

Welcome to



UCAS Parent Information Evening

Purpose of this Evening



- To give you an overview of the destinations support and options
- The university application process.
- To introduce the UCAS and Unifrog websites to you.
- To give you some advice to maximise your child's chances of success.
- Address questions raised in the MS Form.



Why now?



- Open Day timetables now available for all 2024 applications
- Summer trial exams on the horizon
- UCAS process has begun in tutor time
- Personal statements begun



The Application Timeline



Timeline



Spring/Summer Term Yr12

- Register with UCAS guided in tutor time
- Begin Application Process
- Submit personal statement draft to tutor for feedback
- Sit trial exams (26/6-7/7) – vital in informing predicted grades and influence university choice/course
- Investigate courses and visit university open days (LOAs approved for this)



Summer Holidays Yr12

- Personal statements edited
- Continue to research courses, visit university cities and any open days

Timeline



Autumn Term Yr13

- Personal statements checked and final edits made
- References written
- Predicted grades confirmed by class teachers and department leads



Autumn Term Yr13

- Early applications (Oxbridge, Medicine, Dentistry) internal deadline early in Autumn term.
- All other students applications will be at the end of the first half term around start of November.

Timeline



Spring Term Yr13

- Offers received as universities process applications.
- If no offers, UCAS Extra can be used to apply for further courses.

May Yr13

- Accept one firm and one insurance choice.
- Apply for accommodation and student finance.

Results Day Yr13

- If requirements have been met, the university is obliged to give you that place.
- If not, 'Adjustment' and 'Clearing' can be utilised to secure you an alternative provider.

***First Steps into
Exploring
University
Courses***



The Basics



- Applications will be made to 5 courses
- Students should be applying for:
 - 1 ambitious course
 - 3 realistic courses
 - 1 safe course as a back up

*There are no limits to number of apprenticeship applications that can be made on top of university applications.

What can we be doing now?



- Researching potential options for after TG
- Booking open days for the summer term
- Using Unifrog to filter initial ideas
- Narrow down choices on university and non-university routes
- Proactively drafting out a personal statement
- Open minds to a range of different post TG routes – the more options the better.



Home > Schools and Departments > School of English, Drama and Creative Studies > Departments > English Literature > Undergraduate study

Come and study at one of the top 30 universities for English in the World (QS, 2022). You will explore, research and study a wide range of literary specialisms, from Old English to digital cultures, and everything in between.

Step 1 - register today

Full Name *

First name Last name

Date of Birth

Day Month Year

Email address *

Re-type email

Email consent: We would like to keep you informed about what it's like to study at Birmingham and give you further information on the application process. Would you like to receive occasional messages by email?

