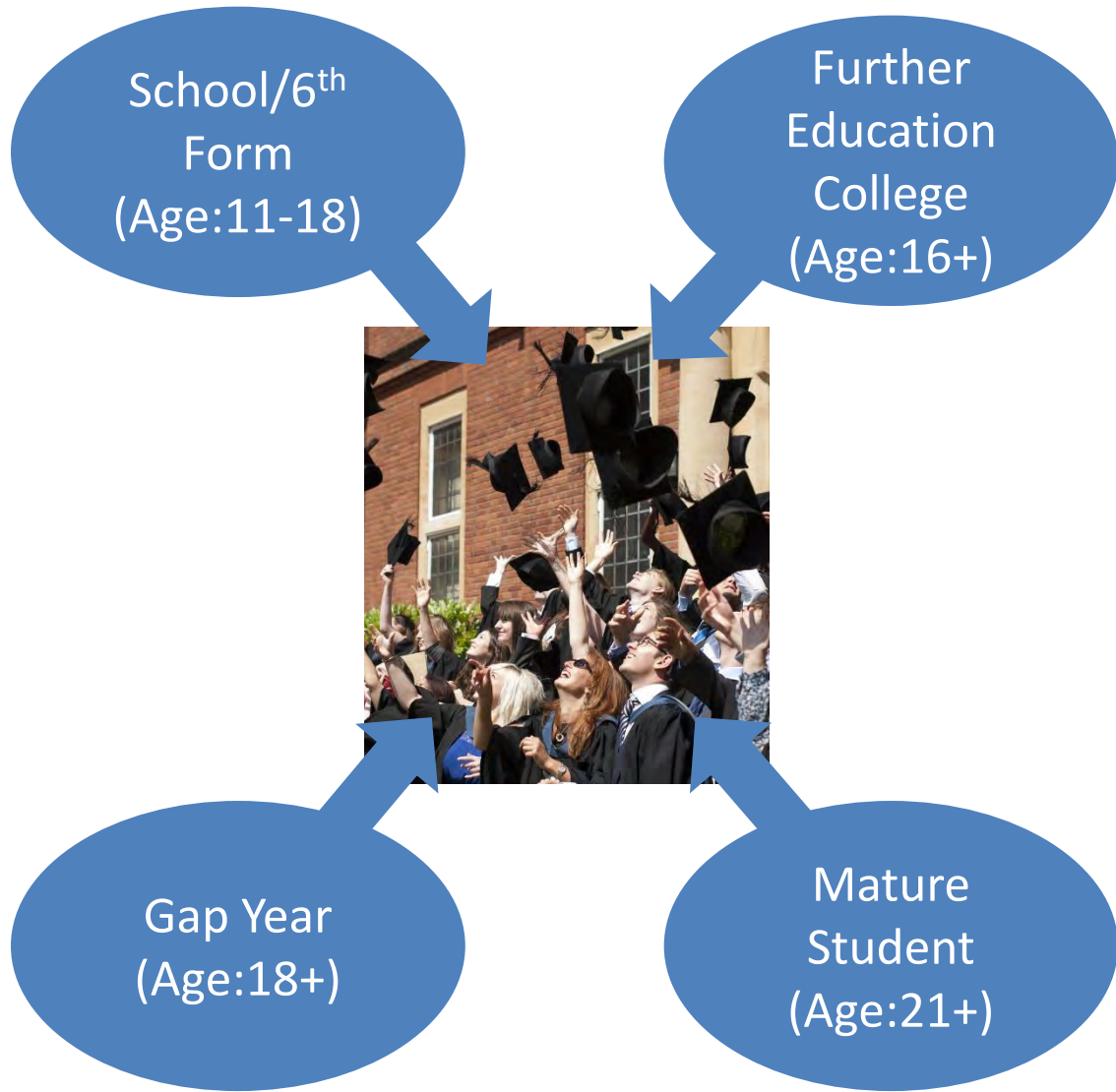


# UNIVERSITY – A SNAPSHOT



Reena Kaur

Assistant Student Recruitment and Access Officer



# How to get to university

- There are many different routes to Higher Education
- Education qualifications are very important
- But universities also look for
  - Work experience
  - Volunteering
  - Extra-curricular activities



## Why go to university?

- You need a degree for some jobs
- Study something you enjoy
- Better career prospects
- Transferable skills
- Develop confidence and independence

