



Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School

# Welcome to Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School Post 18 Pathways

UCAS



Apprenticeships





## Pathway 1: Apprenticeships - Higher and Degree Level

Apprenticeships combine practical training in a job with study.

Before the school closure students attended a talk delivered by the National Apprenticeship Service. The key slides from the talk follow. On slide 14 there are links if you would like to find out further information.

Students can also search for apprenticeships through the Unifrog platform that we use at QEGS.

*At this moment in time it is not clear how the landscape will look in terms of Apprenticeships - any updates I will share with the students.*

# What are apprenticeships?



Earn a wage



Work for at least  
30 hours per week



Study towards a  
job related qualification



Contract of employment  
including holiday pay



Real job with  
real responsibilities

Supported by  
**National  
Apprenticeship  
Service**

# The truth about apprenticeships

EARN A  
**SALARY**

**90%** STAY IN  
WORK  
POST-APPRENTICESHIP

Social life?



GAIN A  
**DEGREE**

NO FEES  
TO PAY

YOU CAN  
RELOCATE

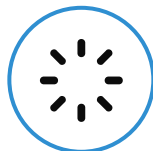
# The range of apprenticeships



Accounting



Aviation



Horticulture



Architect



Creative & Digital



Teaching



Cyber Security



Surveying



Project management



Nursing



Dental Nursing



Hospitality



Hairdressing



Legal Services



Journalism

Supported by  
**National  
Apprenticeship  
Service**

# And many more....

# Which employers offer apprenticeships?



GREENE KING



Supported by  
National  
Apprenticeship  
Service



# Different delivery models



Workplace learning



Online learning



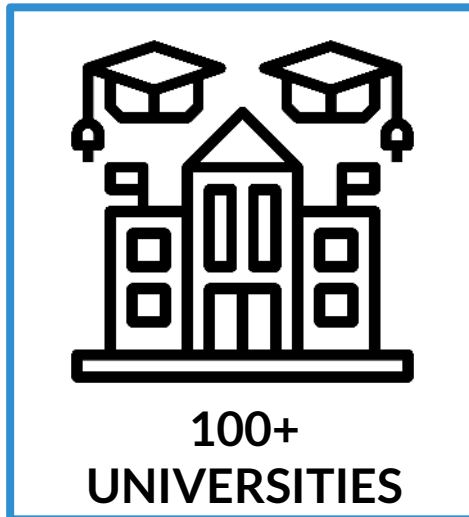
Classroom learning



Attend college or training provider

How do apprenticeships compare to full time university?

# HIGHER AND DEGREE APPRENTICESHIPS



Work full time and study part-time



Learning



Salary



No Debt



NUS



Experience



4-6 Years

University fees paid by  
employer and/or government

# Degree apprenticeships available



Aerospace engineer



Architect



Chartered legal executive



Dietitian



First officer pilot



Marketing manager



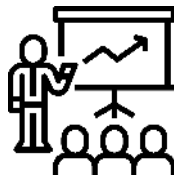
Paramedic



Social worker



Project Manager



Teacher



Solicitor



Registered nurse

## And many more....

# Degree apprenticeships coming soon...



Creative digital designer



Occupational therapist



Artificial intelligence (AI) data specialist



Dispensing Optician



District Nurse



Radiation Protection Scientist



Clinical academic professional



Geotechnical engineer



Air traffic controller



Church minister



Harbour master



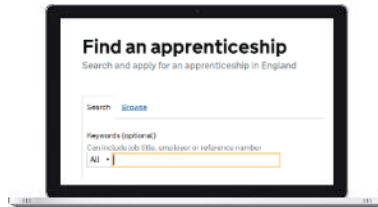
Storyboard artist

## And many more....

# How do you find an apprenticeship?

1

Register on Find an apprenticeship



4

Manage your alerts



2

Do your research



5

Contact companies



3

Search and apply



To find an apprenticeship visit  
GOV.UK and search for apprenticeships

# Benefits of Find an apprenticeship



Free of charge



Create alerts



Employers

Brought to you by  
National  
Apprenticeship  
Service



Apply quickly



Secure site



# Where else to look?



The company website



Social media



Your friends and family

## VACANCY SNAPSHOT

Click on the logos below to see a snapshot of apprenticeship vacancies coming up soon

