



UCAS

The Next Step- a simple guide to help you

UCAS

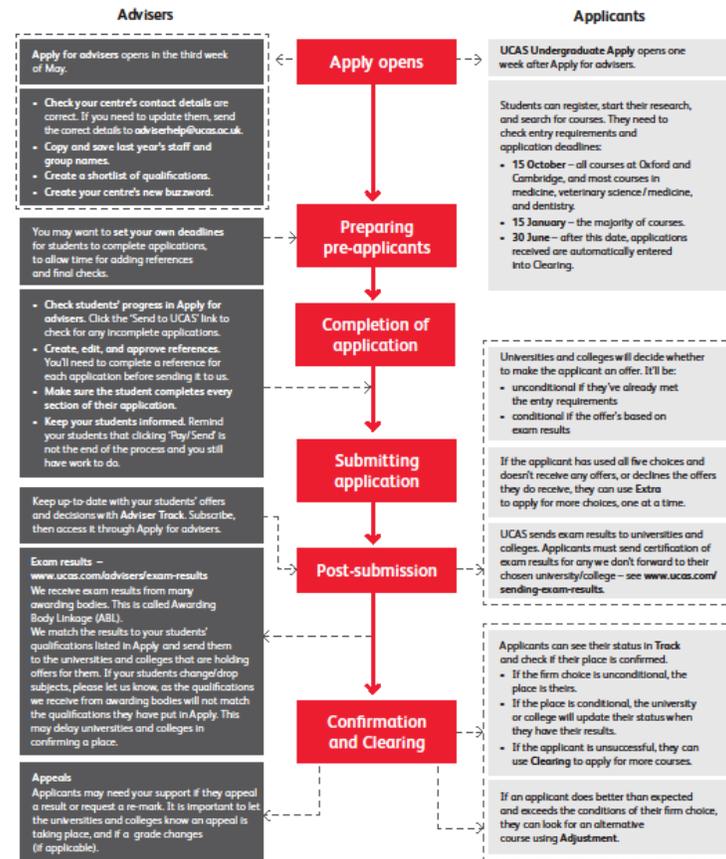
Dates

- Oxford, Cambridge, Medical, Dental and Veterinary courses – **Friday, 2nd October 2020**
- Teaching, Nursing and Midwifery and other vocational courses with an interview process – **Friday, 23rd October 2020**
- Other UCAS applications – **Friday, 27th November 2020**



Journey of an application

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Grades

- Am I likely to come near the grades they are asking for? It is a good idea to have a 'back-up' choice i.e. a course for which the grades are lower than your other choices.
- Do I meet any specific subject requirements for the course (check GCSE Maths and English)?



The Course

- Does the course contain those aspects of the subject I definitely want to study and avoid those I do not want? Courses with the same course title at different universities often have very different course contents.
- Is the course taught and assessed in a way which suits me? Do I prefer lots of contact with the lecturers to being left largely to my own devices? Do I prefer more course work assessment to almost total dependence on written examination assessment?
- What is the length of the course? If it is a four year course do I get a 'masters' degrees at the end?
- How flexible is the course and how much choice do I have in what I study?
- Is there an opportunity for work placement as part of the course? If there is, will I have to find the placement myself or will the university find it?
- If I want sponsorship can I get help from the university?
- Does the course lead to any professional qualifications which are recognised by the relevant professional bodies?
- What are the job prospects with a degree from this university?
- If I want to learn a foreign language, do I have the opportunity?
- Are there opportunities to study part of the course abroad?



The University Environment

- Do I want to be in a city, on the outskirts of a town or in the countryside?
- Do I want to go to a University which has a distinct Campus?
- Do I require certain facilities such as cinema, theatre, art gallery, concert hall etc to be nearby?
- How far is the university from my home?
- How easy is it to get to the university by road or by public transport?



Accommodation

- Most universities guarantee First Year accommodation, but what do they mean by University Accommodation and where exactly is it? If the accommodation is some way from the academic centre, how do I travel and how long does it take?
- What help is there with accommodation after the First Year?
- What form does the accommodation take? It can be the "in hall" system where meals are provided, but will I find this restricting? If it is self-catering, will I starve to death?
- Will I have to share accommodation?
- What about cooking and laundry facilities?



Costs

- What is the cost of accommodation and what does it include? Do not assume that it is cheap to live in the North and expensive in the South.
- What are the Tuition Fees?
- Will I be able to get a part-time job if I want one to help with the finances?
- How much is it going to cost me to travel home?
- What are costs like in the Students' Union?
- Many universities now provide additional bursaries subject to good grades and level of household income. This is something to explore with the universities that you wish to apply to.



Leisure

- If I'm interested in certain sports, what facilities does the university offer and are they within walking distance or miles away?
- Do I need to be near the sea or close to mountains to pursue my particular sporting interests?
- If I'm interested in music, can I join the orchestra or sing in the choir without being a music student?
- If I'm interested in theatre, are there opportunities to become involved in productions?
- Are there opportunities to take up a new interest or sport and receive suitable coaching?
- If I'm interested in radio broadcasting or journalism, will I be able to work on the student radio or magazine?



Deferred Entry

- Deferred Entry?
- Delayed Entry?



Filling in the Form

- Page 10
- Get on and start!



Personal Statement

1. No Clichés!
2. Course Course Course
3. Subject links but only if they work, do not try to add it in an uncomfortable way
4. 20% at most about you and your interests.
5. Do not use over the top language – let your writing demonstrate your passion – you do not have to keep stating it !
6. Try and get a draft completed over the summer!
7. Plagiarism!!!!