Allow
 Do Not Allow

Mobile phone number

What country do you live in? *

Step 2 - visit our course pages

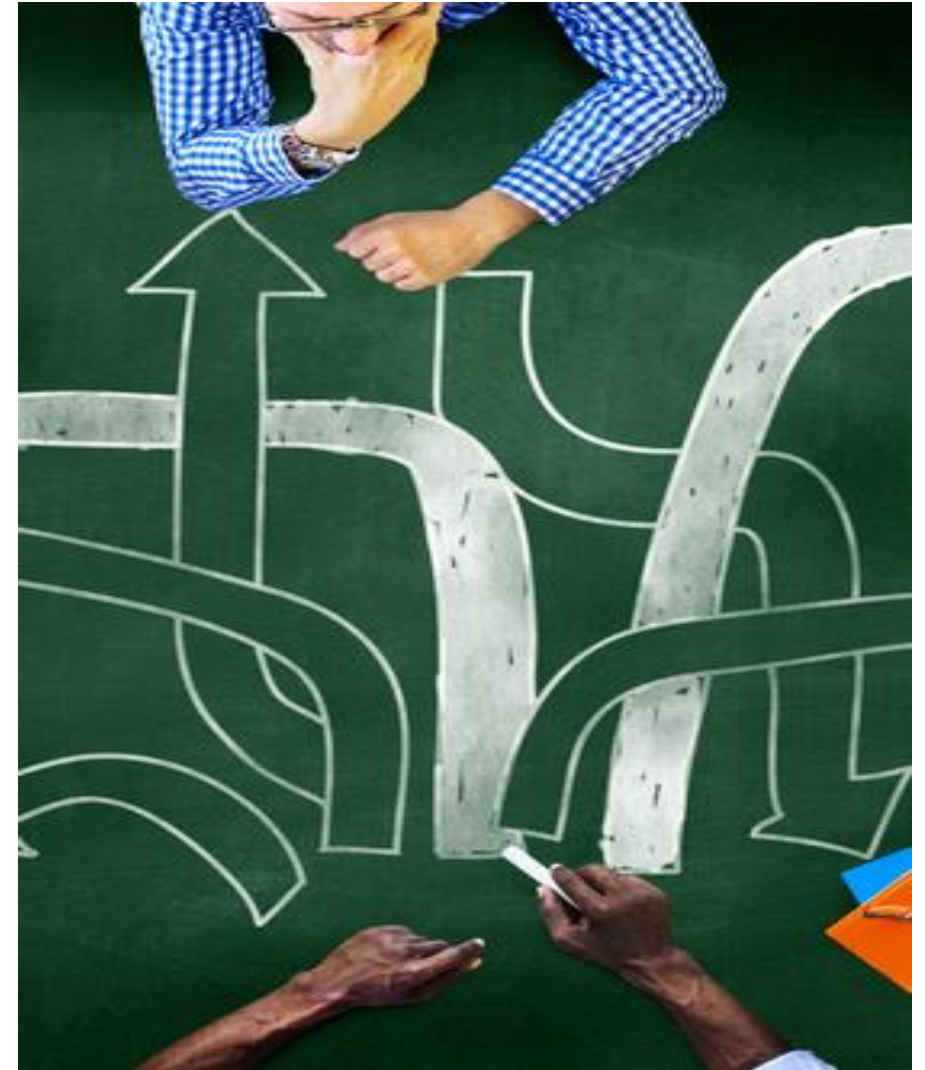
- [Digital Media and Communications](#)
- [Drama and English Literature](#)
- [English and Creative Writing](#)
- [English Literature and Film](#)
- [English Literature](#)
- [English Literature with Digital Media and Communications](#)
- [English Language and Literature](#)
- [English Literature with Shakespeare Studies](#)
- [English Literature and Classical Literature & Civilisation](#)
- [English Literature and History](#)
- [English Literature and History of Art](#)
- [English and Philosophy](#)
- [Modern Languages and English Literature](#)

Step 3 - find out more about:

- [International Applicants](#)
- [Careers](#)

Research Alternative Options

- Although we are going to be talking about UCAS and university applications tonight, please encourage your child to explore many different routes for when they leave TG.
- On results day, we want students to be in control of their future and have as many options to choose from as possible.
- There is no time to go through apprenticeship applications tonight but any specific queries can be sent to Mr Bargh.



Unifrog tools



Unifrog is a fantastic tool to help guide your children through university and apprenticeship applications.

UK universities
Make your first shortlist

Start >

Apprenticeships
Make your first shortlist

Start >

College /
Sixth Form

Sorry, your school doesn't yet have this tool

Oxbridge
Make your first shortlist

Start >

US universities
Make your first shortlist

Start >

European
universities
Make your first shortlist

Start >

Unifrog tools



When selecting the 'UK University' application widget, students input their most likely set of grades.



What are the **best grades** you're likely to get by the time you leave school / college?

* Qualification 1	A Level	B (40 points)
Qualification 2	A Level	B (40 points)
Qualification 3	A Level	C (32 points)
Qualification 4	--- please select a qualification ---	
Qualification 5	--- please select a qualification ---	
Qualification 6	--- please select a qualification ---	

next ▶ or go back

Unifrog tools



After selecting the subject that they would like to study, students can select up to 10 more specified subjects to explore.



Any of these interest you?

Select up to 10 at a time by clicking on the subjects you like

Direct matches (1)

Sociology

Subjects you might like (47)

Anthropology and Sociology

Archaeology and Sociology

Biology and Sociology

Business Management and Sociology

Business Studies and Sociology

Childhood and Family Studies and Sociology

Creative Writing and Sociology

Criminology and Sociology

Drama and Sociology

Economics and Sociology

Education Studies and Sociology

English and Sociology

English Language and Sociology

English Literature and Sociology

next: 3 subjects ▶ or go back

Unifrog tools



Students are then provided with a wide range of potential courses which they can filter as they see fit.

