

# University and College Guidance





# UK University Admissions Process

# Outline of this session:

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- Terminology and jargon
- Types of institutions in the UK
- The UK model of higher education
- UK application statistics
- Researching universities and courses
- Online application form (UCAS)
- Brexit – what we know so far
- Finance
- Factors affecting successful admissions



# Terminology and jargon - significant terms

- Lectures v Seminars v Tutorials
- Campus v City (Civic)
- Halls of residence
- Deferred entry
- Conditional offer
- Clearing
- Oxbridge
- Undergraduate
- UCAS







# Campus – Queen's University Belfast





# Civic – The University of Manchester





# Modern





# Traditional



# Types of Institution

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- **Ancient:** Oxford (1096), Cambridge, St. Andrews, Glasgow, Aberdeen, Dublin (1692)
- **Red Brick:** (Civic Universities 1850 – 1900s): Birmingham, Bristol, Liverpool, Manchester, Sheffield, Leeds
- **Plate Glass:** (technology and specialisation - Early 60s): Bath, Essex, Warwick, York, Aston, Lancaster, Sussex, Brunel, Loughborough and Strathclyde
- **Newer:** (Converted polytechnics – 1990s) Bath Spa, Leeds Beckett, Liverpool John Moores, Northumbria, Northampton, University of the Arts London
- **Recently created Universities:** University of Chester, Queen Margaret University
- Innovative courses e.g. computer games design, forensic science etc



# London

There are a total of 47 universities in London including the art and music schools.

- **University of London** is a collegiate research university consisting of 18 colleges and 9 research institutes. The largest colleges of the university are:

**UCL, King's, Queen Mary, City, Birkbeck, LSE,  
Royal Holloway, Goldsmiths and SOAS**



**UNIVERSITY  
OF LONDON**

- The specialist colleges of the university include the **London Business School**, the **Royal Veterinary College**, **St George's** (medical school) and **Heythrop** (philosophy and theology)
- **Imperial** was formerly a member before leaving the university in 2007

# Russell Group

These 24 Universities receive 2/3 of the UK's research grants...

**Birmingham, Bristol, Cambridge, Cardiff, Durham, Edinburgh, Exeter,**

**Glasgow, Imperial College London, King's College London, Leeds,**

**Liverpool, London School of Economics, Manchester, Newcastle,**

**Nottingham, Oxford, Queen Mary University of London, Queen's Belfast,**

**Sheffield, Southampton, University College London, Warwick and York.**

*Competitive: 35 – 42 IB diploma points*



# A UK model of undergraduate higher education

- **Academic Year:** September – July
- **BA/BSc** - England/Wales/ N.Ireland (Three Years)
- **MA/MSc** - Scotland (Four Years)
- **LLB** – Law (Three Years) stage 1 of 3 qualification stages
- **MBBS** - Medicine 5+      **BVSc** – vet science 5+      **BDS** – dentist 5+

- Single, Joint or Combined honours?

**Single:** BA (hons) History

**Combined / Joint:** BSc (hons) Psychology and Criminology (3 or 4 years)

**Flexible honours** – less common, allows a range of subjects not normally combined

- **Sandwich** – a year in industry or abroad
- **Liberal Arts Programmes** - New to the UK, this is a US style of education where students tailor a degree, usually within Arts and Social Sciences.

# Most BIS matriculations:

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- University College London (UCL) **(10)**
- University of Warwick **(7)**
- University of Edinburgh **(7)**
- King's College London **(5)**
- London School of Economics and Social Science (LSE) **(5)**
- University of Manchester **(5)**
- University of Exeter **(4)**



# Researching Colleges and Courses

Where do I start?

Creativity Perspective  
Judgment Curiosity  
Honesty Bravery Fairness  
PERSEVERANCE Teamwork HUMOR Zest  
Love Kindness Leadership  
Social Intelligence Love of Learning  
Forgiveness HOPE PRUDENCE  
Appreciation of Beauty & Excellence Humility  
Spirituality SELF-REGULATION Gratitude  
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3 Subject:

2 Provider:

Location:

1 I normally live\*:

Available in\*:  Clearing 2013  2013  2014 4

# UK University offers (IB world average score = 29.95)

▪ Architecture	Manchester	37 + 666 HL + portfolio
▪ Business Studies	Leeds Beckett	28 + 4 in SL Maths
▪ Art and Design	Glasgow School of Art	Full IB diploma + portfolio
▪ Management	Manchester	35 + 655 in HLs
▪ Biomedical Sciences	Brunel (UoL)	30 + 5 in HL Biology
▪ Nutritional Science	Nottingham	32 + 5 in HL Chem and Bio
▪ Architecture	Bristol (UWE)	<b>144 UCAS Tariff points</b>

## UCAS Tariff Points:

This allocates points for each subject studied, regardless of whether the full diploma is awarded.

