

# **How to research courses and apply for 2015 admission**

**Courses, colleges and UCAS**

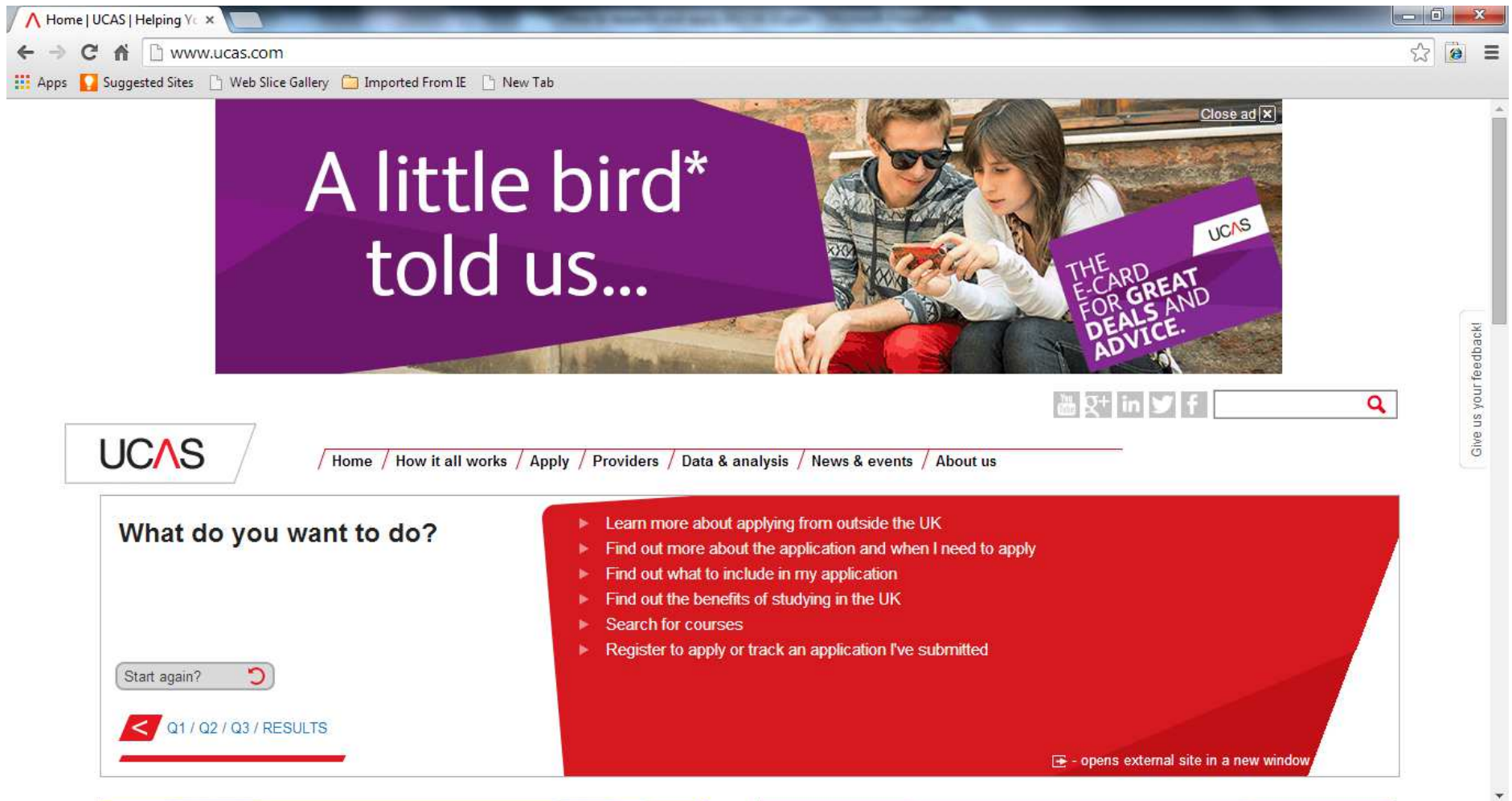
You can download this  
presentation from -

