

---

# Freman College

## A Guide to University

---

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_



---

# 2021-2022

---



---

# Contents Page

Dates and Deadlines - Pages 4-5

Pros and Cons of University - Page 6

Higher Education Jargon Buster - Pages 7-9

Deciding on a Course - A to Z - Pages 10-12

Unifrog—Page 13

Researching courses - Pages 14-15

What kind of offers do universities make? - Pages 16 -17

UCAS Tariff – Points System - Page 18

Completing your Online Application - Pages 19-23

Details of your past qualifications - Page 24

Details of your current qualifications - Page 25

Tuition Fees and Student Loans - Pages 26

Writing your personal statement - Pages 27-33

---

# Dates and Deadlines

## 2021

**June—July** Use Unifrog to research courses. Shortlist your choices, use universities' "Virtual Open Days" to see which universities appeal to you

**September** Make final choices of institutions and courses and complete UCAS application online.

- Email Mr Abell at [wna@freman.org.uk](mailto:wna@freman.org.uk) when you know which five courses you are applying to and are ready for teachers to begin to write their reference
- Personal statements should be drafted on Unifrog and emailed to your main reference writer and Mr Hemel at - [bdh@freman.org.uk](mailto:bdh@freman.org.uk)

**30 September** Freman deadline for completion of Oxford, Cambridge, medical, dentistry, veterinary

**30 November** Freman deadline for all other UCAS applications to be sent off.

---

# Dates and Deadlines

## 2022

**26 Jan** Any application received by UCAS after this date is late and may not be accepted by the universities.

When all of your universities have replied check your deadline for acceptance. Normally, you choose one offer as your firm choice and a **lower one** as your insurance choice. This is a contract and universities are expected to keep to it. You are **committed** to going to your first choice if you get the grades they ask for. If you do not meet the grades for your first choice but do meet the grades for your insurance choice you are **committed** to going there to study. Sometimes a university may agree to release a student from their contract so they can go into Clearing.

### **February onwards**

Apply to Student Finance England to sort out the tuition and maintenance loans you need.

**August** Results Day. Sixth Form staff will be in college to help any students whose plans have changed or who have missed both their offers and want to find a course through Clearing. It is strongly advised that you are in the local area, or at least have very reliable internet access in case you need to contact universities that day.

**Aug-Sept** University Clearing process for students who do not yet hold an offer of a place.

---

# Pros and Cons of University

## Arguments in favour of going to University

- ◆ You'll make lots of new friends – from all over the UK and the world
- ◆ University life is an amazing experience
- ◆ Today's graduates earn on average £9,000 per year more than people who do not have a degree
- ◆ You'll study in depth a subject that interests you
- ◆ Better qualifications generally lead to better jobs
- ◆ A degree gives you more choices in life
- ◆ Many jobs require a degree these days
- ◆ You're more likely to get a job if you have a degree

## Arguments against going to University

- ◆ It usually takes 3 years to get a degree
- ◆ During this time, you're not earning and not gaining experience of work
- ◆ It's costly—high tuition fees which vary from uni to uni but many go up to £9,250 (although you never pay this money up front) plus the cost of living expenses.
- ◆ Not all graduates get well-paid jobs
- ◆ Many non-graduates find alternative ways into great careers

# Higher Education Jargon Buster

Jargon	What it means
<b>Adjustment</b>	A period after Results Day when students who have <u>met and beaten</u> their offer requirements can try to “trade up” to a course at a more demanding university.
<b>BMAT</b>	Biomedical Admissions Test –for some medicine degrees (see also UKCAT below) <b>www.bmat.org.uk</b>
<b>Bursary</b>	Money given to students to help pay for their studies
<b>Clearing</b>	UCAS system helping students who have no offers to find a place (Aug-Sept)
<b>Conditional Offer</b>	An offer which depends on getting certain grades
<b>Decline</b>	You receive an offer but decide to reject it.
<b>Defer</b>	Apply this year but not start the course until a year later. If you would like to do this, make sure that the university accepts deferred entry for your course. And remember to indicate Deferred in the Courses section of your application. If you defer, do not apply for funding until a year later
<b>Degree</b>	<p>A three or four year programme of HE study.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>BA</b> - Bachelor of Arts</li> <li>● <b>BEd</b> – Bachelor of Education</li> <li>● <b>BEng</b> – Bachelor of Engineering</li> <li>● <b>BMus</b> – Bachelor of Music</li> <li>● <b>BSc</b> - Bachelor of Science</li> <li>● <b>BVSc</b> - Bachelor of Veterinary Science</li> <li>● <b>FA</b> or <b>FSc</b> - Foundation Degree – vocational degree. Can lead onto a full degree</li> <li>● <b>LLB</b> – Bachelor of Law</li> <li>● <b>MBChB</b> – Bachelor of Medicine</li> <li>● <b>Combined degree</b> – made up of modules of different subjects</li> <li>● <b>Joint degree</b> – two subjects studied equally</li> <li>● <b>Sandwich course</b> – periods of study at university are alternated with periods of study in industry. Sandwich courses usually last for 4 years</li> </ul>

