

Applying to University 2021



UCAS

Contents



[University application timeline](#)

Webinars

1. [Find out what you want to do](#)
2. [Research universities](#)
3. [Write your personal statement](#)
 - [UCAS](#)
 - [OSCAR](#)
4. [Completing your UCAS registration](#)
5. [Entrance exams](#)

[Oxbridge process](#)

Webinars



SIGN UP

[23 September: Applying for Oxford Cambridge,](#)

Presented by the University of Oxford and the University of Cambridge.

As founder members of the Russell Group, this session will explain what the universities of Oxford and Cambridge offer, with a particular focus on how they differ from other UK and international universities. It will provide an insight into student life at the two providers, and how to identify if you would be a 'good fit' student who is likely to get the most out of the distinctive education system offered. It'll also provide detailed advice on how applicants can maximise their chances of success, in a highly selective and competitive system.

[30 September: Applying for Russell Group](#)

Presented by the University of Edinburgh, Queen's University Belfast, Cardiff University, University of Liverpool, University of Southampton and University of Warwick.

The Russell Group's 24 members are world-class, research-intensive universities. They are unique institutions, each with their own history and ethos, but they share some distinguishing characteristics. This webinar will cover the challenges faced by students applying to selective, Russell Group universities and how they can make their applications stand out in a competitive environment. Representatives from universities across the four parts of the UK will cover how students can prepare, offer advice on writing persuasive personal statements and how admissions processes differ at selective institutions.

[7th October: Meet the Russell Group Virtual Fair](#)

Meet all 24 Russell Group Universities and take part in 12 webinars. Join us on Wednesday 7 October from 12:00 to 18:00 for Meet the Russell Group, a virtual event in association with UK University Search. This online and interactive experience will allow you to explore all 24 Russell Group universities and chat directly to their representatives and ambassadors. You will be able to view information and videos about each university, download prospectuses and take part in 12 live webinars in the virtual auditorium.

[4th November: UK University and Apprenticeship Search London/South East Virtual Fair](#)

The event will feature universities, colleges and apprenticeship providers from across the UK, as well as allowing students to explore their regional and local post-18 options. This new Virtual Fair will feature a wide range of exhibiting universities including Russell Group, red brick, modern and specialist institutions, as well as colleges and apprenticeship providers. This incredible event will enable you to visit exhibition stands and chat to representatives, view information and videos, download prospectuses and take part in live webinars in the virtual auditorium.

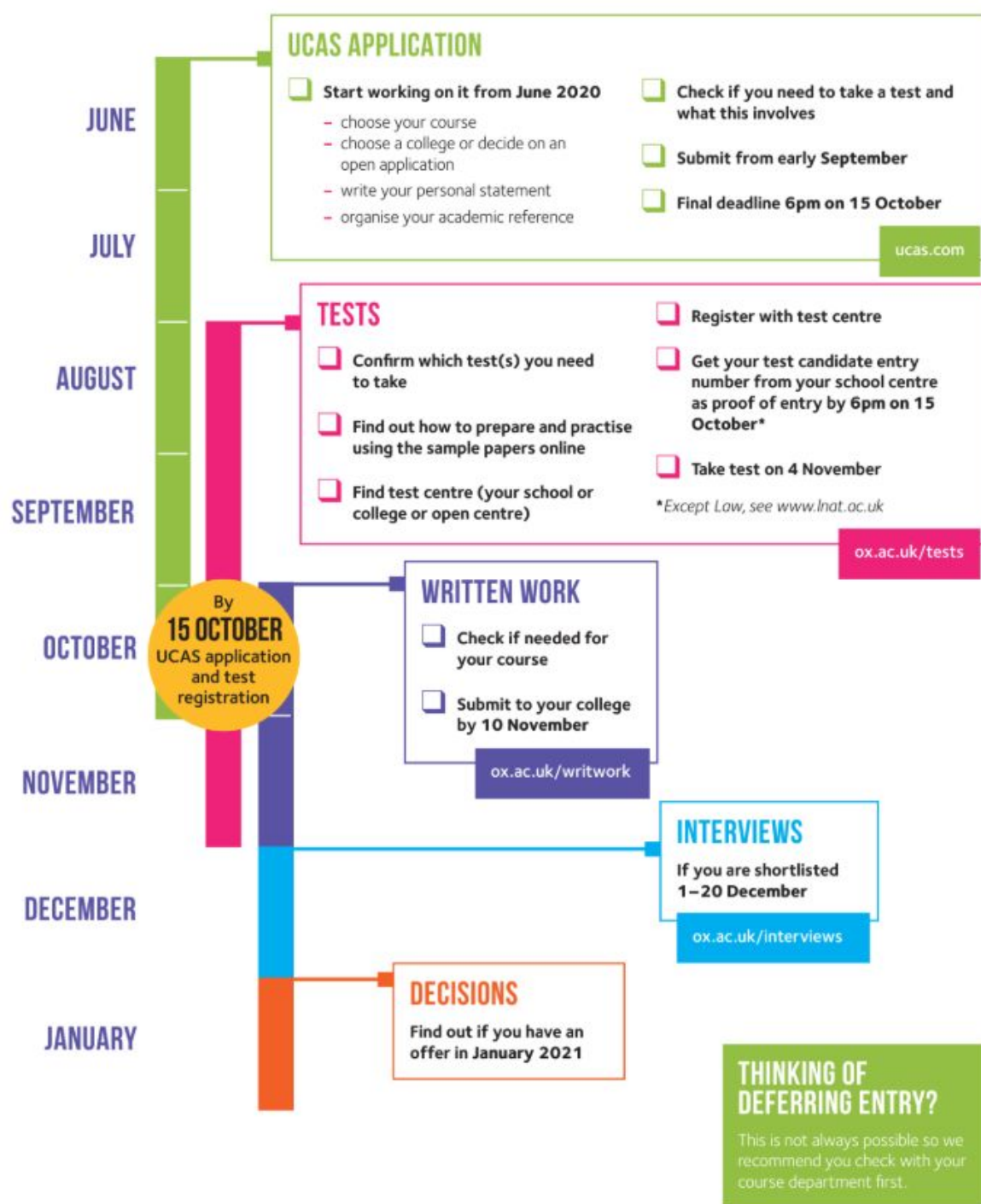
[UCAS Virtual Exhibitions focusing on subject areas](#)

