

# UCAS BOOKLET 2020 ENTRY #DREAMBig

Name	
Tutor	
UCAS ID	



Sir John Everett Millais, Bt - The Boyhood of Raleigh - 1870

Contents

Personal information	
1. Register with UCAS Apply	
2. UCAS Apply Log In Codes	
3. UCAS Apply Log In – First Time	
Common Mistakes on UCAS Apply	7
Subject Choices	12
University Choices	12
Recording Your Choices	13
How to Write Your Personal Statement	13
Useful Words and Phrases	14
Personal Statement Planning Pages	15
Exemplar Personal Statement	16
UCAS Tariff	17
Exam Boards	17
For GCSE/Level 2 BTEC subjects taken at Cheney in 2014-2018	
For A-Level/Level 3 subjects taken at Cheney in 2018-19	
Useful Websites & Literature	19
Key Dates	
Notes	21

# **Personal information**

Full Name (exactly as written on birth certificate/passport)		
Date of Birth		
Address (including post code)		
Country of Origin (where you were born)		
National Insurance Number		
Home Telephone Number		
Mobile Number		
Email Address Ensure this is sensible enough for universities to use!		
Fee Code This is 02 if you are resident in the UK/EU. 01 (Private Finance) is for international rates (significantly more expensive). 05 is for NHS funded courses e.g. nursing (not medicine)		02 (see notes to left)

# Qualifications

#### GCSE/Level 2 BTECs/OCR National Level 2 – see Appendix 1 – EXAM BOARDS

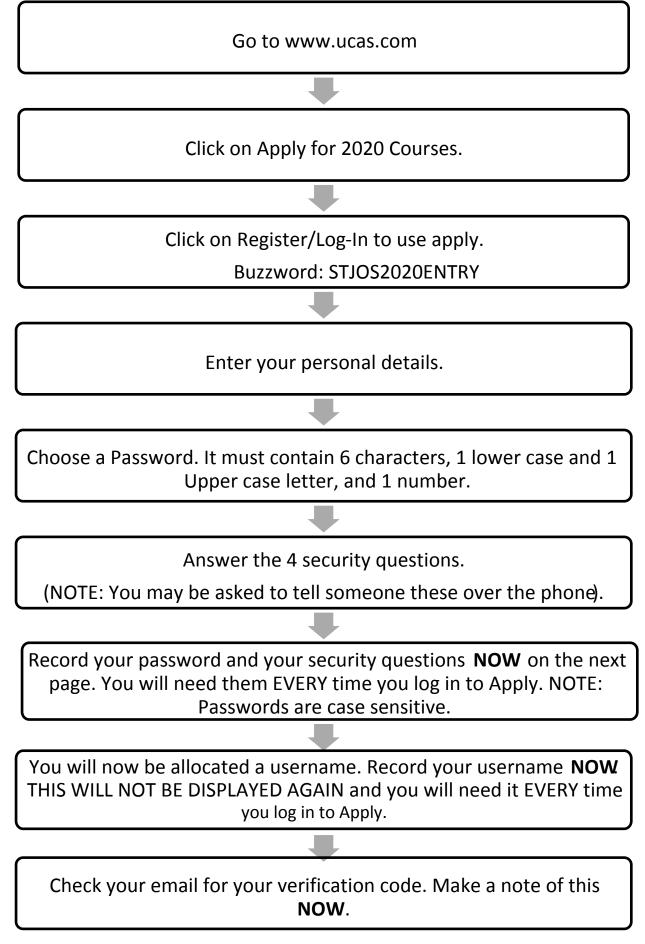
Subject	Board	Grade	Date awarded*
			Aug 2018

\*August for summer exam, March if final exam was taken in January.

#### A-LEVELS (Advanced Level) / BTEC Nationals – see Appendix 1 – EXAM BOARDS

Subject	Board	Grade	Year
		Pending	Aug 2020

# **1. Register with UCAS Apply**



# 2. UCAS Apply Log In Codes

Registering with UCAS Apply will generate your username, password and personal ID number.

Please use the grid below to record all your essential information. The codes recognise capital letters so be careful and accurate.