**SORT EMPLOYERS**

Employer Name

Alphabetical

- A-Z
- Z-A

[Areas Of Interest](#)

Follow the National Apprenticeship Service:

 [@Apprenticeships](#)

 [Fireitupapps](#)

 [National Apprenticeship Service](#)

[Search for apprenticeships on GOV.UK](#) or  
[call 08000 150 400](#)



## Applying for Apprenticeships

You will need to fill in individual application forms for each apprenticeship - these will be asking similar questions to what you would include in your personal statement

You may be asked to complete aptitude tests, record yourself answering set questions and attend an interview

Apprenticeship Programmes are released throughout the year

Searching for Apprenticeships:

Unifrog - log on via student account and search on the apprenticeship area

Government Website [www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship](https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship)

Amazing Apprenticeships [www.amazingapprenticeships.com](https://www.amazingapprenticeships.com)

UCAS ([www.ucas.co.uk](https://www.ucas.co.uk)) Click on alternatives in the top bar

Not Going to Uni [www.notgoingtouni.co.uk](https://www.notgoingtouni.co.uk)



## Pathway 2. University - UCAS (Universities and Colleges Admissions Service)

All students who wish to study at UK universities must apply through UCAS. The exception is if you are applying to conservatoire or an Art Foundation.

The applications are submitted in the Autumn Term:

1<sup>st</sup> Deadline – 15<sup>th</sup> October 2020 - for  
Medicine/Dentistry/Veterinary and Oxbridge

2<sup>nd</sup> Deadline – 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021 provisional school deadline  
is 27<sup>th</sup> November 2020 for all other courses





## Year 13 Destinations 2019

Courses	Institution
Animation	University of the Arts London
Banking and Finance	The London Institute of Banking & Finance
Biomedical Science	Anglia Ruskin University
Business Management with HR	University of Brighton
Business, Management and Economics	University of Sussex
Chemistry with Foundation	University of Reading
Computer Science	City University
Costume Design	University of Salford
Economics	University of Reading
Economics and Mathematics	Brunel University London
Education (Psychology)	Nottingham Trent University
Engineering and Physical Sciences	University of Nottingham
English Language and Creative Writing	University of Brighton
English Literature and History	Newcastle University
English Literature and Politics	University of Reading
English Literature/Scottish Literature	University of Glasgow
Fashion Design	Staffordshire University
Fashion Marketing	University of the Arts London
Film	Oxford Brookes University
Filmmaking	University of Sussex
Fine Art	Nottingham Trent University

Courses	Institution
Graphic Design	Nottingham Trent University
International Politics	Brunel University London
Law	University of Sussex
Law	University of Leicester
Mechanical Engineering	Coventry University
Media Communications	Bath Spa University
Nursing Child and Mental Health	University of Southampton
Pharmacy	University of Kent
Pharmaceutical Chemistry	Queen Mary University of London
Pharmaceutical Chemistry	University of Reading
Physiotherapy	Cardiff University
Psychology	Royal Holloway University London
Psychology	Queen Mary University of London
Psychology	Swansea University
Psychology	University of Nottingham
Social Sciences	University of Sussex
Sociology	Middlesex University London
Sociology with Psychology	City University
Spanish and Media	Nottingham Trent University
Sport and Exercise Medical Sciences	King's College London
Zoology	University of Reading



