



**CHILWELL  
SCHOOL**

# **Sixth Form Applying to University**



## 1. Applying to university

Applying to university is a big step and we are here to help you through the process. There are six steps to applying that you need to consider:

- Choose where you want to go and what you want to study
- Know the deadlines and the key dates
- Check the entry requirements
- Understand how to complete the UCAS application
- Write your personal statement
- Wait for your offers

Choose where you want to go and what you want to study

University is a big investment, so you'll want to make sure you choose the right place and course.

When you're deciding which course to take, there are a few things you can consider to make your decision a bit easier.

These include: the type of subject you want to study; how the course will be taught; how the course will be assessed; and whether the course has any particular grade requirements.

There is no national syllabus for university degrees. This means that it is important that you check that the modules you are interested in are covered by the courses for which you want to apply.

Other things to consider are:

- Is there work experience?
- Are there extracurricular activities in which you are interested?

When thinking about which universities to apply to you also need to consider:

- Location
- Costs
- Type of institution - city or campus

The best approach to take is to visit the universities in which you are interested: all open days can be found here: <https://www.opendays.com/>

### What degree?

Ask yourself the important question:

What subject should I study at university?

**Is it a subject that I have already studied at school?** For example, English literature or linguistics - search the different courses on [UCAS](#) or [unifrog](#).

Questions you might ask yourself:

- Will you still be interested in that subject for a further three or four years – enough to motivate yourself to work and research independently?
- Any thoughts on life after university – what do you want to do and could your subject choice help with this? You may get to the end of this degree and still not know how you are going to earn a living.

### **Is it a subject linked to a career?**

For some careers you need to have studied a specific subject at university. For example: medicine; veterinary science; engineering; allied health courses.

It is important that you have completed specific work experiences prior to application as this will better prepare you for your university course as well as helping you to decide whether it is the right career for you.

### **Is it a subject that is new for you?**

It is important that you research these courses thoroughly before applying - do you know what is involved and what you can do after university?

### **What course?**

It is important that you carefully read the course details.

Look at the information provided by [UCAS](#) - How to choose between undergraduate courses and units.

### **Types of assessment**

The way that you are assessed at university differs depending on the course that you have chosen.

Consider this: you are studying for a Cambridge National qualification which has a large coursework profile. The course you are considering is mainly examination based. Would you be able to cope with this change of approach?

### **Time spent at university**

Some courses require you to spend the majority of your time at the university. Other courses have a much lower tutorial/lecture profile. You need to consider: how you study and the support that you require.

Check the time allocated to teaching and independent study for each course.

### **Which university should I go to?**

Once you have decided the course you wish to study, you will notice that there are many different universities offering very similar opportunities. Remember, you will have five choices to make.

### **Russell Group or other universities**

You may have heard of Russell Group universities. These universities are considered to be the top research universities in the UK - they also all have medical schools. Please see the attached page: [Russell Group | Our universities](#)

However, there are also approximately 300 institutions in the UK who award degrees.

### **City, town or campus**

You need to think about whether you want to study close to home or further away.

There are two universities in Nottingham

There are six universities within 25 miles of Nottingham.

There are seven universities within 45 miles of Nottingham.

There are fifteen universities within 90 miles of Nottingham.

You then need to consider whether you would like to study in a big city like Birmingham, Manchester. or London. These universities have plenty of other opportunities, such as museums and galleries. However, they are expensive to live in.

Perhaps you might like to study in a smaller city/large town where it is easier to get around, rents tend to be lower.

Some students prefer to study at campus universities such as Nottingham, Warwick, Lancaster, Keele, Sussex or York. A campus university has all the facilities on site.

### **Reputation**

Sometimes students are swayed by the apparent reputation of the university. In the UK there are five universities in the top 15 universities in the world - Oxford, Cambridge, Imperial, UCL and Edinburgh. These are very competitive universities to get into and they have high entry requirements.

However, the Institute for Fiscal Studies recently reported that the quality of degree you earn will stand you in better stead than the university you went to, see report [How much does it pay to get good grades at university? | Institute for Fiscal Studies.](#)

Additionally, some universities have key specialisms; Nottingham Trent and Business; City University and Journalism. It is important that you check.

There are a number of different guides which show where different universities may rank: Times Higher; QS; Guardian. Each of these guides value different aspects of university life. Guardian focuses on student satisfaction whilst the QS looks at research.

## **2. Deadlines and key dates**

07.07.23	Personal statements completed
17.07.23	Work experience
16.10.23	Early entry application deadline - Oxbridge, Medicine and Veterinary
24.11.23	Preferred Chilwell School university deadline
31.01.24	UCAS equal consideration deadline

### 3. Entry requirements

#### Tariff points

UCAS Tariff points translate your qualifications and grades into a numerical value. Many qualifications (but not all) have a UCAS Tariff value, which will vary depending on the qualification size, and the grade you achieved. This numerical value is used by HE course providers to assess whether you meet their entry requirements for a particular course.

Points	A Level	Technicals
56	A*	D*
48	A	D
40	B	
32	C	M
24	D	
16	E	P

Some universities will ask for specific grades, A\*AA or AAA for example. These tend to be from what are known as the Russell Group universities. Other universities will ask for UCAS tariff points, 120 or 112 points. You can make up these points with any combination of grades.

### 4. Writing your personal statement

Your personal statement is your opportunity to present yourself to admissions tutors. Look at the UCAS page: [How To Write Your Undergraduate Personal Statement](#)

#### The process

You will be working with your tutor to help you write your personal statement. We will be working on this each Tuesday and Thursday during tutor time. It is important that the time is used well so that you have completed your first complete draft of your personal statement. There will be time in September to refine your statements following your work experience.

