

# Banbridge Academy Year 14 Parents' Information Evening 2017



## Decisions .....

- **Higher Education**

UCAS, CAO (Republic of Ireland: *November*)

- **Further Education**

Full-time/part-time study

Can also lead to university

- **Study abroad**

- **Higher Level apprenticeship**

- **Gap Year**

- **Employment**

- [www.ucas.com/alternatives](http://www.ucas.com/alternatives)

## Several pathways to consider

- **PWC:** Accounting Technicians Ireland qualification  
Flying Start programme; QUB Management School; Newcastle, Nottingham & Reading Universities (Chartered status)  
Graduate & Undergraduate programmes and job security
- **BDO** Scholarship programme (BSc Hons Accounting at QUB or UU)  
Higher Level Apprenticeship – SRC or Belfast Metropolitan College  
[www.bdoni.com](http://www.bdoni.com)
- **EY:** Assurance Scholarships: Lancaster Management School
- **KAINOS** – software company
- **Deloitte Brightstart Apprenticeship programme:**  
Fully funded, Hands-on experience, mentoring, salary, training contract (up to 5 years)  
Professional or business qualification

## Why higher education?

### **Opportunities while studying:**

- Chance to study a subject they are passionate about.
- Achieve a qualification that will lead to their chosen career.
- Gain confidence, independence, and important life skills that will widen their prospects.
- Making lifelong friends.

### **With a degree:**

- the opportunity to follow their career path
- better job prospects
- many employers target graduates
- higher earning potential

### **Things to consider:**

**There are a number of things which an applicant should consider when applying for higher education:**

- **the subject they enjoy – investing time, money, and effort**
- **if it is right for their career path – check with employers**
- **A level subject requirements and grades/tariff points**
- **location – city/rural, transport links**
- **the study style that suits them**
- **finances – course fees, travel, and living costs**
- **extracurricular activities on offer**

## Research using the UCAS site:

- **Search tool** – to look for providers, courses, and minimum entry requirements.
- **Open days and virtual tours** – a great way to explore campuses and facilities.
- **UCAS higher education exhibitions** – useful to see different universities and colleges, and explore options.
- **Learn from others** – student videos, blogs, and case studies.
- **Career options** – the career finder tool is useful when considering the options after education.
- **Also: Careers resources in school and Google classroom information (posted regularly)**

# Virtual tours








Here's a list of virtual tours and videos from universities and colleges, so you can see what it's like on campus and what facilities are available.

Relevant to **Undergraduate**





If the uni/college you're interested in isn't listed, take a look at their website or YouTube channel instead.

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#)  
[U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

## A

- [University of Aberdeen](#) 
- [Abertay University](#) 
- [Aberystwyth University](#) 
- [Academy of Contemporary Music](#) 
- [Anglia Ruskin University](#) 
- [Arts University Bournemouth \(formerly University College\)](#) 
- [Aston University, Birmingham](#) 

## B

- [Bangor University](#) 
- [Birmingham City University](#) 
- [University College Birmingham](#) 
- [University of Birmingham](#) 

## You may also like to read

- [Events and open days](#)
- [Learn about uni on a taster course](#)
- [UCAS Undergraduate entry requirements](#)
- [UCAS Undergraduate: international and EU students](#)
- [Mature undergraduate students](#)

## Related topics

- [After applying](#)
- [Applying](#)
- [Finance and funding](#)
- [Getting started](#)
- [Student support](#)
- [The application process](#)

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## Key Dates

UCAS

- Mid September**      Applications can be submitted to UCAS
- 15 October**          medicine, veterinary, and dentistry  
Oxford or Cambridge
- 15 January**          UCAS application deadline – too late for reference!

### School deadlines

15 October applicants:      Monday 25 September

All other applicants:          Wednesday 18 October



## Apply - key facts

- **Application is entirely online.**
- **Maximum of five choices.**
- **Some choice restrictions:**
  - **for medicine, veterinary science/medicine and dentistry - a maximum of four choices**
  - **can only apply for either Oxford or Cambridge**
- **Application cost:**
  - **one choice – £13**
  - **two to five choices – £24**
- **Equal consideration if deadlines are met.**
- **Invisibility – universities cannot see where else applicant has applied to.**

## The personal statement

- The only section your son or daughter has control over.
- Their only chance to market themselves individually.
- One personal statement for all choices.
- Max. 4,000 characters, 47 lines.
- Min. 1,000 characters.
- Spelling/grammar check.
- No formatting.

## Key considerations

- Think about what makes them **stand out** in an exciting and positive way.
- Show **enthusiasm** for and knowledge of the course they are applying for
- list supporting **evidence** to back this up.
- Extra curricular activities and **relevant** work experience.
- **Skills** they can use on the course – leadership, communication, team work
- Encourage them to ask you for more **ideas**.
- Allow plenty of **time for several drafts**
- Use school resources including UCAS Personal statement guidance

## Tracking applications

**UCAS Track will allow your son or daughter to:**

- **follow the progress of their application online**
- **see their choices and personal information**
- **see their offers**
- **reply to offers online**
- **Allow you to monitor their offer status**

## Decisions and replies

### Provider decisions:

- conditional offer – qualifications and achievements and/or UCAS Tariff points
- unconditional offer
- unsuccessful

### Once all decisions are received, they can hold up to two offers:

- one as their firm choice
- one as their insurance choice (if they want to)
- all other offers are declined

Track will show their reply date.

## Other options

- **Extra (24 Feb – 4 July)**

If all five choices have been used and they have no offers/rejected all offers.

- **Adjustment (from A level results day)**

If they have gained better results than the conditional offer they hold, they could apply for a different course or university.

- **Clearing (from early July)**

If they hold no offers

## How can you support your son/daughter ?

- Use the parents/guardians' section of the UCAS website – [www.ucas.com/parents](http://www.ucas.com/parents) – and sign up for the newsletter.
- Use the UCAS [parent information tool](#) for advice, hints, and tips to help someone you care for through the application process.
- Offer to attend open days; you may have a different perspective.
- Don't book family holidays at key times.
- Make sure they read ALL UCAS correspondence carefully.
- Support your son/daughter's management of their application.