

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 scene is bright and clear, with a light blue sky.

Applying To University

Why Go To University?

- Is it worth the money?
- Do the high fees change your decision?
- What are the alternatives?
- Gap Year?

Which university/which course?

- Critical decisions
- Aim as high as you can
- Do a course you'll enjoy - with progression
- 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](#)

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

UCAS

Universities decide whether to make an offer based on:

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

Predicted Grades

- Based on AS grades
- Guide students to be realistic
- **Students are predicted as a minimum: their AS grade plus a grade**

Personal Statement

- A side of A4 - max 47 lines or 4000 characters
- Focus is suitability and interest in the course
- Avoid pretentious/pompous language – it's okay to sound like a 17 year old!
- Avoid plagiarism
- It will take a lot of drafts ...

Our Process

- Internal deadlines
- References
- Editing and re-editing
- 3-4 weeks to send off

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
- Sometimes universities reject us

Is Life Over if AS Grades are Disappointing?

- Personal statement & reference can tell the story.
- Reality check or special circumstances?
- Might have to settle for a gap year and apply again after A level results
- Anything is possible if A levels turn out okay

Advice & Guidance

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

- Progression Booklet

Advice & Guidance

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