

Name:
Tutor group:



TES 6

Destinations Pack

2017-2018

Contents

Important Deadlines	3
<u>Section 1a – Preliminary Research - Universities</u>	
Useful web sites for research	4
Top 30 Universities	5
Why apply to University?	7
UCAS Application process – some key points	8
Choosing a university course	9-10
Preliminary research	11
University analysis sheet	12-13
Course analysis sheet	14-15
<u>Section 1b – Preliminary Research - Apprenticeships</u>	
Why apply for an apprenticeship?	16
Apprenticeship application process – some key points	16
Choosing an apprenticeship and preliminary research	17
<u>Section 2 - Useful Information</u>	
Entrance tests	18
University student finance	19
Gap Years	20
UCAS Tariff points	21
<u>Section 3 – UCAS/Job application preparation</u>	
Example personal statement	22
Example covering letter for an apprenticeship	23
Course/job ideas	24
Personal qualities and hobbies/interests	25-26
Academic section	27-28

Important Deadlines and Dates

Date	Action needed	Have you done it?
June-July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Register with UCAS (buzzword Elmgreen6) and sacustudent.com * Inputting of personal details into UCAS * Researching universities, courses, non-university pathways, gap years etc and completion of <u>Course/job ideas section (page 24)</u> * Inputting of information into <u>Personal qualities/interests section (page 25)</u> that details all your accomplishments for you tutor * Completion of <u>Academic section (page 27)</u> for UCAS form or apprenticeship/job application 	
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * 121 meeting with tutor to discuss UCAS statement * First draft of UCAS statement given to form tutors 	
15th September	Email to Mrs. Hood if you need to be sitting entrance/medical etc tests ohood@the-elmgreen-school.org.uk	
6th October	Oxbridge and Medicine/Dentistry/Veterinary Science/ Russell Group students UCAS submission deadline: Friday 6th October	
October-November	<p>“Pay and Send” UCAS form so that Mrs. Hood can complete your UCAS application:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Hood needs time to complete your application; final check and uploading of reference • Your application will be processed as it comes in; universities make offers on a first come, first served basis so it is advantageous to complete it by half term 	
1st December	All remaining students UCAS submission deadline: Friday 1st December	
Ongoing	Art and Design courses deadline: check with Mr. Ryan and individual institutions’ websites	

SECTION 1A – PRELIMINARY RESEARCH: UNIVERSITIES

Researching your university life – some useful websites

ucas.com	listings of all university courses across the country
ucastv.com	excellent tutorial videos to get you started
sacu-student.com	fantastic all round! Especially good for finding courses that you may be interested in....but don't know about!
direct.gov.uk/studentfinance	information on student finance
bursarymap.direct.gov.uk	information on bursaries available at different unis
push.co.uk	student life / courses, advice on applying / finance
educationunlimited.co.uk	university league tables
thegooduniversityguide.org.uk	university league tables
thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk	university league tables
niss.ac.uk	university performance
scit.wlv.ac.uk/ukinfo/uk.map	location map for all uk universities
gradunet.co.uk	what you can do with your degree
studentzone.org.uk	info about on and off campus life
uni4me.com	courses, accommodation, social life /finance
headstartcourses.org.uk	info for science and engineering
hefce.ac.uk/learning	various university issues
gaybydegree.org.uk	guide for lesbian, gay and bisexual prospective students
bestcourse4me.com	info on choosing a uni course

Top 30 Universities 2017 Listings

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.”

Most top-ranked universities – except St Andrews – are now members of the Russell Group.

However, a number of highly-ranked universities (eg: Lancaster, Bath and Surrey) are not Russell Group members. And some Russell Group universities (eg: Liverpool, Queen Mary, London) do not appear in these lists at all.

Ranking	thecompleteuniversity guide.co.uk	guardian.co.uk
1	Cambridge	Cambridge
2	Oxford	Oxford
3	St Andrews	St Andrews*
4	London School of Economics	Surrey*
5	Imperial College London	Loughborough
6	Durham	Durham
7	University College London	Imperial College London
8	Warwick	Lancaster
9	Lancaster	Warwick
10	Loughborough	Bath
11	Bath	Exeter
12	East Anglia (UEA)	London School of Economics
13	Surry	Birmingham
14	Exeter	University College London
15	Leeds	Coventry
16	Birmingham	Leeds
17	Bristol	Southampton
18	Nottingham	City
19	Sussex	York
20	York	Sussex
21	King’s College London	Falmouth
22	Manchester	Edinburgh
23	Edinburgh	Kent
24	Newcastle	East Anglia (UEA)
25	Kent	Nottingham
26	Southampton	Glasgow

27	Reading	Heriot-Watt
28	Herriot-Watt (Edinburgh)	Dundee
29	Leicester	Aston
30	Dundee	SOAS

university.which.co.uk/contact-hours-comparison-tool allows you to compare the teacher contact hours you can expect on different courses at different universities

Why apply to university?