Username	
Password	
Security Questions (not the answers!)	1 2 3 4
School Buzzword	STJOS2020ENTRY
Personal ID Number	
ULN (Unique Learner Number & (available on SIMS)	
UCI Number (can be found on exam certificates)	
Email Verification Code	
UCAS Customer Service Unit Tel No	0330 3330 230
UCAS Twitter Page	@ucas_online

# 3. UCAS Apply Log In – First Time

Log-in again using your information above. You will be asked how you are applying. You MUST click on **THROUGH MY SCHOOL/COLLEGE**. Then choose the 'current students' group', unless you are applying in Year Fourteen, in which case please choose the 'exstudents' group'.

Enter the school buzzword: STJOS2020ENTRY (all capitals). WARNING: if you haven't been asked for a buzzword you have not done this properly. You MUST register with St Joseph's otherwise we cannot give you a reference.

# 4. Completing Your Application Form

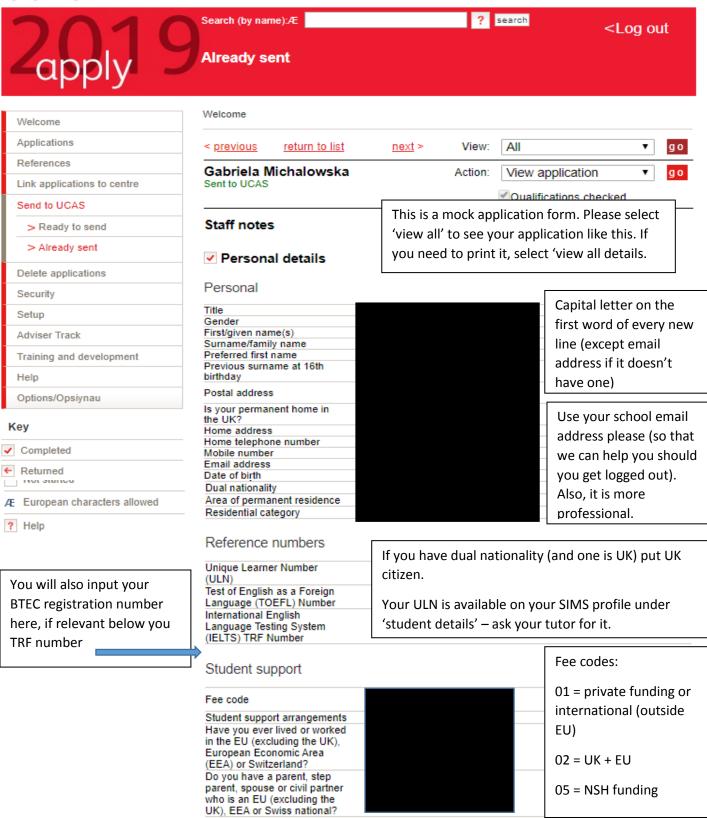
- Work through each section listed on the left hand side of the screen.
- You must answer the questions marked with a red \*.
- You can click on '**Help'** on the left hand side of the screen or the **?** to the right of each question for a full explanation of the information required.
- When you are happy that all the details are correct, please tick the '**section completed'** box at the bottom of the screen and then click '**save'**. A red tick will then appear next to that section on the left hand side of the screen.
- To make changes, click on the relevant section on the left hand side of the screen.
- Click on the information you wish to change.
- Check that you have ticked the 'section completed' box again and click 'save'.

**WARNING**: DO NOT click pay/send in the summer – you will do this in the autumn when your Personal Statement has been finalised.

- In September/October, you can click '**pay/send'** and pay online using a debit or credit card (£18 for a single choice; £24 for 2-5 choices). **Do not click INVOICE.**
- When you click 'pay/send' your application is sent to Sixth Form not UCAS (we then send it off).

