of the student to monitor the 'clearing' process through **Track** and contact the relevant universities.*

**Should students attend open days?**

*Absolutely yes! All universities arrange several open days, (details can be found on university websites). We encourage students to attend, and will allow students to miss college for these.*

**How do students apply for a loan or grant?**

*As soon as the application has been completed, students are advised to initiate the student finance procedure. This can be accessed online via the [direct.gov](http://direct.gov) site.*

**Should students ever directly contact a university?**

*Yes! If students require any further information about specific courses, or entry criteria, they should contact the admissions officer.*

***Never assume that an answer given by one university or one university department will apply to other universities.***

***If in doubt, check with the institution concerned.***

## Notes