Oxbridge/Medics/Vets/Dentists/Conservatoires Timeline

Weeks	Oxford, Cambridge, Medics, Vets, Dentists, Conservatoires ***15 Oct deadline***
07/09/2020	Tests booked with Pearson's or Miss Aherne Liaising with mentors and subject mentor about personal statement
14/09/2020	A draft personal statement submitted to mentor at the beginning of the week, and with relevant subject member of staff, with meetings arranged to follow up a few days later.
21/09/2020	UCAS registration completed Personal statement with SFO by the end of the week
28/09/2020	Reading through mentor references. Meetings with ML and CP booked to complete applications.
05/10/2020	External tests completed Meetings with ML and CP booked to complete applications.
12/10/2020	Meetings with ML and CP booked to complete applications. Thursday 15 October - DEADLINE

Oxbridge process

Read this [advice from a former student](#)



University application timeline



Dane Court
Grammar School

Weeks	11 Dec deadline: Applications through UCAS
07/09/2020	1. Discussing destinations with mentors Exploring university options on Unifrog
14/09/2020	2. Research university options on Unifrog and other search engines 3. Write your personal statement
21/09/2020	2. Research university options on Unifrog and other search engines 3. Write your personal statement
28/09/2020	4. Register on UCAS 30th September Applying for Russell Group Webinar
05/10/2020	3. Write your personal statement 4. Register on UCAS
	UCAS grades issued
	7th November Russell Group Fair
12/10/2020	3. Write your personal statement
19/10/2020	3. Write your personal statement
26/10/2020	HALF TERM
02/11/2020	Booking appointments with SFO to complete applications: BDH - ML NST - CP
	4th November: Virtual University Fair
09/11/2020	Booking appointments with SFO to complete applications: BDH - ML NST - CP
16/11/2020	
23/11/2020	
30/11/2020	
07/12/2020	Friday 11 December SCHOOL DEADLINE
14/12/2020	CHRISTMAS
21/12/2020	
28/12/2020	

1. Find out what you want to do



Turning the spotlight on yourself (fill in sheet):

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1kkfH8tmgsR_pnS1FmDftyfmSVZ1o25S_/view?usp=sharing

Take the 'Careers Quiz' on SACU: <http://sacu-student.com/>

Take the **Buzz Quiz** on UCAS: <https://www.ucas.com/careers/buzz-quiz>

2. Research universities

All the latest information received at Dane Court is posted here:

University Google Classroom code: **qukojer**



University Virtual Tours (directory provided by UCAS):

<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/what-and-where-study/open-days-and-events/virtual-tours>

Chat to university students about their university and course experience, Unibuddy:

<https://www.ucas.com/chat-to-students>

Search for universities, follow the guidance video here, **Unifrog**:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=9&v=9oUVPyuL_0Y&feature=emb_logo

Comparison websites:

- [What Uni?](#)
- [The Uni Guide](#) provides excellent information about subjects/ degree courses/ graduate employability and offers advice about writing personal statements; you can download a free 'Getting into Uni' guide, browse all universities or see how many applicants received an offer for your course last year.
- [Russell Group](#) has all the information you need about the 24 RG universities - but do not limit yourself to these. Remember that institutions such as Bath and Loughborough are just as competitive, popular and prestigious.

