

UCAS PRESENTATION FOR PARENTS

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Documents under:
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HIGHER EDUCATION IN UK

- Over 200 Universities to choose from
- Residential experience – the British leave home
- 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, and 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
- You should not have to take an entry test in English if taking English as L1 or L2

TUITION FEES 2022-23 (expected)

- £9,250 per year for UK nationals / 'settled status'
- Eligible for a Fee Loan : pay back once earning £28,000 pa
- EU students will pay the International Fee: this varies with each university and course, approx. £10,000 – £50,000. Some individual universities are offering reductions.

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 will 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', not secret

How S6 Final Grades are shown in your application

Module name	Module date	Module level	Module value	Module grade
Spanish Language 1	June 2021	6Yr	Continuous	8.5
English Language 2	June 2021	6Yr	Continuous	9.5
French Language 3	June 2021	6Yr	Continuous	10
Maths (Higher 5 Period)	June 2021	6Yr	Continuous	8
Biology 4 period	June 2021	6Yr	Continuous	8.5
Chemistry 4 period	June 2021	6Yr	Continuous	8
Philosophy 2 period	June 2021	6Yr	Continuous	7.5
Geography 2 (in English)	June 2021	6Yr	Continuous	8
History 2 (in English)	June 2021	6Yr	Continuous	9
PE	June 2021	6Yr	Continuous	8
Spanish Language 1	July 2022	7Yr	Written	
English Language 2	July 2022	7Yr	Written	
French Language 3	July 2022	7Yr	Oral	
Maths (Higher 5 period)	July 2022	7Yr	Written	
Biology 4 period	July 2022	7Yr	Written	
Chemistry 4 period	July 2022	7Yr	Written	
Philosophy 2 period	July 2022	7Yr	Continuous	
Geography 2 (in English)	July 2022	7Yr	Continuous	
History 2 (in English)	July 2022	7Yr	Continuous	
PE	July 2022	7Yr	Continuous	

UCAS APPLICATIONS

CLOSING DATES

- 15th OCTOBER – Oxford/Cambridge
- 15th OCTOBER – Medicine/Dentistry/Veterinary Science
- 15th 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 2021

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 (the empty places) 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 –
 ?Law ?Psychology ?Architecture

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

COST

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, most in early November, others at the interview.

The Oxford, Cambridge and BMAT tests can be taken at test centres of Cambridge Assessment, currently in Valencia and Madrid. BMAT makes a charge, others are free.

SCOTTISH UNIVERSITIES

Scottish Universities have been very popular with our students. These offer a longer 4-year course which helps students adapt and gives flexibility over the final choice of subject(s).

In previous years, these have been hard to enter for EU students who were competing with local Scottish students for a limited number of free places.

Now, because EU students pay a fee, the grades required are a bit lower, and these are now easier to enter. You will pay the International Fee, though some universities are offering reductions – you need to check individually for this.

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, Loughborough
- 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 5%-20%, varies greatly 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, not both, and before October 15
- Usually involves a test...
- ...then a challenging interview in December
- Cost is the same as elsewhere for UK nationals, for EU students the costs are generally higher than elsewhere

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 30% of Year 7 students have made a UCAS application in recent years. Almost all are offered a suitable place.
- BREXIT means this number has now dropped by half.
- More students now apply to study in English in Ireland, Holland, Belgium, Denmark, 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, as they are vocational degrees.
- 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 have 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 if you can, and reflect on it.

FURTHER INFORMATION

www.ucas.com – search for where you can take subjects, and check entry requirements; has links into university prospectuses, finance, and career planning

www.education.guardian.co.uk + other league tables give (reliable??) ratings of universities overall and by subject

www.push.co.uk – review of universities – costs, social life etc

www.prospects.ac.uk – graduate destinations/careers