



Ousedale School

Be Kind | Work Hard | Succeed Together

Student Guide for Applications 2023 - 24

Important dates

When you have completed your application form, added in your Personal Statement and your choices you will press Pay and Send. When you do that, your application goes to Ms Moulds. She then has certain things to do before she can send it to UCAS.

The deadline for completed Oxford, Cambridge, Medicine, Veterinary Studies and Dentistry applications to be with Ms Moulds – **Friday 6th October 2023**

The deadline for all other completed applications to be with Ms Moulds – **Friday 8th December 2023**

This is to ensure that she has time to check your application for errors, ensure that your reference is complete and send it off to UCAS.

Personal Details

When you initially register you should select "apply through college or school" when asked, and supply UCAS with the buzzword. The buzzword is

Ousedale2024

Record your ID number and Password somewhere safe.

When asked to supply an email address, give one that sounds professional. If in doubt use your school one.

Student support: It is important you fill this in correctly

Fee Code: 02 UK, ChI, IoM or EU.

Student support arrangements: Milton Keynes

Nominated Access: If you wish to have someone else talk to UCAS about your applications (ie. a parent) you must allow them access by nominating them.

Additional Information

If you have done work experience relevant to your chosen course (ie. working in a school for a B(Ed) qualification) complete the details here. Do not forget to refer to it in your personal statement.

Choices

Refer to the section on choosing where to study. **Double check that you get the course codes, start date and campus correct.**

Education

Complete details of your GCSEs. You will need to name of the course and the exam board as well as your grade. The date awarded is August 2022.

Add the A levels / BTECs that you will take. The date is August 2024. Put the grade as Pending.

Add in any free standing qualifications you may have e.g. Music, D of E etc.

Your form tutor can provide you with a list of results from the school database. You may be required to produce your certificates so keep them safe.

Employment

Complete details of any paid employment you have had.

Personal Statement

See the separate document – How to write your Personal Statement.

Choosing a university and course

Visit www.ucas.com

One of the most popular websites in the UK, www.ucas.com has a comprehensive online database of over 50,000 HE courses available at more than 300 universities and colleges which are members of UCAS. This covers about 95% of all full-time HE undergraduate courses in the UK.

Nearly 85% of courses on the UCAS Course Search have what are known as Entry Profiles. These are compiled by staff at each university or college, and provide information about the course, specific entry requirements and career possibilities and about the qualities or experience admissions staff are looking for in applicants. Increasingly they are also providing information about an institution's admission and selection criteria, fees, bursaries and financial support, accommodation and access for students with special needs, Open Days and student life. Entry Profiles make it easier to differentiate between courses which have similar names.

You can search for courses in your chosen subject and / or institution or UK region. The information on the website is normally updated hourly, so you will not waste time reading through out-of-date information.

Visit www.unifrog.org

Unifrog brings all the available information into one single, impartial, user-friendly platform that helps students to make the best choices, and submit the strongest applications.

<https://www.unifrog.org/know-how/how-to-write-your-personal-statement-like-a-boss>

Which University?

A maximum of 5 choices is available.

•**Tip:** making the right choices matters - you should only apply to places you want to go to.

Consider the following:

- Location – Campus, City/Town, City and Campus
- Age/style/academic structure
- Size of University – 3,000 – 35,000 Students
- Distance from home
- Accommodation
- Guarantees, Availability, on-campus support
- Cost, location, catered v self catering
- Facilities
- Teaching, Student support, disability issues
- Social, sports, welfare
- Finances/cultural/family issues

Which course?

You should choose 1 “aspirational” course, 3 realistic courses and 1 insurance based on your predicted grades.

Approaches to choosing a course

- Familiarity – a subject that you have studied at A-level /continuation of interest
- New subjects – this could be informed by A-level choices e.g. Biology – Biomedical Sciences, Human Biology, Genetics, Optometry, Zoology; Geography – Business, Environmental Sciences, European Studies, Logistics, Surveying, Town Planning; Maths – Accountancy, Computer Science, Engineering, Internet Gambling Studies
- Vocational degrees –a course that leads to a job at the end e.g. Medicine, Teaching
- Joint degrees - when deciding between two subjects is tough!

A level points system

Grade	EPQ	A level
A*	28	56
A	24	48
B	20	40
C	16	32
D	12	24
E	8	16
Grade	Certificate	Subsidiary Diploma
D*	28	56
D	24	48
M	16	32
P	8	16

Some universities and colleges require you to pass an admissions test as well. This will be made clear on the UCAS website. You must go and book this with Ms Romeo.

What next?

Once you have filled in the application form and completed your Personal Statement you need to ask your subject teachers to write your references on Unifrog. Once they have done that your form tutor will form it into a full reference which will then be put on UCAS. When all of this is complete your application can be sent off.

Writing your reference takes time – do not expect it to be done overnight.

UCAS Offers

UCAS will contact you with details of offers made by universities.

Some university courses will send out offers as soon as applications arrive, others will wait until March/April when they have received all applications. Do not worry if your favourite does not respond quickly.

If a university rejects you, read the reason given but do not lose heart. Many university courses receive thousands of applications for a small number of places.

Read any offers very carefully, making sure you understand exactly what the university requires and which of your A level exams qualify.

If you are asked to attend an interview, confirm your acceptance of this as soon as possible. You will be allowed time out of school for this [make sure you complete a yellow form].

If you are asked to provide any certificates of qualifications, forward them straight away. If you have any queries, contact the university in question.

After you have received all of your offers you must decide which to firmly accept and which to accept as your insurance – usually at the beginning of June. If you meet the criteria for your first choice, UCAS will assume that is where you are going. Make sure you are certain on this.

Your insurance choice is a backup of where to study if you fail to meet the criteria of your first choice. **Your insurance choice should require lower grades than your first choice.**

Remember that once you have made your choices, this frees up places for other students, so try to respond promptly.

If you have offers from the universities you know you are going to accept and are waiting on offers from one or more of the others, you may withdraw from them in order to speed the process up.

Results Day

For most of you, whether you are accepted into your Firm or Insurance choice of university will depend on the grades you get.

I will be in school on results day to help anyone who has any issues.

Ms Moulds

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