

# **UCAS PARENTS' INFORMATION PRESENTATION**

# WHY UNIVERSITY?

Apart from allowing students to immerse themselves in subjects and activities that interest them, university can lead to:

- ▶ a better paid job
- ▶ a greater choice of job
- ▶ higher future earnings

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/graduates-continue-to-benefit-with-higher-earnings>

*Whilst the average earnings of graduates is higher than those who did not attend university it is important to acknowledge that this is not always the case.*

# WHAT COURSE?

There are over 50,000 undergraduate courses in the UK. With so many on offer picking the correct ones to apply for can be challenging.

Students need to consider if courses will enable them to achieve their goals after they have completed their studies.

In addition to the subjects that students currently study a vast number of new subjects and subject combinations will be on offer. Students should take the time to look at these carefully.

# WHAT COURSE?

Students who are unsure of which subjects they would like to pursue are encouraged to use the UCAS subject guides.

<https://www.ucas.com/explore/subjects>

The UniFrog platform also contains an extensive subject library. Students can access a range of information which provides an insight into studying a degree in each subject area.

# WHAT COURSE?

When students have decided on the subject area they wish to pursue it is crucial that they look at the course content studied at each university.

University websites will contain details of the modules which are currently offered on each programme of study. Whilst these can change from year to year, students will be able to get an overview of the whole course.

Students should consider whether the content appears to be interesting and engaging before submitting an application.

# WHICH UNIVERSITY?

Students can apply for up to 5 different courses.

They will firstly need to consider whether they are going to remain living at home whilst completing their studies or moving away.

The size and setting of universities can differ significantly. Students should consider if they would prefer to move to a large city or whether they favour a campus based university.

# WHICH UNIVERSITY?

The cost of studying at different universities may also need to be considered as well as the facilities which are available.

For some students the reputation of the university will be important. A number of ranking tables are available which also allow students to filter by subject and student satisfaction scores.

<https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/league-tables/rankings>

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/ng-interactive/2019/jun/07/university-league-tables-2020>

# WHAT RESEARCH NEEDS TO BE DONE?

In addition to making use of the subject guides the UCAS website has extensive information and allows comprehensive searches to be carried out. <https://www.ucas.com/>

The UniFrog platform enables students to search for different courses based upon their interests and career aspirations.

Each university will also have online guides available and information about Open Days. Due to the current lockdown and social distancing measures students should look out for online Open Days and webinars.

# The Application Process

- ▶ All applications are completed online
- ▶ Cost is **£26** per application  
(£20 if a student applies for one course) - pay online
- ▶ Can be completed at home.
- ▶ All students receive a comprehensive guidance pack, information about the application process and assistance from tutors and subject specialists when drafting personal statements.

# THE PERSONAL STATEMENT

The personal statement is a very significant part of the application. Students will need to carefully follow the guidance they are provided with and dedicate time to working on this.

Students will need to demonstrate why they want to study a particular subject and why their previous learning and experiences make them suitable to pursue this at university.

Personal statements can be up to 4000 characters long.

# THE PERSONAL STATEMENT

Students should now consider whether any additional reading, research or online courses can now be carried out in order to enhance their personal statement.

UniFrog contains information about online courses (MOOCs) as well as examples of Personal Statements from each subject area.

Careful proof reading and meeting deadlines is essential. First drafts should be submitted to tutors by Friday 12 June

# THE TEACHER REFERENCE

Teachers will complete subject paragraphs for every student. These are collated by tutors who provide opening and closing paragraphs. The Head of Sixth Form will then complete a final edit.

Students may ask to see a final edit when their application has been submitted.

# DEADLINES

- ▶ First draft of personal statement to tutor by Friday 12 June
- ▶ Second draft of personal statement to tutor by Monday 29 June
- ▶ Oxbridge/medicine/dentistry/veterinary applications complete by Wednesday 30 September
- ▶ Where possible, all other applications complete by October half-term
- ▶ FINAL deadline Friday 20 November

# COMPETITIVE COURSES

Some courses are extremely competitive. Students will need to consider carefully the five different courses they are applying for.

Students should be aspirational and ambitious but should look carefully at their attainment grades throughout the year. It is sensible to have a range of entry requirements across the five applications which are made.

# WORK EXPERIENCE

Where appropriate, planning of work experience may already be underway.

Students will need to be proactive and seek help if they are unable to secure work experience.

For certain courses, for example Physiotherapy and Medicine, some form of work experience is usually deemed essential. Due to the current social distancing measures students should contact university admissions tutors as it may prove challenging to gain relevant experience in the coming months.

# INTERVIEWS

Most universities do not call students for interview. However, those applying to Oxbridge will be called for interview.

Those wishing to study highly competitive courses are also likely to be called for interview and possibly aptitude tests

We can provide mock interviews, but students will need to be proactive in asking for them.

# PRE-ADMISSION TESTS

Students must be proactive in researching individual university requirements: BMAT, LNAT, UKCAT, TSA plus others.

Online registration will be necessary for some aptitude tests. There are websites and subject teachers available to help students with preparations.

# OXBRIDGE

Those students who are considering applying to Oxbridge should ensure that preparations are underway before the end of this term.

For some subjects essays will need to be submitted and teacher support should be sought where necessary.

All students who are called for interview will be allocated a Bay House teacher ‘mentor’.

