



# YEAR 14 CAREERS

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MAKING DECISIONS  
FOR YOUR FUTURE

# WHAT ARE YOUR CHOICES ?

**HIGHER LEVEL  
QUALIFICATION**

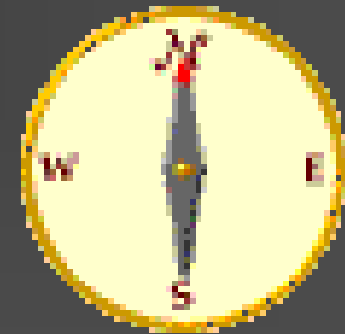
**EMPLOYMENT**  
(+Qualifications)

**DEGREE**  
(University)

**FOUNDATION  
COURSE/  
DEGREE**

**HND/ DIPLOMA**

(university/ F.E colleges)



# What influences my decisions?

<b>My career plan</b> (Where I want to be in 5 years)	<b>My Skills</b> What I am good at ( I can...).	<b>My Qualities</b> The type of person I am.....
<b>My Values</b> (what is important to me)	<b>My Interests</b> (Things I enjoy)	<b>My Family</b>
<b>My Friends</b>	<b>My Exam Results</b>	<b>Money</b> ££££££££££

# Is University for me ?

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## REASONS TO GO

- Better job prospects
- Better salary
- Great social /sports life
- New friends
- New interests/opportunity
- Move away from home
- Becoming independent

## REASONS NOT TO GO

- Loose friends
- Rely on family (financially)
- No job guarantee
- Debt
- Grades too high
- Not ready
- Need a break from school



# Choosing the right course.

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Things to consider:

- A level subject and grades?
  - Which subject interests you most?
  - Do you want a vocational degree?
  - Do you have the particular skills ?
  - What are the job prospects like?
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# If you don't have a clue!!!

- Start with a programmes like:

‘Pathfinder’ which will generate an interest profile and a job profile for you.

the Stamford test on ucas is also a good starting point.

- (many of you completed such exercises last year)
- ‘Careers Information Data Base’ is very good for researching particular jobs.

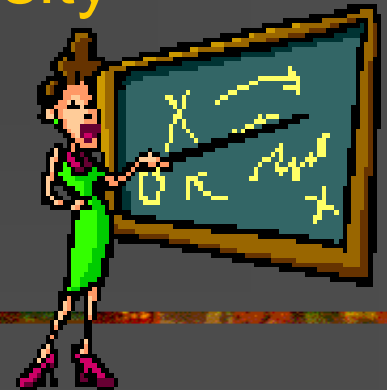
Once you have chosen an course

# You need to pick a University...

- The best resource here is **UCAS**.  
**You can search**
  - By course
  - By region
  - By university.
- There are also guides that will give you ratings for teaching, resources, graduate prospects etc.

Example: **The Times Good University Guide.**

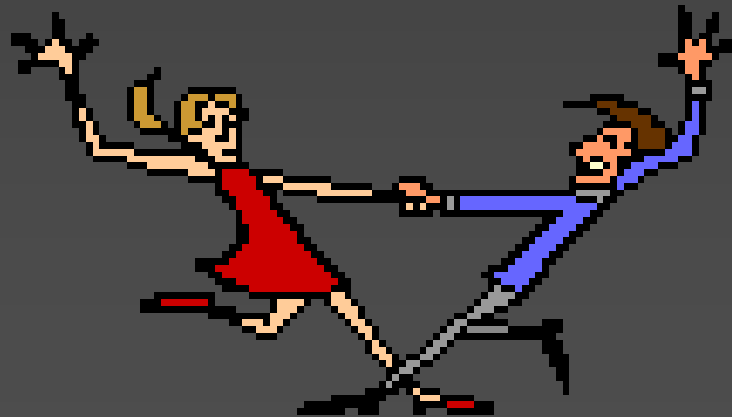
This site also gives entry requirements and contact details for each university.



Once you have chosen an course

# You need to pick a University...

- For some people the most important thing is cheap accommodation for others it is the atmosphere in the student bar, If you are doing medicine you are very likely to get a job at the end of the course, but for a sociologist the employability record is far more important.





# If you find a course you think might suit you:

- CONTACT the Admissions Office (by phone or e-mail) or ask to speak to a tutor in the faculty you are interested in.

Have your questions written down..

What are the required grades?

What does the course involve?

Is there work placement?

Are there any special bursaries or grants.

