

UCAS, Clearing and Applications

Phil Bloor

Alison Conway



Sheffield
Hallam University

SHARPENS YOUR THINKING

Outline

- Recap UCAS Process
- Provide Hints & Tips for a Successful Application
- Recent Changes

UCAS entry routes

- 'Standard' application process
- Adjustment
- UCAS Extra
- Summer Recruitment
- Clearing

Standard Application Process

- Online application through UCAS Apply
- Applicants can start to compile applications from June
- Applications submitted to UCAS Mid September to 30 June
- 5 Choices
- Receive decision for each choice

Key dates / deadlines

- 15 October - Oxbridge, Medicine & Dentistry
- 15 January - deadline for 'equal consideration'
- Early May - decline by default
- Early May - reject by default

Art and Design

- First cycle without route B
- Art and Design applications now processed simultaneously like all other courses.
- HEI's can opt to have a later deadline of 24 March for Art and Design courses

Institution Decisions

- Rejects - Unsuccessful
- Feed back available from HEI
- Offers - Conditional or Unconditional
- Assume that applicant holds all completed qualifications listed in applications
- May include academic and non-academic conditions

Applicant Response

- Applicants must decide which offers they wish to accept
- Register decision using UCAS track
- 'Firm' choice - first choice
- 'Insurance' choice - second choice

Confirmation

- HEI make decisions on applicants holding CF or CI offers on receipt of results
- HEI receive A level results on Sunday preceding publication
- Send decisions to UCAS but Track switched off
- Other results actioned as received
- May accept some applicants who have not met offer

Adjustment

- Allows applicants who meet and exceed their conditional firm offer to seek a place on an alternative course
- UF place secure while they are in adjustment
- Applicant has 5 calendar days from date they are made UF or 19 August, whichever is the later
- Applicant registers for adjustment on UCAS track contacts HEIs directly.

UCAS Extra

- 25 February to 6 July 2010
- Available to applicants who have already applied but are not holding a 'live' application
- Apply online to 1 additional course at a time.
- Course availability from UCAS web page but applicants should try to contact HEI to make sure their application will be considered
- 21 days for institution to consider.

Summer Recruitment

- UCAS applications received after 30 June held for clearing.
- Applicants can contact institutions directly if they are interested in specific course.
- Institutions register applicants with UCAS.

Clearing

- Electronic process
- Clearing Entry available to eligible applicants from Mid July onwards.
- Peak activity post A level results
- Vacancy information published on UCAS web page, Institution web pages & press.
- Applicants contact institutions directly.
- Applicants accept clearing offers via UCAS track

Choosing a Course

- Research thoroughly.
- Use online sources for most up to date information.
- Be aware of non academic entry requirements.
- Be realistic.
- Consider employability / career aspirations
- Think carefully if applying for a range of subjects.

Personal Statements

what are we looking for?

- Evidence that you will benefit from and succeed in the course
- Reasons for wanting to study the course
- Insight into the chosen area
- Transferrable skills
- Experience
 - External school activity
 - Working with the public
 - Work experience
- Passion, enthusiasm and motivation
- Career aspirations

Plagiarism

- All applications are run through software to detect plagiarism by UCAS
- If evidence is found, UCAS will alert the applicant via the track system
- UCAS will also contact the institutions applied to
- Any action taken by the institutions will be dependent on their own policies

Offers

- When applicants receive an offer they should check it carefully.
- Which course is it for?
- Are any conditions clear?
- Do the conditions make sense?
- If not contact the institution to clarify – don't wait until confirmation.

New for 2010

- End of Route B for Art and Design
- Interview invitations can be sent via UCAS track
- Courses can be closed to applications from January 15

Questions ?

- Phil Bloor p.bloor@shu.ac.uk
0114 225 3746
- Alison Conway a.comway@shu.ac.uk
0114 225 6176