

The background of the slide is a faded, light-colored 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 positioned on the right side of the frame. The building has a classic architectural style with a central entrance and several windows. The overall scene is bright and clear, suggesting a sunny day. The text 'Applying To University' is overlaid on this background in a large, bold, black font.

# Applying To University

# Why Go To University?

- Is it worth the money?

**Higher pay still makes it financially beneficial to go to university for most students in England, says research from the Institute for Fiscal Studies.**

But 20% are worse off after paying for courses, says the study commissioned by the Department for Education.

- The higher-ranked universities are more likely to 'pay off' over a lifetime

# Should I take a gap year?

- About 1 in 6 Woodhouse students take a gap year
- Most universities/most courses: gap years are approved on the nod. You can apply at the same time as everyone else, but to start a year later.

# **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?

- 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 routes (eg law degree vs another degree and then conversion course)
- 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 (your favourite), one “insurance” choice (if possible)
- Can make deferred applications (gap year)

# 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 – £20
  - two to five choices – £25
- 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

- Generously based on summer exam and first-year record
- Guide students to be realistic
- What if predicted grades are low?
- Easy way or hard way to a top university

# Tracking applications

Track will allow you to:

- follow the progress of your application online
- see your choices and personal information
- see your 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
- They limit themselves to London!

# 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
- UCAS Week!
- **Unifrog**

# Advice & Guidance

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

# Deadlines

- Mid-September– Oxbridge/Medicine
- End of Sept to be sent by end of October
- End of October to be sent end of November
- End of November to be sent 15 January
- After 1 December, no guarantee for 15 January deadline
- It takes us 3 weeks to send after you have completed the application

# 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 £25,725 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 :  
<https://www.practitioners.slc.co.uk/supporting-materials/>

# 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!

# Personal Statement

- What content have you got for yours?
- How can you evidence your interest in the subject
- What have you done outside the classroom?
- What reading have you done?
- What skills have you developed?

# Work experience

- For students applying for a vocational course e.g. medicine, law, architecture, engineering, this should be your second and biggest paragraph
- Do not list every thing you did – focus on what was gained from the experience and how this is useful for the course you're applying for
- What skills and personal qualities did you develop?

# Personal Statement

If you feel there is something personal you want the university to know about that has affected your progress, you should ask your tutor to put it in your reference.

# Use Unifrog

## UK Personal Statement

- ✘ Subject added
- ✘ Started
- ✘ Character count
- ✘ Marked as finished

[Go to tool >](#)

### Section 1

Why do you want to study this subject?

0 of 1200 characters

### Section 2

What have you done in the past that makes you particularly suitable to study the subject?

0 of 2400 characters

### Section 3

What else have you done that would contribute to the university community?

0 of 400 characters

# What should you be doing now?

- Appointment with Joanna?
- Booking open days
- Research online and via Unifrog to decide what course and where
- Extra reading/activity to build your personal statement
- Arrange work experience
- Work hard for the summer exams!

# UCAS Week – in June

<p>Monday 24th</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UCAS/Activity week Introduction assembly 10am (DURANT), Main Hall</li> <li>• UCAS/Activity week Introduction assembly 11am (LAWRENCE), Main Hall</li> <li>• UCAS get started sessions R12/30/31 11.30am</li> <li>• Tutor Group (DURANT) 11 AM</li> <li>• Tutor group (LAWRENCE) 12 AM</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stand in Social Area 12.30 Surrey uni</li> <li>• Talk Medicine Personal statements Conf Room 12.30-1.30pm</li> <li>• Talk- Sociology Degrees 12.30-1pm 219</li> <li>• Talk –Hall, Applying to University 1.30 Surrey uni</li> <li>• Talk – Biology degrees Room 113 1.30-2.30</li> <li>• Talk Essential Law- applying for law /related courses 2-4pm conf room</li> <li>• Talk Psychology at uni 2-3pm R2</li> <li>• Talk Data Analyst Uni and Data Analyst course 2-3pm R9</li> <li>• UCAS get started sessions R12/30/31 2.30pm</li> </ul>
<p>Tuesday 25th</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apprenticeships awareness talk 10am R2</li> <li>• UCAS get started sessions R12/30/31 11am</li> <li>• Talk Politics and International Relations- courses and applying 11-12 Room 215</li> <li>• Talk Essential Law- applying for law /related courses 11am-1pm Conf Room</li> <li>• Applying for a Maths degree JR 11-12 311</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Talk- with Ex Woody -Apprenticeships in accountancy and finance SS 11-12pm</li> <li>• Stand social area- Aston University 1.15-2.15pm HT</li> <li>• Stand Social Area- Glasgow University 1,30-2.30pm KB</li> <li>• Talk: Writing Personal Statements for Oxford and Cambridge 2-3pm Main H</li> <li>• Talk on Engineering degrees and careers DM 2-3pm Conf Room</li> <li>• UCAS get started sessions R12/30/31 2.30pm</li> <li>• Talk 'Getting into UCL' The Hall 3-4pm</li> </ul>
<p>Wednesday 26th</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Talk on Applying for a competitive Uni: St Andrews Uni 10am (Hall)</li> <li>• Talk Get into the Big 4 as a Consultant- without a degree- 10-11am R44</li> <li>• Talk- Art Foundation and Art related degrees 10-11am Art Room</li> <li>• UCAS get started sessions R12/30/31 11am</li> <li>• Talk Geography at uni 11-12 R33</li> <li>• Talk Classics and ancient history degrees R14 11-1pm</li> <li>• Webinar -Lloyds Bank- Opportunities with a degree or apprenticeship 12-1pm R31</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Talk- Studying Physics at University 11-12 104</li> <li>• Stand Social Area SAE Academy 12-1pm</li> <li>• Stand social area- Leinn International University 1-2pm</li> <li>• Talk- with Ex Woody- 'A fantastic gap year' 1pm R2</li> <li>• Talk Studying Chemistry at University 1.30-2.15pm 111</li> <li>• Last Oxbridge Meeting 1.30-2.30pm Conf Room</li> <li>• UCAS get started sessions R12/30/31 2.30pm</li> </ul>
<p>Thursday 27th</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Talk 10am Writing your personal statement (Hall)</li> <li>• Workshop 11am- 12 Drafting your personal statement- Hall (both Leicester uni)</li> <li>• Talk-Applying for a Spanish degree 10.30-11.30 R17</li> <li>• Talk- Applying for a History degree 11-12 R213</li> <li>• UCAS get started sessions R12/30/31 11am</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stand social area- Bloomsbury Institute 12-1pm</li> <li>• Stand Social Area Swansea University VC 12-1pm</li> <li>• Talk Applying for a German degree 12-1pm R17</li> <li>• Talk – Applying for a French degree 2-3pm R17</li> <li>• UCAS get started sessions R12/30/31 2.30pm</li> <li>• Talk by Nottingham Uni – Getting into a competitive Uni 1pm The Hall</li> <li>• Talk by A Star Future- Studying your degree abroad 2.15-3.15pm R2</li> </ul>
<p>Friday 28th..</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Talk Philosophy and Theology at University 9.30-10am 216</li> <li>• Applying to university in the USA, 11.30 Conference room</li> </ul>	