

# PARENTS' UCAS INFORMATION EVENING

18<sup>th</sup> July 2017



# Outline of Session

- **Why Higher Education?**
- **The UCAS application process.**
- **Making a successful application and the importance of a strong personal statement.**
- **Target Grades vs. Predicted Grades.**
- **Student Finance.**
- **Studying Abroad.**



# Why Higher Education?

- **Chance to study a subject they are passionate about.**
- **Achieve a qualification that will lead to their chosen career.**
- **Gain confidence, independence, and important life skills that will widen their prospects.**
- **Making lifelong friends**



# Researching Courses

- Your son or daughter can use the UCAS search tool

[www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)

- There is help for parents too.

[www.ucasdigital.com/widgets/parents\\_tool/index.html#/home](http://www.ucasdigital.com/widgets/parents_tool/index.html#/home)



# UCAS Tariff

Tariff Points	GCE AS	GCE A Level	BTEC (QCF) Subsidiary Diploma	BTEC (QCF) Certificate	OCR Cambridge Technical	Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)
56		A*	D*		D*	
48		A	D		D	
40		B				
32		C	M		M	
28				D*		A*
24		D		D		A
20	A					B
16	B	E	P	M	P	C
12	C					D
10	D					
8				P		E
6	E					



# The Teaching Excellence Framework

- The Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) has been introduced by Government to encourage excellent teaching in universities and colleges. It is intended to help students choose where to study, by providing clear information about teaching provision and student outcomes
- **Gold, Silver, Bronze ratings are awarded to HE providers**
- **gold** for delivering consistently outstanding teaching, learning, and outcomes for its students. It is of the highest quality found in the UK
- **silver** for delivering high quality teaching, learning, and outcomes for its students. It consistently exceeds rigorous national quality requirements for UK higher education
- **bronze** for delivering teaching, learning, and outcomes for its students that meet rigorous national quality requirements for UK higher education

<https://www.ucas.com/ucas/undergraduate/choosing-course/how-choose-between-undergraduate-courses-and-unis/teaching-excellence-framework-tef-what-you-need-know-courses-starting-2018>



# Other things to consider

- **Finance – course fees, grants, travel and living costs**
- **Accommodation – university halls or private residences?**
- **Extra curricular activities**



# Visit, visit, visit ...



Introducing the new UCAS open days search tool – get some dates in your students diaries:  
[www.ucas.com/open-days](http://www.ucas.com/open-days)

UCAS





# [www.ucas.com/ucas/undergraduate/getting-started/events-and-open-days/virtual-tours](http://www.ucas.com/ucas/undergraduate/getting-started/events-and-open-days/virtual-tours)

UCAS Advisers Providers Corporate Events Connect

**UCAS** At the heart of connecting people to higher education

Next event: **Ayrshire higher education convention**  
Apt, 8 Sep 2015 • More events

Keyword search

Exploring university Conventions and exhibitions Conferences Training for advisers & providers

Home > Events > Exploring university > Virtual tours

Find open days  
Learn about uni on a tester course  
Open days tips  
**Virtual tours**

**UCAS Events on Twitter**

about 41 days ago @  
[@UCASDesign](#) welcomes some new exhibitors in November @[LondonMebel](#) @[\\_DooW](#) @[AcademyofCollege](#) @[@itsUCAS](#) Find out more on [us.CRM50](#)

about 74 days ago @  
Thank you to @[Ets\\_Hotels](#) The Met Hotel @[Etsia](#) for hosting another conference for us.

about 74 days ago @  
Thank you to all who attended @[UCASCompetitive](#) Admissions in @[Etsia](#) it's been a great conference! What were the best bits for you?

Follow us on Twitter

## Virtual tours

View published

We realise that not everyone can attend an open day, but it's pretty important to see where you'll be studying and possibly living.

So here's a list of virtual tours and videos from universities and colleges so you can see what it's like on campus and what facilities are available.

If the uni/college you're interested in isn't listed, take a look at their website or YouTube channel instead.

