

MALMESBURY SIXTH FORM TUTORIAL PROGRAMME

UNIT: HOW TO BE SUCCESSFUL WITH
FUTURE PLANS

TOPIC: UCAS



**Let's talk about
UCAS and
university
applications...**



What's the process?

Start research



Set up UCAS
account



Add personal
Details



Pick 5 courses



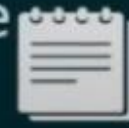
Complete
personal
statement



Send off
application



School adds
reference





Getting onto UCAS

- You need to set yourself up on UCAS hub
- **UCAS Apply 2025 is now live**
- When you access it, you will be asked for a buzzword. The school buzzword is **Lion2025**
- You **must register** using the school buzzword, which makes it much easier for us to enter your reference and we can check your application.
- It will cost you nothing to register
- You will not be able to submit your application until September, but you can start building your application now.

Timescales

- You will be able to submit your application in September
- You need to check the application deadline for your courses. For the vast majority, the deadline is January, but for some (like Oxbridge) it is as early as October.
- But please note, **this is the deadline for submission of your application, including your reference so it is not something that can be left to the last minute**, and while you have time you may as well crack on.

What to do

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

Start research



1. Research courses (something you have been doing already). You can do that here: <https://digitalucas.com/search> but also check out Mr Brown's university guide on Teams. Or if you are really struggling where to start the thinkuni link above is a good starting point.
2. Open days – a lot are still on the calendar for July & September but will probably be cancelled. Most universities are offering virtual open days and you can find details of them at [opendays.com](https://www.opendays.com) or on UCAS Hub. Look out for webinars and tutorials being offered as well. The calendar is literally rammed with choices **BUT YOU DO NEED TO BOOK.**
3. Make use of all the resources on UCAS Hub – including the chat to students facility and you can ask current students what universities are like.
4. Check the entry requirements and ensure that they are realistic for you.
5. Ensure that you have a range of best case and worst case scenario courses. You can apply for up to 5, as you find them, make a note of the course code.
6. Some courses will have entry requirements in grades, some will have them in UCAS tariff points. An A* is worth 56 points, an A is 48, B is 40, C is 32, D is 24 and E is 16. The tariff tables are here https://ucascomsblucasenvironments.com/file/259341/download?token=GXu_Pq-H but there is also a tariff calculator on UCAS Hub.

Your personal statement

- This is the most important part of your application. It will be the thing that sets you apart from other candidates with the same grade profile as you. You need to make the most of it.
- You have 4000 characters over 47 lines to use up for your personal statement which isn't very much (about 500 words). And the character count INCLUDES SPACES. In Word you will have 2 character counts, one with and one without spaces so make sure you are checking the right one.
- There is a good introductory video here:
<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/how-write-ucas-undergraduate-personal-statement>
- First thing to do, just start writing all the things you think relevant, in any order. Start with a mindmap, or a list or just start writing without worrying about your language, or the structure. Just get the things down that you want to say. This is a useful framework to use
<https://www.ucas.com/file/4261/download?token=u7l6M9Q5>
- Remember, that this is an opportunity to sell yourself. But also an opportunity for you to show that you understand the value in studying that course.

- **WHY THIS COURSE:** This is an oft forgotten part of a personal statement. You should not be writing things like “I would like to study Maths because I am good at it.” or “because I really enjoy Maths, I want to continue to study it”. You **SHOULD** be writing stuff like “Mathematics is at the root of so many other disciplines and the challenge of applying reason and logic to problems is the foundation of progress.” Universities want to know that you understand the purpose of studying the discipline and its place in the world.
- **The best personal statements will reference something that has piqued your interest outside of your A-level course.** An article or a book you have read, a place that you have visited, or an experience you have had. What did you learn from it? How did it make you curious? If skilled up in that discipline, what do you envisage doing with that knowledge? What are your aspirations and how will further study help you achieve them? You need to show that you are curious with a hunger to learn. <https://www.access-ed.ngo/Pages/Category/y-subject-experience> is a good place to access reading lists.
- **SELLING YOURSELF:** As much as possible your personal statement needs to be evidence based and not bold claims about how wonderful you are. Try to remember ABC – Activity, Benefit, Course.