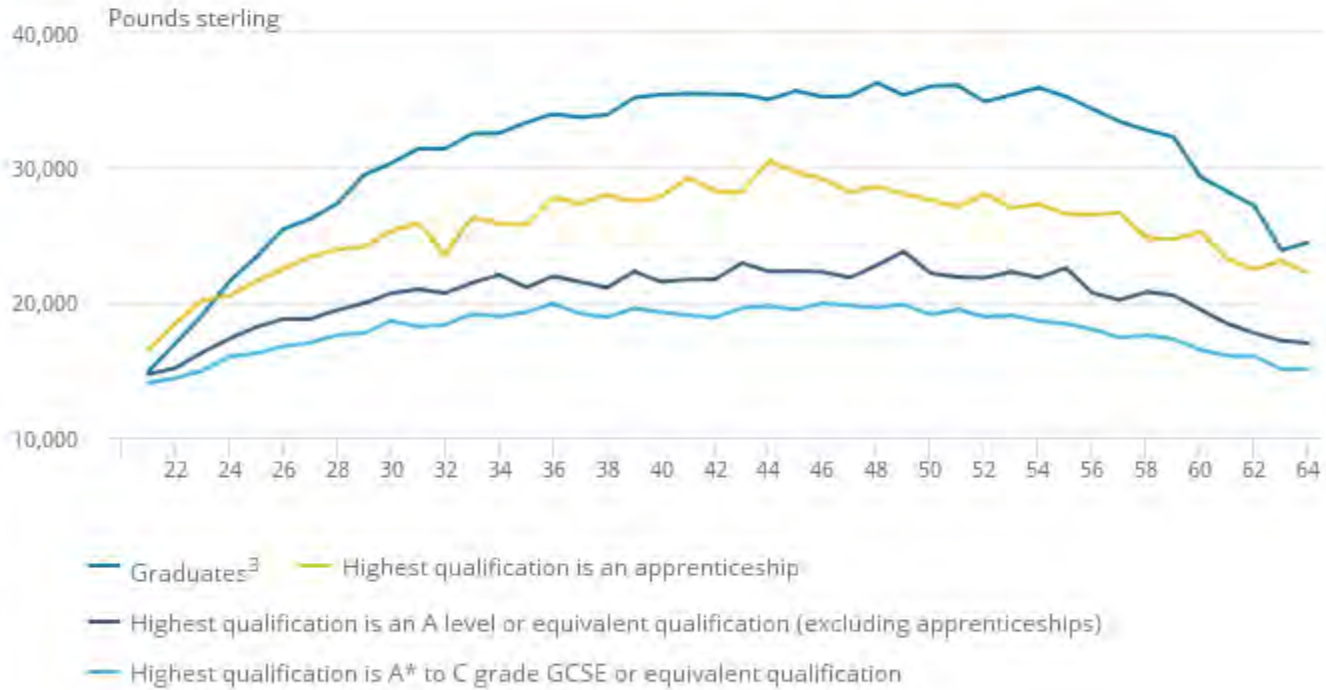


## Who goes to university?

- Different backgrounds
- From across the country and the world
- Varied ages

Figure 9: Average annual gross wage <sup>1,2</sup> by age and highest qualification

July to September 2017, UK



Source: Labour Force Survey Datasets

# Average Graduate Salaries



# Teaching Styles

- Lectures
- Seminars
- Tutorials
- Workshops
- Labs

**Contact hours vary**  
**Time management**



# Accommodation

# 1<sup>st</sup> Year

- Halls of residence:
  - En suite or shared?
  - Catered or self catered?
  - Guarantee Scheme?
  - Support
- Live at home?



# 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> year

- Remain in halls?
- Privately rented house?
  - - Bills
- Stay at home?
- Help from accommodation services







Money



# Student Finance 2018 UK Students

Up to £9,250  
(Universities set their  
own fees)

Nothing paid by you  
upfront – tuition fee  
loans paid to your  
university direct

