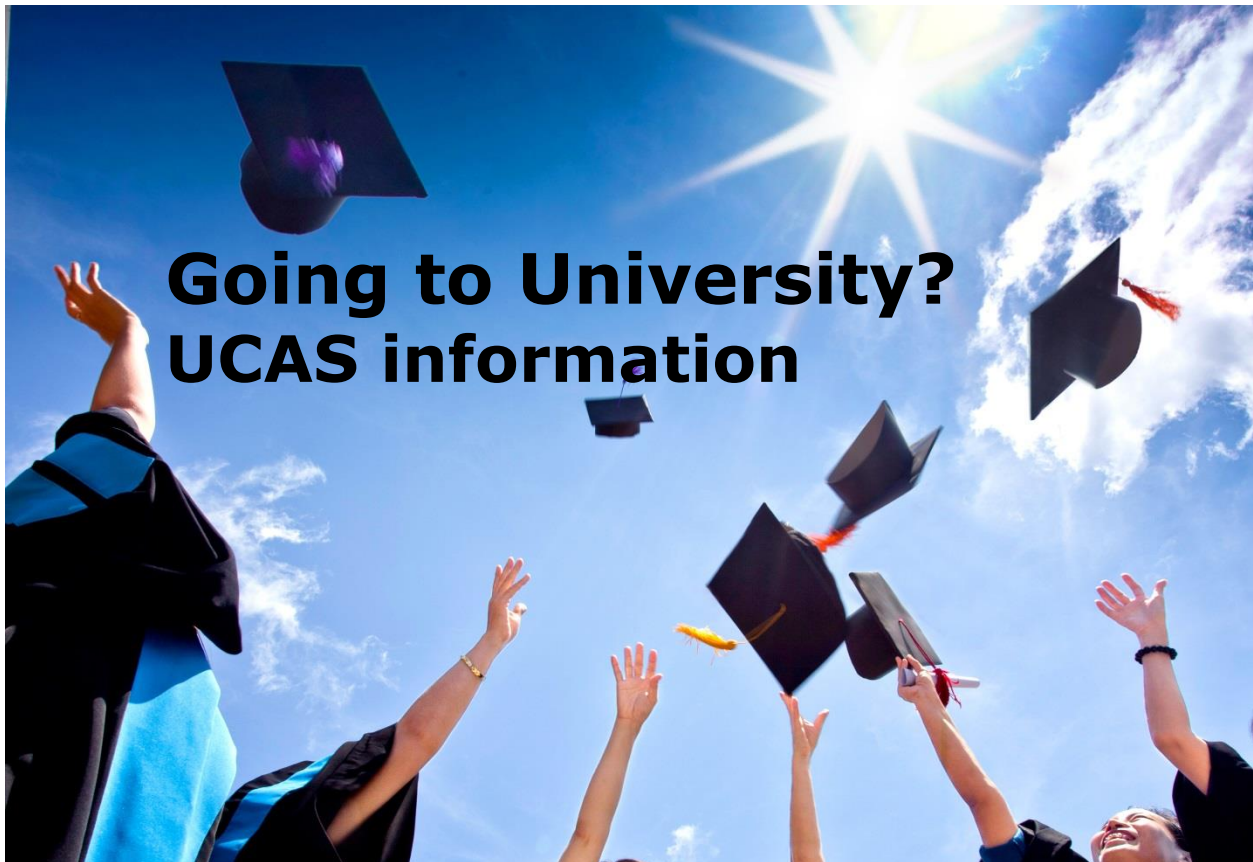




Sackville School



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UCAS = University Colleges Admissions Services

