



**Princethorpe
College**

UCAS

Options after 6th Form – a guide for Parents

**Jacqui Quinney
Ben Collie**



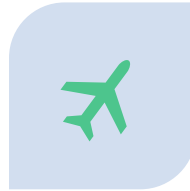
Choices available



Higher
education



Apprenticeships



Studying
abroad



Gap year



Getting a job



Timeline – what happens when....

This term – University Open Days, researching options, planning work experience

End of term – predicted grades issued

Summer – writing the personal statement

September onwards – university applications submitted through UCAS

November onwards – applications for degree apprenticeship schemes



Deadlines

University applications:

- Oxford/Cambridge - 15 October
- Medicine/Dentistry/Veterinary - 15 October
- All other applications – 14 January (BUT advised to complete by the end of November)

Degree Apprenticeships

- Deadlines vary – check with employers



How to decide.....



Visit university Open Days – these are open for booking now and take place throughout May, June and start of July.



Organise work experience placements/conversations with people working in the sector you are interested in



Research, research, research.....use Unifrog



Meeting with Careers Team – offered to all



Degree Apprenticeships



a real alternative to studying full time



No course fee and paid a salary



If interested stay for the next talk – a real apprentice will be here to share his experience.



Choosing the right university

- **Style** – from the traditional, with a focus on subject-based courses and research, to modern universities, with a greater focus on vocational courses.
- **Location** – some are based in large cities, others in smaller towns - a major influence on the environment and lifestyle.
- **Size** – larger universities can have more than 20,000 students, whereas some of the smallest have only a few thousand.
- **Culture and facilities** – influenced by a range of factors, including the diversity of students who attend.
- **What graduates do** – all universities collect destination statistics. It can be interesting to find out the types of jobs or further study students go on to.
- **Tuition fees** – can vary between course providers. Check if there are any scholarships or bursaries available.
- **Living costs** – accommodation, transport, and food can vary enormously.



Choosing the right course

- What does the course cover?
- Courses with the same title may be very different.
- Look carefully at the core course content, and the range of optional studies/modules available.
- Which modules are the most interesting and relevant to career aspirations?
- See if the course or university/college offers any internship, placement, or study abroad opportunities.
- How is the course taught – structured teaching, or more independent research? How many lectures are there, and how much group work will be done in seminars?
- How is the course assessed?



Entry requirements

- Check these carefully and be mindful of predicted grades
- A Level/BTEC requirements will be given in grades or tariff points
- Some universities make alternative offers if EPQ or Core Maths offered
- Some flexibility on results day – be aspirational with at least 2/3 choices
- Also check GCSE requirements – some courses are very specific (e.g. GCSE 6 in Maths or English for some courses – they will not budge on these)
- •Look at historic grade data




Law, Bristol A*AA

Predicted grades

- • PG's will be decided through a combination of your mock exams and your work throughout the year so far
- • These will affect which universities you can apply to
- • You can be aspirational – one or two grades higher
- • Some will offer lower if studying EPQ and Core Maths
- • Tariff points can be useful as can include EPQ, Core Maths
- • Contextual offers – check if you are eligible



Historic grade data

Applying - key facts

- Register with UCAS via the Hub
- Use your username and password to apply online
- Students can add up to 5 choices, unless they're applying to study medicine, veterinary, medicine/science, dentistry – then it's 4 choices
- Students can't apply to BOTH Oxford and Cambridge
- Applying costs £28.50
- Apply by the equal consideration date – 29 January 2024
- Providers can't see other choices when you apply



Making an application

Sections to be completed:

- Personal details
- Contact and residency details
- Work experience
- Education
- Nationality details
- English language skills
- Supporting information
- Personal statement
- Choices – make up to five
- References
- Finance and funding
- Diversity and inclusion (for students with a UK home address)

UCAS

2020 Undergraduate application

Your personal ID is 1234567890

33%

Submit

My profile

Profile overview

Before starting your application:

- completing your application
- applicants applying through a school, college or organisation
- applicants applying as an individual
- deadlines for submitting your application

Centre information

You are not linked to a centre. Use the link below to link your application to your centre. Link to a school, college or centre

Personal details

Name, age, date and gender

Section complete

Contact and residency details

Address, email, telephone and other you live

Section complete

Work experience

Employment past, unpaid or volunteer work

Section in progress

Education

Qualifications and periods of study

Start this section

Nationality details

Employment and nationalities

Start this section

Supporting information

Do that provides links to help you during your study

Start this section

English language skills

Is English your first language?

Start this section

Finance and funding

Tell us how you'll fund your study

Section complete

Diversity and inclusion

Only shared with a centre that you have chosen your application is shared

Start this section

Application questions

Personal statement

Why do you want to study this subject?

Section in progress

Choices

Choose details

Section complete

Reference

Provide details of your referees

Start this section

The personal statement



The only section students have full control over



Students only chance to market themselves individually



The same for all choices



A maximum of 4,000 characters, or 47 lines



A minimum of 1,000 characters



There isn't a spelling or grammar check



No formatting is allowed

UCAS' similarity detection service:
every personal statement is run through software to check for plagiarism.



Completing the UCAS application



Students register for a UCAS Hub account



Student complete their application – working their way through all sections and send it to their school/college



Teachers/advisers review the application and add reference and predicted grades



Applications are sent to UCAS by the school on behalf of the student



Universities/colleges make their decisions



Decisions

Universities and colleges will review the:



personal statement



qualifications



**reference and predicted
grades**

They may also ask for:



admissions test



interview



portfolio/audition



Replies to offers

Once students have decisions from all their choices, they can hold a maximum of two offers:

- one as a 'firm' acceptance – their first choice
- the other as an 'insurance' acceptance. This acts as a back-up if they don't get into their 'firm' choice

They must then decline any remaining offers.

Once all decisions and replies have been made, if students aren't holding an offer, they may be able to use Extra or Clearing to find available places.



Other options



Extra (Feb – Jul)

- Used all five choices and had no offers.
- Add Extra choices for consideration one at a time in Track.

Clearing (Jul – Oct)

- Apply after 30 June, receive no offers, decline all offers, not met conditions.
- Find vacancies from early July, and add a Clearing choice to their application.



Gap Year

- Lots of opportunities
- More time to decide on future
- Gain work experience or life experience
- University entry can be deferred

What should students be doing now?

- Research on Unifrog.org
- Book University Open Days (May – July)
- supercurricular activities – e.g. extra reading, MOOCs
- work experience/volunteering – essential for some
- focus on this year's studies – predicted grades are vital



How can you support them?

Research

Use the parents/guardians' section of the UCAS website at www.ucas.com/parents.

Sign up

Sign up for parent updates from UCAS and get everything you need to know about the application process direct to your inbox.

Open days

Attend virtual events and open days with your young person – you may have a different perspective.

Be proactive

Make sure they read everything carefully that is sent to them and don't book holidays at key times!



- [Home - Student - Unifrog](#)