

PINNER
HIGH SCHOOL

SIXTH FORM

UCAS Apply Booklet 2023 Entry

Name:

Form:

Introduction from the Head of Sixth Form

As you return from exams and Year 12 draws to a close, you face perhaps your most important educational decision so far, namely the choice of your direction beyond school. This decision will launch you into your future, possibly taking you away from home for a good proportion of the year and setting you off into fully-fledged adulthood.

These may well seem like momentous choices, but we hope you will feel able to make them feeling confident and well-informed. There is plenty of advice available both within school and from elsewhere. Your parents' support will be significant as well, but of course this is a decision which you must make for yourselves.

We expect that most students will choose to go on to university either immediately or after a Gap Year. For those students in particular the next three months are crucial for making decisions about courses and universities, writing a personal statement and completing the UCAS form. This booklet focuses on that process and I know many of you have already begun your planning.

The first few weeks of Year 13 are a concentrated time when you work with the Sixth Form team to complete your UCAS forms and prepare for any interviews or admissions tests you may have as well. The atmosphere can become rather intense, and you need to be ready for that and make sure you support each other as best you can. We are confident, however, that Pinner High School students have the skills and qualities – and the preparation – to ensure success. Universities want intelligent, independent thinkers who are keen to learn and fun to teach – which is just the kind of students we have at in our Sixth Form.

We hope that what follows will give you an overview of the options and the process of applying. We hope it will be useful for you to have it in summary. If you have any queries at any stage, please talk to your teachers or a member of the Sixth Form team.



Mr. Chris Stump
Assistant Headteacher - Head of Sixth Form

As you apply to university through UCAS you should be aware of the following:

1. **Your reference will be prepared by the Sixth Form team.** It will be based on detailed academic reports prepared by each of your subject teachers and focused on your achievements, ability and potential. It will include reference to any extenuating circumstances that may have impacted your achievements. It is a collaborative effort.
2. **You will be informed of your predicted A Level grades in September 2022.** These grades will take into account the following information:
 - ✓ your performance throughout Y12
 - ✓ your end of Year 12 examination results
 - ✓ your capacity to improve and make further progress in Y13
 - ✓ GCSE results and ALPS predicted grades

It is important to pay close attention to these grades and make realistic applications to universities.

3. **You should inform the Sixth Form team when you have completed your application.** It will not be sent unless they know it has been finished and, even then, it still may be returned to you for changes. Please be mindful of the sheer volume of applications being processed: Sixth Form staff will process applications as quickly as possible: students applying for competitive courses (Medicine, Dentistry, Vet Science and Oxbridge) will be prioritised until October 15th due to the earlier deadline. This is not preferential treatment, just logic. Please note that, as long as you apply before January, universities will not 'run out' of places.
4. **The UCAS fee of £27 is paid for by students or parents online** via a debit or credit card. Bursary students will be allowed to claim this money back after their application has been sent. See Mrs Kabel as usual.
5. **Should you have any query about the UCAS process you should contact your form tutor, the Head of Sixth Form (Mr Pandya), Miss Bruck or Ms Nelson.** It is your responsibility to keep the school informed of all developments that may affect your application. Remember, universities will not contact the school...you take responsibility once the application has been sent.
6. **Although the formal UCAS deadline is 25th January, there are real advantages to be gained from an early submission of a UCAS application.** Earlier submission means more time to focus on your studies and get the grades you need. The PHS internal deadline will be in November 2022, allowing you plenty of time to refocus on your academic studies when offers come rolling in!

A note on wider-reading and the supercurricular

Wider-reading describes the additional reading, learning and academic research a student conducts before they submit their UCAS application.

The aim of wider-reading is to demonstrate a student's passion, motivation and motives for studying a particular degree course. This passion can be presented in other ways too – for example relevant work experience, voluntary work, or competitions participated in. However, for most students, showing that they have engaged with understanding concepts outside of (or as an extension of) their A Level subjects is the best way to do this.



Scan this code to be taken to a fantastic guide from Cambridge University

Universities, especially Oxbridge, and top-tier Russell Group universities expect to see this front and centre of the personal statement. It is a requirement, not an option. Admissions officers need to see that the desire to study a course is borne out of an academic curiosity. Not because a student wants a six-figure salary or a prestigious title.

At the end of this document is a suggested reading list. It is not exhaustive. In fact – students are encouraged to discover their own academic reading – be it texts, journal articles or reports. Researching modules taught as part of the degree course(s) they are interested in is a good place to start.

The QR code above will take you a document from Cambridge University, and it shows how you can demonstrate wider reading and research for courses you are interested in. It's designed for Cambridge applicants, but is useful for all students, regardless of wherever they choose to apply.

Talking about the wider reading you've done can really enhance a personal statement's academic credentials. However, there are pitfalls to avoid when discussing wider reading. Firstly, make sure that your material is academically reputable – try to choose the highest-level text you've read to talk about in detail. Articles from non-specialist sources such as the BBC are probably best avoided. Don't just name drop what you've read, try and discuss the content – anyone can read the words of a book, but tutors want you to demonstrate that you've gained a deeper understanding of the subject. Offer an opinion about the content, what did you think was particularly interesting? What was the overall narrative of the text? Try to discuss what you read with peers or teachers, as it is this discussion that will really help you gain insight.

If you're talking about a magazine or journal you read/have read, try and give a specific example of an article you've read. Many people applying for economics will say they read The Economist, but if you talk about an article you found interesting this shows that you're really engaging with it. If you do mention an article though, keep a copy of it somewhere. If you're invited for interview it may well come up as a talking point, and it'll be embarrassing if you can't remember what it was about!

The summer holidays provide the perfect opportunity to engage. You definitely have the time, so use the summer break productively and start early (as many students have).

