



# Whilst you are waiting – a UCAS Quiz!

**Match the numbers to the questions –  
Answers come up through the presentation**

1. Number of courses in UCAS
2. Number of UK universities
3. Average earnings above non-graduate
4. Earnings threshold above which you have to have to start paying your loan back
5. Number of applications per one place for Economics at LSE
6. Amount of choices you can make on UCAS
7. Amount of students we know how dropped out of university
8. Starting salary for graduates 2013-14
9. Amount of days before the first AES major UCAS Deadline (Competitive Universities)
10. Number of universities offering MFL degrees

## **Numbers**

21,000

56

150,000

2

307,000

86

162

15

27,500

5



**ANGLO EUROPEAN SCHOOL**

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**UCAS Parents' Evening  
16th June 2015**

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**'Making a World of Difference'**



# The Presentation

- The Future – the options available
- Our Focus – Higher Education and UCAS
- How UCAS works – an overview
- How to choose a Course
- How to choose a University
- The UCAS Application – the Four Parts
- Student Finance
- How Parents can help
- Key Deadlines





# The Future - Options

- Employment – opportunities do exist
- Take a Year Out – Gap year talk coming
- Join the Services – degree paid for
- Apprenticeships – range is growing
- Scrounge off of their parents indefinitely
- Go into Higher Education





# How we help students get there

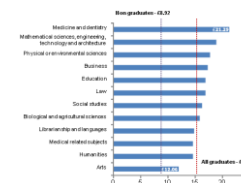
- **Get a job** – Students do the research, applications, start-up etc. We give advice, references, mock interviews. They can also use the Careers service.
- **Take a year out** – Students arrange it all themselves or use a Gap Year organisation (e.g. Gap Challenge or others). We can offer advice regarding how to make the experience add to their UCAS application
- **Join the Services** – Students contact the relevant sources and organisations – we provide references, mock interviews etc.
- **Apprenticeships** - A way of learning skills and a trade, on the job. Govt organises, students apply direct, we can offer help and advice.
- **Scrounge off their parents** – They do the research – we stay well away. We wish them the best of luck
- **Go into Higher Education** – Students research Universities and courses and apply through UCAS – we monitor, advise and provide references





# Our Focus – Higher Education

1. An opportunity to study in depth a subject of their choice
2. Life chances will improve – creates opportunities
3. Future earnings will be enhanced compared to non-graduates (on average £150k more over lifetime)
4. For some University will bring the chance to live \ study \ work abroad.
5. Helps develop their independence
6. The social life – but not too much
7. Sporting interests
8. The chance to spend a year in industry
9. Although the cost has increased significantly, bursaries and scholarships have improved
10. It avoids work for another 3 or 4 years - maturity





# However, why students shouldn't go...

- Students have had enough of education
- Students are likely to finish their degree with considerable debt (average £40k)
- No guarantee of a good job at the end of it
  - – earnings figures are an average
- Studying at University might not suit them
- It can simply be putting off a decision and taking the easy option, following their peers
- Some careers do not require graduate entry





# What is UCAS?

- Universities and Colleges Admissions Service
- Based in Cheltenham
- Handles applications for all British First Degree Courses (overseas universities not through UCAS at the moment)
- Applications **MUST** be made through UCAS – students cannot apply direct to a publicly funded University (there are a small number of private universities)







# How UCAS works – the basics

- Applications are submitted using the UCAS online system called APPLY – (UK's 4<sup>th</sup> most visited website!)
- Students can apply to up to FIVE University courses (Four for Medicine/ Dentistry/ Veterinary Science)
- Applications need to be completed by a range of deadlines between September and December (given later)
- Early applications have an advantage over later ones.
- Students should not underestimate how time consuming the process can be – it is very important that they get it right but the rewards are great





# How UCAS Works - details

- All applications go through UCAS who then pass applications on to the relevant institutions
- Universities use **four** things to make their selections:
  - GCSE grades
  - U6 predicted grades (L6 exam results form the basis of these)
  - Personal Statement
  - Our Reference
- The institutions consider an application and does one of **three** things:
  - i) Offers a place (this is likely to be ‘conditional’ – on condition the student achieves certain grades or points in their U6 public examinations / odd exception offers an ‘unconditional’ place)
  - ii) Rejects the student– if they do not consider them suitable for their course
  - iii) Call the student for interview, or a test – after which they will do one of the above.

Once an applicant has heard back from all 5 Universities.....





# How UCAS Works - details

- Applicant selects from the offers received and accepts TWO (some applicants will get five offers, in theory some might not get any).
- Applicants with no offers can use the “UCAS EXTRA” system – allowing them to make further individual applications.
- Students normally accept one high (firm) and one lower (insurance) offer.
- If after publication of Exam results an applicant has met the offer they are guaranteed a place on that course.
- Applicants who fail to reach an offer by a small margin can contact the University and it is still possible to get a place on the chosen course. If results improve significantly then ‘UCAS Adjustment’.
- Those who fail to meet their first choice, but meet their second are guaranteed a place on that course. It is assumed that they will accept that place.
- Applicants who do not meet either of their offers may still get a place at University through “CLEARING”.



# How to choose a course

Consider what subject(s) you would like to study at University based upon factors such as:

- What subjects really interest you and you would like to explore further?
- What are you good at? A levels, IB or outside interests
- Do you have specific career ambitions? Employability
- What is a realistic assessment of your potential ?  
(use Term 2, Term 3 reports, IB Mocks/ AS results and final PG in late September for guidance)
- NB: Joint Honours, Non-Sixth Form Courses
- NOTE: Research tasks have already been issued!