[www.oxford.lu](http://www.oxford.lu)

[www.cambridge.lu](http://www.cambridge.lu)

# UCAS – ‘One stop shop’ for UK Higher Education

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



The screenshot shows a browser window with the address bar displaying 'www.ucas.com'. The main content area features a large purple banner with the text 'A little bird\* told us...' and an image of a young man and woman looking at a smartphone. A purple callout box on the right says 'THE E-CARD FOR GREAT DEALS AND ADVICE.' with the UCAS logo. Below the banner is a navigation menu with links: Home, How it all works, Apply, Providers, Data & analysis, News & events, and About us. A search bar is located to the right of the navigation menu. The main content area is divided into two sections: 'What do you want to do?' with a 'Start again?' button and a list of links, and a red callout box with a list of links. The UCAS logo is in the top left corner. A vertical 'Give us your feedback!' button is on the right side.

Home | UCAS | Helping You

www.ucas.com

Apps Suggested Sites Web Slice Gallery Imported From IE New Tab

A little bird\* told us...

Close ad

THE E-CARD FOR GREAT DEALS AND ADVICE.

UCAS

UCAS

Home / How it all works / Apply / Providers / Data & analysis / News & events / About us

What do you want to do?

Start again?

Q1 / Q2 / Q3 / RESULTS

- ▶ Learn more about applying from outside the UK
- ▶ Find out more about the application and when I need to apply
- ▶ Find out what to include in my application
- ▶ Find out the benefits of studying in the UK
- ▶ Search for courses
- ▶ Register to apply or track an application I've submitted

- opens external site in a new window

Give us your feedback!

# USE *UCAS* TO RESEARCH COURSES

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

- Information about ALL UK higher education courses
  - Very easy to use. Multiple ways to search.
  - Summaries of every course in every university
  - Links to universities' own websites
    - ...much more detail there
  - Information for parents, schools and students
  - Also information about UK student finance
- Aim for Oxford or Cambridge
  - but research alternatives too

# e.g. search for 'politics' at Oxford

**Single/Combined subjects**

- Single subject (0)
- [Joint subjects \(1\)](#)
- Combined (0)
- Major with a minor subject (0)
- Major with more than one minor (0)
- [Triple subjects \(1\)](#)
- Other type of combination (0)

**Provider types**

- [Universities and colleges \(1\)](#)
- Conservatoires (0)

**How you study**

- [Full-time \(1\)](#)
- Full-time with a placement (sandwich) (0)
- Full-time with study abroad (0)
- Flexible/Part-time study (0)
- Flexible study (evenings only) (0)
- Flexible study (daytime only) (0)

**Oxford University**

*Combined subjects*

Course Name	Qualification	Duration	Study mode
<a href="#">History and Politics (LV21)</a> Ornel Undergraduate Degree	BA (Hons)	3 Years	Full-time
<a href="#">History and Politics (LV21)</a> St Hugh's Undergraduate Degree	BA (Hons)	3 Years	Full-time
<a href="#">History and Politics (LV21)</a> Lady Margaret Hall Undergraduate Degree	BA (Hons)	3 Years	Full-time
<a href="#">History and Politics (LV21)</a> Wadham Undergraduate Degree	BA (Hons)	3 Years	Full-time
<a href="#">History and Politics (LV21)</a> University Undergraduate Degree	BA (Hons)	3 Years	Full-time

[View all relevant courses at Oxford University >](#)

Oxford & Cambridge are each made up of ca. 30 colleges. UCAS lists every college offering this course!

