



KING EDWARD VI FIVE WAYS SCHOOL

In pursuit of educational excellence for all

UCAS 101

2020-21

Applying for University



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- In order to attend University in the UK an application must be made through UCAS
- UCAS stands for The Universities and Colleges Admissions Service
- The **fee** for applications is £20 for a single choice or £26 for multiple courses. For most courses, the deadline to send your application to **UCAS** is 15 January*
- Students can apply for up to 5 different universities or courses, usually of similar course content so that the application is relevant to all choices.
- www.ucas.com

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- Start by registering for your Apply account at www.ucas.com/apply
- Add some personal details, get a username, create a password, and set your security questions
- Add the buzzword of our school: kefw2021

Course requirements



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Each University will set their own entry requirements for degree courses. They set the entry requirements for each course to ensure you have the right skills and knowledge to successfully complete the course. These include:

Qualifications, subjects, and exam grades – You will have A level predictions, which are sometimes converted into UCAS Tariff points. This is a points total achieved by converting qualifications (such as A levels) into points, making it simpler for universities and colleges to compare applicants. Most courses will also expect you to have some pre-16 qualifications, such as GCSE English and Maths.

Your suitability – course descriptions often mention skills, interests, or experience it's good to have, so look out for these details because applications can be quite competitive and you'll need to include these details in your personal statement or reference.

An admissions test – less common, but check the course requirements to see if you'll need to sit one. Examples might be UKAT for instance.

An interview – if you're invited to an interview, UCAS will let you know via 'Track' after you've applied, but it might be worth doing some early preparation or putting together a portfolio if required

Further requirements – it's possible there may be health, financial, or Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) or Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG) checks, which check if you have a criminal record. This information will be set out in the course details ahead of application.

Selecting your University



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Things to consider:

Subject – check the course content to see if all of the modules are what you'd expect to be studying/ are interested in.

Consult university rankings – what is the student to lecturer ratio? Small class sizes are preferable for many.

What additional **specialist facilities** are there? In both the faculty base but also for enrichment/ wellbeing.

Are there any unique **sports or societies** on offer you'd enjoy?

Find out about the availability, cost and type of **student accommodation**.

Location and Distance – do you want to be close to home? Would you prefer a campus or city based Uni?

Cost – to you to live, to travel to and from, the need for transport at uni etc

Selecting your course



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Two key questions to ask are:

Do you/ will you enjoy the subject content?

Will it help you reach your career goals?

When choosing a course, look at the grade requirements and compare them with your predicted grades. Be realistic with what you can achieve – if a course's requirements are much higher than what you're predicted, look at a different university or a similar course with lower grade requirements.

Course restrictions



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- You can only apply to a maximum of four courses in any one of medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine or veterinary science (the 5th choice is usually therefore, BiomMed)
- You can only apply to one course at either the University of Oxford or the University of Cambridge.

Early entrants



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The (school) deadline for application to UCAS is Monday 16th November 2020

But if you wish to apply for OXBRIDGE, MEDICINE, VETERINARY SCIENCE or DENTISTRY then you need to submit your application by **Friday 2nd October**

UCAS deadlines for Conservatoire Applications is the 1st October

Oxbridge application



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- Should you wish to apply to study at either Oxford University or Cambridge University you must do/ have done the following:
- By **May 2020** have registered your interest/ intent to apply for Oxbridge with both your Form Tutor and the Oxbridge co-ordinator Mr Middleton.
- By **June 2020** developed your personal statement
- By **July 2020** have forwarded your personal statement to Mr Middleton at smiddleton@kefw.org
- By **September 2020** you must have met with Mr Middleton to discuss the strength of your application and have completed the BMAT if you are applying for Medicine.
- By **October 2020** have submitted your completed application to UCAS
- By **January 2021** Have attended any necessary interview
- By **February of 2021** be notified of any offer that is made to you by the University

Personal Statements



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- Your application has 3 main sections
 - 1. References
 - 2. Predicted grades
 - 3. A personal statement
- Your personal statement will be checked by your tutor. It should include the following information:

Why you want to study that course? What skills or experience have you gleaned in readiness to fulfil that ambition to study that degree? What makes you, you?

References



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Your school reference is a written reflection on you, as a student at our school and as you as a member of our school community.

It may reinforce elements of your assertions laid out in your personal statement.

It is compiled by your Tutor from their pastoral reference and the references written by your A level subject teachers.

You should expect it to be honest, positive and reflective of your potential to study your chosen subject at degree level.

UCAS Predicted Grades



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- Your UCAS predicted grade is derived from the data we glean from our use of Oxford Analytics to analyse your GCSE results in relation to your A Level subjects.
- It may be further informed by your ‘working at grade’ as evidenced by the collation of sustained, verified and objective assessment material.

