



Year 12

Post 18 Options Information Evening



Format of evening



- Overview of post 18 options
- Outline of UCAS process for applying to UK universities
- Student Finance Presentation
- Apprenticeships
- How you can help and resources
- Questions?

Post 18 options



**UK
universities
2024 or 2025
start
(deferred)**

**Other courses
eg
conservatoires,
art foundation**

**Apprenticeship
or employment**

**Gap year -
travel, work
or
volunteering**

**Overseas
university**

Key Information

- UCAS: centralised electronic system (www.ucas.com)
- Applicants may select a maximum of 5 university courses: not ranked, 'blind' application.
- Pupil fills in application including personal statement, school adds predicted grades and reference
- Pupils receive conditional offers of places –based on grades or points
- Required to identify a Firm choice and an Insurance choice (Spring year 13)
- If applying for medicine or other clinical courses limited to 4 choices plus an alternative (e.g. biomedical science, anatomy). You can only apply to either Oxford or Cambridge



Timelines

Key deadlines:

- Conservatoires: early October deadlines
- Early applicants – Oxbridge, medicine, dentistry, veterinary - 16 October. **There will be an internal deadline in early October.**
- Main UCAS deadline – last Wednesday in January
BUT there will be an internal deadline in early December



Choosing the right place



- Style – from traditional, with a focus on subject-based courses and research, to modern universities/colleges, with a greater focus on vocational courses.
- Location – some are in large cities, others in small towns, by the coast or in the countryside – it's all a major influence on the environment and lifestyle.
- Size – larger universities can have more than 20,000 students, whereas some of the smallest have only a few thousand.

Choosing the right place (cont)



- Culture and facilities – influenced by a range of factors, look at facilities for academic and extra-curricular activities.
- What graduates do – all universities collect destination statistics; it can be useful to find out what jobs or further study students go on to.
- Tuition fees – can vary between universities and colleges; check if there are scholarships or bursaries available.
- Living costs – accommodation, transport, and food can vary enormously.

Choosing the right course



- What does the course cover? Courses with the same title may be very different.
Look carefully at the core course content, and the range of optional studies/modules available.
- Which modules are the most interesting and relevant to your career aspirations?
- See if the course or university/college offers any internship, placement, or study abroad opportunities.

Choosing the right course (cont)



- How is the course taught – structured teaching, or more independent research?
- How many lectures are there, and how much group work will be done in seminars? How is the course assessed?
- Foundation years

Types of University

RUSSELL

University of Birmingham
University of Bristol
University of Cambridge
Cardiff University
Durham University
University of Edinburgh
University of Exeter
University of Glasgow
Imperial College London
King's College London
University of Leeds
University of Liverpool
London School of Economics
and Political Science
University of Manchester
Newcastle University
University of Nottingham
University of Oxford
Queen Mary University of London
Queen's University Belfast
University of Sheffield
University of Southampton
University College London
University of Warwick
University of York

GROUP

'Typical' offer A*AA - AAB
at A Level

Most certainly not the be-all and end-all!

**There are many good universities which
are not members of the Russell group**

Some universities have specialisms in vocational courses



UCAS form

What it includes



Student Profile

Contact details
Educational
Qualifications
Contextual data



Personal statement

More about this later



Choices

Up to 5 choices

The School then adds in predicted grades and reference

Will they get an offer?



- A-Level predicted grades, may be specific subject requirements
- GCSE grades –may be subject/grade requirements
- Personal statement – more to come
- Admissions tests (UCAT, BMAT, LNAT etc)
- Interview
- Work experience
- Offer may be in grades or tariff points
- Some students may be eligible for contextual offers.

