



# Higher Education Evening

Which universities do our leavers go on to study at?

Cardiff  
Nottingham  
Imperial College London  
University of the Creative Arts Farnham  
Essex  
Southampton  
Bournemouth  
Surrey  
Warwick  
Kings' College London  
Bristol  
Oxford  
Durham  
Lamda  
Birmingham  
Exeter  
Sussex  
Guildford  
School of Acting  
Chichester  
Royal Holloway College  
Manchester  
Liverpool  
Bath  
And many more

A photograph of two young adults, a woman and a man, smiling and holding books. The woman is in the foreground, holding a book with a colorful polka-dot cover. The man is behind her, holding a book titled 'History AS'.

**Dear Parents and Carers,**

Welcome to the Woking College Higher Education Information Evening. Students will be introduced to the Higher Education process in college over the next few months, receiving advice on how to select and make decisions about future courses, how to choose between different HE institutions and how to financially support themselves through university. We understand that this can be a confusing time with lots of difficult decisions to be made and we are on hand to support both you and the young person in your care-throughout the process. All students are very welcome to make individual appointments with the Careers Department at any time for help or advice.

During the evening there will be presentations from Lancaster University, discussing the benefits of Higher Education, and from Southampton Solent University, covering Student Finance and funding options.

We hope that by the end of the evening you will feel well informed, but please get in touch if you have any questions. You can email the Careers department directly at [careers@woking.ac.uk](mailto:careers@woking.ac.uk) or telephone us on 01483 761036.

This booklet contains further information for you to refer to over the coming months.

Yours faithfully

Helena Clarke  
Assistant Principal



### **What you can expect from us**

- Excellent, up to date advice and guidance for your young person on the UCAS application process, university funding, etc.
- Our dynamic virtual Careers Bulletin Board promoting opportunities & sharing resources.
- Advice and guidance on writing a personal statement
- Support with choosing a university
- Assistance in completing the UCAS form
- On-going support following their UCAS application
- Guest speakers throughout the year from higher education and industry to help with decision making
- Support for those not attending university, including information on all levels of apprenticeships, further education courses, CV writing, interview skills, Gap Years and finding employment
- One to one advice and guidance from our University and Careers Adviser

### **What we expect from your young person**

- To participate fully in all relevant activities and events
- To complete the UCAS application form and personal statement **by the internal college deadline (see Deadlines page)**
- To make use of all the resources available to them so they can be best informed to make the right choice

### **What is UCAS? [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)**

Universities and Colleges Admissions Service – this is the central application agency for all publicly funded undergraduate degree courses, HNC and HND courses, and full-time foundation degrees.

The UCAS website is more than just the online application form. It is an excellent source of information. Students can search for which universities offer their chosen course, entry profiles, links to HE websites, open days/pre-taster courses and finance information.

**UCAS FOR PARENTS** Advice from UCAS especially designed for parents may be found at:

[Advice For Parents and Guardians | UCAS | Parent Guide To University](#)

This includes videos and a downloadable Guide for Parents. It is also possible to subscribe to a monthly newsletter for parents.

### What students need to do

- Write a personal statement.
- Students complete their UCAS application form online, and their application should be linked to Woking College; this can be done from home as well as at college.
- Students need to complete a predicted grade sheet (given to them by their tutor in the autumn term of year 13 or available from the Careers office) with their choices of course and university, any entry requirements, and then a section for teachers to complete with predicted grades from their subject teachers. Please note that these grades are not necessarily the same as students receive on progress reports but should be agreed after discussion with the teachers.
- Once the completed form, including the personal statement, is checked and agreed by the personal tutor, students can then click 'Review and Submit' and pay for the application.
- If the application is linked correctly to Woking College this then sends the form electronically to the college, not to UCAS. Personal tutors will then add a reference to the online UCAS form.
- We will then complete a last check of the form before finally approving it and submitting it to UCAS, who then forward the applications on to each university. **Keeping to the internal college deadline is of great importance** to ensure that applications are checked in good time to be sent by the **14<sup>th</sup> January 2026 deadline**.