Deadlines



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- UCAS application – 16th November 2020 (school deadline)
- UCAS application (early entrants) – Fri 2nd October 2020
- *Oxbridge subject to deadlines communicated by Mr Middleton
- EPQ – January 2021

Pay & Send



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Pay and send is the process whereby you have submitted your checked personal statement to the UCAS site, you have applied for your 5 courses and you have paid the application fee.

Once this is done, the application is available to tutors in school to submit references and check the whole application.

You will be then meet with a member of the Sixth Form Team to make final checks to your application BEFORE it is sent to UCAS.

'Pay and Send' DOES NOT SEND IT TO UCAS

The UCAS checking system



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1

- Create username
- Complete UCAS application form

2

- Pay and Send
- References & school checks

3

- Individual interview with 6th Team
- Submit to UCAS

Gap Years



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- Some of you may decide to take a break in formal education, applying to attend University in September 2021
- You may organise to spend your year:
 - Working
 - Travelling
 - Volunteering
 - Carrying out work experience
 - Pursuing a non university based course
- This might give you the opportunity to consider your University application at greater length, earn some money or add to your wider life experiences

Deferred entry



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This happens when a student makes an application for a University Course to begin not in the September following results but in the following year, such as when a Gap Year is planned.

You would be making an application for a University place in 2022 based upon the results achieved in 2021.

All of the stated UCAS process takes place as usual in the year of application.

The relevance of EPQ



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- The extended project qualification is the opportunity for students to explore, in greater depth an academic theme above and beyond their A level courses
- It can therefore be used to contribute to UCAS application in the discussion of the relevant skills and concepts acquired in your personal statement
- Or as part of a reduced University offer.
- This is a reduction of the course entry requirements, such as ABB at A Level to 3 x B grades at A level with a Grade B or above in the EPQ

Visiting Universities – Open days



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- You are entitled to 3 days LOA from school during the period of your Year 13 to attend prospective university open days.
- Attending open days scheduled at weekends is preferable to limit absence from taught lessons to a necessary minimum
- Many universities are offering virtual open day experiences in light of the pandemic.
- Open days enable you to get a feel for the wider offer/ experience the University might provide

University interviews



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- Some courses will expect you to attend interview at the University for them to explore your application further.
- This is usually for applications to Medicine, Oxbridge, oversubscribed or Russell Group Universities.
- In light of the pandemic Universities may take a altered approach to this process this year.

Funding codes



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When applying for your course the vast majority of students will use funding code 02, which means that you will be applying for student finance.

Code 01 means that you will be funding the course in its entirety from private finance.

Post results application



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- Apply in August once you results are known.
- If you are considering a post results application please see Mr Russell to discuss

UCAT & BMAT



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- Aptitude tests for application to a Medical degree course
- Essential for any application to study Medicine
- UCAT is the more popular test but Oxford, Cambridge, Manchester and UCL require you to take the BMAT.
- Applied (and this year carried out) online.
- UCAT must be completed before October 1st (usually 2 month window)
- Cost £55- 80
- BMAT has test sessions in September or November taken at test centres
- Cost £60 approx. (seek clarification)

<https://www.ucat.ac.uk/>

<https://www.admissionstesting.org/for-test-takers/bmat/>

UCAS Offers



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UCAS Track

- When you have received all your replies you then accept:

A firm choice (favourite)

An insurance choice (back up plan)

No offers – Extra or additional choices

All other offers should be declined.

- Final response early **May 2021**.

Extra & Clearing



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- If you are not holding any offers from your choices you can apply to other universities through Extra
- If you do not get the grades you need for your **firm** or **insurance** choice, you can apply for other courses through **CLEARING**

UCAS final checking



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- Once you have finalised your personal statement, chosen your courses and your tutor has put together your completed reference you will interview with a member of the 6th form team for one final check before sending the application off to UCAS
- Appointments must be made with your allocated checker by signing up to their appointments list which will be posted on their office door.

- **Forms are allocated as follows:**

U6AB & U6AS with Ms Froggatt (careers advisor)

U6EE with Mr Russell

U6DS, U6EES and U6ESS with Mrs Ryan

U6JP, U6PC & U6JCM with Mr Turner

Personal statement checking



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- A number of Universities are offering to check and feedback upon students personal statements, ahead of sending them off to UCAS.
- Those Universities are:
- **Coventry**; https://app.geckoform.com/public/#/modern/FOEU0401BN760F9U?event_id=11102
- **UCLAN**; https://www.uclan.ac.uk/study_here/how_to_apply/writing-personal-statement.php
- **Newman**; Send to sfroggatt@kefw.org to facilitate
- **Staffordshire**; <https://helpinghand.staffs.ac.uk/>
- **Wolverhampton**; Send to sfroggatt@kefw.org to facilitate
- You DO NOT need to be applying to this university but YOU DO need to be applying for a course that the University runs. i.e. you are applying for business management and UCLAN run that course but Coventry do not, send the statement to UCLAN.
- Only send your statement to ONE of these services as feedback can be confusing/ overwhelming