

# **THE ENGLISH INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE**

## **U.K. UNIVERSITIES A GUIDE FOR ENTRY SEPT/OCT 2010**

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# GETTING IT RIGHT

**What sort of career would I like?**

**What should I study? What do I enjoy studying?**

**What's the difference between a modular degree and a single honours degree?**

**Which university offers the best course for me?**

**Will I be guaranteed accommodation?**

**What is it all going to cost?**

**Help!**

**All the information in this booklet can be accessed on the school's website**  
[www.eic.edu](http://www.eic.edu)

These are just some of the questions that you will need to address over the next few months so this guide is designed to help you find the answers and make the right choice in your search for university courses. It also gives you information about application procedures and important deadlines that must be met. It may seem bewildering at first, as there is so much choice that means you need to start your investigations **now**. Don't forget, you'll be making decisions that will affect the whole of your future, so it's important to **get it right!**

**Good luck!**

# INTRODUCTION

The following is intended as a guide to the U.K. application procedure and how to set about the necessary research to choose your course of study and universities. The guide has two major sections:

1. Preparation for applicant, Year 12
2. Completing the online application beginning of Year 13

Please read the whole document carefully and then make an appointment to see me so that you can start the process.

## THE APPLICATION ROUTE

All applications to UK universities are made on one application form, the UCAS online form, [www.ucas.co.uk](http://www.ucas.co.uk) available from the 1<sup>st</sup> September. Once this form has been completed by the student and then by the Head of Sixth Form, it is sent to the offices of UCAS who act as a central collecting and distribution centre. UCAS distribute the application form to all named universities and you simply wait for information regarding offers, interviews, rejections etc. (See later notes 'The Application Process').

The diary for this process is:

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Spring and Summer Terms Year 12                | Research into and visits to UK universities. Further reading and preparation for tests required for entrance to some universities. ISCO 'taster' Expanding Horizons courses. Headstart Courses. |
| Summer Term Year 12<br>(after AS level exams.) | Draft of Personal Statement. Practice interviews scheduled. Further research.   |
| Summer Holidays                                | Work experience. Visits to universities. Careers courses.   |
| First day of term Year 13                      | Begin online application process. You may start this process in the summer holidays to save time if the online services are available.  |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> October                        | Completed Oxford and Cambridge (Oxbridge) UCAS forms to Head of Sixth Form. Also applications for medicine, dentistry and veterinary science.   |
| October 15 <sup>th</sup>                       | Last day for applicants to Oxbridge, medicine, dentistry and veterinary science.  |
| October Half Term                              | Completed UCAS applications for all other universities to Head of Sixth Form. Students can track their applications through the UCAS track system.  |
| October/November                               | Testing for law (LNAT), medicine (BMAT/UKCAT) and other test requirements.  |

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| January 15 <sup>th</sup> | Last day for UCAS applications. Any submitted after this date are classified as late applications and will only be considered at the discretion of the university.                                     |
| November to May          | Students await replies from UCAS, go to interviews, open-days etc. Some students will have to undertake tests, write essays and submit portfolios. Offers may be tracked on the UCAS website.          |
| February                 | UCAS EXTRA. Opportunity for students to reapply if rejected by original choices of universities.   |
| February to May          | Student to confirm 1 <sup>st</sup> and insurance choice universities before a date given by UCAS. Once this is done, accommodation arrangements can be made usually via the universities websites.     |
| August                   | 'A' level results published on the third Thursday in August at school. From 1am. onwards, you may access your university decisions on the UCAS website although results are not available on the site. |

**It is best to be at home to formally accept your offer and deal with correspondence. If you are unsuccessful in obtaining your first or insurance choice courses, it is vital that you come into school for advice on finding courses where there are still vacancies. It is important that you use the Internet (UCAS website) to see which courses are still available. Phone calls may need to be made but all is not lost!**

**NB:** The online application process begins at the beginning of September but remember that this can be a lengthy process and your details must be checked by the Head of Sixth Form (often several times) to make sure that everything is correct. The deadlines must be adhered to in order for me to check and complete the forms, write references and send them online. A delay by you could result in a late entry of your application, which may affect your chances of admission.

Also please note the different timing of the Oxbridge applications and applicants for medicine, dentistry and veterinary science.

The UCAS form allows you to select **five** universities. Obviously, you need to decide what you want to study and decide which universities are the best for you.

There are now well over 190 universities in Britain, and more than 150,000 courses to choose from.

It is probable at this stage that you are unsure of what and where to study. It is indeed a difficult decision and one that can only be answered by a lot of hard work on your part.

## **CHOOSING AN AREA OF STUDY**

Talk to your tutors, teachers and Head of Sixth Form about the areas that you might wish to pursue. Remember that they probably did a similar course once and may be able to help you decipher some of the course contents. Ask their advice, what your predicted 'A' level grades might be and look in the UK universities library in the Media Centre. Here you will find a prospectus from most universities in Britain and a short summary of each course that they

offer. We also have many books and guides that describe universities and courses. The UCAS website is also most useful as it provides 'entry profiles' for 80% of the courses on offer. **Look carefully at the EP (entry profile) for the course you are interested in** to make sure you're on the right track. You could then take the e-address of the universities that offer your course and e-mail them, asking for a) a copy of their general prospectus and b) a departmental brochure which will give you a lot more information about your course of study.

### **ISCO Expanding Horizons Courses, Programmes and Events for Young People**

These are published every year in the Autumn and Spring terms and information will be passed on to Year 12 students. They aim to give a 'taster' of what to expect for various careers and degree courses. They are usually held in the UK and last for one day. You could combine a visit to several universities with one of the courses to make your trip to the UK worthwhile. All our students are members of ISCO and the Futurewise scheme which enables them to access these courses at preferential rates. For details: [www.expandinghorizons.info](http://www.expandinghorizons.info) Students can apply via an online form on this site. Other useful addresses for ISCO are [www.isco.org.uk](http://www.isco.org.uk) and [www.myfuturewise.org.uk](http://www.myfuturewise.org.uk)

### **Headstart**

These are 'taster' courses focussing on Science, Engineering and Technology. They take place in the UK and information is passed on to students. For further details and information their website address is [www.headstartcourses.org.uk](http://www.headstartcourses.org.uk)

### **Media Centre Library**

There is a large selection of helpful books on careers, university courses, gap years, finance as well as prospectuses. Use them to help you to make an informed decision about your future. Look also at the grades and/or points that the universities will be expecting from you. Also please note the **entry requirements**, as some courses will specify that they want you to have studied a particular subject(s) at 'A' level, e.g. they will specify Chemistry for a degree in Medicine. Use the following to show you how many points each grade is worth. Universities may give offers in points and/or grades.

#### **'A' level grades**

A = 120 points  
B = 100 points  
C = 80 "  
D = 60 "  
E = 40 "

#### **'AS' level grades**

A = 60 points  
B = 50 points  
C = 40 "  
D = 30 "  
E = 20 "

The **minimum** entrance requirements for UK universities are 5 GCSE's grade C or above and two 'A' level passes. **However, most universities will require much more than this.** If you are an ESOL student, you must have a proven record of your proficiency in English. This could be First Language English IGCSE grade C or above, Certificate of Advanced English grade A (accepted by most universities but not all) or the Certificate of Proficiency in English (accepted by all universities). All universities require a GCSE in English Language (grade C or above) and most require Mathematics GCSE (grade C or above), **you must check this carefully. It is worth noting that for some courses a Grade B is necessary in these subjects.**

Once you have decided upon your course of study, you will need to see which universities offer the courses that interest you. **Beware**, courses might have the same title, but in many

cases their content will differ considerably. You must be aware of these differences, e.g. the Management and Business Administration degrees at the Universities of Reading and Bath both share the same title, but differ markedly from each other. The degrees differ in their academic direction and a work placement is only possible in the Bath degree, which is one year longer than the Reading degree. It is also important to bear in mind the stiff competition for certain subject areas. Medicine, Law, English, Psychology and Veterinary Science are amongst the toughest to get into and whilst we don't want to discourage you, it is important to know what you're up against.

