

**UCAS**

# **Woodfarm High School Information for 2024 Entry**

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**UCAS Support: Ms Fenton, Ms Douch, Mr Ward, Mr Macbride**

**UCAS**

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Additional speaker from SAAS about fees and SDS with Jen Whelan



# University is not for everyone – and that's ok!

- There are several alternative pathways available:
  - Full time employment
  - Graduate apprenticeship
  - College
  - College then onto university
  - Modern Apprenticeship




Support

Employment

Learning

[myworldofwork.co.uk](http://myworldofwork.co.uk)

Call 0800 917 8000  
Monday – Friday, 9am-5pm



**NoWrongPath**

# Step 1: Choosing the right course



- **Be ambitious but realistic – do your research!**
  - Demand in many courses far outweighs the places available.
  - Look carefully at the **entry requirements** for courses on each university's website.
  - Many courses require specific subjects at Higher level – **are these subjects your strongest?**
- **Consider:**
  - Your suitability in terms of interest, skills and experience.
  - Career options – there are many!

**Almost 1 in 10 Scottish students drop out of university in their first year.**

# Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Med. & Law

- These courses are not to be considered unless you achieved at least AAAAB in S5.
- Around 1 in 10 applicants is accepted.
- **Pharmacology** is also a highly subscribed course with entry requirements approaching that of medicine (i.e. AAAA in S5).
- Being realistic now may prevent a candidate sitting with no offers come May.

## Possible other entry requirements:

- Some courses conduct an **admissions test**
- Solo or group **interview**
- UK Clinical Aptitude Test (**UCAT**) for applicants to medicine, dentistry and veterinary medicine.
  - **School support sessions on Monday the 12<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday the 13<sup>th</sup> of June.**
- Law National Aptitude Test (**LNAT**) for applicants to some Law courses.
- Applicants to Cambridge University will no longer have to complete a Personal Statement will have to answer a series of questions about the course they are applying for.



## Step 2: Choosing a university

- You have **5 choices** (**4 choices** for Dentistry, Medicine and Veterinary Medicine).
- ‘Invisibility’ ensures universities cannot see where else students have applied.
- Don’t waste choices by applying to more than one course in the ***same college/faculty*** of a single university, e.g. English and History (both are in College of Arts).



## Step 2: Choosing a university

- Compare the same course at several institutions.
- **Consider:**
  - Module options (including up to Honours level)
  - Specialist expertise/Tutors
  - Facilities available
  - Financial implications
  - Accommodation options
  - Student life/extra-curricular





# Shop around Scotland!

- **Glasgow:**
  - University of Glasgow
  - University of Strathclyde
  - Caledonian University
  - University of the West of Scotland (Paisley)
- **Edinburgh:**
  - University of Edinburgh
  - Heriot-Watt University
  - Edinburgh Napier University
  - Queen Margaret University
- **Others:**
  - University of Stirling
  - University of St Andrews
  - University of Dundee
  - University of Aberdeen
  - Robert Gordon University (Aberdeen)
  - University of the Highlands and Islands (Inverness)



# Where to find information:

Skills  
Development  
Scotland



- **Visit relevant websites:**

- UCAS.com & UCAS.tv (for video guides)
- SkillsDevelopmentScotland.co.uk
- University websites

- **Speak to:**

- UCAS Co-ordinators
- Jen Whelan (SDS)
- Pastoral Support staff in school
- Subject teachers – where did they go?
- University admissions departments



- **Open days/events** – universities are opening their doors again but many also still have virtual options

# Events of Interest

- UCAS Exhibition Tuesday 12 September @ SEC Glasgow

## Key Open Days:

- **University of Dundee** – Saturday 23 September and Saturday 28 October
- **University of Glasgow** – Wednesday 30 August
- **University of Strathclyde** – Tuesday 5 September and Saturday 7 October
- **Glasgow Caledonian University** – Friday 8 September
- **University of Stirling** - Saturday 16 September, 4 October and 21 October
- **University of West of Scotland** – Saturday 28 October

**Check university websites directly for dates**

# Pupils will have access to:

- Early Applicant Google Classroom and support
- UCAS talks from Glasgow Caledonian and Strathclyde Universities
- A booklet on completing the online UCAS application
- Help sheets for their Personal Statement
- Time in PSHE lessons to complete UCAS tasks online
- One to one help from their Pastoral Teacher



# UCAS HUB – full application done here

- See relevant completion dates later in this presentation.
- **Sections to be completed:**
  - Personal details
  - Additional information
  - Student finance
  - Choices – up to 5 choices are available
  - Education
  - Employment
  - Personal Statement
  - References



# Personal Statement

- Adds more depth to the application
- Allows candidates to show wider range of skills and personality
- Communicates personally with admission boards – literacy must impress!
- 4,000 characters or 47 lines.
- Will require independent work at home
- First draft required before October break, or by negotiation with PTPS
- Repeat the process until it is as strong as possible (usually 3-4 drafts)



# Additional Support

- UCAS website (Statement Tool)
- UCAS YouTube
- University websites
- Studential website
- My World of Work
- Family & friends

The infographic is titled "UCAS Preparing your personal statement" and is divided into four numbered sections, each with an icon and a list of tips:

