



Welcome to RH6

Information about University
application and apprenticeships



Our Aim this evening

- To explain the fundamentals of how students apply to University through UCAS
- To explain the apprenticeship route
- To share key advice about how students can research, read and prepare in order to decide their next steps.
- To share RH6 support guidance and planning
- To share timelines for university applications
- Additional information for those applying for Medicine/ Oxbridge/ Vet/ Dentistry



Our context and success...



The vast majority of our students go to University: 97%

Last year, 90% students gained a place at their first choice of university

Support from form tutors, sixth form team and subject teachers throughout process

Mrs Billington: Sixth Form administrator dedicated checking and administrative support.

"Application was very clear, and the early deadline motivated me and took out a lot of stress."



- UCAS is the University admissions service for the UK.
- Students who want to apply to University will apply through UCAS.
- Students register with UCAS and link to Rugby High School. We can see their application form and support them throughout.
- Students can apply to FIVE university courses through UCAS.

UCAS

The current context for university applications

- UK Higher Education is in demand: 578,000 acceptances last year
- Record number of 18 year olds securing places in 2025: 320,000 securing offers
- In 2025 applications were up 5%
- Application rates are returning to pre-pandemic levels
- Spike in student population 2008 - 2015

The logo for Apprenticeships, featuring a stylized sunburst or fan shape in shades of orange and red to the left of the word "Apprenticeships" in a bold, dark blue sans-serif font.

Apprenticeships

- **Government regularly updates apprenticeship information on their website**
- **Students can check local opportunities via Unifrog and UCAS**
- **We share any opportunities via our weekly bulletin**
- **Shrinking number of apprenticeships available to 18 year olds**



Advantages of apprenticeships

- Earn while you learn!
- Professional environment
- No tuition fees
- Networks and links with employers



Things to consider:

- You have to take on responsibility of an employee
- Highly competitive
- Not the same as student life
- Working with a range of people in professional setting



Are you applying from a school, college, or centre?



- Students create an account with UCAS and then “link” it to RH6.
- This means their application will go through (and be checked) by RHS
- Mrs Billington will communicate with students when we want them to do this via assemblies and email

What should students do now?

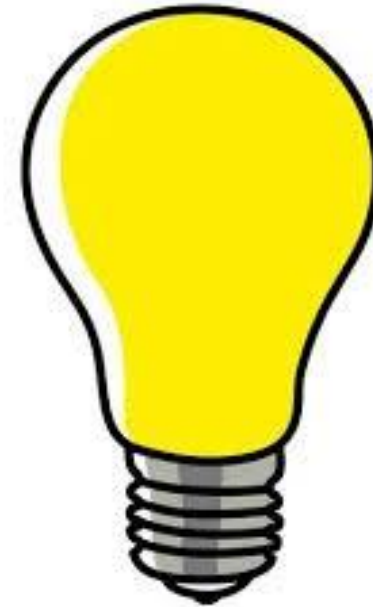


**GET
READY**



Key questions to ask yourself

- - what subjects do I enjoy?
- - what skills/ aspects of study do I enjoy?
- - am I self motivated to study?
- - do I want to be in a workplace environment
- - Do I want to spend the next three years (plus) in an academic environment?



The next set of questions to ask yourself

- - look at course content and module options: how is the degree assessed? (coursework/ exams?) year abroad? Industrial placement?
- Is the university far from home or close by?
- Is it a campus university or part of a town/ city?
- What are living costs / rental costs/ accommodation?
- What are the student satisfaction rates/ employment rates?
- What are the teaching methods?

Making decisions!

- 50,000 university courses ...
- 5 choices
- 1 firm and 1 insurance!



What is the cost of applying to University through UCAS?

£34.50

Fee waiver available to PP students

You don't pay to register. You pay when you send off your application



What are the best universities and what is the Russell Group?

- The best university is the best university FOR YOU!