Click on a university or college to view their virtual tour or video.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

**A**

- [University of Aberdeen](#)
- [Aberystwyth University](#)
- [Anglia Ruskin University](#)
- [Arts University Bournemouth \(formerly University College\)](#)
- [Aston University, Birmingham](#)

**B**

- [Bangor University](#)
- [University of Bedfordshire](#)
- [Birmingham City University](#)

CALL OUR CLEARING TEAM  
**01227 540980**

 Canterbury Christ Church University



# HOW TO APPLY

- Log onto [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com) – students have been registering over the course of the last few weeks. **THEY NEED TO REMEMBER THEIR USER NAMES & PASSWORDS!!!**
- Online application
- Personal statement
- Reference
- Pay & Send
- Checked by one of us before final submission



# KEY DATES AND APPLICATION FEES

**15<sup>th</sup> October 2017 6:00pm** This is for medicine, dentistry, or veterinary medicine. When applying for these courses students can apply for four courses for their subject area i.e. medicine and their fifth choice must be something different but related i.e. biomedical sciences.

**15<sup>th</sup> October 2017 6:00pm** One choice - Oxford or Cambridge – you can't apply to both. You would then apply for four other universities in addition.

**Main Deadline: 15<sup>th</sup> January 2018 6:00pm**

Students can apply for up to 5 courses. Some students may only wish to apply for one course and this costs- £13. If you apply for more than one course the fee is £24.



# The personal statement...

- The only section your son or daughter has control over.
- Their only chance to market themselves individually.
- One personal statement for all choices.
- Max. 4,000 characters, 47 lines
- Min. 1,000 characters
- No spelling/grammar check – students are advised to put it into a word document before transferring it to UCAS.
- No formatting



# Where to start..

- 70%-80% of the personal statement needs to be about the course being applied for.
- Show **enthusiasm** for the course and give supporting **evidence** to back this up.
- Extra curricular activities and **relevant** work experience.
- **Skills** they can use on the course – leadership, communication, team work for example.
- Allow plenty of **time** as they will have to draft, redraft and redraft again!



# What to avoid...

**The 11 most common opening lines used in personal statements during the 2016 UCAS application cycle were:**

- 1. From a young age I have (always) been [interested in/fascinated by]... [1,779]
- 2. For as long as I can remember I have... [1,451]
- 3. I am applying for this course because... [1,370]
- 4. I have always been interested in... [927]
- 5. Throughout my life I have always enjoyed... [310]
- 6. Reflecting on my educational experiences... [257]
- 7. Nursing is a very challenging and demanding [career/profession/course]... [211]
- 8. Academically, I have always been... [168]
- 9. I have always wanted to pursue a career in... [160]
- 10. I have always been passionate about... [160]
- 11. Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world... [148]



# Importance of Work Experience/Voluntary Work

- **Increasing employability skills by taking part in work experience / voluntary work / part time work / supporting clubs / playing sport competitively etc. This will also support university applications.**
- **CBI Report 2015 advised that a majority of businesses remain concerned about the preparation of school leavers in important areas including business and customer awareness (66%), self-management (61%). Many also report room for improvement in essential capabilities such as teamwork (31%).**



# References

- **References are requested from subject teachers by tutors once students have completed their personal statement.**
- **Once subject teachers have completed their references tutors will then compile a full reference to be attached to their UCAS application.**





# Targets vs. Predicted Grades

- **Target grades are calculated from prior performance and contextualised data.**
- **Predicted grades will be based on prior performance and professional judgment.**



# School Timeline

- Stage 1 (July onwards)

Students complete the online application form and start drafting Personal Statement.

- Stage 2 (2 weeks)

Once a student has completed the above they need to meet with Beckie who will check their application form and personal statement and then tell the tutor to request teacher references.

- Stage 3 (3 weeks)

Once the teachers have written their subject reference tutors will then complete the school's reference incorporating the subject references.

- Stage 4

Students will need to pay the application fee (pay and send) and arrange a meeting with Beckie or Mr Sprenkel.

- Stage 5

Students will meet with Beckie or Mr Sprenkel who will attach the school's reference and input their predicted grades, check the entire application again to ensure no mistakes and send the application to UCAS.