**ACTIVITY**

What is the activity?

BENEFIT

What did you learn?

COURSE

How is relevant to your course? How will use this at university?

And another thing...

- Writing things like “I am confident, organised and an excellent leader” are all well and good, but you need to explain how you have demonstrated these traits. For example, “My role as an academic mentor to younger students which involves giving in class to support to vulnerable children has fine-tuned the clarity of my communication” or “I have successfully managed my time between my commitment to competitive sport and my academic studies.” Then you need to go onto say how this will apply to your course. “This puts me in a good position to work with a variety of people whilst at university and Try to sell yourself by talking about real experiences. You need to prove that you will be committed, organised and enthusiastic. Avoid silly claims like “I have an unrivalled passion” or “I will give 110%”. They are all meaningless and make you sound like a plonker. You can’t evidence them as true or they are totally unachievable. So just don’t.
- **SHOW THE REAL YOU:** There is room within your personal statement to give admissions tutors an insight into your character, your passions and hobbies. It won’t form the bulk of your personal statement, but it absolutely is important because it allows them to get a feel for how you are. All hobbies require an element of discipline and resilience so they are all worth talking about. So, if you are into cosplay, don’t hide it! Talk about it as means to show your creativity! If you collect stamps, explain that you take pleasure in the beauty of design. If you are a gamer, explain that it is the escapism that appeals. If you run, don’t be afraid to talk about how it makes you feel, and what it does for your emotional health and well being. Think about how these hobbies add value to your life.

And finally: Structure

- **Why this discipline?** Show you understand the place your subject has in the world. Do you see it as a gateway to other disciplines, or does it offer valuable insight into humanity and the human condition? Why does it matter?
- **What do you aspire to?** Talking about your long term goals can be a really good thing to do particularly if you have a long term career plan in mind. Also, in a general sense, wanting to understand your place in the world and the connections between people, societies, ideas, past and present, between the human and natural world, innovation, progress etc while you find your way in the world is also really important
- **Why are you awesome and what can you offer?** Remember to anchor this in real experience – WEX, advocacy, sport, hobbies, pastimes, travel.

A few dos and don'ts

DO

- Show you understand the place of the discipline in the world
- Be honest
- Be enthusiastic
- Base claims on evidence using ABC
- Sell yourself

DON'T

- Exaggerate
- Copy and paste from examples
- Make unsubstantiated claims
- Undersell yourself
- Pick courses you wouldn't be happy to do in places you wouldn't be happy to be.

What is a Subject Spotlight?

Subject Spotlights fuse education and entertainment to bring you the new way of researching your university options. Entirely free and available on-demand, you can choose to engage with the content in the way that best suits you - whether that's in bite-sized chunks or in binge-sessions!

Why should I check out Subject Spotlights?

Get a real, representative impression of what pursuing a subject at university is actually like, so that you can make the right decision for you.

Stand out from the competition by completing a Subject Spotlight to gain the most relevant references and evidence for your personal statement.

Who is this Spotlight for?

This subject spotlight is made for students aged 16 and above, that are considering applying to University, particularly to study the subject in the title, or similar areas.

How should I talk about completing a Subject Spotlight on my UCAS application?

Completing a Subject Spotlight shows the university you're applying to that you've taken time outside of school to engage with relevant content.

The easiest way to include it would be to briefly mention one or two things you learned from it and how/why those learnings have furthered your desire to study the subject. We don't want to prescribe an answer because it's your personal statement but this is a good starting point!

Search

Subject Spotlights

Hub For you Favourites What to do Where to go Search

Search for items

< Search All | 83 results | Page 1 of 5

Sort by: Relevance Grid List

All filters

Subject

University or College

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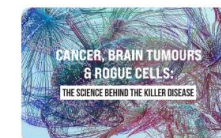
Architecture: The Blueprints Of Civilisation
with Rob Nice from the University for the Creative Arts



Borderlines: The Politics Of Territorial Trouble
with Kelly Staples from University of Leicester



Bugs And Us...
with Dr Rochelle Hockney from Leeds Beckett University



Subject spotlights on UCAS : An easy way to engage with material that links directly to fields of study.... Great for a personal statement

<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/what-and-where-study/subject-tasters>

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