Now you will have to make a commitment to your chosen area of study on your UCAS form, i.e. if you decide that you want to study Spanish and Business Management, all your five choices should focus on this theme – don't throw in English, Medicine and Geography for good measure. The University Admissions Tutors are looking for students who have researched their choices and who are obviously intent on studying a particular area. Also your personal statement may sound unconvincing if you are unable to focus on one area of study.

## WHICH UNIVERSITY?

As a consequence of the 1992 Further/Higher Education Act, a new system of Higher Education has been established within the United Kingdom. Polytechnics have been designated as universities and a number of larger Colleges of Higher Education have also been awarded university status. Amongst other things, this has now made the application process simpler, i.e. all applications are made online on the same UCAS form. You can choose up to five universities on your UCAS form and we strongly recommend that you do this. The exceptions are Medicine and Veterinary Medicine where the number is four with a linked fifth choice. Quite obviously some institutions are harder to get into than others. This is due to their reputations, historical and/or academic, and the subsequent number of applicants they receive. Competition for places in many cases is fierce. One example will make the point. In 2007/08, a total of 28,700 applications were made for law but 58% of these applicants did not receive any offers. For the London School of Economics alone, 2,500 students applied for law competing for 185 places.

Plenty of information exists in the Media Centre on places available in each university department, the numbers of applicants they receive and the minimum grades they will be asking. Make yourself aware of these statistics. You will find the CD called '**The Big Official Guide to University and College Entrance**' most helpful in this respect, also '**The Times Good University Guide**' and '**The Guardian University Guide**' but there plenty of other sources.

## RESEARCH FACILITIES IN THE MEDIA CENTRE

### □ THE INTERNET

All UK universities have web sites. We are on the Internet in the Media Centre and ICT lab so make sure you take full advantage of this. You will find a list of useful web sites at the back of this booklet on the Media Centre notice board also your classroom wall. If you are on the Internet at home use it. The **UCAS website has links to all university websites**. Contact them on <http://www.ucas.ac.uk> Keep up to date on the expanding services that they are providing via this site.

**We have many publications in the Media Centre outlining different careers as a starting point**

- **THE BIG OFFICIAL GUIDE CD Rom; THE PUSH GUIDE; THE ALTERNATIVE GUIDE and many more helpful publications.**

We also have information on CD Rom and some DVD/video presentations by a few universities. All are good starting points for your research if you know roughly your area of interest. You will be amazed at the variety of courses available and the interesting combinations of joint honours courses. How about Japanese with Philosophy at the University of Durham? You will also find many areas of study available that are completely new to you such as Law, Economics, Politics, Psychology, Anthropology etc. If you are interested, research carefully into these to make sure you know what the course entails. It may not be what you think, for example; there's a big difference between Anthropology and Social Anthropology.

- **THE TIMES GOOD UNIVERSITY GUIDE. THE GUARDIAN UNIVERSITY GUIDE**

A useful guide to universities, particularly Oxford and Cambridge as they describe all the halls/colleges and gives some important statistical information regarding numbers of applicants for places available for each course. It also gives a useful guide to the best universities for particular courses. For those who are not so familiar with the UK, it provides a brief description of the major cities and towns where each university is located. Note also the map in the Media Centre. The Head of Sixth Form also has plenty of information on Oxford and Cambridge

- **ISCO INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS' CAREERS ORGANISATION**

Most of you will be participating in this scheme and will have already done the profiling in relation to careers in Year 11. You will find the information very useful, particularly when deciding upon your area of study. Read the guidance they have given to you carefully. Their 'Careerscope' publication is also very useful and back copies are always kept in the Media Centre. Most important are the 'taster' courses on different degree subjects or careers that they offer in the UK.

- **OTHER IMPORTANT SOURCES**

Don't forget to use the map of the UK in the Media Centre, it is important to know whereabouts in the UK each university is situated. There are also many leaflets and handbooks that give more specific information on particular courses.

**Stop Press! We now have many more useful books to help you make your university and course selections. Look in the Media Centre but please do not remove them.**

## **ART AND DESIGN COURSES**

### **Foundation Course**

It is sometimes advisable for students to apply for a one year **Foundation Course in Art and Design** before embarking on a degree course. The Foundation Course enables students to experience working in different media and develops skills that they may not have been able to do on an 'A' level course, for example graphic design, fashion and textiles, and photography etc. The student is then in a better position to choose which area they wish to specialise in on a degree course. You do not apply through UCAS for a Foundation course; application forms and prospectuses must be requested from the individual colleges. We have some prospectuses in the Media Centre and you will be able to get an idea of what a Foundation Course offers by reading some of these. We also have lists of all the Art Colleges in the UK. Application form photocopies should be handed in for checking to HOS by

**November 15<sup>th</sup>** in the year prior to entry and the completed original by **December 1<sup>st</sup>** at the very latest. Colleges will ask you to send a portfolio of recent work (which may be photographed, put on disc or e mailed) and you will almost certainly be asked for interview. In many cases you take your portfolio with you. It is most important that you can show a full, varied and professional portfolio if you want your application to be taken seriously. Begin work on this **NOW**. Ask the Head of the Art Department for advice on this. Interviews are usually held in February, March and April.

**NB** Exactly the same applies to deadlines as for UCAS applications – **meet them!** The earlier your application form goes in, the better. If you submit a late application it cannot be guaranteed that the college will accept it.

### Applying through UCAS

The UK has the most extensive degree provision in Europe and it is prestigious to have studied design in the UK. In some cases, a student may know which area of art they wish to specialise in and they may apply direct to a **degree course**. This is handled by UCAS and the UCAS form is filled in with **up to five** selected courses in the same way as for all other degree courses with exactly the same deadlines applicable (please refer to earlier notes). However, it is possible to send in applications up to the 24<sup>th</sup> March. This is known as **Route A. Please note that as from 2010 there is no application process through Route B.** Sometimes it is more likely that you will be accepted for a degree course after you have completed a Foundation course. However, you should consult the individual institutions for their policy on this. Colleges have their own websites but a very good place to start is the British Arts website [www.britisharts.co.uk](http://www.britisharts.co.uk) where foundation courses and degree courses are listed.

## TIME FOR ACTION!

- ❑ **Start researching** both your intended area of study and the institutions you wish to select. Use the library of prospectuses, information booklets, 'The Big Official Guide to University and College Entrance', 'The Times Good University Guide', 'The Alternative Guide' and the leaflets and brochures on individual courses plus the information on general careers guidance. All of these are available in the Media Centre; CD Roms are also available in the Media Centre. Some universities send me videos/DVD's or CD Roms of their campuses and courses. Ask me for further information.
- ❑ **You can visit any university in the UK.** You could do this alone or with parents, just to get the feel of the place, or attend Open Days that the universities set up for their future students. Look on the universities websites and find out when their Open Days are and perhaps you can arrange a visit between now and handing in your UCAS form – [www.opendays.com](http://www.opendays.com) is a very useful website. If you cannot attend the organised Open Days, I will help you to make arrangements to visit and explain that you are studying abroad and unable to attend their Open Days, but would like to meet someone from the department and have a short tour of the university. I have always found the universities very helpful in this respect but they do need plenty of warning. On these visits you will meet faculty members, also students currently studying in the department and by talking to them and asking questions, you can get a very clear idea of whether you think this university is for you. Some of our past students have found this the most helpful way of deciding on their first and insurance choice universities. I also think it can do you no harm to make yourself known to faculty members. Once the universities have received your UCAS form, they may call you for interview **especially if you are applying for practical Drama/Dance and Theatre courses, Medicine, Dentistry, English related degrees, some language courses or to Oxbridge, in which case interviews are obligatory.**

However, be prepared to be called for any other course, the Admissions Tutors can change their policy on this at any time. If you are applying for any courses that involves scriptwriting or creative writing of any kind you will almost certainly have to submit a sample of your work. This may be on a topic set by the university or they may give you free choice. Recently, more students have been called for interview or have to complete written assignments, usually for competitive courses and high ranking universities such as University College, Imperial College and the University of Warwick.

