



Overview:





- Universities & Colleges Admissions Service
- A centralised system: One application to UCAS and they pass it on to the 5 choices.
- Students can monitor progress using Tracker
- <http://www.ucas.com>
- They also offer an early clearing at the end of Feb called “Extra” (if not holding any offers after all decisions) and a later one after A2 results.

UCAS Conservatoires

- Now via www.ucas.com
- “Conservatoire” tab
- For Music, Dance and Drama courses at 8 UK conservatoires.

What are the most competitive universities looking for in applicants?

- Genuine interest in their chosen subject.
- Appropriateness of their chosen course.
- Strong exams record.
- Motivation, commitment and organisation.
- Enthusiasm for complex and challenging ideas.
- Clarity of thought and analytical ability.
- Intellectual flexibility.
- Vocational or professional commitment (where appropriate). Eg Medics/Law.

Selection Criteria

- GCSE grades
- Year 12 exam grades
- Predictions
- A Level subject combinations
- School reference
- Personal Statement
- Submitted work
- Test results
- Interview performance

Student Action 1: Request Subject References

SUBJECT TEACHER REFERENCE FORM FOR UCAS APPLICATION

ALL OF THE GREY BOXES SHOULD BE FILLED IN BY STUDENT BEFORE E-MAILING TO SUBJECT TEACHERS

Name of student			
Name of AS subject: (If Maths be specific. Eg Maths/Stats)		Name of teacher:	
Subject of degree choice(s): (you may have more than one and you can change the choice). If no idea write that			
Oxbridge (<i>please put an 'x' against one</i>)	Yes	Possible	No
Reminder to the teacher of good work. Eg presentations, essays, oral contribution, extra reading, lectures, group work, practical work, IT work, helping others etc. Be precise.			
Date sent to subject teacher			
Category of applicant (deadlines): A=Oxbridge/Medics B= Know choices but not above C=Not sure			

Student Action 2: Course Choice

WHAT DO I CHOOSE?



TOO MANY OPTIONS!

True or False – really a course?

Glass

Quantum
Science &
Lasers

Tournament
Golf

Ballistic
Engineering

Ethical
Hacking &
Countermeas-
ures

Yacht &
Powercraft
Design

Perfumery

Viking
Studies

Bovine
Management

Viticulture
& Oenology

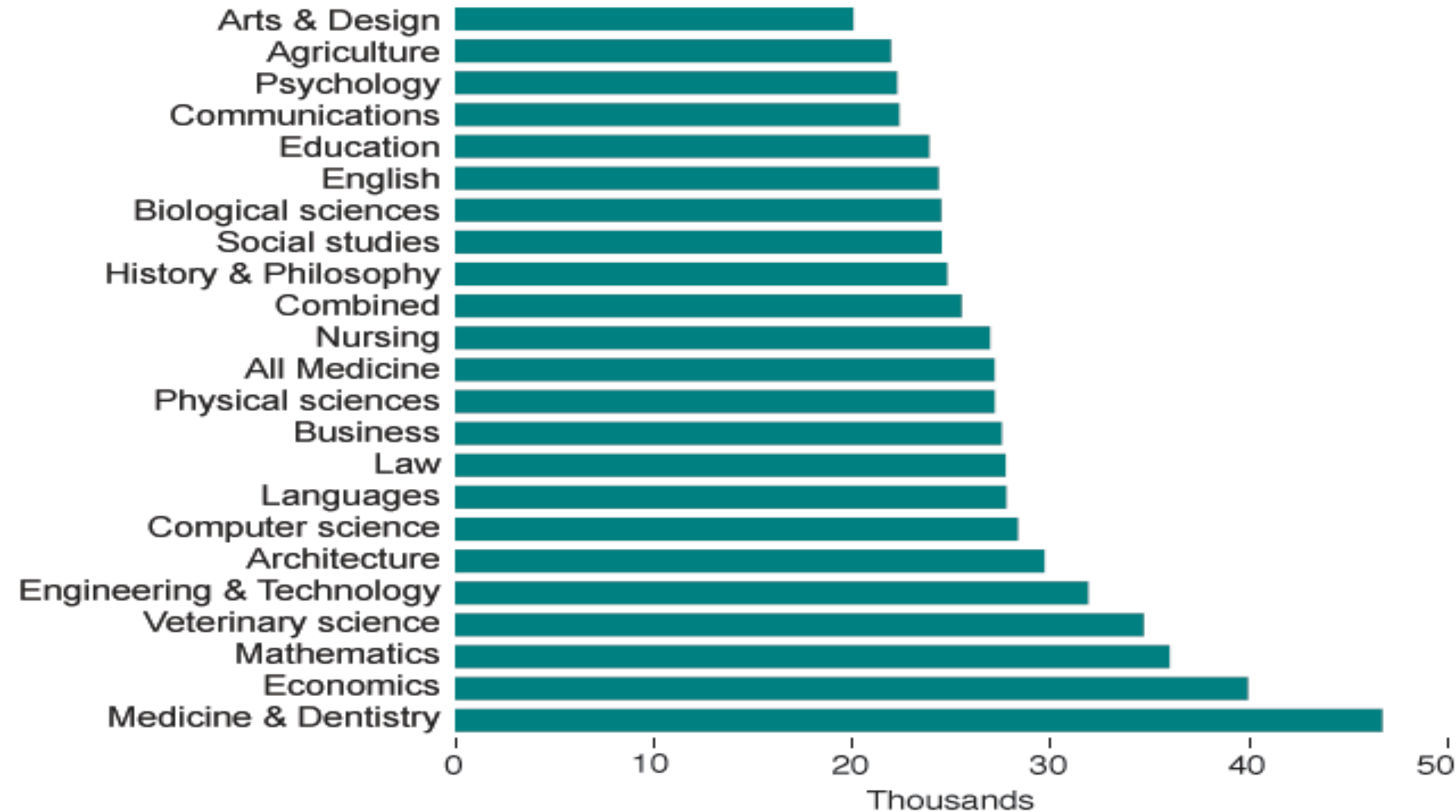
Motorsport
Design
Engineering

Football
Studies
& Music

Student Action 2: Course Choice

Which graduates earn the most?