<b>DipHE</b>	Diploma of Higher Education. Two year course. Needs lower grades than a degree. Can lead onto a degree
<b>DSA</b>	Disabled Student Allowance
<b>Entry requirements</b>	The points or grades you need to get onto your chosen course. See the section in this booklet on UCAS Offers
<b>Erasmus</b>	A chance to study for a year in a country in the European Union
<b>Extended degree</b>	Four year degree course for those who do not have the right grades for a 3 year course.
<b>Firm acceptance</b>	Your first choice of course. (see Insurance)
<b>Foundation Course</b>	In a local college and usually needed to do an Art degree
<b>Foundation Degree</b>	Two-year degree course. Combines academic study and practical experience. Courses are related to types of job. If completed successfully you can continue onto a third year for a full "honours degree".
<b>Foundation Year</b>	Before your first year if you don't have the right qualifications for a degree (e.g. for Art, Engineering, Medicine degree). Leads on to a degree course
<b>Fresher</b>	A first year student in Higher Education
<b>GAP Year</b>	A year off before you start university
<b>HE</b>	Higher Education – education beyond A level standard
<b>HEI</b>	Higher Education Institution (e.g. university, college)
<b>HND</b>	Higher National Diploma – 2 year vocational qualification. Need lower grades than a degree. Can lead to a full degree
<b>Insurance Acceptance</b>	Your second choice acceptance. If you don't get the grades for your Firm Acceptance, you might get into your Insurance place
<b>LA</b>	Local Authority
<b>LNAT</b>	National Test for Law – needed for entry to some Law degrees <a href="http://www.lnat.ac.uk">www.lnat.ac.uk</a>
<b>Oxbridge</b>	Combined name for Oxford and Cambridge Universities
<b>Personal Statement</b>	Space on your UCAS application for you to give your reasons for choosing a particular course, etc

<b>Jargon</b>	<b>What it means</b>
<b>Sandwich Course</b>	A degree course where you alternate periods of time in university and industry. Thin sandwich = 6 month blocks of time. Thick sandwich = 12 month blocks
<b>Sponsorship</b>	Financial support from industry, commerce, charities or university
<b>STEP</b>	Extra qualification requested by some universities for Maths degrees.
<b>TDA</b>	Training and Development Agency – provides information about teaching careers
<b>TSA</b>	Thinking Skills Assessment – a test used by Cambridge for some courses.
<b>UCAS</b>	Universities and College Admission Service <a href="http://www.ucas.com">www.ucas.com</a>
<b>UCAS Extra</b>	If you have no offers in March, you can make an extra choice
<b>UCAS Tariff</b>	Points allocated to each entry qualification (see table)
<b>UCAS Track</b>	On-line system for tracking progress of your application
<b>UCAS Apply</b>	The UCAS on-line application system
<b>UCAT</b>	University Clinical Aptitude Test for students applying for dentistry and medicine
<b>Unconditional offer</b>	An offer of a place regardless of your grades in any qualifications you haven't yet taken
<b>Undergraduate</b>	A students studying for a first degree (e.g. BA, BSc)

## Deciding on a Course A - Z

Factors to consider	Details
<b>Academic or vocational</b>	Some courses are aimed directly at a particular type of employment field (vocational). Others are more general.
<b>Accommodation</b>	<p>Cost and quality of accommodation varies a lot. Your choices include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Halls– student accommodation. Not always on the same site as the university. Can be fully catered (all meals provided – expensive), part-catered (you have to do some meals for yourself), self-catering (you do your own meals usually in a shared kitchen), en-suite (expensive but you have your own bathroom facilities), shared or single (two students in one room or a room of your own), single sex or mixed sex (the Halls have men only, women only or a mixture)</li> <li>• Student house (shared with others). Self-catered. Sometimes arranged through the university; sometimes through an external agency</li> <li>• Home – much cheaper. Only practicable if you study near to your home. Miss out on full experience. Cambridge does not allow this option</li> </ul>
<b>Assessment</b>	Do you prefer a course with lots of exams or one with lots of coursework and practical assessment.
<b>Bursaries</b>	Some universities are offering more generous financial packages than others.
<b>Campus or not</b>	Many rural universities are campus-based with most of the university facilities on one site. More intimate, easy to make friends.
<b>City or country</b>	Cities are lively, vibrant and exciting but they can also be expensive, crowded and polluted.
<b>Cost of living</b>	This varies according to area – generally southern areas are more expensive.
<b>Course content</b>	Read the course details carefully. Courses with the same name can cover very different work at different universities. Beware! Read the University Prospectus carefully and look at the “About this course” section of the Course Entry Profiles on the UCAS website.
<b>Course structure</b>	Do you prefer a modular approach (units of work lasting several months) or a linear approach? Pros and cons in both its just what suits you best.

