

THE UCAS PROCEDURE

Most Higher Education courses are applied for via UCAS (University and Colleges Admissions Service). Art and Design and Music can be different and there is information on this later in the booklet.

Oxbridge candidates also apply via UCAS but Oxford candidates must also complete an Oxford application form at the same time as the UCAS form. Cambridge applicants are likely to be asked to complete a detailed questionnaire when the university receives the application.

Making Applications to UCAS

Applications are made electronically to UCAS via the website www.ucas.com, using the Apply system. Its main sections are:

1. **Personal Details:**
Full name, home address, email, mobile phone number etc.
2. **Up to 5 choices of university or course:**
Applicants for Medicine, Veterinary Science and Dentistry can only make 4 choices in these subjects. Choices are made in alphabetical order and so no preference can be expressed on the application. You can apply for more than one course at any university. It is a blind application (meaning universities cannot see the other courses or universities to which you are also applying.)
3. **Your qualifications:**
 - GCSE results, AS results and other relevant qualifications.
 - The A2 subjects (and any other AS subjects) you will be taking.

There is space to enter unit results but at present this is not obligatory.
(NB: Cambridge will want applicants' UMS scores regardless!)

4. **Your Personal Statement:**
This is probably the most difficult section of the form to fill in but it is very important that you do it well as it is the only place where you have the chance to impress the admissions tutors as to why you are the ideal university undergraduate! Please use the Personal Statement booklet which gives you detailed guidance.
5. **School Reference:**
This will contain comments about your academic abilities and potential, your predicted grades, character, motivation and responsibilities. Your predicted grades are based on your teachers' professional judgement of your work through the year, together with your performance in the AS examinations and an assessment of your potential. We aim to show you in the best possible light and references are always positive.

Admissions Tests for particular Subjects and Universities

Check whether you will be required to take extra Admissions Tests by going to:
www.ucas.com/students/beforeyouapply/admissions

As you may have read in the press, more and more universities are considering bringing in their own admissions tests. As I write Imperial College, London has just announced that they will be requiring applicants to sit its own admissions test. Please check individual university websites for updated news of this. Also check Oxford and Cambridge websites for any admissions tests they require applicants to take.

At present the following Admissions Tests are in use at some universities:

BMAT: The Biomedical Admissions Test for entry into Medicine and Veterinary Science at some universities.
www.bmat.org.uk

UKCAT: The Clinical Aptitude Test for entry into Medicine and Dentistry at some universities
www.ukcat.ac.uk

LNAT: The National Admissions Test for Law for entry into Law at some universities.
www.lnat.ac.uk

IN ADDITION:

***OXFORD** (www.admissions.ox.ac.uk/courses/tests) requires:

HAT: The History Aptitude test for entry to History at Oxford
www.history.ox.ac.uk

ELAT: The English Literature Admissions Test for entry to English and some joint English courses at Oxford
www.elat.org.uk

MAT: The Maths Aptitude Test for entry to read Maths, Computer Science or joint honours involving Maths

PAT: The Physics Aptitude Test for entry to Physics or Physics and Philosophy

TSA: The Thinking Skills Assessment required for PPE (Philosophy, Politics and Economics), Economics and Management, Experimental Psychology or Psychology and Philosophy.
www.tsa.cambridgeassessment.org.uk/ppe

***CAMBRIDGE** requires:

STEP (Sixth Term Examination papers for entry to Maths (note: Warwick requires this too))

www.cam.ac.uk/admissions

TSA (applied to various courses and selected colleges at Cambridge and Oxford)

www.admissionstests.cambridgeassessment.org.uk/adt

MML: Modern and Mediaeval Languages Test for entry to these subjects at Cambridge (administered at interview) See Cambridge website and prospectus.

***UCL (University College London) requires:**

TSA: for European Social and Political Studies.

***American University Admissions Tests**: see Fulbright website

www.fulbright.co.uk/eas

Most American universities will require that applicants take one of the following admissions tests:

SAT: Scholastic Assessment Test

www.collegeboard.com

ACT: American College Testing Programme

www.act.org