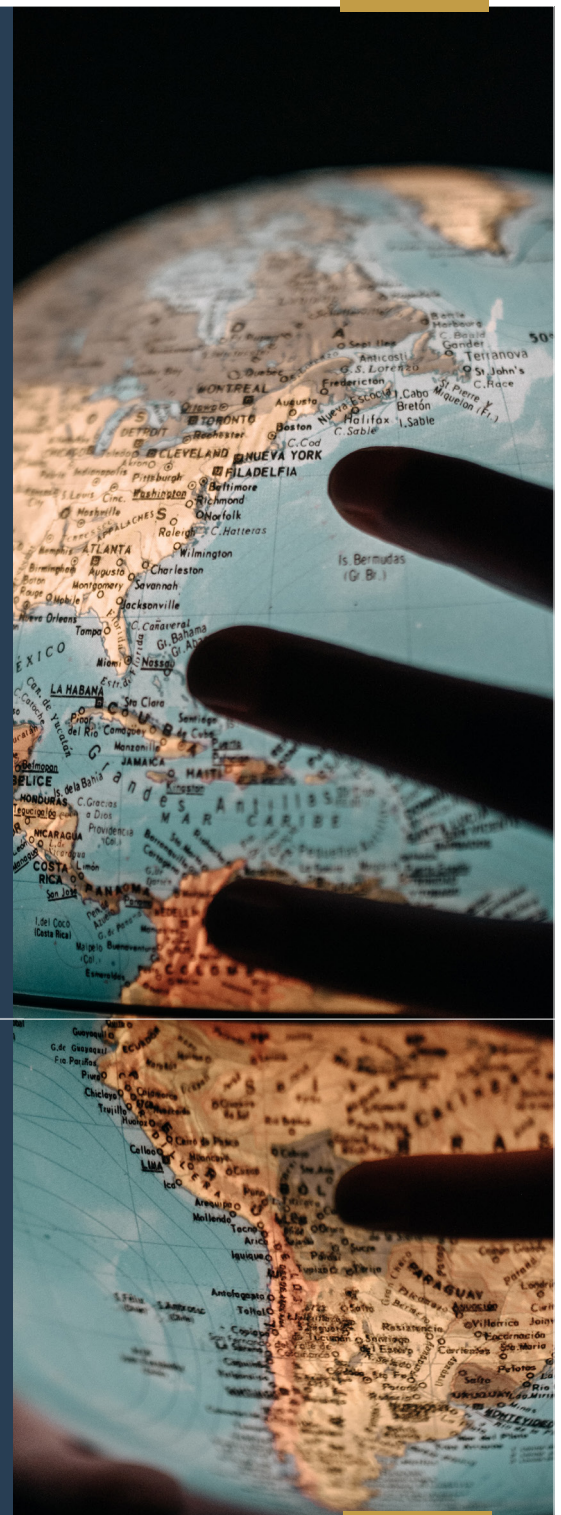




Nobel Algarve
BRITISH
INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL

Future Pathways & University Guide 2025/26



A photograph of three young women in a library or study hall. The woman in the foreground, with long blonde hair, is resting her chin on her hand and looking down at an open book on the table. She is wearing a black t-shirt. To her left, a woman with long dark hair is sitting at a desk with a laptop, looking at the screen. She is wearing a dark blue t-shirt with the number '92' on it. To the right, another woman with long blonde hair is sitting at a desk, looking at her smartphone. She is wearing a green patterned top. In the background, there are wooden bookshelves filled with books and a white curtain.

“It might still seem like a long way off, but now is the time to start thinking about your future pathways and university choices.”



Introduction

Message for the Students

It might still seem like a long way off, but now is the time to start thinking about your **future pathways and university choices**. Now that you have finished your **Year 12 studies here at Nobel**, you will probably have figured out **what subjects you enjoy (an important factor when choosing your degree) and you may even have some ideas about the career path you wish to follow**. On the other hand, it is normal not to have any firm ideas yet or know where to start.