<b>Course type</b>	<p><b>Degree</b> – mainly three years of study. Minimum of 2 A Levels or equivalent needed. Vocational or academic choice. Some two year courses now available but beware condensed workload!</p> <p><b>Foundation Year</b> - Even with good A Levels you might not have what it takes to start a particular course right away. So, some courses offer a Foundation Year such as e.g. Engineering and Physics courses.</p> <p><b>HND</b> - If you're unlikely to get the qualifications you need for a degree (2 A Levels minimum) or if you prefer a shorter more vocational course, you could do an HND (you must have studied 2 A levels or equivalent but need to pass only 1 A level).</p>
<b>Deferred entry</b>	Some students will apply to start university after a 'Gap Year'. This is called deferred entry. If you are deferring, do not apply for student finance until the following year.
<b>Entry requirements</b>	Check these very carefully. Are you doing subjects that the university will accept for your chosen course? Will you get the right grades / UCAS points for the course you're interested in? It's vital to know what grades you're likely to get and choose courses that are relevant to these grades. Speak to your teachers or to a member of the sixth form team.
<b>How many choices?</b>	<p>You need to find a maximum of 5 courses but:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● you have only four choices for medicine, dentistry, veterinary (the remaining 1 can be for related courses)</li> <li>● you can only apply to Oxford <u>OR</u> Cambridge (not both) in any one year</li> <li>● you may apply for more than one course at the same university but it counts as 2 choices</li> </ul>
<b>Live at home?</b>	Really only practical if you go to Hertfordshire, Anglia Ruskin or universities in North London.
<b>Location</b>	Near home or far from home. Benefits in both! Perhaps best to strike a happy medium by choosing somewhere not too near and not too far. High transport costs if you're a long way away but you can apply for a student rail card which gives discounts.
<b>Open Days</b>	Do find the time and money to attend Open Days for the places you intend to apply to. It's the only way to get a proper "feel" for a place – and you will be living there for three years or more so it's important to get it right. Inform your tutor in advance and any teachers whose lessons you'll miss. Check <a href="http://www.ucas.com">www.ucas.com</a> or <a href="http://www.opendays.com">www.opendays.com</a> .
<b>Popularity of course</b>	Popular courses can demand higher entry grades. If you're applying for an over-subscribed course, apply early, be realistic about your grades, have relevant work experience, make your personal statement stand out and have a back up.

<b>Professional qualifications</b>	Some courses offer professional qualifications as part of the course – e.g. QTS (Qualified Teacher Status).
<b>Quality of course</b>	How do you know that the course you're applying for has a good reputation? It's difficult to know for sure! However, you can look at books such as Heaps Degree Course Offers, The Guardian University Guide, and The Times Good University Guide – all available in the Freman Library. There are also some websites to help: <a href="http://www.educationguardian.co.uk">www.educationguardian.co.uk</a> , <a href="http://www.university.which.co.uk">www.university.which.co.uk</a> , <a href="http://www.unistats.com">www.unistats.com</a> , <a href="http://www.bestcourse4me.com">www.bestcourse4me.com</a>  Note - Universities asking for the highest grades are not always the best!
<b>Sandwich course or not?</b>	Some courses have periods in industry as part of the course - this means they last for an extra year. Real benefits in getting practical experience and, maybe, a job for the future.
<b>Small or large</b>	Would a small university where things are a bit more personal suit you better than a large university where you can be anonymous? However, smaller universities tend to have fewer facilities.
<b>Social life</b>	If this is important to you, check out how active the social scene is at the university. The Students Union often provides a wide range of social opportunities. City-based universities have a lively social scene.
<b>Student Finance</b>	The name of the organization that processes claims for student finance. More info can be found on: <a href="http://www.gov.uk/student-finance">www.gov.uk/student-finance</a>
<b>Study facilities</b>	These are far better in some places than others. Check out library facilities, computer access etc.
<b>Taster Courses</b>	Short courses organized to provide Year 12 students with the opportunity to experience life at university before making their UCAS application.
<b>What to study</b>	There are over 40,000 courses to choose from! Do your research and find a subject that interests and excites you. Look at the Search section of <a href="http://www.ucas.com">www.ucas.com</a> .
<b>Withdrawing</b>	Once you've accepted an offer (either Firm or Insurance), you can only withdraw from the course to accept a course elsewhere if the university you accepted “releases” you. Otherwise, you can withdraw completely and re-apply the next year if you wish.  If you wish to withdraw your application from one or more courses <u>before</u> they've made their decisions about offering you a place, you need to contact the admissions tutor at the university (contact details on their websites) and they will let UCAS know if this is possible.

# Unifrog

Every Freman student has an account with Unifrog.org.uk. This site will allow you to make shortlists of appropriate university courses, based on your likely A-level grades and various criteria that are important to you (eg. Graduate employment prospects).