UCAS Timeline 2022-23

August	✓ Register for LNAT and UCAT (if applicable)
September	✓ Start finalising choices of universities and/or colleges ready. ✓ Finalise your Personal Statement. ✓ Have Academic Mentoring session with Tutor/member of the ✓ Register for: LNAT; BMAT; UCAT, STEP, MAT, TMUA if applicable. Speak to our exams officer!
October	✓ Finalise choices of universities and/or colleges ready. ✓ Oxford and Cambridge UCAS deadline – 15 October 2022. ✓ Medicine/Vet Sci./Dentistry UCAS deadline – 15 October 2022. ✓ BMAT test (18 th)
November	✓ Oxbridge applicants submit written work if required. ✓ Specialist subject tests. e.g. TSA, Oxbridge tests. ✓ Preparation for university interviews. ✓ Internal deadline for UCAS applications to be completed
December	✓ Interviews at Oxford and Cambridge and at-interview Cambridge entrance exams.
January	✓ Official UCAS deadline – 25th January 2023 (subject to change)
February	✓ Consider UCAS offers for Firm and Insurance. ✓ UCAS Extra available for those without offers.
March	✓ Complete Finance application.
April	✓ Final Firm/Insurance/Decline decisions to UCAS.
May	✓ Final examination preparation. ✓ A Level examinations begin
June	✓ A Level examinations continue
July	✓ Rest and relaxation
August	✓ A Level results: acceptance of offers/clearing

By September 2022 you should have...

A shortlist of universities from which to select your final choices; you should have researched carefully each course on websites and in prospectuses. Your shortlist should be balanced between those likely to make demanding offers and those whose demands are lower (for your insurance). Clearly, the particular balance you adopt will depend on your own academic strengths. See the tables in the next sections for further guidance.

A draft of your personal statement. There is no such thing as a perfect personal statement, each will be different and should reflect you. Be prepared to leave things out; concentrate on what you consider important. It is recommended that one half to two-thirds of your personal statement should demonstrate your interest in, and enthusiasm for, your chosen course and suitability for it.

Making choices

Making a sensible and informed choice is all about working out your priorities that relate to where you want to study and what you want to study. Each and every person will rank priorities in a different order. Deciding what to do next is a personal choice, so do make sure that any decisions you make are your own. The information below may prove useful when figuring out your priorities and making decisions.

Things to consider when choosing a course

Academic rankings for course	• Course rankings for subjects can be found at the Complete University Guide • You can search by subjects • Criteria includes 'entry standards', 'student satisfaction', 'research quality' and 'graduate prospects' (employability after graduating) • Remember, top ranking universities will NOT be ranked top for all subjects
Modules offered	• Check the module structure for each course at universities you are interested in. • Look at the titles of the modules they offer, what sounds appealing to you? • When you find modules that interest you, compare and contrast courses at competing universities.
Personal enjoyment	• It could be subject you've enjoyed studying at school and at A-Level • It could be something you're involved in outside of school and have always wanted to pursue further
Career prospects	• You might pick a course that is directly linked to a specific career. • However, bear in mind that many desirable role and positions may not require a particular degree subject...some can be linked to many careers.
Earning potential	• You might choose to pursue a course of study that will give you maximum earning potential in the future. • Whilst you might have this as a priority, please do not make this your number one priority. • A highly-paid career might sound appealing, but it will come with downsides. Who's to say you'll even like that career?
Academic curiosity	• There might be a subject or field that you've never had the chance to study in-depth until degree level. ✓ Anthropology ✓ Neuroscience ✓ Viking Studies
Talent and success	• You might have a gift for a certain subject or discipline. • E.g. Philosophy is a very common subject at degree level in UK universities. It requires thinking laterally and critically. • It's subject that develops key skills as opposed to one that is purely based on learning facts.

Entry requirements	• What you study may be influenced by the subjects you're already studying or your achievement level. • However, you'd be surprised at the entry requirements (or lack of) for some university courses. • Some courses will also require additional admissions tests (Medicine, Dentistry, Vet Science, some Law courses and Maths at some universities)
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Narrowing down your choices

Reach	2 courses at competitive universities at the top end of your predicted grades
Match	1-2 universities with one grade under your predicted grades
Safety	1-2 courses with 2 or more grades under your predicted grades.
• Please do not apply for courses outside of your predicted grades – this will likely result in an automatic rejection from most universities • Please ensure you only apply for courses at universities you are genuinely interested in	

Example: Student A wishes to study English and has been predicted AAB for their A Levels in English Literature (A), Psychology (A) and History (B)	
Reach	University of Birmingham – BA(Hons) English – AAB University of Sheffield - BA(Hons) English - AAB
Match	Queen Mary University, London – BA(Hons) English – ABB University of Sussex – BA(Hons) English – ABB (or BBB)
Safety	Nottingham Trent University – BA (Hons) English - BBB

You should know details of each course you are interested in, including exact institution and course codes, along with any options you may be required to study.

You should also be aware of any particular additional tests or requirements likely to be made of you e.g. Entrance tests for Medicine (BMAT or UKCAT), some Law courses (LNAT) or Oxbridge (check course). See 'admissions tests' section of this booklet for more information.