It is important that you consider whether university is for you, or if it is for you right now. Below are a few of the often quoted reasons for applying to university.

However, remember that university is not for everyone. There are many other post-Sixth Form pathways to pursue.

Reasons to apply to university:

- Degree level qualifications are increasingly required to enter well paid occupations and more occupations are demanding degrees as employment in the UK has become focused on the technical and service sector
- Future earnings are likely to be much higher if you have a degree
- The job market is very competitive
- An opportunity to live independently and learn life skills
- You will be enriched:
 - an opportunity to meet people from diverse backgrounds and to live in another part of the country
 - an opportunity to continue to study something you enjoy or study something totally new and exciting
 - increased access to an active social life with many new friends
- Sporting facilities are of a very high quality and largely free

Keep your options open:

Unless you are adamant that university is not for you AND you have alternative plans, it would be wise to complete your UCAS application. It only costs £23 to apply and it is much better to have options available to you. This year, you have a huge amount of support throughout the application process, it is excellent practice for any other application process you choose to go through and it can be helpful to have something concrete (university place) to aim for throughout Year 13.

After all, you can always withdraw your application after completing Year 13. You lose very little (£23) but gain much, much more.

UCAS APPLICATION PROCESS: some key points

You will be applying online using the 'APPLY' system on the UCAS web site (www.ucas.com). It is a straightforward system but takes time and care to complete.

How many choices?

You have 5 choices to make (4 for Medicine).

There is no expression of preference at this stage; you are simply asking up to 5 universities to consider your application.

Do all choices have to be for the same subject?

In theory, no. However, you only write one personalised academic statement and it must explain why you are suitable for the course for which you are applying. You will sound silly if you have tailored your statement for a course in History only to apply for a course in Accountancy!

Stick to a broad theme if you don't want to apply for exactly the same courses.

Interviews

Many of the competitive courses interview their applicants.

However, many universities/courses don't because of the huge number of applicants that they receive.

If you do get called for an interview, you must let Mrs Hood know on ohood@the-elmgreen-school.org.uk so that we can support you in this.

How do I know if I am accepted?

Universities start making offers or declining applications as soon as they receive applications and almost all universities will have replied by the end of April.

How do I decide?

If you are lucky to have a range of offers you must accept one firm offer and one insurance offer in May 2017. If you make no decision you lose all your offers. Your insurance offer must have lower grade requirements than your firm offer. A word of warning: do not accept any offer for a place or course you are no longer interested in. Always consult your tutor or a member of the Sixth Form team before accepting offers. Additional advice will be provided nearer the time.

What if I get no offers?

This is unlikely if you have been realistic about your applications. However, if it does happen you can go through 'clearing'. Clearing takes place after results are through and universities publish all the places that they have left. You will need to call the university and be prepared to have a telephone-interview. Help will be available at school for this service.

Choosing a university course

Whilst you may already have a good idea of what you want to study you should be aware that there are over 45,000 courses out there and you are unlikely to have even heard of many of them. It is worth doing some research in case there is something amongst them that is just right for you.

Career Options and courses – www.sacustudent.com

This is a questionnaire that will take about 15 minutes and will give you subject and career options as well as apprenticeship options. There is a wealth of information on this site – it's well worth registering for.

Types of Course

There are many different courses available at number of levels. Here are the basics;

- Honours Degrees (BA or MSc); usually 3 years but some are 4 years and others up to 7 (medicine and Architecture for example)
- Foundation Degree, HND or DipHE; usually lasts 2 years. Taught in conjunction with HE colleges and employers to prepare students for entry to employment or progression onto full degree courses. Entry requirements are lower than for full degree courses.
- Specialist Qualifications; Art foundation and music qualifications also exist and run from 1 year to 4 years. (See relevant members of staff for details)

Degrees can also be divided into the following 3 categories:

- **Vocational;** prepares you for a specific career area such as Medicine or Vet Science
- **Semi-Vocational;** prepares you for a broad career area such as business studies.
- **Non-Vocational;** no particular connection with a career such as French, History or Sociology

If you have already formed some idea about the career you eventually wish to pursue, then a vocational degree is a possibility or even a necessity. You must however make sure you know what the career actually involves – and in particular the length of the training and the nature of the work. If you are simply attracted to the status and salary of a career and have little or no knowledge of the demand that it will make, then you are approaching your future blind. This is

particularly true of Law and Accountancy. Both have a very high graduate population but many do not enter the associated profession.