Median annual earnings (£) by subject, five years after graduating

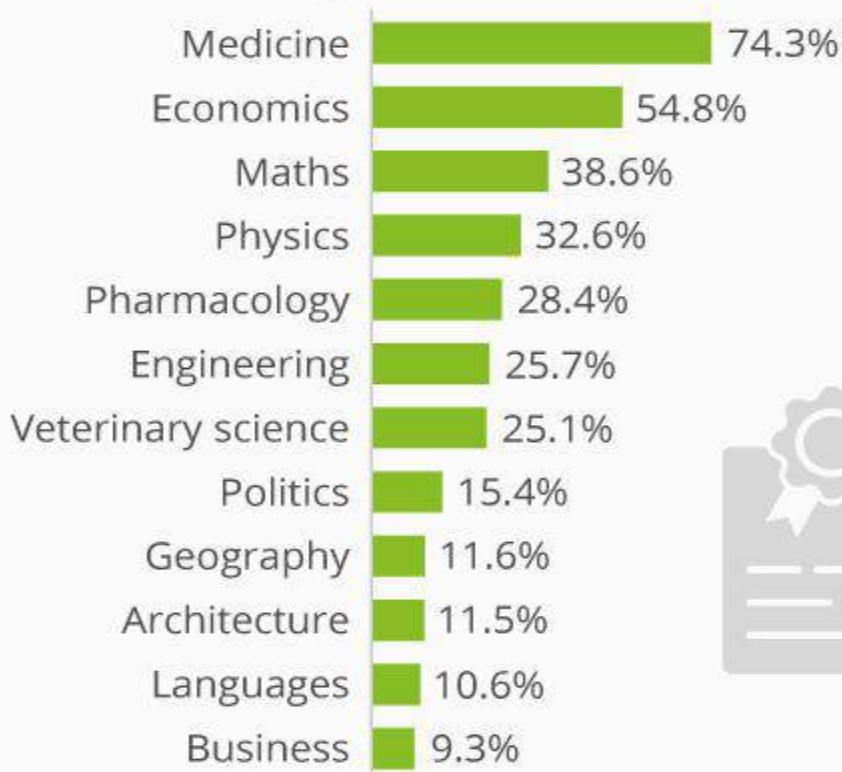


Student Action 2: Course Choice

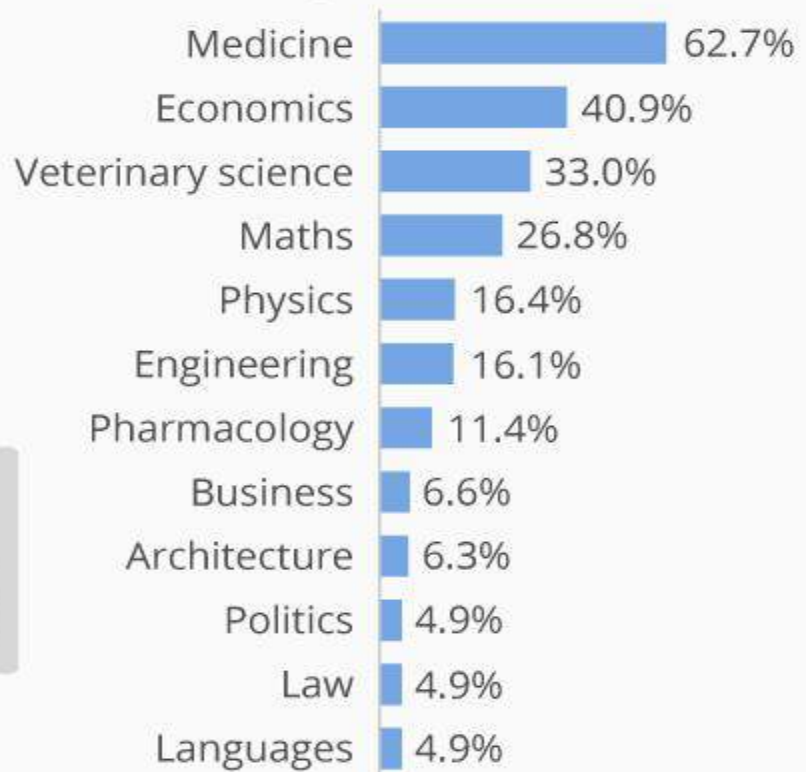
Which degree will earn you the most?

Difference in earnings 5 years after graduation compared to avg. degree (England)

♀ Women



♂ Men



Figures based on the raw differences in PAYE earnings for graduating cohorts 2007-08 to 2011-12 in the tax years 2011-12 to 2015-16.
n=108,354 female graduates of the subjects shown / 147,759 male graduates of the subjects shown.