HL 4 = 24 points

HL 5 = 32 points

HL 6 = 48 points

SL 4 = 12 points

SL 5 = 16 points

Extended Essay D = 6 points

\* *Competitive UK universities do not use the tariff system*



# UCAS Application Form



## The Student - 6 sections

- 1. Personal Details
- 2. Choices [5 universities or courses]
- 3. Qualifications [IGCSE grades]
- 4. IB subjects being studied [Pending grades]
- 5. Personal academic statement [4,000 characters]
- 6. Agree to terms, conditions and payment [1 million dong directly to school cashier]

**\* Students SHOULD declare education needs as UK universities are very good at providing support. It will not affect admission.**

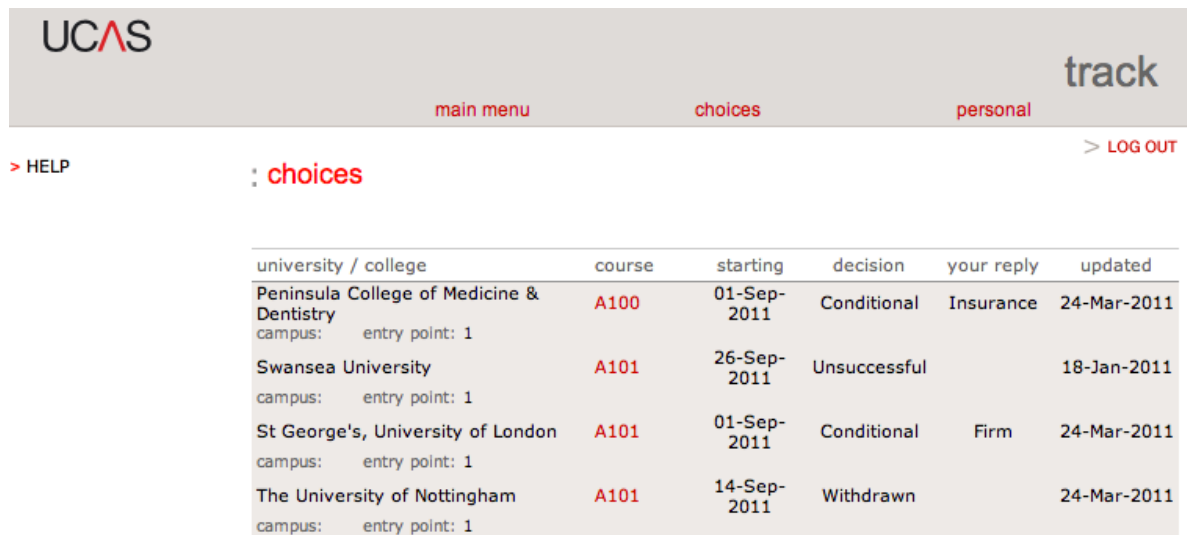
A screenshot of the UCAS 'Education' section of the application form. The page has a white background with a light blue header. The UCAS logo is in the top left, and 'apply Education' is in the top center. In the top right, there are links for 'Contact us', 'Help', and 'Print page', and a '<Log out' button. A left-hand navigation menu lists sections: Welcome, Personal details, Choices, Education (highlighted in red), Employment, Statement, Reference, Pay/Send, View all details, Help, and Options/Opslynu. The main content area is titled 'Welcome > Education > Where have you studied?'. It includes a warning: 'Compulsory fields are marked with an asterisk (\*). Before leaving this page click 'save' to avoid losing any of your information.' The form fields include: 'School or college name\*' (text input with a 'find' button), 'Exam centre number' (text input), 'When did you start...\*' (Month and Year dropdowns), '...and finish?' (Month and Year dropdowns), 'Attendance\*' (radio buttons for full-time, part-time, and sandwich), and 'Did you (will you) receive any formal qualifications at this school?' (Please select dropdown). At the bottom of the form are 'save' and 'cancel' buttons. A 'Key' section at the bottom left shows checkboxes for 'Completed', 'In progress', and 'Not started', along with a 'Help' link. At the very bottom, there are links for 'About us', 'Terms & conditions', and 'Privacy statement', and a 'Copyright © UCAS' notice.

# UCAS Application Form

## Application process

### The School

- 1. Submit IB predicted scores of the subjects the student listed
- 2. Submit recommendation
- 3. Check qualifications, approve application, check payment and send to UCAS
- 4. Use UCAS Track to follow up on offers, interviews and reply dates.