The Higher Education Landscape

Figure 1: English and Welsh 18-year old population 2009-2036

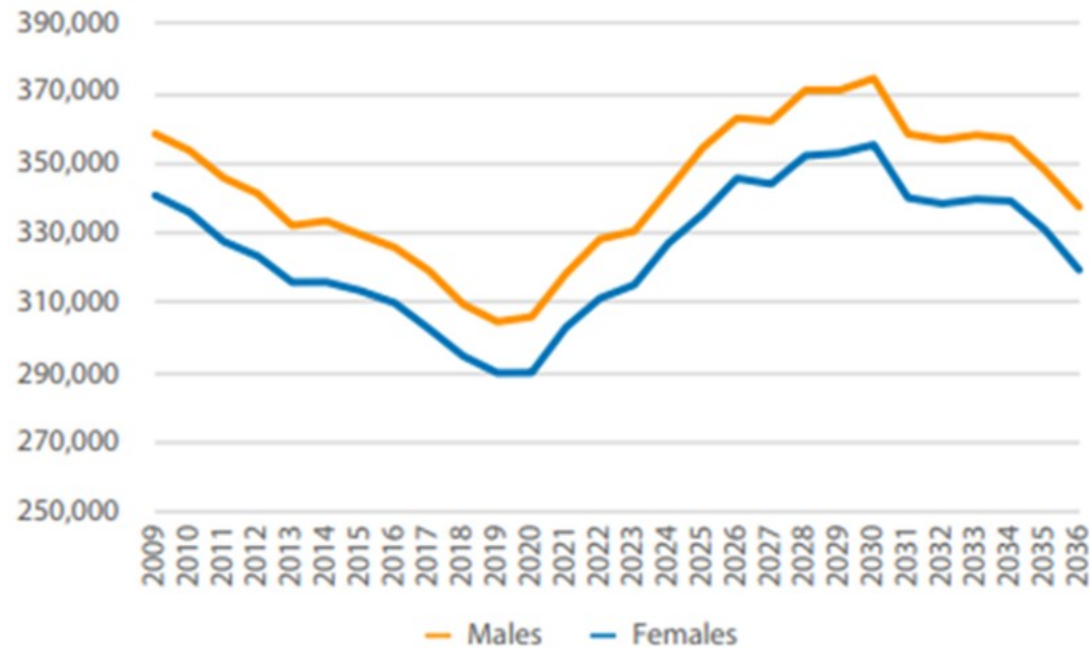
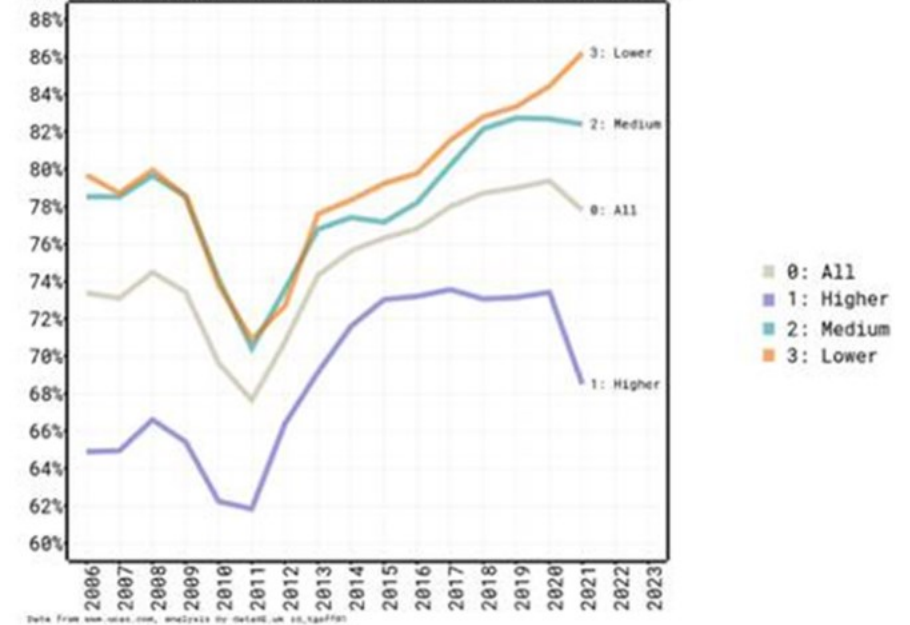


Figure 1 Offer rates to UK 18-year-old applications

Offer rates to UK 18 year olds by provider tariff group
June deadline applications at June deadline [pre-2017 adj]



What does this mean?