Select courses below

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

Rank ▾ Filter ▲ Search ▾

All distances 10 miles 20 miles 50 miles 100 miles 200 miles 300 miles Big cities Scotland Wales City Campus

All modes Full time Part time Sandwich Foundation No Foundation Full degrees W/ study abroad W/out study abroad

All types Russell Group Top Third Art Foundation Joint Honours No courses that prefer A-level, IB, Pre-U TEF Gold TEF Silver TEF Bronze

All entry requirements No courses out of my range



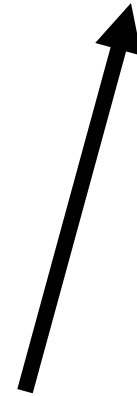
Social Sciences - 3FT BSc (Hons) UCL (University College London) RG A Level: A,A,A-A,A,B	Social Sciences - 4FT BA (Hons) Glasgow Caledonian University A Level: B,C,C	Sociology (with Foundation Year) - 4FT BA (Hons) University of Hull UCAS Points: 80
Law with Social Sciences - 4FT BA (Hons) University of Warwick RG A Level: A,A,A	Social Sciences (with a foundation year) - 4FT BA (Hons) University of Sussex TT A Level: B,C,C-C,C,C	Sociology and Criminology with Foundation Year - 4FT BA (Hons) Birmingham City University UCAS Points: 80
Sociology - 3FT BSc (Hons) London School of Economics and Political Science, University of London RG A Level: A,A,B	Social Sciences - 4FT BA (Hons) Edinburgh Napier University A Level: B,C,C	Criminology and Sociology - 3FT BSc (Hons) Teesside University UCAS Points: 80
	Criminology and Sociology - 3FT BA	

next ▶ or go back

Plan your time



When students have narrowed down the courses and institutions they would like to apply for, you can either search for open days directly with universities or use 'Opendays.com' for all information in one place.



The screenshot shows the Opendays.com website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Opendays.com logo and the date 'Saturday 10 June'. Below the navigation bar, there are several university listings with their logos and open day dates: University of Sussex (3-Jun Open Day), UAL (26-May Open Day), Lancaster University (1-Jul Open Day), and Northeastern University London (8-Jul Open Day). The main heading reads 'Opendays.com - the university and college open day directory'. A featured card for the University of Southampton is visible, showing a photo of a building and the text: 'University of Southampton', 'Next open day: 11 May 2023', 'Nearest city: Southampton', and a link to 'More on University of Southampton'. Below this card is an 'Open Day Search' section with a search box containing the text 'Enter university name...' and a 'Search' button. To the right of the featured card, there is a detailed view for the University of Southampton's '11-May Open Day', including information about a 'First Look virtual event' and a list of activities: 'Explore your new home: our cities and campuses', 'Learn about accommodation options', 'Get tips on student finance', 'Make your application stand out', and 'Think ahead to employability and...'

