



JOHNSTONE
HIGH SCHOOL

DETERMINATION • HONESTY • RESPECT
FRIENDSHIP • TOLERANCE • RESPONSIBILITY

Thinking about
going to university?

The Johnstone High School
Guide

Top tips for research

There are a number of things for you to consider when applying for higher education in the UK, such as:

- choosing a subject you enjoy as you are investing time, money, and effort
- whether it's right for your career path?
- the location, including transport links
- a study style that suits you
- extracurricular activities to take part in
- finances

Why research?

It is really important to research the course you want and you should be asking these type of questions...

- Am I staying at home or moving away?
- How long is the course?
- What are the topic I will study? Are there topics contained that I enjoy more than others?
- How easy is it to swap if I don't like?
- What type of teaching is it? Is it more theory than practical?
- Is there an element of work placement?
- Is there an element of studying abroad?

The following slide shows just a few examples of the diversity.

Prospectus

UCAS exhibition in September

Online for each university

Use generic search comparison sites like

Which, whatuni or theuniguide

Minimum Requirements

As the name suggests

These are **MINIMUM** and not a **GUARANTEE**

REACH and ACCESS

The REACH and ACCESS programmes are run in partnership with University of Glasgow

They are part of the Widening Access programme

Pupils who wish to study Law, Medicine, Vet Medicine and Dentistry go into the REACH programme

Pupils who wish to study Accountancy, Primary Teaching or Engineering go into the ACCESS programme

Pupils can start in S4 or S5 but they need to register and **complete a variety of assignments and summer school**- either 1 day or 1 week depending on programme.

It offers boosts to grades, LNAT and UKCAT and advice on personal statements

REACH and ACCESS

The REACH and ACCESS programmes accept pupils who fit one of the categories

- **Reside in MD20/40 ie. SIMD 1-4 (check your post code) – now necessary**
- Care experienced
- Carer
- Estranged (living without family support)
- Asylum Seeker
- Refugee

LNAT and UCAT

What is LNAT?

The **LNAT** is used by universities to help them select people for their undergraduate law courses. The test doesn't test your knowledge of law or any other subject. Instead, it helps universities assess your aptitude for the skills required to study law.

Which Universities Require an LNAT Test?

- University of Bristol.
- Durham University.
- University of Glasgow.**
- King's College London.
- The University of Nottingham.
- University of Oxford.
- University College London, Faculty of Laws.
- LSE London School of Economics and Political Science.

An **LNAT costs** £75

They are external courses not run by the school and have to be booked by the pupil.

LNAT and UCAT

The UCAT Test

What Is the **UCAT** Test? For those looking to study a degree in medicine or dentistry, the University Clinical Aptitude Test (**UCAT**) is one of the most challenging stages in the application process. It is used by a number of UK universities to filter candidates looking to apply for their medical programmes.

University of Dundee

University of Glasgow

University of Aberdeen

University of Edinburgh

University of St Andrews

St George's, University of London.

King's College, University of London.

University of Liverpool.

University of Newcastle.

Plymouth University.

Queen Mary, University of London.

University of Sheffield.

The price of the UCAT is £70 and is booked by an external organisation. It must be booked by pupil directly

Key dates

15 October 2024 (18:00 UK time) – deadline for Oxford or Cambridge, and most courses in medicine, dentistry, or veterinary medicine/science.

2nd October 2024 (18:00 UK time) – deadline for some music courses at RCS.

29 January 2025 (18:00 UK time) – deadline for the majority of undergraduate courses. (We expect all applications be be made by December 2024)

30 June 2025 (18:00 UK time) – last date to submit an application before Clearing.

Clearing

Clearing is how universities and colleges fill any places they still have on their courses. From 5 July – 19 October, you can apply for a course using Clearing if you're not already holding an offer from a university or college, and the course still has places. You can use Clearing if:
you're applying after 30 June.