UCAS processes all applications to universities

www.ucas.com

Preparing to Apply for University UCAS and SACKVILLE Timetable

DATES TO REMEMBER	WHAT'S GOING ON?
<p>Year 12 SPRING TERM</p> <p>February to April</p>	<p>See subject tutors and careers leader with any questions for progression.</p> <p>Oxbridge and medicine/veterinary/dentistry applicants – Mrs Valentine and Ms Bach coordinate arrangements for these students. First meeting in February.</p> <p>Attend UCAS Higher Education Exhibition for students applying to university.</p> <p>Students should start to research subjects and institutions to be able to choose up to a maximum of five courses using:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sixth form library • UCAS website – www.ucas.com • University/college websites and prospectuses • Open days • University taster days
<p>SUMMER TERM</p> <p>April onwards</p> <p>June/July</p> <p>18th July</p>	<p>Attend school higher education evening for parents/carers</p> <p>Attend school UCAS application sessions</p> <p>Register for UCAS 'Apply on line'</p> <p>UCAS Conservatoires Apply opens for 2020 entry. Applicants can pay and send their applications to UCAS, and conservatoires can start making decisions on applications.</p>

Applying to University Important Application Deadlines

DEADLINE	WHAT NEEDS TO HAPPEN?
<p>Year 13 AUTUMN TERM</p> <p>Early September</p> <p>4th September</p> <p>30th September</p> <p>1st October</p> <p>15th October</p> <p>November</p> <p>6th November</p>	<p>Sackville -Two day conference including session on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to write a personal statement (1 day course) • Student Finance • How to choose the right University • Student Life <p>Applicants can pay and send their applications to UCAS, and universities and colleges can start making decisions on applications.</p> <p>Sackville internal deadline for Oxbridge, Medicine, Veterinary Science and Dentistry candidates to have their completed UCAS application checked by Careers Staff.</p> <p>Closing date for music applications is today at 18:00 (UK time) – applications received after this date will be classed as 'late' and are not guaranteed to be considered by the conservatoires. Dance, drama or musical theatre courses may have different deadlines – applicants should check conservatoires' websites for information. If a course deadline has passed, applicants must contact the conservatoire to check they have vacancies before applying.</p> <p>Applications for Oxford, Cambridge and most courses in medicine, dentistry and veterinary medicine/science should arrive at UCAS by 18:00 (UK time).</p> <p>Sackville - UCAS personal statement clinics (there will be two).</p> <p>Sackville internal deadline - For all other courses we strongly recommend students submit their applications to Form Teachers by 7th November so that there is time for:</p>

AIM HIGH

The qualifications you have already achieved at Sackville will enable you to aim high for university. You have a lot to offer any university course and you should challenge yourself when thinking about where to apply to. Remember that you have five choices of university. So use some of these options to aim for a higher level option, with one or two lower grade options for back up. Ensure you refer to university league tables. You can do this by subject by visiting -

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/universityguide>. Check which is the best university for your chosen subject(s) and look at the entry requirements – if these are in line with your predicted grades then believe in yourself and look further into these options.

Do you know your Russell Group?

The Russell Group universities are committed to the highest levels of academic excellence in both teaching and research. The Russell Group was formed in 1994 and the name really is a result of the fact that the first meeting of the group was held in Russell Square in London! These universities attract students from around the world and offer a range of courses from medicine, biological and physical sciences to business, social sciences and the humanities. The Russell Group universities receive a huge amount of funding from government so they can afford to provide the best facilities and opportunities for students. Completing a degree at a Russell Group university can significantly impact on your graduate employment options and research suggests those students who attend one of these universities have an improved earning potential longer term (Office of National Statistics 2013). They are not the right university choice for everyone but you should make decisions based on facts. Therefore, take a moment to look at the courses they offer and decide whether you would like to aim for one of these universities. Below is a list of the current 24 universities in the Russell Group:

University of Birmingham
University of Cambridge
Durham University
University of Exeter
Imperial College
University of Leeds
London School of Economics
Newcastle University
Oxford University
Queen's University Belfast
University of Southampton
University of Warwick

University of Bristol
Cardiff University
University of Edinburgh
University of Glasgow
London King's College London
University of Liverpool
University of Manchester
University of Nottingham
Queen Mary, University of London
University of Sheffield
University College London
University of York

CHOOSING COURSES



Choose courses with related subjects – you only have one personal statement to convince admission tutors that you want to study that subject at their university.

How do you choose which subject to study?

