

The Application Time Scale 2023 - 2024



- **Mid May:** UCAS opens for business for students
- **Early September:** UCAS ready to process completed applications
- **16 October:** deadline for Oxford, Cambridge, medicine, dentistry and veterinary science

Internal deadline: End of September

- **31 January:** deadline for all other applications

Internal deadline: Before Xmas holidays

- Please note: Our internal deadlines are earlier to allow for processing applications.



Getting started

To start your application you will need to have registered on the UCAS Hub and you will need the UCAS buzzword:

camdengirls2024

- Students should be in the process of:
 - Researching courses on Unifrog and the UCAS Hub www.ucas.com
 - Exploring university websites
 - Attending university open days in person and online.



Oxbridge

- Oxford and Cambridge are looking for students who:
 - Have a strong profile at GCSE
 - Are working at or close to the top of their classes at A level
 - Are predicted A/A* grades in their A level subjects
 - Show a genuine, deep-seated interest in the subject
 - Read around the subject and beyond the curriculum



▪ **Additional Tests**

- **Medicine, Dentistry:** BMAT and/or UCAT
- **Law:** LNAT
- UCAT and LNAT - register on their websites and sit tests at external centres
- **Oxford and Cambridge:** admissions tests for almost all subjects - you need to check!
- **BMAT and Oxbridge tests** take place in school on 18th, 19th and 20th October
- **Cambridge applicants** will also be sent an additional online form to complete by October 22



Additional stuff

- **In early November, Oxford and Cambridge will request samples of work for all Arts and most Humanities subjects**
- **Other universities, such as Imperial, UCL, Manchester and Birmingham, may also ask you to sit tests, fill in extra forms or request samples of work for some subjects –you must check**



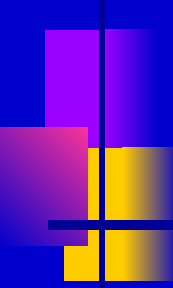
How to apply if you want a gap year

- There are two/three alternative ways of applying if you want a gap year. You can:
 - apply in Year 13 for entry in September 2025 – this is called deferred entry
 - Apply in year 13 for entry in 2024 and arrange a deferral later
 - wait until after you have finished your A Levels and apply in 2024-25 for entry in September 2025 – this is called post-qualification application



Course and University Choices

- You have 5 choices to make and they are not ranked
- High demand universities and courses
- Russell Group - 24
- Vocational/non-vocational
- Use Unifrog and the UCAS Hub and their **Course Search Tools**



The UCAS Online Application

- Long form with 13 sections in which you tell your universities all about yourself
- As well as your personal details, you'll enter any previous schools, your GCSE grades and then this school and the A levels and EPQ you are taking. The grades for these are entered as pending because you don't have them yet.
- You can apply for up to 5 universities – You do not list them in order of preference
- Would-be medics, vets and dentists can only apply for 4 such courses and must apply for at least one alternative
- You have to pay! £27.00 to UCAS
- When you 'send' your application, it comes to Ms Bayley to check and approve so do not worry - you have a safety net!
- TIP - Use a private email address, not your school email.



Personal Statement

Your personal statement is the most time consuming element of the application form. It is your chance to show an admissions tutor that you are genuinely interested in the course for which you are applying

- You have 47 lines (4000 characters including spaces) in font 11.
- The same personal statement goes to all five universities so you **can't** tailor it to suit each one.
- There is no such thing as a perfect personal statement and there are many different opinions out there about what makes a good one. Try not to get bogged down in these! As long as you write something which is honest, relevant, accurate and sounds like you, it should be fine.
- Once you are happy with your statement, you paste it into the relevant section of the UCAS form.....and breathe a sigh of relief!



Personal Statement tips

- Don't expect to produce a flawless first draft - be prepared to listen to advice and re-draft
- Do not feel you have to write in an over-sophisticated style. Keep the style simple and clear so you come across as genuine
- Avoid listing (books you have read, podcasts you've listened to), choose those that have interested you and go into detail about how you have pursued this interest.
- In terms of balance, if you are applying for an academic subject, at least three quarters of the statement should be about your academic interests. The final quarter can be extra curricular. For vocational subjects, especially Medicine, you'll need to focus on experience and skills more heavily.
- Don't be tempted to copy from examples – UCAS uses plagiarism software



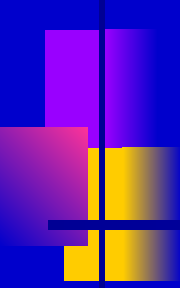
References

Your reference is an important part of the application.

It is written by your subject teachers and your form tutor and attached to your UCAS application before submission.

But, very importantly, it is informed by YOU - Google Forms - coming soon

You do not have to request a reference or attach it yourself.



What do Admissions tutors look for in a subject reference?

- Details of specific pieces of work, tests and achievement
- Details of subject specific reading or activities undertaken outside of curriculum



What do Admissions tutors look for in a tutor reference?

- Mitigating circumstances that have affected achievement or that students have overcome in order to achieve, such as:
 - being a young carer
 - health issues/disability
 - difficulties with schooling or housing
- Relevant work experience and/or difficulties in securing WE
- Extra and super curricular activities and interests which suggest you would be a good fit for the course you have chosen



Contextual Offers

- This is when a university makes a lower offer based on a student's background.
- We no longer qualify for blanket contextual offers from any particular university.
- It is always worth checking if a university might consider you for a contextual offer and there are several schemes which enable you to apply for one.
- They look at your previous school's results, your postcode, whether you have been in care, fsm, bursary etc



Predicted Grades

- These are decided by your subject teachers, form a key part of your reference and are based on your performance in year 12.
- Admissions tutors take very seriously your GCSE results, and your predicted grades.



How do I pay for university?

- You do not apply for finance on your UCAS form.
- Student loans are applied for next spring through Student Finance England.
- University costs the same (pretty much) wherever you go in terms of the tuition fees, but some places are much cheaper to live in than others and it is worth factoring this into your choices

Things to do during the summer and early autumn term



- Think about the sort of course that might suit you
- Research universities and visit
- Begin your online application form using the buzzword on slide 2
- Keep focused on your studies
- Read around your subjects to broaden your knowledge and to discover new areas of interest
- If you are considering Oxford, Cambridge, Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Medicine, see Ms Bayley
- If you are not applying early, do not just sit back and wait until Christmas!