Unifrog will sort courses into those that are...

“**aspirational**” (above your predicted grades)- best to choose only 1 or 2 of these

“**solid**” (at the level of your predicted grades) - choose 2 or 3 of these

“**safe**” (below your predicted grades) - choose 1 or 2 of these as a safety net

You can print out details about your shortlist university courses, and your tutors will see these, too.

unifrog

HOME SHORTLISTS SETTINGS HELP

SIGN OUT

① Qualifications ② Subjects ③ Longlist ④ Shortlist ⑤ Complete

Select courses below

Pick the best courses for you by ranking, filtering and searching. Click next when you're done.

Rank ▼ Filter ▼ Search ▼

## Aspirational (20)

Top of your range

-  Drama and Theatre Arts with Comedy - 3FT BA (Hons)  
 Goldsmiths, University of London  
TT A Level: BBB
-  Drama and Applied Theatre - 3FT BA (Hons)  
 Northumbria University  
UCAS Points: 120
-  Theatre - 3FT/6PT BA (Hons)  
 Brunel University London  
A Level: BBB
-  Theatre - 3FT BA (Hons)  
 University of Reading  
TT A Level: BBB-ABB
-  Drama - 3FT BA (Hons)  
 Queen's University Belfast  
RG A Level: BBB

## Solid (65)

In the middle

-  Drama - 3FT/6PT BA (Hons)  
 Kingston University  
UCAS Points: 112
-  Performance Arts - 3FT BA (Hons)  
 Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, University of London  
A Level: BBC
-  Drama and Theatre Practice - 3FT/PT BA (Hons)  
 University of Hull  
UCAS Points: 112
-  Drama - 3FT/PT BA (Hons)  
 University of Greenwich  
UCAS Points: 112
-  Theatre and Performance Practice - 3FT BA (Hons)  
 University of Salford

## Safe (22)

At the bottom

-  Performing Arts (Contemporary Performance) and Drama - 3FT/6PT BA (Hons)  
 University of Winchester  
UCAS Points: 88
-  Drama and Performing Arts (Contemporary Performance) - 3FT/6PT BA (Hons)  
 University of Winchester  
UCAS Points: 88
-  Drama (Education and Community) - 3FT BA (Hons)  
 York St John University  
UCAS Points: 88
-  Drama and Theatre - 3FT BA (Hons)  
 York St John University  
UCAS Points: 88

next ▶ or go back

---

## Still Undecided ...

The summer term of Year 12 is the best time to do loads of research. Explore the university websites, look at the comparison websites shown below and visit The Student Room site to read chat from prospective and current students.

Make sure you do all of this in good time and book, if necessary, to attend Open Days. It is only by visiting a university that you can really decide if this is the place where you want to spend the next three years of your life.

### **League Tables and what is a “good” university?**

This is not straightforward as universities are measured in various ways but there are websites to help you assess teaching quality, the research they do, how well their students do and how many get jobs at the end of it.

Try ...

[www.unifrog.org.uk](http://www.unifrog.org.uk)

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

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

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

[www.ucas.tv](http://www.ucas.tv)

[www.university.which.co.uk](http://www.university.which.co.uk)

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

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

# FIND OUT WHAT LIFE IS REALLY LIKE AT UNI >

## YOUR HUB

0% Your to do list  
Open to do list >

Your preferences  
Update for a better experience >

1 Your notifications  
Open notifications >

### Favourite courses

Advice, courses, and localities

#### TOP FIVE COURSES

Select a favourite

VIEW FAVOURITES



### Explore Courses for you



GET STARTED

### APPLY ONLINE TODAY



Advertisement. Why the ads?

### Dates and deadlines

1 JUN 2020

#### LIP NIGHT

18 Jun 2020  
2020 entry: If you receive all decisions by...

30 Jun 2020  
2020 entry applications received after 2...

3 Jul 2020  
Last date to apply in Extra for 2020 entry

OPEN TIMELINE

### Undergraduate Apply and Track 2021



Undergraduate Apply 2021

Tailor your contact preferences

### Conservatoires Apply and Track 2021



Conservatoire application not yet available.

### Discounts and offers



LATEST DISCOUNTS AND OFFERS

### Find a subject to study

Art and design 21.22%

Business, management, and administrative studies 21.22%

Publishing, media, and information management 19.05%

Marketing 15.26%

Architecture, building, and planning 7.4%

### TARIFF POINT CALCULATOR

A level

A*	A	B	0
C	D	E	0
			0

### Read next



#### Try our buzz quiz!

If you want to learn a bit more about yourself and see which careers might suit you, take this short quiz to get some ideas based on your type of personality.

### Your notes

If you haven't yet done so, you will need to sign up to the UCAS Hub at [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com). The UCAS Hub keeps lots of useful information all in one place for you, and you access the application part of the UCAS site through the Hub, too.

