

Higher Education

How to choose and how we help

University



Part 1: Selection

The 4 Cs


- ▶ Course
- ▶ City
- ▶ Campus (accommodation)
- ▶ Career



Course

- ▶ Students can choose 5 courses.
 - ▶ There are 370+ HEIs to choose from.
 - ▶ There are 37 000 courses to choose from.


 - ▶ **Research needs to start NOW**

 - ▶ It's never too late to change your mind (UCAS Extra, Adjust, Clearing)
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Course research – things to consider I

- ▶ Could they study that subject for the next 3 years – do they love it and could they do it?
- ▶ Could they meet the course requirements?
 - Including any GCSE requirements

Course research – things to consider II

- ▶ **Single/Joint Honours**
 - ▶ **Length of course**
 - ▶ **Course content**
 - ▶ **Practical/theory balance**
 - ▶ **Teaching/assessment styles**
 - ▶ **Career destinations**
 - ▶ **Entry requirements (grades/points)**
 - ▶ **Professional accreditations**
 - ▶ **Work placements/Year abroad/Semester abroad.**
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City – The University itself

- ▶ General reputation – How important is Russell Group?
- ▶ Academic reputation – importance to you/future employers?
- ▶ Teaching quality and who does the teaching?
- ▶ Student / staff ratios & amount of contact time
- ▶ Reputation of location/area/social life/amenities
- ▶ Availability and cost of accommodation
- ▶ Make-up of student population – ratios: age/gender/international/socio-economic etc
- ▶ Non-completion rates
- ▶ Library & IT spend per student
- ▶ Transport links
- ▶ Location/HEI part-time work availability

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Accommodation

Type

- ▶ Halls of residence
- ▶ Houses

Second-year policy



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Research

▶ Paper

- HEI Prospectuses
- Guides
- UCAS publications

▶ Experiential

- Taster courses – worth doing before open days, if you can
- Open Days (www.opendays.com)
- Summer Schools
- HE Fairs & Conventions

▶ Online

- HEI websites
- Specialist information sites
(e.g. www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance)
- ‘Student’ focused sites
- League tables online
- Related information sites, UCAS and [Unifrog](#) ‘1 stop shop’

Choosing...

▶ ...Requires:

- Sufficient time
- Resources
- Organisation
- Knowing where to look / what to look for
- Encouragement and support

▶Works best when:

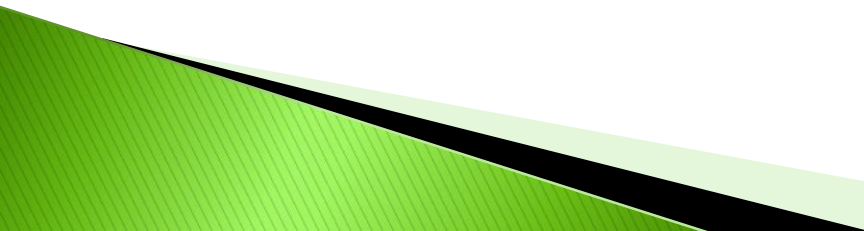
- Systematic
- Methodical
- Thorough
- Analytical
- Conclusions can be drawn