Maintenance loans  
available to help cover  
rent, food and living  
expenses

# repayments

Repayments start from April after graduating or leaving university

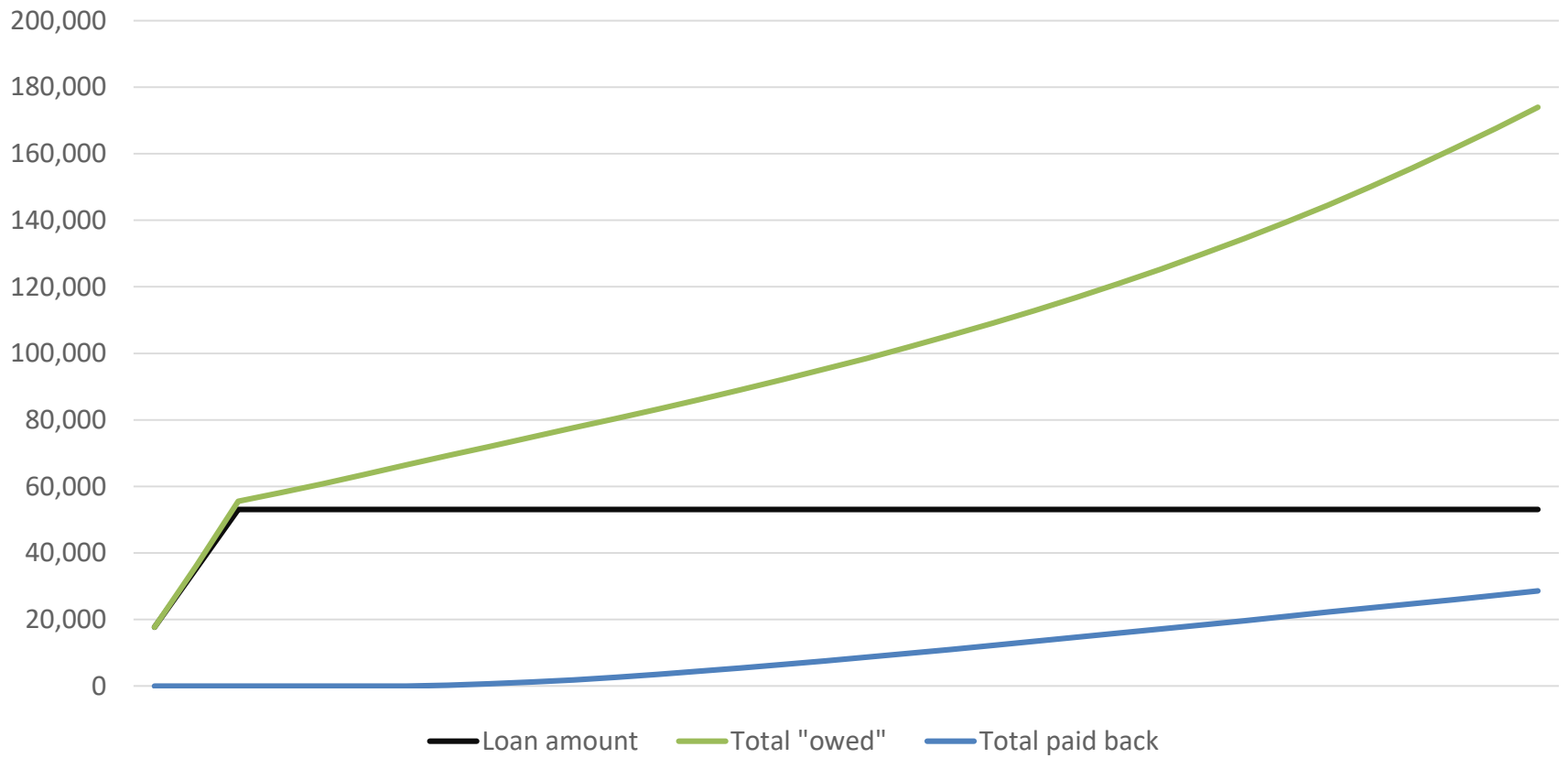
Only when your income is over £25,000 a year

Repay 9% of your income over £25,000

Deductions made from your pay through the HMRC tax system

If your income falls to £25,000 or below your repayments will stop.

Any outstanding loan balance will be written off 30 years after entering repayment.





## Student loans & ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

University bursaries and  
scholarships

Additional grants for:  
students with disabilities  
or dependents and care  
leavers

