

# Applying to University?

- Research your subject!
- Identify strengths/subjects you enjoy
- Go to Higher Education fairs/careers events
- Go on a university summer school
- Go to university Open Days
- Talk to teachers, Connexions staff
- Contact employers
- Use the internet
- Consider a Gap Year if you are undecided

# Application Process



- UCAS online application - [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)
- College support to complete
- 15<sup>th</sup> January is usual UCAS closing date – Oxbridge, medicine, dentistry & veterinary science have earlier date of 15<sup>th</sup> October
- Late applications may be considered
- Colleges often give students an earlier date

# UCAS form

- You can choose up to 6 courses - *Oxbridge has different procedure – college will advise*
- Colleges will support you with process
- Correct information on form – especially qualifications!
- List part-time work as well as any full-time work
- Work experience goes into Personal Statement

# UCAS form

- DEFERRED ENTRY if taking a Gap Year
- Summer Schools – list attendance
- Sect 2
  - Fee Code – code 02 for majority of students
  - Student Support arrangements - List your LEA here
  - Disability/special needs - encourage students to complete this section
- [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com) - has guidelines for completing forms!

# Personal Statement

## How to Sell yourself!

- Very important part of application
- Don't undersell your skills
- If you are a 'care leaver', have a disability or a learning difficulty it is to your advantage to put it on your UCAS form – attracts extra funding!
- Care leavers often offer 'maturity' through challenging life-experiences. Universities like this!
- Provide evidence of 'thinking' about choices

# Personal Statement

- Include personal achievements in your statement...work experience..etc..universities want to know about YOU and what makes you special
- Do Personal Statement in Word - cut and paste
- Keep a copy of application form
- References – usually Tutors at college, but could be from other adult if you want [PA for example]
- There is a charge for your application!
- Usually paid through college by cheque

# Process

- UCAS send copy of application to all universities chosen. Progress can be tracked on UCAS site

Universities will:

- Decline, Accept or Invite for Interview
- Make an 'unconditional' offer – you have a place!
- Make a 'conditional' offer – specific points or grades needed to be accepted [e.g *270 points or ABB*]
- UCAS site has a list explaining 'points system'

You then:

Decline, Insurance Acceptance, Firm acceptance

# UCAS EXTRA

- 16 March – If no offers then UCAS will invite you to go through UCAS Extra
- Apply to 1 university at a time

# Clearing

- Exam results usually around 18<sup>th</sup> August
- If poor results, can still apply through Clearing
- UCAS advise students if eligible for Clearing
- Contact university of choice –might accept lower grades or offer alternative course
- Clearing opens 18<sup>th</sup> August – UCAS site & national newspapers list all university vacancies
- You NEED to be around to deal with this
- You contact universities directly
- LOTS of students do get places through clearing

# REMEMBER!

- February onwards – You can contact LEA or [www.studentsupportdirect.co.uk](http://www.studentsupportdirect.co.uk) to apply for student funding [need original copy of birth certificate, national insurance number and bank account details]
- If you find all the paperwork daunting, ask someone from Student Support at college or Connexions PA to help

## CONTACT DETAILS

If you change address, phone number or email – LET UCAS KNOW – easiest way is to log onto UCAS and change details there

It is important to be contactable...