- If you are **applying to study Performing Arts, Drama, Acting, Dance, Music or Theatre Arts**, and the college or university is considering offering you a place, you will almost certainly be required to **audition**. The audition and interview is the most important part of the selection procedure and should be prepared well in advance. Some colleges will request certain pieces to be performed for audition, others will give more free choice, so it is important to get in touch with these colleges early so that you have plenty of time to prepare. It is important to note that some of these colleges have their own applications procedures and their deadlines will be different. Therefore, again, it is important to find out well in advance what their application deadlines are and when to expect your audition/interview. Some colleges require you to apply through UCAS in the usual way as well as completing their own application form. Useful websites are [www.cukas.ac.uk](http://www.cukas.ac.uk) and [www.ukwebstart.com/musicdrama-colleges.html](http://www.ukwebstart.com/musicdrama-colleges.html)

**NB These colleges like you to have as much practical experience as possible so seek out relevant work during your holidays so that you have plenty to say on your form.**

- **Accommodation.** A very important consideration, particularly when arriving from abroad. Most universities guarantee accommodation to their first year students but not all have the facilities to do this. However, many universities give priority to students arriving from overseas, but you must answer correspondence promptly in connection with this in order to be sure of a place. This starts to arrive (and sometimes before) when you've selected your first and insurance choice universities through UCAS. You may not choose to accept this accommodation, but it's a secure feeling to know you've got somewhere to live, especially with people of a similar age, aims and interests to yourself.

## **HOW INTERESTING ARE YOU? IS THERE ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT?**

### **Writing your Personal Statement**

On the UCAS online application that you will have to complete, there is a whole page where you are given the opportunity to write about yourself. In this essay, you are to explain clearly why you have chosen your stated area of study, the background to your interests in this area, a possible career path if you know it and particular interests that you currently have in your school subjects. You must also talk about your social, sporting or other interests, school activities that you participate in, any employment, work experience and/or voluntary work, especially if it is relevant to your choice of courses. **It is most important to talk about why you want to study a particular course, what interests or courses have helped to inspire you and what experience, reading and research you might have undertaken to consolidate your choice. About two thirds of your personal statement should be devoted to this.**

This is an important piece of information which tells the Admissions Tutor a great deal about you, especially in the case of vocational degrees and could make all the difference as to whether they call you for interview or not. There is no doubt that if you apply for vocational

degrees such as Medicine, Dentistry, Law, Veterinary Science, Hotel Management and areas related to Business Studies, they will look for related work/voluntary experience. This might include hospital, clinic, and health care work or lawyer/solicitor's office. This area is perfect for hotel/catering/office experience, particularly if you speak two or three languages. Think of joining a local theatre group or become more involved in the arts and culture the coast has to offer. What about learning a new skill? Are you computer literate? There are all sorts of things you can do to gain valuable experience and enhance your application form. Evidence of wide reading is essential but make sure you don't put anything that you haven't read or done or you could be caught out at interview! The point is, do something positive for your application between now and the completion of your UCAS form and be prepared to speak about it in an interview. You may find the following points useful.

- Explanation of choice of post-16 programme and HE course – how they relate
- Motivation, career aspirations, commitment to the subject
- Skills/activities/experience – with particular emphasis on relevance to course being applied for
- We can include unit grade information on your UCAS form and you might like to include good unit scores as well in your personal statement. Although I can include this in my reference if you prefer.
- Opportunity for emphasising individuality
- Languages, international community, travel etc. where relevant

**A Word of Caution:** There are a number of websites that offer to write personal statements for you – for a fee! **Do not be tempted.** Not only is it dishonest but I have seen some dreadful examples, full of mistakes. UCAS can prosecute if they discover that any information given on the form is false and have the facilities to detect copied personal statements. Furthermore, Admissions Tutors are aware of these sites and can often detect the style. Your statement should be a reflection of your personality and only you can write it. You will get plenty of help from staff who are experienced in this field.

## **FINANCIAL MATTERS: EUROPEAN COMMUNITY STUDENTS**

As you are probably aware, the government has introduced a 3,225 pound sterling maximum contribution payable yearly by students towards their fees (some universities may charge less). This is either paid in a lump sum at the beginning of term/year or by instalments throughout the year. This applies to all home and EU students.

There are two factors that you will need to consider in order to assess how much your degree is going to cost:

- The implications of the 3,225 pounds annual fee charge for you and your parents.
- Living expenses (accommodation, food, travel, flights, books etc.) and the student loan scheme (although most UK students living abroad will not qualify for this).

I'll deal with the fee charge first. **It is possible to get a loan for fees that are not assessed on your parents income and pay it back after university. You do not start to pay this back until you are earning more than a certain sum. It will then be deducted from your monthly salary. You can, however, repay the whole amount or part of it at any time. The payments are index linked. Please note that if you are classified as an 'overseas student' (i.e. not an EC national, child of an EC national and have not been resident in a European country for three years prior to your admission to university) you will be required to pay a large part or all of the full fee charge for tuition.** Details of fee charges can be found in the prospectuses of the individual universities. The maximum fee charge for

EC/home students is £3,225 (2008/09) but International students may have to pay in excess of 10,000 pounds sterling per annum. It is possible that these fee charges may be increased for entry in 2010.

UCAS have very helpful pages for parents on their website which explain financial costs, especially living expenses, which will comprise the major part of your costs at university. Useful websites are [www.ucas.co.uk](http://www.ucas.co.uk) also [www.direct.gov.uk](http://www.direct.gov.uk)

**Student loans are very rarely available to European Union students because, in order to qualify, you need to have been resident in the UK for three years prior to commencing your degree course.** However, it may be possible to qualify for a loan depending on your specific set of circumstances. It is advisable to consult with the appropriate office on arrival at university to see what can be done **but you cannot rely on being granted financial assistance from the government.** There are various private loan schemes which you can find out about through the university. If you think you may qualify for a student loan from the government then consult the web sites in the appendices. [www.direct.gov.uk](http://www.direct.gov.uk)

### **Scholarships and Bursaries**

Some institutions have a number of scholarships and bursaries which can sometimes be offered to potential students. There are books in the Media Centre that deal with this but it is worth checking with the universities to be completely up to date. Further information can be found on the individual universities websites or a good starting place is [www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/single.htm?ipg=6314](http://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/single.htm?ipg=6314)

### **Bursaries**

Since the fee increase, more universities are offering bursaries to tempt the best applicants. Several of our students have been offered bursaries varying from 400 pounds to 1,000 pounds with finance for field trips. The amounts are usually paid on a termly or annual basis. Most of these awards were dependent on very good A level results.

### **Sponsorship**

Sponsorship is a term used to describe the way in which an employer or other organisation may provide you with financial support and practical training while you are studying a degree or HND course in Higher Education. It enables employers who are looking for promising recruits to begin training at an earlier stage than if they waited for students to complete their course. You can arrange a placement in industry by applying direct to individual companies or by using specialist schemes such as **Pre-University Formation for Engineers (PFUE)**. For further information on the Year in Industry (YINI) consult [www.yini.org.uk](http://www.yini.org.uk) Sponsorship may be available for many subjects, but is mostly provided for courses in engineering, specialised science subjects and business studies with related subjects.