Things to consider when choosing a university

Campus university	• First of all, what is a campus university? Strictly speaking, it means that all (or most) of the university-owned buildings and spaces, such as lecture theatres, student bars and halls of residence, are situated in one place. This can mean lower-costs (especially when it comes to travel) • Many students like the thought of being based in a safe, student-centred environment that caters to their needs.
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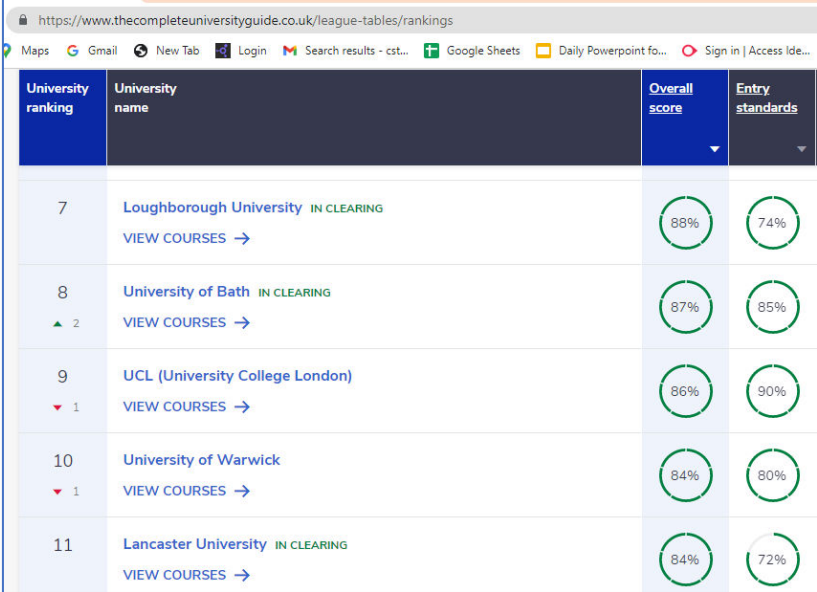
	Some campus universities are located in remote places, while others are within walking distance of city centres...do your research!
City university	- City universities are usually located within city and town centres, enabling students to live and work around a city centre. - City universities will generally only maintain their buildings and the immediate surrounding areas rather than a wider area. - Some of the advantages of a city university are a broader university experience, more part-time job opportunities and better nightlife and transport links.
Academic Rankings	- UK and world rankings are useful to see how prestigious of globally recognised universities/colleges are – but there are quite a few different measures. - It may be more important for you to look at the best COURSE rather than the best university.
Location	- Do you want to stay at home? - Do you want to be near home, but not at home? - Do you want to be further afield? - Do you want to be in a big city or smaller city? - Urban or rural? - Think about transport links and distance. This matters when you are buying rail tickets!
Student satisfaction	- When you look at university rankings, remember to look at student satisfaction rates. - These rates show how happy students are with their university experience. - We apply the same principles when we shop for products online, so why not where we study?
Graduate prospects	- University league tables rank unis based on their graduate employment success and prospects. - These figures can be useful if you're looking at something to differentiate between universities with courses you like the look of.
Course(s) taught	- This needs to be high on your priorities list - Is the course (and the modules taught) what you want to study? - Some courses may not be taught at some universities - Do you have any misconceptions or expectations that need to be addressed when choosing?
Entry requirements	- Most Russell group universities require a minimum of ABB (some exceptions do apply) check these thoroughly - Some universities also require additional admissions tests – most notably Oxford and Cambridge (see section on admissions tests) - Check to see whether or not you are eligible for a CONTEXTUAL OFFER. Do this early (no later than September)

DO NOT ONLY LOOK AT RUSSELL GROUP UNIVERSITIES!!!

There are a number of excellent (including Top 10) universities that are not in the Russell Group – you must not discount these.

Here are the **highest ranked non-Russell Group universities in the UK**. Some have high entry requirements, others are more generous.

- University of St Andrews, Scotland (Top 10 – High entry reqs)
- Loughborough University (Top 10 – High entry reqs)
- University of Bath (Top 10 – High entry reqs)
- Lancaster University (Top 20 – High entry reqs)
- University of Surrey (Top 20)
- University of East Anglia
- University of Leicester
- University of Reading
- University of Strathclyde (Scotland)
- University of Essex
- University of Kent
- University of Sussex
- Royal Holloway University (London)
- City University (London)
- Swansea University
- Oxford Brookes University
- Nottingham Trent University
- SOAS (London)
- Aston University (Birmingham)



The screenshot shows a web browser displaying a university ranking page. The table lists universities with their overall scores and entry standards. The universities shown are Loughborough University, University of Bath, UCL (University College London), University of Warwick, and Lancaster University. Each entry includes a ranking, the university name, a status (e.g., 'IN CLEARING'), an overall score, and entry standards. There are also links to 'VIEW COURSES' for each university.

University ranking	University name	Overall score	Entry standards
7	Loughborough University IN CLEARING VIEW COURSES →	88%	74%
8	University of Bath IN CLEARING VIEW COURSES →	87%	85%
9	UCL (University College London) VIEW COURSES →	86%	90%
10	University of Warwick VIEW COURSES →	84%	80%
11	Lancaster University IN CLEARING VIEW COURSES →	84%	72%

Reaching a decision: 6 top tips

1: Research online:

- The vast majority of UK courses are on UCAS where you can filter them by location and course.
- Once you've narrowed it down, see what detailed information is available on university websites.
- Check out their Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube or Snapchat pages.
- They may run web chats with academics or students where you can ask questions.

2: Consider the course structure

- Find out how you will be taught and assessed, like whether a course has a lot of exams, essays, or group work, and also consider the course content. Some students regret their course/university choice based on WHAT they study.
- For example: some History and English Literature courses may have a greater emphasis on studying ancient history/literature...which may not appeal to those who prefer modern history and contemporary literature

3: Go to open days

- It's always worth visiting the university, preferably before you apply, but definitely if you plan on accepting an offer.
- Go with a friend or parent – get a second opinion, but make sure that you trust your gut instinct.
- You need to consider whether or not both the course AND environment (physical, social and academic) is right for you.

4: Ask questions

- Email universities. They are there to help.
- Email admissions tutors for courses you are interested in.
- Ask questions about open days or taster days.
- Be proactive



5: Think about location

- Consider where the university is and the accommodation on offer.
- How expensive is the area?
- Would you prefer a busy city or a quieter rural campus?



6: Look beyond lectures

- You'll likely be living at university for at least three years, so find out what's on offer outside the curriculum. Some students love the academic focus of LSE, others complain that it's a dull place to study.
- One university may have an active film society, and another might have a lively social scene, or a winning football team. Prioritise and decide.

Do... 😊	Do not... 😞
1. Make decisions for yourself 2. Make a list of your priorities and map universities and courses against this list 3. Research universities and courses thoroughly before applying (look at modules taught and not just course titles) 4. Keep notes/a spreadsheets about the courses and universities you have ruled in and out 5. Ensure you know where the universities you apply to are geographically 6. Go on open days and taster days 7. Email universities and request more info if you need it	1. Apply where your friends apply (unless you genuinely want to go there) 2. Pin all of your hopes on one university 3. Apply at random to universities you know nothing about 4. Assume all Maths courses look the same at each and every university 5. Pick universities purely based on academic reputation and prestige 6. Be unrealistic: look at your predicted grades – you get 5 choices 7. Accept an insurance offer to a university you have no intention of going to 8. Select fewer than five choices – use all 5

What are you prioritising?

Each question below asks you to consider how important the aspect is to your university decision making process. Completing this task might help you narrow down your options in the future

1. How important is the location of the university?

VERY IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	NEUTRAL	NOT VERY IMPORTANT	NOT AT ALL IMPORTANT
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2. Is it important that you stay in London for university?

VERY IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	NEUTRAL	NOT VERY IMPORTANT	NOT AT ALL IMPORTANT
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3. How important is it that you attend a Russell Group University?

