



Applying to UCAS: Some Guidance for Parents

If your Young Person is planning to apply to university it is done through UCAS <https://www.ucas.com/>. Although we provide information and support, the onus is on the students to ensure they are proactive, that deadlines are met and that they engage with the help provided. Communications from universities will be made directly to students, we do not get copied in. It is important that they continue to check the email address that they provide to UCAS (do not provide a glow email).

<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/ucas-undergraduate-advice-parents-and-guardians>

UCAS Equal Consideration Deadlines

3 October 2022: 2023 entry application deadline for most UCAS Conservatoires music courses.

15 October 2022 (18:00 UK time): 2023 entry deadline for the universities of Oxford and Cambridge, and most courses in medicine, veterinary medicine/science and dentistry.

25 January 2023 (18:00 UK time): 2023 entry deadline for all UCAS Undergraduate and Conservatoires applications, except for those courses with a 15 October deadline.

Equal Consideration Deadline – Clarification!

The equal consideration deadline dictates that all UK universities will consider all UCAS applications submitted before this date equally for admissions to Sep 2023 intake. Universities and colleges do not have to consider applications received after the deadline.

Some Universities may respond to applicants with an offer before the January deadline, if applications are sent away early, however this is not on a first come first served basis. This is only for applications that they are certain about at this time.

At Kelso High School we aim to have all applications sent by the Christmas holidays.

Additional information re equal consideration date from LEAPS (15th June 2022)

There is no “first come first served” situation and there is no benefit to being in early. Each applicant will be considered equally and that’s just how it is.

If a pupil gets an offer early i.e. Glasgow are good at this, it’ll be because the university thinks that person would get an offer regardless of when they applied. The universities are very skilled at knowing where they would give their offers and early offers are probably going to pretty safe bets. However, Admissions is a number balancing game and there is no way that they will give away all their offers before the UCAS deadline. Basically, how they do it is they all over offer. They know that pupils won’t all accept every offer they are made so that’s how they work it out – it’s a bit of a gamble. They are fined if they are found to have over or under offered at the end of the process – i.e. results day – but they do over offer during the offer making stage. They have algorithms to determine by how much is safe.

From a guidance practitioner perspective, we are also very concerned when UCAS forms go in really early - we worry that pupils haven't had enough time to research and visit their options fully or work on their personal statement. So pushing for an early submission might be inadvertently disadvantaging the young person by not letting them work on their application fully.

Additional Requirements

Some courses and universities require additional submissions of portfolios or additional evidence. Some require testing and it is important to get organised with this early (this summer). Please check online for specific information. We are happy to help and advise where appropriate but the responsibility lies with the young person to be organised and proactive: <https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/admissions-tests>

Personal Statements

Students will be given some guidance in PSE from pastoral staff and also from University admissions tutors. There is lots of information online. UCAS also have lots of excellent information: <https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/how-write-ucas-undergraduate-personal-statement>

Students must be aware of the risks of plagiarism, personal statements must be their own work. <https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/filling-your-application/fraud-and-similarity>

References

References are written by pastoral staff in school. Students are asked to gather input from their classroom teachers and anyone relevant from out with school i.e. employment, sports etc. Please bear in mind that this reference is of equal length to the personal statement and so takes some time for pastoral staff to complete. This is another reason why we ask our students to ensure they complete their parts of the application by the KHS deadlines.

Other places for support

LEAPS

If students are eligible they may be able to access support from LEAPS, this website has lots of helpful info even if pupils are not eligible: <https://www.leapsonline.org/>

SAAS

Information about funding for tuition fees, loans and bursaries can be found here: <https://www.saas.gov.uk/>

ACES

<https://www.ed.ac.uk/studying/undergraduate/access-edinburgh/high-school-students/access-to-creative-education-in-scotland-aces>

Reach

<https://www.ed.ac.uk/studying/undergraduate/access-edinburgh/high-school-students/reach-edinburgh>

Nuffield

<https://www.nuffieldresearchplacements.org/>

If you have further questions please feel free to contact any of the Pastoral Team.

Regards

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