

Welcome to  
The Kings of Wessex Academy  
Higher Education  
Information Evening  
2017

# Introductions

- Sara Vaughn, Cardiff University
  - Student Finance
- Rachel Hopwood, Head of Sixth Form
  - UCAS, the application process and what we do in school to support students
- Lisa Hall, Careers Adviser
  - Choosing a degree

# 2016/17...HE in the news..

News > Education

## University tuition fees in England now the highest in the world, new analysis suggests

English students 'pay 25 times more' than their French peers

Ben Kentish | @BenKentish | Tuesday 28 March 2017 16:41 BST | 5 comments



## Recruitment of graduates and apprentices in North East launched by BT



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## World university subject rankings 2017: new stars emerge

The latest rankings from QS show that the UK and US are still leaders in many fields - but competition is increasing from other international players

- [University rankings by subject - tables](#)



Advertisement

# Why choose Higher Education?

- Develops transferable skills for work – new base level (= A level)
- Deeper academic knowledge of subject
- Experience of different perspectives
- Chance to develop and mature
- Learn essential life skills
- Networking
- Improved employment (87% graduates, compared to 70% for 16-64 UK work force, 2016)
- Employers recruit graduates to 'add value'
- 50% vacancies (2004- 2020) require graduates
- Improves career prospects/satisfaction
- Financial reward – graduates earn more (average 27% more every year over working lifetime)



# Higher Education options?

- Education post-18
  - 1960 – 5% - 2000 – 30% - now – 40%
- 80% 2016 successful applicants from KOW to HE

