



The UCAS process

*Giving yourself the best
chance*

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Overview

- *Some context*
- *What are the options? How to choose?*
- *What is UCAS and how does it work?*
- *What are Admissions Tutors looking for?*

Some statistics

- *535,175 placed through UCAS in 2016 (0.5% increase) – more than ever*
- *27.2% of 18 year old men enter HE. **36.8% of 18 year old women do.***
- *More offers than ever (1.9 million) – 4th consecutive year of significant increase. 94% who make 5 choices receive at least one offer*
- *Applicants are **28% more likely** to have five offers in 2015 than in 2012, and **52% more likely** than in 2011.*
- *386,300 achieved their firm place; 72% of those placed*

Some statistics

Application rates for 2014 entry

Subject	Applications	Accepts	Ratio
Medicine	84,850	7,680	11.0
History	52,935	9,685	5.5
Business	65,715	13,720	4.8
Law	103,220	19,340	5.3
Mechanical Engineering	49,320	7,885	6.3
Agriculture	7,265	2,175	3.3

Why bother?

- *A personal challenge!*
- *Follow a vocation*
- *Get ahead in the jobs market*
- *Increase earning potential*
- *Develop skills and gain confidence*
- *Have more money over your lifetime*
- *Have fun!*

How to choose?

Starting Points....

- Identify your academic strengths and weaknesses*
- Why do you enjoy particular subjects?*
- Think about your career ambitions*

Things to consider...

- Identify subjects you enjoy and excel at
 - You're there for 3 years or more!
- Find out about course structure
 - Lectures, seminars, class sizes, assessment procedures
- Grade requirements?
 - The UCAS Tariff – entry grades can vary greatly
- Work placements
 - Is there an option for a placement year in industry / study abroad options
- Keep an open mind
 - Remember there are **40,000+** courses at over **320** locations that you could choose

What are the options?

- *Location*
- *Support and advice*
 - *Personal tutors, welfare support, peer assisted study groups*
- *Facilities and the ‘student life’*
 - *Think about libraries, I.T. provision as well as the Students’ Union*
- *Cost of Living*
- *University Open Days*
 - *Visit as many as you can, and think about questions to ask in advance*

Where to research...

- *UCAS - University and Colleges Admissions Service*
 - *www.ucas.com* – contains details of ALL courses
- *Independent guides – e.g. Heap, Times, Virgin*
- *University websites / prospectuses*
- *League tables*
- *Admissions tutors*
- *Endorsements – from friends or teachers*

What is UCAS?

- *Universities and Colleges Admissions Service*
- *Handles all applications to UK HE institutions (and others...!)*
- *Apply, Extra, Clearing*

What is UCAS?

- *Five choices, applications 'blind'*
- *Conditional and unconditional*
- *Interviews and portfolios*
- *Firm and insurance*

What are we looking for?

Admissions Tutors look for:

- *Intellectual/creative ability*
- *Whether you suit the course*
- *Evidence of motivation and commitment*
- *Well-rounded applicants*
- *Extra-curricular activities*
- *Passion!*

They will use:

- *Your academic profile*
- *Predicted A Level/BTEC results*
- *GCSEs*
- *Personal statement*
- *Reference*

Personal statements

- *The only personal information an Admissions tutor will get from the applicant*
- *Most courses do not interview*
- *Should there be an interview process, the personal statement may well be the basis for it*
- *The applicant's chance to impress and differentiate themselves*

What do we want to see?

- *Commitment to, interest in and enthusiasm for the subject*
 - *approximately 75% dedicated to academic content (dependent on subject/university – higher in some cases)*
- *Consider your audience*
 - *admissions tutors*
- *Be analytical and reflective – not merely descriptive*
- *Illustrate your relevant skills and abilities*
- *Highlight your work experience!*
- *Demonstrate that you understand what the course you have applied for entails...*

The reference

What's needed from teachers and tutors?

- Informed and academic assessment of the applicant's suitability for further study*
- Predicted and accurate grades for each subject of study*
- Comments on applicant's maturity, attitude, and readiness*

Summary

- *There is no 'best place' for anything*
- *It is still competitive for popular courses*
- *Importance of visiting*
- *Strong personal statements and references can make a real difference*



Questions?

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**KEEP
IN TOUCH**

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