If you are interested in the possibility of receiving sponsorship, you should first talk to the Head of Sixth Form, obtain information from the Media Centre and write direct to any company or organisation in which you are interested and which may offer sponsorship for courses in your chosen subject area. **Full details of the opportunities available are to be found in the booklet 'Sponsorships offered to students by employers and professional bodies for first degrees, BTEC higher awards (HND), or comparable courses beginning in 1999'.** Copies may be purchased from the Department of Employment CW ISCO 5, The Paddocks, Frizinghall, Bradford BD9 4HD. Many of the institutions listed in this Handbook offer courses for which such sponsorship is tenable. If the sponsorship arrangement involves

you working for the company for a full year before starting the course, you should apply to Higher Education through UCAS in Year 13 as normal and defer entry for one year.

## VOCABULARY TO KNOW BEFORE YOUR RESEARCH

- The term **Undergraduate** is used for all students during their first degree. Upon completing your first degree and carrying on to your second degree, you become known as a **Graduate Student**.
- The two most common degrees that are gained at British Universities are the **BA** (Bachelor of Arts) and **BSc** (Bachelor of Science). Which one you obtain is dependent on your subject of study, arts subjects or science subjects. Other important degrees are **LLB** (Law), **BEng**. (Engineering), **BEd**. (Education). Sometimes it is possible, particularly in the sciences, to apply for a Masters degree which always involves 4 years of study. The most common are **MSci** and **MEng**. Other masters courses are offered such as an **MA**.
- Degrees are very flexible today in their variety of subject combinations and approaches. Students will opt for one of the following:  
A **Single Honours degree** is when one subject is studied for the whole three or four years, eg. History.  
A **Joint or Combined Honours degree** is when two or more subjects are studied in varying proportions depending on the particular course. Take particular note of the vocabulary used in the name of the course. For example, there's a difference between German **and** English, and German **with** English. In the former, equal emphasis is placed on the subjects but in the latter, more time is spent studying German (roughly two thirds German, one third English).  
A **Modular** degree means that you can make up your course from a variety of option choices although you would choose main areas of study. For example, you may wish to specialise in Law and Psychology but would be able to choose other courses as well to make up your degree, such as a language course.
- **PGCE (Post Graduate Certificate in Education)**. If you are thinking of becoming a teacher you could do this by a further one year course which qualifies you to teach. You would study for this upon completion of your three year subject degree. Alternatively, you can study for a three year **BEd. Degree** in your chosen area which also qualifies you to teach. If you want to teach, please see the Head of Sixth Form and obtain information from the Careers section in the Media Centre to determine which route would be most suited to your needs.
- **Higher National Diploma or HND** is a two year course which is usually more vocational in direction. It is worth considering for those who have a firm idea about their future career and wish to study in a more practical way. The entrance requirements are 1 'A' level and 3 GCSE's. It is also possible to convert an HND to a degree (subject to performance on the course) by doing the third year of a degree. Some students prefer to obtain a degree via the HND route.
- A **Campus University** is one which houses all of its buildings on one large site which usually includes Halls of Residence, a bank, bookshop, bar/restaurant etc. It is like a student village. Examples are Kent, Sussex, Exeter, Warwick, Reading.

- **Ancients**, as the name implies, are the oldest universities in England and Scotland. As well as Oxford and Cambridge, they include Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow and St. Andrews.
- **Civics and Redbricks**. These are the city-based traditional universities, many dating from the last century. They include Birmingham, Bristol, Leeds, Manchester.
- **Collegiate**. Oxford and Cambridge are the prime examples, but Durham, York and Kent all use a similar system.
- **Federal**. London and Wales, where the larger colleges are recognised as universities in their own right. For example, University College, University of London.
- **New**. The post-1992 universities, mainly former polytechnics. Examples are The University of the West of England, Oxford Brookes, Nottingham Trent, Middlesex University. Some of these are excellent institutions and offer interesting, less traditional courses.
- **Technological**. A number of the new universities would claim to be primarily technological, but the term is usually applied to a group of traditional universities, most of which date from the 1960's. They include Loughborough, Heriot-Watt, UMIST, Bath and Bradford.
- **Socrates – Erasmus**. This is a **student exchange programme** to encourage the possibility of a year abroad for university students throughout Europe. Thus you might be studying Geography at University College, London, but with the possibility of doing several months of study at selected universities in France, Italy, the Netherlands, Germany, Spain, Portugal, Ireland or Sweden. The aim is to extend the student's experience of Europe. Not all universities or departments are linked with this programme. It is important to research this if you are interested in participating in such a scheme. Information is available in the Media Centre. Alternatively contact the universities to which you are thinking of applying.

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS IN MEDICINE (BMAT UKCAT) AND LAW (LNAT)**

In order to help in the selection process, all universities offering a degree in medicine and many good universities offering law, will ask applicants to **undergo special tests**. The tests for medicine are known as the **BMAT and UKCAT** and for law the **LNAT**. These tests have to be conducted at special test centres in Spain, are taken in the Autumn term of Year 13 and in the case of the BMAT, on a specified date. In the case of the LNAT, the test dates start in Sept. and some universities will require an applicant to take the test before a certain date so individual universities must be consulted.

The BMAT test is designed to assess scientific aptitude and focuses on scientific abilities relevant to the study of Medicine and Veterinary Science. The UKCAT test is designed to be a test of aptitude rather than subject knowledge. The LNAT test is an on-screen test including multiple choice questions and essay questions. For further information consult the relevant websites: [www.bmat.org.uk](http://www.bmat.org.uk) [www.ukcat.ac.uk](http://www.ukcat.ac.uk) [www.lnat.ac.uk](http://www.lnat.ac.uk) Practice tests are available on these sites and further help will be given at school. If a student is considering any of these degree courses it is important that they begin their preparation as soon as possible.

## THE ADVANCED EXTENSION AWARD

I have included this because a university can ask for this qualification as part of their offer. We offer this award in several subjects. As the name suggests, it is an award based on an extension of A level study. In some respects, it replaces the old STEP papers which Oxbridge candidates used to sit at the end of their A level study. It is a test designed to assess ability beyond what is required for A level and is for the most able students in a particular subject. The examination is conducted at school and is usually held towards the end of June.

## COMPLETING THE ONLINE APPLICATION. YEAR 13

### 1. THE BEGINNING

At the end of Year 12 or at the beginning of Year 13, each student will receive instructions on how to complete the online application form. Another important source of information for students and parents is [www.ucas.ac.uk/students/apply/](http://www.ucas.ac.uk/students/apply/) Take advantage of all the help that UCAS gives.

The Head of Sixth Form and Form Tutors are able to access your online application to monitor progress and help with advice. However, any alterations can only be made by you as you have a password and identification number. Don't forget that some colleges have their own application forms that have to be completed as well. Copies must be handed in to your Form Tutor and then HOS for checking as soon as possible so that the original can be completed well before the deadline date. Applications for Foundation courses, Route A Art and Design degree courses and Drama schools, should also be completed.

### 2. COMPLETING THE ONLINE APPLICATION

Filling in the online application is the result of months of careful research into your courses and universities. It is important that it is done **accurately and carefully**. Please follow rigorously the instructions on how to complete the application, one mistake could result in unnecessary delays and correspondence. The **personal statement** is the most difficult section to complete and please **do not underestimate the amount of time it takes to write something informative, inspired and fluent**. Several drafts are necessary, so please let me, your tutors and teachers check them as you go along. It is a good idea to print it out for corrections until you are sure that you're happy with it, then it can be checked again online. See the guidelines in the UCAS instruction handbook, the section 'How interesting am I?' and examples of statements written by past students which will be discussed during curriculum time.

### 3. QUALIFICATIONS

There is a large section on the UCAS online application where you have to fill in **all** your GCSE and AS/A level results. **All results must be recorded**, no matter how many times you have taken a particular examination. If you are new to the Sixth Form, you may need the Centre Number of the school where you took your GCSE's and the address.

