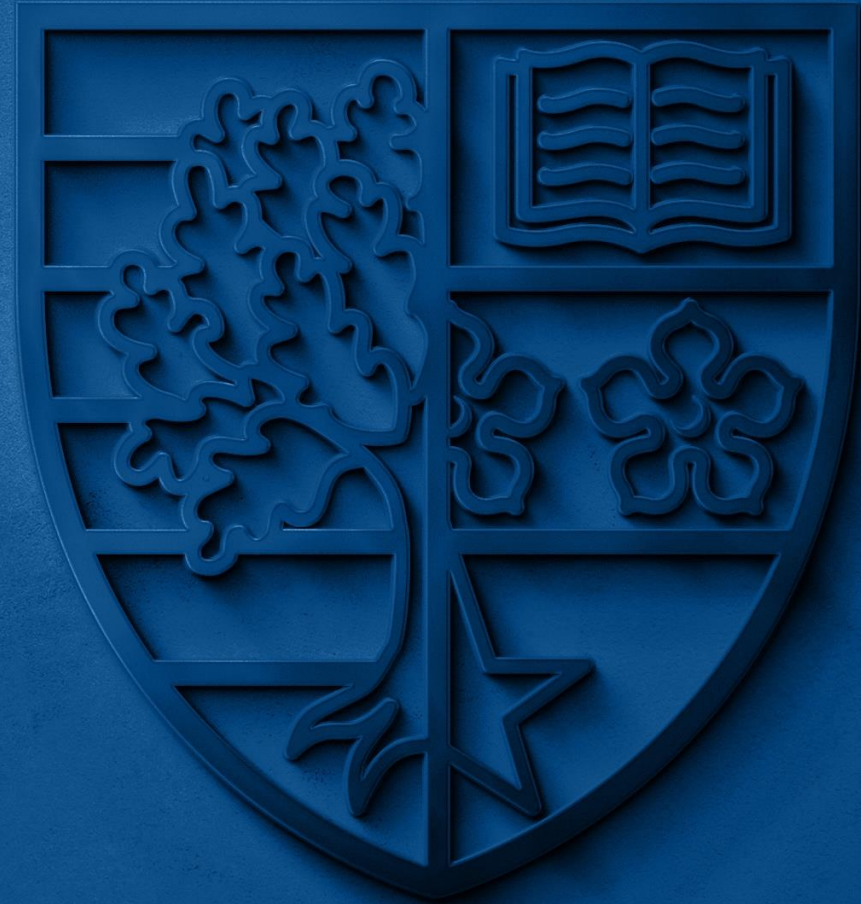


Applying to University

Ruth Swan
Associate Director UK Student
Recruitment & Global Prospect
Experience



We will cover...

- Key Dates
- How to Apply
- Personal Statement
- Things to Consider
- How to Support your Student
- Q & A



UCAS key dates

15 October 2026	Deadline for the universities of Oxford and Cambridge, and most courses in medicine, veterinary medicine/science and dentistry
13 January 2027	Deadline for all undergraduate courses
High Schools will have an internal deadline	
05 May 2027	If you receive all decisions by 31 March, reply by 5 May
02 June 2027	If you receive all decisions by 12 May, reply by 2 June
03 August 2027	SQA results released, Clearing available if required (officially opens 2 July)



How to Apply

- Register an account on the UCAS Hub, adding school Buzzword
- Choose courses: up to 5 Choices
- Fill in details
- Write Personal Statement
- School will add a reference
- Pay and submit (£34.50)



What is the Personal Statement?

- An essay written by an applicant to convince universities why they should be accepted onto their course
- Showcase their passion, academic suitability, skills reflection, other achievements and future ambitions
- Broken down into 3 questions
- 4000 characters total (minimum of 350 per question)
- **ONE** personal statement which goes to **ALL** university choices simultaneously





What are the three questions?

- **Why do you want to study this course or subject?**
 - What to include: inspiration, showing an understanding of the degree and future plans
- **How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?**
 - What to include: extra reading, project work and development of academic skills
- **What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?**
 - What to include: work experience, clubs & hobbies and positions of responsibility



How you can help

- **Sound Board:** Encourage them to speak passionately about their subject out loud; this often helps them figure out what to write.
- **Brainstorming:** Help them list their achievements, hobbies, work experience, and books they've read that relate to the course.
- **Proofreading:** Read through drafts to check for spelling, grammar, and flow.
- **Trimming:** Since space is tight, help them cut out "fluff" or repetitive sentences to stick to the character limit.





What Happens Next

- UCAS will confirm receipt
- Plagiarism Check
- Application forwarded to universities with 'invisibility of choices'
- University review and offers are made
 - Unconditional
 - Conditional (qualifications, portfolio, interview)
 - Reject/alternative offer
- Track via UCAS Hub

Got all their offers?

- Before deciding
 - Understand the conditions of offer
 - Visit university or college
 - Discuss individual needs with university
 - Take time to compare their offers
- Make Decision by May/June 2027
 - Firm acceptance (first choice)
 - Insurance acceptance (backup choice)
 - Decline (all other offers)



How to Support your Student

- Encourage them to do their research
- This can include:
 - Open days
 - Webinars
 - Prospectuses
 - Talking to friends and family
 - Teacher support
- Review personal statement
- Meeting deadlines



Thank you & Good
Luck!
Q&A