---

## What kind of offers do universities make?

1. Some courses ask for grades eg. BBC; others ask for points eg. 112; some ask for so many points (or grades) from specific subjects.
2. Some courses may say that they give a range of offers (eg. Anglia Ruskin asks for 88—104 points for its History degree). They might make a student an offer at the bottom of this range if they particularly want them, because they have done the A-level subjects the university most prefers, or maybe the student did really well at interview.
3. Some courses may say that you will need a certain number of points from a minimum of 2 or 3 full A-levels (eg Anglia Ruskin asks for at least 88 points “from 2 A-levels”). This actually means that you must get those points from at least 2 full A-levels (but it could be from 3) and is the university’s way of making sure that students aren’t getting in by doing loads of AS qualifications.
4. Some universities such as Oxford and Cambridge have their own entrance exams. Some Maths courses expect students to enter STEP exams.
5. **MUSIC EXAMS:** Grade 6, 7 and 8 Music exams with ABRSM, Guildhall, LCMM, Rockschoool and Trinity attract some points (see UCAS website to find out how many). However, lots of universities will not accept these in their main offer.

---

6. Don't forget that you may have studied either the Personal Finance course or an EPQ. Both of these are worth UCAS points (equivalent to half a full A Level). However, make sure you check whether or not the university course you are interested in will accept them as part of their offer. Most courses will, but you do need to check.

For example, a university might ask you to achieve 120 UCAS points, including at least 96 from three A Levels. In this situation, your Finance or EPQ result can provide up to 24 of the required 120 UCAS points.

7.

## UCAS - Tariff - Point System

AS / A Levels		Cambridge Technical in IT, Business or Health & Soc Care	Cambridge Technical in Sport	Cambridge Technical in Sport (Triple)	EPQ Or Level 3 Finance	UCAS Points
AS	A-level					
				D*D*D*		168
				D*D*D		160
				D*DD		152
				DDD		144
				DDM		128
				DMM		112
				MMM		96
			D*D*			84
				MMP		80
			D*D			78
			DD			72
				MPP		64
			DM			60
	A*	D*				56
	A	D	MM	PPP		48
	B					40
			MP			36
	C	M				32
					A*	28
	D		PP		A	24
A					B	20
B	E	P			C	16
C					D	12
D						10
					E	8
E						6

# Completing Your Online Application

1. Go to **www.ucas.com** to access your UCAS Hub
2. One of the tiles on your Hub dashboard will be called “UCAS Applications”. Click on the big **START** button, then click **Undergraduate**
3. You will be asked whether you are applying through a school or college (YES) and then you need to enter our “buzzword” which is **Freman22**.
4. From the drop-down list, select “Current student”
5. On the next page, you will see at the top your Personal ID number. Record this here, as it’s important (but not secret)

The page will look like this:

The screenshot shows the UCAS application dashboard. At the top, there is a blue button with a white plus sign and the text "Add choice". Below this is a "Confirm choices" button. The main section is titled "My profile" and contains several white cards with blue borders and right-pointing chevrons. Each card has a title, a brief description, and a "Start this section" link at the bottom. The cards are: "Personal details" (Name, age, title and gender), "Contact and residency details" (Address, email, telephone and where you live), "Education" (Qualifications and periods of study), "Employment" (Employment, paid, unpaid, or volunteer work), "Nationality details" (Birthplace and nationalities), "Supporting information" (So that providers know how to support you during your studies), "English language skills" (Is English your first language?), "Finance and funding" (Tell us how you'll fund your study), and "Personal statement" (Why do you want to study this subject?).

All of the sections of your UCAS application are shown here.

We’ll leave the “Your choices” and “Your personal statement” sections for now.

You can complete all of the bits of the “My profile” section now, though, and the next few pages will guide you through them.

---

## Sections of the application you can complete NOW

### Read the notes to help with each of these sections:

- **Personal details**

(nothing complicated here)

- **Contact & residency details**

Check the email address you are giving. It should be a personal email address (NOT the Freman College one).

If you need to change this and are not sure how, ask Mr Abell.

Nominated access—This is in case you are un-contactable at any crucial times. Best to nominate a parent or carer.

Residential Category – for most this is **UK Citizen—England**

- **Education**

Unique Learner Number—leave blank

Highest level of qualification you expect to have:  
select “Below honours degree level qualification”

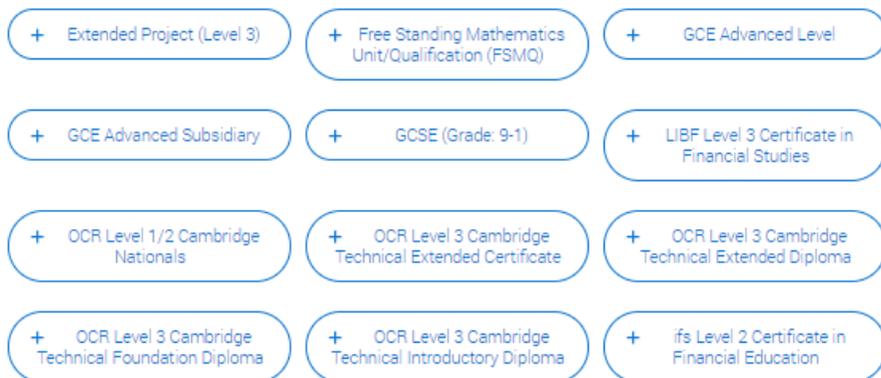
Click on “Add place of Education”