Russell Group universities

- 1 University of Birmingham
www.birmingham.ac.uk
+44 (0)21 414 3344
- 2 University of Bristol
www.bristol.ac.uk
+44 (0)117 928 3000
- 3 University of Cambridge
www.cam.ac.uk
+44 (0)1223 337 733
- 4 Cardiff University
www.cardiff.ac.uk
+44 (0)2920 874 000
- 5 Durham University
www.durham.ac.uk
+44 (0)191 334 2000
- 6 University of Edinburgh
www.ed.ac.uk
+44 (0)11 275 26000
- 7 University of Exeter
www.exeter.ac.uk
+44 (0)1392 661 000
- 8 University of Glasgow
www.gla.ac.uk
+44 (0)141 330 2000
- 9 Imperial College London
www.imperial.ac.uk
+44 (0)20 7599 5111
- 10 King's College London
www.kcl.ac.uk
+44 (0)20 7636 5454
- 11 University of Leeds
www.leeds.ac.uk
+44 (0)113 243 1701
- 12 University of Liverpool
www.liverpool.ac.uk
+44 (0)151 794 2000
- 13 London School of Economics and Political Science
www.lse.ac.uk
+44 (0)20 7405 7886
- 14 University of Manchester
www.manchester.ac.uk
+44 (0)161 306 6000
- 15 Newcastle University
www.newcastle.ac.uk
+44 (0)191 208 8000
- 16 University of Nottingham
www.nottingham.ac.uk
+44 (0)115 951 5151
- 17 University of Oxford
www.ox.ac.uk
+44 (0)1865 276 000
- 18 Queen Mary University of London
www.qmul.ac.uk
+44 (0)20 7862 8886
- 19 Queen's University Belfast
www.qub.ac.uk
+44 (0)28 924 245 133
- 20 University of Sheffield
www.sheffield.ac.uk
+44 (0)114 222 2000
- 21 University of Southampton
www.southampton.ac.uk
+44 (0)23 8059 5000
- 22 University College London
www.ucl.ac.uk
+44 (0)20 7675 2000
- 23 University of Warwick
www.warwick.ac.uk
+44 (0)24 7652 3523
- 24 University of York
www.york.ac.uk
+44 (0)1904 320 000

What elements are there in a UCAS application form?

Student progress

Personal details



More about you



Nationality



Education



Where you live



Employment



Contact details



Extra activities



Supporting information



Personal statement



Finance & funding



Choices



Diversity & inclusion



How do universities decide how to offer places?

- GCSE results (core subjects)
- Predicted grades (we call them application grades)
- Personal statement (YOU CAN ONLY WRITE ONE PERSONAL STATEMENT)
- Any additional assessments that are required for some specific courses.
- Some courses will want an interview (either online or in person)



Personal statements: 3 sections: 4000 character count

1. Why do you want to study this subject?

Demonstrate a genuine interest in the subject area: motivation/ wider reading/ experience/ research

2. How have your studies helped you prepare for this course?

Relevant and transferable skills / achievements / Competitions/ EPQ/ projects

3. What else have you done to prepare outside of education?

Relevant work experience/ hobbies/ interests/ volunteering

PERSONAL STATEMENT

What **to do** & what **to avoid**

Do



Sell yourself



Be enthusiastic



Be relevant



Be clear



Be positive



Get feedback



Application Grades: how are they decided?

- All staff use their professional judgement when using the following criteria to arrive at a predicted grade, which is evidenced based and takes into consideration the potential trajectory of each student :



The following elements are considered:

- Classwork, homework and regular assessments throughout Year 12 and the first part of Year 13
- Year 12 exams (*some departments will put more weighting on this than others – but it will not be the sole indicator*)
- post exam work/tests in September Year 13
- evidence of student progress e.g. receptiveness to feedback/ willingness to refine exam technique/ attitude to learning
- proven ability to produce quality work in timed conditions
- if NEA (non-examined assessment – i.e. coursework) is underway this is also an indication
- consideration of how Year 13 content can be more difficult/challenging than Year 12

What is widening participation?

- Widening participation is the initiative to give access to more people to a university education.
- You will be able to share information on their UCAS application form if any of the following criteria are applicable to them, if you:
 - are a first-generation higher education student i.e. be the first in your family to attend university)
 - live in a low-participation neighbourhood
 - come from a low socio-economic group
 - have a disability or learning difficulty of some kind
 - are a young carer
 - are entitled to free school meals
 - are a refugee or asylum seeker
 - have spent time in care

How do I know entry requirements for universities?