# **UCAS Application Process** **Year 12 Summer Term**

May 2020 - September 2020

- Research and narrow down subject areas and universities
- Draft versions of your personal statement sent to tutors via unifrog - as soon as possible. Examples of personal statements can be found on Unifrog for all courses
- Use Unifrog (geek out sections on subject library) and super curricular resources to delve deeper into the subject areas
- Complete MOOCs and if you would like take on the EPQ project
- Ensure you are up to date with all work ready for September
- Subject teachers write the subject sections of the reference (July)



## **UCAS Application Process** **Year 13 Autumn Term**

September 2020

- Finalise Personal Statement
- References are checked and finished by Form Tutors and Sixth Form Team
- Finalise Choices – 5 choices (4 for Medicine and 1 other choice)

October 2020

- Oxbridge/Medicine/Dentistry/Veterinary – 15th October 2020
- All other courses - Proposed School Deadline 27th November 2020



# **UCAS Application Process - Year 13 Autumn Term**

October – May

Students wait for offers and may be asked to attend interviews dependent on the course

**Final choices - once you have all five of your offers you need to choose a final two:**

Firm Choice – Your first choice

Insurance Choice – your second choice the entry requirements will be lower for this choice than your firm choice

**Types of Offer:**

*Unconditional – Means the university will take the student regardless of grades*

**Conditional – Student needs to meet a certain entry requirement**

Other Qualifications – Some universities will offer a lower entry requirement if the students gains other qualifications e.g. Extended Project Qualification



# Unifrog

unifrog

You should have already been shortlisting various courses that you are interested in during the year. Unifrog allows you to search, and save all of the activities, qualifications that you have completed leading to your application.

Courses, advice and example personal statements

Information on Apprenticeships, Study Overseas, Gap Year Opportunities, MOOCS that you can complete in relation to your course and UK universities

Searching - Aspirational, Safe and Solid according to your predicted grades

Wider reading - Podcasts, journals,

Personal statements can be written on your account and you can share via unifrog with staff:

1. Tutor
2. Subject Teachers
3. Miss Southwell



# UCAS Search Tool



Further education

Undergraduate

Postgraduate

Alternatives

Careers



Sign in



Archaeology

Explore

Information

Courses

Events

Documents

Videos

Sort by ?

University or college (A to Z) ▾

Study year ?

☐ 2018 - 2019

☒ 2019 - 2020

Course vacancies ?

☒ Show all courses

☐ Only show courses with vacancies

This helps us to show courses that are available to you. [Click here for more info.](#)

Course level ?

☒ Undergraduate

☐ Postgraduate

☐ Conservatoires UK (CUK)

## Viewing providers

503 courses from 52 providers



EXPAND ALL

COLLAPSE ALL



### ▼ University of Aberdeen

6 courses



**Archaeology**

Bachelor of Science (with Honours) - BSc (Hons)



**Archaeology**

Master of Arts (with Honours) - MA (Hons)



**Anthropology and Archaeology**

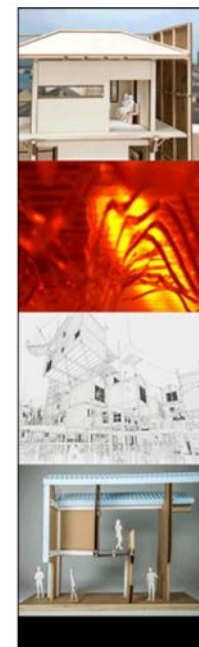
Master of Arts (with Honours) - MA (Hons)

[Show more courses](#)



### ▼ Bangor University

5 courses





# Entry Requirements - UCAS

## Archeology at Cardiff University

### Qualification requirements

UCAS Tariff	Not accepted	
<b>A level</b>	BBB - BBC	All offers will exclude General Studies and Critical Thinking
<b>Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma</b> (first teaching from September 2016)	DDM - DMM	Acceptable BTEC subjects for entry. Humanities, Social Science, Applied Science or Computing. Any other BTEC subject if combined with an A-Level excluding General Studies and Critical Thinking
<b>Extended Project</b>	A	For applicants taking the EPQ qualification, an A in the EPQ can be recognised to lower the entry requirements by a single grade. For example an AAB offer would be "AAB from 3 A levels or ABB from 3 A levels and a grade A in the EPQ". Please note that any subject specific requirements must be met.
<b>GCSE/National 4/National 5</b>	GCSE English Language grade C or 4.	
<b>International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme</b>	Achieve the IB Diploma with 665-655 in 3 HL subjects	
<b>Scottish Advanced Higher</b>	BBB - BBC	All offers will exclude General Studies and Critical Thinking



