

PERSONAL STATEMENTS / A GUIDE TO UCAS APPLICATION

Partnership Development Office



Overview and Aims

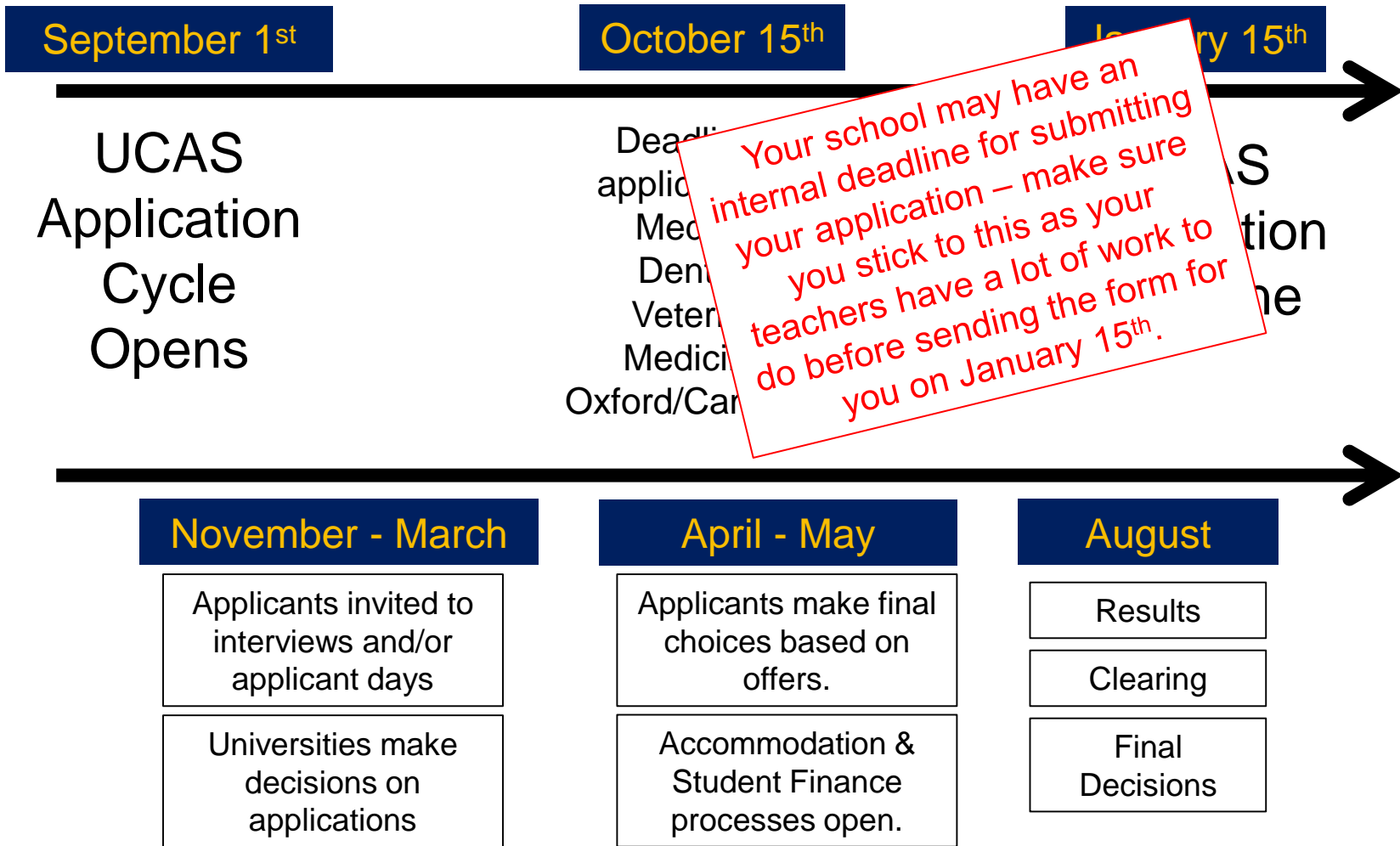
- UCAS timeline
- Personal Statement tips
- Bursaries and Scholarships

Application Process



- UCAS is the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service.
- They are responsible for managing all applications to UK universities.
 - This means that you only have to submit **one** application form for all of your choices rather than having to submit applications to every university individually.
- If you are applying to any universities outside the UK you will have to apply directly.

