

UCAS



James Gillespie's High School

UCAS Parents Information

Universities and Colleges Admissions Service

2019-20

S6 Personal and Social Education – Pupil Support Leaders

- Focus on career options and pathways
- Support to complete applications for employment, college and UCAS
- Visiting speakers – **Skills Development Scotland (SDS)**, **Lothians Equal Access Programme (LEAPS)** - a widening participation programme which aims to encourage and advise students who are traditionally under-represented in higher education, **Universities**, **Project Trust**, **Student Award Agency for Scotland (SAAS)**
- Committee work

Research



- Organisation – meet school deadlines, register for events, know application dates, admission tests
- Research websites (e.g. UCAS, My World of Work), contact Admission Offices
- Attend Open Days and Events
- Arrange Careers Interview – Ailsa Morgan – Skills Development Scotland
- Speak to PSL, key adult, teachers, family/friends and other students
- Parents/Carers newsletter - <http://web.ucas.com/parents-signup>

UCAS

Higher Education Convention

Royal Highland Centre

Tuesday 17

September: 11:30

You must book

- <https://eventbookings.ucas.com/sr/event.aspx?e=96>
- Group booking reference: UCASBKN362112

UCAS At the heart of
connecting people
to higher education

Edinburgh higher education exhibition 2019
17 September 2019



CREATE NEW
GROUP BOOKING



MANAGE GROUP
BOOKING



JOIN GROUP
BOOKING



INDIVIDUAL
REGISTRATION



Colleges



-
- Research information on website or email Admissions for more information.
 - Check whether to apply through UCAS or directly.
 - Edinburgh College - online applications in January 2020 and close normally March time.
 - Consider applying for both university and college.



UCAS

- Universities and Colleges Admissions Service
- Register for a UCAS Undergraduate course – UCAS.com - **2020 entry or 2021 for deferred entry**
- Select **James Gillespie's High School**
- Buzzword – **Unicorn20**
- **UCAS ID** – must keep a note of this and also needed for UCAS online system

Early Applicants

- Applying to Oxford/Cambridge
- Most courses in Medicine, Veterinary Medicine/Science and Dentistry
- Conservatoires
- Sent to PSL - 4/10
- UCAS deadline – 15/10



University Admissions Tests

- <http://www.admissionstestingservice.org/for-test-takers/>
- Early applicants should look at this site to see if they will be required to take tests.
- Mr Warden, Depute Head, will organise this for the school **but it will be the responsibility of the student to ensure they have registered with Mr Warden.**



i Be aware that some course providers might add new tests but, if so, they should be mentioned in the course description.

Well-known tests

i Most admissions tests happen at the start of the academic cycle, so if you do need to take one you'll need to register for it early – possibly before you've sent your application off.

Many of the courses that use admissions tests are also the courses that have the 15 October application deadline – so it's worth checking these details in advance.

Law

[Cambridge Law Test](#), [LNAT](#)

Mathematics

[MAT](#), [STEP](#)

Medical courses

[BMAT](#), [GAMSAT](#), [HPAT](#), [UK Clinical Aptitude Test \(UKCAT\)](#)

Thinking Skills Assessment

[TSA Cambridge](#), [TSA Oxford](#), [TSA UCL](#)

University of Cambridge

In addition to your UCAS application, check the University of Cambridge's website to see if you also need to complete a [Cambridge Online Preliminary Application \(COPA\)](#).

