

Sign Posts to Success



The University Challenge
The University of Manchester
May 2012
Rachel Cook and Laura Cragg

Discussion

- What Higher Education resources have you used with your learners?
- Which have worked well?
- Which haven't?
- Which areas do you feel you are lacking in resources?

What we are going to cover...

- Learning Pathways
- Personal Statements
- Medicine
- Student Finance
- Your wildcards...!

Learning Pathways

- Choices workshop (Y8-9)
- Russell Group Informed Choices document
 - Hard and Soft subjects
 - What do universities really think
 - AS/A2 decisions



**Informed
choices**



**The five-point plan
for making your
post-16 choices**

1. Know what you want to study? – Check out the entry requirements!
2. Not sure yet? – Keep your options open.
3. GCSEs and other standard level qualifications matter.
4. Think balance
5. Make sure you know WHY!



Making your post-16 subject choices

- What subjects will give me the most options?
 - Mathematics and Further Mathematics
 - English (literature)
 - Physics
 - Biology
 - Chemistry
 - Geography
 - History
 - Languages (classical and modern)

The 'facilitating' subjects



**Subjects required
for different degree
courses**

Advanced level subjects which ARE LIKELY TO BE ESSENTIAL when applying for this subject at university. NOTE: this does not mean that ALL Russell Group universities will require them.

Subject of interest

Medicine
ESSENTIAL ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS
IF YOU DO Chemistry, Biology and one from Mathematics or Physics you will keep all the medical schools open to you. If you do Chemistry and Biology you will keep open the vast majority. If you do Chemistry and one from Mathematics and Physics you will limit your range of choices much more.
USEFUL ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS
Further Mathematics or a contrasting (non-science) subject.

Advanced level subjects which MAY be useful when applying for this subject at university.



Subjects required for different degree courses

Mechanical Engineering

ESSENTIAL ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS
Mathematics, Physics.

USEFUL ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS
Further Mathematics, Design Technology.

Mechanical Engineering departments may have a preference for Mathematics A-levels with a strong mechanics component.

Accountancy (also Banking/Finance/Insurance)

ESSENTIAL ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS
Usually none although one or two universities require Mathematics.

USEFUL ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS
Mathematics, Business Studies (AGCE, National and Diploma), and Economics.

English

ESSENTIAL ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS
English Literature or combined English Language & (some courses will accept English Language).

USEFUL ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS
History, Religious Studies, a foreign language.

Law

ESSENTIAL ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS
Usually none, although a few universities require English.

USEFUL ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS
History; other facilitating subjects.

There really are no essential subjects for Law. Maybe one choice should involve **essay** / report writing. History gives you good relevant skills for Law but is not essential.



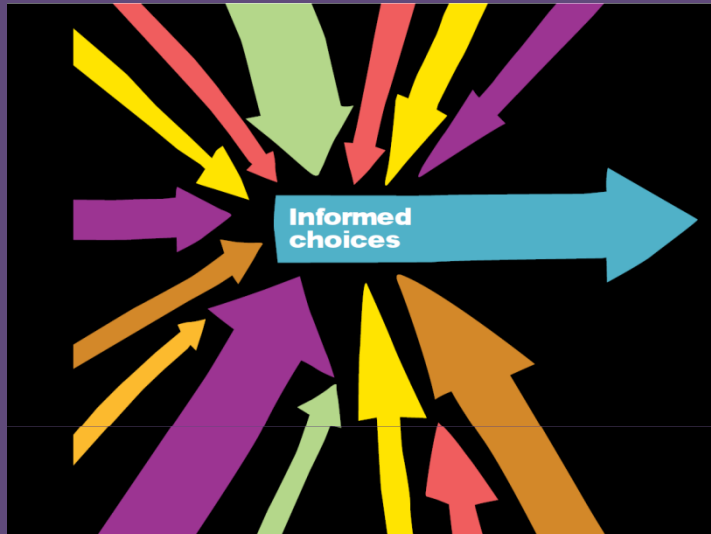
**Subjects required
for different degree
courses**

Do universities prefer certain advanced level subjects over others?

- Rumours are many...and varied!
- 'Hard' and 'soft' subjects
 - 'hard' subjects



- 'soft' subjects are usually vocational or practical subjects – e.g. Media Studies, Art & Design; Photography; Business Studies.
- 'hard' – with additions of Science & Politics.



Only available
online to ensure it
is always up to date

<http://www.russellgroup.ac.uk/media/informed-choices/InformedChoices-latest.pdf>

www.ox.ac.uk/russellgroupteachers/

Personal Statements

- UMASS website
- UCAS entry profiles
- Local institutions
- Speed dating
- Using a log book/diary

Podcast with former head of Manchester Medical School on applying to Medicine

UMASS resources

www.umass.manchester.ac.uk

◆ Welcome ◆ UMASS Activities ◆ Applying to University ◆ Preparing for University ◆ Student Life ◆ Careers

◆ Applying to University

- ▶ Advice on choosing a course and university
- ▶ Applying to Medicine courses
- ▶ UCAS application process
- ▶ Writing an effective personal statement
- ▶ Using UMASS in your Personal Statement
- ▶ Admissions Tests
- ▶ Interview tips

◆ Related links

- Courses
- Accommodation
- Student life
- The Manchester Experience

◆ Downloads

- Effective Personal Statements

You are here: [UMASS Home](#) > [Applying to University](#)

Applying to University

So you've decided to apply to University; don't think the decisions end there! There are over 80 000 courses available to current undergraduate students in the UK. Choosing one of those courses is the same as walking into the new Wembley Stadium and choosing just one seat; it's a big decision!