# Entry Requirements - UCAS

## Nursing at University of Birmingham

### Qualification requirements

UCAS Tariff	Not accepted	
A level	BBB	<p>Typical offer:</p> <p>BBB - You must also meet in full the GCSE entry requirements for the programme.</p> <p>General Studies:</p> <p>Not accepted, but a good performance may be taken into account if you fail to meet the conditions of your offer</p> <p>All applicants must meet in full both the GCSE and Level 3/higher qualification entry requirements for the Bachelor of Nursing programme. The only exception to meeting the GCSE requirements in full applies to some Access applicants, please see the relevant section below for more details.</p>
Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma (first teaching from September 2016)	DDM	<p>BTEC Extended Diploma in Health and Social Care or Applied Science accepted. Grades required - DDM</p> <p>BTEC Diploma considered on a case by case basis when combined with an A level</p>



## Russell Group Universities

The Russell Group represents 24 leading UK universities which are committed to maintaining the very best research, an outstanding teaching and learning experience and unrivalled links with business and the public sector. (**Bold** are London universities)

University of Birmingham

University of Liverpool

University of Bristol

University of Leeds

University of Cambridge

Cardiff University

University of Manchester  
**Science**

**London School of Economics & Political**

Durham University

Newcastle University

University of Edinburgh

University of Nottingham

University of Exeter

University of Oxford

University of Glasgow

**Queen Mary University of London**

**Imperial College London**

Queen's University Belfast

**King's College London**

University of Warwick

University of Sheffield

**UCL (University College London)**

University of Southampton

University of York



## Oxbridge/Medicine Programmes

During Year 12 students have been meeting fortnightly - a google classroom has now been set up with resources advice on applying for the below courses:

### **Oxbridge**

- Looked at entry requirements/college systems
- Students have applied/attended Masterclasses (these are now being offered virtually)
- Members of staff who have studied at Oxbridge to speak to students
- Oxbridge conference was cancelled but a webinar was issued instead
- Provided with practice assessment test practice and guidance - UCAT, BMAT, LNAT etc
- Looked at entry requirements for different universities and exemplar personal statements of successful candidates
- Started their draft Personal Statements



# The UCAS Application Form

## 1. Personal Details

Name, Address, Contact Details, Nationality, Criminal Convictions, Disabilities

## 2. Additional Information

Ethnic Origin

Courses related to the degree that you have completed

Parental Education

Sections 1, 2, 4 and 5 will be completed before the summer holiday.

## 3. Choices

You have a choice of five places/courses that you can apply to if you are applying for Medicine you have 4 choices and one non medical choice. If you are applying to Oxbridge you cannot apply to both Oxford and Cambridge.

## 4. Education

Educational Institutions Attended

Examinations taken (GCSEs and AS Levels) and pending (A Levels)

Other Qualifications e.g. EPQ, University short courses,

## 5. Employment

Part time work

Voluntary Work

## 6. Personal Statement



# Choices

Your choices must be realistic based on your GCSE and AS Level grades

You should have a variety of entry requirements within your choices e.g.

1. ABB – University of Liverpool – English Literature
2. ABB – Royal Holloway University – English and Drama
3. AAB – University of Sheffield – English Literature
4. AAA – University College London – English
5. AAB – SOAS – English

Once you have received a response from all of the institutions that you have applied to, you will need to select two; your firm choice and your *insurance* choice.

1 = Firm Choice

2 = Insurance

It is very important that these two choices do not have the same entry requirements otherwise there is no point in the insurance offer.