- type in Freman College and the Exam Centre number will autofill
- Start date is September 2017 (or 2020 if you joined in Sixth Form)
- End date is July 2022
- Type of study is Full time
- Will you have any qualifications from this centre: yes
- Click save

## • Education (continued)

You now need to enter the details of any qualification you have taken in the past and any you are working towards now. You'll find most of the qualification types you need in the shortlist shown, but you'll be able to search for any others you have got that aren't there.

### Qualifications shortlist



### Start with your GCSEs (or OCR Level 1/2 Cambridge Nationals) ...

- Enter each of your GCSE grades (qualification date June 2020).
- You don't need to enter any module details.

### Then enter your current A Levels or Cambridge Technicals

- A Levels are called "GCE Advanced Level"
- If you need to check exam boards, look on p25 of this booklet
- If you've got a Cam Tech check which one it is (p25)
- Qualification date is July 2022
- Grade is "Pending" because you haven't yet got it
- Don't include any module details unless it won't let you save without doing so (probably only for Triple Sport)

### Next enter any other qualifications you have got / are taking

- AS Maths qualification date is August 2021 (grade "pending")
- LIBF Finance qualification date is August 2021 (grade "pending")

---

- **Employment**

This section is unlikely to affect the success of your application, so don't worry if you have nothing to write in here.

- **Nationality details**

(Nothing complicated here)

- **Supporting information**

In the disabilities section, it is very important that you include details of any disabilities. The information you give will not have a bearing on your application, but it will mean that the university can put in place any support you might need in time for you starting there.

- **English language skills**

(Nothing complicated here)

- **Finance and funding**

Practically everyone will select the option "UK, ChI, IoM or EU student finance services". This just means you will use the government loan scheme to fund university (for almost everyone this is MUCH cheaper than paying with personal finance). More is said about this on p26.

---

# Two sections to leave until later ...

## Choices

- You can apply for up to 5 courses at university, but you'll be writing one personal statement for all of the them, so they need to be for very similar subjects.
- Click on "Add a choice"
- Type the first few letters to find the right university
- Do the same to find the course you want to apply to. Check this very carefully, as there may be several that look similar (in particular, check how many years it is)
- If you want to go straight to university, choose start date as Oct 2022  
If you want to defer your place and have a gap year, choose Oct 2023
- Leave the next two (Further details and Point of entry) blank unless your university has told you to write something in them (check with Mr Abell if unsure)

## Personal statement

- Guidance on writing this begins on p27, and you will receive more support and resources as well. You will use Unifrog to draft your personal statement and, when it is completely ready and has been approved by Mr Hemel, you will then paste it into the box available in the Personal Statement section of your application.

## Details of your **past** qualifications.

The GCSEs you took in 2020 are recorded as “GCSE Grade 9-1”

<b>GCSEs</b>	<b>Exam board</b>
Additional Science	Edexcel
Art & Design: Fine Art	Edexcel
Biology	Edexcel
Business Studies	Edexcel
Chemistry	Edexcel
Design & Technology: Resistant Materials	Edexcel
Drama	AQA
English Language	WJEC Eduqas
English Literature	AQA
Food Preparation & Nutrition	WJEC Eduqas
French	Edexcel
Further Additional Science	Edexcel
Geography B	OCR
German	Edexcel
History	Edexcel
Latin	WJEC Eduqas
Mathematics	AQA
Music	WJEC Eduqas
Physical Education	AQA
Physics	Edexcel
Religious Studies A	AQA
Science	Edexcel

<b>Non-GCSEs</b>	<b>Exam board</b>
ICT Cambridge National Certificate (level 2)	OCR
Sport Studies Cambridge National Certificate (level 2)	OCR
FSMQ Additional Maths	OCR

## Details of your **current** qualifications.

<b>A Levels</b>	<b>Exam board</b>
Art	AQA
Biology	OCR
Business studies	Edexcel
Chemistry	AQA
Design & technology	AQA
English Language	OCR
English literature	OCR
French	Edexcel
Geography	OCR
German	Edexcel
History A	OCR
Mathematics B (MEI)	OCR
Further mathematics B (MEI)	OCR
Music	WJEC Eduqas
Photography	AQA
Physical education	AQA
Physics	Edexcel
Psychology	AQA
Religious studies	WJEC Eduqas
Sociology	AQA
<b>Non - A Levels</b>	<b>Exam board</b>
Cam Tech Foundation Diploma in Sport and Physical Activity	OCR
Cam Tech Extended Diploma in Sport and Physical Activity	OCR
Cam Tech Extended Certificate in Business	OCR
Cam Tech Introductory Diploma in Information Technology	OCR
Cam Tech Extended Certificate in Health & Social Care	OCR
LIBF Level 3 Certificate in Financial Studies	LIBF
Extended Project Qualification	AQA