### 4. THE SCHOOL'S REFERENCE

In order to write this reference, all your 'A' level teachers are asked to complete a

detailed report about you covering three main areas a) academic ability, b) personal qualities and c) suitability for the course. They are also asked to give predicted grades that I have to include in the reference. **As this reference has to be written very early in Year 13, you can appreciate how important your performance is in Year 12.**

## 5. CHOICE OF INSTITUTION AND COURSE

As mentioned, students are encouraged to research their options fully. **UCAS is not in a position to permit changes to an application once it has been submitted unless the circumstances are exceptional.** If you have listed less than five universities on your form, you may add others through UCAS at a later date.

## 6. THE APPLICATION PROCESS

Please comply strictly with the following dates. The earlier you complete your form, the better, but your priority is to make correct and considered choices.

- September 1<sup>st</sup>:** UCAS start accepting forms, so begin the online process as soon as possible.. **Please note that applications are sent off as soon as they are completed, we do not have to wait to send them in batches.**
- October 1<sup>st</sup>:** Deadline for completed Oxbridge applications to reach the Head of Sixth Form for final checking, also for applications for Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science
- October half term:** Deadline for all UCAS forms to be completed and handed to HOS so that references can be written.
- November 20<sup>th</sup>:** Deadline for all applications for Foundation courses in Art and Design
- January 15<sup>th</sup>:** Deadline for all applications to be sent to UCAS. **Please note that some courses can be closed earlier than this deadline date but applicants will see this on 'Apply'.**

Once you have completed the form you can pay by credit card and send it to me online to complete the reference section.

**The last two deadlines are vital in order for us to complete your forms, write references and send them to the UK. If you delay, this will affect your chances of admission, particularly to more popular courses. Note that the application fee for UCAS (15 pounds) is payable online by credit card.**

Once the form has been processed UCAS issue an acknowledgement confirming the student's choice and giving the **application number and password for tracking your application on the UCAS web site** (an important piece of information so please put in a safe place). At the same time, copies of the form are sent to the institutions that the student has listed.

Each institution considers the applications independently and sends its decision through UCAS. Decisions will come in any order and the times taken to make them will vary. Offers may be **unconditional** or **conditional** upon 'A' level results. a) An **unconditional offer** indicates that the student has completed all the entrance requirements and the institution is prepared to admit the student to the course concerned, usually for students who have received all their results and are taking a gap year. b) When a student has examinations to take and /or is awaiting the results, they are likely to make a **conditional offer**. The offer will

specify the conditions to be met before the student can be admitted to the course. All conditional offers will be expressed in grades or points and may take into account any examination results already obtained. It is important to read conditional offers carefully as they vary considerably.

With the last decision the student will be sent a statement of all decisions and will be required to reply to any offers. The student can **accept one offer firmly** and if the offer is conditional, can **hold one other offer as insurance**. This reply must be made by May in the year you expect to attend. Following the publication of exam. results, institutions will make their decisions on students who are holding conditional offers by comparing their results to the offers made. UCAS will then send confirmation of offers to successful students (**this can be tracked on the UCAS website**) and details of the options open to those who have not been successful.

**School will be open from 9am on the third Thursday in August for students to collect their results and see the Head of Sixth Form.**

### **ADJUSTMENT PERIOD**

This is new to the UCAS scheme. If a student has achieved better results than expected they have five days after results are published to apply to other universities. The original choices will be held for this five day period.

If students are unsuccessful in the UCAS scheme they are eligible to enter '**Clearing**'. The object of clearing is to fill any remaining vacancies in institutions and to place suitable applicants who have been unsuccessful so far.

**NB It is vital to be at home during this period to deal with the necessary correspondence. See notes at the beginning of this guide under 'Application Route'. Please keep the Head of Sixth Form in complete knowledge about everything that happens to you, from the day you receive your acknowledgement letter, offers made to you, your choice of firm and insurance courses etc.**

Put a great deal of thought and effort into your application. Your aim is to create the best impression possible.

Good luck with the application.

## **THE RUSSELL GROUP OF UNIVERSITIES**

**The Russell Group** is an association of 20 major research-intensive universities of the United Kingdom. Formed in 1994 at a meeting convened in Russell Square, the Group is composed of the Vice-Chancellors/Principals of the Universities listed below. There are also a number of active working groups.

In 2006/07, Russell Group Universities accounted for 66% (over £2.2 billion) of UK Universities' research grant and contract income, 68% of total Research Council income, 56% of all doctorates awarded in the United Kingdom, and over 30% of all students studying in the United Kingdom from outside the EU. In the 2001 national Research Assessment Exercise, 78% of the staff in Grade 5\* departments and 57% of the staff in Grade 5 departments were located in Russell Group Universities, and in 2007/08 Russell Group Universities were allocated approximately 66% of the total quality-related (QR) research funding allocated by the Funding Councils.

The purpose of The Russell Group is to provide thought leadership and strategic direction for the 20 major research intensive universities of the UK; they aim to ensure that policy

development in a wide range of issues relating to higher education is underpinned by a robust evidence base and a commitment to civic responsibility, improving life chances, raising aspirations and contributing to economic prosperity and innovation.

In alphabetical order they are:

[University of Birmingham](#) [University of Bristol](#) [University of Cambridge](#) [Cardiff University](#) [University of Edinburgh](#) [University of Glasgow](#) [Imperial College London](#) [King's College London](#) [University of Leeds](#) [University of Liverpool](#) [London School of Economics & Political Science](#) [University of Manchester](#) [Newcastle University](#) [University of Nottingham](#) [Queen's University Belfast](#) [University of Oxford](#) [University of Sheffield](#) [University of Southampton](#) [University College London](#) [University of Warwick](#)

These universities all have very good reputations and therefore very stringent entry requirements. However, there are some notable omissions from this list, for example, the Universities of Durham, Bath and York.

## **THE UNIVERSITIES OF OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE**

### **GAINING ADMISSION**

The following document is intended for all those thinking about applying to either the University of Oxford or the University of Cambridge usually referred to collectively as Oxbridge. It is a guide, not a definitive statement, but it should be read and understood before embarking on the necessary preparation for entrance to these institutions. Please also read carefully a prospectus for each institution.

This section has largely been written in order for potential candidates to assess their chances of admission. To be considered a potential candidate, you must receive full support from the school; be predicted to achieve good grade A's at A level (remember the A\* (90%) GCE grade is being introduced for the first time this year) and have at least 7 grade A or A\* grades at GCSE (the latest information I have received from Cambridge states that a high proportion of GCSE results, at least 5 to 8, should be A\* grades). Cambridge will probably use the A\* GCE grade in their offers and Oxford have, at the time of writing, yet to decide. It goes without saying that you need to be able to show a very strong record of academic achievements and have the dedication and enthusiasm to prepare for interview. It is necessary to set aside extra time for reading, preparing for written tests and meet weekly with staff who will require preparation work to be completed. You will also need to work on your interview technique by preparing for 'mock' interviews. We usually video (with candidates permission) at least one 'mock' interview to analyse interview technique. The process is rigorous (and rewarding) and you must be fully committed.

### **THE APPLICATION PROCEDURE**

You may not apply to both institutions in the same academic year. Selection of one over the other will depend on your academic interests and any other motivations you may have.

Whilst there are some similarities in the application process they do vary somewhat, so please read this document carefully.