Qualifications

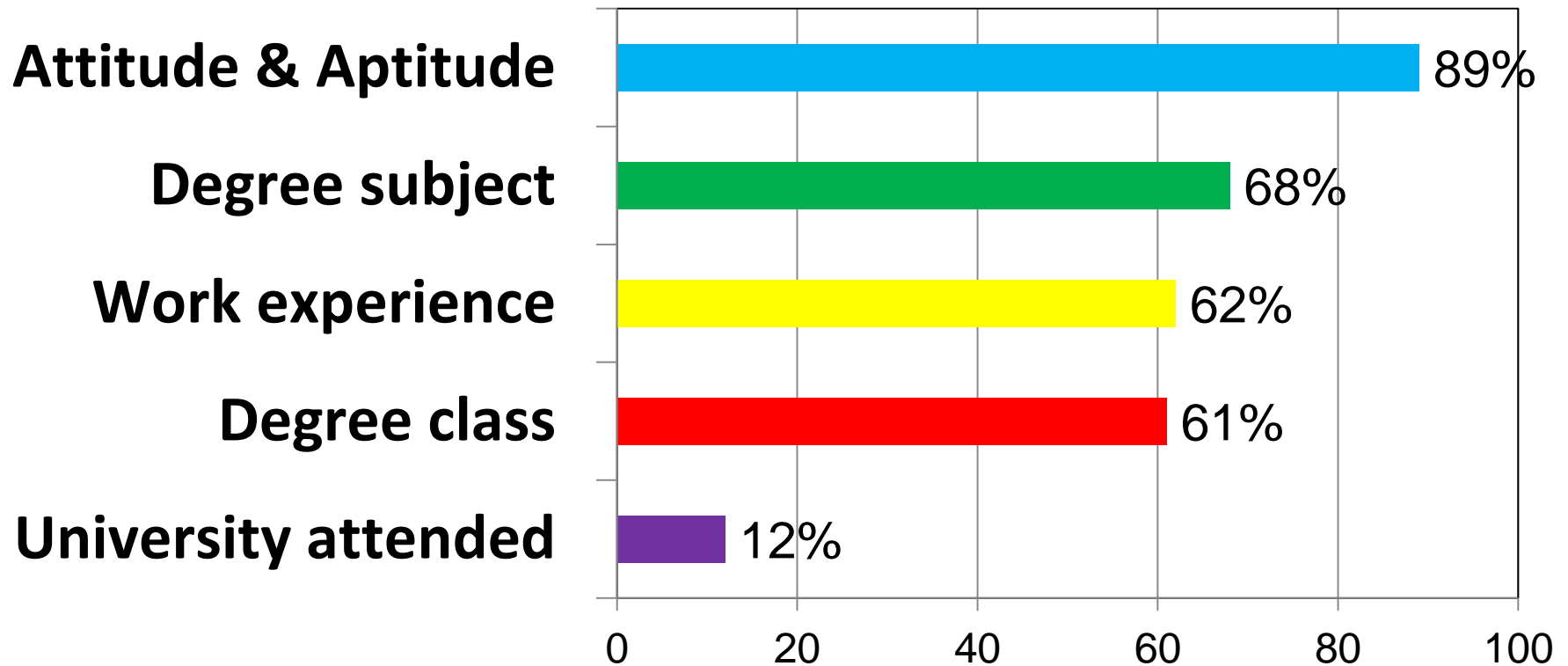
Institution

Admissions -  
UCAS

Academic or  
Vocational

Distance learning,  
apprenticeship or  
trainee scheme

# What employers want....



Source: CBI Report (2014) – Responses from 291 employers, employing 1.4million in total

# First degree choice (BA, BSc, LLB etc)



## Academic

Old - e.g. English

New - e.g. Archaeology



Most don't use their degree...

**“Good all-rounder”**

## Semi-vocational

e.g. Business Studies

e.g. Environmental Science



- 1,800 degree subjects
- >35,000 degree courses
- 380 HE institutions

## Vocational

e.g. Medicine

e.g. Architecture



Most do use their degree...

**“Vocational specialist”**

# Which is the most competitive?

What?	Where?
Physiotherapy	UWE
Law	Exeter
History	Cambridge
Midwifery	Liverpool John Moores
Sociology	Bath University
Medicine	Queen's University, Belfast
Apprenticeship	Marks & Spencer



What?	Where?	Number of applicants receiving offers
Physiotherapy	UWE	22%
Law	Exeter	88%
History	Cambridge	36%
<b>Midwifery</b>	<b>Liverpool John Moores</b>	<b>2%</b>
Sociology	Bath University	83%
Medicine	Queen's University, Belfast	37%
<b>Apprenticeship</b>	<b>Marks &amp; Spencer</b>	<b>1%</b>
<i>Source: Which? University, 2016</i>		

- **Do your research before you apply**
  - What are the entry requirements? Do you meet and exceed?
  - How competitive is the course?
  - How can you improve your chance of success?
  - What is your back-up plan?

# UCAS

## University and Colleges Admissions System

- Course search [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)

The screenshot shows the UCAS website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for UCAS, Advisers, Providers, Corporate, Events, Connect, Careerfinder (marked with a 'NEW' badge), Sign in, and Register. Below this is the UCAS logo and tagline: 'At the heart of connecting people to higher education'. To the right, there is a 'Next event' section for 'West Wales higher education exhibiti...' in Carmarthen on 22 Mar 2016, with a 'More events' link. A search bar labeled 'Keyword search' is also present.

Below the navigation bar, there is a horizontal menu with categories: 16-18 Choices, Undergraduate (highlighted in red), Conservatoires, Teacher Training, Postgraduate, and Not sure (with a question mark). Below this is a red bar with links: Getting started, Choosing a course (underlined), Apply and Track, and Finance and support.

The breadcrumb trail reads: Home > UCAS > Undergraduate > Choosing a course.

The main content area features an article titled 'Choosing a course'. The sub-header is 'How to choose between similar courses and unis'. The text states: 'There are over 37,000 undergraduate courses at over 370 providers in the UK. Most applicants choose up to five similar courses to increase their chances of getting a place.'