# Course Choices

- You should consider if you are going to study a single honours, joint honours or a combined course.
- **GCSE entry requirements** – some universities will have GCSE as well as A Level requirements. Be sure to check for example, if they require a B in Mathematics and you have a C which could hamper your application.
- Make sure you have read in detail the content of the course using the university website/prospectus. This is especially important if it is a course that you have not studied at A Level.



## Personal Statement

- 75% of your statement should be focused on why you would like to study the subject
- You should use all of the space provided (47 lines)
- Correct punctuation
- Avoid repeating information contained in the other sections of the application form
- Clear logical structure
- Good command of English
- Error free
- Avoid jargon, abbreviation or non-standard English

Start putting bullet points together on a piece of paper to think about what you have been doing that relates to your area of interest



# Personal Statement

## What might be included?

- Previous/current studies
- Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)
- Academic interests and activities
- Free online courses
- Reading and attendance at lectures
- Museum/gallery visits
- Work experience placements or internships
- Paid or unpaid work
- Volunteering activities
- Clubs and societies
- Skills related activities
- Sports
- Hobbies





## What makes an effective personal statement?

### *Evidence of...*

- Enthusiasm and motivation for study of the subject
- Understanding and/or experience of the subject
- Academic engagement with the subject (80%)
- Relevant knowledge and skills for the subject
- Originality and independence of thought



# Enthusiasm and motivation for the study of the subject

Why this particular subject?

*Example:*

*'When I studied the upheavals of the 19th and 20th centuries, I began to see how this period is key to understanding the modern era. As I examined the Industrial Age and the growth of global trade, I focused increasingly on economics. I believe that the analytical tools of both fields are essential for a deep understanding of the world.'*

***Economic History with Economics***

They have made the information personal and shown a deep understanding.

Less convincing examples:

*"I have a strong interest in history, politics and international relations. University study will allow me to explore and develop my enthusiasm for these subjects."*

**International Relations**



## **References and Predicted Grades**

References are an important part of the application

Tutors will spend time (virtually at the moment) and when we can in person with students ensuring they are aware of the courses they are applying for and reading drafts of personal statement

All tutors have been trained and are experienced in writing references

Vertical Tutor groups are organised according to subject groups studied. This supports the writing of references from a Specialist Tutor perspective, regarding chosen degree courses

Each subject teacher writes a section of the reference and then the tutor amalgamates this information into one document also adding any further information e.g. super and extra-curricular activity involvement. The Tutor will also have read the personal statement and will be able to add information to cross reference

Predicted Grades are normally worked out using the Y12 Summer Mock Grade however these will now not be taking place. Due to the unusual circumstances we will be using the students Target Grades as their UCAS predicted grades.



## **Admissions Tutors – What are they looking for?**

- Enthusiasm and motivation for the subject – Do not be over emotional 'Since I was born I have wanted to study Law...'
- Academic engagement with subject and depth of knowledge (MOOCs, Super Curricular Resources and EPQ)
- Relevant knowledge and skill for the subject
- Originality and independence of thought
- Essay writing, note taking, research skills
- An understanding of what the course entails
- Time management skills/Work Experience
- Commitment
- Resilience to complete the course and face challenges healthily
- Well rounded individuals



## Understanding and/or experience of the subject

What aspects are of particular interest?

What are the key issues?

*Example:*

*'I am particularly interested in how law interacts with morality. To what extent laws should govern and regulate people's wellbeing? For instance would we be able to justify stem-cell research without defining when life begins?'*

**Law**

*Example:*

*'I am also involved in the Values Versus Violence youth project, which enabled me to visit Belfast as part of a group of European young people. I learned much about social and political conflict on the trip, and saw the relevance of history as the divisions between communities over historical issues remains to this day.'*

**History**

These are both good examples that show a clear understanding of the subjects they are applying for.