# Common Mistakes on UCAS Apply UCAS

Contact us | Help | Print



Receiving further information about courses and/or products and services

#### Receiving further information about courses and/or products and services

I want to receive targeted course vacancy information if I am unplaced.	Yes
I want to receive information about health, careers and study opportunities by email	Yes
I want to receive information about commercial products and services by email	Yes
I want to receive information about health, careers and study opportunities by text/SMS	Yes
I want to receive information about commercial products and services by text/SMS	Yes
I want to receive information about health, careers and study opportunities by post	No
I want to receive information about commercial products and services by post	No
Nominated access Full name of nominee Relationship to you	Allow parents to communicate with universities on your behalf e.g. if you are taking a gap year before uni or they cannot
Disability/special needs	contact you.
Category Please give details of any special needs	No disability

#### Additional information

Ethnic origin	
National identity	
Dual national identity	

Activities in preparation for higher education: 1

Activities in preparation to	r higher education: 1	Vou con onter Summer Schools or
Sponsor		You can enter Summer Schools or
Start date		University based taster
Duration (days)		sessions/lectures here.
School year		
Location		

#### Activities in preparation for higher education: 2

Sponsor		
Start date		
Duration (days)		
School year		
Location		

	 _
Have you been in care?	
Duration in care	
Parental education	
Occupational background	
I would like correspondence from Welsh universities, colleges and UCAS to be in	
Welsh	

#### Student finance

I have read these details

Yes

#### Choices

University of Manchester (M20)

#### NOT COMPLETED

You can enter you choices in any order as UCAS will order them alphabetically.

Campus: (-)	Live at home while studying?: No	
Start date: September 2019	Make sure you know which	Deferred entry?: No Point of entry:
Newcastle University (N21)	campus your subject is taught at. It may not be the main one and	
Campus: (-)	could be miles away from it.	Live at home while studying?: No
Start date: September 2019		Deferred entry?: No
		Point of entry:
University of Oxford (O33) NOT COMPLETED	If applying for Oxford or Cambridge, which college are you	
Campus: (U) Start date: October 2019	applying to? Or is it an open application?	Live at home while studying?: No Deferred entry?: No Point of entry:

#### Education

Enter academic year

St Josephs Catholic High School, Slough (51421, 09/2012 - 06/2019, FT)

GCE Advanced Level	A Level Subjects certified in the AUGUST of the year you finish in Year 13 (not like the example below) – it refers to results, not exams.		
French	А	06/2019	AQA
History		06/2019	Edexcel
Religious Studies		06/2019	OCR
Polish		06/2017	AQA
GCE Advanced Subsid	iary		
English Literature	B	06/2018	OCR
French	A	06/2018	AQA
History	A	06/2018	Edexcel
Religious Studies	A	06/2018	OCR

Click on 'add qualification' then click on the relevant one (GCE Advanced Level, level 3 qualification (e.g. Core Maths & EPQ) or BTEC) – see 'For A Level/BTEC subjects taken at SJSF in 2019-2020' for BTEC headings.

#### All A Level and BTEC results must currently show as 'pending'.

For **AS** - entering unit details is optional. You can enter the unit grades using the **Grade please select** drop down. If your results are very good, this is a fine way to show your success over a range of modules. If you want to show unit and UMS scores use the **other** box. You may want to refer to particularly good modules/units within your personal statements

# GCSE (Grade: 9-1)

English Language	9	06/2017	AQA
English Literature	8	06/2017	AQA
Mathematics	8	06/2017	Pearson

For GCSE – click on 'add qualification' then click on the relevant type e.g. GCSE, GCSE Double Award or BTEC.

# **Subject Choices**

There are over 50,000 higher education courses listed on UCAS, offered at over 165 Higher Education Institutions, including 115 UK universities. With so many options available, choosing a course can be a difficult decision.

#### Tips for choosing a course

- 1. Think about what you enjoy and do well, both at school and outside
- 2. Write down a list of jobs you'd like to do and why
- 3. Discuss your options with teachers, career advisers, family and friends
- 4. Whatever your interests, it's essential that you do lots of research. Book in at least five days in your diary now when you intend to make time for doing this.

Go to <u>https://www.ucas.com/ucas/undergraduate/choosing-course</u> or <u>http://search.ucas.com/</u> for more guidance.