Think about your:

Interests, in and out of college
Talents and skills
Career aspirations

Talk to your:

Form tutor
Subjects tutors
Careers leader

What should you consider when choosing a University course?

To help you create a short list of possible courses, think about the following reasons for choosing a particular course:

✓	Is there a work placement offered as part of the degree?
✓	Do you need any work experience to get a place on this course?
✓	What are the inspection results for this department in the university? See www.qaa.ac.uk
✓	How far is it from home?
✓	What are the transport links?
✓	How many years will it take you to complete the course?
✓	Is there any opportunity to study abroad with the course?
✓	What are the tuition fees?
✓	Is it a city or campus University?
✓	What kinds of careers do people enter after graduating in that subject?
✓	How many students get jobs after graduating from that subject and University? See https://unistats.direct.gov.uk/

Find out about different Universities

Attend **Open Days and Taster Days** - try to visit universities. You will be spending three or four years there. **MAKE SURE YOU LIKE IT.** To find out about open days and for ideas on what questions to ask when you're there - www.opendays.com

Taster Days can provide workshops, seminars and taster lectures. To find out about these visit:
www.unitasterdays.com
www.london.ac.uk/tasters

Where in the country do you want to study?

Thinking about where in the country you want to study can help you make your search for University and courses more manageable.

Are there some places that you've been to that you really liked and would like to see again? Would you like to study abroad?

Studying Abroad

Why Study Abroad?

Have you considered studying abroad, but are not sure whether it's worth your time? If you ask anybody who has studied abroad they will most certainly tell you that it is a life-changing experience and one of the most rewarding things they have ever done! There are a number of reasons why you should consider studying abroad:

- *A great opportunity for travel
- *An optimal way to learn a new language
- *It gives you the opportunity to learn about another culture
- *You can make friends around the world
- *It provides you with a different perspective of the world
- *It can enhance your employment prospects

Where you study is totally up to you. You might prefer to stay in the UK which has a world renowned system of higher education but there are other world class universities. Take a look at the rankings for world class universities online at:

www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings/2018/world-ranking#!/page/0/length/25

**If you are interested in studying abroad, anywhere in the world, you should request a careers interview to discuss your plans further.

Ways to find out more...

Course-matching tests

These can be useful if you have literally no idea what to study. Try www.coursefinder.co.uk. It requires you to do a short test and then suggests possible degree subjects which match your interests.

University League Tables and Surveys

League tables can help you to make an objective evaluation of courses and universities. However it is important that you understand how university league tables work and what the individual criteria mean. Some of the main ones to look at are:

The Times Good University Guide: www.timesonline.co.uk ; and
Guardian University Guide: www.guardian.co.uk

The **UNISTATS** website includes results of the National Student Survey (NSS) of final year undergraduates in the UK and asks students to rate their courses as well as looking at costs and employability. It also includes Key Information Set (KIS) to help compare courses: www.unistats.com

Social Media

It is always best to visit the universities you are thinking of applying to; but it is possible to get a feel for what a university is like via social media platforms including:

Online forums for sharing information with other students about University life, courses, student finance etc.

- **Facebook** Most universities have Facebook pages. It can be a great way to find out more about campus life, the local area or meet future flatmates. But remember that some groups may not be officially monitored. If you do want information such as fees or accommodation, then check the university website.
- **Twitter** Universities use Twitter to regularly update prospective students on daily news and events such as open days, Students' Union, etc.
- **YouTube** YouTube will have a variety of university-related videos – both official and unofficial. These can include anything from interviews with vice-chancellors and principals to lectures and campus tours.

Important information sources

Student Finance See Student Finance England –
www.gov.uk/studentfinance
www.thestudentroom.co.uk

University Open Days Information on dates is on the Open Days website www.opendays.com and on each university website.