Once a choice has been selected, you cannot add another, unless you've been unsuccessful with the first one. If you want to apply elsewhere once you've added a choice, then you need to ask that university to cancel your place so you're able to apply again through Clearing.

UCAS extra choice

Available for one of the following reasons:

1. You didn't use all of your 5 choices – you can add the 'extra'
2. If you used all 5 choices and you have received decisions (perhaps rejections)
3. If you used all 5 choices and you decided to decline any offers

The UCAS application

Nine sections to complete:

1. Personal details
2. Contact & Residency Details
3. Nationality Details
4. Supporting Information
5. English Language Skills
6. Finance & Funding
7. Education
8. Employment
9. Personal Statement



UCAS



Universities and colleges

These can be completed in any order though traditionally personal details are completed first.

Registration points

- Before applying, students have to register an account with UCAS.
- School staff take each student through the registration process.
- Each student gets a unique username and ID code. **THEY CANNOT LOSE THIS.**
- **UCAS will ask for the code before they enter into any dialogue on the phone or by email.**
- Students can nominate another person to access their account – usually a family member
- They also need to identify where their funding will come from – usually SAAS

Personal statement

Your one chance to sell yourself as an individual, to show course providers why you want to study the course in the UK and why you would make a great student.

- One personal statement for **all** choices.
- Maximum of 4,000 characters or 47 lines.
- Minimum of 1,000 characters.
- No spelling or grammar checks.

The role of the Personal Statement

The Personal Statement should:

- Set you apart from other applications
- Give you the opportunity to show how interested you are in the course
- Show your range of skills and abilities
- Detail relevant work experience – very important for vocational degrees



What are universities looking for?

- Evidence that you have researched the subject area
- Rationale behind any differing course choices
- Examples of your communication skills and skills relevant to the degree itself
- Your career aspirations



Guidelines

- You can only write one personal statement for all 5 choices
- Limited to 4,000 characters or 47 lines of text (including spaces and blank lines).
- The statement needs to be your own work – ‘Copycatch’ similarity detection system is used by UCAS to screen all applications



What should you include?

- A reason for choosing the course
- Any background interest in the area
- Particular interest in current studies
- Any employment, work experience or voluntary work and the skills developed
- Reasons for deferring (if applicable) and plans for your year out



What should you include?

- Social, sporting or other interests and activities
- Details of non-examined subjects being studied
- Particular relatable achievements
- Positions of responsibility
- Evidence of team working ability



Universities' decisions

Universities and colleges will review:

- personal statement
- reference
- qualifications
- admissions test results
- interview
- portfolio
- audition

Usually, you will get one of three decisions:

- **unconditional** offer
- **conditional** offer
- **unsuccessful**

Replies to offers

Once final decisions are received for your choices, a maximum of two offers may be held.

You have a choice of three replies.