The Guardian University League Table is a good place to start as you are able to rank by course. You can also look at value added scores (i.e. the progress made by students) and overall scores. <u>https://www.theguardian.com/education/ng-</u>interactive/2019/jun/07/university-league-tables-2020

You may also want to choose a course based on your current subjects and the Which? University website is useful for this. <u>https://university.which.co.uk/a-level-explorer</u>

# **University Choices**

There may be many universities or colleges that offer a course that appeals to you. You may have some idea of the location you want to be in – whether it's in a city, in the countryside or by the sea. You may decide on a university locally and stay at home or move

away and discover somewhere new. When you've found five to ten universities that appeal to you, you'll need do your research.

# Your first choice should be aspirational – the very top end of achievable, if you push yourself and give it your all.

# Insurance choice – this should be more in line with your predicted grades but seen as a safety net – go for gold! Not silver.

Visit universities you are really interested in. Make a note of open days using the website <u>www.opendays.com</u>. They tend to be early so do this soon!

#### Things to consider:

- Does the university offer the right course options and flexibility for you?
- How does it rank for student satisfaction and care?
- What are your career prospects? What percentages of its students go straight into employment or further study after graduating?
- What are the teaching standards like?
- How does it perform in terms of research activity?
- What facilities are on offer? Consider things such as libraries, lecture halls and study spaces
- Are there extra-curricular opportunities such as student unions, societies and sports teams?
- Is the university based on campus or spread out over a city?
- Where in the UK? Studying in a city centre London University will be a different experience to a smaller university in Wales that is close to the countryside.
- What are the course fees and accommodation costs and standards like?
- Is the institution recognised by UK authorities as having UK degree awarding powers?

**Subject and university reviews** - as well as talking through your ideas and plans with family, friends, teachers or advisers, you can find other opinions online. Take the time to check what other people through by visiting the following:

- Get a student viewpoint at Unistats perfect for subject and course provider reviews <u>https://unistats.ac.uk/</u>
- Read uni and college reviews from the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education <a href="http://www.qaa.ac.uk/reviewing-higher-education">http://www.qaa.ac.uk/reviewing-higher-education</a>
- Check league tables that rank university and colleges. Make sure you check the sources though, as some can be biased. The Guardian, The Times, and The Complete University Guide are some of the more impartial places to look
  - 0 <u>https://www.theguardian.com/education/universityguide</u>

- o <a href="https://www.timeshighereducation.com/student/where-to-study">https://www.timeshighereducation.com/student/where-to-study</a>
- https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/league-tables/rankings
- Look at the government's Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) for ratings on teaching quality, learning environment, as well as student outcomes <u>https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/what-and-where-study/choosing-course/teaching-excellence-framework-tef-what-you-need-know</u>

# Aspiration and ambition

There's nothing quite like the sense of accomplishment you experience when you achieve an aspirational goal. What does aspirational mean? Aspirational means having aspirations to achieve success. In the case of university, it is to go to the very best quality university that you can achieve, which may mean stretching yourself to the very max to achieve the best predicted and final grades. A good quality result, on a high quality course from a top university will help you achieve the best outcomes possible. Here is some guidance to consider:

#### 1. Set your goal.

What is your dream career?	
What is your dream course?	
What are the entry requirements? _	
What are your predicted grades?	

The information above helps you understand your goal and what it will take to achieve it.

#### 2. Count the cost.

Achieving your aspirational goals will take time and effort. It is important to consider the kinds of adjustments you will need to make as you work towards your aspiration. Know how much achieving your goals will cost you. For example, if your goal is to acehivev three As at A Level, while you're working significant hours at a part-time job, you will likely have to give up your free nights and weekends to get it done or really limit your shifts. There is nothing more discouraging than failing to achieve a personal goal because you weren't willing to pay the price of committing to achieve it – create an action plan and stick to it:

Obstacles	solutions

#### 3. Write your goals down.

It has been said that goals that are never written down are just wishes. Written goals will give you clarity of vision and a sense of purpose. Be specific when you write down your goals. Prioritise your goals and include dates and sub-goals to measure achievement over time.

#### 4. Review and revise as needed.

Make it a habit to review your goals on a regular basis. Regular exposure to your written goals will give you a long-term perspective and the motivation to achieve. Additionally, it will afford you the opportunity to revise your goals should your circumstances change – if you are achieving higher grades because your plan is working, are you considering readjusting your first choice university?