University Taster days provide workshops, seminars and taster lectures. To find out about these visit:
www.unitasterdays.com www.london.ac.uk/tasters

CHOOSING COURSES

- **UCAS website** - www.ucas.com. Information on every course at every institution and lots of advice for students on all aspects of the UCAS process.
- **Which online degree search tool** - www.university.which.co.uk
- **University Prospectuses** Up-to-date copies are in the Sixth Form Centre and are for reference only.
- **University Prospectus Finder** You can request up to 10 prospectuses to be sent to your home address. Order your **FREE** copies:
www.prospectusfinder.co.uk

COMPARING UNIVERSITIES

- www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/courses/choosing-a-course
- <http://www.theguardian.com/education/ng-interactive/2015/may/25/university-league-tables-2016>
- <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/news/complete-university-guide-reveals-its-top-uk-universities-2016/2019901.article>

COMPARING COURSES

- For information about costs and employability relating to different university courses: www.unistats.com
- For information about the graduate job market including starting salaries: www.prospects.ac.uk

Widening Participation

Widening participation has been set up to improve participation in Higher Education from particular socio-economic groups. The aim is to promote and provide the opportunity of successful participation in higher education to everyone who can benefit from it. The local universities, Brighton, Chichester and Sussex, all run schemes which are particularly aimed at young whose parents didn't go to universities themselves.

Art and Design Courses

You will need to research individual institutions for their deadlines and closing dates.

Maximising Your Graduate Employment Prospects

These are the questions you may wish to ask yourself:

Why do I want to go on to Higher Education?

What type of employment/career do I want?

How vocational are the courses I am considering?

When Choosing Your Degree:

- Be aware of what career doors you open and close.
- Research first destinations of graduates.
- Research your career interests thoroughly.

Check the course entry requirements?

- **GCSE requirements** - some GCSEs can be part of the minimum entry requirements. ALWAYS CHECK!
- Look at the **UCAS Tariff** requirements
- **MAKE REALISTIC CHOICES.** Choose courses with a range of high, middle and lower entry requirement grades/points.

Universities may give their entry requirements as UCAS tariff points, but many specify grades wanted for particular A level subjects.

UCAS Points System

In order to successfully gain a place at university you will have to meet certain grade requirements. These are usually expressed in the form of a points system, so each grade is equivalent to a certain amount of points. A levels are the gold standard to achieve for universities and they will take points from these in the first instance. Your offer will be based on points from your A level grades.

Visit www.ucas.com for further information on the UCAS tariff.

AS Level	A Level	UCAS Points
–	A*	56
–	A	48
–	B	40
–	C	32
–	D	24
A	–	20
B	E	16
C	–	12
D	–	10
E	–	6

BTEC Level 3 National Diploma	UCAS Points
D*	56
D	48
M	32
P	16

Please see UCAS Website for full BTEC tariff

Extended Project Qualification	UCAS Points
A*	28
A	24
B	20
C	16
D	12
E	8

Top Tips for Writing the Personal Statement

Alongside your reference, this is the most important part of your form and is your opportunity to 'sell' yourself! Use this opportunity well and remember that the competition for places at university has increased in the past few years. Follow the tips below to help you.

- If you are feeling low it will show! Make sure you are in a positive frame of mind.
- Start with a hard-hitting reason as to why you have chosen a particular subject. How did you become interested in this subject? Show you have researched the course content by mentioning areas in which you are welcoming further study. Reflect that you read widely around this subject – not just books which relate to the A level!
- If you have chosen to continue a favourite A Level subject, say why? What fascinates you about the subject? If you are applying for a new subject, why are you interested in it?
- Mention a career interest to show you have direction and purpose. You may not have a specific job in mind yet, but should have a career field which interests you e.g. helping people, working with computers, the world of business etc. Say how the course will help you reach your goal.
- What personal attributes do you have that may be appropriate for the course? Do not just make statements, always support with examples, eg 'I have good communication skills which I developed through work experience in a primary school dealing with Year 4 children'.
- What relevant background experience do you have? Include work experience, voluntary work, performing arts, travel etc.
- If you are applying for deferred entry, what are you planning to do in your gap year? Check if the university departments you apply to approve of gap years.
- What are your hobbies? Clubbing, shopping and watching TV do not count!
- Do not make things up as you may be invited for an interview to discuss things further and be asked to bring evidence! Keep a copy of what you have written and review it before an interview.

There is a lot of guidance on line but do not plagiarise!