# How do institutions make a decision on who to give offers to?

- Predicted grades and all entry requirements satisfied
- GCSE results
- AS grades
- Personal Statement
- Reference
- Interview
- Extra assessments BMAT / UKCAT / LNAT/ MAT/ STEP
- Contextual data



Beckie Littler

# Decisions and replies

## Provider decisions:

- Unsuccessful
- Unconditional offer
- Conditional offer – qualifications and achievements and/or UCAS Tariff points

Once all decisions are received, they can hold up to two offers:

- One as their **firm** choice
- One as their **insurance** choice (if they want to)
- All other offers are declined

Track will show their **reply date** this will be based on when the last offer was received so is individual to the student.



# Other options

## **Extra** (Available from February to July)

- If all five choices have been used and they have no offers/rejected all offers.

## **Clearing** (Available from early July)

- If there are no offers, or have applied after 30 June deadline.

## **Adjustment** (from A level results day)

- If they've gained better results than the conditional offer they hold, they could apply for a different course or university.



# How can you support the application process?

- Use the parent/guardian section of the UCAS website/Parent Guide publication – [www.ucas.com/parents](http://www.ucas.com/parents) and sign up for the newsletter.
- Offer to attend open days, you may have a different perspective.
- Don't book family holidays at key times.
- Make sure they read everything carefully that is sent to them.
- Support your son's/daughter's management of their application



# 2017 Applications – What we've seen..

- **More unconditional offers being given.**
- **More contextual offers being given – linked to decline in population.**
- **Most popular courses:- business related courses, science related courses, education and social sciences.**
- **Applicants across UK down by 4% for the 2017 cycle – nursing saw the biggest decline. 18 year olds are the largest group of applicants.**





# MAINTENANCE LOAN

- **Maintenance support is available to help with living costs while in higher education.**
- **There is now only one type of support, Maintenance Loan (repayable).**
- **All students applying for University are entitled to receive some maintenance support.**
- **The amount of Maintenance Loan received depends on household income, and where you will be studying (inside or outside London).**
- **Maintenance support is broken down into three amounts which are paid directly into the students bank account each term.**



# MAINTENANCE LOAN

MAXIMUM LEVELS 2016/17



## Parental home

Live at home while you study

Up to  
**£6,904**



## Elsewhere

Live away from home & study outside London

Up to  
**£8,200**



## London

Live away from home & study in London

Up to  
**£10,702**



# Maintenance Support Packages

## Students living with their parents

Household Income	Maintenance Loan (Paid in 3 instalments –one at the start of each term)	Max Tuition Fee Loan (N.B. Not all courses cost £9,000)	Max amount borrowed per year (excluding interest)
£25,000 or under	£6,904	£9,000	£15,904
£30,000	£6,322	£9,000	£15,322
£35,000	£5,740	£9,000	£14,740
£40,000	£5,158	£9,000	£14,158
£42,875	£4,824	£9,000	£13,824
£45,000	£4,576	£9,000	£13,576
£50,000	£3,994	£9,000	£12,994
£55,000	£3,412	£9,000	£12,412
£58,201 and over	£3,039	£9,000	£12,039



# Maintenance Support Packages

**Students studying outside of London and not living with parents**

Household Income	Maintenance Loan (Paid in 3 instalments –one at the start of each term)	Max Tuition Fee Loan (N.B. Not all courses cost £9,000)	Max amount borrowed per year (excluding interest)
£25,000 or under	£8,200	£9,000	£17,200
£30,000	£7,612	£9,000	£16,612
£35,000	£7,023	£9,000	£16,023
£40,000	£6,434	£9,000	£15,434
£42,875	£6,095	£9,000	£15,095
£45,000	£5,845	£9,000	£14,845
£50,000	£5,256	£9,000	£14,256
£55,000	£4,667	£9,000	£13,667
£60,000	£4,078	£9,000	£13,078
£62,180 and over	£3,821	£9,000	£12,821