#### 5. Stay the course!

In everyday life, it will be easy to lose sight of your goals if you do not intentionally stay on course. One good way to not lose sight of your goals is to recruit an accountability partner who is invested in your well-being. Share your goals with your partner (or people!) and commit to reviewing your goals quarterly. At each review, honestly assess how you're doing. What worked? Where did you fall short? Do you need to reassess your priorities? Were you true to your ethic code? An accountability partner will encourage you to keep your eye on the prize.

When you achieve an aspirational goal, remember to celebrate and enjoy the satisfaction of your accomplishment. Achieving goals will. Are you **#DREAMINGBIG?!** 

# **Unconditional Offers**

#### (Un)conditional offers from Universities

Universities will make students an offer based on their predicted grades. This may be a grade offer (e.g. ABB) or a UCAS tariff offer (120 UCAS pts).

- Unconditional offers mean that students are offered a placed regardless of results:
- Greatly impacts motivation.
- Research shows that it impacts performance.
- More likely to miss their targets by 1 or 2 grades.
- Importance of A Level grades.
- It is a journey your A Level skills and knowledge will bolster your degree study.

# **Recording Your Choices**

Use the table below to note your choices, and then track your application on line.

Institution Name	Institution Code	Course Code	Course Title	Offer

## **How to Write Your Personal Statement**

The personal statement is your opportunity to tell your universities why the course(s) you have chosen interest you and why you want to study them in depth.

#### Make sure you answer these questions:

1	Why have you chosen the course(s)?	
2	Why does the subject area you have chosen interest you?	
3	What have you studied in Sixth Form that relates to your chosen course?	
4	Why do you think you would be a good student?	
5	What jobs, placements, work experience or voluntary work have you done ar how will this help you on your course? Y7 enrichment?	nd D
6	What hobbies, interests and social activities are you interested in? Will thes help you with your course? Will you be on a uni sports team?	se D

- 7 Do you have any non-accredited qualifications? Other qualifications? Positions of responsibility? How will these help you at university?
- 8 Do you have any career and/or gap year plans? How will these help you at university?

UCAS recommends that you:

- Type your statement in a Word document and then paste it into UCAS Apply
- Click 'Save' and then 'Preview'.
- Check Formatting after you have pasted it in.
- If you are happy with it, tick 'Section Completed'.

## **Useful Words and Phrases**

•	stems from				
	In addition to				
<ul> <li>This has taught</li> </ul>	me				
The experience	proved				
<ul> <li>I enjoyed the ch</li> </ul>	allenge of				
• I aim to					
Currently, I am i	nvolved in				
<ul> <li>The areas of particular</li> </ul>	rticular interest for m	ne are			
• gaining ne	ew skills				
• Following this					
Aside from					
As part of					
Prior to					
I believe that					
I take an active interest in					
actively involved in					
have represented the school at					
have participated in					
-	n an active member/	participant in			
	the opportunity to				
keen	competitive	inspired			
			enthusiastic		
communicate	liaising with	commitment	avid		
pursuing	co-ordinating	awarded	instigated		

# **Personal Statement Planning Pages**

Origin and reason for interest in subject/area applied for and examples of extra
reading, lectures, work experience, etc.

Extra-curricular activities in school – Drama productions, Sports, Music, School Council, People & Planet, Reading Buddies, Mentoring, etc.

Work Experience

Activities outside school – Sports, clubs, hobbies, etc.

## **Exemplar Personal Statement**

**NB: UCAS uses copyright/plagiarism software.** If you copy lines/phrases/statements from the internet or from peers, even if it was years ago, the software will pick it up and your universities will be informed – very embarrassing!

When I visited Leon, Nicaragua this summer I encountered a difficult ethical situation. I am a leader of the charity Leon Link and recently organised a trip to visit our projects. Whilst opening my eyes to mechanisms underpinning the principles of sustainability and development, the trip provoked some uneasy questions: Are visits like these beneficial for aid recipients or merely an indulgence for donors? If there is a benefit, does it outweigh the carbon emissions involved in travel?

It is the attempt to answer questions like these that makes a degree in Geography so appealing. I am fascinated by the sense the discipline makes out of the complex interactions between physical and human processes that have come to shape our world.