---

# Tuition Fees and Student Loans

There's a student finance package available to help with the costs of higher education. The main sources of help for full-time students are:

- Student Loans from the government - [www.gov.uk/student-finance](http://www.gov.uk/student-finance)
- Bursaries from universities and colleges – [check their websites](#)

## Tuition Fee Loans

If you take out a Student Loan from the government, you won't have to start paying it back until you've left your course and are earning more than £26, 575 a year.

## Maintenance Loans

As well as the cost of your tuition fees, you can take out a loan to pay for your living costs while attending university. The maximum amount is £12,010 per year, although one-third of this is only available to students coming from lower-income households.

## Government allowances

If you are eligible for Disabled Studies' Allowance (eg. For dyslexia) or are a carer or have dependents to look after, you will also be able to apply for funds which you do not need to pay back, to help with the cost of going to university.

## Bursaries & Scholarships

You may be able to get extra help from your university or college. Bursaries are provided to help students from low-income households. Scholarships are usually awarded to students with particularly high grades or a county-level sporting standard. You don't have to pay bursaries back.

## Private universities

There is a small number of privately-funded universities in the country (such as Pearson College). Check the funding arrangements for your universities to be sure what fees you will have to pay.

---

## Points to consider when writing your Personal Statement

Your personal statement is your opportunity to tell the university about yourself, but they will be most interested in you as a student, rather than you as a person.

- Explain why you want to study the course you are applying for. If you mention your personal interests and hobbies, try to link them to the skills and experience required for the course.
- The personal statement could be used as the basis for an interview, so be prepared to answer questions on it.
- This may be your only written work that the course tutor sees before making a decision; make sure it is organised and literate. Get the grammar, spelling and punctuation right. A statement filled with errors will give a negative impression of your skills and the effort you have put in to being accepted.
- Writing about yourself is probably not something you do very often, so you might need to practice writing in this particular style. It is a good idea to list your hobbies and achievements, and then you can decide which ones demonstrate your strongest skills and personality.
- Remember that you only write one personal statement, but it will be read by all of your chosen universities. Don't include anything that is specific to one course you're applying for.

---

## **Expand upon your interests and experiences**

Your statement will be more convincing and personal if you write about why an experience, activity or interest makes you a good candidate for the course.

Include enough additional information to make it interesting and to demonstrate your own interest. Rather than making a statement such as:

'I enjoy badminton'

try to provide context and show what you have learnt, for example:

'I play badminton twice a week with a club that plays in local competitions and I play in both singles and doubles matches. Doubles matches requires good team working, an ability to support your partner, to devise a game plan but be able to adapt it as required and fast reactions. I enjoy the social side of the club and take responsibility for organizing the social activities and fundraising events. This gives me an opportunity to develop my organizational and planning skills. Fitting in all these activities while keeping up with my academic studies demands good time management and I think I do that very well.'

## **Applying to multiple courses**

Remember that you only write one personal statement so it will be used for all your choices. If you are applying for a joint degree you will need to explain why you are interested in both aspects of this joint programme. If you are applying for different subjects or courses, you need to identify the common themes and skills that are relevant to your choices. For example, both mathematics and law are subjects where you have to think logically and apply rules. You may like both subjects because you enjoy solving problems, using theory and natural or man-made laws to come to a correct conclusion.

---

If you mention a subject in your personal statement and are applying to other courses, you may be asked by the university or college for additional information about why you have chosen alternative courses.

### **Attention-grabbing**

Some statements start with quotes, some include jokes, and some set out to be unusual or eye-catching. Sometimes it works, but it might have the opposite effect to what you hoped. The admissions decision maker may not share your sense of humour so be careful when trying to make your statement stand out.

### **What to include - Interests, experiences and abilities that can be included in your statement**

Below are some suggestions of what to include in your personal statement. These are guidelines only so don't worry if some of the suggestions do not apply to you:

- Why you have chosen the course(s) - this is particularly important when you're applying for a subject that you have not studied before
- The reasons why that subject area interests you
- Evidence that you understand what is required to study the course, e.g. if applying for psychology courses, show that you know how scientific the subject is
- How your current or previous studies relate to the course(s) that you have chosen
- Any activities that demonstrate your interest in the course(s)
- Why you want to go to university or college
- Details of jobs, placements, work experience or voluntary work, particularly if it's relevant to your chosen course(s)
- Hobbies, interests and social activities that demonstrate your skills and abilities

