

UCAS EVENING 2020

Please also see the UCAS website ...

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

Introduction

Aim:

To help you as parents understand how NSB will be helping your sons and daughters make informed decisions, regarding where to study and what to study after they complete their studies.

Matt Parry

UCAS APPLICATIONS

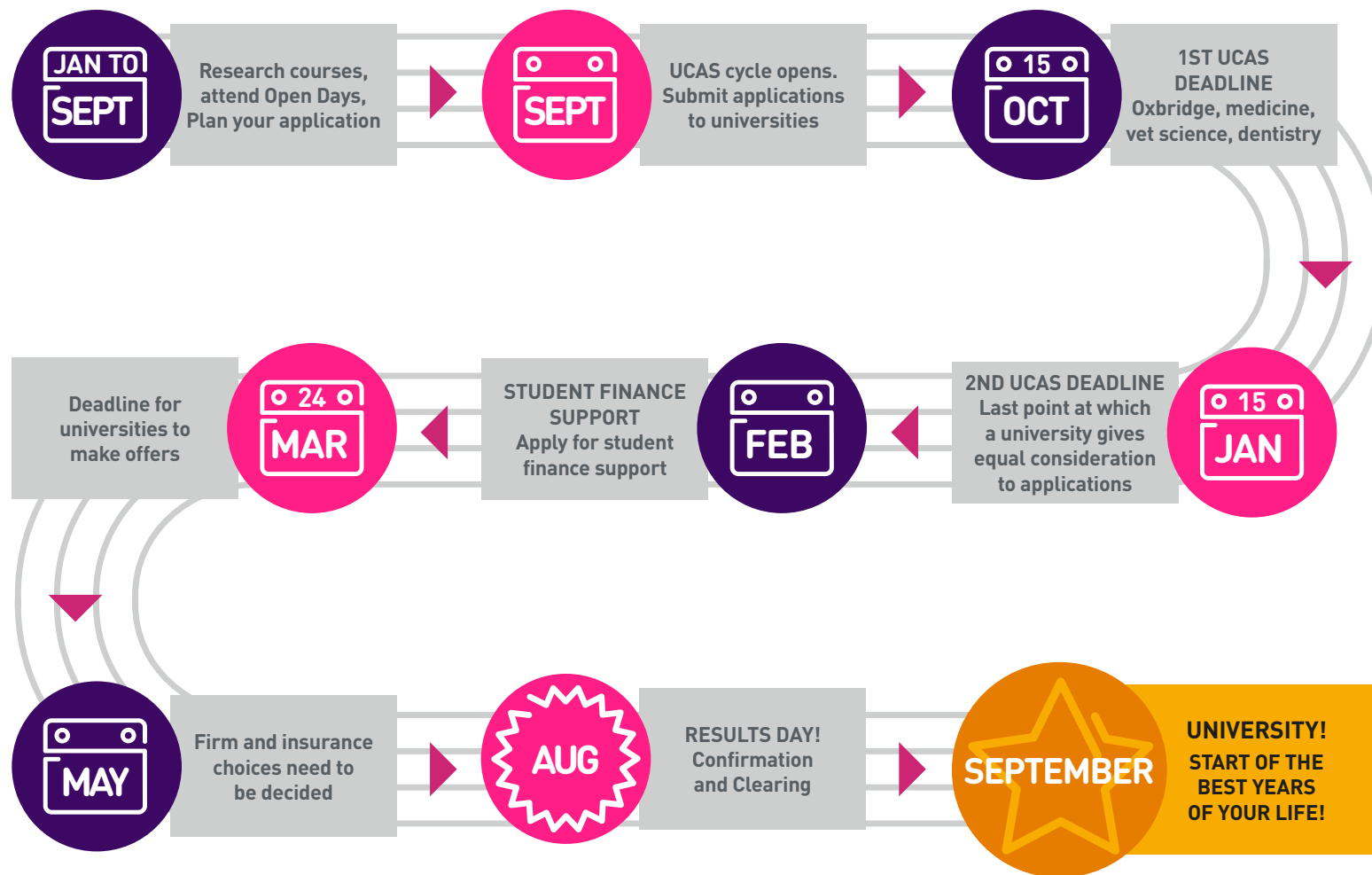


UCAS Application Process



BEST STUDENT EXPERIENCE
LLOYDS BANK QUALITY OF STUDENT LIFE SURVEY

The UCAS Cycle



Apply through the UCAS online application system; **Apply**.

