

KEY DATES WITHIN THE UCAS APPLICATION PROCESS

- Applications are sent to UCAS between 1 September and 15 January. It is wise to send them as early as possible, as popular courses fill quickly. There is some evidence to suggest that offers made later in the application process *may be higher for popular courses*.
- The deadline for applications to Oxford and Cambridge, Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Medicine and Veterinary Science is 15 October and so your application must be submitted by the end of September. We have our own deadline in school (see “How to Write a Good Personal Statement” booklet) Basically, we aim to have **all** applications completed by 15 October (or half term at the latest)
- UCAS will acknowledge receipt of your application and start the online “Track” service. UCAS sends a copy of your form to each of your choices. You receive an individual password which allows you to track decisions made by your chosen universities on the UCAS website.
- You wait for offers to come flooding in! You may be called for interview (usually some time between October and March). If your application was received by UCAS before 15 January deadline then you should have heard from all your choices by the end of March and you can decide on your Firm and Insurance Universities.
- In March the UCAS Extra procedure starts. This is for applicants who find themselves without an offer and gives you a chance to apply for another university/ course without having to wait for Clearing.

OFFERS

- Most students will receive conditional offers. This means that your place is dependent upon achieving particular grades at A level. Higher offers will be made by the very popular universities and courses (Law, Medicine, Psychology, Physiotherapy, Veterinary, English etc) Lower offers may come from less popular courses such as Engineering, Theology and some Science courses and from some of the less popular universities.
- Most offers will be in grades: some offers may specify a grade in a particular subject such as an A in English. Some offers may be in points using the UCAS tariff (see: www.ucas.com/he_staff/curriculumandquals/ucas_tariff/) and some may include AS requirements as well as the completed A levels.

UCAS TARIFF

Below is a summary of the UCAS tariff

AS Grade	A Level Grade (i.e.AS+A2)	Point Score
	A*	140
	A	120
	B	100
	C	80
A	D	60
B		50
C	E	40
D		30
E		20

When you have received the decision of each university to which you applied (usually by the end of March) UCAS send instructions for making your final choice. You are allowed to hold one firm offer and one insurance offer (the latter would normally be one with lower grades).

UCAS EXTRA AND CLEARING

If you have had no offers, or have withdrawn your applications, you can make an extra application in March under the UCAS Extra scheme.

If you fail to meet offers, or are unlucky and have had no offers, you can try to obtain a university place after the A level results come out through **Clearing**. This involves direct negotiation with universities following advice from UCAS. You will receive detailed information about this before you go on Study Leave.

OTHER APPLICATIONS

ART AND DESIGN

Applying for Art and Design courses used to be more than a little complicated. However all Art and Design courses now recruit through the main UCAS scheme. Art and Design Route B stopped after 2009 entry. As with the main scheme, applications to Art and Design courses have up to 5 choices which are sent to the chosen universities or colleges simultaneously with no order of preference.

Some Art and Design courses have an application deadline of 15 January 2012 (as other courses) and some the deadline of 24 March 2012. Visit the UCAS course search at www.ucas.com to find out to which deadline you will need to adhere.

Art and Foundation Courses

You may still wish to complete a one year Art Foundation course before going on to university and this will give you a qualification in its own right. You apply direct to the university or college (the institution will supply its own application form.) UCAS has a list of universities and colleges offering these foundation courses. (Again go to www.ucas.com to see the full list.)

Art Foundation courses are classified as further education so students taking the course are not eligible for a student loan. However, no tuition fees are charged to students under the age of 19 at courses run by the Local Authority. Courses which are offered by independent, fee-paying colleges may charge. You will need to check with the individual college before applying.

MUSIC

For some Music courses application is made direct to the Colleges. You will need to access the UCAS website - Conservatoires UK Admissions Service (www.cukas.ac.uk) - to see which Conservatoires require what procedures.

STUDYING ABROAD

If you are considering applying to universities abroad do your research carefully – there will be different procedures and deadlines of which you need to be aware.