# Additional courses relevant to 'politics'

UCAS Search tool - Search x

search.ucas.com/search/results?Vac=5&AvailableIn=2014&Query=politics&ProviderQuery=Oxford%20University%2C%20&AcpId=1881&page=1&providerids=

Where do you normally live?: Elsewhere in the EU

Search by any or all of the following

Course: politics

Provider: Oxford University

Location: Enter a country, county, city or town

Search >

Availability

Courses open to new applicants

Single/Combined subjects

Single subject (0)

Joint subjects (1)

Combined (0)

Major with a minor subject (0)

Major with more than one minor (0)

Triple subjects (1)

Other type of combination (0)

Provider types

Universities and colleges (2)

< Back to results

Oxford University

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

2 courses found

Combined subjects

History and Politics (LV21) : Taught at 31 locations

Undergraduate Degree

Qualification BA (Hons) Duration 3 Years Study mode Full-time

Philosophy, Politics and Economics (L0V0) : Taught at 34 locations

Balliol	Brasenose
Course closed to new applicants	Course closed to new applicants
Christ Church	Corpus Christi
Course closed to new applicants	Course closed to new applicants
Exeter	Harris Manchester (Mat)
Course closed to new applicants	Course closed to new applicants

search.ucas.com/provider/1881/oxford-university?Vac=5&AvailableIn=2014&Query=politics&ProviderQuery=Oxford University%2C &AcpId=1881&page=1&providerids=1881&ret=results

'Closed to new applicants' for 2014 but you can still find course information.

2015 applications open in June.

# UCAS course summary

UCAS Search tool - Philos x

search.ucas.com/course/entryrequirements/86606/philosophy-politics-and-economics?Vac=5&AvailableIn=2014&Query=politics&ProviderQuery=Oxford%20U

Apps Suggested Sites Web Slice Gallery Imported From IE New Tab

## Philosophy, Politics and Economics

Oxford University

Duration 3 Years | Study mode Full-time | Attendance Study on site | Qualification BA (Hons) | Course code LOVO

[Summary](#) | [Entry requirements](#) | [Fees & finances](#) | [How to apply](#) | [Assessment info](#)

Link to university website

### First year entry

#### Qualification requirements

<a href="#">Levels</a>
<a href="#">BTECs</a>
<a href="#">OCR Awards</a>
<a href="#">Baccalaureate - AQA</a>
<a href="#">Baccalaureate - Welsh</a>
Baccalaureate - International
<a href="#">Baccalaureate - European</a>
<a href="#">Scottish qualifications</a>
<a href="#">Cambridge Pre-U</a>

#### Baccalaureate - International

Oxford University will make offers based on the following qualifications individually and when they are combined with others

##### International Baccalaureate Diploma

General information on subjects/grades required for entry:  
38-40

**Information:**  
These give an indication of the range of offers likely to be made to successful candidates. Achievement of these grades does not guarantee a place as admissions for all courses are competitive.

#### Interviews, auditions and portfolios

For the first year entry of this course you will be assessed by interview/audition.

[www.cam.ac.uk/study-at-cambridge](http://www.cam.ac.uk/study-at-cambridge)

[www.ox.ac.uk/admissions](http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions)

- Details of all courses offered at each university
  - UCAS course and institution codes
  - Course overview
  - Subjects covered in each year, modules and options
  - How the course is taught and assessed
  - Which colleges offer the course
  - Entry requirements by college
  - Careers followed by students with that degree
  - Number of applicants - number admitted
  - Related courses – think broadly about what interests you!
- And lots of general information about the universities, colleges, student life, open days & events...



# Choosing a college

Welcome | Why Cambridge | Courses | **Colleges** | Student life | Applying | Finance | Open days and events | Access | Support | Find out more |

List of Colleges | What is a College | **Choosing a College** | College contacts

Home > Colleges

## The Colleges

At Cambridge, as well as being a member of the University, you'll also be a member of a College.

- **Community.** Your College is your base for the time you're at Cambridge - it's where you live, eat, do a lot of socialising, and receive additional academic and pastoral support.
- The **29** undergraduate Colleges provide accommodation for most students for at least three years.
- **Location.** The Colleges are located across the city and all are within walking or cycling distance of the city centre and the academic faculties and departments.

### What is a College?



### Choosing a College



### Contacting a College



Your College is much more than a hall of residence; it's also where you'll do a lot of your studying and socialising. How much time you spend in your College is up to you. For some students, their College is simply the place where they sleep and attend supervisions. For most, though, it provides experiences and friendships that can last a lifetime.