### How the UCAS process works

- Students have a maximum of five choices (four for medical and veterinary school). If they use fewer than five choices in the early stages of the application, they can add choices up to the maximum five at a later stage.
- Universities can initially only see that a student has applied to them; they do not know which other universities have been applied to.
- Universities make offers, usually conditional. These can be in various forms e.g. 120 UCAS points or BBB at A level, DDM at BTEC. We can offer advice and help in understanding offers where necessary. Students can accept two offers: a Firm (first) Choice and an Insurance (second) choice. There is a tariff table with the points and their grade equivalent at the end of this document.
- On A level results day in August, universities notify students if their offer has been successfully confirmed. In case of disappointment, staff will be in the LRC at college that day to offer help and advice through the clearing process.
- UCAS charges an application fee, currently £28.50 which students need to pay via the UCAS form before the college can send off the applications.
- Students who are currently enrolled at college and have been in receipt of UK government funded free school meals at some point during the last six years (i.e. during their secondary education) up until the end of their final year, will be eligible to have the application fee waived.

## **UCAS HUB**

Students are informed of all decisions via their UCAS Hub available 24 hours 7 days per week. Students can track their application progress online, to view and to accept or decline offers. They can also see and amend the personal information they have provided.

## **UCAS Extra**

UCAS Extra (which usually opens from late February to the end of July) provides an additional choice for applicants who are not holding any offers from universities, either because they received no offers, or they declined them. Applicants will be automatically informed of their eligibility by UCAS.

## **Clearing**

Clearing gives you a final chance if you have not been placed anywhere. If your young person has not gained the necessary grades stipulated in their offer, their chosen universities may decline their application. Should this happen, they have a very good chance of obtaining a place at another university through Clearing. It is therefore important to be available on A level results day.

## **Woking College Careers Fair and Careers Mornings**

### **Our annual Careers Mornings take place this year on 20th March and 24th June 2025**

**20<sup>th</sup> March** - Careers morning event with talks on why students should consider going to university, alternatives to university, useful websites for career decisions and a workshop on CV writing.

**24<sup>th</sup> June** – Morning event which includes a Careers Fair at which at least 100 employers and universities will be exhibiting. As well as attending talks on various study and career options, students will receive their UCAS induction. They will register and begin to complete their application forms. Advice and guidance on writing their personal statements is available at all times from Careers and will also be covered by personal tutors and representatives from universities from September onwards.

## **Deadlines**

The college has internal deadlines for students to submit their UCAS applications to tutors, to enable staff to check for any errors, offer help where necessary and supply a reference, all with sufficient time to send the application to UCAS.

It is advisable that your young person applies early. Admissions tutors have much more time to consider those applications sent in early. Although all applications (other than those which must be submitted by 15th October) are considered equally if received by UCAS by 14th January 2026, here are some reasons why admissions tutors recommend getting an application in early:

“All students applying by the deadline will be given equal consideration. The advantage to the applicant in applying earlier is that it means they can stop working on their application and concentrate on their studies - which is the single most important factor in getting them to their first-choice university.” University of Birmingham.

“Offers are made right up until the UCAS deadline and, even for highly competitive courses like physiotherapy or midwifery, every application received by the deadline is counted as an 'on time' application and will be considered equally. However, the biggest advantage to submitting the UCAS application earlier is that it gets it out of the way and allows you to focus upon achieving the best grades possible without needing to worry about completing your application.” University of Southampton.

- Oxford and Cambridge applications, as well as those for medicine, dentistry, and veterinary medicine must be completed by the internal college deadline of **23rd September 2025**: these need to be submitted to UCAS by **15th October 2025**.
- All other students work on their applications to complete it in time for internal college deadlines: competitive courses such as nursing, teaching, and Russell Group universities must be done by the internal college deadline of **28<sup>th</sup> October 2025**, other applications by **18th November 2025**. We strongly recommend for students' own peace of mind that they apply before these deadlines, if possible, to enable them to concentrate on their studies.
- All applications received at college by the internal deadline will be processed and sent off for the UCAS deadline of **14<sup>h</sup> January 2026**. Universities are not obliged to consider any applications sent after this date.