3. Write your personal statement

Used for:

University applications, Apprenticeship applications,
Employment applications

What is a personal statement?



A personal statement supports your application to study at a university or college. It's a chance for you to articulate why you'd like to study a particular course or subject, and what skills and experience you possess that show your passion for your chosen field. **It is your university ambition in 4000 characters.**

You're telling admissions staff why you're suitable to study at their university or college.

It's important to remember **you can only write one personal statement** – it's the same for each course you apply for. So, avoid mentioning any universities or colleges by name.

If you've chosen similar subjects, **talk about the subject in general**, and try not to mention courses titles. If you've chosen a variety of subjects, just write about common themes, like problem solving or creativity.

Here are some ideas to help you get started:

- Look at course descriptions and identify the **qualities, skills, and experience it requires** – you can use these to help you decide what to write about.
- Tell the reader why you're applying – **include your ambitions, as well as what interests you about the subject**, the course provider, and higher education.
- If you took part in a **higher education taster course, placement, or summer school**, or something similar, include it.
- Think about **what makes you suitable** – this could be relevant experience, skills, or achievements you've gained from education, work, or other activities.
- Include any **clubs or societies you belong to** – sporting, creative, or musical.
- Mention any relevant employment experience or volunteering you've done and write about your experiences from **CAS or Service Learning** and the skills you developed.

You cannot write a personal statement in an afternoon, preparation is the key

Structure of your personal statement



1. Your reasons for wanting to study the course
2. A paragraph of independent research (EE/RP)
3. Course related academic studies
4. Extra-curricular activities

4000 characters

80% Academic

20% Extra curricular

80 | 20

Focused topic of interests, universities like...



History: **analysing** a particular argument

Geography: **examining** a case study

Physics: **analysing** a recent research development

Law: **analysing** a recent case

Medicine: **analysing** a work experience interaction

Dos and Don'ts of personal statements



DOS

Do show you know your strengths and can outline your ideas clearly.

Do be enthusiastic – if you show you're interested in the course, it may help you get a place.

Do expect to produce several drafts of your personal statement before being totally happy with it.

Do ask people you trust for their feedback.

DON'TS

Don't exaggerate – if you do, you may get caught out in an interview when asked to elaborate on an interesting achievement.

Don't rely on a spellchecker, as it will not pick up everything – proofread your statement as many times as possible.

Don't leave it to the last minute – your statement will seem rushed, and important information could be left out.

Don't let spelling or grammatical errors spoil your statement.

Universities use plagiarism checkers and it is up to their discretion if they accept an application from a student who has been found to have copied another student's application.

Four common problems with personal statements



1. Failure to show academic suitability and motivation for a specific degree
2. Not developing and analysing wider reading or work experience
3. Over-emphasis on extra-curricular activities
4. Poor editing and the use of an inappropriate language and register

1 (Natural Sciences)

Since I was a child, I have found myself to be utterly fascinated by how science works. I do not have to look far to find the source of my love for science. Just glancing around the living room my eyes fall upon a whole host of fascinating organisms, seen and unseen they create a brilliant miniature ecosystem with billions of tiny processes and reactions for me to sit and unpick.



1 (Natural Sciences)



My main reason for wanting to study Natural Sciences is the enjoyment I get from grappling with new and complex ideas. In Physics, I like studying the atomic scale and have developed an interest in quantum models which move beyond my current syllabus. In Biology, I enjoy analysis on a larger scale, particularly experimental questions such as how to model the distributions of species on islands.

UCAS materials for writing a personal statement



Typically students don't like writing positively about themselves, this will help you overcome that.

UCAS - Mind mapping for a personal statement, to start generating ideas.

