



HIGHER EDUCATION

Information Guide

2022 Entry

Contents

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Courses**
- 3. Entry Requirements**
- 4. Comparing Universities**
- 5. Sources of information**
- 6. Open days**
- 7. Finance**
- 8. Admission Tests**
- 9. What to do now?**
- 10. HUS Process**
- 11. Useful websites**

1. Introduction

This booklet is a guide to assist you with an application to a university.

Applications to British universities are made online through UCAS (Universities and Colleges Admission Service). They also provide many resources to help both applicants and their families with the process. You can find these resources at www.ucas.com

Applicants usually choose five universities to apply to. The fee for an application currently is £26.

2. Courses

a. Degrees:

- Usually lasts three years but some last longer (e.g. four for 'sandwich degrees')
- Normally requires 3 A levels or equivalent and GCSEs
- Courses can be vocational (e.g. Engineering) or non- vocational (e.g. Philosophy)
- Degrees can be:
 - **single** honours concentrating on one subject
 - **joint** honours – mainly studying 2 or 3 subjects
 - **modular** where a degree programme can be 'built' up from across a few core and subsidiary subjects
 - **sandwich** studying a subject and combining this with a placement in industry
 - **BA – Bachelor of Art** e.g. History, Music
 - **BSC – Bachelor of Science** e.g. Physics, Natural Sciences

b. Foundation Degrees:

- Usually lasts two years and are equivalent to the first two years of an Honours Degree
- These should combine academic and work-based learning and be delivered in combination with employers
- Usually have flexible study methods, part-time, distance learning etc and more flexible entry requirements
- Offered in vocational subjects
- Usually delivered at Colleges of Higher Education in partnership with an awarding University
- Can be possible to enter the final year of a degree after satisfactory completion of the Foundation Degree. The Honours Degree year is usually delivered at the partner University

c. BTEC Foundation Diploma in Art and Design

- This was devised to allow students some extra time to develop their skills and interests before applying to University
- Usually offered at Colleges although they can be offered at Universities
- Normally requires an A level in Art and Design and a portfolio of work
- Although an A level is often required for entrance, this is classed as a Level 3 FE course
- Vocational qualification with progression into BA degree or employment

3. Entry Requirements:

Universities will often use A Level grades or UCAS points as entry requirements. They may also expect certain grades to have been achieved at GCSE. It is essential therefore to check these before applying.

For example, to study Maths at a university, you may be asked to achieve ABB with the A grade coming from Maths A Level.

Alternatively, a University may require points to be gained instead of specific grades. These will mainly come from A Levels or BTEC's but do include other qualifications like Music exams.

These tables below are the current points awarded for A Levels and BTEC Level 3 qualifications.

For example, 112 points could come from attaining BBC at A Level or two distinction* grades at BTEC Level 3.

GCE A Level	
GRADE	TARIFF POINTS
A*	56
A	48
B	40
C	32
D	24
E	16

BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma	
GRADE	TARIFF POINTS
Distinction*	56
Distinction	48
Merit	32
Pass	16

All entry requirements should be checked before any application is made

4. Comparing Universities

To help you compare universities and degree courses, please refer to www.whatuni.com

Remember that there is no such thing as a typical university. There are many variations within the individual departments as well as the whole institution. These include:

- The entry requirements
- The size
- Campus – town or city
- The location
- The style and quality of teaching
- The length of terms
- The type of courses offered and content
- The 'prestige' and rank
- The employment record and destination of graduates
- The value of the degree
- The level and quality of work

- The expectations
- Cost of living in the area
- Study facilities
- Accommodation available
- Local amenities such as shops, banks, post office, laundry
- Student Union (well organised with clubs, societies, sport, and recreation facilities)
- Security
- Student welfare and support

These are some of the factors that you need to consider when applying. The atmosphere of a university will be influenced by the students that attend. What is the ratio of males to females, state to private school educated, mature students to school leavers, international to home students, part-time to full-time, postgraduate to undergraduate?

Other questions to ask include:

- Does the institution emphasise teaching or research?
- What is the quality and reputation of the institution for the subject that I want to study?
- How many applicants for places on average are there for my course?
- Is a formal interview part of the selection procedure?

The Russell Group of Universities

The Russell Group represents a group of leading universities which are committed to maintaining the highest levels of academic excellence in both teaching and research.

For more information, please refer to <https://russellgroup.ac.uk/about/our-universities/>

League Tables

Universities will specialise in certain courses. You may want to discover which is the best university for your chosen subject. Please note that this may not be a Russell Group university.

Please refer to <https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/league-tables/rankings> for the latest rankings and opinions of students.

5. Sources of Information

There are many sources of information. Most research can be completed online using websites like www.ucas.com or others listed in this document. You will find in room SF2 student guides and prospectuses too.

For parents, you can find lots of resources and advice at the following website

<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/ucas-undergraduate-advice-parents-and-guardians>

To find out which careers need specific degrees, use this site <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/>

6. Open Days

It is recommended that all potential applicants visit a university on an open day. These days provide an opportunity for you to get a feel for the institute and what it would be like to study there.

You can find out the dates of open days from these websites, as well as individual university websites.

<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/what-and-where-study/events-and-open-days>

<https://www.opendays.com/>

Just let your Head of Year know that you intend to visit a university so that your absence can be authorised.