Register on the system either through your school / college or independently.

Registering generates your unique username and password - write them down and keep them safe.

Your application can be completed over time.

Costs for UCAS applications

For one course at one university or college = £12

For more than one course or university or college = £28



1ST UCAS
DEADLINE

Oxbridge, medicine,
vet science, dentistry



2ND UCAS DEADLINE

Last point at which
a university gives
equal consideration
to applications



Seven key sections to complete

- Personal details
- Additional Information
- Course choices (up to 5)
- Qualifications
- Employment history
- Personal Statement
- Reference (from your school / college)

Can be completed in any order

Can return to a section to make changes

UCAS will notify you of progress via email and text messages

You will need to take some time to fill in the various sections of the form



The personal statement is your opportunity to tell universities and colleges about your suitability for the course(s) that you hope to study

>75% about the course, <25% about other interests.

Read the course listings - which skills and qualities do the relevant academics value most.

Use an enthusiastic and concise tone of voice – nothing too complex – just what comes naturally.

Be careful with humour, quotes or anything unusual.

Check grammar, spelling & punctuation.

Proofread and read it aloud.

Ask someone else to check it too.



Up to **4,000** characters and **47** lines (approximately 600 words)

You must demonstrate use of the English language and grammar at a standard suitable for entry to higher education.

It must be your **own** work

- **UCAS Similarity Detection Service**
- HEIs are notified of suspicious statements but common words & phrases are ignored

Write in English and avoid italics, bold or underlining.

Keep sentences short and succinct.

Plan the beginning, middle and end.



DON'T

- Plagiarise
- Write for just one institution
- List things without expanding
- Exaggerate or lie
- Repeat yourself (be aware of what is on the rest of the form)
- Be too modest (it's about selling yourself)
- Be too clever or familiar
- Have a ridiculous email address
- Forget to spell check



- **UCAS** acknowledges receipt of your form
- You can track the progress of your application through **UCAS Track**.
- Universities / Colleges will review your application and decide whether to make you an offer
- Possible invitation to an interview (not required for all courses)
- Decisions/offers made via UCAS track
- Universities send offer letters too



STUDENT FINANCE
SUPPORT
Apply for student
finance support



Your offers will appear in **UCAS Track**

Conditional Offer (C) – you still need to meet the requirements.

Unconditional Offer (U) – you've got a place, although there might still be a few things to arrange.

Unsuccessful – you've not been offered a place on the course.



Deadline for
universities to
make offers



You then need to reply to any offers through **UCAS Track**, accepting up to two of them.

Firm acceptance (F) – this is your first choice.

Insurance acceptance (I) – your back-up choice.

Decline – you'll need to decline any other offers you get.



Firm and insurance
choices need to
be decided



Student Finance



BEST STUDENT EXPERIENCE
LLOYDS BANK QUALITY OF STUDENT LIFE SURVEY

How much does HE cost?

The two main costs you will have while studying for a degree are **tuition fees** and **living costs**.

Support is available to help full time students with both.

Depending on your circumstances, course and where you study, you may be able to get a range of financial help and support; including grants, bursaries and loans.



Universities or colleges can currently charge new students up to £9250 a year for HE tuition fees.

The tuition fee covers

- Lectures, seminars, tutorials
- Access to university library and to computer facilities
- University support services,
- Membership of the students' union
- Administrative paperwork; for example registration on the course, entrance to exams, graduation

Payment is usually take in the form of a tuition fee loan from student finance and paid directly to the university you are studying with, but a personal finance option is available.



You will also need to budget for your living costs, these might include...

- Accommodation and bills
- Food and consumables
- Travel
- Possible field trips
- Books
- Social life
- Laundry
- Membership to clubs and societies
- Insurance



Personal Finance – Savings, help from family

Maintenance Loan:

Students can have some loan towards living costs (max of £8430 out of London)

The first part of the maintenance loan (£3,928) is available for all students

The second part of the maintenance loan is means tested

Is paid directly to you three times a year.