- Offers your course?
- Ancient or modern?
- Large or small?
- City centre or outskirts?
- Type of accommodation?
- Admissions policy?
- All female or mixed?
- Tutors in your subject?
- Atmosphere – personal feeling
- VISIT IF YOU CAN



#### RELATED LINKS

- [College open days](#)
- [Application statistics](#)
- [College Area Links Scheme](#)

HAVING TROUBLE DECIDING WHICH COLLEGE TO APPLY TO? WATCH OUR SHORT FILM.



# Minimum entrance requirements

## – varies by subject and university but...

- Luxembourg
  - Diplôme de Fin d'Etudes Secondaires - overall score of at least 50 .
- International Baccalaureat
  - total score of at least 38 - 41 points including core points, with 6s and 7s in Highers.
- European Baccalaureat
  - Average of 85% or above, with scores of at least 8 - 9 in specified subjects.
- France
  - French Baccalauréat or Option Internationale du Baccalauréat - average score of at least 15 - 17.
- UK
  - A-levels between A\*A\*A and AAA depending on the subject.
- Germany
  - Abitur with a total mark between 1.0 and 1.5 with scores of between 13 and 15 in individual subjects.
- Belgium
  - Certificat d'Enseignement Secondaire Supérieur - average score of at least 8. Scores of 9 may be required in particular subjects.

# Tests

- Additional tests may be required depending on course, college and university
  - Thinking Skills Assessment (TSA)
  - Physics Aptitude Test (PAT)
  - Bio-Medical Admissions Test (BMAT)
  - Cambridge Law Test (CLT)
  - Law National Admissions Test (LNAT)
  - History Aptitude Test (HAT)
  - Modern Languages Admissions Test (MLAT)
  - Oriental Languages Aptitude Test (OLAT)
  - Sixth Term Examination Papers in Mathematics (STEP)
  - ...
- Many of these can be taken at the Lycée des Garçons d'Esch or at the European School of Brussels
- Check test dates (Oct – Nov) and application deadlines!

# UCAS Application System

## www.ucas.com

The screenshot shows the UCAS website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the UCAS logo and a menu: Home / How it all works / Apply / Providers / Data & analysis / News & events / About us. Below the navigation bar, there is a section titled "What do you want to do?" with a list of options:

- ▶ Learn more about applying from outside the UK
- ▶ Find out more about the application and when I need to apply
- ▶ Find out what to include in my application
- ▶ Find out the benefits of studying in the UK
- ▶ Search for courses
- ▶ Register to apply or track an application I've submitted

The option "Register to apply or track an application I've submitted" is circled in white. Below the list, there is a "Start again?" button with a refresh icon and a navigation bar with a back arrow and the text "Q1 / Q2 / Q3 / RESULTS".

At the bottom right of the page, there is a small icon and the text: - opens external site in a new window.

# Register for a UCAS account

- Registration screens ask for:
  - Name, address, birth-date
  - UK resident or not
  - Address/telephone
  - E-mail address –
    - use a 'boring' e-mail address!
  - Password choice
  - Security questions
- UserID is displayed at the end of registration – make a note!
- To link your application to your school, you need a 'buzzword' provided by your school.
  - Many schools in Luxembourg are registered in the system
  - You always can add it later

# On-line Application

- Work through the sections in any order.
- Enter data or choose from a drop-down list
- Click “Save” at the bottom of each page
  - Completed sections show a ✓
  - If you log out and log in again later, you can carry on from where you left off.
  - You don’t have to complete the whole process in one session!
  - You can go back and change anything before you submit the application.
- There are links to help on every page and a telephone helpline if you are really stuck!