The screenshot shows the UCAS Track website interface. At the top, the UCAS logo is on the left, and the word 'track' is on the right. Below the logo, there are navigation links: 'main menu', 'choices', and 'personal'. In the top right corner, there is a '> LOG OUT' link. Below the navigation, there is a '> HELP' link and a ': choices' link. The main content area displays a table with the following columns: 'university / college', 'course', 'starting', 'decision', 'your reply', and 'updated'. The table contains four rows of application offers.

university / college	course	starting	decision	your reply	updated
Peninsula College of Medicine & Dentistry campus: entry point: 1	A100	01-Sep-2011	Conditional	Insurance	24-Mar-2011
Swansea University campus: entry point: 1	A101	26-Sep-2011	Unsuccessful		18-Jan-2011
St George's, University of London campus: entry point: 1	A101	01-Sep-2011	Conditional	Firm	24-Mar-2011
The University of Nottingham campus: entry point: 1	A101	14-Sep-2011	Withdrawn		24-Mar-2011

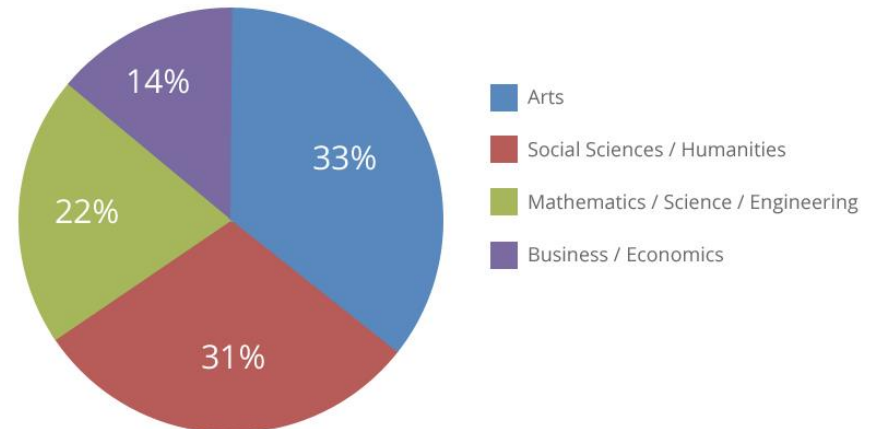
# Factors affecting choice

## Look at the course as well as the university

- Alternative prospectuses
- General Student Chatrooms
- Old or New
- Large or Small
- Location
- Culture
- Diversity
- Housing
- Mode of Instruction
- Facilities
- Connect with Alumni
- Academic requirements



University Destination by Subject Area

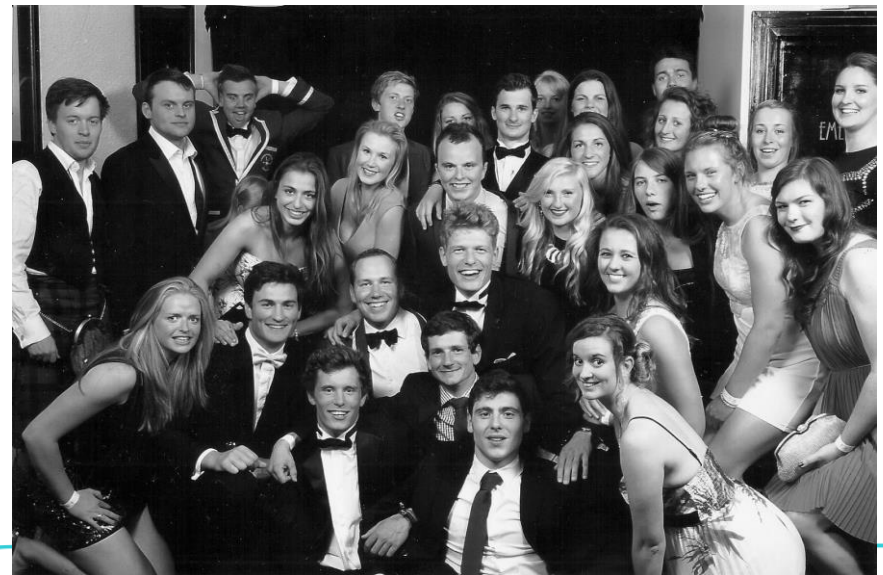




# The 'best' university is the one that is a great fit.

There is no one way to decide as we all have different priorities

- Teacher student ratio
- Student satisfaction surveys
- Facilities –teaching, sports or otherwise
- Cost
- Employment prospects for graduates
- Ranking or reputation (academic peer review)
- Connections or networking
- Popularity
- Innovative teaching (Reuters ranking)
- Proportion of international students or faculty
- Academic citations
- Positive feel, peer review, speciality...