VERY IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	NEUTRAL	NOT VERY IMPORTANT	NOT AT ALL IMPORTANT
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4. How important is it to you that you attend a campus university?

VERY IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	NEUTRAL	NOT VERY IMPORTANT	NOT AT ALL IMPORTANT
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5. How important is it to you that you stay in the south of England?

VERY IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	NEUTRAL	NOT VERY IMPORTANT	NOT AT ALL IMPORTANT
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6. How important is it to you that you attend a university with people just like you?

VERY IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	NEUTRAL	NOT VERY IMPORTANT	NOT AT ALL IMPORTANT
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7. How important is the reputation/ranking of the course you wish to study?

VERY IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	NEUTRAL	NOT VERY IMPORTANT	NOT AT ALL IMPORTANT
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8. How important is the size of the university and number of students?

VERY IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	NEUTRAL	NOT VERY IMPORTANT	NOT AT ALL IMPORTANT
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Decisions and replying to offers

Most replies from universities and colleges are likely to have been received by April, though officially the latest date when you can expect a final decision is 8 May.

Those without offers from their original choices may use **UCAS Extra**. This is active from February to the end of June. Course vacancies will be published on the UCAS website and UCAS will tell you if you are eligible for this scheme.

How to respond to offers:

- You may hold no more than one **Firm** acceptance (your top choice)
- You may also hold one **Insurance** acceptance (a back-up) - this must be lower grades than your Firm offer. You do not have to select an insurance offer, but it is always advised (unless you have no intention of going there)
- All other offers must be declined. **Clearing** will be available following the publication of A Level results. Sixth Form staff will be prepared for discussion with those students who have not achieved required grades for Conditional Firm or Conditional Insurance offers on the morning of results day.

Reach
Match
Safety

Please note that UCAS has withdrawn Adjustment. Students who do better than anticipated may withdraw from all their offers (if they are not happy with their top choice) and use Clearing to find places based on the grades they have achieved (they have a matching service).

Making choices

A maximum of 5 choices is available. Most students pick the same or similar course at 5 different universities. Students applying for Medicine/Veterinary related course can only apply to four with the fifth choice being another subject.

TOP TIPS

- ★ Making the right choice matters. Only apply to a university you want to go to. The course may be great but do you really want to be in this town/city? This is why early research is so important.
- ★ Once you have found the course you like, similar courses at other universities will have the same course code (e.g. CM89 = Psychology and Criminology). You can use this to search for courses and make comparisons.

Each university can view your application at the same time. Choices are not listed in preference. Applications are **BLIND** and universities cannot see where else you have applied.

Your university shortlist

University	Course title	Course code	Entry requirements	Additional info

UCAS Tariff

Some universities make offers based on specific A Level grades e.g. ABB or BBC. However, other universities may specify a points total, e.g. 112 points (see below)

Grade	A Levels
A*	56
A	48
B	40
C	32
D	24
E	16

Working out your points and estimated grades range

Think about your most recent report grades (projected end of A Level grade) that featured on your report. What do you think you can realistically achieve by the end of Y13? You need to be honest. If you have never achieved an A in any of your subjects, would it be responsible to predict you three A grades? The answer is no.

Subject	Last report grade	What do I think I can achieve by the end of Y13? Or, what did you achieve in the EOY12 exam	Points equivalent
1:			
2:			
3:			
4:			
Points total =			

Instructions for registering with UCAS

Register with UCAS at <https://accounts.ucas.com/account/login?source=usermenu>

It may be easier to Google 'register with UCAS 2023'

Basic details

- Enter your email (professional)
- First name (first letter capitalised)
- Last name (first letter capitalised)
- Password (memorable)
- Password again
- Click the box to say you understand



Verification and registration

- Verify your account via entering the numerical code which will have just been sent to the email you registered with
- Click 'Get Started'
- Select 2023 as the year you wish to start your studies
- Click 'undergraduate' as level of study
- Select the checkboxes if you would like more info on Apprenticeships or Conservatoires (specialist Dance, Drama and Music universities)
- Select where you live and enter your postcode accurately
- Select your preferences and enter information – please do add your mobile number
- For 'Get the right support' click that you are still at school and enter our school name as Pinner High School. It may not appear in the dropdown, so enter manually
- Click 'create account'
- Under 'your 2023 applications', click 'start application'
- Select 'start application' in the 'undergraduate' box
- Click 'Yes' – you are applying from a school/college
- You do want to link to a school, so click 'continue'
- Enter the **buzzword, which is TRAILBLAZERS2023**
- The message will confirm if you want to link to Pinner High School, click 'Yes'
- Select your form from the dropdown menu
- You now have your account set up!

Record your UCAS details here

Username		Personal ID No	
Password		UCAS Customer Service phone number	0371 468 0468
School Buzzword	TRAILBLAZERS2023		Monday – Friday; 8:30am – 6:00pm

Top tips for completing your application

- Include a professional sounding email address
 - ✗ **cutie_shaz_xoxo@gmail.com** It will not give a good impression
 - ✓ **shazia_iqbal2004@gmail.com** is perfect
- Ensure your personal details are entered correctly: ensure the first letters of your given name and surname is capitalised

For example:

- ✓ **Rakesh Shah**
- ✗ **rakesh shah**
- ✗ **RAKESH SHAH**
- ✗ **rakesh Shah**



- Check you have applied to the **right course at the right university**. University of Nottingham is different to Nottingham Trent.
- **Check campus codes**: some universities have multiple campuses; select the right one.
- **The personal statement is meant to be that, personal**: do not use someone else's words. Universities can and do run a programme to check for plagiarism. If plagiarism is detected they will contact the school and the universities you have applied to.
- **Spelling and grammar are** important as is structure and clarity.
- You have **4000 characters** or **47 lines** of text, whichever comes first.
- **Be reflective**; make sure you have sold yourself rather than listing experiences *'volunteering at a local primary school helped me understand that ...'*
- You cannot use **bold**, *italics* or underline. Special symbols and characters are also not detected.
- **You can leave a space between paragraphs to make it easier to read** – but you do not have to as this will use up space. Universities do not mind either way.
- **Work on your draft in Word/Google Docs** as the UCAS website times you out after about 30 mins and if you haven't saved it.