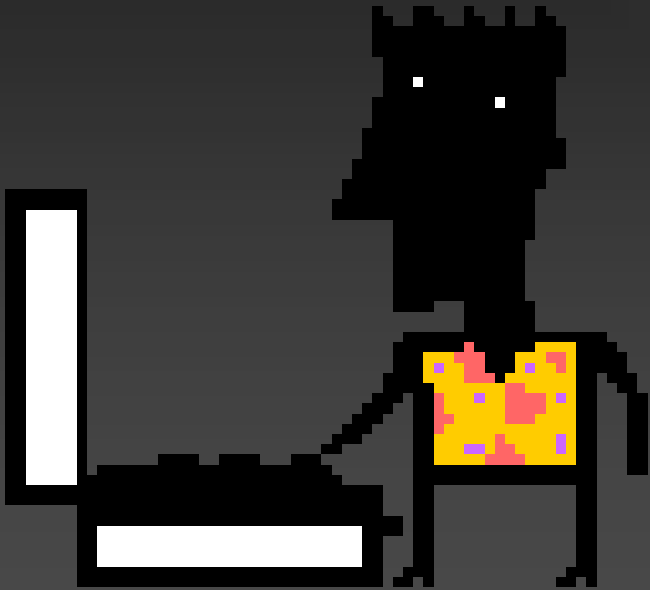


# Some courses have special entry requirements...

- As well as the A level grades or points some more popular courses have additional instruments for selecting applicants:
- Cambridge/ Oxford /some Medicine/Nursing/Teaching/ Social Work have Interviews
- Medicine; some universities use UKCAT, others use BMAT
- Health related courses at UU require HPAT.

# Consider visiting the college

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You will be spending the next three years.. and a lot of money at college.

It is worth checking it out!!

IF YOU CAN,T GO YOURSELF  
TRYTO TALK TO CURRENT  
STUDENTS (Perhaps past pupils)

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# UCAS Application (1)

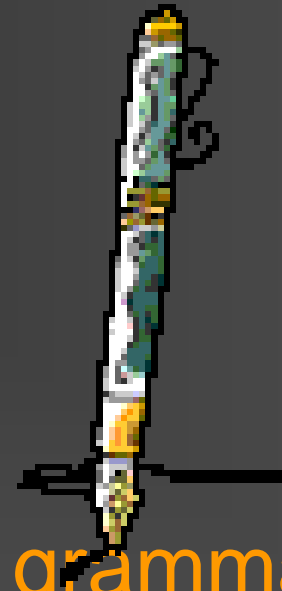
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Applications will be judged on presentation.  
Not are you artistic?

Is your form presentable?

I'm amazed at the appalling grammar and  
punctuation I see.

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# UCAS Application (2)

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- FOUR PARTS TO FORM:  
(for you to complete)

Personal details

Education history/ qualifications

Choice of courses (5)

Personal Statement.

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# UCAS Application (3): Personal details/ Qualifications.

- Check that all details are correct and that spelling and grammar are correct
- Check that all sections are complete.
- Check that results are accurate.
- If you have not cashed in AS level results then do not include these in the results section.
- You may include key skills.

# UCAS Application (4)

## Personal Statement



- Never bullshit, it's the first rule. You will be found out. My advice would be, if you've done no work experience, say that you want to do economics because you always read The Economist and the business pages and understand that it is so important. Or pick something else you can do at home to demonstrate your interest. Make sure you do it though, or you may get found out again.

# UCAS Application (5)

## Personal Statement

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- Try to avoid starting it: “I’ve been fascinated by x since...” or “Since I was a kid...” I’ve seen those so many times before. Also don’t try to be a smarty pants and start it: “As Descartes says...” There’s nothing worse than being pretentious.
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# UCAS Application (6)

## Personal Statement

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Get someone else to read it, not your Mum or Dad, another adult. Ask them how you come across. Do you seem pathetic or arrogant? You want to create the right impression.

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# UCAS Application (7)

## Personal Statement

- YOUR STATEMENT MUST BE THE WAY IN WHICH YOUR APPLICATION 'SHINES'.

### IT MUST INCLUDE;

- Why you have selected the course/career
- How the course fits into your career plan
- How your skills and qualities make you a suitable applicant
- How your work experience has contributed to your decision to apply and to your suitability for the course.

# UCAS Application (8)

## Personal Statement

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YOU MUST,  
throughout your statement,  
PROVIDE EVIDENCE

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# UCAS Application (9)

## Personal Statement

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### Examples:

I am a caring person....

as seen by my work in school as a peer tutor for children with learning disabilities.

In my role as a senior prefect I demonstrate leadership qualities...

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I work well in a team and..

as captain of the school basketball team I have demonstrated the ability to motivate others..

# UCAS Application (10)

## Personal Statement

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- “The best forms are by people who really show why they want to do something. A love of the subject and clear demonstration that this love has been reflected by what you have done, seen or read is vital. Be truthful though, after 15 years reading applications, I can smell a liar straight away and if I can smell it so can the university. Be yourself and show why you want to do the course.”
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# Deadlines for UCAS Applications at Holy Cross College

- **15<sup>th</sup> October** :Deadline for early applicants (applications to be sent off )
- **26<sup>th</sup> October**: Deadline for complete application from student: to include
  - personal details/
  - education history/
  - choice of courses/
  - personal statement
- **YOUR TUTOR WILL GIVE YOU INDIVIDUAL DEADLINES FOR FIRST DRAFTS ETC:**
- **YOU MUST CO-OPERATE WITH YOUR TUTORS AS THEY WILL BE WRITING YOUR REFERENCES!!**