Student action 3: University Choices

- There are 7 categories. Some in more than one.
- Russell Group. Eg Sheffield
- Ancient Universities. Eg Edinburgh
- Traditional research-led universities. Eg Bath
- 1960s. Eg UEA
- 1992 Universities. Eg Kingston
- Brand new universities (2000s). Eg Bournemouth
- Specialist colleges, institutes... Dance, Drama, Music, Art. Eg RCM, Chelsea, Guildhall

Institutions: Ancient

Oxford, Cambridge, St Andrews, Glasgow,
Aberdeen



Institutions: Russell group

The **Russell Group** is formed of 24 British research **universities** – Birmingham, Bristol, Cambridge, Cardiff, Durham, Edinburgh, Exeter, Glasgow, Imperial, KCL, Leeds, Liverpool, LSE, Manchester, Newcastle, Nottingham, Oxford, QML, Queens Belfast, Sheffield, Southampton, UCL, Warwick and York



Institutions: “new universities”/ “plate Glass”/ “red brick”

Aston, Bath, Bradford, Brunel, City, Heriot-Watt,
East Anglia, Essex, Keele, Kent, Lancaster,
Loughborough, Salford, Sterling Strathclyde,
Surrey, Sussex, Ulster, Warwick, York,

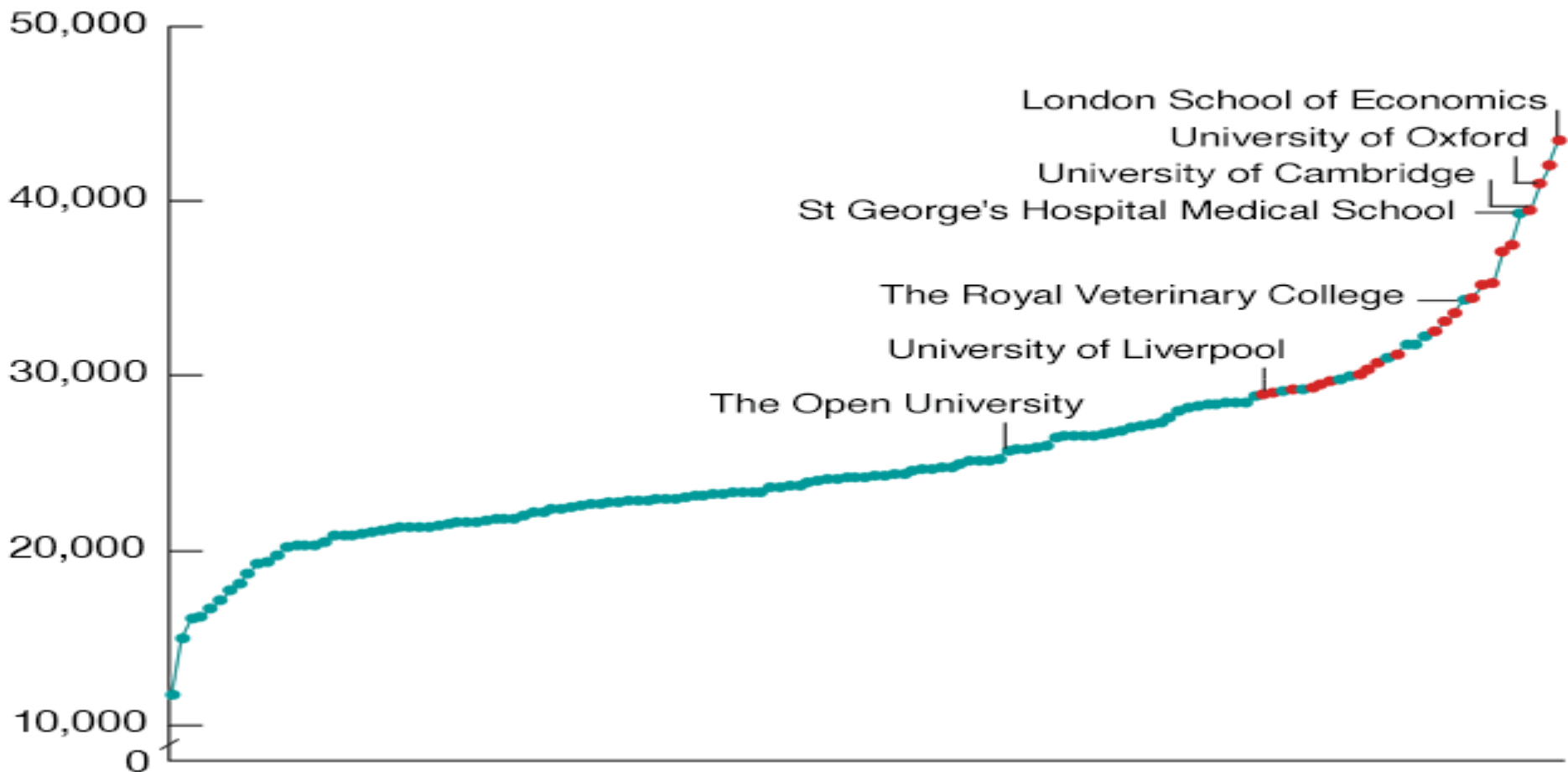


Student Action 3: University Choice

Graduate earnings by university

Median annual earnings, five years after graduation (£)

● Non Russell Group ● Russell Group



Student Action 2: University Choice

Check basis of the rankings

University	UK Ranking	World Ranking
University of Cambridge	1	2
University of Oxford	2	4
Imperial College London	3	6
University College London	4	8
University of Edinburgh	5	15
University of Manchester	6	28
King's College London	7	37
London School of Economics	8	56
University of Bristol	9	61
University of Warwick	10	64
University of Southampton	11	78
University of Glasgow	12	81
University of Leeds	13	86
University of Birmingham	14	91
Durham University	15	92
University of Sheffield	16	96
University of St Andrews	17	96
University of Nottingham	18	114
Newcastle University	19	122
Queen Mary University of London	20	125