# Factors affecting choice

Attend the fairs and meet the reps!



# Factors affecting choice

Don't skip the research



the guardian

## University league tables 2016

### UK universities ranked

Subject area:  [How to use these tables](#) [Find out more about studying nursing](#)

Rank 2016	Institution	Guardian score/100	Satisfied with course	Satisfied with teaching	Satisfied with feedback
1	Glasgow	100	97	97.0	93.4





# Factors affecting choice

Visit if you possibly can



# Brexit

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## No financial changes for international fee paying students

- It has been confirmed that students from the EU applying to courses starting in 2018 at universities in England and Wales will not see any changes to their loan eligibility or fee status. This guarantee will apply for the full duration of their course, even if the course finishes after the date the UK leaves the EU.
- EU students enrolling in Scotland in 2018-19 are guaranteed free tuition for the duration of their courses. Just announced that this arrangement will continue for students commencing courses in 2019-2020.

# Financial Factors

## The UK is not a 'scholarship' study destination

It is wise at this stage to have an open and frank family discussion about how much you can afford, as all students are expected to pay all of the fees.

University Course	Tuition: Home	Tuition: International
Bradford Peace Studies	£9,250	£14,950
Sheffield Geography	£9,250	£18,000
Manchester Art History	£9,250	£18,000
Bath Engineering	£9,250	£19,000
LSE Economics	£9,250	£19,152
Cambridge Music	£9,250	£25,119
		(College Fees)
St Andrew's Medicine	£9,250 (Eng/W/NI)	£ 1820 (Scottish/EU) £30,080

\* Does not include accommodation



# Factors affecting admissions

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## What will they consider?

### Firstly:

- IGCSE grades or MYP scores if the student has them
- IELTS or other if necessary
- IB predicted grades

### Secondly:

- Academic reference
- Personal academic statement - 70% Academic, 30% other (For Oxbridge 90% - 10%)

### Possibly:

- Interview – very rarely for the UK apart from Oxbridge, Medicine/Dentistry, Education, Portfolio – Art, Design, Architecture
- Audition – music or drama

# Factors affecting admissions

## Choice of course matters

- The more popular a course, the harder it will be to get an offer.
- Many course are very similar in nature and content but one is more popular:

*For example;*

*International Relations at King's is very popular and you will require 36/7 but History is less popular and you may be offered 34/35. The course is taught out of the same faculty, has many overlapping modules, classes and professors*

*A straight Economics degree at Edinburgh has a 'typical offer' of 43 points, but Economics with Chinese is 38, with Arabic is 36, or combined with Geography is 37*

# Factors affecting admissions

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Most UK universities will make an offer if the student has the stated **grade** requirements

Exceptions to this are the most competitive Russell Group universities who have admissions rates of as low as 8% in some years:

- **Oxford**
- **Cambridge**
- **LSE**
- **Imperial**
- **UCL**
- **King's**
- **Edinburgh**
- **St. Andrews (not Russell Group)**



# Responding to offers

## How and when to reply

- If you have received responses from all of your universities by March 31st, you will be expected to reply by May 2nd
- You may accept two offers but they are stepped acceptances:
  1. You 'firm' your first choice
  2. If can also accept an 'insurance' offer which will become firm automatically if you do not meet the conditions of the first choice university (so this should be a lower offer)

**Both offers are conditional so if you don't meet the conditions the place may be forfeit**

- If you do receive ANY offers, you can use **UCAS Extra**
- If you fail to meet the conditions of **both the firm and the insurance** offers you are automatically entered into **clearing**, where students are match to spare places. It is possible to find a suitable place through clearing but competitive universities tend not to participate
- **Adjustment**

# Further Tests?

Some courses require further tests which can usually be administered here in school

- **LNAT**    **Law**                      **8 universities in the UK**                      **Y13: by end November**
- **UKCAT**    **Medicine**                      **25 universities**                      **End of Y12: July to September**
- **BMAT**    **Medicine**                      **4 universities**                      **Y13: November**

## **Oxbridge Admissions Tests:**

**These are subject specific and either taken at the interview in Singapore or in school in November, if you are asking for a UK interview**

SAT or ACT are not tests which are required for the UK

# Oxbridge



- All A\* and As at IGCSE
- Predicted 39 (Oxford) or 41 (Cambridge) above with 7,7,6 at HLs - *predictions based on end of Year 12 grades*



- Strong result on the **aptitude test** and the **interview**
- Strong passion for **subject** - beyond the curriculum activities
- Demonstrated **evidence of extension beyond** the IB HL course

*A costly application as expected to attend interview (4-5 days)*

*Notoriously hard to predict the outcome as student with 45 points predicted regularly get rejected*





Questions?