- Check university websites
- Unifrog
- ... typical offers have risen over the last five years...

Additional assessment for Medicine and Dentistry: the UCAT

- All computer based and test centred: full list of centre availability (book ASAP)
- We recommend sitting the UCAT in summer. An intensive 3 week prep is best!

UCAT SECTIONS			
SECTION	QUESTIONS	TIMING	SCORING
VERBAL REASONING	44	22 MINUTES	300-900
DECISION MAKING	35	37 MINUTES	300-900
QUANTITATIVE REASONING	36	26 MINUTES	300-900
SITUATIONAL JUDGEMENT	69	26 MINUTES	BAND 1-4

Other additional assessments

- **ESAT (Engineering and Science Admissions Test):** Used for courses in engineering, natural sciences, and veterinary medicine.
- **TMUA (Test of Mathematics for University Admission):** Used for mathematics, economics, and computer science.
- **TARA (The Test of Academic Reasoning for Admissions):** A newer, non-subject-specific test assessing general academic skills, starting for 2026 entry
- **ELAT (for English Lit admissions at Oxford)**
- **LNAT (for Law)**

- All UATs are assessed on a scale of 1 – 9 scale: RASCH scaling method is applied

Universities are trying to stretch out the very top candidates: it is a scaling score

Universities that use UATs

- **Imperial College London**
- **University of Cambridge**
- **University of Oxford**
- **Durham University**
- **London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)**
- **University of Warwick**
- **University College London (UCL)**



Thinking about Law? The following universities require the LNAT

- [University of Bristol](#)
- [University of Cambridge](#)
- [Durham University](#)
- [University of Glasgow](#)
- [King's College, London \(KCL\)](#)
- [London School of Economics and Political Science \(LSE\)](#)
- [University of Oxford](#)
- [University College London \(UCL\)](#)
- [SOAS University of London](#)



Extenuating circumstances: Mrs DB will complete this part of your UCAS form if you have faced serious challenges in your A Level journey

- the onset or worsening of a serious or chronic mental or physical health condition
- serious illness or accident resulting in hospitalisation or urgent medical attention/treatment relating to a student
- family breakdown
- recent bereavement
- serious illness of a member of the student's immediate family (e.g. parents, grandparents, siblings, spouses and children, including step-relations and guardians)
- significant disruption to educational provision at school/college
- being the victim of a serious crime or significant involvement in an on-going court case
- a natural disaster, act of terror or conflict affecting the applicant's school/college, home, or close family
- complications relating to childbirth or pregnancy.

Support offered at RH6

- Personal statement “bootcamp” in June with Dr Carr and Mrs DB!
- SLT / form tutor support and advice on personal statement
- A member of staff who is a subject specialist and teacher is nominated to write the academic reference.
- Mrs Billington checks all applications and oversees the administrative side of the process
- PSHE time dedicated to personal statements at the start of Year 13
- Advice and support on contextual offers and extenuating circumstances from RH6 team and Mrs DB

Timeline for university applications Year 12



- Jan – April: super curricular reading/ additional online lectures/ MOOCs/ seeking work experience / opportunities (and logging this on Unifrog)
- May – June: research unis and choose courses
- May - June – students visit UCAS exhibition and register with UCAS
- June – July: Year 12 end of year exams (these help shape predicted grades) and draft personal statement

Timeline: Year 13



- September: finalising personal statements
 - October: final application grades decided by teacher.
 - November: submission deadline (internal) for UCAS applications
- ***PLEASE NOTE: WE FOLLOW OUR OWN INTERNAL SCHEDULE. IF STUDENTS WANT TO APPLY THROUGH RUGBY HIGH SCHOOL THEY NEED TO ADHERE TO THE TIMELINE.***

Final advice:

- Be pro-active
- Be open minded
- Be realistic
- Check your emails
- Stick to deadlines
- Ask questions!
- Stay positive!



Thank you for listening!