When you return to school in September of the new academic year you will start your university application process. This will be especially the case if you are thinking of **applying to UK universities as application deadlines can be as soon as October (for medical based courses)**. If you are **not applying to UK universities**, it is important to **research key dates and deadlines for each university, as these can vary between each institution and country of which you wish to study in**. This small guide aims to **give you key information on applying to universities as well as activities that you can do over the summer holidays** to make your application process easier.



A photograph of four students (two boys and two girls) standing in a school hallway. They are all wearing school uniforms with the NCBEL logo. The student on the far left is a boy in a dark sweater. The second student is a girl in a grey hoodie. The third student is a girl in a dark sweater. The student on the far right is a boy in a white polo shirt. They are all smiling and looking towards the camera. The hallway has a white ceiling and walls, with a yellow handrail visible in the background.

Getting Started and Planning Your Future

It's important that you start to consider your post-school plans now – but with so many options, where should you start? Here are some factors to consider:



Subject ideas

- **A subject that you study now**

If it is a subject that you **really enjoy and currently study at A Level, consider whether this is going to keep you interested in the next few years at university**, and which career path(s) it might lead to.

- **A subject related to a career**

If you already have an idea of your career pathway, **explore whether you need to study a specific degree subject to get a job in that field, if your options are more flexible.**

- **A completely new subject**

There are many degree-level disciplines that you may not have encountered in your GCSE or A Level studies. If you are thinking of **choosing a completely new degree course, assess its suitability with an open mind, and ask whether you will enjoy the course and be able to access the content.**

- **Still not sure?**

It is not unusual to be unsure about your future pathway at this stage, so try not to worry! Many students decide to choose university courses that are commonly asked for by employers. These are known as “**facilitating**” subjects, and include the sciences, English, geography, history, mathematics, and languages. **Doing what you enjoy most and good at is always a good idea too**, as this is usually the subject(s) you’ ll do best in and go on to study after leaving school.





Researching your options

If you decide that going to university is the right path for you, there is still lots of research to do, in the UK alone there are approximately 35,000 undergraduate courses to choose from.



1. Get online and start researching

If you are considering **applying to UK universities**, now is the time to **sign-up to the UCAS website for free**. UCAS is the **application platform that is used to for applying to all UK university courses**. You are allowed to choose a maximum of **5 undergraduate courses in the UK** that can be from different universities.

- **Register through the UCAS HUB to start exploring your options**, favourite subjects, and using handy tools such as careers quizzes as well as every undergraduate university degree course available in the UK.
- **Use the step-by-step guidance to choosing a course at ucas.com/choosing-a-course**, which covers choosing a subject, the right type of degree, how to study, and where to study (UK courses only). This is still worth looking at if you are considering a course at universities in other countries as it will give you an idea of the types of courses that are available in higher education.
- **Look at individual university websites for in-depth details about their facilities and courses and explore the campus with virtual tours**. Remember that different countries will have different entry requirements.



Link to Start researching:

<https://accounts.ucas.com/account/login?returnUrl=https%3A//www.ucas.com/dashboard%23/>

<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/what-and-where-study/how-choose-right-undergraduate-course-you>



2. University events and open days


If possible, it is always worth **contacting the university and finding out when it would be possible to visit**. **University open days give you the chance to look around the campus, meet staff and students, and see if you would be happy living and studying there.** Open days are great for giving you peace of mind, knowing that you will be studying in a familiar place. **Visit individual university websites** to find out when there have designated open days. If you can't visit in person, find out whether a virtual tour is available.