# Sections of the application

- Personal details
- Student finance (if you live in the UK)
- Course choices
  - You can apply for up to five courses
  - Only ONE from Oxford or Cambridge
  - Maximum of FOUR for medicine, dentistry or veterinary medicine
  - Use correct UCAS codes – “Campus Code” means “College”
- Education – list secondary schools
  - Choose from a list or type in – many Lux schools are on the list
- Qualifications attained at each school
  - Questions depend on type of qualification selected
  - Choose ‘pending’ for results of exams not yet taken
- Employment (if any and if relevant to your courses)
- Personal Statement (more later)
- Reference
  - Fill in referee contact details, only if application is not linked to your school
- Review, pay (~£23, credit card) and submit

# Personal statement

- Study UCAS guidelines carefully!  
<http://www.ucas.com/students/applying/howtoapply/personalstatement/>
  - Your chance to grab their attention in no more than 4000 characters
  - Why is the course right for you and why are you right for the course?
  - Present yourself in a favorable light, but don't invent!
  - Keep it relevant – keep it concise.
- Write off-line and paste into the UCAS form when complete.
- Must be your own words – not parents or friends
  - but get someone to proof-read to check for mistakes!
- Big challenge to write about yourself – so start early and expect to re-write many times until you are satisfied!

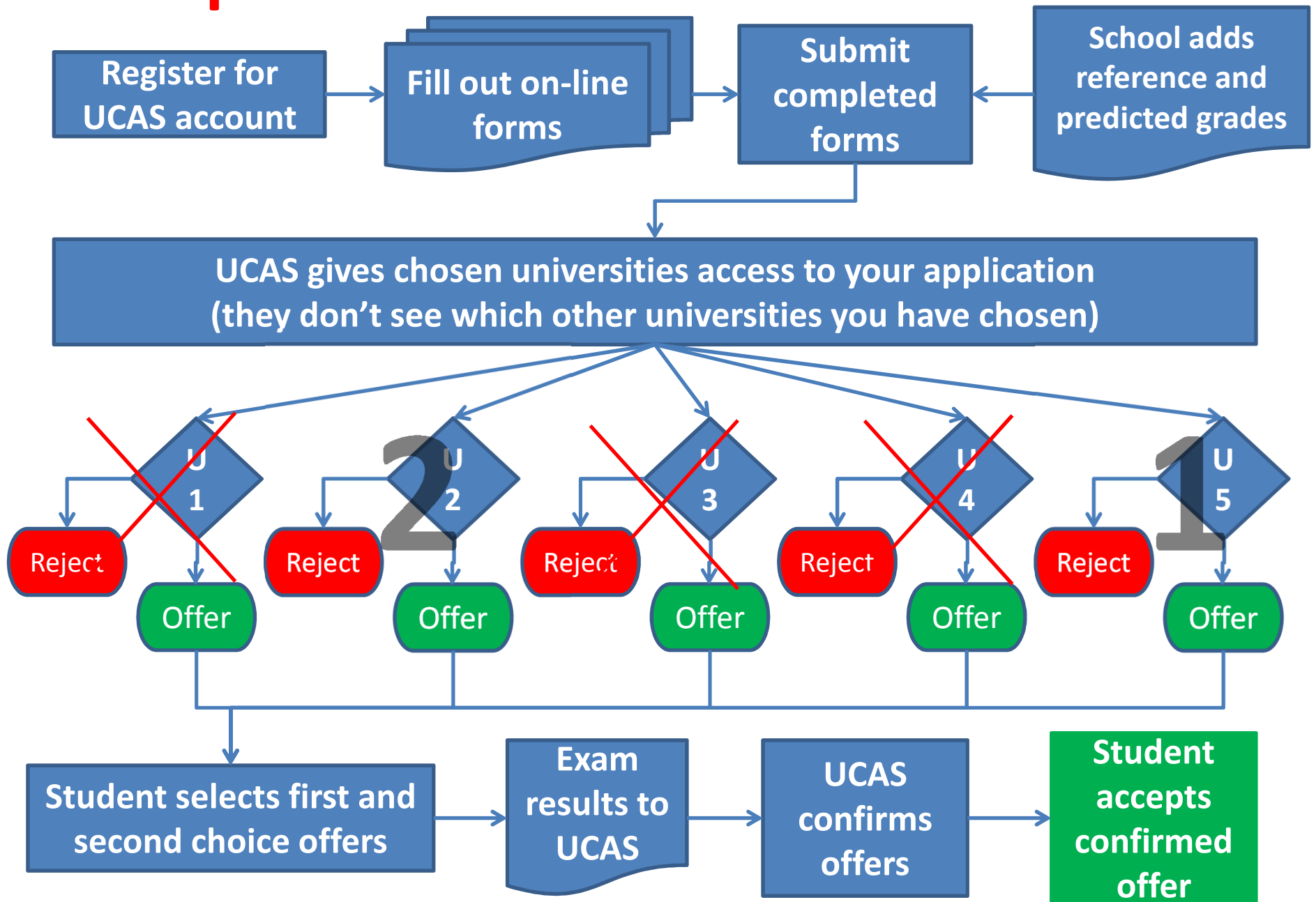


# Teachers' references

- Confidential section of UCAS form completed by teachers
- Includes their predicted marks for you in your school-leaving exams
- Must be in English - most schools have an English-speaking teacher to complete this
  - but it needs input from teachers of all your main subjects
- To maximise your chances teachers should follow UCAS guidelines!

<http://www.ucas.com/students/applying/howtoapply/reference>

# UCAS process



# UCAS application system

- Apply for up to five courses at different universities through a single form filled out on-line.
  - Only one choice can be at Oxford or Cambridge
  - Maximum of four can be any one of medicine, veterinary medicine or dentistry
- For 2015 applications open from late June 2014
- Follow the progress of your application and make choices about offers from universities through UCAS Track.
- For most students, UCAS automatically informs the universities of examination grades achieved and confirms places offered.
- For those students not achieving the grades required for their chosen courses, UCAS provides a 'clearing' system which may find you a place on a similar course at another institution.
- There is also a system to trade up to a course with higher entrance requirements if you do unexpectedly well!

# Plan your time – this is a project!

- NOW (if not already doing this)