Paul Collier's 'The Bottom Billion' and Sachs' 'The End of Poverty' have challenged my preconceptions of development and caused me to wonder why there is massive disparity between nations currently classed as 'developing.' The polarization of resources and vast inequality between neighbouring communities struck me forcibly on a recent fieldtrip to Morocco. This developed my fieldwork skills and left me longing to know more about everything I encountered - from the effects of tourism on the Atlas Mountains to failed attempts to prevent desertification. A2 Geography has continued to prompt a critical analysis of the implications of human actions that has become crucial to my sense of self and perception of the world.

Studying the historiography of the Crusades shed light on the profound misunderstandings between Muslim and Christian nations, helping me to approach current geo-political issues with greater insight. My studies in Economics provide the analytical tools to understand geographical problems and their place within the economy at greater depth. Much like a Geography degree, the combination of arts and social sciences has developed my use of analysis and evaluation as well as numerical and graphical reasoning.

I chose to complete an extended essay for the AQA Baccalaureate examining the implications of the current Nicaraguan abortion ban in the context of women's rights, the history of radical politics and cultural relativism. I have loved studying one topic in-depth whilst undertaking independent research and fieldwork. In my gap year I plan to return to Leon to maintain current links.

The concerns underpinning my commitment to Geography motivated me to join my school's People and Planet group and Debating Society, of which I am president. I campaigned for the implementation of 'Meat Free Monday' and co-wrote a pledge to minimise my school's environmental impact. Debating has honed my use of argument and ability to question different ideas whilst under pressure. Researching policies such as banning meat consumption reinforced my interest in the public policy surrounding geographical issues. Third best speaker at Oxford Union schools finals day, I also compete at university level.

Having performed in Oxford Youth Theatre for six years, I am now a Youth Trustee at its base - the Pegasus Theatre. Here as in school I enjoy developing my leadership and inter-personal skills: coaching younger debaters, organizing fund-raising events and running awareness-raising workshops. It is this initiative that makes me so well suited to Geography - studying the subject at degree level would satisfy my wish to learn more about the world, coupled with my desire to change it.

# **UCAS Tariff**

You qualifications and predicted grades are worth points. They are added up to make your UCAS Tariff. Universities use the number to help them give you conditional offers. A university may make you an offer based on obtaining a minimum points score or they may ask for specific grades in a subject. For information about the UCAS

Tarriff see https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/what-and-where-study/entry-requirements/ucas-tariffpoints for more details.

AS-Level Points	Grade	A-Level Points	BTEC National Award
N/A	A*	56	Distinction*
20	А	48	Distinction
16	В	40	
12	С	32	Merit
10	D	24	
6	E	16	Pass

BTEC Nationals are Level 3 qualifications and are different to BTEC 1<sup>st</sup> Diploma (i.e. NOT Level 2 taken in Yr12)

#### Notes on the tariff

- Points can be added together from different qualifications.
- If you use the points score for an A2 you cannot use the points for the AS in the same subject.
- For Double award qualifications add two grades together e.g. AA = 96pts (because an A is worth 48) BC = 72pts
- There are other qualifications that carry a points score e.g. Grade 8 in a musical instrument. However, universities don't usually accept alternative qualifications towards the points they have asked you for. Some universities will make offers which include the EPQ as part of the offer.

#### Predicted grades

When researching your universities use your predicted, target grades and AS grades, to guide you. *Note: There is no point in trying to push teachers to predict grades beyond what you are likely to get, as universities will often set offers in line with predicted grades!* 

Once UCAS receives your form, they will send you an application number which you can use to track the process of your application. Tracking will show you any offers you receive from universities. Once you receive replies from all your universities you must confirm your first choice and also an insurance choice – make sure that this requires lower grades than your first choice! When you respond to offers you are entering into a binding contract with those universities. You can break the contract, but will not be able to apply to any other universities in the 2020 application cycle – you will have to reapply the following year.

## Exam Boards

To be sure of getting this information accurate, you are advised to check your certificates, but go by the information here if you don't have access to them.