3. Get informed

Entry Requirements

It is important that you understand the **entry requirements for courses that you are interested in**. Also, speak to your **teachers early in the academic year to get an idea of your final predicted grades**. Usually, your AS grades will give you a realistic indication of what you are aiming for by the **end of Year 13**. **Do not apply to universities that are asking for grades that are beyond your expectations, you must be realistic.**





Making your application stand out from the crowd

When applying to university or any other pathway you choose, you are likely to be asked for more than just your academic achievements. Universities often ask for personal statements, letters of motivation or CV's. To make your application stand out, here are some extra-curricular ideas to consider that will be highly regarded when you are applying:



1. Work experience

Work experience looks great on a personal statement and CV, but only if you can reflect on what you have learnt from it, and how it is relevant to the course/job you are applying for. Work experience doesn't always have to be in a relevant industry – at this stage, just gaining some experience in the workplace is more important.

2. Part-time work

A Saturday job in a shop can demonstrate potential to a university admissions team. When writing about your work, be specific and describe a situation that you have dealt with. How did you handle the situation? What did you learn? Keep the details relevant to the course and describe how the skills link to the degree you are applying to. If you have developed strong communication skills by interacting with customers, mention how you would put these skills to good use in presenting to your class or seminar presentations.

3. Volunteering

Whilst we will endeavour to accommodate your combination of subjects, some combinations cannot be met due to timetabling constraints. Subjects where demand is very small (less than 5 students) may be withdrawn. In these cases

4. Clubs and hobbies

Talking about other interests or hobbies helps inject some personality into your personal statement, but only include examples that are relevant to the chosen course.

Writing your personal statement

Most universities will ask for a personal statement in one form or another. For most of you, this will be the first time that you have had to write reflectively about yourself. Taking a positive approach, and leaving enough time to do a good job, really can make your personal statement stand out. Over the summer holiday's take a look at the personal statement tool that is available here: <https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/writing-personal-statement/introducing-personal-statement-tool>





To get started, consider the following:

- **Think about what would make your statement interesting**, and what would make yours stand out in a positive way.
- **Write down a whole load of words** – anything that shows why you are excited about the course(s) that you are applying for.
- **Remember why you chose the subject that you wish to study.**
- **List the work experience or other activities as supporting evidence**, to show why you would make a great candidate for the course.
- **Think about skills you could use on the course, such as leadership, communication, and time management.**
- **Consider any role that you have taken at school, including ambassador roles or participation in the Citizenship at School scheme.**
- **Ask your subject teacher for advice.**

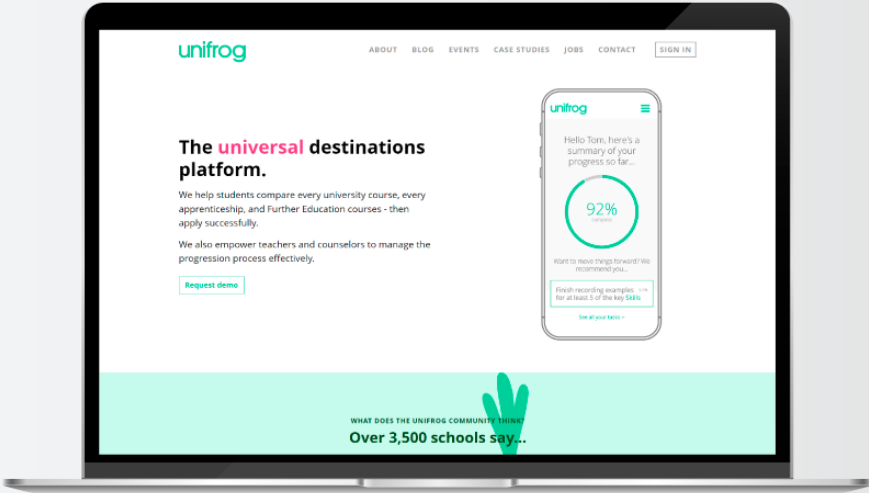
Start working on your personal statement over the summer so it can be perfected at the beginning of Year 13. More time spent on your personal statement now means that you have less to worry about when applying to universities and you can focus your time on examination preparation.