  - Read around your subjects – not just text books
  - Make sure you can discuss your subjects in English.
    - if you are not studying in English, read English books/articles about your subject so you have appropriate vocabulary
  - Plan to visit before you apply (open days or privately)
- End of summer term:
  - Research and choose courses
  - Ask your teacher who coordinates UK applications for a reference – make sure they know you will apply to Oxford or Cambridge - deadline is 15th October 2014
  - Start drafting your Personal Statement
  - Study requirements for entrance tests
    - Download past papers and start practice

# Timing

- September:
  - Check that your teacher has done / will do your reference
  - Apply to sit any necessary admissions tests (check deadlines!)
  - Complete your Personal Statement and UCAS form and submit by 15<sup>th</sup> October for Oxford, Cambridge and anywhere in medicine, veterinary medicine and dentistry
    - 15th January for most other UK universities
  - Complete and submit Supplementary Application Questionnaire (Cambridge) by 22<sup>nd</sup> October – Cambridge will send you a link.
- September-October
  - Continue to study for entrance tests
  - Prepare for interviews (like an oral exam, not a personal interview)
  - Apply to the Oxford and Cambridge Societies for a practice interview as soon as you submit your UCAS form
    - Don't wait until you are called for interview!

# Timing

- Tests at a Luxembourg (or Brussels) test centre
  - October to 1st week of November
- Practice interview in Luxembourg
  - Between mid-October and end November
- Interviews at Oxford & Cambridge – early December
  - May include tests at Cambridge
  - Expect to spend one night in Oxford/Cambridge
- Offer of places for Oxford & Cambridge
  - first half of January
- Offers from other universities by end of March
  - follow progress of your application through UCAS – Track

# UCAS Track – to follow your application

- By the end of March you will receive for each course
  - an unconditional offer (rare), or
  - an offer conditional on achieving certain grades, or
  - notification that your application was unsuccessful.
- By early May, you have to reply to all offers
  - Firm acceptance – for your preferred course
  - Insurance acceptance – for your second choice
  - Reject the rest
- You will receive confirmation letters from UCAS and the universities
- Once you have your examination grades, you confirm your final course choice and enrolment is automatic.
  - University will send details of how to apply for accommodation and when to arrive!
  - Complete your student finance applications

# A challenge for you

- You need to be able –
  - to RESEARCH
  - to PLAN
  - to MAINTAIN high marks at school
  - to PREPARE yourself for tests and interviews
- A test of your character and self-discipline