

Gower College Swansea

A large, stylized graphic of the UCAS logo, featuring a blue and pink swirl design, is positioned behind the text in the white box.

UCAS

(Universities and Colleges Admissions Service)

Information for parents

2018-19

The Admissions Process Made Easy

Timeline

- **March – September** – Students begin course searches
- **22nd May** - UCAS Undergraduate Apply opens for 2019 entry
- **5th September** – Applications can be submitted to UCAS
- **Thursday September 20th** – College Deadline for Oxbridge, Veterinary, Medicine and Dentistry applications
- **3rd October** – UCAS Conservatoire deadline
- **Monday 15th October 6pm** – UCAS Deadline for Oxbridge, Veterinary, Medicine and Dentistry applications
- **Friday November 30th** – College Deadline for UCAS applications
- **15th January 2019. 6pm** UCAS Deadline, includes most Art courses but check individual courses

Timeline

- **Late February 2019** – Applications for student finance via Student Finance Wales goes live
- **25th February 2019** – Those students who do not hold any offers can apply to UCAS EXTRA
- **24th March 2019** – UCAS Deadline for Art and Design Applications not using 15th January Deadline
- **30th June 2019. 6pm** – Final deadline for 2019 entry. Applications received after this date will automatically be entered into Clearing.
- **5th July 2018** – Clearing opens
- **15th August** – A2 and AS Results
- **30th September 2019** – last date for Clearing applications

Application Map



Applying to UCAS

- Students apply online at www.ucas.co.uk
- They will need the College Buzzword which is:-
- **Kingsway19**
- 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)
- UKCAT (UK Clinical Aptitude Test) for medical and dental degree courses (www.ukcat.ac.uk)
- LNAT (National Admissions Test for Law) (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
6. <https://universitycompare.com>
7. whatuni.com
8. 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
- 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

- **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! 15th August 2019**
- **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
- 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!**