

# Pathway: University

Miss Hill

# Preparing for UCAS

# Choosing a Course

- Realistic entry requirements
- Suitable course for you
- Attend Open Days – currently online
  
- There are more than 50,000 courses in over 25 subject areas!

# What can you study?

- Traditional subjects – English Literature, Mathematics, Geography, Chemistry, History
- Vocational – Teaching, Pharmacy, Speech and Language Therapy, Nursing
- Unusual courses – Ethical Hacking, Meteorology, Theatre Practice and Puppetry
- Combined courses – Art and Psychology, PPE

# Specific Career in Mind?

- Doctor – Medicine
- Advertising – English, Marketing, Business, Psychology
- Teacher – Primary QTS or subject then PGCE
- Make sure you research the career and degree/pathway needed

# What to look for in a course

- Accreditation
- Entry requirements
- Other opportunities
- Content
- Support
- Facilities
- Assessment

# Entry Requirements

- General Education – GCSEs (Eng, Maths, Science)
- Further Education – A Levels, BTECs
- Work Experience, DBS, Health Checks
- Portfolio, Interview or Audition
- Personal Statement

# Entry Requirements - Specific

- Science A Levels – Medicine, Biomedical Science, Pharmacy, Nursing, Midwifery, Chemistry, Food Science, Animal Science, Engineering
- <https://university.which.co.uk/advice/a-level-choices/what-a-levels-do-you-need-for-the-degree-you-want-to-study>



# Entry Requirements - Specific

- What are your predicted grades?
- What were the results from mock exams and previous work?
- What are you likely to achieve?
- Have 1 aspirational, 3 realistic and 1 lower

# Open Days – What to Consider

- Type – campus or city?
- Accommodation
- Finances – London is more expensive
- Location
- Reputation
- Size

# Information about Universities

- Prospectuses, miniguides
- University websites, social media
- UCAS, UniStats, Which?University
- League Tables – The Complete University Guide
- Visit the Universities for Taster Days and Summer Schools (where possible)

# Timeline and Personal Statements

# UCAS

- Universities and Colleges Admissions Service
- Centralised service that students use to apply to university

# Key Dates 2021-2022

- June – begin the application process and personal statement
- Early September – start to submit applications if early entry
- 15<sup>th</sup> October – Deadline for Oxbridge, Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science
- October – December – Internal school deadlines
- 15<sup>th</sup> January – Deadline for all other applications

# During Year 12

- Research universities and courses
- Attend Open Days
- Start application and personal statement (personal details, choices, education, employment details, personal statement, reference)

# July 2021

- UCAS morning at school
- Begin creating your UCAS application
- Begin planning and drafting your Personal Statement



# September – December 2021

- Continue to attend Open Days
- Finalise personal statement and application
- Submit application
- Continue to work hard

# January – May 2022

- Check UCAS Track for offers
- Conditional – you need to meet the requirements of the offer, usually exam results
- Unconditional – you have a place but may need to arrange a few things
- Unsuccessful – you haven't been offered a place and check why!
- If you have heard back before 31<sup>st</sup> March, then make a decision by 5<sup>th</sup> May

# January – May 2022

- Apply for Student Finance (separate to UCAS)
- Make your Firm and Insurance choices
- Firm – first choice, no insurance if unconditional is accepted
- Insurance – back up choice, make sure it is lower
- Decline other offers
- Apply for accommodation when firm is selected

# Personal Statement

- Your opportunity to tell universities about your suitability for the course(s) that you hope to study
- Stand out from the crowd
- 47 lines/4,000 characters/no formatting

# Structure Guideline

- About the course
- Skills (including skills from subjects at A Level)
- Work experience
- Hobbies and interests
- Future plans

# ABC Guide

- Activity – what you did – Good
- Benefit – skills gained – Better
- Course – relate it to the course - Best

# Things to Remember

- Be honest
- Be ready to elaborate at interview
- Only use quotes if relevant
- Multiple courses
- Take your time
- Your decision

# Oxbridge and Early Applications



# Why apply for Oxbridge and Russell Group universities?

- 24 leading universities
- Research intensive
- Students have access to excellent teaching facilities
- Links to local and national businesses

# Why apply for Oxbridge and Russell Group universities?

- Opportunity for higher earnings post-graduation
- Competition for places
- Low drop-out rates: students are happy with the teaching and support they receive

- University of Bristol
- University of Birmingham
- University of Cambridge
- Cardiff University
- Durham University
- University of Edinburgh
- University of Exeter
- University of Glasgow
- Imperial College London
- King's College London
- University of Leeds
- University of Liverpool
- London School of Economics and Political Science

- University of Manchester
- Newcastle University
- University of Nottingham
- University of Oxford
- Queen Mary University of London
- Queen's University Belfast
- University of Sheffield
- University of Southampton
- University College London
- University of Warwick
- University of York

# Why apply to Oxbridge?

- Facilities
- Academic and pastoral support
- Expert knowledge
- Lectures, seminars, labs and small group sessions

# What are you going to study?

- Think about:
- Academic and wider interests
- Personal strengths
- Course structure and options available
- Method of assessment

# The Colleges - Undergraduate

- Oxford – 33
- Cambridge – 29
- They are their own small communities/campus
- Accommodation, libraries, dining
- Apply to your chosen college that does your subject