Student Action 2: University Choice

Check basis of the ranking

Mechanical Engineering

UK Ranking	Institution
1	University of Cambridge
2	University of Oxford
3	Imperial College London
4	Cranfield University
5	The University of Manchester
6	The University of Sheffield
7	University of Bristol
8	University of Leeds
9	Loughborough University
10	The University of Nottingham
11	UCL (University College London)
12	University of Bath
13	University of Birmingham
14	University of Southampton
15	King's College London (KCL)
16	Queen Mary University of London (QMUL)
17	Swansea University
18	The University of Warwick
19	University of Edinburgh
20	University of Glasgow
21	University of Liverpool
22	Cardiff University
23	Queen's University of Belfast
24	University of Strathclyde
25	Brunel University

Criteria for choices

- Grades
- League Tables/Reputation. Check how it is awarded.
- Course content
- Cost of living
- Bursaries
- Campus
- What jobs do the graduates get.
- Level of teaching and support.
- How near is to home.

Alternatives: Sponsored Degrees (Degree Apprenticeship)

- **KPMG:** Business & Administrative Studies at Durham and Birmingham.
- **PWC:** Business & Administrative Studies at Newcastle, Reading or Nottingham.
- **Airbus:** Engineering, Finance and Manufacturing at 4 different universities
- **Barclays:** Business and Administrative Studies at Anglia Ruskin.
- **Capgemini:** IT Degree Apprenticeship Programme at Aston
- **CGI:** IT/Computing career and another in Business Management at Winchester.
- **Experian:** offers a BA(Hons) in Management and Leadership at Nottingham Trent.
- **A consortium including Bosch, Eaton-Cooper Industries, GSK, Johnson Matthey, Moog, Nestlé. Engineering at Loughborough.**
- **MBDA:** Business & Administrative Studies at Bolton or Hertfordshire.
- **Morrisons:** Business & Administrative Studies at Bradford.
- **Nestle:** Business & Administrative Studies at Sheffield Hallam.

Alternatives: Degree Apprenticeship

- <https://www.notgoingtouni.co.uk/>
- <https://amazingapprenticeships.com/>

Alternatives: Overseas Applications



Alternatives: USA

- The Fulbright website is useful – see below
- <http://www.fulbright.org.uk/going-to-the-usa/undergraduate/educationusa-advice/applying>
- Students can apply using the Common Application – see below
- <https://www.commonapp.org/>
- Support will be given individual support when required. WKE is the “school counsellor” and you will need another teacher to write a subject specific reference.

Alternatives: Med/Dentist/Vet schools in Europe

- Grade requirements are lower.
- Costs may be lower
- Taught in English?
- Qualifications accepted in UK?

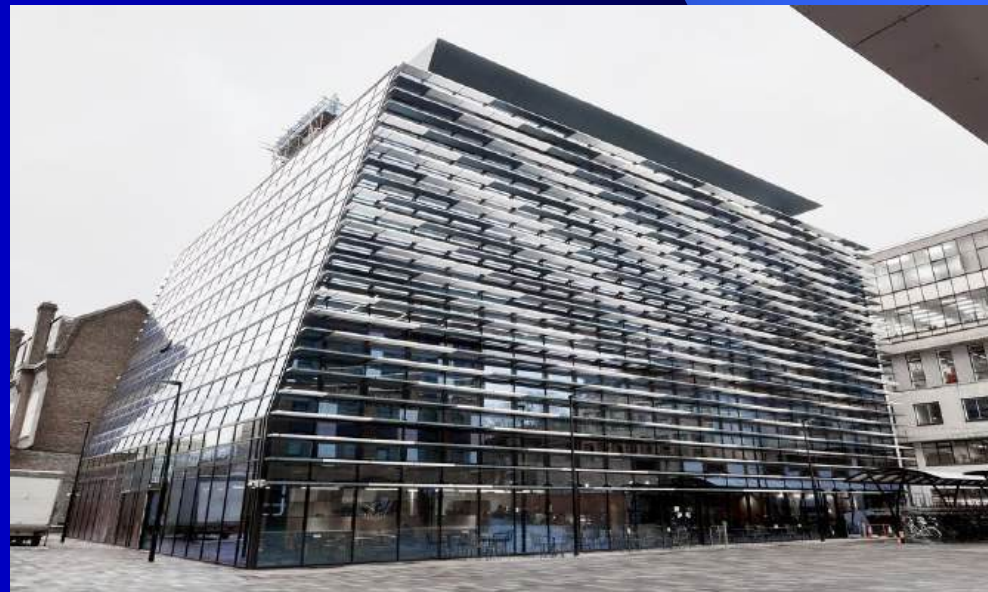
- https://www.studymedicineeurope.com/medicine-europe?gclid=EAIaIQobChMIsteelqfY5QIVVeDtCh07pgZ5EAAAYASAAEgl9vfD_BwE

- https://www.medlinkstudents.com/?gclid=EAIaIQobChMIsteelqfY5QIVVeDtCh07pgZ5EAAAYAyAAEgJEDPD_BwE

