

How to Make a Great Application to a UK University

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Introduction

What is a “great application”?

- Gives you flexibility and options
- Sells your strengths
- Gets you where you want to go

How do you achieve this?

- Understand the process
- Make the write decisions
- Create a strong application.

Understanding the Process: What you need to submit

- UG students will need usually submit the following once through UCAS:
 - Personal details
 - Choices
 - Details of Education
 - Employment History
 - Personal statement
 - Reference
- PG students may often need to also submit the following to each university applied for
 - 2nd reference
 - University Transcripts
 - Copy of English Language Certification

Application Timeline

Undergraduate

- June onwards: Prepare and Investigate
- 15 October 2010 – UCAS deadline for medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine and science courses and for Oxford and Cambridge.
- 15 January: UK UCAS deadline – ideally international students should submit before this date. Universities are obliged to consider your application if it arrives by this date.
- 24th February 2011 - UCAS extra gives students the opportunity to have an additional choice through UCAS.
- 31st March 2011 - Deadline for receipt of offers from universities
- 5th May 2011 - Final possible deadline for confirming firm and insurance decisions.

Postgraduate

- Check guidelines for each university individually
- Check scholarship application guidelines.

Making your choices

Considerations

- Courses
- Teaching Staff and Teaching Style
- Students
- Student Life
- Environment
- Location
- Range of Choices

Making your choices

Web Resources

- British Council/Education UK <http://www.educationuk.org/hongkong>
- UCAS Website <http://www.ucas.ac.uk/>
- University Websites (links available from UCAS) e.g. www.uea.ac.uk
- Unistats <http://unistats.direct.gov.uk/>

- National Student Survey <http://unistats.direct.gov.uk/>
- The Times Ranking <http://www.timeshighereducation.co.uk/wur.html>
- The Guardian <http://www.guardian.co.uk/>
- Shanghai Jiaotong <http://www.arwu.org/>

Making your choices

Further Resources

- Prospectuses
- Meet staff at Fairs
- Agents
- British Council
- University Visits/Open Days
- Direct contact with the university/admissions/department

Making Your Choices

Application Choices for UG students

- If you have more than one choice you must apply through UCAS
- Up to five choices with no order of preference.
- Only four choices for medicine, dentistry or veterinary medicine/science
- 5 subjects and/or 5 universities

Application Choices for PG students

- Any number of applications
- Varying deadlines
- Check the process for each University

Personal Statements: What to Include

For All International Applications

Why You're Applying & Why You're Suitable

- Explain your interest in the field of study.
- Why you want to study in the UK.
- Demonstrate your enthusiasm/motivation.
- Demonstrate your ability to succeed.
- Talk about both your studies and extra-curricular activities.

Personal Statements: What to Include

For UG Applications

- One PS for all choices
- DON'T mention a specific university

For PG Applications

- DO mention the right specific university and course.
- Explain why this course and university is right for you.
- How you think the course will benefit you/ hopes for the future.

Personal Statements: Guide to Writing

Writing Guide

- Thoroughly Check the grammar, spelling etc.
- Express yourself well to be clear not over-complicated.
- Do not ask someone to write it for you (it will be easy to detect)
- Don't copy and paste from the internet! (UCAS can detect it)

References

Who should write one for you

- NOT a personal friend or relation.
- Perhaps someone who has taught you.
- Perhaps a current or previous employer.

What it should or can include.

- How the referee knows you.
- Your abilities.
- Your character.
- Your suitability for this field.

Summary

- Be focused on your goals.
- Keep your options open.
- Research thoroughly.
- Be clear about your plan and reasoning.
- In the end, you're results are the most important factor – so study hard!