- Complete the online UCAS application in the usual way, with the inclusion of Oxford or Cambridge amongst your five choices of institutions. Note that you will have to fill in an extra online application for Cambridge where you are required to include your AS level unit scores (UMS). Cambridge is more likely to use these unit scores in their assessment and Oxford are more likely to use aptitude tests. As from 2010, Cambridge will drop the LNAT test for law and are in the process of developing their own test. You must complete all relevant forms and send them off before the deadline of October 15<sup>th</sup>.
- There are currently twenty-eight colleges and six halls at Oxford, and twenty-seven colleges at Cambridge that admit undergraduates. Within the college or hall you will eat, sleep and work, and its tutors and other staff will take primary responsibility for your teaching and well being. Choosing a college/hall is based upon your knowledge of their particular academic strengths etc., and by reading about each in the prospectus, in particular, notes on the number of students they accept each year compared to the number of applications. Try also to get hold of the '**alternative prospectus**' published by the respective student unions, which give an insightful glimpse into the lives of the individual colleges. A visit to the university prior to your decision would obviously be invaluable because each college/hall has its own particular atmosphere and nuance. Search their web sites for information about their colleges and societies, and further information regarding admissions.

Oxford: <http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk>

Cambridge: <http://www.cam.ac.uk>

It is also possible to submit an '**open**' application, which leaves it up to the university to allocate a college/hall. This has both advantages and disadvantages that must be carefully thought about before completing the application form.

If you have any further queries, I can contact the **Tutor for Admissions** at any college or the **Secretary of the Admissions Office**. **They are always very helpful and do their best to make sure you do not feel intimidated by the whole procedure.** We have many useful addresses for both Oxford and Cambridge in the Media Centre.

**Please note that this process for Oxford and Cambridge has an early completion date. Completed forms must arrive at UCAS by October 15<sup>th</sup> and so we request that your forms should be in to HOS no later than October 1<sup>st</sup>.**

## **PREPARATION FOR OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE ADMISSION**

You must have the full support of all your teachers regarding academic ability; even if you get through the interview stage, **the offers are always very high, usually three A's and now this may include the new A\* grade.**

You must be prepared to do extra reading, practice tests, prepare for 'mock' interviews, thoroughly research your subject as well as thoroughly revising your syllabus. You need to be able to think 'outside the box'.

For Cambridge you may have to prepare for the **Thinking Skills (TSA)** test. We have information on this in the Media Centre.

Don't forget the LNAT, BMAT or UKCAT tests that are obligatory for entrance to law and medicine. There is also the HAT test for History applicants and EAT test for

English. Mathematics students may have to sit an examination at school prior to the possibility of an interview.

You will have to spend time preparing for the interview, which will involve several 'mock' interviews with teachers from your subject areas.

You may have to submit samples of your work, or read certain prescribed articles, books etc. prior to interview.

You may have to practice for a written test given at interview.

Consider what else you have to offer to the university.

For further information go to [www.oxbridgeapplications.com](http://www.oxbridgeapplications.com)

On the strength of your written submission and UCAS form, your first choice college will notify you whether they want to call you for interview. Clearly this interview is an important part of the application procedure and again we would recommend serious preparation. Within a few weeks, successful candidates will receive an offer from either Oxford or Cambridge. See prospectuses for more details on the application procedure.

### **How Cambridge and Oxford will respond to you.**

Upon receiving your application, successful applicants to Oxbridge will be invited for interview. This is an integral part of the application procedure and should be carefully prepared for as noted above.

Interviews are usually in December from around the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup>. They will usually notify you of their decision in late December or early January. Good luck.

## **ENTRY TO UNIVERSITIES IN THE USA**

Before applying anywhere, students should have a clear idea of what it is they want to study and research the information on careers in the Media Centre in exactly the same way as they would for a UK university. The American system, however, allows for students to follow a more general course of study in the first year which gives greater flexibility before having to decide on the degree subject. This means that US degree courses last for four years. In some cases, if a student's A level results are good enough and they are sure of their choice of subject, a university will accept a student into their second year. However, much depends on the individual universities policies.

The entry procedure is quite different than that of UK universities. Although A levels and IGCSE's/GCSE's are well regarded and understood in the United States, universities require all home and international students to sit the SAT or ACT examinations prior to their applications. These are tests of aptitude in English, Reasoning and Numeracy. We have practice tests and information in the Media Centre but a very useful website is [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) where practice tests are available. Students must register on this site to take these tests at their nearest centre: our nearest centre is Sunnyview School in Torremolinos. Tests at this centre are normally conducted in June and December and we advise students to take the tests on both occasions as the US universities will accept the highest scores. It is possible to take these tests at other centres at different times in the

south of Spain. Full information on the tests, test centres and dates are given on the Collegeboard website.

Unlike the UK, students must apply to each university separately which means downloading the application forms from the university websites. Students often have to write a statement explaining why they want to study a particular course (similar to the personal statement on the UCAS form). Students also have to prove their proficiency in English and usually the IGCSE First Language English exam. grade C and above (which is the exam. all our students take in Year 11) is sufficient. We also have to provide a transcript which is a description of our grading system together with the student's grades achieved, usually over a three year period.

We have guides in the Media Centre which rank universities and give descriptions of their courses. Once these have been narrowed down to three or four, we advise visiting the US so that students are able to make well informed decisions about where they want to study.

As in the UK, competition for places at the high ranking universities is strong. Universities will require high grades and a reference from the school. Scholarships and bursaries are on offer for sporting as well as academic ability. Students thinking of applying for a sports scholarship must gather proof of their achievements eg. recommendation from a coach or other professional.

Applications are submitted by December of Year 13 but some universities have a later deadline date in February or March. Exact dates can be located on their websites.

Financially, it is more costly to study in the US as students will not get the same government sponsored concessions for fees as in the UK also the cost of travel should be taken into account. Usually students from EIC who have studied, or who are studying in the US, have either been awarded scholarships or have US nationality. This does not necessarily mean that they study for free, but it has helped enormously towards costs.

Useful websites for studying in the US can be found in the website section of the appendices.

## STUDYING IN SPAIN

Entry will be gained by good passes in A level and IGCSE/GCSE examinations and at the time of writing, the Selectividad examination will no longer be needed as an entrance requirement. However, it is clear that students **must be totally fluent in Spanish** if they are considering this option and an A grade at A level in Spanish may not be sufficient. Much depends on whether students are Spanish nationals or the length of time students have been living in Spain in order to reach the level of fluency required. It is advisable to consult closely with the foreign languages staff as they will be able to assess a student's suitability.

It is also important for students to consider other factors which may influence their decision to study in Spain. Often Spanish students study at the university nearest to their home and therefore often live at home, which has its advantages and disadvantages. If a student wishes to study at a university away from home, for example, Cordoba, Granada or Madrid it is not certain whether they will be accommodated at the university. Courses may be organised differently to the UK system which may be beneficial for some students but not others. Nevertheless, Spain has some excellent universities and it may well be an advantage for some students to consider the option of staying in Spain. There is nothing to stop students applying to both the UK and Spain.

## **International Universities in Spain**

These are generally private universities and provide the opportunity for students who want to stay in Spain to study in English. Some of them have good international reputations having campuses in many other European countries. It is important when considering these to weigh up the advantages and disadvantages, especially with regard to cost as their fees are not government sponsored and can be quite high. Furthermore, it is important to check that their degrees are internationally acceptable. We have hosted visits by some of these universities who offer good programmes with excellent, specialist facilities that other universities cannot offer. This is another option to consider.

## **Universities in other European/International countries**

Since the application procedures, deadlines and qualifications for entry vary from country to country and university to university, it is impossible to note them all here. However, should a student wish to apply to their home country everything will be done to assist them. In the same way as for UK applicants, careful note should be given to deadlines, course requirements, entry qualifications, courses available and accommodation. In the past, students have attended universities in Finland, Sweden, Norway, the United Arab Emirates, Southern Ireland and many others. Again, students may apply to more than one country if they are still unsure about which place may suit them best.

## **APPENDICES**

### **Useful websites**

## USEFUL WEBSITES

Here are some more useful websites over and above those already mentioned in the guide.