Completing the Application Form - some useful information

PERSONAL DETAILS

Title: Select appropriate response

First Name: Your given name – please ensure it is your legal name; it must start with a capital letter and be the name that appears on any official documents, such as your passport, birth certificate or driving licence.

Last Name: Your surname – same rules as above apply

Previous name(s): If you've ever had a different name, please record it

Preferred name: If you use a different version of your name or prefer an abbreviation (e.g. Christopher prefers Chris) record it here. Do not use nicknames.

Date of birth: check you enter it correctly

Gender: Select the gender you most identify with at this time. You can tell the university or college directly if you'd feel more comfortable identifying in another way.

CONTACT DETAILS

Phone numbers: Not essential to record these, but I would advise recording your mobile phone number

Email address: This is auto-filled based on the email you registered with

Address type: Select the UK option and look-up your address by your postcode. If you complete this section yourself, please follow the normal conventions: address details always start with a capital letter, postcode in capitals

e.g.

28 Newman Crescent
Pinner
HA5 5NH

OR

36A Raynell Terrace
Northwood
Middlesex
HA6 7HH

Nominated access: Answer 'yes' and record the details of one of your parents or Miss Bruck or Ms Nelson. This means they will be able to contact UCAS on your behalf if ever needed

Is your home address the same as your postal address? Answer 'yes'

Residential category: choose the option that best applies to you. Ask your parents if you are unsure

NATIONALITY

What is your country of birth? Select the country you were born in (this is on your passport, but you should know this!)

What is your nationality? For most this will be UK National, but if you don't have a UK passport, it must be the country that you hold a passport for.

Dual nationality: only select a country if applicable (and you have a passport for that country)

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Have you ever lived or worked in the EU (excluding the UK), European Economic Area (EEA) or Switzerland?: Select the appropriate option

Do you have a parent, step parent, spouse or civil partner who is an EU (excluding the UK), EEA or Swiss national?: Select the appropriate option

ENGLISH LANGUAGE DETAILS

English proficiency tests and exams are taken by students who don't speak English as their first language. Is English your first language?: Click 'Yes' or 'No' – whatever applies

What will be your main source of funding for your studies? Most applicants from the UK and the EU will be in the category 'UK, ChI, IoM, or EU student finance'. If your parents will be paying for university fees outright, select 'Private Finance'

Student support arrangements: Select the borough you live in: Select the borough that you live in. Ask your parents if you are unsure, or use this site: <https://www.gov.uk/find-local-council>

EDUCATION

Click 'add place of education'

Name of the school, college, or university: start typing, and then select, Pinner High School

Exam centre number: auto-filled based on above

Start date:

- If you started at PHS at the very start of Year 7, the start date is September 2016.
- If you started PHS later in Y7 or in another year from 7-11, ask the Sixth Form office to check on SIMS
- If you started at PHS for Sixth Form, record September 2021.

End date: Record 'August 2023'.

If you did your GCSEs or some of your schooling elsewhere, you will need to add another school and complete the same type of information above.

Type of study: Full time, always

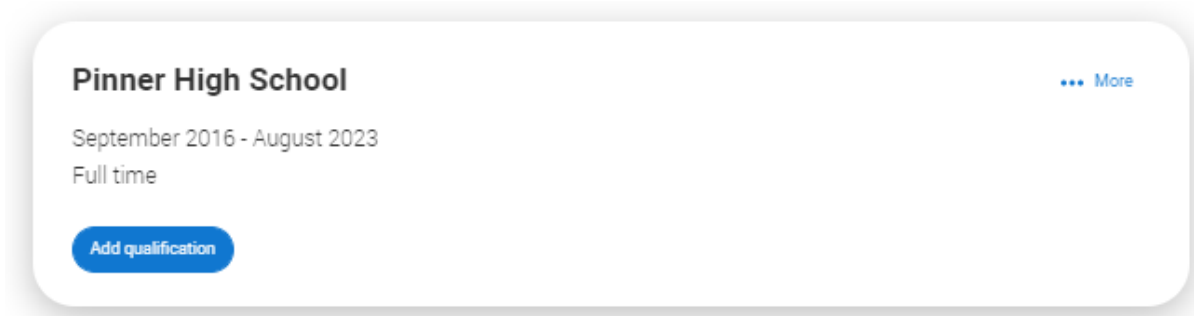
Do you, or will you, have any qualifications from this centre?: For PHS, this will be 'Yes'. If you did GCSEs or AS Level exams at another school, this will also be 'Yes'.

- If you went to a school but never did any formal exams there, you can select 'No'.

IMPORTANT: All qualifications must be entered, even if you received an unsuccessful grade, if you are still waiting to take the final exams or if you are waiting for the results.

If you are resitting a qualification you need to enter it twice: once as a completed qualification with the grade achieved and once as a qualification with the result Pending.

Once you have added a school you can now add qualifications



Click 'Add qualification'

- **Start with your GCSEs:** Select 'GCSE Grade 9:1'
- **Title:** Start typing the course title and then select e.g. Mathematics
- **Qualification date:** This is August 2021 for every qualification unless you are repeating Y12 or you did a GCSE early.
- **Awarding organisation:** Select from the drop-down; if you are not sure, check your exam certificates...do not guess, it must be accurate
- **Grade:** Select the grade you were awarded
- Do not add modules – ignore this

Click 'Save and add another' so you can keep recording your GCSEs. When all are recorded, click 'Save qualifications.'

- If you are repeating/repeated Y12 and you received certificated exam results for AS Levels at your previous school, you must record these.
- Select 'GCE Advanced Subsidiary'
- **Title:** Start typing the course title and then select e.g. Biology
- **Qualification date:** This is August 2021 for each qualification.
- **Awarding organisation:** Select from the drop-down; if you are not sure, check your exam certificates...do not guess, it must be accurate
- **Grade:** Select the grade you were awarded

Next – A Levels

- **Select 'GCE Advanced Level'**

- **Title:** Start typing the course title and then select e.g. Sociology
- **Qualification date:** This is August 2023 for each qualification (or 2022 if you did Maths a year early)
- **Awarding organisation:** Select from the drop-down – check with your teacher if you are not sure which exam board you study
- **Grade:** Select 'pending'. This shows the universities the courses you are studying. Your predicted grades will be added by a member of the Sixth Form team.
- **Click 'Save and add another'** so you can keep recording your GCSEs. When all are recorded, click 'Save qualifications.
- **Module / Unit 1:** For your A Level units it is useful to specify which modules you are studying. This needs to be the correct title, so ensure you use the info supplied at the end of this booklet.

