

The University Application Process

Students have to complete five tasks:

[1] Register on the UCAS website and fill in **personal details** and exam results (*students will do this next Monday*)

[2] Research **university courses**.

Check out the 'entrance' criteria for specific courses.

Attend open days (real or 'virtual')

The University Application Process

[3] Request a reference from subject teachers
[actually, they don't have to do this]

[4] Write a **personal statement**
(Students will also be given information on this next Monday)

The University Application Process

[5] Monitor progress on the UCAS website and respond to any correspondence [through '**Track**'] once the application has been sent.

Reply to the university by the given deadline.

Students can apply for up to **five courses**

The fee is **£28.50**

- Courses are not ranked on the UCAS form (they are listed alphabetically)
- Universities do not see the other choices
- Students do not have to submit all five choices at the same time

The UCAS deadline is **29th January 2025**

Students have to accept offers by **May 2025**

The UCAS deadline for early entry courses (**Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, Dentistry**) and courses at **Oxford and Cambridge**, is **15th October 2024**

Some **conservatoires** also have the **15th October** deadline

Our College Deadlines

[1] Early entry courses: Friday 13th September

(Dentistry, Medicine, Veterinary Science, Veterinary Medicine, 'Oxbridge' and UK Conservatoires)

[2] All other Personal Statements to be 'completed' by October half term

[3] We aim to process all UCAS applications before we break up for Christmas

Applications

Students make a **firm choice** and an **insurance choice** from the offers they receive

Students without any offers [or who have declined an offer] go into '**Clearing**'

Students who do not receive an offer can apply for further courses through '**Extra**' (there may be a small fee)

These applications have to be realistic!

Some universities ask for **grades**
(e.g. AAB)

Some universities ask for **points**
(e.g. 120 points)

Some universities give **unconditional offers**

Many courses do not **interview** students [but some do!]

Some course require students to take an '**admissions test**' [e.g. UCAT, BMAT, LNAT]

Grade	A-level points	AS-level points	Extended Project Qualification points
A*	56	N/A	28
A	48	20	24
B	40	16	20
C	32	12	16
D	24	8	12
E	16	4	8

Grades	Points equivalent
D*D*D*	168
D*D*D	160
D*DD	152
DDD	144
DDM	128
DMM	112
MMM	96
MMP	80
MPP	64
PPP	48

BTEC grades

Barry:

Firm [CF]: Economics at Nottingham - A*AA

Insurance [CI]: Economics at Edinburgh - 128 UCAS points

Sally:

Firm [CF]: Chemical Engineering at Manchester - ABB

Insurance [CI]: Chemistry and Chemical Engineering at Teesside - 96 UCAS points

These applications make sense!

Ivy:

Firm [CF]: Psychology at Manchester - AAB

Insurance [CI]: Psychology at Leeds - AAB

This makes no sense!

Hubert:

Firm [CF]: Psychology at Newcastle - AAB

Insurance [CI]: Psychology at Northumbria - BBB

(p.s. Hubert got EED in the Year 12 exams)

This makes no sense!

THE UCAS FORM – What is on it?

- **Personal Details**
- **Additional Personal Information**
- **University Course Choices**
- **GCSE grades**
- **Personal Statement**
- **School Reference**
- **Predicted 'A' level / BTEC / EPQ grades**

[1] The UCAS Reference

This includes comments from the form tutor and all **subject teachers**

Predicted grades are included

The Reference [and Personal Statement] may be the only point of contact between the **Admissions Officer** at the university and the applicant.

We will be positive – but we also have to be realistic!!

[2] Personal Statement

Maximum of 4000 characters (including spaces).

650 words = 1 side and a bit of Arial 12

It will take several attempts / drafts to get it right

The point of the Personal Statement is to show that the student has a genuine desire to study their chosen subject

Grammar, punctuation and spelling are important

Students write **ONE** Personal Statement

There are three main sections

[01] Why do students want to study this subject?

[40%] = roughly 250 words]

[02] What have students done in the past and what are they currently doing that makes them suitable to study this subject at university?

[40%] = roughly 250 words

[03] What else have students done that makes them an interesting and unique individual?

[20%] = 150 words

(1) Why do you want to study this subject?

Students have to convince an Admissions Tutor that they genuinely want to study this subject for 3 [or more] years

- What, if anything, initially sparked off interest in a subject?
- What is particularly appealing about the subject?
- Which areas of the subject are particularly fascinating and have already been investigated by the student?
- What is the student looking forward to studying at university?

40% = roughly 250 words

(2) What have you done in the past, and are you currently doing, that makes you suitable to study this subject at university?

Students write about the subjects they are currently studying and how these may be equipping them to study at university.

What important skills are these subjects helping to develop? [e.g. wider reading / analysis / evaluation / time management]

EPQ

Work experience

Extra-curricula activities

40% = roughly 250 words

(3) What else have you done that makes you an interesting and unique individual?

Sporting achievements

Drama productions

Music

Mentoring

School Council

Part time job

Subject awards

Hobbies and interests

20% = roughly 150 words

[Be careful: this should be the shortest of the three sections!]

Beware of the Internet!

UCAS use “Copycatch” and found that 10% of Personal Statements had been copied from the Internet.

800 Medical Applications were flagged and binned!

475 used the identical “sick grandfather” comment.

234 students had set fire to their pyjamas aged 8 years old!

And I’m amazed at the amount of students who have sold sweets during Year 8 & 9

Remember

Students have to bring a draft of their Personal Statement when they re-enrol in September!

(Tuesday 3rd September)

Tuition Fees

University is not free!

- Student loans
- Maintenance Grant

There is a section on the UCAS form where you will be directed to 'Student Finance. Parents will be asked about their financial situation.

Entrance Criteria

[How do universities choose?]

**Academic
Performance**

**Predicted
Grades**

Reference

**Personal
Statement**

Interview

**Admissions
Test**