Practicalities of Application



How to Apply

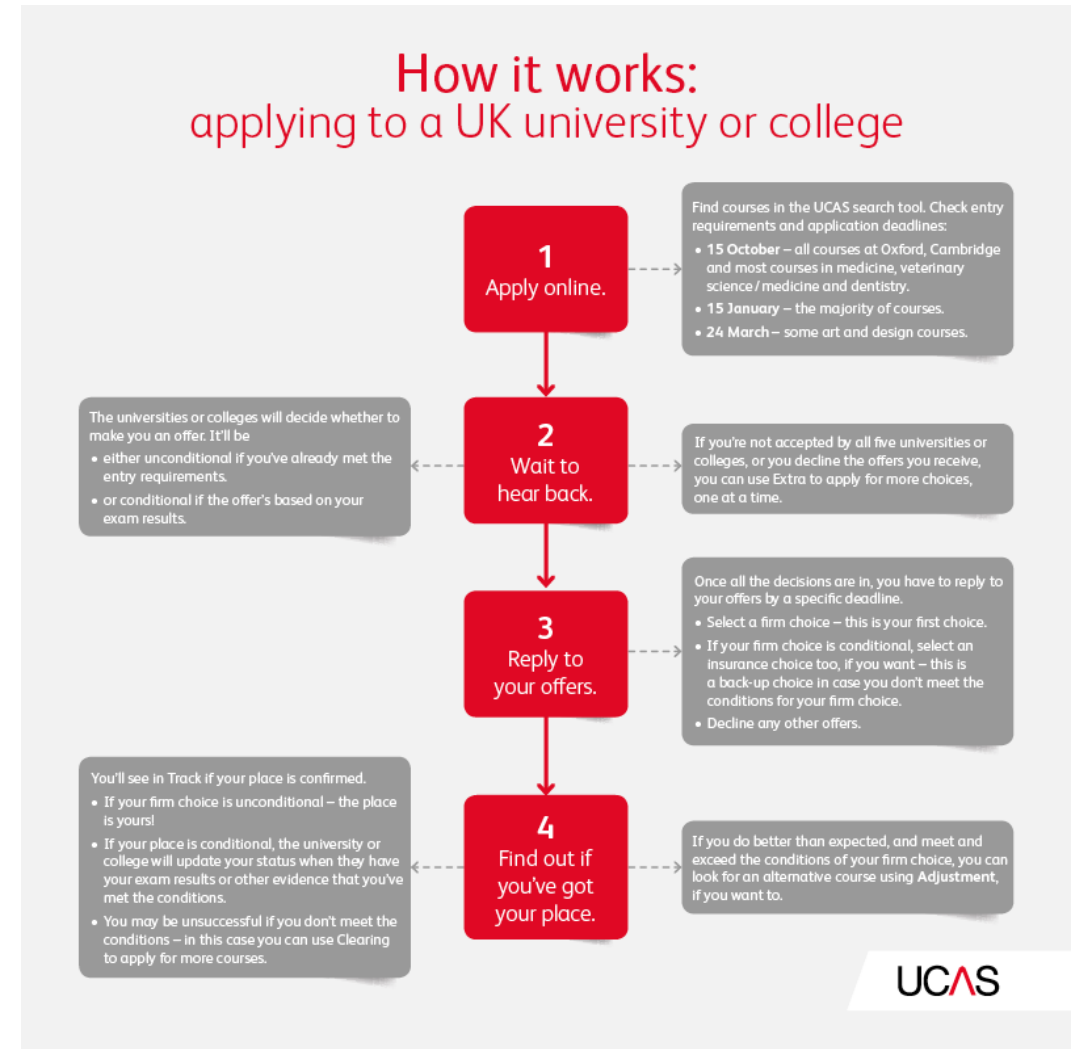


- Applications will be made to 5 universities in the Autumn term of year 13 based on the research undertaken now
- Students will receive one of three replies from each of these choices:
 - An unconditional offer of a place (sometimes after interview).
 - A conditional offer (sometimes after interview).
 - A rejection. (Unsuccessful)

UCAS.com/apply



- Personal Details including student finance options (we guide students to correct code in tutor time) and additional information
- Choices
- Education
- Employment
- Statement
- Pay and Send (when pay and send, it gets sent to us to check and approve)



UCAS.com/apply



- By the end of the application process, usually in **May of Year 13** but can be sooner, students will need to :
- Accept one offer as a **firm choice (1st choice)**.
- And one as an **insurance choice (back up)**.
- If you meet the requirements of the offer the university is obliged to give you that place.

Deadlines



- **Early applicants: October 16th 2023 (September 29th 2023 TG)**
 - Medics, Vets, Dentists
 - Oxbridge
 - Additional entry tests required – full support given in school via our pathways programme although students need to be proactive with booking any tests with our exams office.
- **All other applicants: January 31st 2024 (6th November TG)**
 - All other institutions and subjects

Replying to offers



1. Don't reply until you've heard back from all 5 universities.
2. Don't rush to reply but keep an eye on accommodation bookings.
3. Most of our students will need to select a firm and insurance choice.
4. Seek advice before they choose.

What if no offers are given?

- If students are rejected by all their applications they can use the **UCAS Extra** service from late February to early July each year.
- If they are still unsuccessful or fail to meet any conditional offers they can apply through **UCAS Clearing** in August after results. We can support with this.
- If students vastly outperform their initial expectations, they can use **UCAS Adjustment** to apply for new courses.