On the left side, there are several widgets: 'Events and open days' with a dropdown arrow, 'Know your rights!', and a 'UCAS on Twitter' widget showing a tweet from 3 seconds ago by UCAS blogger Itunu, sharing an update on her recent open day visits with a link to [ow.ly/ZNdfg](http://ow.ly/ZNdfg).

Below the article, there is another section titled 'How to choose a course' with the text: 'After getting started with what to study, entry requirements and application deadlines, you might still find a large number of courses to choose from around the country. Browsing through the search tool might give you inspiration, or you could read our tips on how to choose between similar courses and providers, or visit a uni to see what it's like.'

## Grades or points?

**Some universities make offers based on grades (e.g. ABB), others based on points (tariff), or both!**

### **Count points at AS or A level!**

- ⦿ Points offers vary depending on course/institution, and may specify grades for subject(s) as well
- ⦿ Points can be awarded for other recognised exams at equivalent level e.g. level 3 BTEC Performing Arts, Music/Speech/Dance/Drama grade 6+, BHS, Sport Leaders
- ⦿ The Extended Project Qualification is equivalent to an half an A level (A\*-E); an AS is now worth 40% of the equivalent grade at full A level.

# Tariff (from 2017 entry)

	New Tariff
A level grade A*	56
A level grade A	48
A level grade B	40
A level grade C	32
A level grade D	24
A level grade E	16

- **The AS has been repositioned as 40% of an A level**
- **EPQ still 50% of a full A level**

## Some typical offers 2017

- **Medicine**, University of Manchester AAA (UKCAT & interview)
- **Dentistry**, Cardiff University AAA (UKCAT & interview)
- **Veterinary Medicine**, University of Edinburgh AAA (interview)
- **Mathematics**, University of Oxford A\*A\*A (MAT & interview)
- **Natural Sciences**, Cambridge University A\*A\*A (TSA & interview)
  
- **Chemistry** A\*A\*A-CCC
- **Engineering** A\*A\*A-CC
- **Psychology** A\*A\*A-BC
- **French** AAA-96 points (CCC)
- **Nursing** AAA-CC
- **English** A\*AA-DD

# Gap (or R&D) years

**Universities (and employers) like students to take gap years!**



- Enhances commitment, independence and maturity
- But check before deferring for maths, physics , engineering

**A typical gap year – important to include all three:**

- **Earn money** to fund the experience
- **Independent travel** (with or without friends)
- **Community or self-development project** with a recognised Gap organisation e.g. teach English in South America

**Defer in UCAS application, OR call your university choices during Year 13 – or even on Results Day – most will agree**

# The application process - UCAS

- ◎ September 2017 – Application process begins
- ◎ 15 October – Closing date for Oxbridge, Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science
- ◎ 15 January – Closing date for all other courses
- ◎ Students start to accept places – firm and insurance
- ◎ End of February – ‘Extra’ choices made for students with no offers
- ◎ 31 March – All universities to have offered places (except to ‘Extra’ students)
- ◎ 6 May – Choices confirmed – firm and insurance
- ◎ August – Results, ‘Clearing’ and ‘Adjustment’ (ABB) – students find places on courses with vacancies

# The application process - KOW

- **Decide on courses (multiple hours) NOW**  
Course searches, open days, conferences
- **Draft personal statement - 4000 characters including spaces (3 hours)**
- **Register on UCAS site – login & password (10 min) JUNE**
- **Complete personal details and education - apart from AS results (2 hours) JUNE**
- **Enter AS results (10 min) AUGUST**
- **Enter choices (1 hour) SEPTEMBER**
- **Finalise personal statement (2 hours)**
- **Check (2 hours)**
- **Pay and send (2 min) OCTOBER**
- **October half term deadline**
- **Subject references (teaching staff), personal reference (tutor), qualifications check ( office), final check (HoS)**
- **Mock interviews**




