

UCAS APPLY 2021

SPONNE INTERNAL DEADLINE

Oxbridge, Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science

October 12th (Monday): Oxford & Cambridge applications

October 12th (Monday): Dentistry, Medicine and Veterinary Science

If you miss this internal deadline, we cannot guarantee that we can meet UCAS's official external **deadline of 15th October**

SPONNE INTERNAL DEADLINE

UCAS Conservatoires (formerly CUKAS)

If you are intending on applying for Music through UCAS Conservatoires, please see Mr Bugby or Mrs Underwood to discuss your application.

If you miss this internal deadline, we cannot guarantee that we can meet the Conservatoire's official external **deadline of 1st October**, as the academic reference has to be written, edited and finally double-checked and only then sent to UCAS Conservatoires

September 28th (Monday): Music applications

Applications for: Dance, Drama and Musical Theatre

These courses may have a different deadline. Check Conservatoire's website for information or click on the link below:

<https://www.ucas.com/conservatoires/how-apply-through-ucas-conservatoires>

SPONNE BUZZWORD

SPONNE2021

SPONNE INTERNAL DEADLINES

If you feel that you will not be able to meet the deadlines listed below, please seek advice from the Sixth Form Team where you will receive assistance with your application.

Sponne preferred deadline of **Monday 19th October:**

Ucas application will be sent by half term

Sponne 2nd preferred deadline of **Monday 14th December:**

UCAS application will be sent by Christmas holiday

Final deadline of **11th January 2021** to meet 15th January external UCAS deadline

Universities and colleges do not have to consider applications received after the deadline, though they can if there are any spaces available once the on-time applications have been considered.

How to write your UCAS Personal Statement

Paragraph 1 – Reasons for applying:

Show a **passion** for what you are applying to study. Explain about how you became interested in it and what particularly fascinates you about the subject.

The opening paragraph needs to convey your enthusiasm for your chosen field. It might be easier to come back to it once you have written the rest of your statement.

Paragraph 2 – Studies, further reading and relevant experiences that support your application:

Draw on relevant experiences which help you to know that you will enjoy your chosen course. Use evidence to support your points, eg, aspects of your A Level studies and what you have got out of them; what areas, topics, experiences you have particularly enjoyed and why; refer to books, magazines read, field trips, courses attended, summer schools, websites visited.

Mentoring any work experience, paid work, voluntary work, mentoring, job-shadowing relevant to your application:

Is absolutely crucial if you are applying for a vocational course and helpful for non-vocational courses. Explain what these experiences showed you about the subject and how they influenced your decision.

How do your other subjects support your choice?

Think about transferable skills and how your other studies have enabled you to develop independent learning, research skills, analytical skills, essay writing, IT skills, teamwork etc.

Paragraph 3 – Super enrichment is an enrichment which will enhance your application and connects to your chosen course or career this may include – additional course, if you attended summer school, work experience or any other enrichment may include observing court proceedings, shadowing a barrister/solicitor, attending public lectures at universities and so on.

Give them a flavour as to the kind of person you are:

Avoid writing about what you used to do – universities are interested in what you do now.

Try to avoid what you are doing to do – they want to know what you actually do.

Paid employment, volunteering, any responsibilities you have, your role on School Council, Form Rep etc

Outline the development of any new skills or the enhancement of existing skills – dealing with difficult customers, teamwork etc

Write about your personal interests – hobbies, musical interests, drama, dance, sports:

Include examples of levels reached, representative honours, interesting experiences, travel.

Mention any involvement in Duke of Edinburgh Award, World Challenge Expeditions, Young Enterprise, National Citizen Service. You should include details of any activities you have participated in, inside and/or outside School and anything that you have done that you are proud of.

IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT YOU ANALYSE THE SKILLS THESE ACTIVITIES HAVE ENABLE YOU TO DEVELOP

Paragraph 4 – Any relevant career ambitions:

If you know what career you want to follow after university, you may include it here, but remember many universities want you to study the subject for its intrinsic worth, not just because it will get you a good salary later!

Paragraph 5 – Deferred entry

Remember to explain why you are taking a gap year and what you are proposing to do.

Paragraph 6 - Conclude by stressing why they should take you:

Conclude by stressing your qualities – those that will make you an asset to the faculty and institution that you join – reliability, motivation, independence, ability to work independently, or rise to a challenge etc. Make sure you confirm your passion for your subject and (if appropriate) career area. End on a positive note so you are leaving a good impression with the Admissions Tutor and getting onto the “must have” pile”.

Key to success:

- Concision and focus
- Evidence of real interest and enthusiasm
- Demonstrating that you are making an informed choice
- Showing that you have gone well beyond the minimum in your current studies
- Clarity, good punctuation, spelling and grammar, articulate expression

Decisions from Universities and Responding to Offers

In most cases, you will start to hear from your chosen universities within a few weeks of your application reaching UCAS. You may be invited to an interview before they make their decision, although many offers are made without attending an interview.

You can use UCAS Track to see whether any decisions have been made.

You will either be given:

C – Conditional Offer

A conditional offer means you still need to meet the entry requirements – usually exam results.

U – Unconditional Offer

An unconditional offer means you have got a place, although there might be a few things to arrange. However, by accepting this offer you are committing yourself to go to that university or college, so you cannot then make an insurance choice or be entered into clearing.

R – Rejected

An unsuccessful application means they have decided not to offer you a place on the course. Sometimes they will give you a reason, either with their decision or at a later date. If not, you can contact them to ask if they will discuss the reason with you.

Responding to Offers

You will receive your own personal deadline to reply to university offers. You do not need to do anything until you have heard from all five of your choices. You will then receive an email to say you have a “Statement of decisions” on UCAS Track. You will be given a date by which this needs to be done. It is usually in May. You can reply to your offers using UCAS Track. **DO NOT delay in replying or it will be assumed you want to decline ALL of your Offers.** You can accept only two of the offers and must decline any others. You cannot change your decisions once you have replied.

F – Firm acceptance

This should be the university you **most** want to go to – if you meet the grades/points required by the offer, this is where you will be going. Note that this does not have to be the university with the highest offers. Your firm acceptance is a *contract* if you accept this firm offer: you have to go there if you get the grades to get in.

I – Insurance acceptance

This should usually be an offer requiring lower grades/points than your firm acceptance. It should be the university you are **happy to go to if you do not make the grades** for your firm choice.

D – Decline

This where you decline all of your offers.

Extra

If you do not get any offers or you decide to decline **all** of your offers you receive, you will be able to apply for another course through the **Extra** process from **25th February 2021 to 4th July 2021**, to any universities showing the red ‘Extra’ logo.

Journey of an application