Vocational courses are not the only way of entering a graduate career. At least half of all job vacancies (such as Marketing, Publishing, Management and the Civil Service) are available to graduates in any field. Practically any degree represents a qualification for entry into literally thousands of different types of employment as employers are looking for evidence of academic ability, initiative and determination – all qualities that are needed to obtain a degree in any subject.

Do remember that the quality and reputation of the university or institution can be as, and sometimes more, important than the course. Refer to the university league tables for guidance.

Preliminary research

Working out your priorities		
Put your answers in priority order and think carefully about the reasons for each priority		
Priorities		Reasons
1 st Priority		
2 nd Priority		
3 rd Priority		

Suggestions of the priorities that you may have:

Course content
Reputation of the university
Academic facilities of the university
Sporting facilities of the university
Accommodation facilities of the university
Type of assessment; how will you be assessed/how do you obtain your degree
Opportunities to study abroad
Location
Proximity to London/family home
Campus vs non-campus
Big city or university town
Student mix
Cost of living
Bursaries and financial assistance provided by university
Other

Don't complete THIS sheet. Instead, download another copy or photocopy this blank template.
Complete as many times as is appropriate

University Analysis Sheet

<p>Name of University _____</p> <p>Location of University _____ (look at a map!)</p>	
<p>Location and travel issues (e.g. in a large city/small town, far away/near home, travel costs)</p>	<p>University Type (Campus, city, traditional, new)</p>
<p>Accommodation Possibility of halls of residence Cost of private rental</p>	<p>Facilities (sports, social, study)</p>
<p>Student Mix (Mature, Gender, Ethnic mix)</p>	<p>Financial (Fees, Bursaries, Scholarships)</p>
<p>Features I Like about the university</p>	<p>Features I do not like about the university</p>

Overall university rating

The University is not for me 1 2 3 4 5 The university is GREAT

Course Analysis Sheet

University _____	Title of Course _____
Entrance Requirements _____	Type (Degree / HND) _____
No of Applicants _____	Duration _____
No of places available _____	
Course Outline (Topics covered, option modules, work experience)	
How is the course assessed? (examination, coursework, presentations, continual assessment)	
What facilities are offered to help with your studies? (size of library, study skills support, support for specific learning needs, ICT)	
Aspects <u>I like</u> about the course	Aspects <u>I do not like</u> about the course

Overall course rating						
The course is not for me	1	2	3	4	5	The course is GREAT

SECTION 1B – PRELIMINARY RESEARCH: APPRENTICESHIPS

Why apply for an apprenticeship?

Reasons to apply for an apprenticeship:

- **Earn while you learn**
Apprenticeships pay on average £170/week and this is paid while you continue to undertake training towards a qualification
- **You will come out with a national qualification**
Most apprenticeships come with a college element, where you spend one day a week at college or sometimes where you spend several weeks working and then several weeks in college
- **You will use practical skills and learn on the job**
You will start working straight away and will be taught how to do your job by a mentor or manager
- **You won't have a student debt because you don't pay to complete your qualification**
A three year degree costs £27,000; apprenticeships don't entail any debt

Apprenticeship application process – some key points

- **Unlike UCAS, you don't make a central application**
You will need to make individual applications to each apprenticeship that you find, however often the questions have some similarities so it makes sense to keep your answers and try to tailor them to each job
- **Apprenticeships are released throughout the year**
Companies recruit apprenticeships year-round, so you need to check frequently
- **There are 4 levels of apprenticeships:**
 - **intermediate** (Level 2) — generally considered to be the same level as five GCSE passes
 - **advanced** (Level 3) — generally considered to be the same level as two A levels/Highers
 - **higher/technical** (Levels 4 to 7) — can lead to NVQ Level 4 and above, or a foundation degree
 - **degree/graduate-level** (Levels 5 to 7) — these are new and enable apprentices to achieve a full bachelor's or master's degree as part of their apprenticeship

Choosing an apprenticeship and preliminary research

- **Jobs are not all centrally held**

Most apprenticeships are available on the government website, here:

