

UK UNIVERSITIES: Frequently asked questions

1. How do I apply to university in the UK ?

Details of how to apply are on the school website under 'UK Universities'. See also the UCAS website, wwwucas.com

2. Where do I get application materials from?

If you need Teacher Reference Forms for teachers who are leaving and/or you are hoping to apply to Oxford or Cambridge, you need to distribute forms before the end of the summer term (come to F002). Otherwise, all materials will be given out at the beginning of September. Information will be displayed on the screens about when to come to F002 to collect Referee Agreement Forms, Teacher Reference Forms and application instructions.

No application will be processed or instructions issued until the Referee Agreement Form has been returned.

3. When is the deadline for completing my application?

Early applications – for Oxford/Cambridge and Medicine/Dentistry/Veterinary Science – must be finished by **the end of September**.

All other applications must be finished by **the beginning of December**.

These are not the same as the UCAS deadlines but allow time for the application to be checked, corrected if necessary, and the reference to be added.

It is highly advisable to submit your application as early as possible. Universities start processing applications as soon as they are received.

No applications are processed or sent to UCAS during the Christmas holidays.

4. Can I apply after the Bac, if I'm taking a gap year?

Yes. You can either apply with everyone else before your Bac and ask for Deferred Entry, in which case you will receive an offer requiring certain grades, or you can wait until you have your Bac, apply giving your results and wait for a yes or no answer.

The instructions for ex-students are different from those for current students. Make sure you get the right ones.

5. What extra tests must I take?

There are an increasing number of extra tests required by particular courses. All the details are on the UCAS website (go to 'Students' then 'Before you apply').

It is your responsibility to find out whether you need to take a test and when/where you need to take it. Be particularly careful about registration dates.

6. What about English language tests?

Many universities will ask for an EFL qualification (IELTS, Cambridge . . .) if English isn't your first language. If you are taking L2 English, a letter from your referee may remove this requirement. It is less likely if you are taking L3 English, but it can be done. Each university makes its own decision.

If you have to take a test, the most convenient one is the IELTS test, which can be taken at the Institut National des Langues (INL) in Luxembourg.

It is your responsibility to organise a test.

7. Does the school tell the universities about my Bac results?

No. When you get your Bac Diploma at the Proclamation, there will be a letter with it explaining what to do next. There are also examples on the school website of letters to send to the universities.

8. Do UK universities know about the European Baccalaureate?

Yes, the universities all know what the EB is, or, if they do not, are easily told. Pupils from our schools have been going to the UK to study for many years, and the number continues to grow. Information about the EB is available on the Department for Education website as well as on the European Schools' website. Referees are careful to mention aspects of our courses that might need explanation, such as the different levels of Maths.

9. Why isn't the European Baccalaureate on the UCAS tariff?

This was a decision taken by all the European Schools. Apart from the cost factor and the very longwinded procedure for getting all the national systems to agree, we are actually better off as we are. In almost all cases the universities' offers to our applicants are reasonable. If there is a problem with an offer the referee discusses it with the university concerned. There is no 'standard equivalence' with A-level grades because many university departments use their own experience of our students to decide on offers. Many also say they ignore the UCAS tariff anyway.

10. Where can I find out more?

Answers to most questions can be found on the UCAS website or on the websites of individual universities.

At school, contact the careers co-ordinator, Annette Weaver, in room F002 .

Email: annette.weaver@education.lu