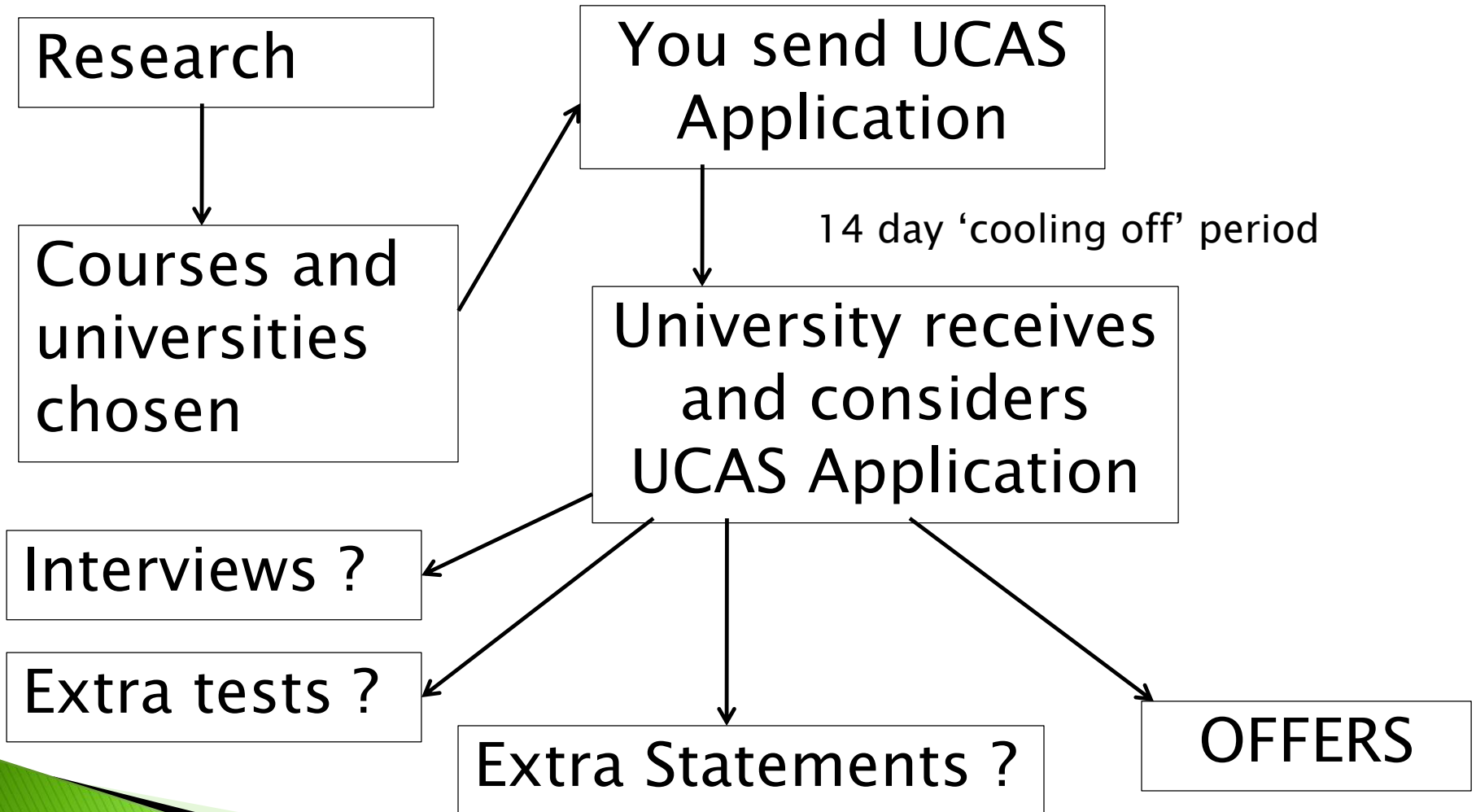
**BEWARE OF
INFORMATION
OVERLOAD**

Part II: Application and UCAS

- ▶ UCAS – University and Colleges Admissions Service
 - ▶ The system used to apply for HE
 - ▶ All online
 - ▶ Requires registration and £25 card payment

 - ▶ The place you put your **personal statement**, predicted grades and achieved GCSE grades to date
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UCAS at NDHS



UCAS Application

Entails

- ▶ The courses and universities being chosen
- ▶ A list of all prior qualifications
- ▶ Predicted grades
- ▶ A reference from the school
- ▶ **The Personal Statement**
 - One statement written and sent to all 5 choices
 - Student's best (and often, *only*) opportunity to show that they should be offered a place
 - Requires serious thought and plenty of drafting

Deadlines

- ▶ Return Weds 4th of September

Early application (Oxbridge Med/Vet)

- ▶ May need subject-specific statements. Arrange these with tutors by end of Fri September 6th.
- ▶ Deadline for UCAS form submission: **Fri 13th Sept.**
- ▶ Further checks by staff before submission

Failure to hit this deadline means that we cannot guarantee that your application will be sent off on time.

Deadlines II

Normal applications

Deadline for card payment and submission:
Friday 11th October.

Failure to hit this deadline means that we cannot guarantee that applications will be sent off on time.

Various courses may additional deadlines for portfolios, recitals, additional tests. They are the responsibility of the student.


Offers

Universities will (hopefully) give you a conditional offer – mainly based on the predicted grades and the personal statement

Official title: Advanced GCE and Advanced VCE


| Grade | Tariff points |
|-----------|---------------|
| A* | 56 |
| A | 48 |
| B | 40 |
| C | 32 |
| D | 24 |
| E | 16 |

What we do for students

- ▶ Write references
 - ▶ Provide large amounts of resources
 - ▶ Give honest opinions
 - ▶ Help students make their own decisions
 - ▶ Give guidance about personal statement writing
 - ▶ Read personal statements
 - ▶ Do final checks on the application to make sure that it is the best it can be
 - ▶ Extra help for students that need it
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What you need to do

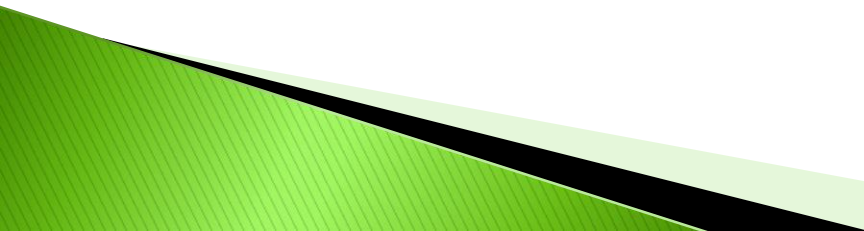
Encourage and Support

- ▶ Honest conversations
 - ▶ Managing expectation and emotional support
 - ▶ Take the right amount of interest
 - ▶ Transport to Open Days
 - ▶ Deadline supervision
 - ▶ Reading the personal statement (again and again and again)
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Things to get involved with now

- ▶ www.norfolksummerschool.co.uk – for help with Russell Group applications
- ▶ [Preparing for University](#) – Course and MOOC
- ▶ UKCAT/BMAT/LNAT courses

In general

- ▶ Summer schools – advertised now
 - ▶ www.opendays.com (universities and specific courses)
 - ▶ Personal statement
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Q & A

