

# UCAS PRESENTATION FOR PARENTS

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Documents under:  
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# HIGHER EDUCATION IN UK

- Over 200 Universities to choose from
- Competitive entry system – each University will set its own minimum entry requirements for each course
- There is no formal conversion of the EB into the UK equivalent
- Universities will ask for an overall average in EB; can also specify marks in individual subjects.
- Most prestigious Universities will always ask for high marks
- Marks for popular subjects will be higher and applicants may need to do better than the entry requirements stated
- May specify a mark in English, particularly if it not your first language. You should not have to take an entry test in English if taking as L1 or L2.

## TUITION FEES 2018 (not confirmed for 2019-20)

- ENGLAND - £9,250 per year for UK and EU Students
- Eligible for a Fee Loan ; pay back once earning £25,000 pa
- SCOTLAND –no tuition fees for EU students living outside UK, but remember Scottish degrees are usually four years
- WALES and NORTHERN IRELAND – approx £4,000 per year

## OVERALL LIVING COSTS

- Around £10K per year, depending on where and quality of accommodation you choose
- Students usually work part-time and in their holidays
- UK nationals who were born and have lived in UK may be eligible for a Student Loan towards living costs

# UCAS APPLICATIONS

- Apply electronically in one single application early in Yr 7
- The application lists your choices alphabetically – up to 5
- Year 6 final marks (C Marks) in every subject are listed
- Write a Personal Statement (500 words) – 2/3 relating to course applied for, including work experience; 1/3 relating to other activities/interests
- School adds a Reference of around 500 words which includes predicted grades; our references are 'open'

European Baccalaureate			07/2018	© UCAS 2018
English Language 1 (Mother Tongue)	06/2017	Continuous	6Yr	7.50
Spanish Language 2	06/2017	Continuous	6Yr	9
Maths Higher (5 periods)	06/2017	Continuous	6Yr	8
Chemistry (4 period)	06/2017	Continuous	6Yr	7
Physics (4 period)	06/2017	Continuous	6Yr	8
Advanced Maths (3 period)	06/2017	Continuous	6Yr	8
Philosophy (2 period)	06/2017	Continuous	6Yr	8.5
History (in French)	06/2017	Continuous	6Yr	7.5
Geography (in French)	06/2017	Continuous	6Yr	7.5
PE	06/2017	Continuous	6Yr	9.5
English Language 1 (Mother Tongue)	07/2018	Written	7Yr	
Spanish Language 2	07/2018	Written	7Yr	
Maths Higher (5 periods)	07/2018	Written	7Yr	
Chemistry (4 period)	07/2018	Written	7Yr	
Physics (4 period)	07/2018	Written	7Yr	
Advanced Maths (3 period)	07/2018	Oral	7Yr	
Philosophy (2 period)	07/2018	Continuous	7Yr	
History (in French)	07/2018	Continuous	7Yr	
Geography (in French)	07/2018	Continuous	7Yr	
PE	07/2018	Continuous	7Yr	

# UCAS APPLICATIONS

## CLOSING DATES

- 15<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER – Oxford/Cambridge
- 15<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER – Medicine/Dentistry/Veterinary Science
- 15<sup>th</sup> JANUARY – all others (deadline for equal treatment)
- Can be an advantage to apply early
- Recommend applying before the end of November
- School will need Oxford, Cambridge and Medicine ready by end of September 2018

# UCAS APPLICATIONS

## OFFERS and CONFIRMATION

- UCAS sends results of applications – track progress on-line using your Application Number.
- When all your Universities have made their decisions, you will have to decide which 2 to keep – one Firm and one Insurance offer. This happens around Easter time.
- Results – if have met the conditions for Firm choice, place will be confirmed. May be accepted even if a little under marks required.
- Will have to go to Insurance offer if not accepted at Firm offer and you have the marks required. If you miss both offers, you can get a place in Clearing in August.

# WHICH SUBJECT?

- Subject you enjoy / are good at?
- Subject related to one you enjoy / are good at?
- Vocational degree for chosen career?
- New subject?
- Joint / Combined degree?
- Good for postgraduate study / employment?
- Includes work placement?
- Possible to include study abroad?
- Will the degree be accepted elsewhere in Europe?



# WHICH UNIVERSITY?

DO YOU LIKE THEIR COURSE?

AM I LIKELY TO GET AN OFFER?