#### **Summary of internal college deadlines:**

**23rd September: Oxford/Cambridge/Medicine/Dentistry/Veterinary Science**

**28<sup>th</sup> October: Competitive courses (engineering, nursing, teaching, competitive universities)**

**18th November: All other courses**

#### **Student Finance Funding to cover the cost of university tuition fees and living costs**

At the time of going to press the following rules apply:

#### **Who can get full support?**

- you've been living in the UK, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man for 3 years before starting your course.
- England is your home, for example, you live and work in England and have not moved there solely for the purposes of study.

#### **And you're one of the following:**

- a UK national or Irish citizen.
- **settled under the EU Settlement Scheme** (and been ordinarily resident in the UK for 3 years prior to the first day of starting your university course).
- granted settled status for other reasons.

**If you have one of the following Home Office statuses, you also can apply for full support:**

- Humanitarian protection or the family member of someone with this status
- Stateless status or the family member of someone with this status
- Refugee status or the family member of someone with this status
- You or your family member have been granted leave under the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) or the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS)
- Calais leave or leave in line as the dependent child of someone with Calais leave
- You or your parent have been granted indefinite leave to remain as a bereaved partner
- You or your parent have been granted indefinite leave to enter or remain as a victim of domestic violence or abuse (DVILR)
- Leave to remain under section 67 of the Immigration Act or leave in line as the dependent child of someone with this status
- You or your family member have been granted leave to enter or remain in the UK under the Ukraine Family Scheme, the Homes for Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme or the Ukraine Extension Scheme

**If you've been living in the UK and Islands for the past 3 years and are:**

- 18 or over on the first day of your course and have lived in the UK for at least half your life.

**You must also have:**

- been ordinarily resident in the UK, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man for 3 years in a row before the first day of the first academic year of your course.
- held a form of leave to enter or remain issued by the Home Office throughout that 3-year period.

**Who can get tuition fees support only?**

You can apply for tuition fee funding if you've been living in the UK, the EEA, Switzerland or the overseas territories for the past 3 years and you:

- have **pre-settled status** under the **EU Settlement Scheme** (and been ordinarily resident in the UK for 3 years prior to the first day of starting your university course)
- are a person with settled status in the UK and you've been living in the UK, Islands and the British Overseas Territories for the past three years, with at least part of that time spent in the British Overseas Territories  
are a person with settled status in the UK and have been living in the UK, Islands or Ireland for the past three years with at least part of that time spent in Ireland
- are a family member of a person with settled status in the UK and you have been living in the UK and Islands for the past three years

For full details go to [Student finance for undergraduates: Overview - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

International students or EU students who are unsure of their status or eligibility for Finance Funding are advised to contact Student Finance on 0300 100 0607 to discuss their individual circumstances.

## **Unifrog**

All students are encouraged to use Unifrog to search for, research and compare universities and degree courses. This is an online platform and is free for students to use as the college pays for the subscription.

Students have been made aware of how to use Unifrog via their tutorial sessions.

Students can also research on other platforms including:

UCAS [UCAS | At the heart of connecting people to higher education](#)

Discover Uni [Discover Uni Home | Discover Uni](#)

Prospects – click Applying for university tab [Prospects.ac.uk](https://www.prospects.ac.uk)

Woking College Careers Bulletin Board offers resources and a step by step guide to completing a UCAS application -[Careers Bulletin Board](#) -

### **1. Things to discuss with your young person**

Where do they want to be in five years' time? If the answer is, 'I don't know,' there is no need to worry! However, we do encourage students to identify what their next steps need to be. This helps take pressure off regarding uncertainty over specific long-term goals but does encourage them to think about how to move forward. In all cases, it is important to start thinking about what comes after college, so do please encourage your young person to make an appointment with the Careers Department who will be very happy to offer any advice and guidance.

### **2. What would your young person like to study? There is a huge range of courses available from medicine, architecture and law through to surfing, fashion and football studies – what is the right choice for them? A degree does not have to be specific to a job, as 60% of graduate level jobs do not specify what subject the degree should be in. It is important that the student really engages with the subject and wants to spend three years working hard at it: this leads to good outcomes and excellent transferable skills.**

### **3. Where should they study? There are over 130 universities and taking in to account all the colleges which also offer higher education, students can apply for a degree in nearly 400 different institutions. Some are very large, some are much smaller; some are in the heart of the city (for example, Bristol or the London School of Economics) while others are in the heart of the countryside or surrounded by greenery (for example, Warwick or Keele). Some**



are close to home which could save money on accommodation, while those far away could encourage independence. Where would they like to be? Is the reputation of the university important to them? Again, the Careers Department can offer help with these decisions if required.