Link to Personal Statement

<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/writing-personal-statement/introducing-personal-statement-tool>


You have all been assigned a **Unifrog account** where you can **access courses from all over the world** that are taught in English. As well as this, there is a **“Know How library with videos and information regarding different application processes around the world** and how applications can vary between countries.

If you are considering applying to the **US**, **Unifrog has a useful section about the Common App process and what is expected from students that are applying to the United States.** Unifrog also contains information about studying in various countries such as the Netherlands, France, Germany and Spain.



The image shows a laptop displaying the Unifrog website. The website has a green header with the Unifrog logo and navigation links: ABOUT, BLOG, EVENTS, CASE STUDIES, JOBS, CONTACT, and a SIGN IN button. The main content area features the heading "The universal destinations platform." followed by two paragraphs of text and a "Request demo" button. To the right of the text is a smartphone displaying a progress summary for a user named Toni, showing a 92% completion rate. At the bottom of the laptop screen, there is a green banner with the text "WHAT DOES THE UNIFROG COMMUNITY THINK? Over 3,500 schools say..." and a green hand icon pointing upwards.

Scan to see the website:



Link to Unifrog Account

<https://www.unifrog.org/>



Questions to ask yourself



Do application deadlines vary between different countries?

The simple answer is yes. If you have an idea of where in the world you wish to apply to, it is important that you do **not miss the application deadline – these vary a great deal of where you want to study and even between individual universities in some countries.** Therefore, **planning in advance, and making sure that you have your personal statements and references prepared is essential.** If you are interested in a particular university, it is never too early to contact their admissions team to find out about application deadlines, **course requirements and open days.** You should be aiming to have a clear idea of interested university courses by the start of Year 13.

What type of teaching would suit your learning style best?

- Large group lectures
- Small group seminars
- Practical hands-on workshops
- Peer-to-peer learning – projects based in groups
- Individual tutorials
- Lots of reading and research between lectures

What is your budget?

- How will you finance your tuition fees? Fees vary a great deal between different countries and universities.
- How much money will you have to live on for socialising, food, travel, sports activities, gym memberships, etc?
- Do you plan to save money before you go to university to support yourself?
- Will you look to earn money during evening and weekend whilst at university? Can you balance your workload?
- Have you calculated the average cost of living in the place that you are likely to study? Unifrog is a great resource providing information about cost of living in different cities/countries.
- Have you researched scholarship opportunities for university funding?

A photograph of a male teacher in a light blue shirt leaning over a desk to assist two male students. The student on the left is wearing a dark sweater and looking down at his work. The student on the right is wearing a white polo shirt and smiling. They are in a classroom setting with a whiteboard and colorful sticky notes in the background.

Form time and support

From September of the new academic year, students in Year 13 will have dedicated tutor time to future pathways workshops, providing assistance in the process of their university applications. This will include enrolment onto the UCAS system for students wishing to apply to UK institutions, researching key dates and deadlines, contacting universities, as well preparation of personal statements and CV's. There will also be dedicated sessions for students who wish to apply to Portuguese universities as well as other international courses.



Research resources to get you started



Helpfull tips

Don't get too bogged **down with university league table** – research universities and courses that suits your needs. **If you are happy with your course and campus you are likely to perform much better than if you are feeling uncomfortable with your choice. Make the best decision for YOU.**

These websites will be a good place to start your research:

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

<https://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/>

<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/>

<https://www.educations.com/>

<https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/>

<https://internationalservices.hsbc.com/study-abroad/how-to-choose-the-right-university/>

We wish all of your students best of luck! For any enquiries just email: david.green@nobelalgarve.com





Nobel Algarve

BRITISH
INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL

LAGOA

Shaping the world

NOBEL ALGARVE BRITISH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
BARROS BRANCOS, EN 125, 8400-400, LAGOA, PORTUGAL | NIF 500 089 787 - ECUBAL SA
(+351) 282 342 547 | INFO@NOBELALGARVE.COM | NOBELALGARVE.COM



a proud member of
globeDucate