University hardship funds

Access travel bursaries

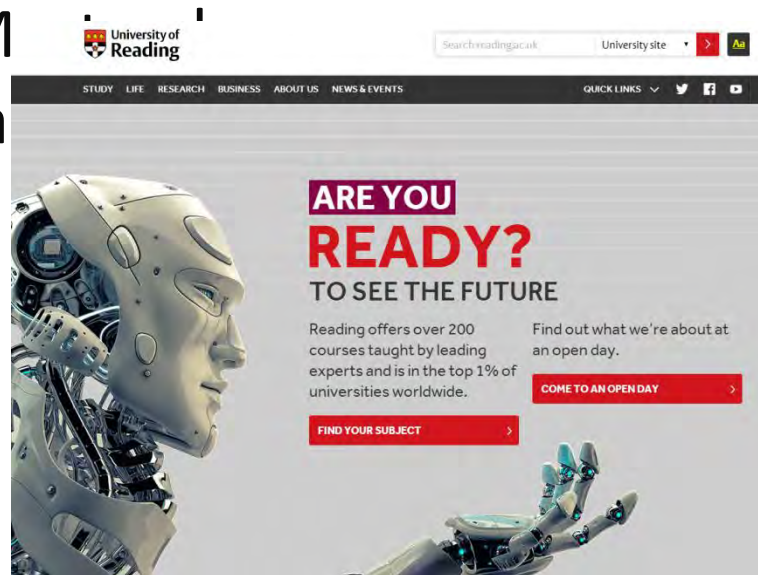
# Student Support

- Departmental | Welfare | Personal Tutor
- Careers | Jobs | Campus Work
- Disability Services | Mentoring Schemes
- Counselling | Guidance



# More information...

- Prospectuses and subject brochures
- Websites
- University guides and League tables (Times, Guardian, Unistats, The Student Room, Complete University Guide)
- Taster and M
- Social Media





## Visiting a university – Open days & Taster Days



# Going to University can be a daunting prospect

## Common concerns include:

- Moving away from home
- Meeting new people
- Living and study costs
- Managing workload.
- Being unsure if university is really for them
- Another potential 3-4 years of academic commitment. Is it worth it?
- How will it be different from school?

# Why go to university?

## 1. To improve career prospects

You have a wider variety of career options to choose from, and [you are likely to progress much faster up the career ladder.](#) While it would be misleading to claim that a degree guarantees employment, a number of organisations require people to hold degrees before applying.

## 2. To pursue a vocation

To further an interest in a particular subject, or in a particular vocation. Some careers, such as those in medicine, nursing, architecture, law and pharmacy, cannot be practiced without a particular vocational degree.

## 3. To earn more

[Statistics show that graduates earn significantly more than those without higher education qualifications.](#) As a graduate, your options will be wider, and you will find it easier to get into employment and to stay in employment.

# Why go to university?

## 4. To develop employable skills

A degree will not only give the opportunity to gain an in-depth knowledge of a chosen subject but also to develop transferable skills such as communication, presentation and problem-solving skills and enhancing their ability to work as part of a team.

## 5. To build self-confidence, independence and responsibility

University can help to build self-confidence and independence. You will have opportunities to pursue different interests through the Students' Union and to make new friends from different countries and backgrounds.

## 6. To study a subject you enjoy

You choose to study a subject because you have enjoyed it at school. Finding out more about something that is enjoyable will show commitment and can often produce excellent degree results.

# How to choose a university?

- Use a **variety of league tables** to help you choose. Universities are arranged by subject, as well as overall – for example, Sussex University is 20<sup>th</sup> in UK rankings but 1st in the world for International Development ahead of Harvard, Oxford, SOAS & Cambridge respectively (QS World University Rankings).
- The criteria used by universities can help you determine the quality of teaching, the satisfaction of current students and the career prospects of a degree from that university – and to differentiate between universities
- But there are many other factors to consider: location, transport links, financial support, options for studying abroad, accommodation, social life/student scene, sport, music, theatre etc
- Be aspirational – the cap on student numbers has been removed by the government so it is a ‘buyer’s market’

## League Tables:

1. <https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/league-tables/>
2. <https://www.theguardian.com/education/ng-interactive/2017/may/16/university-league-tables-2018>
3. <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/student/best-universities/best-universities-uk>
4. <https://www.topuniversities.com/university-rankings/world-university-rankings/2018>
5. <https://www.topuniversities.com/university-rankings-articles/world-university-rankings/top-universities-uk-2018>