4. Should your young person consider applying for Medicine, Veterinary, Dentistry and/or to Oxford or Cambridge? If they are likely to achieve exceptional A level grades, then perhaps! Extra support and guidance for these applications is available. Please contact:

Nicola Eaves: [NEA@woking.ac.uk](mailto:NEA@woking.ac.uk) – Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary, Sport

Chris Taylor [CTR@woking.ac.uk](mailto:CTR@woking.ac.uk) Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths

Andrew Mountford: [AMO@woking.ac.uk](mailto:AMO@woking.ac.uk) – English, Cultural Studies, Humanities, Social Sciences, Business, Economics

Millie Collyer: [MCO@woking.ac.uk](mailto:MCO@woking.ac.uk) – Visual Arts, Media, Performing Arts

5. Should your young person take a gap year? Gap years can provide invaluable life experience. Whether it is travelling the world, a year in industry, unpaid work experience or a combination, a gap year can help young people make themselves attractive to employers after university. Students are encouraged to apply to university at the normal time and ask for deferred entry on their application. Advice and guidance for Gap years is available in the Careers Office, and there will be talks from Gap year providers at the Careers morning in June and again at the beginning of Year 13.
6. An alternative path to obtaining a degree is through a degree apprenticeship. Students apply for degree apprenticeships in the same way they apply for a regular job. If they are also applying to university, they can use their personal statement as a foundation for their application. Employers offer degree apprenticeships year-round, without a set application cycle although many larger organisations will open their application window in September 2026. Students do not apply through UCAS. <https://www.ucas.com/apprenticeships/degree-apprenticeships>

#### **Things for your son/daughter to find out**

1. Which universities offer their chosen course?
2. What are the graduate prospects at these universities?
3. What are the entry requirements?
4. Are any additional tests required for these courses e.g., BMAT/UKCAT, LNAT?
5. When are university open days/taster days?
6. Are there summer schools to try out or universities which they could attend?

The Careers Office is manned from 8.30am until 4pm Monday to Thursday and we are always happy to help students with any queries about their progression onwards from college. We can be contacted on [careers@woking.ac.uk](mailto:careers@woking.ac.uk)

### UCAS Tariff Points Table

BTEC Diploma RQF	BTEC Sub Diploma	UCAS Tariff Points	A Level	EPQ	Core Maths	UCAS Tariff Points
D*D*		112				112
D*D		104				104
DD		96				96
DM		80				80
MM		64				64
	D*	56	A*			56
MP	D	48	A			48
		40	B			40
PP	M	32	C			32
		28		A*		28
		24	D	A		24
		20		B	A	20
	P	16	E	C	B	16
		12		D	C	12
		10			D	10
		8		E		8
		6			E	6

**For the following use the BTEC Diploma grades and points columns (2 A Level Equivalents)**

Cambridge Technical Diploma in Art and Design

BTEC Diploma in Applied Science RQF

BTEC Diploma in Business Studies RQF

BTEC Diploma in Information Technology RQF

Cambridge Technical Diploma in Health and Social Care

For NCFE Diploma 720 in Sport and Physical Activity students only receive one grade even though it is 2 A Level Equivalent: D\*=112, D=96, M=64, P=32

**For the following use the BTEC Sub Diploma grades and points columns (1 A Level Equivalent)**

Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Children's Play, Learning & Development RQF

Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Applied Law RQF

Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Performing Arts RQF

Pearson BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate in Digital Games Production RQF

Pearson BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate in Information Technology RQF

Pearson BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate in Business Studies RQF

CTEC Extended Certificate Engineering

CTEC Extended Certificate in Health and Social Care

CTEC Extended Certificate in Digital Media

BTEC Subsidiary Diploma in Music Technology

NCFE Certificate in Sport and Physical Activity

NCFE Certificate for Entry to the Uniformed Services

NCFE Certificate in Travel and Tourism

**For the following use the A Level grades and points columns:**

WJEC Diploma in Criminology