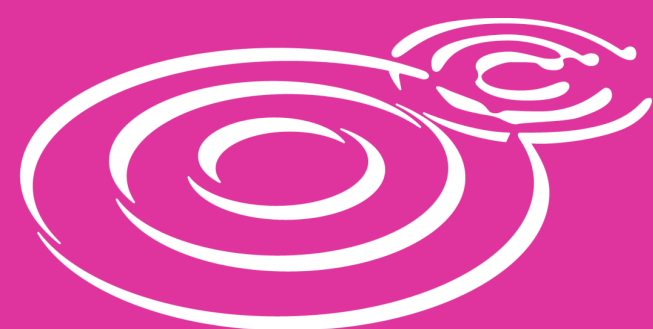




YOUR GUIDE TO HIGHER EDUCATION 2021 ENTRY



OAKLANDS COLLEGE

Your Guide to Higher Education

Going to university allows you to increase your knowledge, develop essential skills, give you a taste of independence, and increase your earning potential as well as gain an international recognised qualification.

Choosing the right course & University for you

Within the UK there are 130 universities with 450'000 subjects to choose from, and you have up to 5 choices of courses and universities. When choosing which course and university is best for you it is important to do your research. You can do the following:

Research online

The majority of UK courses are on UCAS, where you can filter them by location and course. Once you've narrowed it down, see what detailed information is available on university websites. Check out their Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube or Snapchat pages.

Consider the course structure

Find out how you will be taught and assessed, like whether a course has a lot of exams, essays, or group work, and also consider the course content.

Go to open days

It's always worth visiting the university. This will give you a basic feel on what it would be like to study at the university. We would recommend you visit twice (if you have the time and can afford the travel costs) and spend as much time there as possible. Get involved in as many things and talk to as many people possible while there.

Ask questions

Ask as many questions as you want whether it is about the university, the course or life outside of lectures. Ask questions at open days, over email, the telephone. They may run web chats with academics or students where you can ask questions.

Think about location

Consider where the university is and the accommodation on offer. How expensive is the area? And would you prefer a busy city or a quieter rural campus?

Look beyond lectures

You'll be living at university for at least three years (more or less), so find out what's on offer outside the curriculum. Your social life and down time is as important for an all-round great time at university.

Things at college

Keep a look out for events that are running within the college. The Careers and Employability Team will be running events and sessions throughout the year all about higher education.

Types of HE course

- **Extended Degree** - If you want to study for a degree but do not meet the entry requirements, completion at this level may provide you entry onto the first year of your chosen degree.
- **Higher National Certificate (HNC) / Higher National Diploma (HND)** – A Level 4 (HNC) and Level 5 (HND) qualification respectively, these focus on ‘learning by doing’. Both qualifications are delivered by further and higher education providers and is a shorter courses.
- **Foundation Degree** - Offers a combination of workplace learning and academic study. It carries the same weight as two-thirds of a Bachelors degree. A foundation degree full time will usually take two years, with part-time courses lasting around four years.
- **Honours Degree BA (Hons), BSC (Hons)** – A three year full time course, though can be four years if including a sandwich year where you will complete a year in industry.
- **National Vocational Qualification (NVQ)** - NVQs are awarded at six different levels, equivalent to other academic qualifications. A Level 6 NVQ is equivalent to a Bachelors degree, while Levels 4 and 5 equate to the first and second years of a Bachelors degree respectively. NVQs are focused on practical skills in the context of your full or part-time work. You must be employed prior to enrolling onto an NVQ course.

What do I need to be eligible for HE?

Universities and colleges set their own entry requirements for higher education courses, and these vary widely depending on the subject, the specific course, and the course provider. They set the entry requirements for each course to ensure you have the right skills and knowledge to successfully complete the course.

However, generally you will need 3 A Levels, advanced Highers or equivalent-level qualifications such as Level 3 BTEC. Some course providers use UCAS Tariff points in their entry requirements too. This is a points total achieved by converting qualifications (such as A levels) into points, making it simpler for universities and colleges to compare applicants.

Remember

Check the entry requirements for the specific courses you are looking at joining. Two courses at two universities can look similar but their entry requirements can be different.

BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma*	UCAS Point	A Level Grades
D* D* D*	168	A* A* A*
D* D* D	160	A* A* A
D* D D	152	A* A A
D D D	144	A A A
D D M	128	A A C
D M M	112	A C C
M M M	96	C C C
M M P	80	C C E
M P P	64	C E E
P P P	48	E E E

How to apply for an HE course

www.ucas.com/progress



UCAS (University and Colleges Admission Service) is the centralised service to use when apply for university. You can also use UCAS to explore your university/course options as well as gain other information, advice and guidance on other aspects of Higher Education. Applications can be submitted from 3 October in UCAS Progress. However, you can start your applications by doing your research and completing your profile at any time. Before you can apply for courses through UCAS Progress you'll need to register. We will give you your username and temporary password.

To complete there are 7 steps to go through:

1. Search for courses and providers
2. Save courses to your favourites page
3. Complete your profile
4. Making an application
5. Course preference
6. Application in Progress
7. Offer preference

Oaklands College Buzzword

OaklandsCollege2021

Application Fees

Single Choice - £20

Multiple Choices -
£25

Your Personal Statement

A personal statement supports your application to study at a university. It's a chance for you to articulate why you'd like to study a particular course or subject. This is an important and hardest part of the process, so you should give yourself plenty of time to complete it. It's important to remember you can only write one personal statement – it's the same for each course you apply for. So, avoid mentioning any universities or colleges by name.