Alternatives: Part time



Alternatives: Art Foundation



Student Action 4: Personal Statement



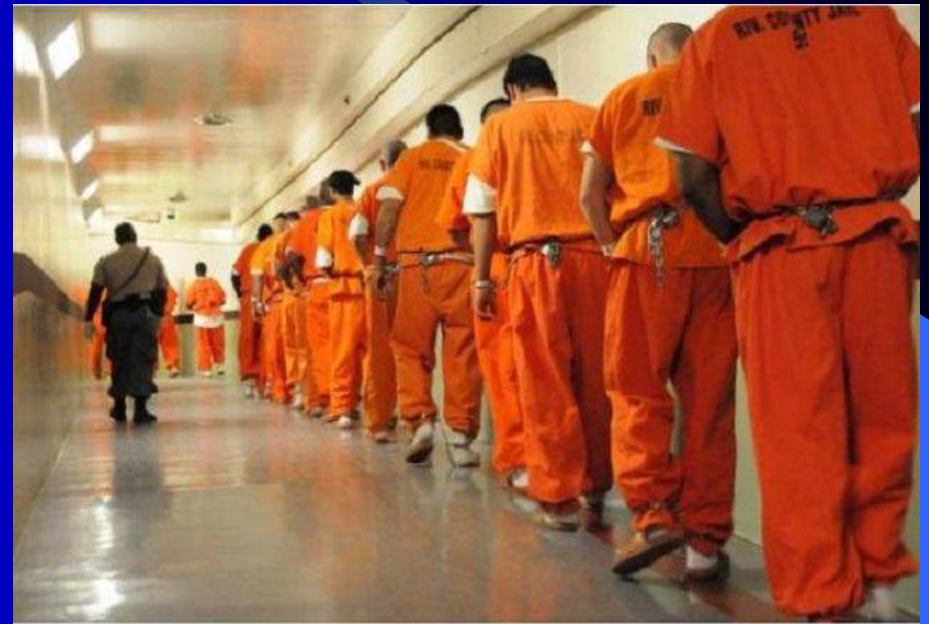
Student Action 3: Personal Statement

- Interest in subject: Evidence not passion/love. List them and write up – analyse / critique / evaluate / debate. Use the skills that you have developed.
- Aspects of your subjects that you have enjoyed.
- Study skills: Research, presentations, discussions
- Super Curricular. Eg extra reading, lectures, attending societies, research, essay competitions, Economics, Science, Medical and History Magazine
- HE+ Cambridge University
- Current issues / Hot topics
- Relevant work experience /voluntary work

Student Action 5: Relevant work experience



Student Action 5: Electronic Application



Student Action 6: Essays

**"YOU CAN'T WRITE AN ESSAY
THE NIGHT BEFORE IT'S DUE"**

**THAT'S BECAUSE I CAN WRITE IT
THE DAY IT'S DUE**

Student Action 7: Tests

Thinking Skills Assessment - Short Sample Test

Menu

[Front Page](#)

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

[Finish Test](#)

Question 1

In order to succeed in academic examinations it is necessary to study. Therefore, if a student works hard in a particular subject, he or she should do well when it comes to the examination.

Which of the following best describes the flaw in the argument?

- A It assumes that it is necessary to study in order to succeed.
- B It overestimates the value of studying in preparation for examinations.
- C It ignores the fact that some subjects are more academic than others.
- D It assumes that studying hard is a sufficient condition for academic success.
- E It ignores the fact that some students do not need to study very much in order to succeed.

[Previous](#)

[Next](#)

Answer : **D**

Student Action 8: Interviews



Student Action 9: Finance

- Tuition Fees = £9,250. Not paid-up front.
- Don't start paying back until salary above £25k at a rate of 9% on the income above £25k. In the form of a tax. Is added to your income tax and NICs deductions. Wiped out after 40 years. (It used to be 30 years.) Therefore this will increase what you pay back in total.
- Highest earners after leaving will benefit. Low and mid earners will lose out. This is because highest earners will pay it off over less than 40 years and pay less interest.
- Regardless of the size of the debt the re-payment solely depends on what you earn (9% of the salary above £25k). If earn £30k then pay 9% (increased from 7%) of £5k. $(£30-£25) = £450$.
- Going abroad – you still have to pay. It's a contract.
- Maintenance (living) Loan. Assessed on parental income. Over £60k you get the minimum loan (half the full loan). £4,524 for 2023