Unique Learner Number (ULN): Get this from the Sixth Form office.

Please state the highest level of qualification you expect to have before you start your course:
Select 'Below honours degree level qualification' – this is the only relevant option.

EMPLOYMENT

Click 'add employment' and complete relevant details for any part time jobs have had or have had.

PERSONAL STATEMENT

See personal statement information in this document for specific guidance. Always draft your statement in Word or Google Docs and paste across into the space when it is complete. Lots of information about personal statements follows so soak it up!

Personal Statement: Initial Ideas

What do I want to study?

Why do I want to study it?

What have I done/read/experienced in order to evidence my desire to pursue this

Relevant work experience

Contribution to school life – what have I done?

Hobbies and interests outside school

Employment

When you come to write your personal statement you may find the following formula and advice useful.

Up to **50%** dedicated to **why you want to study the subject** and **HOW you have explored your interest in this subject** (reading; course; related work experience)

At least **25%** dedicated to the **skills acquired through your A Level courses** have prepared you for degree-level study. Do not just describe what you have studied, relate it to what you want to study

No more than **25%** dedicated to **extra-curricular involvement** and non-related work experience

Personal Statement: Writing it up

This is the part of the form over which you have total control. It is your opportunity to provide a more complete, rounded picture of you than just your exam grades and predictions. The personal statement complements the reference written by the school. It is an academic biography.

Start your personal statement with **why you want to study the subject**. This needs to be demonstrated with evidence of wider reading and study beyond your A Level subjects. Related work experience, taster days and online courses are all really useful for this

- *Do not tell the person reading your statement what the subject is. They know*

Demonstrate how your A Level courses and how the skills you've developed will stand you in good stead for university. Discuss your subjects in order of relevance. E.g. A History applicant who studies Maths, History and Economics should prioritise History A Level, then Economics and then Maths

- *Do not merely describe what you have studied – nobody wants a list*

Avoid

- ✗ Downloading and copying examples from the Internet
- ✗ Borrowing and copying your sister's, brother's, cousin's statement
- ✗ Allowing a parent or 'UCAS expert' to write it
- ✗ Asking someone to check and edit each and every new draft
- ✗ Putting off writing it
- ✗ Poor spelling and grammar
- ✗ A prosy and ponderous style
- ✗ Making claims that you cannot substantiate. If you apply for a course and are invited for interview, they will likely base some interview questions around your personal statement (especially Oxbridge)

Content

- ✓ Remember that the universities are looking for students. It is the academic contribution that you will make which is the most important
- ✓ Include reasons for choosing the course. Research carefully the course modules. Ensure that you can demonstrate competence in each of these areas:
e.g. intellectual curiosity, enthusiasm, commitment, high academic standards, practical skills, problem solving, creativity, oral communication, foreign language ability. Think about the assessment objectives in your A Level courses
- ✓ Include evidence of wider reading and research beyond your examination work.
- ✓ Read the UCAS Entry Profile for your subject. Use this to evidence your interest skills and motivation for the course.
- ✓ Include particular areas of interest and expertise.
- ✓ Include relevant work experience and apply it to your course.
- ✓ Include some of the extra-curricular and community activities that you are involved with. Be selective. Write about them in the context of the skills and qualities that the university is looking for:
e.g. teamwork, team leadership, entrepreneurial ability, responsibility, commitment, perseverance, social conscience, ability to see a project through from idea to completion
- ✓ Include something that is particular to you that will make you stand out

Style

- ✓ Avoid waffle. The space is small so make every sentence earn its space
- ✓ Write in your style. The universities expect each statement to be written by a 17-year-old. Avoid flowery language and disable your thesaurus.
- ✓ You will need to write several drafts. Avoid asking lots and lots of different people to read through it and change it. People will have differing advice – accept this.

Checklist of what to do and what not to do...	
✓ Plan it yourself	✗ Sound boastful or immodest
✓ Sell yourself	✗ Lie
✓ Be honest and sound natural	✗ Try to be funny or controversial
✓ Sound enthusiastic	✗ Try to be dramatic or overwrought; avoid using clichés
✓ Check spelling and grammar	✗ Leave it to the last minute
✓ Proof read and seek advice on SPAG	✗ Get annoyed if teachers give you conflicting feedback – this is a subjective process
✓ Include out of school activities	✗ Plagiarise or use someone else's old statement. UCAS have a 'copy catch' word recognition system to spot plagiarism
✓ Evidence your facts and demonstrate your desire to study the subject	✗ Use negative phrases like – mistake, hate, panic etc.
✓ Use all the space available	✗ Use repetitive language

What skills have I gained?

Here are some examples of skills you have gained that you could use in your personal statement.

Activity	Examples of skills developed
Academic skills (use subject assessment objectives)	Resilience, self-motivation, determination, analysis, evaluation, critical thinking, planning, designing, mastering, essay-writing, discussion, debate, execution of practicals
Hobbies	Commitment, curiosity, skills training, constructive use of time
Sport/music/art/drama	Dedication, patience, teamwork, enthusiasm, stamina
Wider reading and reading for pleasure	Concentration, calmness, energy, curiosity, imagination, knowledge
Work Experience	Punctuality, responsibility, team working, initiative
School responsibility/ leadership roles	Communication, confidence, diplomacy, listening skills, responsibility
Voluntary work	Social conscience, reliability, motivation, caring, responsibility, sharing
Duke of Edinburgh	Fitness, determination, self-belief, resilience, initiative, imagination
Languages	Listening skills, verbal communication, cultural sensitivity
Youth work / charity work and volunteering	Discipline, loyalty, commitment, team spirit, personal development

Skills developed through your A Level subjects

Subject	Academic skills developed

TOP TIP

For courses at universities you wish to apply to, check their 'course overview' for the subject you intend to apply for.

Below is an example from the **BSc Management** page for the **University of Nottingham**

Course overview

Do you want a career in the ever-changing world of business? Do you want to understand the complexities of specialist management areas such as marketing, human resources and business ethics?