### Universities

#### University Search UK

HERO (Higher education and research opportunities) [www.hero.ac.uk](http://www.hero.ac.uk)

PUSH (Excellent alternative view of Unis) [www.push.co.uk](http://www.push.co.uk)

QAA (Reports on teaching/research at University Departments) [www.qaa.ac.uk](http://www.qaa.ac.uk)

Unofficial Guides (Alternative reviews and HE links) [www.unofficial-guides.com](http://www.unofficial-guides.com)

The British Council

(invaluable help for EU and international students – try the virtual campus) [www.britcoun.org](http://www.britcoun.org)

Student UK (alternative look at universities and helpful information) [www.studentuk.com](http://www.studentuk.com)

#### Open Days

Open Days (Plan your university open day visits) [www.opendays.com](http://www.opendays.com)

Student UK (UCAS student site, virtual open days) [www.studentuk.com](http://www.studentuk.com)

#### Student Finance

Dept of Education and Skills

(the 'bible' regarding fee status for EU students) [www.dfes.gov.uk/gfees/index.shtml](http://www.dfes.gov.uk/gfees/index.shtml)

Dept of Education and Skills

(excellent advice for international students on cost of living, expenses, fees, etc)

[www.educationuk.org/home/index.html](http://www.educationuk.org/home/index.html)

UKCOSA

(specialise in financial information for international and EU students) [www.ukcosa.org.uk](http://www.ukcosa.org.uk)

Finance (Student Loans Company) [www.slc.co.uk](http://www.slc.co.uk)

Scholarships (Awards available) [www.scholarship-search.org.uk](http://www.scholarship-search.org.uk)

UK charity funding (amazing how many societies offer bursaries) [www.caritasdata.co.uk](http://www.caritasdata.co.uk)

### Careers/ Professional Information and Job Search

#### General

CSU (Advice and guidance for those considering postgraduate study)

[www.prospects.csu.ac.uk/studeent/pgdir/main.stm](http://www.prospects.csu.ac.uk/studeent/pgdir/main.stm)

BBC Education and Careers

[www.bbc.co.uk/education](http://www.bbc.co.uk/education)

Careers Directory (over 2000 links to major professions)

[www.careers-portal.co.uk](http://www.careers-portal.co.uk)

Careerssoft (Career links to the major professional bodies)

[www.careerssoft.co.uk](http://www.careerssoft.co.uk)

University of London (Virtual Careers Library – fine links)

[www.careers.lon.ac.uk](http://www.careers.lon.ac.uk)

Jobs Unlimited (Guardian site)

[www.jobsunlimited.co.uk](http://www.jobsunlimited.co.uk)

Monster (UK pages of the world's leading career network)

[www.monster.co.uk](http://www.monster.co.uk)

Prospects (Options after Degree, links to AGCAS)

[www.prospects.ac.uk](http://www.prospects.ac.uk)

Reach for the Sky (Sky Advice)

[www.sky.com/rfts](http://www.sky.com/rfts)

Total Jobs (So you want to . . . salary checker, career doctor) [www.totaljobs.com](http://www.totaljobs.com)

Workthing (All things job related, salary checker)

[www.workthing.com](http://www.workthing.com)

3d-jobs recruitment website

[www.3d-jobs.co.uk](http://www.3d-jobs.co.uk)

CV's (Simple advice and templates)

[www.alec.co.uk](http://www.alec.co.uk)

Hot Recruit (UK site offering part-time work)

[www.hotrecruit.com](http://www.hotrecruit.com)

Presentations (Advice)

[www.presentationsmagic.com](http://www.presentationsmagic.com)

Students Job Rights (Know your rights) [www.troubleatwork.org.uk](http://www.troubleatwork.org.uk)  
Tests (Discover yourself) NB avoid ones demanding payment [www.allthetests.com](http://www.allthetests.com)  
Sunday Times (50 best companies to work for) [www.Sunday-times.co.uk](http://www.Sunday-times.co.uk)  
Government Recruitment Gateway-Fast Stream [www.faststream.gov.uk](http://www.faststream.gov.uk)  
S-Cool (Careers for everyone in UK also revision courses)  
Careerworld [www.careerworld.net](http://www.careerworld.net)

## **Medicine**

BMA (British Medical Association – vital resource) [www.bma.org.uk](http://www.bma.org.uk)  
BMJ (Vital for Medics –inc link to online Student BMJ) [www.bmj.com](http://www.bmj.com)  
Netdoctor (Diagnoses or research, daily email news digest) [www.netdoctor.co.uk](http://www.netdoctor.co.uk)  
\*NHS (Allows awareness of current issues) [www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk](http://www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk)  
\*Student health  
(Digest written by doctors for medical students) [www.studenthealth.co.uk](http://www.studenthealth.co.uk)  
\*Doctorjob (Career advice and impressive 16+ microsite) [www.doctorjob.com](http://www.doctorjob.com)

## **Art and Design**

Art & Design (Excellent insight into creative fields) [www.yourcreativefuture.org](http://www.yourcreativefuture.org)

## **Drama**

Drama (Schools, official UK advice, RADA et al) [www.drama.ac.uk](http://www.drama.ac.uk)  
The Stage (Entertainment Industry reference) [www.thestage.co.uk](http://www.thestage.co.uk)

## **Media**

Media (Careers in Radio, Film & TV) [www.skillset.org](http://www.skillset.org)

## **Publishing**

The Periodicals Training Council (Publishing Association advice on careers) [www.ppa.co.uk/careers/index.htm](http://www.ppa.co.uk/careers/index.htm)

## **Engineering**

Engineering Council (Vast resource, links to WISE etc) [www.engc.org.uk](http://www.engc.org.uk)  
Year in Industry (Sponsorships at university) [www.yini.org.uk](http://www.yini.org.uk)  
ICEnet The Institution of Civil Engineers [www.ice.org.uk](http://www.ice.org.uk)  
Professional Engineering Publishing [www.pepublishing.com](http://www.pepublishing.com)

## **Psychology**

Information on careers and list of accredited courses [www.bps.org.uk/careers/search.cfm](http://www.bps.org.uk/careers/search.cfm)

## **Science**

New Scientist (Key details of modern scientific advances) [www.newscientist.com](http://www.newscientist.com)

## **PE**

Teach PE (Sports Science support) [www.teachpe.com](http://www.teachpe.com)

## Law

Law Society ('Cracker', 'Morse', 'The Bill' or reality?)  
Legal Publishing and Recruitment

[www.lawsoc.org.uk](http://www.lawsoc.org.uk)  
[www.chambersandpartners.com](http://www.chambersandpartners.com)

## Languages/Studying in Europe

European choice (useful information regarding courses etc.) [www.dfee.gov.uk/echoice](http://www.dfee.gov.uk/echoice)

UK Socrates – Erasmus Council

(universities scheme for studying abroad)

[www.ukc.ac.uk/erasmus/erasmus](http://www.ukc.ac.uk/erasmus/erasmus)

ESN (Erasmus Student Network advice on studying abroad and student exchange)

[www.esn.org](http://www.esn.org)

Europa The European Union On Line

[www.europe.eu.int/](http://www.europe.eu.int/)

EF Education – Language Schools & Study Abroad

[www.ef.com](http://www.ef.com)

## Teaching

Teacher Training Agency (Info on undergraduate courses leading to Qualified Teacher Status (QTS))

[www.canteach.gov.uk/teaching/routes/undergrad.htm](http://www.canteach.gov.uk/teaching/routes/undergrad.htm)

Teacher Training Agency (Advice and info on teacher training courses in the UK)

[www.canteach.gov.uk/home.htm](http://www.canteach.gov.uk/home.htm)

Teacher Training Agency (Info on postgraduate courses leading to QTS)

[www.canteach.gov.uk/teaching/routes/postgrad.htm](http://www.canteach.gov.uk/teaching/routes/postgrad.htm)