Student Action 9: Finance

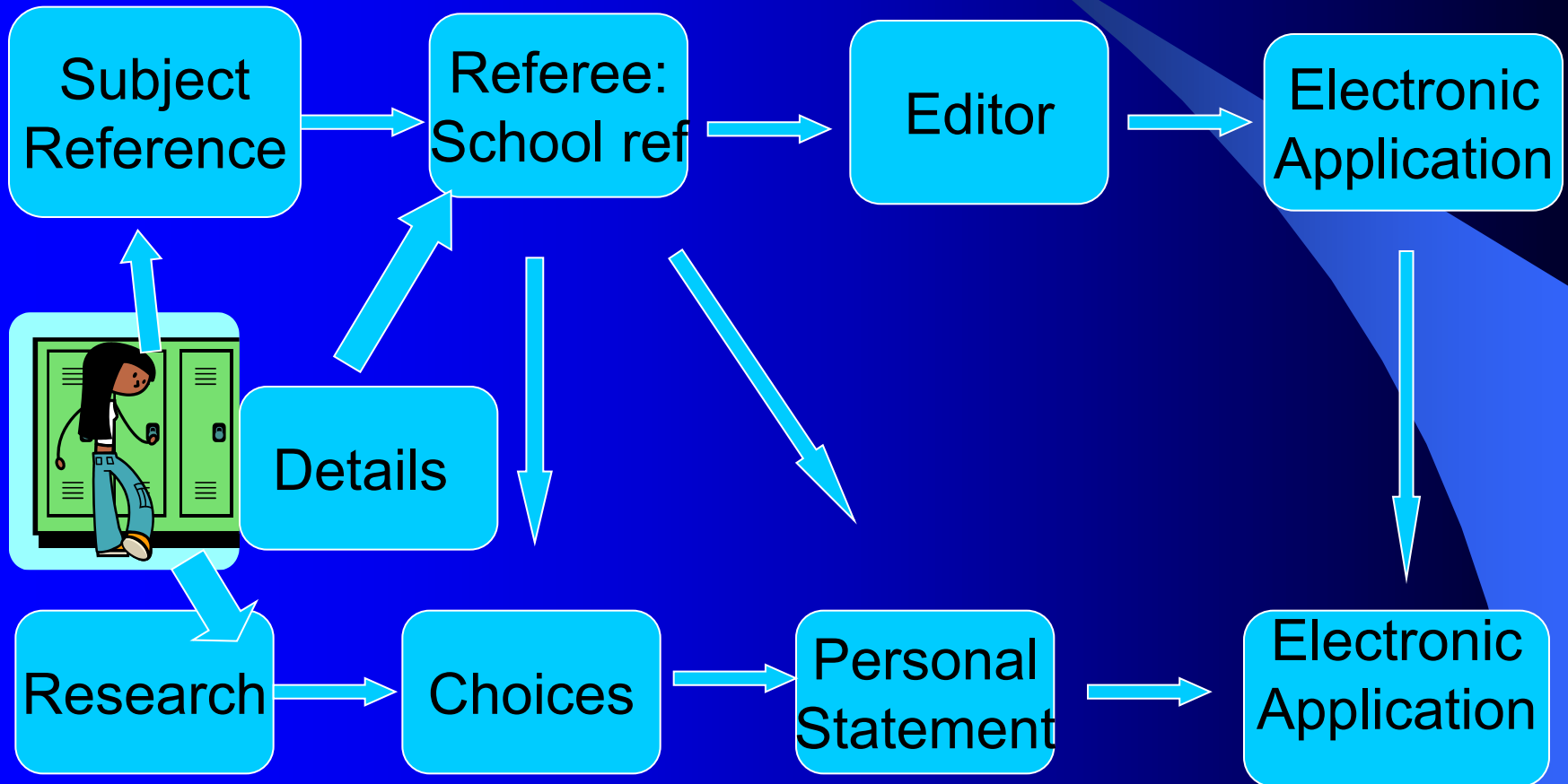
- Interest Rates on student loans. Reduced to RPI (IT WAS RPI + 3%). Therefore, a saving
- On average for every £1 spent on Higher Education the Govt paid 44p and the student paid 56p (2022). With the changes (for 2023) the impact is that the govt now pays 19p and the student 81p of every £1 spent. I.e the burden has switched from the state to the individual.
- The system can change. I.e thresholds
- Student loan is the best loan you can get. I.e varies depending on income and there are no debt collectors.
- Hopefully inflation will come down and therefore the interest.

Student Action Summary: Prepare to meet the admissions criteria

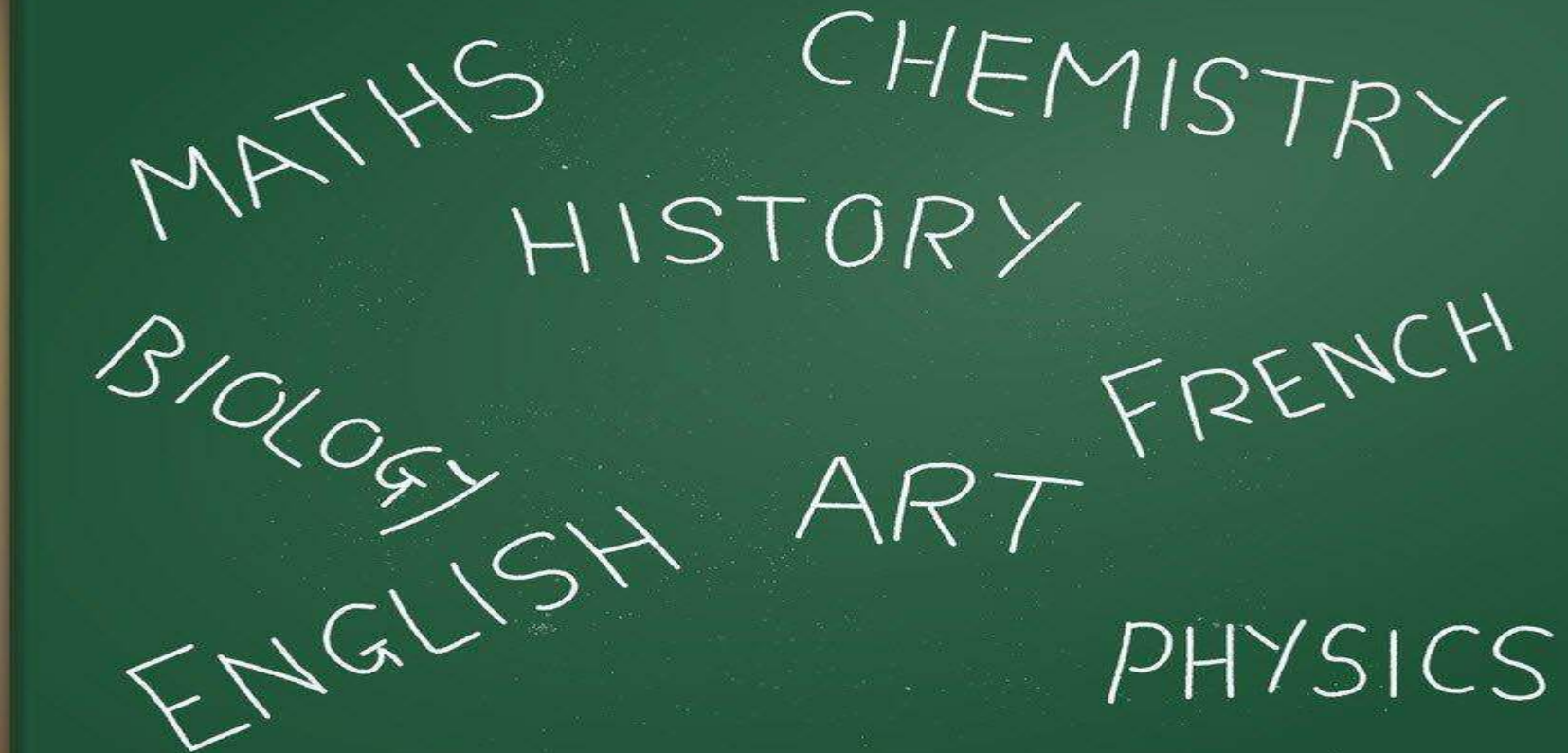
- Know what you have to do and prepare in advance.
- Tests, Essays, Interviews.
- Check the relevant websites
- Reflect on feedback: Autumn Progress Report and Parents Evening. Act on the advice
- Achieve the highest grades possible in Year 12
- Participate in your subjects
- Super Curricular – list and write up
- Relevant work experience