Is repayable (as part of your student loan), but only when your income is over £25,725.

Bursaries and Scholarships

Working – part time / holiday / placement



- Repayments start once you earn over £25,725. The payments are calculated at 9% of anything over this amount.
- If your income falls to £25,725 or below your repayments will stop.
- Any outstanding loan balance will be written off 30 years after entering repayment.
- Student loans are not included in credit scores.



During year 12 you should -

- Do your research and narrow down your interests (prospectuses / online / UCAS Fairs)
- Gain some experience outside your studies (paid / voluntary)
- Visit the institutions you are interested in (e.g. Open Days)
- Confirm your existing qualifications and your predicted grades
- Start to develop your Personal Statements



Research courses,
attend Open Days,
Plan your application



During year 13 you should -

- Complete your online application form including your Personal Statement.
- Submit application to school/college for reference to be added
- Submit application to UCAS by the deadline
- Apply for student finance



UCAS cycle opens.
Submit applications
to universities





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University Application Support at NSB

UCAS Support at NSB

- Over the next three terms your son or daughter will be making some very important decisions.
- As a school we will be supporting them at every step.
- So far students have:
 - Been given a Higher Education booklet
 - Had opportunities to conduct thorough research
 - Been given guidance on decision making and why university may be beneficial for them
 - Had an assembly on making university and course choices.
 - Designated sessions on work experience.

May/June - exam focus - End of Year exams will be used for predicted grades!!

June and July

- Outside speaker – to discuss the UCAS process and personal statements with the students.
- Personal statement focus – this is the students chance to sell themselves.
- Continued course research – order prospectuses from different universities.
- Wider reading into chosen course.

Time needs to be taken over the personal statement!
Students will receive specific guidance on how to write these and need to meet internal deadlines!

End of Year exams and Yr13

- End of Year exams and assessment grades throughout the year will be used for A Level and BTEC predictions.
- Students will record their End of Year exam grades on their tracker forms. They will also record their university choices – these will be checked to ensure they are consistent with each other.
- Once this is checked students will be applying via www.Ucas.com
Students have until mid January to apply via UCAS - however, we aim to send form off during enterprise week.

Enterprise Week

- Oxbridge/Medical students will have already sent off their UCAS forms.
- All students who have not yet completed their UCAS form will come into school for help with this. This is also a chance to discuss their choices and grades.
- The aim is to have the majority of forms sent to UCAS by the end of enterprise week or early in the second term.

Many universities start offering places as soon as they receive the first application.
- During this week students will also complete work experience placements if they haven't already done so.

Medicine, Veterinary, Dentistry and Oxbridge

Candidates need to submit their applications by
October 15th 2020.

- Students were asked to identify themselves in October and specific guidance has already begun.
 - 1) Oxbridge and Medical Meetings
 - 2) Q+A with current students
 - 3) Specific personal statement and interview guidance.
- It is important that students are realistic regarding their applications for these universities and courses. They all require a flurry of 9's at GCSE and at least A*AA at A. Level.

Gap Years?

- Some students will not wish to go to university straight away, and therefore may wish to take a gap year.
- This is often looked upon favourably by universities but it is advisable to check with the individual admissions tutors.
- Students can still apply this year, but for deferred entry.

Gap Years should always be WELL planned and thought out. Whether students wish to work or travel, it doesn't matter, but a well planned gap year will ensure that they get the most out of their year out.

Student Finance

Students will be given information regarding the dates for applying for student finance and advised how to apply in January/February 2021.

For information regarding student finance, please see the school website. (However please note that this information is due to change for the 2021 academic year)

Open Days

- Students should always visit universities before applying/accepting offers.
- 3 during school time.
- Must request permission 7 days before.

Visiting universities on other days can be really beneficial!

Questions?

- If you have any questions regarding UCAS, University or post-18 choices, please feel free to stay behind at the end.
- You can also contact us at school via the school phone number or email.

Thank you for your time.