

The background of the slide is a faded, semi-transparent image of a university campus. It features a large, multi-story building with a prominent tree in the foreground. The tree has thick, gnarled branches and is mostly without leaves, suggesting a late autumn or winter setting. The building has a classic architectural style with multiple windows and a central entrance. The overall tone is light and airy, with a soft focus effect.

Applying To University

Why Go To University?

- Is it worth the money?
- What are the alternatives?
- Gap Year?

Degree Apprenticeships

- As well as working on the job, you study for a degree. You earn from day one and your tuition fees are paid by the employer. No fees, no debt!
- Search on UCAS or Unifrog

Which university/which course?

- Critical decisions
- Aim as high as you can
- Do a course you'll enjoy - with progression
- Research career paths
- There are many different courses!
- Academic vs vocational
- Visit universities
- There is life outside of London
- Russell Group?

Useful Information

- [UCAS course search](#)
- [Which University](#)
- [OpenDays.com](#)
- [Studential](#)
- Unifrog

UCAS

- Online application system
- Five choices of university in one application
- No order of choice
- Only one personal statement
- Retain one “firm” choice, one “insurance” choice
- Can make deferred applications (gap year)
- Internal/external deadlines

Apply 2018 key facts

- Application is entirely online.
- Maximum of five choices.
- Some choice restrictions:
 - for medicine, veterinary science/medicine and dentistry there is a maximum of four choices
 - can only apply for either Oxford or Cambridge
- Simple application cost:
 - one choice – £13
 - two to five choices – £24
- Equal consideration if (external) deadlines are met.
- Invisibility – universities cannot see where else someone has applied.



UCAS

Universities decide whether to make an offer based on:

- GCSE grades
- Personal statement
- College reference
- Predicted grades
- Sometimes – interview & extra work/tests

Predicted Grades

- Based on summer exam performance
- Guide students to be realistic
- What if predicted grades are low?
- Easy way or hard way to a top university

Personal Statement

- A side of A4 about yourself - max 47 lines or 4000 characters
- One statement for all applications!
- Focus is suitability and interest in the course – 75% academic
- Avoid pretentious/pompous language – it's okay to sound like a 17 year old!
- Avoid plagiarism
- It will take a lot of drafts so start early – this summer!

Tracking applications

Track will allow your son or daughter to:

- follow the progress of their application online
- see their choices and personal information
- see their offers
- reply to offers online



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**.

Other options

Extra 24 Feb – early July

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

Clearing 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.



Where does it all go wrong?

- Students apply to the wrong course
- They don't apply to a *range* of universities
- They apply to universities they don't want to go to!
- They don't visit universities
- They don't choose a sensible insurance
- They start research and personal statements too late and rush them

Advice & Guidance

- Visiting speakers from universities
- Ex-students currently at university
- 1-1 interviews with careers staff
- Special support for Oxbridge/medicine
- Support for personal statements

- Unifrog

Advice & Guidance

- Mock Interviews
- Support with firm/insurance strategy
- UCAS Extra and Clearing
- Gap year Applications
- Post A level UCAS

Deadlines

- Mid-September– Oxbridge/Medicine
- 28 Sept to be sent by end of October
- 31 October to be sent end of November
- 30 November to be sent 15 January
- After 1 December, no guarantee for 15 January deadline

How can you support them?

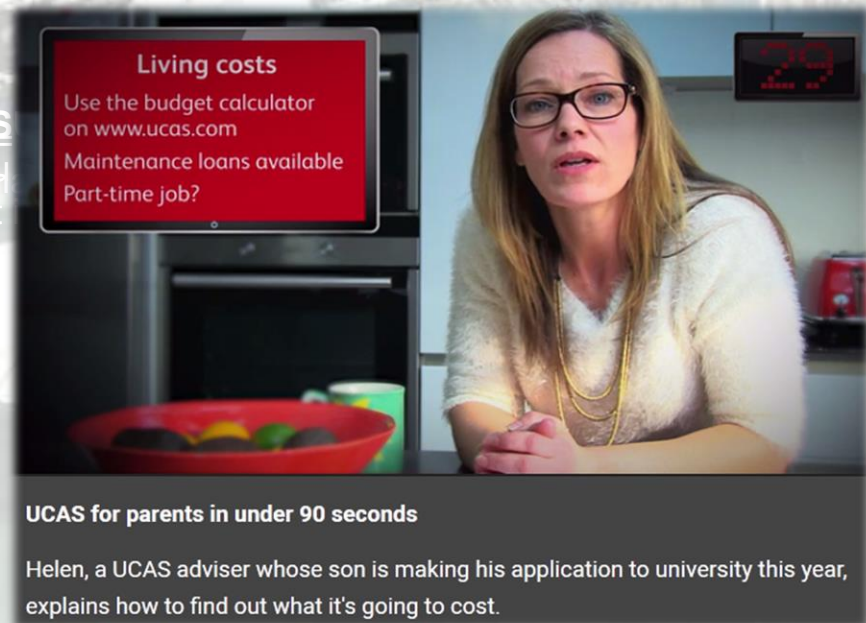
- Use the parents/guardians section of the UCAS website/Parent Guide publication – www.ucas.com/parents and sign up for the newsletter.
- Offer to attend open days, you may have a different perspective.
- Don't book family holidays at key times.
- Make sure they read everything carefully that is sent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

Videos for parents

UCAS has developed four videos on key topics:

- The UCAS process
- Open days
- Student finance
- Clearing

www.ucas.com/parents




Living costs
Use the budget calculator
on www.ucas.com
Maintenance loans available
Part-time job?

UCAS for parents in under 90 seconds
Helen, a UCAS adviser whose son is making his application to university this year, explains how to find out what it's going to cost.

Student Finance

- Apply next spring for a loan for both fees and for living expenses
- Think of it as a graduate tax (9% on income above £25k per year)
- Universities also have bursaries and scholarships available
- The maintenance loan (up to £8700/£11400) assumes a parental contribution!
- See Student Finance England website and tick parent or student:

<https://www.practitioners.slc.co.uk/supportin>



Questions?