Applying to university through UCAS; Parents information evening
njones@stmargaretsacademy.com
## UCAS – an independent charity

### UCAS does:

- ✓ process applications
- ✓ provide information, advice, and training
- ✓ have a Fraud and Verification Team
- ✓ take part in education sector engagement

### UCAS doesn’t:

- × suggest courses or universities
- × make decisions or offers
- × advise on finance, immigration, or visas for individuals
Applying via UCAS

- **Register with UCAS** via the Hub with school buzzword
- Use your username and password to apply **online**
- Students can add up to **5 choices**, unless they’re applying to study medicine, veterinary, medicine/science, dentistry – then it’s **4 choices**
- Students **can’t apply to BOTH** Oxford and Cambridge
- Applying **costs** £22 for 1 choice, or £26.50 for 5 choices
- Apply by the **equal consideration date**
- Providers **can’t see** other choices when you apply
How to choose?

350+ universities and colleges:
- 4 in Northern Ireland
- 15 in Wales
- 18 in Scotland
- 316 in England

35,000+ courses available
Starting your research

Register in UCAS Hub to:

- explore careers, subjects, universities and apprenticeships
- find and favourite over 35,000 courses
- search for virtual tours and online events
- turn predicted grades into Tariff points
- speak to those in the know - work experience
- speak to career, higher education, and application specialists by attending the Hub lives.
## UCAS Points conversion - A level qualifications

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
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<td>B</td>
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<td>E</td>
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## UCAS Points conversion - BTEC qualifications

### Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma

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### Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma

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### Pearson BTEC Subsidiary Diploma (QCF)

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</table>
Predicted grades

- Predicted grades will be aspirational and achievable.
- Determined by subject teachers and department leaders.
- Based on:
  - Student performance in Year 12
  - Student optimal potential
  - Homework assignments
  - Student attitude and commitment to learning
  - Coursework, portfolio, practical work or other non-examination evidence
  - GCSE results
When to apply for 2022 entry

- **18 May**: UCAS Undergraduate Apply opens for 2022 entry.
- **7 September**: First day UCAS can receive a completed application to process.
- **15 October**: UCAS Application deadline for courses in medicine, veterinary medicine/science, and dentistry, and courses at Oxford or Cambridge.
- **26 January**: UCAS Equal consideration application deadline.
- **February**: UCAS Extra opens.
- **End of June**: Last date for applications before Clearing opens.
- **07 October 2021**: Security marking: PUBLIC
Completing the UCAS application- Y13

You are here

Students register for a UCAS Hub account

November

Student complete their application – working their way through all sections and send it to their school / college

Teachers/advisers review the application and add reference and predicted grades

Applications are sent to UCAS by the school on behalf of the student

26th Jan

Universities/colleges make their decisions

*I will start sending UCAS applications after October half term. The UCAS deadline is Jan 26th BUT a lot of checks need to be done before this date. You ideally will have your UCAS application complete in early November.

The UCAS deadline is Jan 26th BUT a lot of checks need to be done before this date. You ideally will have your UCAS application complete in early November.
Sections of the application

• Personal details
• Contact and residency details
• Work experience
• Education
• Nationality details
• English language skills
• Supporting information
• Personal statement
• Choices – make up to five
• References
• Finance and funding
The personal statement

- The only section you have full control over
- Your only chance to **market yourself** as an individual
- The **same one used for all of your choices**
- A maximum of **4,000 characters, or 47 lines**
- A minimum of 1,000 characters
- There isn’t a spelling or grammar check
- No formatting allowed

UCAS’ similarity detection service: every personal statement is run through software to check for plagiarism.

Eg; If you have applied for physiotherapy **and** occupational therapy, you cannot focus on one of them in your personal statement. Similarly you cannot talk about one University campus specifically if you are applying to many universities! Be selective with your wording- **check what the courses/ universities have in common!**
Support received

- How to write a personal statement- week of 20\textsuperscript{th} September.
- First draft- to your personal tutor week of 27 Sep -1\textsuperscript{st} October.
- University talk on Personal statements- week of 11-15\textsuperscript{th} October.
- Second draft- to be checked by Liverpool Hope staff- week of 18-22\textsuperscript{nd} October.
- Third/ final draft uploaded to your UCAS account for Mrs Jones- week beginning 8\textsuperscript{th} November (can be earlier if you are really organised!)
Tracking applications

Students should head to ucas.com to track their application. Click your application to:

- follow the progress of their application 24/7
- see their choices and personal information
- view their offers
- reply to offers online

In Track, a student can hold up to two offers:

- **firm** – if they meet the conditions of the offer they will be placed here
- **insurance** – if they are not placed with their firm choice, they may be placed with their insurance choice.
Decisions

Universities and colleges will review the:

- personal statement
- qualifications
- reference

They may also ask for:

- admissions test
- interview
- portfolio/audition
Replies to offers

Once students have decisions from all their choices, they can hold a maximum of two offers:

- one as a ‘firm’ acceptance – their first choice
- the other as an ‘insurance’ acceptance. This acts as a back-up if they don’t get into their ‘firm’ choice

They must then decline any remaining offers.

Once all decisions and replies have been made, if students aren’t holding an offer, they may be able to use Extra or Clearing to find available places.
What should our applicants be doing?

- **Research**
  - Use the UCAS website at [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com) and University websites. Attend talks/carers fairs and virtual fairs that we have sign posted you to. (E.g. Russell group Virtual fair on Wed 29th Sep, October 20th Virtual fair)

- **Sign up**
  - **Sign up to the UCAS Hub** for loads of extra info and talks. Follow UCAS on Instagram or Facebook.

- **Open days**
  - Attend virtual events and open days – you may have a different perspective.

- **Be proactive**
  - **Fill in your UCAS application!**
How can you support them?

- **Research**
  Use the parents/guardians’ section of the UCAS website at www.ucas.com/parents.

- **Sign up**
  Sign up for parent updates from UCAS and get everything you need to know about the application process direct to your inbox.

- **Open days**
  Attend virtual events and open days – you may have a different perspective.

- **Be proactive**
  Make sure they read everything carefully that is sent to them and don’t book holidays at key times!
Thank you