# Maintenance Support Packages

**Students studying in London and not living with their parents**

Household Income	Maintenance Loan (Paid in 3 instalments –one at the start of each term)	Max Tuition Fee Loan (N.B. Not all courses cost £9,000)	Max amount borrowed per year (excluding interest)
£25,000 or under	£10,702	£9,000	£19,702
£30,000	£10,103	£9,000	£19,103
£35,000	£9,503	£9,000	£18,503
£40,000	£8,904	£9,000	£17,904
£42,875	£8,559	£9,000	£17,559
£45,000	£8,304	£9,000	£17,304
£50,000	£7,705	£9,000	£16,705
£55,000	£7,105	£9,000	£16,105
£60,000	£6,506	£9,000	£15,506
£65,000	£5,906	£9,000	£14,906
£69,803 and over	£5,330	£9,000	£14,330



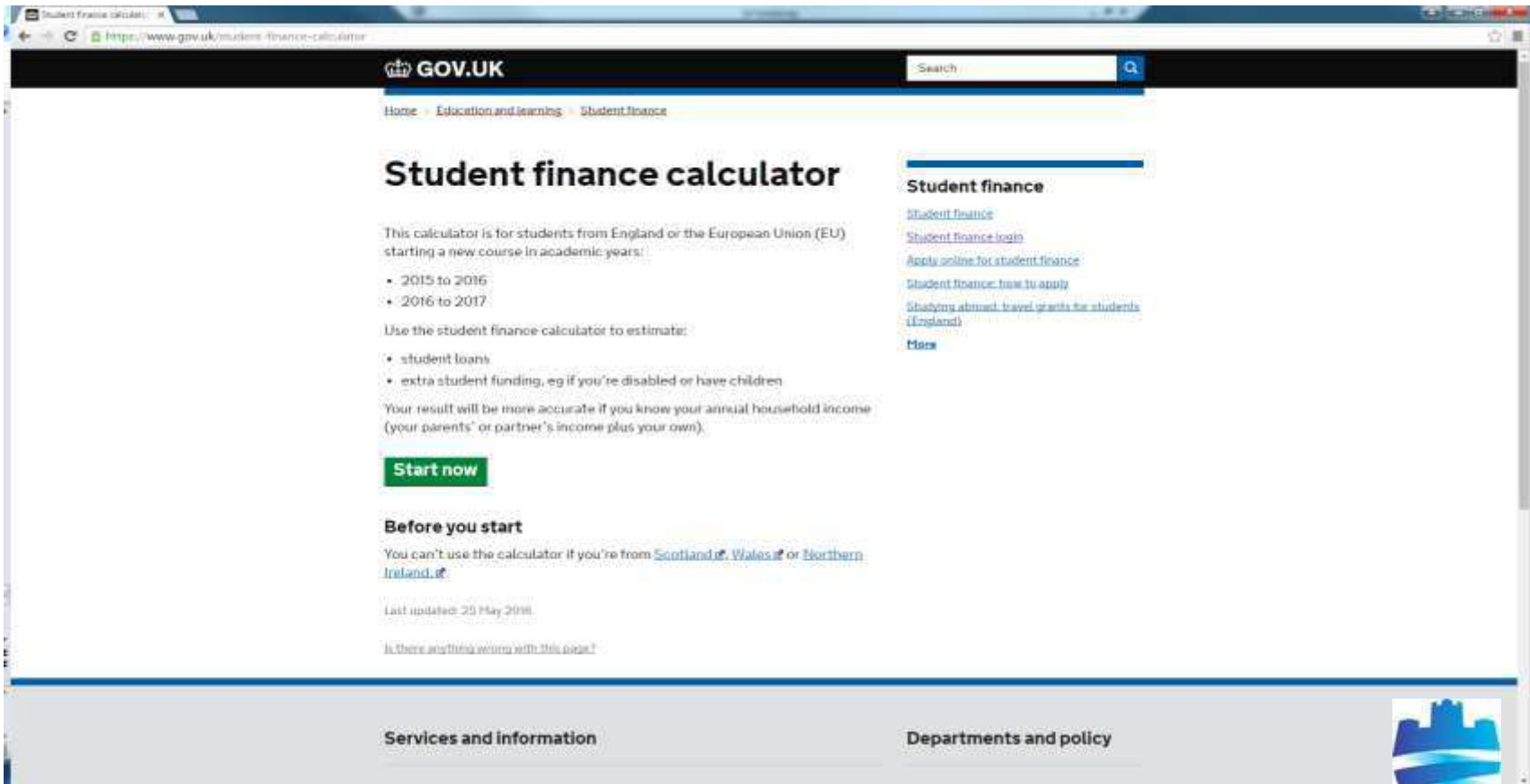
# Interest

- **Interest is charged on the loan (tuition and maintenance) from the day the first payment is made until it is fully repaid.**
- **While studying and until the April after leaving university or college, interest will be charged at the Retail Price Index (RPI) plus 3%. Essentially inflation plus an additional 3%.**
- **From the April after leaving the course if your son/daughter is earning under £21,000, interest will be charged at the RPI. If your son/daughter's wage increases to £41,000 or above, interest will be charged at the RPI plus 3%.**



# GET YOUR ESTIMATE

## www.gov.uk/student-finance-calculator



The screenshot shows the GOV.UK website for the Student finance calculator. The page has a dark blue header with the GOV.UK logo and a search bar. Below the header is a breadcrumb trail: Home > Education and learning > Student finance. The main heading is "Student finance calculator". The text explains that the calculator is for students from England or the European Union (EU) starting a new course in academic years 2015 to 2016 or 2016 to 2017. It lists uses for the calculator, such as estimating student loans and extra student funding. A green "Start now" button is prominent. A "Before you start" section notes that the calculator is not for students from Scotland, Wales, or Northern Ireland. The page footer includes "Services and information", "Departments and policy", and a blue shield logo.

Student finance calculator

GOV.UK

Home > Education and learning > Student finance

## Student finance calculator

This calculator is for students from England or the European Union (EU) starting a new course in academic years:

- 2015 to 2016
- 2016 to 2017

Use the student finance calculator to estimate:

- student loans
- extra student funding, eg if you're disabled or have children