# Be aware



- Clinical Aptitude Tests (UKCAT) for some universities, for entry to Medicine or Dentistry
- BMAT tests (Biomedical Admissions Test)
- LNAT tests for entrance to Law
- Sixth Term Examination Paper (STEP) for Maths
- Oxbridge – specify a college or make an open application
- Oxbridge – admissions tests for most subjects
- Cambridge – questionnaire detailing modules and additional information(SAQ)
- Specialist colleges such as music colleges may operate own admissions, not through UCAS
- Offers may be grade specific, UCAS points, or both
- Some courses require relevant work experience
- Remember to check COMPETITION and have a back-up



 Explore Sixth Form

- Sixth Form
- EPQ
- Paperwork and documents
- Revision and Study Skills
- Road Safety
- TAP
- UCAS
- UCAS Application

Create



Sixth Form > UCAS



# UCAS

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

## How to use UCAS APPLY 2017

- Register on UCAS Apply – see instructions on Page 2
- Complete the sections headed **PERSONAL DETAILS, ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, EDUCATION\*** and **EMPLOYMENT** by the end of term (July 15<sup>th</sup>) – use guidance on pages 3 - 14 to help you. You will also need to draft a personal statement and hand it in to your tutor before the end of term (see page 12 and appendices).

\*you will need to add your AS results, including module results, after they come out in August. Do as much work as possible on these during the summer holidays. (see page 13)

Edit Page

# Useful website addresses

- UCAS – [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)
- The Guardian guide to universities and rankings  
[www.guardian.co.uk/education/universityguide](http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/universityguide)
- Higher Education statistics and information – [www.hesa.ac.uk](http://www.hesa.ac.uk),  
[www.prospects.ac.uk](http://www.prospects.ac.uk)
- UKCAT tests for Medicine /Dentistry – [www.ukcat.ac.uk](http://www.ukcat.ac.uk)
- BMAT [www.admissionstesting.org/our-services/medicine-and-healthcare/bmat/about-bmat/](http://www.admissionstesting.org/our-services/medicine-and-healthcare/bmat/about-bmat/)
- LNAT [www.lnat.ac.uk/](http://www.lnat.ac.uk/)

# Websites – What to study

- ◎ [www.ukcoursefinder.com](http://www.ukcoursefinder.com)
- ◎ [www.centigradeonline.co.uk](http://www.centigradeonline.co.uk) Centigrade online £20
- ◎ [www.hotcourses.com](http://www.hotcourses.com)

## Comparing courses

- ◎ <http://unistats.direct.gov.uk/> KIS data
- ◎ [www.bestcourse4me.com](http://www.bestcourse4me.com)
- ◎ <http://university.which.co.uk/>

## Where to go

- ◎ [www.push.co.uk/](http://www.push.co.uk/)
- ◎ [www.opendays.com](http://www.opendays.com)

# Gap Year

- Gap year information – [www.gapadvice.org](http://www.gapadvice.org)  
[www.gapyear.com](http://www.gapyear.com)
- Year in Industry (YINI) [www.yini.org.uk](http://www.yini.org.uk)

# Study Abroad

- [www.erasmus.ac.uk](http://www.erasmus.ac.uk) EU
- [www.fulbright.co.uk](http://www.fulbright.co.uk) US
- [www.braintrack.com](http://www.braintrack.com) Global ( note currently being relaunched but email address to contact them is here)
- [www.thestudentworld.com](http://www.thestudentworld.com) Global

## Finance

- [direct.gov.uk/studentfinance](https://www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance)

## Student life

- [www.nus.org.uk](https://www.nus.org.uk)
- [www.thestudentroom.co.uk](https://www.thestudentroom.co.uk)

## Graduate opportunities

- [www.prospects.ac.uk](https://www.prospects.ac.uk)
- What do graduates do?  
[www.hecsu.ac.uk/current\\_projects\\_what\\_do\\_graduates\\_do.htm](https://www.hecsu.ac.uk/current_projects_what_do_graduates_do.htm)