## Understanding and or experience of the subject

*Less convincing examples:*

*'I have been fascinated by the idea of becoming a lawyer ever since I watched the TV drama Suits.'*

**Law**

*'My love for the subject began in Year 6, when I conducted independent research for a project on natural hazards, which introduced me to tectonic theory.'*

**Geography**



## Academic engagement with the subject

Relevant reading, events, lectures, documentaries, TED talks etc.

*Examples:*

*'Having read "End This Depression Now" by Paul Krugman I gained a deeper understanding of Keynesian theory. I found his argument convincing because...*

***Philosophy, Politics and Economics***

*'In my Royal Economics Society competition essay I drew on econometric analysis to argue that high levels of inequality can have a negative effect on growth. This was backed up by reading "The Price of Inequality"...*

***Economics***

These are good as they show an opinion and engagement beyond A Level courses!



## Academic engagement with the subject

*Less convincing example:*

*'A lecture I attended by Michael Sandel encouraged a rigorous philosophical style, and studying Spanish independently has also illustrated how expression affects meaning. Literature at A level, has strengthened my precise phrasing of arguments. Simon Blackburn's "Being Good" has stimulated my views on moral behaviour. I have been inspired to act according to these beliefs: I set up my school's first feminist society.'*



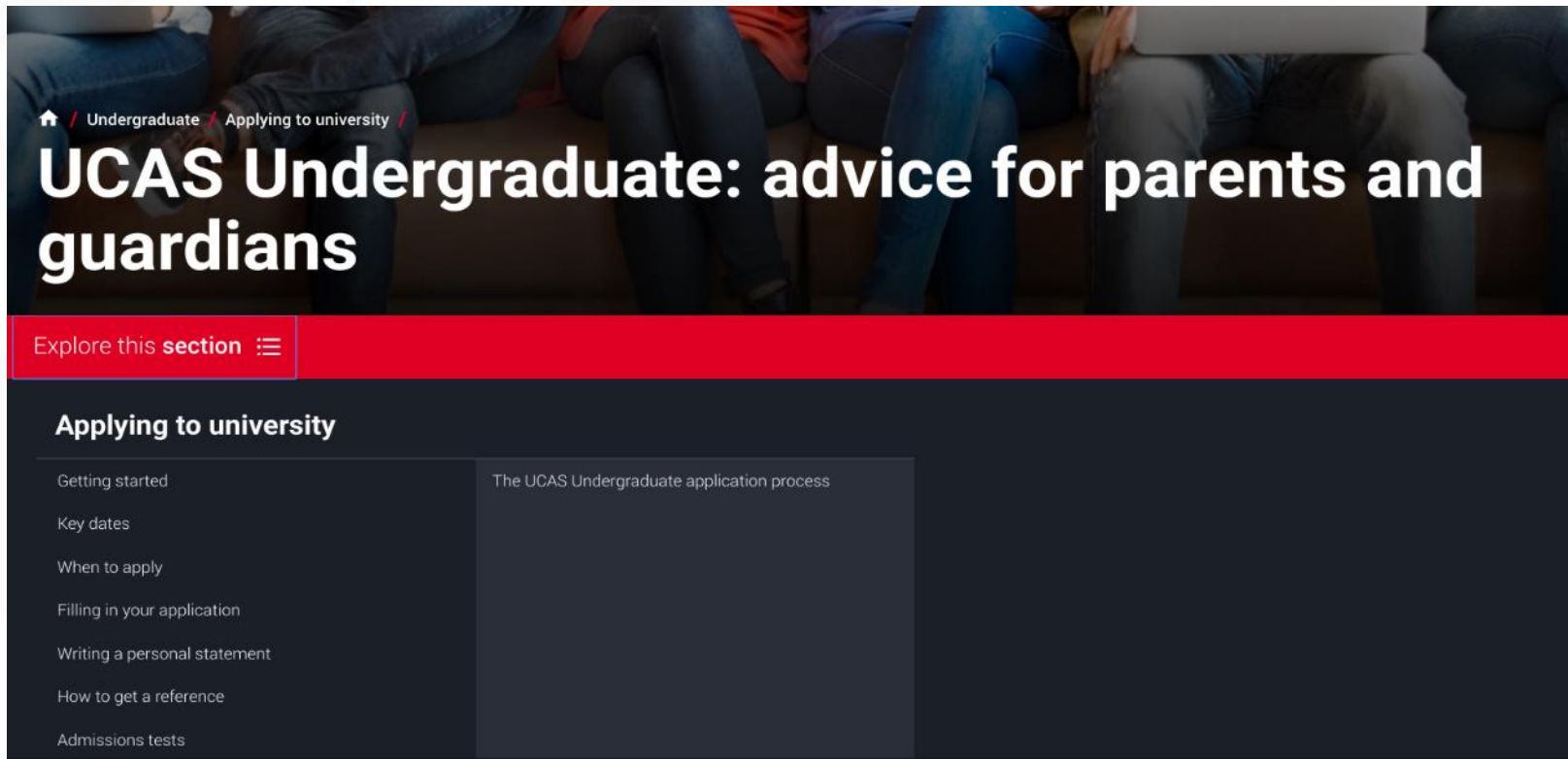
**Politics and Philosophy**

Listing everything that you have read is not a useful way to convey that you have engaged fully with the subject – you need to say how it impacted on you or changed/reinforced your view.



# Parents – What can you do to help?

[www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)

A screenshot of the UCAS Undergraduate website. The background image shows a group of people sitting on a couch. The page has a dark blue header with a red navigation bar. The main heading is 'UCAS Undergraduate: advice for parents and guardians'. Below this is a red bar with the text 'Explore this section' and a menu icon. The 'Applying to university' section is highlighted, showing a list of links: 'Getting started', 'Key dates', 'When to apply', 'Filling in your application', 'Writing a personal statement', 'How to get a reference', and 'Admissions tests'. The 'The UCAS Undergraduate application process' link is also visible.