## Nursing

NMAS (Nursing & Midwifery Admissions Service - advice on degrees and diplomas in nursing)

[www.nmas.ac.uk/](http://www.nmas.ac.uk/)

## Social Work

CCETSW UK (Advice and information about this profession) [www.ccetsw.org.uk/index3.html](http://www.ccetsw.org.uk/index3.html)

## Aviation

BALPA British Airline Pilots Association (advice on recruitment) [www.balpa.org.uk](http://www.balpa.org.uk)

Royal Air Force (advice on recruitment)

[www.raf.mod.uk](http://www.raf.mod.uk)

Air Traffic Control (advice on recruitment)

[www.nats.co.uk](http://www.nats.co.uk)

Careers for Women in aviation

[www.bwpa.demon.co.uk](http://www.bwpa.demon.co.uk)

## Police Force and Forensics

Could You Police? (useful help and advice on recruitment) [www.policecouldyou.co.uk](http://www.policecouldyou.co.uk)

The Metropolitan Police Service (what it's like to work in London) [www.met.police.uk](http://www.met.police.uk)

Forensic Training

[www.forensic-training.police.uk](http://www.forensic-training.police.uk)

## The British Army

Careers section

[www.army.mod.uk/careers/index.htm](http://www.army.mod.uk/careers/index.htm)

## Other Careers

Le Cordon Bleu International (training for top chefs)

[www.cordonbleu.net/main.htm](http://www.cordonbleu.net/main.htm)

Christies (world famous art and antiques dealers) [www.christies.com/home](http://www.christies.com/home)

### **Student news/views/help/social scene**

Anything Student (Student community) [www.anythingstudent.com](http://www.anythingstudent.com)  
NUS (Student rights, finance advice, links) [www.nus.org.uk](http://www.nus.org.uk)  
Student Issues (Student angst) [www.thesite.com](http://www.thesite.com)  
The Suzy Lamplugh Trust [www.suzylamplugh.org/worldwide](http://www.suzylamplugh.org/worldwide)  
(Commendable safety advice for all)  
All experts (Advice guru) [www.allexperts.com](http://www.allexperts.com)  
Dictionary (Never be lost for words) [www.dictionary.com](http://www.dictionary.com)  
Maps (Find your way) [www.multimap.com](http://www.multimap.com)  
Dialect Delight (Be 'in character' irreverent fun) [www.whoohoo.co.uk](http://www.whoohoo.co.uk)  
The Onion (Satirical current affairs) [www.theonion.com](http://www.theonion.com)  
Open All Hours (Museum/Gallery guide) [www.24hourmuseum.org.uk](http://www.24hourmuseum.org.uk)  
Teenage Angst 1 (health advice and more) [www.embarrassingproblems.com](http://www.embarrassingproblems.com)  
Teenage Angst 2 (health advice and more) [www.likeitis.com](http://www.likeitis.com)  
What the Papers Say (News digest) [www.whatthepaperssay.co.uk](http://www.whatthepaperssay.co.uk)  
Sports Fans (Linking the 'impassioned experts') [www.rivals.net](http://www.rivals.net)  
Search Engine (The best possible!) [www.google.com](http://www.google.com)  
(Current affairs – broadsheet style, Fiver, The Wrap) [www.guardian.co.uk](http://www.guardian.co.uk)  
Britannica (Definitive encyclopaedic reference) [www.britannica.com](http://www.britannica.com)  
NME  
(Music is the poetry of the new generation – new and archives) [www.nme.com](http://www.nme.com)  
CDs (Beat the High Street prices) [www.cd-wow.com](http://www.cd-wow.com)  
Redmole (the site made for students by students) I've always found him asleep though!  
[www.redmole.com](http://www.redmole.com)

### **Gap Year**

\*Gap Year opportunities [www.gapyear.com](http://www.gapyear.com)  
Camp America [www.campamerica.co.uk](http://www.campamerica.co.uk)  
World Challenge Expeditions [www.world-challenge.co.uk](http://www.world-challenge.co.uk)  
EF Education (Language schools and study abroad) [www.ef.com](http://www.ef.com)  
Expeditions [www.trekforce.org.uk](http://www.trekforce.org.uk)  
\*VSO (Voluntary Service Overseas) [www.vso.org.uk](http://www.vso.org.uk)  
Adventure Group [www.adventure.co.uk](http://www.adventure.co.uk)  
Exchange programmes [www.councilexchanges.org.uk](http://www.councilexchanges.org.uk)  
Spanish exchange programmes [www.livingspanish.com](http://www.livingspanish.com)  
Student Volunteering UK [www.studentvol.org.uk](http://www.studentvol.org.uk)  
Changing Worlds [www.changingworlds.co.uk](http://www.changingworlds.co.uk)  
Project Trust [www.projecttrust.org.uk](http://www.projecttrust.org.uk)  
BUNAC [www.bunac.org.uk](http://www.bunac.org.uk)  
Youth for Britain [www.worldwidevolunteering.org.uk](http://www.worldwidevolunteering.org.uk)  
International Academy [www.international-academy.com](http://www.international-academy.com)  
(useful for acquiring sports qualifications) [www.gap.org.uk](http://www.gap.org.uk)  
\*International opportunities and ideas [www.challengeuk.com/](http://www.challengeuk.com/)  
Educational exchanges, work placements etc. [www.ventureco-worldwide.com](http://www.ventureco-worldwide.com)  
Venture Co – The Gap Year people

### **Studying in The United States**

SAT programmes [www.collegeboard.org/sat](http://www.collegeboard.org/sat)

The College Board (excellent advice and useful links) [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)  
Finance for studying in the USA [www.collegeview.com](http://www.collegeview.com)  
Petersons.com ACUUS search (helps your selection  
of appropriate university) <http://iiswinprd03.petersons.com/acuus/code/psector.asp?sponsor=>  
Study America  
(college admissions, application info, financial aid etc.) [www.collegeapps.about.com](http://www.collegeapps.about.com)  
The Smart Student Guide to Studying in the USA [www.edupass.org/](http://www.edupass.org/)  
US Universities, Colleges, English Programs, Executive Education  
(specifically designed for non US students) [www.usjournal.com](http://www.usjournal.com)

## Studying in Spain

**The following have useful links to universities, courses and finance both Spanish and other universities in Spain**

Spanish and European universities [www.wayp.com/eng/infoeng/unive/unispain-htm](http://www.wayp.com/eng/infoeng/unive/unispain-htm)  
Spain Data [www.spaindata.com/directorio/english/culture/universities](http://www.spaindata.com/directorio/english/culture/universities)  
Universities in Spain [www.scholarstuff.com/colleges/europe/spain.htm](http://www.scholarstuff.com/colleges/europe/spain.htm)  
Spain Exchange [www.spainexchange.com/for\\_students.php](http://www.spainexchange.com/for_students.php)  
Universities/Europe/Spain/International  
[http://dmoz.org/reference/education/colleges\\_and\\_universities/europe/spain/](http://dmoz.org/reference/education/colleges_and_universities/europe/spain/)  
Ask an Owner (direct questions to students with experience of unis.) [www.askanowner.com/](http://www.askanowner.com/)  
EBSCO (useful articles) [www.ebsco.com/home/whatsnew/spain.stm](http://www.ebsco.com/home/whatsnew/spain.stm)  
Yahoo  
[http://yahoo.com/Regional/Countries/Spain/Education/Higher\\_Education/Colleges\\_and\\_universities](http://yahoo.com/Regional/Countries/Spain/Education/Higher_Education/Colleges_and_universities)  
Spanish universities (scroll through to correct dept) [www.aber.ac.uk/](http://www.aber.ac.uk/)  
IAGORA (ratings on Spanish universities by students) [www.iagora.com/index/html](http://www.iagora.com/index/html)