What to write about:

- You have 4,000 characters and 47 lines.
- Write in an enthusiastic, concise, and natural style
- Look at course descriptions and identify the qualities, skills, and experience it requires.
- Structure your info to reflect the skills and qualities the unis and colleges value most
- Why you're applying – include your ambitions, as well as what interests you about the subject, the course provider, and higher education.
- What makes you suitable – this could be relevant experience, skills, or achievements you've gained from education, work, or other activities.
- Include any clubs or societies you belong to – sporting, creative, or musical.
- Mention any relevant employment experience or volunteering you've done.
- If you've developed skills through Duke of Edinburgh or young enterprise etc, mention this.
- Include if you took part in a higher education taster course, placement, or summer school, or something similar.
- Proofread aloud, and get your teachers, advisers, and family to check

What happens once your application is submitted

Once you have submitted your application we will start processing it. Make sure you keep a check on your application dashboard regularly, as your universities might respond to you through UCAS Progress. They might invite you in for an interview, taster day or meeting.

How to fund HE

Students at university have two main costs – tuition fees and living costs. You can financial support from Student Finance England.

- Tuition fee loans - cover the full cost of your course, are paid directly to the course provider, and you won't have to pay it back until after your course, when you're earning above a certain level.
- Maintenance loans - can be applied for at the same time, lending you money at the start of each term. This will help you cover living costs such as rent, bill, book and travel. How much you get depends on your household income, where you study, where you live and how long for.
- Students can apply for grants if they're eligible for certain benefits, disabled, or need help with childcare costs. Unlike loans, these usually do not have to be paid back.

A student loan is different from a bank loan, but like any other loan, these have to be repaid. The different, is that a student loan does not have to be paid back until the student has finished or left their course and their income is over a certain amount of money. The amount repaid each month will be based on their income, not how much they borrowed. Interest will be charged from the day the first student finance payment is made to the student, until the loan is repaid in full or cancelled.

Websites and resources



www.ucas.com



www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk



www.gov.uk/student-finance

How to apply for a student loan

You can apply for funding through Student Finance England for courses starting in 2019.

- Quickest and easiest way to apply is online on www.gov.uk/studentfinance
- When applying through student finance you will need you Passport, National Insurance Number and bank details. If you don't already have a bank account in your own name, you'll need to open one as student finance need these details so they can pay you your money.
- It can take up to 6 weeks to process you application, so you should apply for student finance as soon as possible once the application service opens. If your application is late your money might be too. You can still apply for funding up to nine months after the first day of the academic year for your course. The deadline for application is usually the end of May.
- Don't worry if you don't have a confirmed place at university, you can apply using your preferred choice and change the details online later if needed.
- You will be asked to send evidence of your household income, some student finance can depend on this evidence. This is the income of your parents or partner. If you are applying for this, Student Finance need some information from them too. Your application can't be assessed until they have all the information needed. You should send any evidence they ask for as soon as possible.

Scholarships, Grant & Bursaries

Loads of scholarships, grants and bursaries go unclaimed each year in the UK. It is worthwhile to research and search to see if you are eligible.

- **Family Action's Educational Grants Programme:** This service offers students, especially disadvantaged ones, over the age of 14 the chance to get grants of £200 to £300 to start or continue their education.
<https://www.family-action.org.uk/what-we-do/grants/educational-grants/>
- **The Scholarship Hub:** Search and apply for UK scholarships, grants or bursaries for university on our comprehensive database of funding for UK/EU undergraduates and postgraduates and reduce your student debts.
<https://www.thescholarshiphub.org.uk/>
- **Postgraduate Search:** Search 1,013 scholarships
<https://www.postgraduatesearch.com/funding>

You may be able to apply for Disabled Students Allowance, Childcare Grant or Bursaries and Hardship funds.

Clearing

Clearing matches applicants to university places that are yet to be filled. It's available to anyone who has made a UCAS Undergraduate application and doesn't hold any offers. Running from 5 July to mid-September, you'll be eligible for Clearing if:

- you apply after 30 June
- you are not holding any offers from universities or colleges you've applied to
- your place is not confirmed after exam results are published

To go through clearing you need to:

- From the 5th July search for vacancies in UCAS
- Once locating a course you're interested in, call the university to see if you meet the entry requirements.
- If you are offered a place and want to accept it, add the choice to Track.
- When you sign in, if you're eligible for Clearing, in the 'Next Steps' section you'll be given an option to 'Add a Clearing choice.'
- You can apply for one choice at a time through Clearing. Once a choice has been selected, you cannot add another, unless you've been unsuccessful with the first one.
- If you want to apply elsewhere once you've added a choice, then you need to ask that uni to cancel your place so you're able to apply again through Clearing.
- You will need to pay an additional £11 to go through Clearing.

Date for the diary

2020

21 May – UCAS Undergraduate Apply opens for 2021 entry.

From 4th September – Completed application can be paid for and submitted to UCAS.

1st October - Application deadline for UCAS Conservatoires music applications. Applications for dance, drama, and musical theatre courses may have a different deadline – check conservatoires' websites for information.

15th October - Deadline for applications to the universities of Oxford and Cambridge, and for most courses in medicine, dentistry, and veterinary medicine/science.

31st October - College deadline to submit your personal statement to ensure your tutor reference is added and approved by your Head of Department, before being submitted to UCAS.

2021

15th January - Equal consideration deadline for applications for most undergraduate courses.

5th July - Clearing opens for eligible applicants, and vacancies are displayed in UCAS' search tool.

21st September – Last date to submit 2021 entry applications.



OAKLANDS COLLEGE

Get extra support:

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