



Universities Fair

Wednesday 26th January 2022
6.30 p.m.

Welcome from the Head of Upper School & the Head of Higher Education

We would like to welcome the attending universities, parents and pupils to the 2022 Universities Fair. This Fair represents a great opportunity for parents and pupils to investigate the variety of degrees, research different universities and discover more about the application process.

The range of degree subjects, the different modules that can be attached to the major subject and the structure of courses, has expanded enormously over the past 10 years. This variety offers pupils a great opportunity to tailor their degree to their own wishes, however, it does require pupils to be proactive in researching degree subjects as well as attending a variety of university presentations. We suggest that it is always better to research the degree first and the university second and to this end, the Lower Sixth have already begun considering subjects and researching courses in tutorials and through 'Unifrog'. Nevertheless, to investigate the degree and the different aspects of the subject it is often necessary to research degree and university simultaneously.

University is not the only way forward for everyone and there are increasing opportunities for bright school leavers to enter a profession on fast track schemes, to be trained in industry, gain a professional qualification, benefit from real life work experience and avoid a large student loan. Places on these schemes tend to be very competitive and again, any pupil looking for this route will need to be thorough and proactive in their research.

An alternative to starting university straight after school is to take a gap year, by either deferring the university start date or deciding to apply the following year. Universities are interested in why pupils opt for a gap year and want to know what the pupil will have gained from the experience. Any pupil looking to take a gap year needs to plan it well in advance to ensure that a significant part of the year helps build a CV and strengthens their personal statement. This is particularly relevant if wanting to read a STEM degree at a top university.

A further alternative to the traditional university route is a degree apprenticeship ("DA") where an apprentice can gain a bachelor's or master's degree whilst in full time employment. DAs are relatively new and appear to be growing in popularity. DAs have been described as first and foremost, a job with a significant training element. The apprentice pays no tuition fees and receives a salary, the funding is paid for by the employer via a levy imposed on large companies' total wage bill. A school leaver applicant applies via the employer, not through UCAS, and the application may be used in addition to the four or five university applications via UCAS. We offer students support in locating and applying for Degree Apprenticeships via the HE Department.

Not all pupils will be looking at UK universities and there has been increased interest in US universities from Wellingtonians. All Lower Sixth pupils who have an interest in attending a US or Canadian university will have already made contact with our US university consultant at

Wellington, Dr Chantelle Jackson-Boothby of A-List Education. Please note that even if your child is using a private advisor or sports programme, they must let us know that they intend to apply to the US because it is Dr Jackson-Boothby who submits their transcripts for the College, and not a third party.

Whatever your eventual chosen route may be there is a vast array of expertise on offer today which should be able to deal with all your enquiries. Do please make use of them, and we hope that you enjoy the Fair.

Dr V E M Gardner (Head of Upper School & Director of HE and Careers)
and Mr B Lewsey (Head of HE)

Format of the Evening

- 6.30 p.m. Panel session and Q & A.
- 7.30 p.m. Pupils and parents to visit university representatives in breakout rooms.

The members of the panel are as follows:

Establishment Name
Bath University
Bristol University
Durham University
Edinburgh University
Exeter University
Loughborough University
Oxford University
University College London
Warwick University

The Logistics of the UCAS Application

The UCAS application is used for nearly all UK and some European universities. Applications to a number of UK art schools, conservatoires and private universities are outside the UCAS process and applications will need to be made directly to those institutions. Similarly, most overseas universities are outside the scope of UCAS and most will require an application made directly to the institution itself.

The UCAS application is a relatively straight forward form to complete, especially as there are videos at each step of the process detailing exactly what is required. Having said that, significant research needs to be carried out to ensure the degree and university choices are the most appropriate ones.

With the exception of Medics, Vets and Dentists, all UCAS applications allow five university and degree choices. It is important to recognise that at around May 2023 every pupil will be required to select a “first choice” and an “insurance choice” from their offers. The first choice will be for the preferred university assuming all grades and conditions of the offer are met. The insurance choice will be a back-up if the summer exams do not go according to plan and the entry conditions for the first choice university are not met. Clearly the entry level for the insurance choice needs to be lower than the first choice. In addition, the insurance choice must also be a university that the applicant does indeed want to go to.

A brief outline of the UCAS process is as follows:

- UCAS 2022 will go online in June 2022. The pupils will be inducted in June and will then have their log in details and can begin the process of application.
- University open days are already being widely being advertised, some virtual, some in person, and pupils should be carefully selecting their universities in a planned and organised manner. Lists of university taster days are sent regularly to pupils which provide a useful insight to the courses offered at universities.
- Any Lower Sixth pupil interested in Oxbridge pupil will be receiving advice from Wellington's Head of Oxbridge, Dr Ruth Lexton. Oxbridge applications are processed via UCAS in the same way as other UK university applications except the deadline for submission is much earlier (15th October 2022) than other applications (expected to be 15th January 2023).
- Together with the early Oxbridge application submission the deadline for all of those who are applying to read Medicine, Veterinary Sciences and Dentistry is also October 15th.
- Medics, Vets and Dentists will have already been receiving advice from Dr Harry Wright who is in charge of these applications.
- When researching university courses advice will be given on websites if any admissions tests are required (e.g. UCAT, BMAT & LNAT). We offer support for all pupils sitting admissions tests, but students should also be seeking out ways to prepare for these themselves – in essence, individual practice is crucial.
- Predicted grades (University Application Grades, or 'UAGs') will be a very important consideration for universities when making offers. Pupils will be made aware of UAGs at

the end of June 2022, following their Summer exams. Their research into universities must be carried out in light of these.