Please note that most open days currently will be virtual

7. Finance

For information about the cost of attending a university, please refer to these websites

<https://www.gov.uk/student-finance>

<https://www.ucas.com/money>

<https://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/student-finance/>

8. Admissions Tests:

Some universities and colleges require students to pass an admission test, as well as standard qualifications if they are applying for courses in certain subjects.

For example, the BioMedical Admissions Test (BMAT) is needed for entry to Medicine and other related courses. The LNAT (National Admissions Test for Law) is required for Law courses.

Some admissions tests can be taken here at Harlington Upper School. Please inform our exams office and your Head of Year if an admissions test is required.

9. What to do now?

Initially, deciding what course and where to apply to is the next step. Potential applicants should:

- Research courses/universities
- Look at prospectuses
- Go on the UCAS website
- Check University websites
- Go to open days
- Attend any UCAS conventions
- Talk to teachers / tutors / Sixth Form Team for advice
- Work on your personal statement

Applicants need to consider all these points:

- Do I want to study for another three years or more?
- What course would I like to study?
- Would I like to study a vocational or non-vocational course?
- Would I like to study more than one subject?
- What grades am I likely to get?
- What type of environment do I want to live in?
- Would I prefer to stay close to home?
- Do I have enough information to be able to make a choice?
- Will a degree help me in the future?
- What student facilities are important to me?
- How high or low is the graduate employment rate?
- Is work experience a pre-requisite?
- Entry requirements
- Quality of teaching
- The style of teaching – the mix of large lectures, classroom sized lessons, tutorials and seminars vary a lot
- The actual content of the degree, (degrees with the same subject title can be completely different in content from institute to institute)
- The contacts with business and employment records of past students
- The size and location and distance from home
- The cost of living in the area
- Facilities/clubs and societies
- Do I want to take a GAP year?

10. HUS process:

For most degree courses, students will apply through UCAS. We will issue a confirmed timeline later this year depending on what UCAS publish.

September 2021	Applications can be sent to UCAS
September 2021	Personal Statement deadline
1st October 2021	Final deadline for Oxbridge Applications to the Sixth Form Team.
15th October 2021	Deadline for receipt at UCAS of applications to the universities of Oxford or Cambridge and for all medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine, and veterinary science courses.
15th October 2021	Ideal date for best reception of applications at universities.
November 2021	Final deadline for all other applications to the Sixth Form Team.
January 2022	Last date for all applications to reach UCAS.
February 2022	UCAS EXTRA opens
March 2022	Application deadline for Art & Design courses except those listed with 15 th January deadline.
March 2022	If UCAS received application by 15 th January, the universities should aim to have sent their decisions by this date (but they can take longer.)
May 2022	Reply by deadline for offers received before 31 st March 2021.
June 2022	Reply by deadline for offers received after 31 st March 2021.
June 2022	Applications received after this date will be entered into Clearing.
July 2022	UCAS Extra closes
July 2022	If applied by 30 th June and awaiting a decision, universities need to send their decision by this date if they do not, UCAS make any outstanding choices unsuccessful on their behalf.
July 2022	Reply to any offers received by this date.
August 2022	'A' level results published, and Adjustment opens for registration.
End of August 2022	Adjustment closes on this date.
Late August, early September 2022	Clearing.
September 2022	This is the last date applications may be accepted for courses starting in 2022.
End of September 2022	The Clearing vacancy search is closed after this date. Applicants should contact universities direct to discuss vacancies. Clearing choices can still be added in Track.
October 2022	Last date to add a Clearing choice. This is the last date a university or college can accept an application in Clearing.

Adjustment

If you pass your exams with better results than expected and exceed the requirement of your first choice, you can reconsider where and what to study. To use Adjustment, you will need to register in Track, the online portal from UCAS.

Clearing

Clearing is a service available between July and September, but for most students it is used after the exam results are published in August. It can help students without a university or college place to find suitable vacancies on higher education courses. If students are flexible and have reasonable exam results, there is still a good chance they will find another course through Clearing.

11. USEFUL WEBSITES

Careers:

www.nationalcareers.service.direct.gov.uk
www.careersbox.co.uk
www.prospects.ac.uk
www.careersplanner.com

Government student finance website:

www.gov.uk/student-finance
www.moneyadvice.service.org.uk

Quality of teaching:

www.unistats.direct.gov.uk

University and course profiles:

www.ucas.com
www.push.co.uk
www.aimhigherwm.ac.uk
www.nus.org.uk
www.whatuni.com
www.university.which.co.uk
www.applytouni.com

University League Tables:

www.guardian.co.uk/education
www.thetimeshighereducation.co.uk
www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk

Gap year:

www.volunteeringmatters.org.uk
www.gapyear.com
www.goabroad.com
www.frontier.ac.uk
www.realgap.co.uk
www.abta.com

Finance:

www.sfengland.slc.co.uk
(Student Loans Company)
www.dfes.gov.uk/student-support
www.egas-online.org (Education Grants Advisory)
www.gov.uk/student-finance

Scholarship Search:

www.scholarship-search.org.uk
www.thescholarshipclub.org.uk
www.suttontrust.com

Volunteering:

www.volunteeringmatters.org.uk
www.do-it.org

Alternative Options to University:

www.notgoingtouni.co.uk
www.studentladder.com
www.apprenticeships.gov.uk
www.allaboutschoollleavers.co.uk

National Bureau for Students with Disabilities:

www.skill.org.uk
www.direct.gov.uk/disabled-student-allowances-dsas.
You can find out more about student support and Disabled Student Allowances (DSA)