[personal-statement-mind-map.pdf](#)

Link to UCAS guide to personal statement writing:

<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/how-write-ucas-undergraduate-personal-statement>

UCAS worksheet: <https://www.ucas.com/file/4251/download?token=KIC9IMqH>



Student self evaluation form

OSCAR (Online system for completing applications and references)



OSCAR supports you in developing competitive, subject-focused personal statements. OSCAR provides you with an activity based process that enables you to display your academic personality and potential:

- Provide evidence about key motivations for wanting to study a subject
- Showcase a piece of independent research (said to enhance the chances of receiving an offer)
- Analyse relevant academic activities and work experience effectively
- Report on a selection of extra-curricular activities

The screenshot shows the OSCAR application process interface. At the top, there is a progress bar with six steps: 'Overview', '1', '2', '3', '4', and '5'. Step 1 is currently active. Below the progress bar, there is a yellow box with text: 'Research shows that admissions tutors from many different universities look for roughly the same stages of a personal statement. Using the sections below, you can write strong material for each stage, and then construct it using Stage 5. Your Reasons and Topic of Interest are the most important sections. Extra-curricular Activities is the least important section.' Below this, it says 'Subjects chosen: Accountancy, Banking/Finance' and 'Change subject choices'. The main content area has three green boxes, each representing a stage: '1 Your reasons ✓ This section focuses on your reasons for wanting to study the subject.' with an 'Add' button; '2 Topic of interest ✓ This section helps you show off your ability within the subject you've applied for.' with an 'Add' button; and '3 Course-related activities ✓ This section helps you discuss activities you've completed which relate to your subject.' with an 'Add' button.

OSCAR Ctd.



OSCAR Login: <https://oscar.causeway.education/>

- Check your emails for a registration email from OSCAR.
- Use OSCAR to create the structure for your personal statement.
- Have your subject's SOW to hand to reflect on what areas of your courses you enjoyed.
- Remember activities from CAS/Service Learning, TOK/PPS, EE/EP
- Ensure you use your suppercurricular activities.
- OSCAR will create a 'rough' personal statement for you to edit.

4. Register on UCAS

UCAS is the university and colleges admissions service used to apply to the majority of universities in the UK

Completing your UCAS registration



Sign up to UCAS from the **19 May 2020**.

<https://2021.undergrad.apply.ucas.com/appreg/SecurityServlet>

Use the buzzword **danecourt2021** and link to your house from the registration email.

Some key points to remember for your registration:

- Under personal details enter your **personal email account**, for post school communication
- Your student support code must be **02** and enter **Kent** in the field below
- You will have 5 university courses you can apply for, **you do not have to apply to 5 courses**
- Education, enter your GCSEs and the qualification date of **August 2019**

When you send your final application to UCAS there is a fee of £20 for one university or £26 for more than one. Payment is made using a debit or credit card.

Completing your UCAS registration: **IBDP**



International Baccalaureate - Creativity, Action, Service

International Baccalaureate - Creativity, Act

Grade:

Date: July 2020

Awarding body:

Grade: This is 'pending' on your application form.

International Baccalaureate Diploma

International Baccalaureate Diploma

Grade:

Date: July 2020

Awarding body:

Date: this is the date you will receive your exam results: **July 2021**

Module name	Module date	Module value
Physics	July 2020	Higher lvl
Geography	July 2020	Higher lvl
French B	July 2020	Higher lvl
Chemistry	July 2020	Stand lvl
English A Lit. (first exam May 2013)	July 2020	Stand lvl
Math.Studies	July 2020	Stand lvl
Theory of Knowledge	July 2020	Th of Know
French B	July 2020	Ext Essay

Under your IBDP include TOK and EE, because these will contribute to your final point score.

5. Entrance exams



A full list of admissions test is here: <https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/admissions-tests>

The most common UK admissions tests are:

STEP: STEP (Sixth Term Examination Paper) Mathematics is a well-established mathematics examination designed to test candidates on questions that are similar in style to undergraduate mathematics. STEP is used by the University of Cambridge and the University of Warwick. Other universities sometimes ask candidates to take STEP as part of their offer – in such cases, the university can advise on which papers to take.

(<https://www.admissionstesting.org/for-test-takers/step/about-step/>)

UCAT: The University Clinical Aptitude Test (UCAT) is an admissions test used by a consortium of UK Universities for their medical and dental degree programmes. The UCAT helps universities to select applicants with the most appropriate mental abilities, attitudes and professional behaviours required for new doctors and dentists to be successful in their clinical careers. It is used in collaboration with other admissions processes such as the UCAS application and academic qualifications. (<https://www.ucat.ac.uk/>)

BMAT: The BioMedical Admissions Test (BMAT) gives you the chance to stand out from the crowd and show your potential to succeed on medical and health-related courses. It tests your ability to apply scientific and mathematical knowledge, as well as problem solving, critical thinking and written communication skills that are essential to university-level study.

(<https://www.admissionstesting.org/for-test-takers/bmat/>)

LNAT: The LNAT is used by universities to help them select people for their undergraduate law courses. (<https://lnat.ac.uk/>)