

Banbridge Academy Year 14 Parents' Information Evening 2019



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

Several pathways to consider

- **PWC**

Flying Start programme; QUB Management School; Newcastle, Nottingham & Reading University (Chartered status)

Graduate & Undergraduate programmes and job security

- **BDO**

Scholarship programme (BSc Hons Accounting at QUB or UU)

www.bdoni.com Chartered Accountancy qualification

- **EY: Assurance Scholarships: university study + work experience or school leaver**

- **KAINOS – software company: Earn as you Learn following A Levels (UU link)**

- **Deloitte Brighstart Apprenticeship programme:**

Fully funded, hands-on experience. Professional or business qualification

- **BT & NI Power Apprenticeships**

- **HLAs through local colleges/universities: currently over 20 available**

www.nidirect.gov.uk/apprenticeship

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:

- **when applying for higher education:**
 - **subject they enjoy – investing time, money, and effort**
 - **The most appropriate choice for desired 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 – tuition fees, travel, and living costs**
 - **Extracurricular activities on offer**

Research using the UCAS site: www.ucas.com

- **Search tool** – look for providers, courses, and minimum entry requirements.
- **Open days and virtual tours** – to explore university facilities.
- **UCAS Parent, Guardian & Carer Guide 2020**
- **What you need to know about the application process -**
 - **How the application process works**
 - **Go to the parent information tool**
 - **Top ten tips (for applicants/parents)**
- **Monthly parent newsletter** – sign up at www.ucas.com
- **ALSO** www.whatuni.com search by course name & grade requirement
- **Careers resources in school and Google classroom: code gkykzk6**

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

School deadlines

15 October applicants: Tuesday 24 September

All other applicants: Wednesday 23 October

- **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 – £20**
 - **two to five choices – £25**
- **Equal consideration if deadlines are met.**
- **Invisibility – universities cannot see where else applicant has applied to.**

The personal statement

- **An opportunity 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**
- **Allow time for several drafts- no time for procrastination !**
- **Statement to be written alongside A2 subject demands**

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

University decisions:

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

Once all decisions are received, applicants can hold two offers:

- one as their firm choice
- one as their insurance choice- lower entrance requirement
- all other offers are declined

Track shows date by which this decision must be made.

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 to support your son/daughter ?

- Use the parents/guardians' section of the UCAS website – www.ucas.com/parents – sign up for the newsletter
- Use the UCAS [parent information tool](#) - advice, hints, and tips to help with the application process
- Offer to attend open days; you may have a different perspective
- Avoid family holidays at key times – especially at results time
- Make sure they read ALL UCAS correspondence carefully
- Offer to check the progress and content of the application form and their personal statement