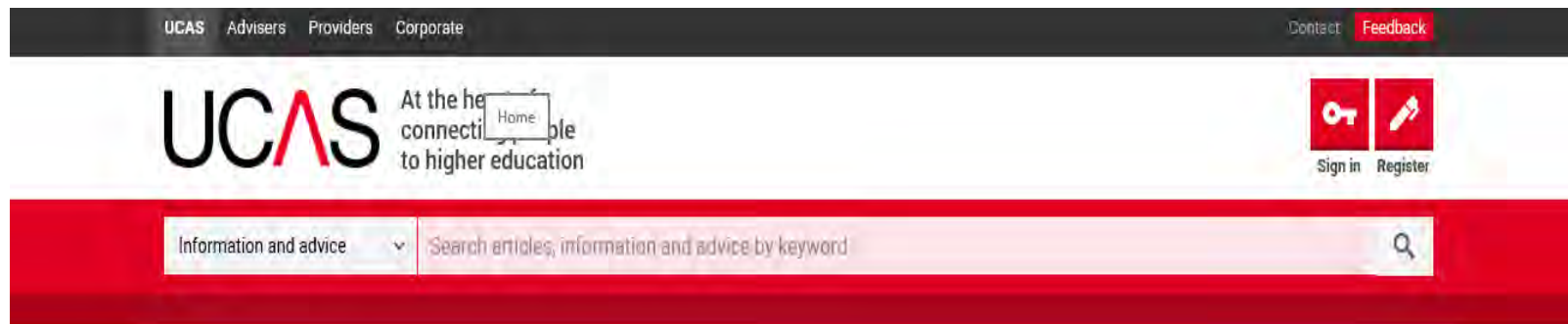
# UCAS - Comparing course content

- Firstly, you will need to choose the type of course you'd like to study. If you don't know your options, you should look at the different [course types and entry requirements](#).

## **If you have already decided on the type of course?**

Some things to consider when comparing different courses, and different universities:

- Look at the modules covered in each course and identify which ones are most interesting, or relevant to your career aspiration.
- How many lectures are there, and how much group work will be done in seminars?
- What does the assessment at the end of each module look like? Exams, coursework, presentations, or a combination of all three?
- Who are the tutors, and are they experts in areas you want to learn about?
- When choosing a course, remember that not all courses with the same name are identical in content.



# UCAS – choosing your course

<https://www.ucas.com/ucas/undergraduate/choosing-undergraduate-course>

# Subject Guides

https://www.ucas.com/ucas/subject-guide-list

Subject guides | UCAS

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## Subject guides

Our subject guides are designed to give you a flavour of the undergraduate courses you could study at university, what they involve, and how to get onto them.

### Agriculture and related sciences

Agriculture and related sciences bring together a wide range of disciplines including, for example, animal and land management, food science, economics, horticulture, technology, and environmental conservation.

### Architecture, building, and planning

#### You may also like to read

- Choosing an undergraduate course
- UCAS Undergraduate: what to study
- Choosing a conservatoire course
- UCAS Conservatoires: what to study
- UCAS Teacher Training: search for training programmes
- Postgraduate subject areas
- Choosing a postgraduate course
- What to study
- Post-16 qualifications you can take

22:11 11/03/2018



# Choosing an undergraduate course

There are over 50,000 undergraduate courses at more than 395 providers in the UK, so it's important you do your research. Here's some advice to help you.

Relevant to **Undergraduate**

## How to choose a course

With so many courses on offer – and not just in the subject areas you would expect – there will be courses in subjects and subject combinations you've never even considered, so it's important you explore the different options thoroughly.

Here's how to get started:

- 1 Choose a subject – the important thing is to choose a subject you enjoy that will help you reach your goals. Think about what you're aiming to get out of the course – career progression, career change, or the chance to study a subject you love in more depth.
- 2 Look at [our subject guides](#) to understand what the different subject areas have to offer – including graduate destinations, entry requirements, and personal statement tips.
- 3 Browse the [UCAS search tool](#) for inspiration on the types of courses you can study – don't forget to use the subject filters to narrow your search.



# Know what you want to do after University?

- Consider a course which has some kind of work placement (sandwich course) attached to it, or one that is well regarded in the industry.

Eg

Want to become a Journalist? Choose a degree accredited with the National Union of Journalists.

# You can choose a course to suit your interests and preferred learning style

## Assessment types include:

- Exams
- Essays
- Group work
- Presentation
- Lab reports
- Practical coursework (eg performance, painting, website creation).

## Teaching methods include:

- Lectures
- Seminars
- Workshops
- Lab/practical sessions.

## Open Days

- Book in advance – only two allowed in school time.
- Go with family/friends – get their opinion
- Take a list of what you want to find out
- Take advantage of Ambassador tours and Q&A sessions.
- Get to talk to lecturers & really quiz the department students.
- Go to a few in order to compare – trust your instinct – this is somewhere you'll live for 3-4 years.

ACHIEVE

https://www.ucas.com/ucas/events/find/type/ope Find university open days w... x

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Events and key dates Open days Find open days

### Find open days

Displaying 1 - 50 of 503. Page 1 of 11.