Personal Statements



Personal Statement

- **Personal statement - prepare to populate:**

- Enthusiasm and engagement with course applied for is key
- Enthusiasm beyond the syllabus
- Employment/ work experience if relevant
- Altruism
- Extra-curricular
- Super-curricular = wider reading, wider listening, MOOCs

- **Selection of courses need careful research and visits**

- Open days
- Prospectuses
- Websites: unistats.com, university league tables (outcomes/ earning/ experience)
- Speak to Yr13s or teachers for advice.
- History at University of Birmingham is oversubscribed each year but Ancient History isn't – a safer choice if University of Birmingham is the biggest factor in the decision?

Relevance of work experience in the current climate

- Applications for certain courses will require evidence of commitment and this can be shown through work experience.
- E.g. medical, veterinary, teaching, nursing.
- In nearly all cases for all subjects it greatly strengthens an application (however students shouldn't be rejected from courses solely based on a lack of work experience).
- At a recent Medical applications conference, University of Leicester highlighted that any 'public facing' work experience would be appropriate for medical courses. Does not necessarily need to be in a hospital.
- The importance of part time employment was stressed also celebrated at a recent UCAS conference
 - This shows commitment; provides soft skills; demonstrates time management and maturity

Similarity Detection Service

- Personal Statements are checked against a library of those already in the system, and from a variety of websites and paper publications
- Each new statement is added to the library after processing

Make sure that your personal statement is your own work

We will, along with other verification checks for identity and academic qualifications, test applications to detect plagiarism. If we have cause to question your application, we will inform all the universities and colleges to which you have applied. They will then take the action they consider to be appropriate. We will also contact you by email.

section completed

save

Personal Statement



Summer Term Yr12

Submit PS draft by deadline set by Miss Murphy. Usually early July.

Summer Holidays Yr12

Personal statements edited and perfected.

Autumn Term Yr13

Personal statements checked and final edits made, references written, predicted grades confirmed.

- Lots of tutor sessions will be allocated to UCAS and personal statements in the summer term.
- **ALL STUDENTS** must submit a draft on Unifrog whether university is for them or not – these paragraphs can be utilised on apprenticeship selection applications too.
- Feedback will be provided by subject specialists; form tutors; and the sixth form team.
- This feedback will be given by one member of staff at a time to allow for constructive redrafting.

***Teacher
References &
Predicted
Grades***



Teacher References



- UCAS have recently changed their policy on the 'references' section of their application process.
- Previously, all teachers wrote lengthy prose references and this has been removed.
- Instead, universities would like to know:
 - Factual data surrounding student performance and move away from vague 'teacher report' style paragraphs.
 - UCAS have given advice that this might include where a student stands in a cohort (for example 1st in cohort) or that a student won an award like the 'Chemistry Olympiad'. This may also include something like the way a student has followed a particular interest in their subject.
 - We need to be careful only to offer information that supports an application – this is going to make it difficult for middling students where trial exams and GCSE results might contribute most to offers. We await further advice from UCAS here.

Extenuating Circumstances

Include relevant information that contextualises the educational journey, for example:

- **individual circumstances** – e.g. mature student, disability, serious, acute, or chronic illness, bereavement, significant adverse personal circumstances (with applicant consent)
- **context as to why there is a disparity between an individual's grades achieved throughout the school or college - e.g. at GCSE equivalent and predicted grades, where applicable**
- **support the university or college should consider putting in place to ensure the applicant can thrive** on their course (with applicant's consent) – e.g. highlight the measures the school, college or centre put in place to ensure the student's inclusion/experience.
- **PLEASE MAKE ME AWARE IF THERE IS ANYTHING THAT YOU FEEL YOU WOULD WANT US TO INCLUDE IN THIS SECTION.**

Predicted Grades



- The **internal trial exam results** from this summer will be predominantly how predicted grades are formed but this is a process involving several stages.
- These predicted grades decide which universities you can realistically apply for.
- Lack of AS makes this more important.
- GCSE grades also important, particularly for more aspirational of courses.
- We must be as accurate as possible to preserve our credibility.

Predicted Grades



- Predicted grades are formulated using data from the June/July trial exams (26th June-7th July) as well as other assessment points if necessary.
- There is an element of teacher judgement that contributes to predicted grades – we must take into account potential progress.
- However, any grade must be realistic for the good of student and institution.

How brave to be...