# How to choose a University

- Using UCAS, compile a list of Universities that offer courses in the subjects that interest you
- Draw up a shortlist of those with realistic entry requirements  
(Grades, IB Points or UCAS tariff points – HEAP Guide can help to shortlist)
- Research - How do they rank? (overall and by subject)  
How are the courses taught? QAA, Employability, Links to industry, Languages, Year abroad
- Find out about the locations of the Universities  
(City v Campus) and visit realistic choices on Open Days  
(but not too many!)
- Overseas universities an option?  
(upcoming assembly)





# However, beware the spin...

FACT or MYTH?

1. Everyone who attends university is also a model



Maybe not....





# However, beware the spin...

FACT or MYTH?

2. All University buildings are listed and look like something out of Harry Potter OR look like something out of the 23C



Reality....





# However, beware the spin...

FACT or MYTH?

3. The sun always shines and everyone is permanently happy



Maybe not.....







# How to Apply

The application is made online and is made up of 4 parts:

- ◆ Personal Details / Education
- ◆ Course Choices
- ◆ Personal Statement
- ◆ Reference

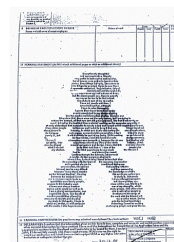
Note: Personal Details/Education will be completed in school by the end of the year.





# The Personal Statement

- Must be well written and carefully prepared (it can and does make a significant contribution to an applicant's success or failure)
- Roughly an A4 sheet which must cover the following:
  - Why chosen course or subject?
  - Academic qualities relevant to chosen subject
  - Other relevant personal qualities and achievements
  - Why me?
- Detailed advice is given in the Student UCAS Pack (exemplars are available for students in Shared Area)  
|
- Please help us with PS Minimum revision Dates: (given in key deadlines slide)





# The Reference

- An “Open”, honest reference
- Written by UCAS Mentor
- Students know who is writing their reference and will work on their application with that person
- Mentor will consult with applicant’s subject teachers, tutor etc.
- Contains predicted grades for all subjects based on realistic expectations





# Student Finance

- Administered online at [www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance](http://www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance)
- Students apply for finance by April 2016 (non-assessed)  
May 2016 for assessment of Household income
- Fees range from £6,500 to £9,000 however most £8-9000
- Finance available:
  - Tuition Fee Loan up to £9,000 (everyone is eligible)
  - Maintenance Loan (everyone gets 65% - average is 3.6k (£5k London), 35% means-tested of around £2k)  
up to household income of £62,500
  - Maintenance Grant (non-repayable) means-tested £3350  
on pre-tax income between £25k - £42k
  - Bursaries / Scholarships from Universities have risen
  - National Scholarship Programme for households below £25k
  - Good resources: [www.Moneysavingexpert.com/students](http://www.Moneysavingexpert.com/students)  
<https://www.ucas.com/ucas/undergraduate/finance-and-support/tuition-fees-and-student-loans>



# Loan Repayments

Repayments are made on 9% of income over £21,000, Maximum 30 years

Income each year before tax	Monthly salary	Approximate monthly repayment
£21,000	£1,750	£0
£24,000	£2,000	£22
£27,000	£2,250	£45
£30,000	£2,500	£67
£33,000	£2,750	£90
£36,000	£3,000	£112
£40,000	£3,333	£142

Source: [www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance](http://www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance)



# Student Responsibility

- Ensure that deadlines are met (PSs especially)
- Carry out appropriate research – Mentor Tasks
- Consult with their FT and Mentor regularly
- Tell us in advance if they are visiting Universities
- Be available in July / August when the Exam results are published just in case.
- If in doubt....ask





# How Parents Can Help

- Take an interest – UCAS Tasks/ Mentor tasks
- HE Superfairs – help with preparation
- Be aware of deadlines (6<sup>h</sup> July first PS deadline)
- Discuss courses and choices
- Read and offer advice on Personal Statement
- Open Days – sensible, self-guided, virtual
- Speak to school if you have any concerns
- But.....

Allow students to make their own choices

- UCAS Parent Guide

<https://www.ucas.com/ucas/undergraduate/getting-started/parents-and-guardians>

- Follow UCAS on Twitter





# Some Key Deadlines

- HE Superfair, ARU- 01.07.15  
(Geography Field Trip students – QMU, 25.06.15)
- Personal Statement revision deadlines:  
6<sup>th</sup> July, then 7<sup>th</sup> Sept, 28th Sep (Oxbr, Med, Dentistry, CC univ only)  
9<sup>th</sup> Oct, 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov
- Application Deadlines:

Oxbridge/ Med/ Dentistry -	05.10.15
Competitive Universities -	15.10.15
December (end of) Guarantee -	09.11.15
UCAS Deadline Guarantee -	30.11.15
- **Remember** – applications are submitted this Autumn for entry to university in September/October 2016
- Parentmail / Intouch prompts will be sent





# Conclusion

- This is a serious and meaningful process
- Which course and University to apply to is a big decision.
- Students need to research their options thoroughly and seek advice from those around them
- Make sure students put significant effort into making sure their application is of high quality
- They should adhere to the timeline produced for the best chance of a successful outcome, but applications will not instantly be sent off.
- Good Luck!





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