**Current search**  
Search found 503 items  
Open day x  
[Reset](#)

**Filter by event type:**  
 Open day

**Distance**

**26 FEB** **University College of Osteopathy - open day event**  
<https://www.ucas.com/events/university-college-osteopathy-open-day-event-329591>  
Considering a career in healthcare? Come and find out if osteopathy could be the right option for you at one of our informative and interactive open days.  
Open day • London • 26 February 2018 • Undergraduate

**28 FEB** **Discover Nursing Taster Day**  
<https://www.ucas.com/events/discover-nursing-taster-day-329101>  
Open day • Norwich • 28 February 2018 • Undergraduate

**29 FEB** **Postgraduate open day**

Windows taskbar: SIMS, e, O, X, P

Plenty of videos to watch  
with essential advice &  
guidance

<https://www.ucas.com/connect/videos/ucas>

## Website Links

1. <http://www.ucas.com/how-it-all-works/parents-and-guardians>
2. [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)
3. <https://www.gov.uk/student-finance/overview>
4. <http://www.moneysavingexpert.com/students/student-loans-tuition-fees-changes>
5. <https://www.whatuni.com/>
6. <https://university.which.co.uk/>
7. <https://unistats.ac.uk/>
8. <https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/universities/choosing-the-right-university/>



UCAS, early entry and Oxbridge



# UCAS

- Application is all on line
- Student should be now thinking ahead and researching courses/opportunities/talking to others
- Student eventually chooses 5 university courses-Ucas.com
- We advise students to keep a folder now containing information: eg where/course/what it entails/3 or 4 years/the distance/the entry requirements?

## Entry requirements for university

- 9 UNITS (3 A LEVELS) :

Either grade requirements (ABB) or tariff points (normally over 9 units):

A\* 56

A 48

B 40

C 32

D 24

E 16

Sometimes EPQ and other exams (music etc) can carry some points-check for individual universities

# UCAS forms

- Student completes Ucas form with personal details, qualifications, university choices and personal statement.
- School completes predicted UCAS A level grades and the reference for student
- The loans for tuition fees and maintenance come from the Student finance company
- A different form for this is completed next March and is partially income assessed

# Time line

- March/April: start to research course
- Visit universities and sign up for some open days
- Plan possible work experience (teaching, nursing )
- Easter: introduction to EPQ and training
- June: start to write personal statement (two thirds love of subject and one third experiences). Lots of advice and support from school.
- June: tutor interviews 1:1
- June 21st: summer exams which will then feed the predicted grades for the Ucas application
- July 10th: work experience (3 days) and personal statement morning
- September 13th: parent/tutor meeting
- October 15th: early entry deadline
- November 15<sup>th</sup>: school internal deadline for checking
- January 15<sup>th</sup> 2019: Ucas final deadline to pay and send



Early entry/Oxbridge

# Who might need early entry?

- Medics
- Dentists
- Veterinary medicine
- Oxford and Cambridge (all courses)

## Early entry timeline

- Starts now! -opportunities for taster days at Oxford and Cambridge and other universities in a variety of subjects
- February - applications open for Sutton Trust Summer School/ Eton Summer School

- March
  - Practice tutorials and Q and A sessions by University of Cambridge
  - Oxbridge conference at Epsom;
  - Ex-Holt Oxbridge students and trainee doctors visit
- April/May
  - Oxbridge entrance and BMAT/UKCAT/ exams prep begins
  - Registration opens for UKCAT



- June/July
  - Formal practice exam for those who need to sit entrance exams
  - Personal Statement sessions at Holt (with input from Cambridge)
  - Oxford session on personal statements at Wellington College.
- **UKCAT must be taken independently between 2 July and 1 September**

# CHALLENGE

- August
  - Students encouraged to complete wider reading/ work experience/ exam practice

- September
  - Registration for BMAT opens
  - Informal networking event at Wellington
  - One-to-one help in school with applications
- **Internal deadline for applications 21st September**

- October 15<sup>th</sup>
  - UCAS deadline for all early applications**
  - Support in school and at Wellington for students preparing for entrance exams
- October 31<sup>st</sup>
  - BMAT exams and Oxbridge admission tests

# CHALLENGE

- November
  - Sample work to send if applicable is gathered
  - One-to-one help with interview technique
  - Formal interview practice with Co-Headteachers and subject staff
  - Wellington College/Oxford Interview event
  - All students have a practice interview with a member of Wellington staff.

# ACHIEVE

- December
  - Interviews begin at Oxford and Cambridge
- January
  - offers made