You've got two things to think about. Before you can make an application to University you need to know: what you want to study and where you want to study it.

Use the links on the left hand side to give you loads more information about applying to University.

◆ Applying to University

Hints and tips on your applications

Handout:
How to structure your Personal Statement & words that make an impact

Information on what to include in your Personal Statement and how to include UMASS (or similar activities) in PS

UMASS activities:
Personal Statement Sessions on campus over Summer for local students (July and August)

Personal Statement structure

Introduction: Why I want to study this course

Main Part: What academic skills and knowledge do I have that prepare me to succeed in this subject

Work experience / voluntary work / Part-time Job

(You may spend more time on this section for courses where work experience is a requirement e.g. health-care related courses)

Extra-curricular activities / other qualifications e.g. first aid, DoE

Conclusion

Activity

- What you have done...

Saying what you do is not enough!

Benefit

- What you have learnt from it
- What skills you have acquired

You need to show evidence

Course

- How it relates to your course
- How it will help you succeed at university

Medicine

- BMA- Becoming a Doctor
- Fast Bleep
- Understanding the recruitment process(examples on next few slides)
- www.admissionsforum.net
- www.medschoolsonline.co.uk
- Additional options
- <http://www.nhscareers.nhs.uk>

Hull York Medical School

In summary, the procedure is as follows:

1. First, we check your UCAS form to see whether you meet our academic criteria.
2. Next, your form is read by a trained HYMS assessor and scored out of 50.
3. We add in your UKCAT result (scored out of 10) to give a combined score out of 60.
4. We rank all applications using this combined score and invite between 400 and 500 applicants to interview.
5. At interview, two interviewers will independently evaluate your answers, giving an average score out of 50.
6. We then combine your interview, UKCAT and UCAS scores into one final score.
7. We rank everyone again using this final score, and make offers to about the top 300 students.

Details of our selection procedure

[Guiding principles of selection](#)



[How we assess UCAS forms](#)



[How we use the UKCAT](#)



[How we choose who to interview](#)



[What happens at interview](#)



[How we make offers](#)





University of
Leicester

Medical School

Scoring Of Applications 2012 (A100)

[Link to PDF of in depth information about how they score applications](#)

- Start
- UCAS form
- Personal statement
- Reference
- UKCAT
- The interview
- Request feedback
- Getting a decision

School of Medicine

Undergraduate

Postgraduate

Our Research

About Us

▲ School of Medicine

Undergraduate

▶ Medicine (5-year MBChB)

▶ Medicine (6-year MBChB)

▶ Pathology (BSc)

▶ Student video profiles

▶ Open days

How to apply: step-by-step guide

[View all content for printing](#)

Start



Many applicants find the application forms, tests and interviews required when applying for undergraduate medicine daunting.

The School of Medicine has tried to make the process as clear and transparent as possible by giving you this step-by-step guide to what it is looking for when it selects students at Manchester.

Remember, the admissions tutors want to get the best students as much as you want to go to the best university, so make sure you let them know how good you are.

[next](#)

Student Finance

- Videos
 - Student Finance Calculators
 - Leaflets and Brochures
 - SFE Local Consultants
 - Social Media
 - Scholarships and Bursaries
 - Games and activities

Videos

- Martin Lewis
- Facts about Fees



Student Finance calculators

- A wide variety available
- Advise students to stick to one!

<http://www.studentcalculator.org.uk/>

<http://www.moneysavingexpert.com/students/student-finance-calculator>

<http://www.studentfinance.direct.gov.uk/calculator/studentfinancecalculator/1213/>

Student Finance case studies

Lauren

Annual household income: £25,000

Tuition Fees: £9000

Studying outside of London, living away from home, starting university in September 2012

Student Finance case studies

Usman

Annual household income: 45,000

Tuition Fees: 9,000

Studying outside of London, living away from home, starting university in September 2012

Wild card!



References

DOs:

- Make sure reference is written by someone who knows the student (more important than status)
- A few words about the student's general personality / qualities
- Refer to all subjects studied – better to incorporate statements from individual subject-teachers
- Comment on suitability for the subject applied for
- Comment on specific skills / readiness for university-level study (e.g. ability to research independently)
- Tell us how the student performs relative to their cohort

References

DON'Ts:

- Put the reference on the wrong applicant!
- Repeat the student's personal statement (but do build on it e.g. to tell us what they have contributed to the school)
- Repeat qualifications / results we can already see elsewhere
- Overuse hyperbole and superlatives
- Make implausible statements or assumptions
- Refer to specific university/ies applied to

Over to you...

- What are you using that we don't know about?

Finally...

- One thing you found out about today that you didn't know about already? (we hope there is at least one thing...!)

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