- 1. Preparation** (Icon: book and pencil)
  - You can only write one personal statement, so don't re-write it and re-apply to colleges to re-write.
  - Check out your college website to see what skills and qualities they'd like you to have.
  - Make a list of things you want to include.
  - Start drafting early.
- 2. What to include** (Icon: heart)
  - Write your interests related to the subject.
  - Your enthusiasm for the subject.
  - How your previous studies relate to the course(s).
  - Relevant aspects of jobs, placements, work experience or volunteering.
  - Hobbies or clubs that show your interest in the subject.
  - Any training or achievements that show your skills.
  - Demonstrate you're a great candidate and you have skills and qualities they're looking for.
- 3. How to write it** (Icon: flowchart)
  - Introduction - start with an opening sentence that summarises the points to look at.
  - Structure what you want to include in order that's most relevant to what the relevant colleges are looking for.
  - Conclusion - restate your commitment, enthusiasm and skills suited to your college(s).
  - Check your grammar, spelling and punctuation.
  - Leave time to get feedback and proofread.
- 4. Technical details** (Icon: computer monitor)
  - Length - up to 1000 characters or 47 lines of text (including spaces and blank lines).
  - Make sure you don't copy - use software to check plagiarism and this could jeopardise your application.

# Decisions

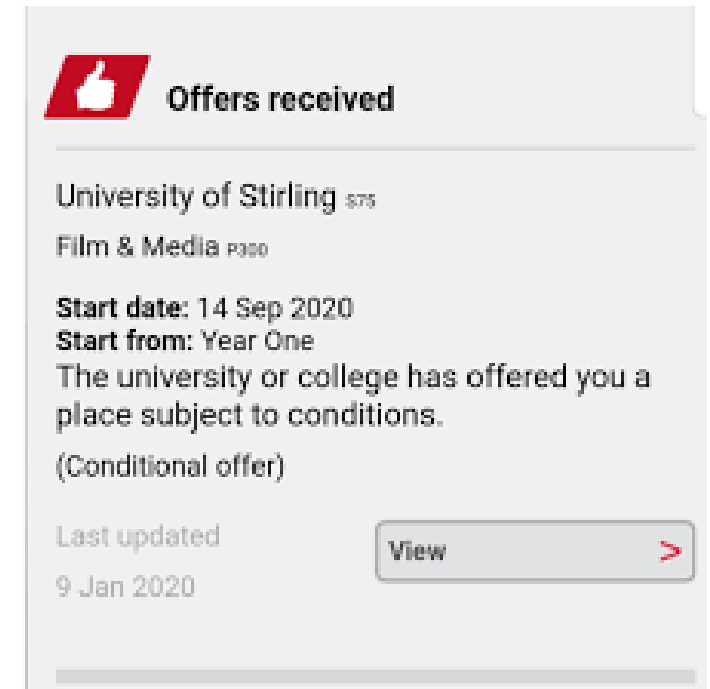


- Universities receive exam results automatically in August.
- As soon as universities offer you a place, this will be updated on the UCAS Hub and a notification will be sent.

- **These are coded as:**

- **U**     **Unconditional Offer**
- **C**     **Conditional Offer**
- **R**     **Rejection**
- **J**     **Joint Offer**

(Degree & HND offered in the same subject by an institution.)





# Replying to offers

- You should not reply to any offers until you have received decisions on **ALL** the choices on your UCAS application.
- **You need to reply to each offer received, BUT** you can accept two offers:
  - One a **Firm Acceptance**.
  - One as a **Back Up** (i.e. Insurance).



## In some cases:

- **Extra** may need to be used where students receive 5 rejections or decline any offers – seek support from school at this stage (end Feb to early July)
- **Adjustment** provides an opportunity to upgrade your course if you receive better results than expected
- **Clearing** may need to be used – very limited spaces available and hope to avoid if possible

# UCAS Fee

- The **2023/24 applicant fee is £27.50**
- Applications received by the course deadlines are given **equal consideration**



# UCAS DATES

- **2 May 2023** – UCAS search tool will display 2024 courses
- **9 May 2023** – Adviser portal opens for 2024 entry
- **16 May 2023** – Undergraduate applications open for 2024 entry
- **5 September 2023**- Completed undergraduate applications can be submitted to UCAS
- **16 October 2023** – Applications for Oxford, Cambridge and most courses in Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary medicine/science should arrive at UCAS by 1800 hours
- **31 January 2024** – Applications for the majority of undergraduate courses should arrive at UCAS by 1800



# Important dates



Date	Event
15 October 2023	Early applicant applications submitted
2 October 2023	Application for music applications for Royal Conservatoire
13 October 2023	Form taking shape and personal statement 1 <sup>st</sup> draft
Friday 24 November 2023	<b>School deadline</b> for applications to be completed. This allows us time to rigorously check them all before sending.
31 January 2024 - 1800 hours	<b>UCAS applications close.</b> Including Dance/Drama/Musical Theatre at Royal Conservatoire
29 May 2024	Must have responded to all offers
5 July 2024	Clearing opens

# Q & A

Should you have any further questions after the presentations, we will remain behind for a chat at the back of the hall.

SAAS will offer the chance for funding specific questions over Teams at the end of their presentation or via email.