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>

However, some companies don't advertise here so it's useful to sign up to other brokers, such as:

www.notgoingtouni.co.uk

www.indeed.co.uk

- **UCAS has a search engine for apprenticeships, too**

<https://careerfinder.ucas.com/jobs/apprenticeship/#browsing>

SECTION 2 - USEFUL INFORMATION

Entrance Tests

These exist for a number of competitive courses such as Medicine and Law, and most courses at Oxford and Cambridge. Details of all tests can be found at <http://www.ucas.com/students/choosingcourses/admissions/>

Medicine tests

The BMAT test can be found and practised at: <http://www.bmat.org.uk/>
Only apply to one university using BMAT (if you fail the test you lose all choices that require it)

Deadline to register for it = 1st October
Test date = 2nd November (Results = 24th November)

The UKCAT test information can be found at: www.ukcat.ac.uk

Deadline to register for it = 19th September
Final test dates = 3rd October

These tests are done at external centres and places fill up quickly. Register now to be sure of a place. If you don't do a test you will not get a place in medicine.

Law tests:

LNAT can be found and practised at: <http://www.lnat.ac.uk/>

This is a critical thinking test which is becoming very common amongst top universities.

Date for registration and the online tests were not published at the time of this booklet going to print. Keeping checking the website – they state that it will be updated sometime in June.

Your UCAS application should be completed before sitting the test as the programme requires codes from your form and the universities to which you apply will see these results, perhaps before you do.

Oxford and Cambridge University tests:

Information about Oxford entrance tests:

<http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/applying-to-oxford/tests>

Information about Cambridge entrance tests:

<http://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/applying/admissions-tests>

University Student Finance

To apply for student finance

[direct.gov.uk/studentfinance](https://www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance)

General information on student support provided by the Government

Department for Education and Skills (DfES)

Information line: 0800 731 9133

Student support helpline 01325 392822

www.dfes.gov.uk/student-support

<https://www.gov.uk/student-finance/loans-and-grants>

Student Loan Company

www.slc.co.uk

Bursaries

http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/EducationAndLearning/UniversityAndHigherEducation/StudentFinance/Typesoffinance/DG_171571

Gap Year

Gap years can be fantastic! People take Gap years for a variety of reasons but for many they can be an opportunity to have amazing and very memorable experiences. Speak to your teachers – many of them will have stories of their Gap years to tell. However, even if you opt for a Gap year, we recommend that you still apply this year but make a deferred application.

There are many but some agencies and websites that can help prepare you for a Gap Year are:

The Project Trust (www.projecttrust.org.uk)

Year in Industry (<http://www.etrust.org.uk/the-year-in-industry>)

The Gap Year Company (www.thegapyear.co.uk)

Volunteering opportunities (<https://www.gapyear.com/volunteering>)

The Year out group (www.yearoutgroup.org)

VSO (<http://www.vso.org.uk>)

Raleigh International (<https://raleighinternational.org/>)

If you are interested in taking a gap year you should still. Speak to a member of the Sixth Form team for further advice.

Studying abroad:

If you are thinking of studying abroad, these websites may be a helpful starting point

<http://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/universities/choosing-the-right-university/overseas-universities/>

<http://www.fulbright.org.uk/study-in-the-usa/undergraduate-study/applying>
(studying in America)

UCAS tariff points

A Levels:

Please note that the UCAS tariff has changed. Equivalent changes also apply to vocational courses.

	AS Level	A Level		Diploma	90 Credit Diploma		Subsidiary Diploma
A*		56	D*D*	112	84	D*	56
A	20	48	D*D	104	78	D	48
B	16	40	DD	96	72	M	32
C	12	32	DM	80	60	P	16
D	10	24	MM	64	48		
E	6	16	MP	48	36		
			PP	32	24		

Example personal statement

Mathematics is a universal language. Wherever you are, you can communicate through numbers. This fascinates me. When I moved to the UK two years ago, writing in English was a barrier to me. This inspired me to express myself through numbers where I can most confidently communicate. I felt trapped, however through maths I finally obtained the ability to get my message across. Maths became so much more to me than a subject, it was a learning process of being able to express the numbers written down on paper, making it easy explain to someone what I meant. Spending time outside of my comfort zone in a different culture has therefore shaped my appreciation of the universal communication that maths can provide.