On our BSc Management, you will learn about key principles including innovation, entrepreneurship and sustainability that underpin business and management across the globe. You'll study real organisations to gain a strong business understanding and knowledge of management processes.

You can follow your interests and career aspirations by selecting from a wide range of optional modules alongside your core subjects. This course is also available as a four-year course with a placement year, giving you real business experience.

You have the option to take industry-recognised digital qualifications by Microsoft and SAP alongside your course, which will develop your digital skills and help you stand out to future employers.

There is also the opportunity to gain a global perspective by studying abroad at our campuses in China or Malaysia or at a partner institution in countries including Australia, Sweden and the USA.

The following words appear in the extract above, all of which could be useful to your statement:

- ever-changing world
- marketing
- human resources
- business ethics
- innovation
- entrepreneurship
- innovation
- organisations
- global perspective (opportunities to study abroad)

Admissions Tests

Some universities require you to sit an admissions test as part of the application process. However, the vast majority do not. If you apply for a course that requires an admissions test, you'll need to check the registration deadline for the test, when you will sit it, and what it includes, as well as the deadline for your UCAS application. **This is student-led – and the school is not responsible for students who fail to register before the deadline(s).**

Many courses that require you to sit a test have a 15 October deadline for registration and/or taking the exam, but your course may be different, so it's important you check key dates and deadlines. Do not rely on your friends to tell you. Courses and tests are different. To see if your course requires you to sit an admissions test, check the course description in the UCAS website search tool.

Most admissions tests happen between **August and November** the year before you're due to start your studies – some even earlier, before you've sent your UCAS application!

Remember to check the date of your admissions test – some take place before the UCAS application deadline. Some tests can be sat in school, but the UCAT and LNAT are not sat in school and registration opens in June/July - so check and register early!

Some tests are taken before you apply, others are taken later. Check and check again!

Law (not all universities, but you must check)

- [Cambridge Law Test](#)
- [LNAT – National Admissions Test for Law](#) REGISTER EARLY – cannot be sat in school

Mathematics (not all universities, but one tends to be required for Cambridge, Warwick and Imperial)

- [Mathematics Admissions Test \(MAT\)](#)
- [Sixth Term Examination Paper \(STEP\)](#)
- [Test of Mathematics for University Admissions](#)

Medicine and Dentistry courses (all courses require an admissions test – but it's up to you to check which universities require which test)

- [BioMedical Admissions Test \(BMAT\)](#) Can be sat in school
- [University Clinical Aptitude Test \(UCAT\)](#). Is sat at a test centre, not in school – REGISTER EARLY

Thinking Skills Assessment (mainly Oxbridge, but check course webpages)

- [Thinking Skills Assessment Cambridge \(TSA Cambridge\)](#)
- [Thinking Skills Assessment Oxford \(TSA Oxford\)](#)
- [Thinking Skills Assessment University College London \(TSA UCL\)](#)

University of Cambridge

If you're considering a course at the University of Cambridge, you will need to check whether you need to sit an admissions test.

It may be that you have to sit an assessment before your interview, or at the interview stage of the application process. To do this, you'll need to register separately to your UCAS application – the deadlines for these vary, so make sure you [check the university's website](#).

You will need to register with our school's exams officer by 30th September 2022 at the latest.

In addition to your UCAS application, you will also need to complete a [Supplementary Application Questionnaire \(SAQ\)](#). This is completed after you apply.

Applicants from outside of the EU are also required to complete a [Cambridge Online Preliminary Application \(COPA\)](#).

The University of Cambridge runs the following assessments as part of their application process:

- [Cambridge Admissions Assessments](#)
- [BioMedical Admissions Test \(BMAT\)](#)
- [Sixth Term Examination Paper \(STEP\)](#)
- [Thinking Skills Assessment Cambridge \(TSA Cambridge\)](#)
- [Cambridge Law Test](#)
- [Other course-specific admissions tests](#) (see course webpages)

Full details of the tests you will need to sit as part of your application can be found in the course description for the course on the Cambridge University website.

University of Oxford

If you're thinking of applying to the University of Oxford, there's a very high chance you will need to sit an admissions test. The majority of courses require them, but check the course description in the UCAS [search tool](#) or departmental webpages to be sure.

You will need to register separately to your UCAS application to sit the exam. The deadline for registration in school is 30th September 2022.

- [Classics Admissions Test \(CAT\)](#)
- [English Literature Test \(ELAT\)](#)
- [History Aptitude Test \(HAT\)](#)
- [Mathematics Admissions Test \(MAT\)](#)
- [Modern Languages Admissions Test \(MLAT\)](#)
- [Oriental Languages Admissions Test \(OLAT\)](#)
- [Physics Aptitude Test \(PAT\)](#)
- [Philosophy Test \(PHIL\)](#)
- [Thinking Skills Assessment Oxford \(TSA Oxford\)](#)
- [BMAT November sessions](#). Please note, the University of Oxford will **only** accept results from BMAT **November** for **A100** Medicine and **BC98** Biomedical Sciences

5 things EVERYONE should know about student finance

By Martin Lewis, MoneySavingExpert.com



Ignore everything you've read in the papers. Ignore the political spittle that flies across Parliament. And in some cases, ignore what parents tell you too. There are more myths and misunderstandings about student finance than any other subject (my polite way of saying there's a lot of bull spoken). This is a political hot potato. People spin explanations to suit their own arguments. Yet that's about the big picture. When you come to decide whether you can afford to go to university, you should focus only on how it'll practically affect your pocket. And that is radically different to what you usually hear. Now please don't confuse the fact I want to explain the system, with unblinkered support of it. I do have issues, but frankly that's not relevant here. What counts is that I tool you up to make the appropriate decision. And a quick warning before I start – if people talk to you about their uni finances ask them where they went and when they started. This is about the system that began for English students who started in or after 2012. It can be very different for others. (For help across the UK see www.moneysavingexpert.com/studentmythbuster)

1. The student loan price tag can be £60,000, but that's not what you pay

Students don't pay universities or other higher education institutions directly. Tuition fees, typically up to £9,250 a year at the time of writing, are paid for you by the Student Loans Company. Over a typical three-year course, the combined loan for tuition and maintenance can be over £60,000. But what counts is what you repay... - You should only start repaying in the April after you leave uni. - Then you only need to repay if you earn £27,295 a year (and that threshold is set to rise in April each year). Earn less and you don't pay anything back. - You repay 9% of everything earned above that amount, so earn more and you repay more each month. - The loan is wiped after 30 years – whether you've paid a penny or not. - It's repaid via the payroll, just like tax and doesn't go on your credit file.