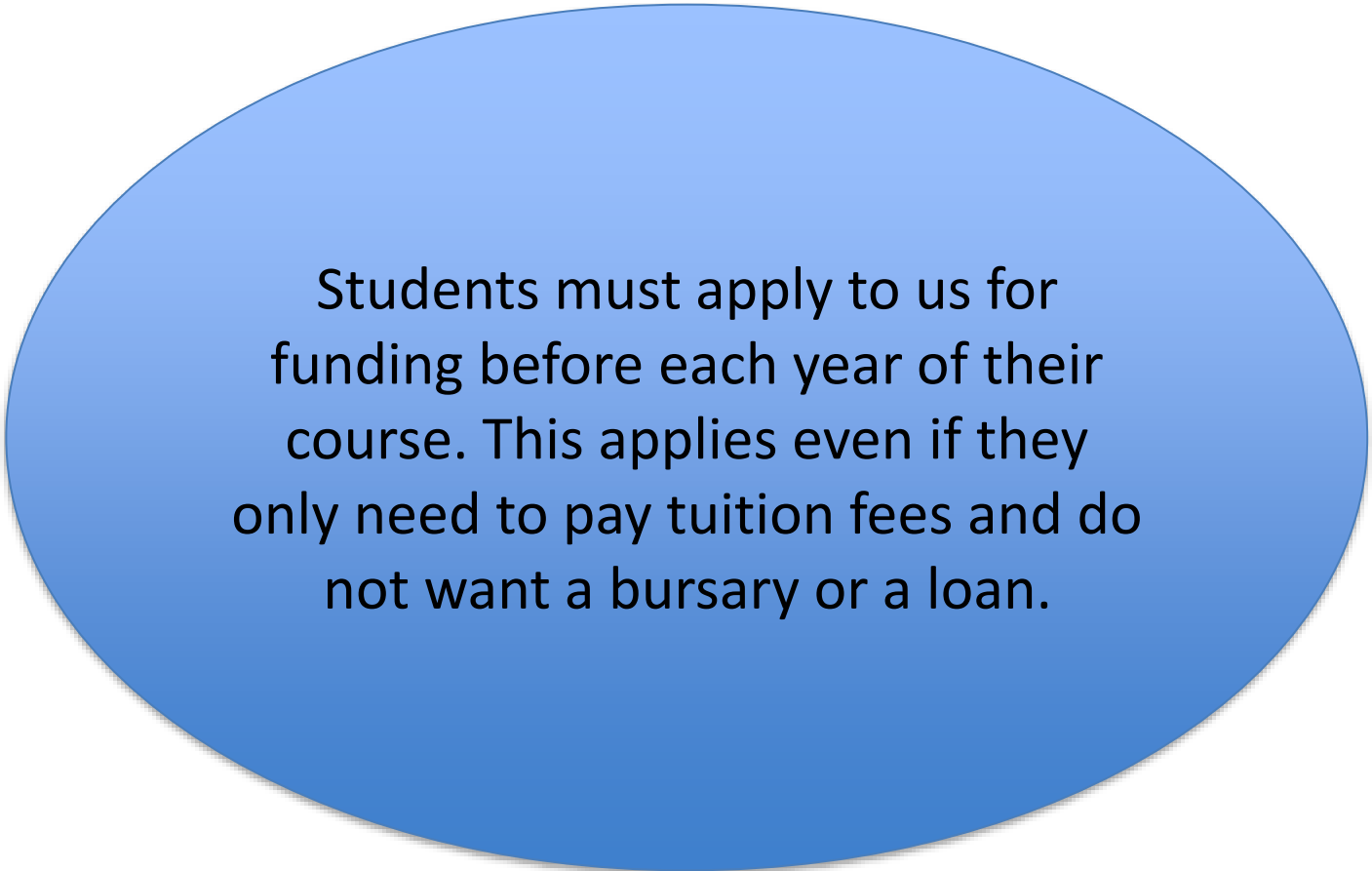
- **Firm** – if all conditions are met, this is your first choice and where you will be placed if you meet the conditions of your offer.
- **Insurance** – usually lower conditions in case the firm choice conditions are not met; acts as a back-up (it is optional to have an insurance choice).
- All other offers must be **declined**.

Other things to consider

- Cost of UCAS Application: £27
- If you are in receipt of Free School Meals, UCAS applications are free
- Finance while studying at university: course fees, travel, and living costs.
- Travel – to and from your country, and within the UK.
- Accommodation – university and college halls or private residences?

SAAS

Funding your future

A large, light blue oval with a thin dark blue border is centered on a white background. Inside the oval, there is a block of text in a black, sans-serif font. The text is centered and reads: "Students must apply to us for funding before each year of their course. This applies even if they only need to pay tuition fees and do not want a bursary or a loan."

Students must apply to us for funding before each year of their course. This applies even if they only need to pay tuition fees and do not want a bursary or a loan.

When to apply for funding

Students should submit an [online application](#) on or before the guarantee date 30 June. Applying on or before 30 June helps have the funding in place at the start of their course.

They should not wait on exam results or an unconditional offer before applying. They should apply with their first choice.