UCAS Process



School Action 1: Subject Reference



MATHS CHEMISTRY
HISTORY
BIOLOGY FRENCH
ENGLISH ART
PHYSICS

School Action 2: Predicted Grades



School Action 3: The school reference



Right combination of A Level subjects and “preferred subjects”

- We deliver a presentation to Yr 11 students before option choices and this was available on our external website for new students. A Level subjects and degree choices.
- We advise students to check with potential university choices before dropping anything and wait until Year 12 exam results.
- Informed Choices (The Russell Group):
<http://www.russellgroup.ac.uk/informed-choices.aspx>

Dates

- Summer Year 12: Referees allocated, potential medics sit the UKCAT exam, LNAT (Law) tests, UCAS online instructions, send subject references to teachers, send personal details form to referees.
- Summer Year 12: UCAS (internal) Exam results.
- August: AS results and A Level Maths results
- Autumn Year 13: UCAS Predictions
- Early October (even earlier for those doing BMAT due to entry deadline): Early applicants deadline (Oxbridge, Medics, Dentists and Vets)
- November: University tests sat at school.
- Nov/Dec onwards: Interviews and sending work
- Early Dec : Deadline for all other applicants
- Oct onwards: Offers
- February Extra – an early clearing if not holding any offers
- March onwards: Offer decision. 1 firm (first choice) and 1 insurance (2nd choice)
- Mid August : A Level Results / Clearing/Adjustment Period. Please email if you need advice.

Useful websites 1: Application Process

- www.ucas.com
- www.studential.com
- www.universityadvice.co.uk/UKAdvice.aspx

Useful websites 2: Choices

- www.ucas.com
- www.unistats.com
- www.universityadvice.co.uk
- www.universitycourse.co.uk
- www.push.co.uk
- www.education.guardian.co.uk
- www.unofficial-guides.com
- http://www.ug.studylink.co.uk
- www.hero.ac.uk
- www.bubl.ac.uk/uk/fe

Useful websites3: Guidance for Parents

- www.ucas.com
- www.parentcentre.gov.uk
- www.universityadvice.co.uk/ParentConcerns.aspx

Useful websites4: Financial Information

- www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance
- www.universityadvice.co.uk
- www.slc.co.uk
- www.hefce.ac.uk
- www.studentloanrepayment.co.uk
- www.scholarship-search.org.uk

Useful websites5: Gap Years and/or summer placements

- www.findagap.com
- www.gap.org.uk
- www.csv.org.uk
- <http://www.deloitte.co.uk/scholars/>
- [http://www.kpmgcareers.co.uk/Home_\(1\).aspx](http://www.kpmgcareers.co.uk/Home_(1).aspx)
- <http://www.gapyear365.com/company/deutsche-bank>
- <http://www-05.ibm.com/employment/uk/>

Useful websites 5 Gap Years cont

- <http://careers.accenture.com/Microsites/uk-graduate-joiners-consulting/Pages/index.aspx>
- <http://www.bankofenglandjobs.co.uk/opportunities/gap-year-internships/>
- <http://www.yini.org.uk/>
- <http://www.metaswitch.com/careers/internships/pre-university/rachel-tocknell.aspx>
- <http://www.futurereach.org.uk/>

Useful websites 6: Student websites

- www.uni4me.com
- www.thestudentroom.co.uk
- www.ucas.ac.uk/yougo

Useful websites7: Tests

- <http://www.ucas.ac.uk/students/choosingcourses/admissions/>
- www.lnat.ac.uk
- www.bmat.org.uk
- www.ukcat.ac.uk
- www.history.ox.ac.uk
- www.elat.org.uk
- www.tsa.ucles.org.uk

Useful websites 8: Oxbridge

- <https://www.admissionstesting.org/for-test-takers/preparation-materials/>
- <https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/applying-to-oxford/guide/admissions-tests>

Useful websites 9: Interviews

- <https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/applying/interviews>
- <https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/applying-to-oxford/guide/interviews>

Useful websites 10: Super-curricular activities

- <https://myheplus.com/>
- <https://explore.org/>
- <https://nrich.maths.org/post-16>
- <https://isaacphysics.org/>

Q1: What advice do you give about Gap Years?

- We provide web links to gap year opportunities
- If a student hasn't got the right grades at AS level and they may be considering applying for entry after they have left Latymer then a gap year may be appropriate
- Past students who haven't got the offers that they wanted have then explored gap year opportunities. But could be a bit late by then
- Its best to apply for the schemes in the Autumn Term of Yr 13 as some schemes have deadlines in that period of time. Eg Financial companies. Start researching in the summer term of yr 12.
- Maths Admissions Tutors are particularly concerned about gap years (maths skills lost over a year) so it is best to check with individual universities.
- Some admissions tutors like students to do something "worthwhile". Eg Work experience, charity work, further study, travel.