[BMAT](#), [MML](#), [STEP](#), [TSA Cambridge](#), [Cambridge Law Test](#)

University of Oxford

[BMAT](#), [CAT](#), [ELAT](#), [HAT](#), [LNAT](#), [MAT](#), [MLAT](#), [OLAT](#), [PAT](#), [PHIL](#), [TSA Oxford](#)

You may also like to read

- [UCAS Undergraduate entry requirements](#)
- [Undergraduate interview invitations](#)

Related topics

Applying

Advertisement









UCAS Application Form

- Personal Details
- Additional Information
- Choices
- Education
- Employment
- Personal Statement
- Reference

	Send to UCAS
	Delete applications
	Security
	Setup
	Adviser Track
	Training and development
	Help
	Options/Opsiynau

Key

	Completed
	Returned
	In progress
	Not started
	European characters allowed
	Help

Personal details

Personal

Title
Gender
First/given name(s)
Surname/family name
Preferred first name
Previous surname at 16th birthday
Postal address
is your permanent home in the UK?
Home address
Home telephone number
Mobile number
Email address
Date of birth
Country of birth
Date of first entry to UK
Nationality
Dual nationality
Area of permanent residence
Residential category

Reference numbers

Unique Learner Number (ULN)
Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) Number
International English Language Testing System (IELTS) TRF Number

Student support

Fee code
Student support arrangements
Have you ever lived or worked in the EU (excluding the UK), European Economic Area (EEA) or Switzerland?
Do you have a parent, step parent, spouse or civil partner who is an EU (excluding the UK), EEA or Swiss national?



Personal Statements

WHY
ME?

-
- Important part and a chance to describe ambitions, skills, and experience
 - One personal statement for all the courses applied for so avoid mentioning unis/colleges by name. Most students choose similar subjects, but if a variety, write about common themes (e.g. problem solving or creativity)
 - Ongoing support with Pupil Support Leader or Teacher Mentor who will also complete school reference

UCAS Personal Statements



- 4000 characters (including spaces) and 47 lines
- Spelling and grammar correct, use paragraphs (UCAS doesn't have indent)
- Be positive but honest
- Rough balance of academic (75%) and extra-curricular (25%) which shows transferable skills and being well rounded individual
- UCAS checks all applications with plagiarism software

UCAS Personal Statements



<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/how-write-ucas-undergraduate-personal-statement>

Examples of rated Personal Statements by subject -

- <https://www.studential.com/>

How to make your personal statement stand out –

- <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/seven-ways-to-make-your-personal-statement-stand-out-2267ch900?shareToken=0ba65f0d8063df16dcfe838876cc8cea>

My UCAS personal statement

What to include

- Future plans of how I want to use the knowledge and experience that I'll gain
- Why I want to go to university or college
- What I want from the future
 - Give evidence of the skills I have that are required to study my subject or to get the occupation I want
 - Evidence of my academic insight and enthusiasm
 - Evidence showing my understanding of what is required to study the course
- About the subject and course
 - Why I've chosen the course
 - Why the subject interests me
 - My suitability for the course
 - How my current or previous studies relate to the course(s) I've chosen
 - Experience and understanding of the subject
 - Any activities that demonstrate my interest in the course
- Work
 - Details of jobs, placements, work experience, voluntary work
 - Concentrate on aspects relevant to my chosen course
 - Explain why an experience or activity makes me an excellent candidate for the course
- Evidence
 - Attributes that make me interesting, special and unique
 - Positions of responsibility that I've held both in and out of school
 - How would I be an asset to the university or college?
- Special attributes
 - Hobbies, interests that demonstrate my skills and abilities
 - Non-accredited skills and achievements
- Achievements I'm proud of
 - Say what I've done since leaving school
 - If I've had a variety of jobs and experiences that are relevant, consider sending a detailed CV direct to my university and college choice(s)
 - Demonstrate how I will cope with the academic work
 - Critically evaluate my experiences, matching them to my chosen course requirements
- If I'm a mature student
- If I'm an international student

Preparation

Check uni and college websites and Course Search for the criteria and qualities they want me to have

- Create a list of ideas
- Start drafting it early
- Ask people for their feedback

Presentation and style

- Show my enthusiasm and commitment
- Make it interesting
- Check my spelling and grammar
- Organise it into a logical structure
- Introduction: Write an opening sentence that will encourage the reader to read on
- Conclusion: reinforce my commitment, enthusiasm and skills suited to university or college life and study

Technicalities

Length: Up to 4,000 characters or 47 lines of text (including spaces or blank lines) (approximately 600 words)