# The Colleges - Undergraduate

- If you do not apply to a College, you make an Open Application
- Algorithm will assign you to a college
- Member of both College and University
- Lectures and content are the same, no matter the College

# Picking a College

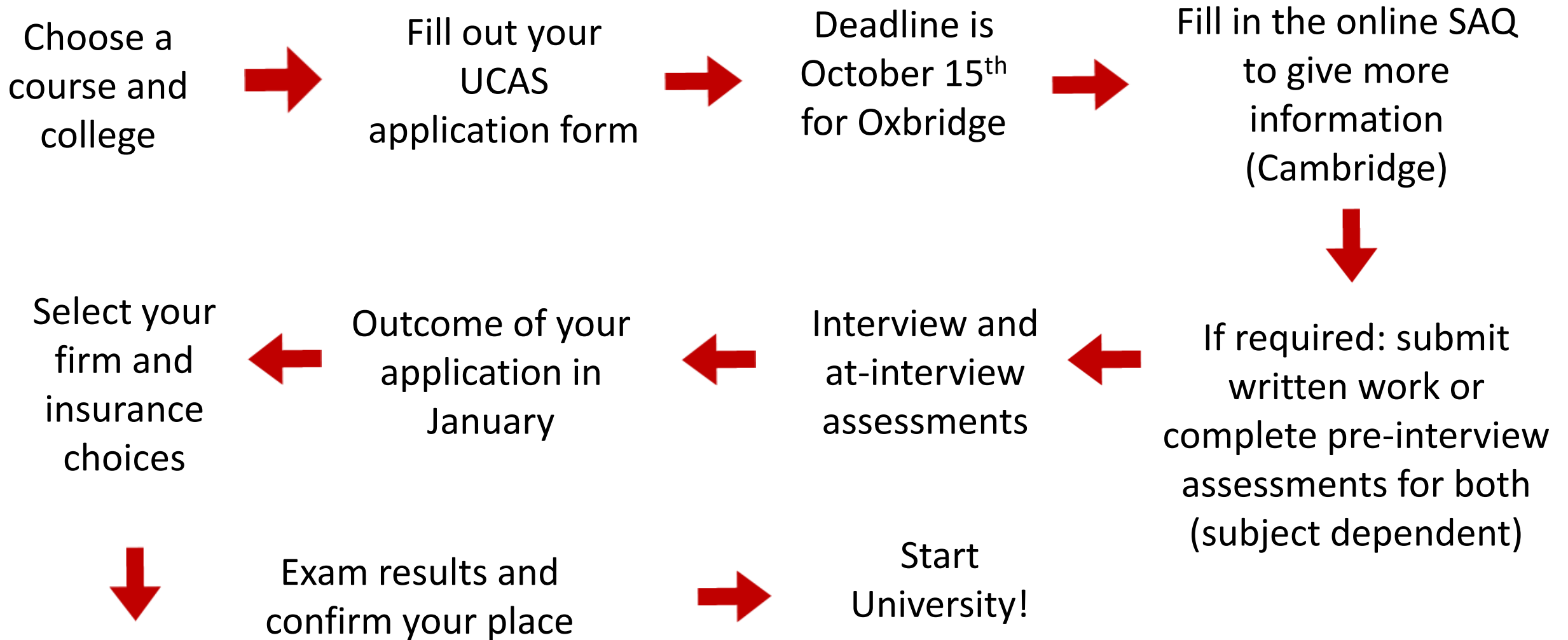
- Where do you want to live?
- Does the College have your chosen course?
- Size
- Location
- Old or new?
- Specific facilities



# Applying to Oxbridge

- Show your passion about your subject and demonstrate this (wider reading, work experience)
- Show self-motivation and commitment
- Typical Offers: Arts A\*AA    Sciences A\*A\*A

# The Application Process



# Pre-Interview Assessments

Oxford – Taken at school	Cambridge – Taken at school
BMAT (Biomedical Admissions Test)	BMAT (Biomedical Admissions Test)
CAT (Classics Admissions Test)	ENGAA (Engineering Admissions Assessment)
ELAT (English Literature Admissions Test)	ELAT (English Literature Admissions Test)
GAT (Geography Admissions Test)	LAA (Linguistics Admissions Assessment)
HAT (History Aptitude Test)	NSAA (Natural Sciences Admissions Assessment)
LNAT (National Admissions Test for Law)	
MAT (Mathematics Admissions Test)	
PAT (Physics Aptitude Test)	
TSA (Thinking Skills Assessment)	

# Interviews

- One part of a holistic assessment process
- Held in November/December
- A chance for the interview to find out how you think and respond to problems
- Time for you to further show your enthusiasm
- Not trying to trick you

# Early Applications

- 15<sup>th</sup> October, 2021
- Medicine
- Oxbridge
- Veterinary Medicine/Science
- Dentistry
- Check for any required exams

# Predicted Grades

- 1 aspirational choice, 3 realistic choices and 1 lower choice
- Holistic view of Year 12 work and mock grades
- UCAS grades are not your target grades
- We want to make sure you go on your chosen pathway

# Unconditional Offers

- 75,845 made in 2019
- Exam results will not impact on the place
- Flattering
- Think these through

# What next? Some may be dependent on national guidelines for covid

- Open Days
- Apprenticeship Week
- UCAS Day in school - July
- UCAS Exhibition, NEC – June (UCAS and Apprenticeships)
- Summer term – Tutor focus on apprenticeship and job preparation