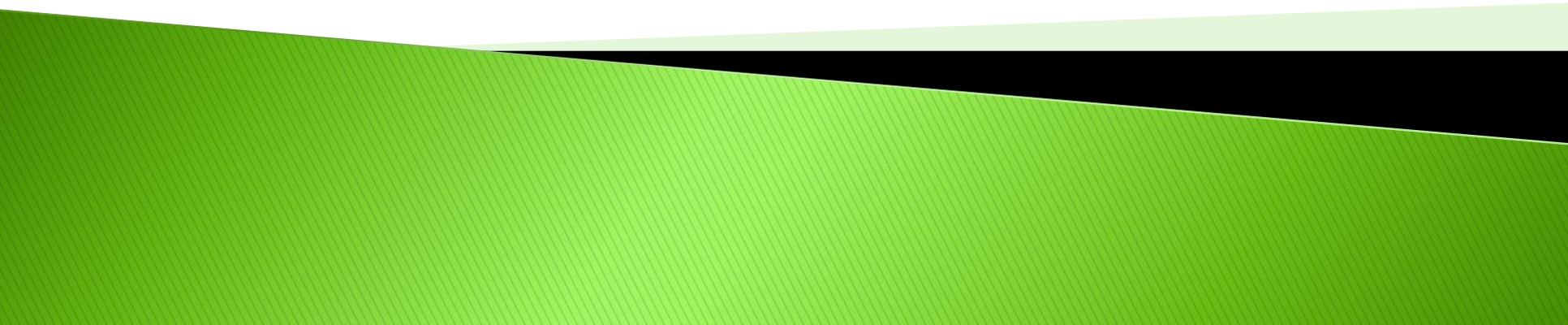


Higher Education

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)
- 

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.**
- 

The 4 Cs

- ▶ Course
- ▶ City
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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

The 4 Cs

- ▶ Course
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- ▶ Career



Accommodation

Type

- ▶ Halls of residence
- ▶ Houses

Second-year policy



The 4 Cs

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



Research

▶ Paper

- HEI Prospectuses
- Guides
- [UCAS](#) online and paper publications (inc. [parent guide](#))

▶ Experiential

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

▶ Online

- HEI websites
- Specialist information sites
- (e.g. www.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

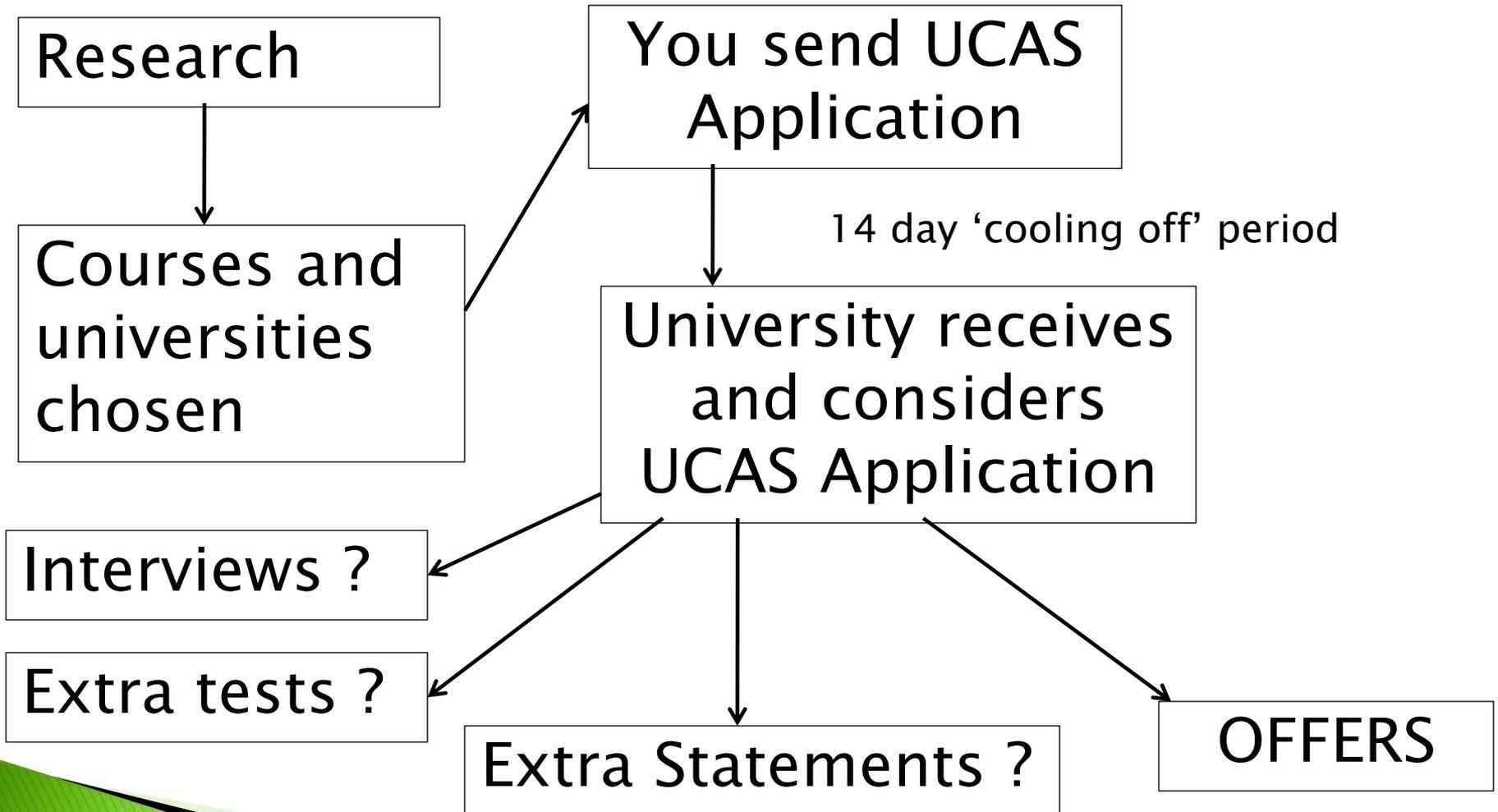


**BEWARE OF
INFORMATION
OVERLOAD**

Part II: Application and UCAS

- ▶ UCAS – University and Colleges Admissions Service
 - ▶ The system used to apply for HE
 - ▶ All online
 - ▶ Requires registration and £28.95 card payment, but free to those on bursary.
 - ▶ The place you put your **personal statement**, predicted grades and achieved GCSE grades to date
- 

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 3rd September

Early application (Oxbridge Med/Vet)

- ▶ May need subject-specific statements. Arrange these with tutors by end of Fri September 5th.
- ▶ Deadline for UCAS form submission: **Fri 19th 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:
Thursday 23rd 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 a conditional offer – mainly based on the predicted grades and the personal statement. This may be in the form of grades or points.

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
(Please check UCAS.com and Unifrog.org!)
 - ▶ 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
- 

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)
- 

Things to get involved with now

- ▶ [Preparing for University](#) – Course and MOOC
- ▶ UKCAT/BMAT/LNAT courses
- ▶ Unifrog has lots of short MOOCs and tasters

In general

- ▶ www.opendays.com
(universities and specific courses)
- ▶ Personal statement

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