Remember, there is only one personal statement, regardless of whether I apply for one or five courses

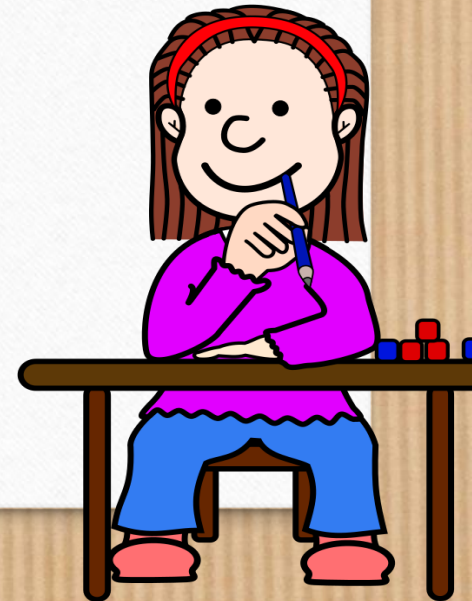
The personal statement must be my own work and not copied from another source.

If I'm an international student

- Say why I want to study in the UK
- Give evidence on how I could successfully complete a higher education course in English: say if any of my studies have been assessed in English
- Give examples of using my communication skills

Getting started...

- Explain reasons for wanting to study course and why suitable
- Skills developed through subjects/education and also outside of the classroom and why relevant to course/chosen career
- Demonstrate transferable skills
- Explain gap year plans
- End positively



Significant no nos..



-
- Plagiarism, lies or exaggeration
 - Quotes from other people (unless they are not likely to be overused)
 - Random lists (e.g. books you've read, countries visited)
 - Overused clichés (e.g. 'from a young age..', 'it has always been my dream to..')
 - Be careful about using over-inflated language (e.g. 'passion', 'enthralled'). If you wouldn't say it don't use in statement

Best advice when looking over statement is the 'SO WHAT?' rule. If you can say 'so what' about anything then consider taking out.

Teacher Mentors and referees

At JGHS over half of the teachers volunteer to mentor pupils through the process and write their reference.

Your child has been given a blue form on which they should note down 2 or 3 names of teachers who know them well.

Key Dates

October 2019

Early applicants - final statement and application form must be completed, paid and sent to PSL by Friday 4th October.

Early applications to be sent by Thursday 10th October - UCAS final deadline Tuesday 15th Oct (Oxford/Cambridge, Vet Med, Medicine and Dentistry).

All other pupils to have handed in *second draft* of Personal Statement by **October Holidays**.

Mock interviews for Oxbridge applicants. ***Some Conservatoire deadlines – PLEASE CHECK***

November 2019

Students to have completed application, paid (£25) and sent to PSL by Friday 29th Nov.

December 2019

JGHS deadline for submission to UCAS is Friday 13th December.

15th January 2020 – Official UCAS Deadline. ***Some Art courses vary – PLEASE CHECK***

Contacts

Depute Head - Ian Porter

Ian.1.Porter@jamesgillespies.edin.sch.uk

Pupil Support Leaders -

Lauder – Leanne McQuade/Elisa Kerr

Roslin - Bryan McPhail

Spylaw – Tania Peters

Thirlestane – Cait Pearce

Warrender – Nikki Graham/Caitlin Garrett



Tariff Points

What are UCAS Tariff points?

UCAS Tariff points translate your qualifications and grades into a numerical value. Many qualifications (but not all) have a UCAS Tariff value, which will vary dependent on the qualification size, and the grade you achieved.

How are UCAS Tariff points used?

Some universities, colleges, and conservatoires refer to UCAS Tariff points in their course entry requirements, but this doesn't mean they won't consider qualifications that don't appear on the Tariff – so make sure you check the course entry requirements carefully!

<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/what-and-where-study/entry-requirements/ucas-tariff-points>

Scottish Higher	English	A	Points 33
Scottish Higher	Maths	B	Points 27
Scottish Higher	Physics	C	Points 21