DO I HAVE TO TAKE AN ENTRY TEST?

WHAT TYPE OF UNIVERSITY?

SOCIAL and GEOGRAPHICAL FACTORS

# ENTRY TESTS

## MEDICINE

- BMAT – written test during October/November; includes all Sciences/Maths to UK Year 5 level and an essay
- UKCAT – taken at a computer centre in summer at end of Year 6; no science content, but does test your clinical aptitude

## LAW

- LNAT – taken at a computer centre, test based on critical thinking and a short essay

OXFORD / CAMBRIDGE – tests for individual subjects, some in early November, and others at the interview.

The November tests can be taken at the school.

# TYPE OF UNIVERSITY

- COLLEGIATE – Oxford, Cambridge
- TRADITIONAL – Large Cities, e.g. Birmingham, Cardiff, Newcastle, Manchester, Southampton, Bristol, Leeds
- CAMPUS – Just outside Towns/Cities, e.g. Bath, Kent, Warwick, York, Sussex, Surrey
- LONDON – Central or suburban, e.g. Imperial, UCL, Kings, Queen Mary, Royal Holloway, SOAS, Brunel
- SCOTLAND – 4 year degrees; study 3 subjects in first year, e.g. Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Glasgow, Heriot Watt
- NEW – Previously Polytechnic/College, e.g. Oxford Brookes, Leeds Metropolitan, Roehampton
- SPECIALIST ARTS – eg Central St Martins, Guildhall

# OXFORD & CAMBRIDGE

- Oldest and most prestigious English Universities
- Highly competitive – very able applicants (top 2%)
- Need to be close to 9 overall, with 9+ in relevant subjects
- Success rate is around 20%, varies by subject
- Collegiate – live/study within a College
- Tutorial Based Learning – lots of independent private study
- Short Terms (8 weeks) – work is very intensive
- Can only apply to one, and before October 15
- Usually involves a test...
- ...then a challenging interview in December
- Not more expensive

# UK AND EUROPEAN SCHOOL STUDENTS COMPARED

- UK students typically study 3 or 4 A Levels during Years 6 and 7, so they have a high level in a few subjects. This can give ES students a disadvantage, so ES students need to focus on the key subjects for their University future. This can upset some students who see all subjects as equally important!
- UK students often choose not to study Maths, English, or Languages in Years 6 and 7. This can give ES students an advantage, e.g. Maths 3 is more than most UK students have.
- UK exams typically include short essays (30 mins) and fast multiple choice questions. ES students need to practise these for entry tests.
- UK students live and do work experience in the UK. This can give a medical or law student a better knowledge of the NHS or of the legal system. ES students need to try to compensate for this.

# STUDENTS FROM ALICANTE SCHOOL

- Around 40% of Year 7 students have made a UCAS application in recent years. Almost all are offered a suitable place. Every student in 2017 got their Firm or Insurance choice.
- Some students apply to study in English in Ireland, Holland, Belgium, USA and elsewhere.
- Several students take a 'Gap Year' and apply after their BAC.
- Some students choose degree course titles that correspond to degree courses taught in Spain to help with homologation.
- Law, Architecture and Psychology cause problems with homologation in Spain.
- To stereotype, our Spanish students choose degrees with employment in mind. UK students choose more freely.

# PREPARATION

- Use UCAS and University websites to find courses, and look carefully at the entry requirements. You may to hunt around for EB requirements, or ask them directly.
- Visit Universities, attend Open Days, talk to students, study the curriculum in detail, follow the work of the Universities that interest you, and contact them.
- Do independent academic reading about your chosen subject. This will make your Personal Statement convincing.
- Identify your key BAC subjects and give extra time to these.
- Develop roles of participation, responsibility and leadership.
- Get relevant work experience, and reflect on it.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

[www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com) – search for where can take subjects and check entry requirements; has link into university prospectuses

[www.timesonline.co.uk](http://www.timesonline.co.uk) and [www.education.guardian.co.uk](http://www.education.guardian.co.uk) – ratings of universities overall and by subject

[www.unistats.com](http://www.unistats.com) - ratings of universities by subject in relation to graduate employment and student satisfaction

[www.push.co.uk](http://www.push.co.uk) – review of universities – costs, social life etc

[www.prospects.ac.uk](http://www.prospects.ac.uk) – graduate destinations/careers

[www.gapyear.com](http://www.gapyear.com) – information/organisations