Gap Years:

Top 10 gap year destinations and suggested minimum daily budget



* Excludes transport

Source: ABTA/Rough Guides

Note: Based on dormitory hostel accommodation, self-catering or street food and the cheapest form of public transport.
Exchange rate as of 11 July 2016.

Gap Years Placements: Apply early

- KPMG
- Deloitte
- Dresdner Bank
- Bank Of England
- Year In Industry
- IBM

Q2: What help is provided for students who have “no idea” what course to apply for

- The initial stage of the UCAS process at Latymer for all students involves research. All students are encouraged to explore different subjects and different universities.
- Students should explore which subjects/topics within subjects/ they enjoy and the skills they have developed and how does this link to university courses. Create a long list
- The university websites offer detailed descriptions of the courses
- Some students consider careers that they are considering and then work backwards – what is a useful degree to secure such a career
- They are encouraged to explore the content of non A Level degree courses. Eg PPE etc
- We advertise taster courses, summer schools and lectures at London universities and societies. Explore
- Yr 13 students do presentations on their university applications
- Past Latymer students, now at University also present and describe their courses
- Sixth form staff are available for individual consultations.
- Some students are not ready to apply in yr 13 and opt to take a gap year and apply the following year or after.

Q3: How do I find out about scholarships and bursaries

- The universities run these schemes and the information is available on their websites.
- www.scholarship-search.org.uk might be a useful starting point

Q4: What does deferred entry mean?

- Most students will be applying for entry in the year they complete Alevels but some will apply for entry the following year. This is a deferred entry. They are intending to have a Gap Year
- We advise that students contact university departments directly and see if this is acceptable. They do not encourage it for Maths students as it is felt that they can become de-skilled. So students need to show evidence that they will be avoid this
- It is important that students continue to develop their academic interests by extra reading for example.
- Some students apply after that have left Latymer and they still receive the same level of support. It is important that subject references are requested at the same time as other students otherwise it will be impossible to write a reference when they need one.
- Not much advantage in deferred entry any longer because the application is electronic and can apply easily. Some universities judge applicants asking for deferred entry more harshly as they cannot compare them to the current cohort.

Q5: How are referees allocated?

- In March of Year 12 the students indicate the subject(s) they are intending to apply for.
- Once teaching timetables have been allocated we will know which staff are available to write school references.
- We use the information about degree intentions to allocate staff with some expertise in that area. Form tutors will also be given an allocation. Some staff are able to write references for a range of degrees.
- All the allocated referees are trained each year in writing school references.
- The references are based on the subject references, which are written by staff who know the students very well.
- Students send the “Personal Details Form” to their referee and this information helps them to write the reference. They also meet with them at a mutually convenient time

Q6: Where are UCAT and BMAT tests taken?

- UCAT is taken at test centres, not in school . The nearest one to the school is in Southgate.
- <http://www.ucat.ac.uk>
- BMAT is taken at school
- <http://www.admissionstestingservice.org/for-test-takers/bmat/about-bmat>

Q7: What if Year 12 UCAS Exams grades are lower than expecting/hoping for?

- Eg wanted to apply for a course requiring A*AA but achieved BBC
- Still apply in Year 13 for 2024 entry but for courses in line with those grades. Aim to perform better in final A2 exams hopefully achieving the desired grades. Then use the “Adjustment period”. If no suitable courses left then withdraw from 2024 entry and apply again for 2025. (There is no penalty for doing this.) So plan for a Gap Year just in case. If grades have not improved then you can decide to accept any offers being held
- Or wait and apply in 2024 for entry in 2025, with final grades. Obviously plan for a gap year.

Q8: Why do you only allow 3 days off school for Open Days?

- Students are welcome to visit as many universities as they want but we only allow 3 days off school as we are keen that they are in school to keep up with their studies and therefore achieve their full potential
- Some Open Days are at weekends
- All the information about courses is available on the university websites
- Often students are visiting a university to decide if they would enjoy living in an area rather than to find out the information mentioned above so this can be done at a weekend even if there is not an open day
- Some universities invite students to an open day after application and it is a quasi interview. If you come and we will make an offer. We allow attendance at those in addition to the 3

Q9: What are the predictions procedures?

Copied in the handout and will be sent to students and parents again at the appropriate time.



The Complete Destinations Platform

Find and apply for the best courses and apprenticeships for you.

Signing in



First time registration with

Unifrog

unifrog

FEATURES

FAQ

BLOG

CONTACT

SIGN IN

Student sign in

Your email address

Your password

Sign in

[Forgotten your password?](#)

Been given a Form Code?

[▶ Sign in for the first time](#)

Are you a teacher?

[▶ Sign in as a teacher](#)

Your school hasn't joined yet?

[▶ If you'd like it to, please contact us](#)



Complete the Signup page

Signup page

To create your own account, please fill in the following form.

* Form code

* Title

* First name

* Surname

* Email address

* Postcode

* Password

* Retype password

Sign up

Your school hasn't joined yet? If you'd like it to, please [contact us](#).

Every time you login to Unifrog from now on,

sign in here

unifrog

FEATURES FAQ BLOG CONTACT SIGN IN

Student sign in

Your email address

Your password

Sign in

Forgotten your password?

Been given a Form Code?
➤ [Sign in for the first time](#)

Are you a teacher?
➤ [Sign in as a teacher](#)

Your school hasn't joined yet?
➤ [If you'd like it to, please contact us](#)

If you do forget your password, hit this link to reset