

THE PRIORY ACADEMY

LSST

YEAR 12 INFORMATION PACK

2021



Contents

1. University application process and timeline
2. Guidance on how to choose a course and university
3. Guidance on how to prepare to write a personal statement
4. Student finance
5. Alternative Pathways
6. Advice for Oxbridge and early entry students



THE PRIORY ACADEMY
LSST

Preparing to apply to university and the timeline

- **June 2021** Registration for UCAS 2022 process takes place in school through the Universities College and Admissions Service (UCAS).
- **Mid-September 2021** Submission of UCAS applications starts.
- **15th October 2021** Application deadline for **Oxbridge** and those applying for **Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science**.
- **15th January 2022** All UCAS applications should be submitted by this date.

Early application is recommended. Many universities reply to applicants swiftly. It also gives us time to give feedback on personal statements.



Preparing to apply to university and the timeline

How does UCAS work?

- Students have a maximum of 5 choices. They do not have to put all 5 choices down at once
- *Invisibility of choice. Universities do not know where else a student has applied*
- Universities respond to applications by 31 March 2022
- *FIRM and INSURANCE choices are made in early May 2022*
- It costs £20* for one choice or £26* for 2-5 choices(2021 fees)
- *Payment is made online by credit or debit card by the student*



Choosing a course and university

Research is the key

- *University websites; virtual Open Days; visits; league tables; Discover Uni – compare courses at different universities; Course content and structure - how is the course taught and assessed?; Location -city or campus university; Career prospects/opportunities for work experience*
- *Check entry criteria. Some courses will have minimum GCSE grade requirements, for example a minimum of a grade 6 in English; Some universities will ask for specific A level or BTEC grades, but some will ask for UCAS points; Check whether you need to take any additional examinations. LNAT, BMAT, UCAT, TMUA, STEP, aptitude tests or assessments.*



Other considerations

Contextual Offers

- *Universities are trying hard to widen participation from under-represented groups. Measures they routinely use for this are*
 - *Free School Meals (FSM); Postcode (POLAR 4 or ACORN); First generation to attend university; Cared for students; Household income.*
- *Universities are giving reduced offers to students who meet one or more of these criteria.*

Studying abroad

- *Some of our students have chosen to study abroad in the past few years. Recently some of our students have studied in the USA eg. Princeton, St Lawrence and Bowdoin.*
- *Though fees in the USA are very high, there is substantial financial aid available at some universities. This makes it viable for academic/sports students from lower income families.*
- *The application process is very different and needs to start in Year 12.*



Higher or degree apprenticeships

- *More and more courses are being launched in collaboration with business where the course structure includes an amount of work within the company. These courses are usually funded by the businesses involved and students will incur no tuition fees.*
- There are still entry requirements to fulfil as well as a lengthy recruitment programme. They tend to be very competitive.
- *Some are sponsored degrees and some are degree apprenticeships.*
- University contact time varies substantially between programmes.



The personal statement

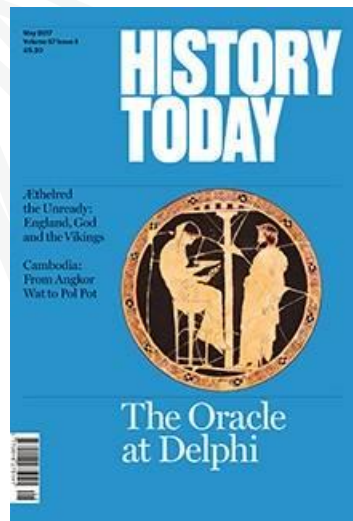
- *Must be focussed on chosen subject*
- Give evidence of engagement with the subject skills eg. courses on <https://myheplus.com>
- *Demonstrate initiative and independent study*
- Work experience, if relevant
- *Summer schools/taster days/lectures attended (UNIQ, Headstart, Sutton Trust)*
- Reading
- *Show, don't tell.*
- Aim for about 75%/25% split between subject and extracurricular activities
- *Responsibilities – prefect/sport/volunteering/mentoring*
- Proof read!
- *Beware of plagiarism – UCAS has sophisticated software that will spot it.*



Online courses, lectures and reading.



THE PRIORY ACADEMY
LSST



References

All references are written positively and sensitively.

They reflect suitability, commitment, progress and attainment as well as attendance.

The reference will comment on each subject and include information about mock performance

Written by the form tutor and checked by the Sixth Form Team

Predicted grades are based on the evidence of a student's performance over the course including coursework, classwork, assignments, in class assessments and mock examination results

Extenuating circumstances – these may be medical issues or family difficulties



THE PRIORY ACADEMY
LSST

Student Finance

- Student Finance England (SFE) provides financial support on behalf of the UK government to students from England entering higher education in the UK.
- *The two main costs you'll have while studying are **TUITION FEES** and **LIVING COSTS***
- There's student finance to help you with both – a **tuition fee loan** and a **maintenance loan**
- *Depending on your circumstances, you could also get extra financial help while you study.*
- Online applications for student finance are likely to open in February/March 2022 (deadline May 2022).
- *The **Tuition Fee** loan does not depend on household income.*
- A **Maintenance Loan** (for living costs) is available to **all** students, the amount depends on household income and where you live and study.
- *More details will be available later on in the year*

Alternative Pathways

Apprenticeships

- Apprenticeships are varied and range from Level 2, (Equivalent to GCSE) up to Degree level and can last anything from 1-4 years
- *They are suitable for those students who would prefer not to go to university and would like to move in to the world of work*
- They are a combination of working, gaining further qualifications and getting paid at the same at the time
- *Many businesses you will recognise offer apprenticeships*



THE PRIORY ACADEMY
LSST

Apprenticeship Opportunities

SIEMENS



Nestlé Good Food, Good Life



LLOYDS BANK



ASTON MARTIN



United
Lincolnshire
Hospitals
NHS Trust



THE PRIORY ACADEMY
LSST

YOUR M&S

Employment Opportunities

We work directly with local businesses who offer full time employment opportunities for our year 13 students. These are not apprenticeships, but offer on the job training and a competitive salary



Early Entry Applications

This affects anyone applying to the universities of either Oxford or Cambridge or for the subjects of Medicine, Dentistry or Veterinary Science.

The application deadline is October 15th 2021

The first draft of Personal statements need to have been submitted before July 2021

UCAT examinations (for Medicine or Dentistry) need to be registered for independently and taken before the end of September (ideally during the summer holiday)

Always extremely competitive applications, with around 15 students successful across all Early Entry categories.



THE PRIORY ACADEMY
LSST