🏠 / Undergraduate / Applying to university /

## UCAS Undergraduate: advice for parents and guardians

Explore this section ☰

### Applying to university

- Getting started
- Key dates
- When to apply
- Filling in your application
- Writing a personal statement
- How to get a reference
- Admissions tests

The UCAS Undergraduate application process



## Pathway 3: Taking a Gap Year

***Below is the advice we would normally give but please bear in mind that due to Covid-19 it may be more difficult to gain work placements both in the UK and overseas. Also any overseas travel could still be difficult.***

- Be clear about why you are taking a year out and what you are going to have to show for the year.
- Employers will ask about what you did – going on holiday for a few months does not sound great
- Employment
- Work Experience Placements/Voluntary Work/Internships



## **What students could do during the school closure**

1. Research the courses that you are interested in and shortlist these on unifrog - apprenticeships and degrees
2. Check based on a realistic set of grades, which courses would be open to you - unifrog
3. Sign up to virtual open days for the institutions that you are interested in
4. Start to draft your personal statement on unifrog - there are examples for each subject areas on the subject guide. Share with your tutor for feedback
5. Complete super curricular work (books, journals, lectures, podcasts, films) on your subject area - what you learn can be added to your personal statement
6. Decide if you want to complete the EPQ and begin researching your topic (see separate powerpoint for more information)



## **Parents – What can you do to help?**

- Go to Open Days - virtually at the moment, watch together if possible
- Read through and support them with their personal statement – they need to sell themselves
- Visiting places (virtually) related to their course e.g. A trip to the British Museum if they are studying Anthropology.
- Encourage reading around and in depth the subject area they are interested in.
- Discuss current affairs and encourage them to read the news (Guardian, Independent, Times)
- Make sure they are revising effectively - help to test them/revise with them. (30 minutes slots with 5 minute break)
- Help them to remain calm – these are difficult decisions in unusual times and nothing is set in stone at any point.