Since starting my A level in maths I have become very passionate about the subject. This led to me pursuing further maths as well, and so I had to apply myself to successfully catch up on four months of work. My interests lie predominantly in the pure abstract aspects of maths. My favourite topic to date has been sequences as I enjoy discovering trends in a set of data and how sequences are linked with a logical process that can be expressed through a formula. Additionally, I really enjoy complex numbers and how this enables a whole new branch of maths to come into being. My interest in maths extends beyond the classroom. I am currently enjoying reading 'Mathematics: A very short introduction' by Timothy Gowers, as it provides an extended knowledge of proofs. This showed me how maths enables me to problem solve by taking situation, making assumptions and deducing an appropriate technique, in order to arrive at the solution. These steps are crucial and rewarding, as is obtaining the final answer.

In my ambition to explore maths within a professional environment, I have undertaken work experience at an accountancy firm, Withers & Co, where I learnt about applying maths to areas such as tax, book-keeping and pay-rolls. It was great to see how maths is applied outside of an academic context. I was also selected to participate in a mentoring programme with MFS Investment Management where I have been learning about the financial markets and the process of sustainable investment. As well as seeing how maths is applied to the analysis of companies, my frequent visits to MFS have enabled my confidence to develop and communication skills to improve as I have presented to the sales team on my understanding of the investment industry.

Whilst studying for A-Levels, I work as a maths tutor for Key Stages 2-4, teaching younger children to love and appreciate maths as much as I do. I have found the most challenging topic to teach has been fractions as the children initially could not comprehend the concept that a whole number can be divided. However, I developed a practical teaching technique and feel a sense of responsibility for their success. The technique that I developed was a simple idea of an A4 sheet of paper when they ripped it, dividing it into smaller pieces of paper, with each representing one part of a whole sheet. I often find it interesting to simplify complex maths that I'm exposed to every day for the children to learn.

Outside of my core curriculum, I am an active member of the Debating Society and have been successful in multiple competitions. I have enjoyed researching to prepare speeches on topics such as IVF and climate change. Weekly debate meetings have enabled me to improve my language and communication skills. Additionally, every Wednesday I am a faithful and enthusiastic member of the school Book Club where I love to share my opinion on what I'm currently reading and co-write a novel with my peers. To grow as a leader, I joined the School Council to represent my tutor group and help to improve the school.

I am confident I would rise to the challenge of studying maths at your university as I am incredibly hard-working and eager to explore the endless opportunities that maths can provide.

Example apprenticeship covering letter

Dear Ms Silver,

I am writing to apply for the Social Media Marketing Apprenticeship with Sequin Group, as advertised on the Future Talent website. I have enclosed my CV which details my experience and qualifications you require.

I am particularly interested in working for your organisation as you stress the importance of having experience using social media platforms and working well in a team. I have a keen interest in digital media and have sought out a volunteer placement with a well known charity to gain some experience working in this area, which I thoroughly enjoy. I see from your website that Sequin Group offers professional services for start up companies and I feel that my qualifications in Business and my experience in social media make me the ideal candidate for this role.

As you can see from my CV, I have proven interpersonal and team skills, having worked successfully part time for the past 3 years as a retail assistant for Morrisons whilst participating positively as a member of the sales team. I have been a successful student who is quick and eager to learn and have an aptitude for numeracy and attention to detail. Additionally, I understand that experience with Adobe software is desirable. I have experience using this program and examples of my work with Adobe can be found in my portfolio at www.harrismith.com.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my application and if you require any further information, please contact me on the details provided above.

Yours sincerely,

Harriet Smith

Course/job ideas

My A-Level/BTEC subjects and predicted grades are:	
My favourite subject / the subject I'm excelling in is:	
Courses/jobs I'm currently considering are:	

Personal qualities and hobbies/interests

<p>Roles of responsibility in school (prefect, mentoring, school council, helping at parents' evenings, in-class support, Humanutopia, Beatbullying etc)</p>	
<p>Extra-curricular activities in school (can include clubs, teams and also any trips you've been on)</p>	
<p>Extra-curricular activities outside school, including hobbies</p>	

<p>Part-time work or work experience</p>	
<p>Anything else your referee should know (e.g special circumstances, health issues, awards, achievements)</p>	

Academic section

<p>The core reason why I'm applying for this course or job or apprenticeship</p>	
<p>What I've done outside my lessons to develop my interest in this subject</p>	

Subject 1, what I've been learning and why it's relevant	
Subject 2, what I've been learning and why it's relevant	
Subject 3, what I've been learning and why it's relevant	
Subject 4, what I've been learning and why it's relevant	