

The UCAS Application

The UCAS application is the UK version of the Common App and is used for applying to colleges and universities throughout the UK. The process is quite different from applying to schools within the US and requires considerable research by the student. Some universities in the UK also take the Common Application and it should be used when possible, (the University of St. Andrews, University of Glasgow, Kings College London & the University of Bristol to name a few). Below is an outline of some basic information including both UCAS and Seattle Prep deadlines.

Applicants need to select that they are applying as 'independent applicants' when they start their application, rather than through Seattle Prep. This will allow you to set the application up without a "Buzzword".

Undergraduate degrees take 3 years in the UK system instead of 4, so you enter straight into your major. When applying through the UCAS system therefore, you are not applying to a university but directly to a course of study within a university. Unlike US schools who use a more holistic approach, UCAS admissions is looking to see how well prepared, and academically suitable you are for your chosen course. Because of this, starting your research early is key to setting up a senior schedule that will academically support your chosen course of study.

Most British Universities will evaluate the credentials of an applicant by their suitability for their chosen course of study using standardized test and AP Exam scores. **If at all possible, AP Classes should be related to your chosen course of study.** Each institution has clear guidelines for testing requirements on their websites. Qualifications and requirements can differ from course to course within a university so researching requirements for each course of study at each university is very important. Some schools will take a combination of SAT's and AP Tests, others do not. Some will count a year of an honor's course. It is up to you to know the requirements for each school as the requirements are non-negotiable.

You may apply to up to 5 schools with the UCAS application, but not more. By the end of March, you will receive one of three answers.

- A Conditional Offer - This guarantees you a place at the university upon attaining the required AP scores. Therefore, you will not be sure if you meet the requirements until your scores are available in July.
- An Unconditional offer - This guarantees you a place at the university with no conditions.
- A Denial

UCAS Deadlines

- October 15 for Oxford, Cambridge and most medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine and a few science courses.
- January 25 6:00pm **UK Time** – For the majority of applications - Remember the UK is 8 hours ahead of us!

Sorting out your Acceptances

Students applying for the 23-24 school year will need to check your application to see the deadline required for you to narrow down your acceptances to two. These reply deadlines are based on when you get the last decision from your university or college choices. This website can also help with deadline information:

[2023 entry: If you receive all decisions by 18 May, reply by 8 June | Key date | UCAS](#)

Summer after Senior Year

You MUST email me in July after your AP scores come out and your final school is confirmed. Some, but not all schools will require an official final transcript at this time. Some will require I send it directly to them, once you have inputted my email address. Others will require you to upload a signed copy into your portal. This is the final step that involves Prep.

Teacher Recommendation and Seattle Prep Deadlines

Within the UCAS application the recommendation is called a reference and it is different than a recommendation written for a US university. You need to select a teacher who can write specifically about your knowledge of, and preparedness for, your selected course of study.

In order to apply through the UCAS and obtain a reference from your teacher you must complete the steps listed below by **September 15 for all October 15th UCAS deadlines & November 15 for all January 25th UCAS deadlines**

- Set up a time to meet with Mrs. O'Neil. She will help both you and the teacher writing your reference through the process and give you detailed information about writing your essay. At the meeting you will need to provide the name of the AP courses you have/are taking and the names of the teachers for each course.
- Ask your teacher to write your recommendation and then meet with them.
- Submit your teacher's name and email to UCAS and email both your teacher and Mrs. O'Neil to let them know this step has been completed.

Applying to Cambridge or Oxford

If you are considering applying to Oxford or Cambridge please know these two schools are extremely competitive. In general, they are looking for a SAT score of 1400+ ACT of 32+ and a score of 5 on three or more AP Tests in appropriate subjects. You may only apply to one of these two schools and each school has different admission requirements. For instance, Cambridge requires a second application (COPA) for international students as well as a supplementary application questionnaire (SAQ). Oxford requires a test for all applicants and some candidates are granted an interview, which will most likely take place out of state. One more time – research is key to understanding the requirements and process for applying to these two highly selective schools.

Oxford requires you to submit a graded paper:

The work you send in must be original and ideally have been produced during the course of your school, marked by a teacher and not re-written or corrected in any way. Please make sure to include details about the circumstances under which your work was produced on the cover sheet provided. Tell them under what conditions you wrote the essay, with what help, and in what timeframe. Tutors will take that information into account. 2000 word maximum.

A good website to check out that includes a UK Directory, a UK vs US Higher Education guide and much more: <http://www.ukcollegeadmissions.com/>