First choice conditions	RISKY insurance	SAFER insurance
AAB	ABB	BBB
ABB	BBB	BBC
BBB	BBC	BCC

1. Check carefully how you did in your internal exams
2. How much can you improve? How many marks are you off your target grades?
3. What's likely to happen in your weakest subject?
4. Make 5 choices:
 - one aspirational
 - three realistic
 - one back up

UCAS Points



Grade	A Level Points	EPQ Points
A*	56	28
A	48	24
B	40	20
C	32	16
D	24	12
E	16	8

***How will we be
supporting your
child?***



How will we help?



Summer Term 1

- A series of year 12 tutor sessions to introduce the UCAS process and website.
- Students interested in applications that require tests/interviews will need to be confirmed and Mr Bargh and Miss Murphy need to be notified.
- Students requiring work experience must be proactive in organising this – organisation of this is priority one! As a school, we do not organise the work experience for students but we will support in any way we can.
- Weekly UCAS sessions & competitive pathway support still ongoing at this time.

How will we help?

Summer Term 2

- **Year 12 Guidance Meetings** – all students given meeting with member of sixth form leadership team or experienced sixth form tutor to discuss personal application journey.
- In departments **staff are available to talk to students** about their subject areas and university study.
- **Independent careers advice meetings** are bookable via Mrs Keiser.

Last hints and tips



- Understand what universities are looking for:
 - A level predictions are the single most important element
 - GCSE grades
 - Entry test scores
 - Personal statement and reference to support...
 - Work experience – type, amount
 - Extra curricular – gain relevant skills, additional interests
 - ‘Additional requirements’
- BUT **never apply for a subject you don't want to spend 3/4 years studying!**
- AND... **never apply for a university you would not be prepared to go to!**

Addressing Questions



Questions raised in MS Form

1. Will there be any information/support for those students wishing to apply for medicine. **Yes. We currently run 'Pathway to Medicine' in our societies programme on a Tuesday morning.**
2. Are there any scheduled study support sessions to help my child ready for the trial exam? **Students should seek study supports directly with teachers or they can come and see me about this if they're worried about doing this.**
3. It would be great if there was also information on apprenticeship applications – timescales (though I know these will vary) and what support is available for these applications. **As every apprenticeship is different, this is very difficult and each case should be made individually. We are here to support every step of the way though.**

Questions raised in MS Form

4. Visa question. ***VISA queries are usually best to go through individual consulates. As there are so many different issues with this, consulates are the best place to find accurate answers.***
5. When predicted grades will be available to us and how they are arrived at What effect the personal statement actually has on the application process. ***For something so important, we don't have a final 'predicted grades day' as I feel it is a little mechanical. Most students speak to their teachers a discuss predicted grades. Yes, personal statements are integral to show genuine suitability and interest in the course applied for.***

Questions raised in MS Form

6. Maths Best Uni – **Oxford, St Andrews, Imperial College, Cambridge, Glasgow, Edinburgh**
7. Physics Best Uni – **Oxford, Durham, Cambridge, St Andrews, Lancaster, Aberdeen**
8. Do engineering students need any work experience that needs to be added to the statement? Do they need Duke of Edinburgh? **Any work experience will help demonstrate student passion in subject but at the moment, work experience is very difficult and shouldn't penalize applications. D of E not compulsory but contributes to personal statement and references.**
9. Will the PowerPoint be available on the website as we are unable to attend. **It will be on tomorrow.**

Questions raised in MS Form

10. Please also cover a bit about apprenticeships in the talk and how the school will help them if they choose this option for example who can the students contact to be references for them, even if it's after they have left 6th form. Like 3 mths or even more after they have finished. Will they be able to contact someone to do references for them.

Many thanks. ***We will support all students on all paths and that includes after they have left TGAS. They should put Mr Bargh down as reference.***

11. Information about student finance please. ***We usually apply for student finance in Summer of Year 13 and students will be heavily supported through this. Any individual questions can come to Mr Bargh.***

Thank you for attending

- This is just the very start of a long process.
- Keep in touch
- **And, please, don't take drastic decisions without talking to someone.**
- **We are available for any questions you may have.**
- jbargh@solihull.tgacademy.org.uk
- cjolly@solihull.tgacademy.org.uk
- lmurphy@Solihull.tgacademy.org.uk
- aclarke@Solihull.tgacademy.org.uk