2. There is an official amount parents are meant to contribute, but it's hidden.

You are also eligible for a loan to help with living costs – known as the maintenance loan. Yet for most under 25s, even though you are old enough to vote, get married and fight for our country; your living loan is dependent on household (in other words, parents') residual income. For 2021/22 starters, the loan is reduced from a family income of just £25,000 upwards, until around £61,000 (or £69,000 if you're going to uni in London), where it's roughly halved. This missing amount is the expected parental contribution. Yet parents aren't told about this gap, never mind told the amount. I'm in the midst of talking to ministers to try and get them to change that, but nothing has happened yet. So, for now, when you get your letter saying what living loan you get, you'll need to work out the parental contribution yourself. To do this just subtract your loan from the maximum loan available (as an example, for all 2021/22 starters, it's £7,987 if living at home, £9,488 away from home, and £12,382 away from home in London). To find out more use our www.moneysavingexpert.com/students/studentloan-parental-contribution-tool/

Of course some parents won't be able to afford it – and you can't force them to pay. But at least knowing there is a gap helps you understand what level of funds are needed. And it's important to have this conversation with your parents and discuss together how you are going to plug the hole. In fact, while the papers often focus on tuition fees, I hear most complaints from students that even the maximum living loan isn't big enough. Funny isn't it, after everything that's said, the real practical problem with student loans isn't that they're too big, it's that they're not big enough. So, when deciding where to study, look at all the costs, transport, accommodation (will you get into halls?), as that's a key part of your decision.

3. The amount you borrow is mostly irrelevant – it works more like a tax.

This bit is really important to understand, as frankly it turns the way you think about student loans on its head. So take your time (read it a couple of times if necessary). What you repay each month depends solely on what you

earn, i.e. from April 2021, it's 9% of everything earned above £27,295. In other words, the amount you owe and the interest is mostly irrelevant. As proof, for a graduate who earns, for the sake of easy numbers, £37,295... - Owe £20,000 and you repay £900 a year - Owe £50,000 and you repay £900 a year - In fact, let's be ridiculous and say tuition fees have been upped to £1m a year, so you owe £3m+, you still ONLY repay £900 a year So as you can see, what you owe DOESN'T impact what you repay each year. The only difference it makes is whether you'll clear the borrowing within the 30 years before it wipes. It's predicted very few – only the top 17% highest-earning graduates – will clear it in time. So unless you're likely to be a seriously high earner, ignore the amount you 'owe'. Instead in practice what happens is you effectively pay an extra 9% tax on your income (not including National Insurance) for 30 years. At current rates, it works like this: Earnings Uni goes Non-uni goes Up to £12,570 No tax No tax From £12,571 - £27,295 20% 20% From £27,296 - £50,270 29% 20% From £50,271 - £150,000 49% 40% £150,000+ 54% 45% This doesn't make it cheap, but it does mean that all the talk of burdening students with debt is misleading. The burden is paying 9% extra tax – frankly it shouldn't be called a debt, it really doesn't work like one. The more you earn, the more you repay each month. So, financially at least, this is a 'no win, no fee' education

4. Interest is added, the headline rate is 4.5%, but many won't pay it.

Student loan interest is set based on the (RPI) rate of inflation – the measure of how quickly prices of all things are rising and it changes annually each September, as follows... While studying: RPI + 3%. From September 2021, it's been 4.2% (due to a temporary rate cap; this will drop to 4.1% from October before the rate reverts to 4.5% in January). From the April after leaving: It depends on earnings. From September 2021, for those earning under the repayment threshold it's RPI (1.5% at the time of writing), rising on a sliding scale to RPI + 3% if you earn over £49,130. So many graduates won't actually be charged the full 4.5% rate. In fact many graduates won't actually pay any interest at all. That's because the interest only has an impact if you'd clear your initial borrowing in full over the 30 years before it's wiped. Many won't. And even of those who will, all but the highest earners won't come close to repaying all of the interest added.

5. The system can and has changed.

Student loan terms should be locked into law, so only an Act of Parliament can negatively change them once you've started uni – but, they're not. And a few years ago we saw a very bad change imposed, though thankfully after much campaigning it was overturned. So sadly all my explanations above need the caveat of 'unless things change'. The government-commissioned 'Augar' report on further and higher education, published in 2019, proposed many big changes – including lowering tuition fees and changing the name of student loans to a 'student contribution system'. Whether these proposals will be put in place is still very much open to question, yet if they are, the recommendation was it'd only be for new starters, not for those who are already at uni. Hopefully that gets you started on student finance.

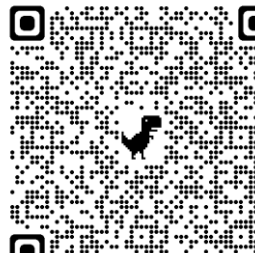
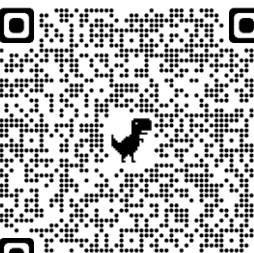
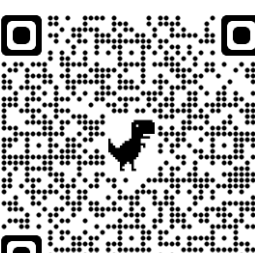
Other useful MSE student guides to read:

www.moneysavingexpert.com/students/student-budgeting-planner/

www.moneysavingexpert.com/students/student-bank-account/

www.moneysavingexpert.com/students/student-guide

Useful websites

			
UCAS	Complete University Guide	UCAS Course Search	UCAS Personal Statement Help
			
Personal Statement advice from Imperial College	Personal Statement advice from Staffordshire Uni	How to write a personal statement - BridgeU	How to write a personal statement - Which
			
Wider reading and how to make your application stand out - UniTasterDays	Wider reading ideas from Oxford University	Sixth Form wider reading lists for A Level subjects	Future Learn courses (supercurricular)