- Competition for places at selective universities is tough
- Having the right predicted grades is not a guarantee of an offer for some courses at some universities
- Important to spread risk across the five choices– particularly competitive this year at Oxbridge, Durham, LSE, Imperial, Warwick, UCL, St Andrews, Edinburgh, Manchester, Leeds
- Particular pressure on Computer science, Economics, healthcare courses
- We suggest a strategy of a spread of entry grades – look at predicted grades when deciding where to apply.



Personal statement structure

1. Introduction - Your main reasons for wanting to study a particular course
2. Analysis of academic activities and a specific area of interest, related to the course
3. Analysis of careers-based activities and discussion of future aspirations
4. Analysis of extra-curricular activities

Form tutors and subject teachers provide support for this process





Student Finance talk

▶ Harry Ward



Apprenticeships



Bloomberg



UCAS



Goldman Sachs



nationalgrid



Apprenticeships

- Give you the opportunity to gain on-the job-experience
- Earning and no student debt
- Do they have a preferred career path?
- Are they okay with not having a 'traditional' university experience?
- Do they have good time management skills?
- Less straightforward to apply for and selection can be lengthy and demanding
- Less straightforward to find vacancies and different timescales
- Need to apply for more than one
- We always recommend a UCAS application as a back-up

Apprenticeships

- There are different levels and they can go up to degree level.
- Researching opportunities - look at company websites and vacancy lists. This can start in year 12 although application windows will vary.
- For degree apprenticeships opportunities are sometimes on the university website but you will apply to the company rather than through UCAS - you can therefore in most cases have 5 choices plus your degree apprenticeships.
- Do check though eg University of Leeds/PWC Computer Science Degree apprenticeship - application is through UCAS

How you can help

- Encourage them to attend university open days – either in person, or virtually.
- Discuss different courses with them to help them narrow down their area of interest.
- Check that they are using Unifrog regularly to conduct research, log their activities and are starting their personal statements.
- Make sure that they know that they can contact myself or anyone in the Sixth Form team for help with anything – no matter how small

How you can help

- Make yourself familiar with the UCAS timeline, so that you can keep them on-track. In order to meet UCAS deadlines, the School has to set internal deadlines by which the student has to submit their application for the school to review.
- Make sure that they are checking both their school and the personal email account that they have used for their application daily.
- If they are applying for apprenticeships they need to be even more proactive. If you are able to, support them in learning to drive so that they can access more opportunities.
- If they are applying for clinical courses they will need to devote a significant amount of the summer break to preparing for UCAT/BMAT

Useful resources- University applications

- <https://www.ucas.com/>
- Use the careers library, subject library, University search tool on Unifrog
- <https://www.opendays.com/>
- <https://discoveruni.gov.uk/>
- Subject league tables: Guardian, The Complete University Guide
- <https://aspire.upreach.org.uk/>

Useful resources- Apprenticeship applications

- www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk
- www.apprenticeshipguide.co.uk
- <https://targetcareers.co.uk/search/jobs>
- <https://www.notgoingtouni.co.uk/apprenticeships-223>
- <https://www.getmyfirstjob.co.uk/>
- <https://www.ucas.com/apprenticeships-in-the-uk>
- <https://www.allaboutschoolleavers.co.uk/jobs>
- <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/apprenticeships>
- <https://www.ratemyapprenticeship.co.uk/apprenticeships>
- <https://www.amazingapprenticeships.com/vacancies>
- <https://www.springpod.co.uk/degree-apprenticeships>

Questions?

Email:

careers@bourne-grammar.lincs.sch.uk