# RECEIVING OFFERS

Students will receive either an unconditional offer, a conditional offer or a rejection

Offers may be based on grades (BCC) or points (104) where A\* = 56, A = 48, B = 40, C = 32 etc

When all universities have responded, students select a first choice - CF (conditional *firm*) and a second - CI (conditional *insurance*)

# FINANCE

Students need to pay for:

- ▶ Tuition fees\* (up to £9,250 per year)  
**for which a ‘Tuition Fee Loan’ is available**
  
- ▶ Day-to-day living expenses (including accommodation)  
**for which a ‘Maintenance Loan’ is available**

*\*some Medicine/Dentistry related courses are fully funded by NHS*

*A finance talk for parents will take place in the next academic year*

# TUITION FEES

- ▶ Universities and colleges charge up to £9,250 per year
- ▶ All are eligible for a ‘Tuition Fee Loan’ - repayments do not begin until students are earning £26,575 per year
- ▶ Repayments are 9% of earnings above £26,575: a graduate earning £30,000 per year would pay back £25.68 per month.

*Debts are ‘wiped’ after 30 years*

# DAY-TO-DAY LIVING EXPENSES

- ▶ All students can apply for a ‘Maintenance Loan’ (also known as a ‘living cost loan’)
- ▶ The amount students can get depends on household income\*, but can be up to £9,203 per year, or more for study in London
- ▶ Repayment system is the same as with tuition fees

*\*reduced loan available for courses fully funded by NHS*

# EXTRA FUNDING

- ▶ Bursaries and scholarships
- ▶ Disabled Students Allowance
- ▶ Caring responsibilities
- ▶ Financial Hardship
- ▶ NHS/Social Work/Teaching Courses

*Check university websites for more information*

These don't usually have to be paid back!

# A LEVEL RESULTS DAY

## THURSDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2021

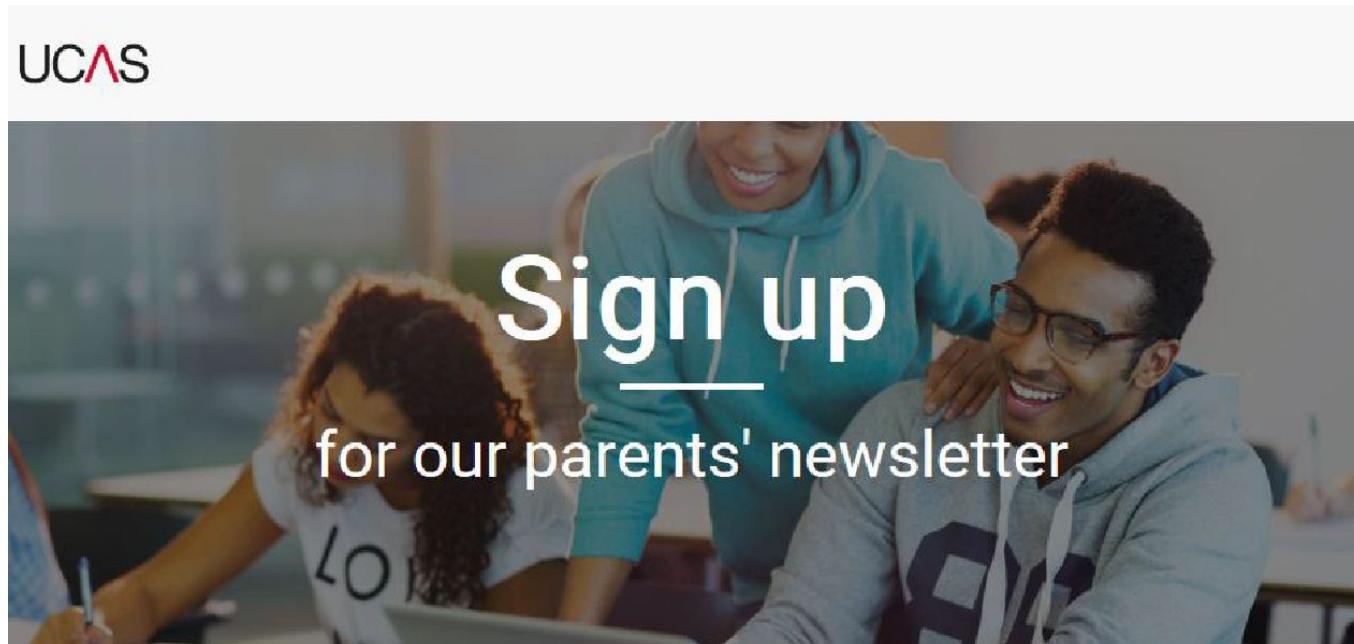
It is expected that students will not be on holiday at this time.

The Sixth Form Team will be available to provide support on the day.

**It is the student, not the parent, who is expected to deal with any required negotiations with universities.**

# REGISTER FOR PARENTAL UPDATES ON UCAS WEBSITE:

<http://web.ucas.com/parents-signup>



By completing this registration, you will receive regular UCAS parents' email newsletters. These contain advice and information from UCAS and other directly relevant organisations, which will enable you to help your son or daughter with their higher education options. We may also send you information by post.

# AND FINALLY....

- ▶ Encourage your son/daughter to be proactive in seeking help
- ▶ Contact us if you have any concerns or questions