Subject	Accreditation	Exam Board
Art & Design	GCE	Edexcel
Biology	GCE	AQA
Business Studies	GCE	Edexcel
Chemistry	GCE	AQA
Computer Science	GCE	OCR
Core Mathematics	Level Three	AQA
Performing Arts	GCE	Edexcel
Economics	GCE	Edexcel
English Literature	GCE	OCR
English Language	GCE	OCR
Extended Project	Level Three	Edexcel
French	GCE	AQA
Geography	GCE	AQA
Health and Social Care	BTEC L3 Extended Certificate	Pearson
History	GCE	Edexcel
Law		AQA
Mathematics	GCE	Edexcel
Media Studies	GCE	OCR
Philosophy & Ethics	GCE	OCR
Physics	GCE	AQA
Polish	GCE	AQA
Product Design	GCE	AQA
Psychology	GCE	AQA
Spanish	GCE	AQA
Sociology	GCE	OCR
Sport BTEC National	BTEC L3 Extended Certificate	Edexcel Pearson
BTEC Travel and Tourism	BTEC L3 Extended Certificate	Edexcel
Vocational Business BTEC	BTEC L3 Extended Certificate	Edexcel

# **Useful Websites & Literature**

What	
information do	Website address/publications
you need?	
General	www.ucas.com
information,	
course &	
subject	
searches,	
Stamford	
Tests, Open	
Days, etc	
UCAS Apply	www.ucas.com/students/apply
Tariff	https://www.ucas.com/ucas/tariff-calculator
information	
SACU – Free	http://sacu-student.com/
Help with UCAS	
League Tables	http://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/leaguetables/methodolo
	gy/
	https://www.theguardian.com/education/ng-
	interactive/2019/jun/07/university-league-tables-2020
Scholarship	www.scholarship-search.org.uk
opportunities	
Open Days	www.opendays.com
Advice for	https://www.ucas.com/ucas/undergraduate/gettingstarted/individual-
disabled	needs/disabled-students
students	
Prospectuses	www.prospectusfinder.co.uk
Guide to	The Big Guide (UCAS Publication) <u>www.universitiesnet.com</u>
universities	www.push.co.uk
Choosing a	HEAP – Degree Course Offers <u>www.unistats.com</u>
subject/course	www.ukcoursefinder.com www.hotcourses.co.uk

# **Key Dates**

Process	Date	Responsibility
Filling out UCAS Form in Tutor time	From 08.07.19	Student
UCAS applications can be sent from today.	05.09.2019	School
BMAT and UCAT medical admissions test <b>entrance</b> <b>deadlines</b> – you are recommended to do this much earlier – by the end of term in July	01.10.2019	Student
Oxbridge, Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, Dentistry, Law UCAS application deadline.	6PM 15.10.2019	School
Final deadline of personal statement completion for feedback.	29.10.19	Student
UCAS deadline for all applications.	6PM 15.01.2020	School
Deadline for <b>some</b> Art & Design applications.	24.03.2020	Student/School

# FLOWCHART

# Apply online

Check course details to see which deadline your application should arrive at UCAS by 15 October for Oxford, Cambridge or professional courses in medicine, dentist

- or veterinary medicine/science.
- 15 January for the majority of courses.
  - 24 March for some art and design courses

# Wait to hear back

The universities or colleges will decide whether to make you an offer.

- Either unconditional if you've already met the entry requirements.
- Or conditional if the offer's based on your exam results.

#### Looking for more courses

If you have no offers or you've declined them all you can still find other courses.

- Either by adding more choices one at a time in our Extra service.
- Or if you didn't meet the conditions and Clearing has started, you can see which courses still have vacancies

# Reply to your offers

Once all their decisions are in you have to reply to your offers by a specific deadline.

- If your firm acceptance is an unconditional then the place is yours.
- Or if it's conditional it's yours if you meet the entry requirements – you can choose an insurance acceptance as a backup.
- And decline the rest.

#### See if the university or college confirms your place

- They might not if you don't meet the conditions of an offer.
- But if they do then you're in hooray!
- (If you've met and exceeded your offer conditions you might be able to look for alternative courses in our Adjustment service while still holding your original confirmed place.)