Your result will be more accurate if you know your annual household income (your parents' or partner's income plus your own).

[Start now](#)

### Before you start

You can't use the calculator if you're from [Scotland](#), [Wales](#) or [Northern Ireland](#).

Last updated: 20 May 2016


[Is there anything wrong with this page?](#)

### Student finance

- [Student finance](#)
- [Student finance login](#)
- [Apply online for student finance](#)
- [Student finance: how to apply](#)
- [Studying abroad: travel grants for students \(England\)](#)
- [More](#)

Services and information

Departments and policy



# Another option....

- Studying abroad for example Europe, USA or Canada is becoming an increasingly popular option.
- In Europe there are an increasing amount of degree courses taught in English. It can give you the opportunity to improve your language skills and experience different cultures. Studying in Europe is a lot cheaper than the UK. There are some scholarships available.
- Studying in America is expensive however, there are a number of different types of scholarships you can apply for in particular sporting scholarships which can cover the majority of tuition fees.
- Studying in Canada is only slightly more expensive than studying in the UK. There are scholarships students can apply for.
- You are not eligible to apply for student finance for any international universities however, there are scholarship programmes available to help with the cost.
- For more information visit:- <http://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/international/>  
<http://www.eunicas.co.uk/index.php/eunicas/search.html>





# Things to think about if you study abroad....

- What legal documentation is required (Visa, residence permit etc.)?
- Are students able to work to help fund their education?
- Are they entitled to free healthcare?
- Is there a specific language requirement?
- How do you apply? For some universities you apply directly to the institution or through their equivalent to UCAS – you need to check with each institution as it will vary.  
EUNICAS <http://www.eunicas.co.uk/index.php/apply/apply-to-eunicas.html> (Europe)  
<https://www.commonapp.org/> (USA) <http://www.ouac.on.ca/> (Canada)
- What scholarships are available?
- Are there any entry exams that you need to take alongside your A Levels (American universities require you to take either you SAT or ACT exams)?



**I am available after school  
every Wednesday until  
4.30pm in the upper common  
room to assist with any  
questions/queries and to help  
with personal statements.**