- Details of non-accredited skills and achievement which you have gained through activities such as the Duke of Edinburgh Award or Freman Community Service
- Any other achievements that you are proud of, e.g. reaching Grade 3 piano or being selected for the county cricket team
- Positions of responsibility that you hold/have held both in and out of school, e.g. prefect, sports leader, member of House Council
- Attributes that make you interesting, special or unique
- Whether you have any future plans of how you want to use the knowledge and experience that you gain

The screen print below shows the Unifrog section in which we recommend students draft their personal statements

The screenshot shows the Unifrog website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Unifrog logo on the left and links for HOME, SHORTLISTS, LOCKER, APPLY, HELP, a settings gear icon, an envelope icon, and a TEACHER button. Below the navigation bar is a progress indicator with three steps: 1. Why this subject (highlighted in red), 2. Your suitability, and 3. Other interests. The main content area is titled 'Section 1: Why do you want to study this subject?' and includes a sub-instruction: 'This part should make up 30% of the total statement'. A 'Back' button is visible on the right. Below this, there is a section titled 'Examples of what you may want to write about:' followed by a list of seven items: 1. Your knowledge of the subject area, 2. Why this subject area interests you, 3. What interests you the most about the subject area?, 4. Where your studies could lead, Personal Statement Dos, and Personal Statement Don'ts.



**Current Version**

Your entries are saved automatically

Why do you want to study this subject?

Enter text here...

---

## Dos and don'ts when constructing your personal statement:

**Do** create a list of your ideas before attempting to write the real thing

**Do** expect to produce several drafts before being totally happy

**Do** ask people you trust for their feedback

**Do** check university and college prospectuses, websites and Entry Profiles, as they usually tell you the criteria and qualities that they want their students to demonstrate

**Do** use your best English and **don't** let spelling and grammatical errors spoil your statement

**Do** be enthusiastic - if you show your interest in the course, it may help you get a place

**Don't** feel that you need to use elaborate language. If you try too hard to impress with long words that you are not confident using, the focus of your writing may be lost

**Don't** say too much about things that are not relevant - if you think that you are starting to, take a break and come back to your statement when you feel more focused

**Don't** lie - if you exaggerate you may get caught out at interview when asked to elaborate on an interesting achievement

**Don't** rely on a spellchecker as it will not pick up everything - proof read as many times as possible

**Don't** leave it to the last minute - your statement will seem rushed and important information could be left out

**Don't** expect to be able to write your personal statement whilst watching TV or surfing the internet - this is your future, so make the most of the opportunity to succeed

---

## Size and presentation - How to provide your personal statement

You can enter up to 4,000 characters (this includes spaces) or 47 lines of text (this includes blank lines), whichever comes first. You do not have to use all the space provided. When you save text, the system will tell you how many characters are still available or if you have used too many. You can preview your statement after you have saved it.

Please note that you cannot use *italics*, **bold**, underlining or foreign characters (such as á, ë, ö) in your personal statement - the system will automatically remove these when saved. This will not disadvantage your application.

## Similarity detection - UCAS Similarity Detection Service and guidance for applicants

This guide is designed to help applicants using the UCAS application system to understand our Similarity Detection process. All personal statements received in support of an application are subject to testing. It has been widely broadcast that some example personal statements found on the internet have been used by applicants, in some cases word for word. The system, called Copycatch, is used to identify statements that show similarity, quantify the suspect material and report the findings. It is a tool designed to help the admissions staff at higher education institutions (HEIs) judge applications, and it is the universities and colleges who will decide what action, if any, to take regarding notified cases.

Research has shown that the majority of applicants using the UCAS application system did indeed write their own personal statements but the number who made use of other people's material was sufficient to justify the implementation of the Similarity Detection Service.

---

## What the Similarity Detection Service does

The personal statement in each incoming application is checked against a library of all personal statements previously submitted to UCAS and sample statements collected from a variety of websites and other sources including paper publications. Each personal statement received at UCAS is added to the library of statements after it has been processed.

Any statements showing a level of similarity of 10% or greater will be reviewed by members of the UCAS Similarity Detection Service team. HEIs will be notified of any cases where there are reasonable grounds for suspicion. Applicants will also be notified that the UCAS Similarity Detection Service has found that their personal statement merits investigation. The decision about what action, if any, to take regarding notified cases rests with the admissions tutors at individual HEIs.

The Copycatch process ignores 450 commonly used words that many applicants almost inevitably use in their statements such as 'and', 'so' and 'with', and also ignores a selection of commonly used words and phrases including 'Duke of Edinburgh' and 'football'.

### Verification

Copycatch is a process that identifies sentences in a personal statement that are matched to other personal statements already held in the Copycatch system. Levels of similarity are reviewed by trained staff who decide whether you and the institutions you are applying to need to be notified that similarity has been found. Ultimately it is the institutions you are applying to that decide on the significance of the results and what action, if any, to take.

---

University is a wonderful opportunity to  
find out not just much more about the  
world, but much more about yourself, too.

Robert Goheen

President of Princeton University