- Pupils should firstly finalise the course that they want to study. Once they have done that they should select the five universities that they want to apply to. This should be broad in range given the competitive nature of university application.
- Pupils should work on their personal statement over the summer holidays concentrating on the reasons why they want to study the course that they have chosen. All pupils should return in September with a draft personal statement and know what degree course they want to read and a good idea at which university they would like to read it.
- In the first two weeks of the Michaelmas term, tutorials and lectures will be geared to advising pupils in this process so that they can complete their application as soon as possible.
- Once the pupil has completed the UCAS application, a reference needs to be written by their HM, UAGs need to be added and a final check to ensure the application is complete will be made before it is sent off to UCAS.
- Early applications are advised and we would encourage all pupils to submit their application before half term in the Michaelmas term.
- Unifrog and the UCAS website are excellent resources and these should be the first port of call for all students
- As Head of HE, I am available for both parents and pupils and the best way to contact me is via e-mail at bpl@wellingtoncollege.co.uk

Wellington Statistics 2021 - UK Universities

University Destinations by Numbers

The table below shows the most popular university destinations where places were taken up by Wellingtonians last year. As you can see, Durham, Edinburgh, Exeter and Bristol remained popular destinations for 2021 students, while Imperial also saw a growth in successful applications.

University Destination	Places 2021/22	Places 2020/21	Places 2019/20
Durham	26	32	25
Edinburgh	28	23	14
Exeter	26	20	19
St Andrews	6	13	4
Oxford	8	12	7
Bath	12	12	26
Newcastle	8	10	3
UCL	14	9	18
Bristol	17	7	20
Imperial	10	6	3
Cambridge	9	6	12
KCL	6	5	2
York	5	5	4
Warwick	6	4	1
LSE	2	3	2
Leeds	8	3	7

Choosing Your Degree

When choosing a degree subject it is important for all pupils to recognize that the subject needs to be enjoyed as they will be studying that subject for three, four or more years. For a very large number of careers, employers will pay little attention to the degree title, but will look closely at the class of degree and the status of the university.

When choosing a degree along the lines of economics, finance and business, it is important that the degree is selected due to the level of enthusiasm for the subject and not just because going into “business” or “the City” is the chosen career path. Many employers who have visited and presented at Wellington have stressed that the banking and business world is looking for well rounded, globally aware graduates who have a 2:1 and above, having studied any strong degree subject and at a top university. If any particular subject has been seen as giving a candidate marginal advantage it has been a foreign language.

The Personal Statement

- The importance of the personal statement cannot be underestimated. Given the number of candidates with similar academic credentials, this can be the deciding and determining factor.
- Admissions tutors are looking for academic motivation and commitment as well as evidence of research into the subject that they want to study. Does it confirm their depth of interest in the subject?
- Pupils should think about why they want to study their chosen course and what they have done that highlights their skills, knowledge and initiative. Have they chosen the right subject for the right reasons?
- They should display that they understand the course that they are applying for and how their academic strengths and interests match up to this. What has the candidate studied independently of the course (EPQ & EE)?
- They should concentrate on positive words such as achieved, developed, learned, discovered, enthusiasm, commitment, energy and fascination.
- Do they have a range of interests and aptitudes? What are their transferable skills?
- They should always use evidence to support their claims and statements.
- It should be clear, concise and grammatically correct.
- The final paragraph is an opportunity to convey other areas of learning; they must though explain what they have learnt from this – it shouldn't be a list of achievements.
- Reflection is vitally important.
- All personal statements are put through a similarity detection test. Thus any plagiarism is very likely to be picked up.
- There is a useful top ten tips for personal statements on the UCAS website and on Unifrog.

US, Canadian & Other Overseas Universities

- Once again this year showed a successful university season with 28 pupils starting college in the US, Canada or mainland EU in September 2021.
- There has been a wide range of choices this year with pupils carefully choosing an appropriate fit for them.
- The range of North American universities includes mainly east and west coast universities in the US and Canada including every Ivy League university, including Brown (3 pupils), as well as NYU, Chicago (2), UC Berkeley (3), UCLA (2) and Georgetown.
- This trend will undoubtedly continue over the coming years.
- A-List Education UK continues to provide all North American university advice and SAT and ACT tuition, together with mainland EU university guidance. Dr Chantelle Jackson-Boothby, head A-List advisor, can be contacted at chantellejacksonboothby@external.wellingtoncollege.org.uk
- The annual US universities trip will resume in October 2022 and will visit east coast universities.
- Wellington has been accredited an SAT centre. Thus we host SAT exams for Wellington pupils as well as pupils from other schools.

Provisional Dates & Deadlines

Please note that these dates are provisional and are subject to change, however, they may be useful as a guide as to the timeline for the UCAS process.

- Mid to late June – There will be a bespoke programme of UCAS lectures, a UCAS registration and induction for the Lower Sixth.
- Mid-September – Internal deadline for all Oxbridge, Medicine, Dentistry & Veterinary statements.
- 15th October – External deadline for Oxbridge, Medicine, Dentistry & Veterinary applications.
- Early November (second week of half term) – Oxford Admissions Tests.
- 15th January – Expected external deadline for all UCAS submissions.

Useful Resources

- www.ucas.com
- www.unistats.direct.gov.uk
- www.push.co.uk
- www.timesonline.co.uk/education
- www.fulbright.co.uk



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