

# **Gower College Swansea**

The UCAS logo is a stylized, abstract design consisting of two interlocking, curved shapes. One shape is a light blue/purple color, and the other is a pink/magenta color. They are arranged in a way that suggests a circular or spiral motion.

**UCAS**

**(Universities and Colleges Admissions Service)**

**Information for parents**

**2017-18**

**The Admissions Process Made Easy**

# Timeline

- **March – September** – Students begin course searches
- **1<sup>st</sup> September** – Applications can be submitted to UCAS
- **Wednesday September 20<sup>th</sup>** – College Deadline for Oxbridge, Veterinary, Medicine and Dentistry applications
- **3<sup>rd</sup> October** – UCAS Conservatoire deadline
- **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October** – UCAS Deadline for Oxbridge, Veterinary, Medicine and Dentistry applications
- **Friday December 1<sup>st</sup>** – College Deadline for UCAS applications
- **15<sup>th</sup> January 2018** UCAS Deadline, includes most Art courses but check individual courses

# Timeline

- **Late February 2018** – Applications for student finance via Student Finance Wales goes live
- **Late February 2018** – Those students who do not hold any offers can apply to UCAS EXTRA
- **24<sup>th</sup> March 2018** – UCAS Deadline for Art and Design Applications not using 15<sup>th</sup> January Deadline
- **5<sup>th</sup> July 2018** – Clearing opens
- **16<sup>th</sup> August** – A2 and AS Results
- **30<sup>th</sup> September 2018** – last date for Clearing applications

# Application Map



# Applying to UCAS

- Students apply online at [www.ucas.co.uk](http://www.ucas.co.uk)
- They will need the College Buzzword which is:-
- **Kingsway18**
- Before applying they should
  - Research UCAS via course search
  - Check Entry Requirements (including admissions tests)
  - Begin to draft a Personal Statement

# **Applying to UCAS (cont)**

- Ask subject teachers for subject references
- Ask Tutor for help if necessary
- All students can make a maximum of 5 choices except students applying for:-  
Dentistry/Veterinary/Medicine who have 4 choices

# Fees

- **£13** For an application to a single university
- **£24** For an application to multiple universities, up to a maximum of 5
- Audition fees for Conservatoires are charged per application/audition

# How It All Works

- <https://www.ucas.com/ucas/undergraduate/apply-and-track/filling-your-ucas-undergraduate-application>
- Every applicant has 6 sections to complete:-
  1. Personal Details
  2. Additional Information
  3. Choices
  4. Education
  5. Employment
  6. Personal Statement



# Reference

- A member of staff at College, usually their Tutor, will then complete a reference for the student.
- \* please note this reference has to be an academic reference and therefore cannot be completed by **ANYONE** outside of the College\*

# Applying through UCAS-Research

- There are many things to consider when students choose their University course:-
- Which University?
- They should consider:-
  1. Distance from home
  2. Location – Campus or City
  3. University/Department Reputation
  4. What are their academic, social and recreational requirements

# Applying through UCAS-Research

- Which Course?

1. What do they want to study?
2. Subject Course Content and Facilities
3. Methods of Teaching/Assessment
4. No two courses are exactly the same!
5. Career Implications
6. Flexibility

# Admissions Tests

- Students applying for some courses are required to sit an admissions test as part of the application process. Students will need to check whether their chosen course requires a test.
- BMAT (Biomedical Admissions Test) for entry to Medical and Veterinary Schools ([www.bmat.org.uk](http://www.bmat.org.uk))
- UKCAT (UK Clinical Aptitude Test) for medical and dental degree courses ([www.ukcat.ac.uk](http://www.ukcat.ac.uk))
- LNAT (National Admissions Test for Law) ([www.lnat.ac.uk](http://www.lnat.ac.uk))
- ELAT (English Literature Admissions Test) Oxford University
- HAT (History Aptitude Test) Oxford University
- IOT (Institutions own tests)

# University Guides

- There are a range of resources to help students make the correct decision regarding their application.

These include:-

1. The Sunday Times Good University Guide
2. The Guardian University Guide
3. Getting In Getting On – Trotman/Heap
4. Virgin Alternative Guide
5. [www.unistats.com](http://www.unistats.com)
6. <https://universitycompare.com>
7. [whatuni.com](http://whatuni.com)
8. [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)
9. Push Independent Guide To Universities

\* Both which uni and the UCAS websites have “offer calculators”.\*

# Entry Profiles

- These can be found through the UCAS website by going through “course search”.
  1. They provide clear, up to date information about undergraduate courses
  2. Facilitate fully informed choices
  3. Outline the qualities/skills needed for a particular course
  4. Will show the minimum entry requirements for that course

# Unistats – Student Opinion

- [www.unistats.com](http://www.unistats.com)
- Students can use Unistats to find out what previous students thought about the course, as well as to learn about the likely costs and the kind of jobs or further study which students who completed the course went on to do.

# Experiential Research

- Students need to obtain a real feel for the university, subject, course, career. They can easily do this by attending:-
  - University Open Days
  - UCAS Events
  - Offer Days
  - Taster Courses
  - Subject specific events
  - Summer Schools



# What Admissions Tutors Look For

1. Predicted Grades
2. AS Results
3. GCSE Results
4. Other academic and vocational attainment
5. Personal Statement
6. Reference
7. Admissions Tests
8. Submitted written work
9. Portfolio – for Art & Design courses/Architecture
10. Interview
11. Audition – for Performing Arts courses

\*Admissions tutors do not know which other universities an applicant has applied to \*

# Personal Statement

- “The Personal Statement is a students’ chance to sell and differentiate themselves...to influence the Admission Tutors and explain their motivations”
  - “Personal Statements are like a paper based interview”
- The same principles apply...
  - First impressions count!
  - Appearance & presentation is important
  - Keep to the point
  - Impress the interviewer

# What Next?

- Students will receive a password and details of UCAS Track
- An admissions tutor may make one of three decisions:-
  1. Unconditional offer (U)
  2. Conditional offer (C)
  3. Unsuccessful (R)

Or offer a place on a different course.

This may involve a Deferred entry

# What Next? (Cont)

- A maximum of two offers may be held after the final decision has been received.
- Choice of three reply options:-
  1. Firm acceptance
  2. Insurance acceptance
  3. Decline

Final Decision Letter

# UCAS Extra

- This is a “second bite of the cherry”
- Extra opens from late February, to early July. Courses which have vacancies in Extra are listed during this period at [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)

- **Eligible Applicants:**

1. No offers made
2. All offers declined

**Student Driven:**

1. Available courses listed
2. Self referral
3. Application sent to relevant University

# Results Day

- **Results! 16<sup>th</sup> August 2018**
- **Things go well...**
- Absolute commitment?
- Universities must confirm offers
- Students can change their mind but will then have to go through clearing and start the process again in terms of applying for accommodation etc.

# Results Day

- **Things don't go so well...**
- The Conditional Firm university may still confirm the offer
- Insurance offer
- Clearing

# UCAS Adjustment

- **The Adjustment Process**
- If results are better than the conditions of their Firm choice
- There is a 5 day Adjustment period
- Look at available courses and contact the university directly
- Receive new offer or stick with original Firm choice



# Clearing

- Clearing matches available applicants to vacancies.
- Students will need to find a course and university using the UCAS website [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)
- Then they will need to contact the university, before sending them the Clearing Entry Form (CEF)
- University makes the offer

# Application Map



**Your son/daughter is now a University Student!  
Congratulations and Good Luck to you all!**