Application Process: Timeline



Choices

- Up to five courses in any order of preference
 - ✓ These can be at five different universities, all at one university or a mix between.
- Applying to medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine, or veterinary science?
 - ✓ You can only apply to a maximum of four courses in any one of these subjects.
- Applying to the universities of Oxford or Cambridge?
 - ✓ You can only apply to one course at either the University of Oxford or the University of Cambridge.

The screenshot shows the UCAS 2019 'apply Choices' web interface. At the top, there is a red header with 'UCAS' on the left, '2019 apply Choices' in large white text, and 'Contact us | Help | Print page' on the right. Below the header, there is a navigation bar with '<Log out' on the right. The main content area is divided into a left sidebar and a main form area. The sidebar contains a list of menu items: Welcome, Personal details, Choices (highlighted in red), Education, Employment, Statement, Reference, View all details, Pay/Send, Help, and Options/OpSynau. The main form area has a breadcrumb trail: 'Welcome > Choice summary > Choice details'. Below this, there is a warning: 'To avoid losing information please click 'save' before leaving the page.' and a note: 'To find courses based on subject, provider and location, check entry requirements, and view course-specific fee information, please use the UCAS search tool (opens in a new window)'. The form contains several fields: 'Institution code*' with a 'see list' button and a question mark; 'Course code*' with a 'see list' button and a question mark; 'Campus code*' with a 'see list' button and a question mark; 'Start date*' with a 'see list' button and a question mark; 'Further details' with a question mark; 'Live at home while studying?' with radio buttons for 'Yes' and 'No' and a question mark; and 'Point of entry' with a question mark. At the bottom of the form, there are 'save' and 'cancel' buttons. A 'Key' section on the left lists: 'Completed' (checked), 'In progress' (dashed), and 'Not started' (unchecked). At the very bottom, there is a footer with 'About us | Terms & conditions | Privacy policy' on the left and '© UCAS 2019' on the right.

Personal Statement

- Your chance to persuade the university that you're the right person for the course
- Your completed statement must be between 1,000 and 4,000 characters (maximum 47 lines) including spaces



Personal Statement

- Research the course thoroughly
 - What skills are needed to complete the course?
 - What topics are you excited about?
 - Why do you want to study this course?
- Think about you
 - What are your biggest achievements?
 - What volunteering have you done?
 - What are your goals?
 - What do you want to achieve at university?
 - Why do you want to go to university?
- What makes you suitable for this course?
- What will you contribute to the course and university?

Remember – it is one personal statement for all your applications, so don't be too specific!

Make sure that everything you reference is related back to the course/s you are applying to!

What shouldn't I focus on in my personal statement?

- What other people think
- What you wanted to do when you were little
- What your relatives do
- Don't include quotes
- Don't make things up or copy what others have done
- If you want to include personal interests or hobbies, ensure they're relevant



I love football and play it every Saturday.



Being part of my school football team has helped me be a more confident team-player and leader, skills essential for teaching.

What are the admissions officers looking for?

- Academic potential
 - Focus more on your abilities as a student than your hobbies
 - Remember the personal statement is an academic text for academics to read
- A genuine interest in the subject
 - Think about why you're motivated to study
 - Why will you succeed in this field?
 - How have you gone beyond studying this subject in class?
- A long-term commitment to the subject
 - Include your career or study goals
 - Have you already got some experience in this area?
- Subject-relevant achievements
 - Don't talk about things from ten years ago
 - You still have time to add things now

Post Application

- As soon as you submit your application universities will be able to review it.
- You will receive correspondence directly from the institutions you apply to.
- **Applicant Days:** You may well be invited to visit each institution at an applicant day.
 - An opportunity to learn more about your specific course choice and view the university again.
- **UCAS Extra:** This is another chance for you to gain a place at university or college.
 - Open between 25 February and 4 July.
 - Not holding any offers.
 - Apply for one course at a time.

Jargon Busting

- Conditional Offer = An offer made by a university on the *conditions* that you meet certain entry requirements e.g. D*DD at BTEC.
- Unconditional Offer = An offer made by a university that does not have any *conditions* attached, you have a place on that course.
- Firm Choice = The course that an applicant decides is their **first choice** should they make the conditions of the offer.
- Insurance Choice = The course that an applicant decides they want to fall back on should they not meet the conditions of their **firm choice**.
- Clearing = A system that allows applicants who have missed the conditions of their offers to find a place at university. (Opens in August)

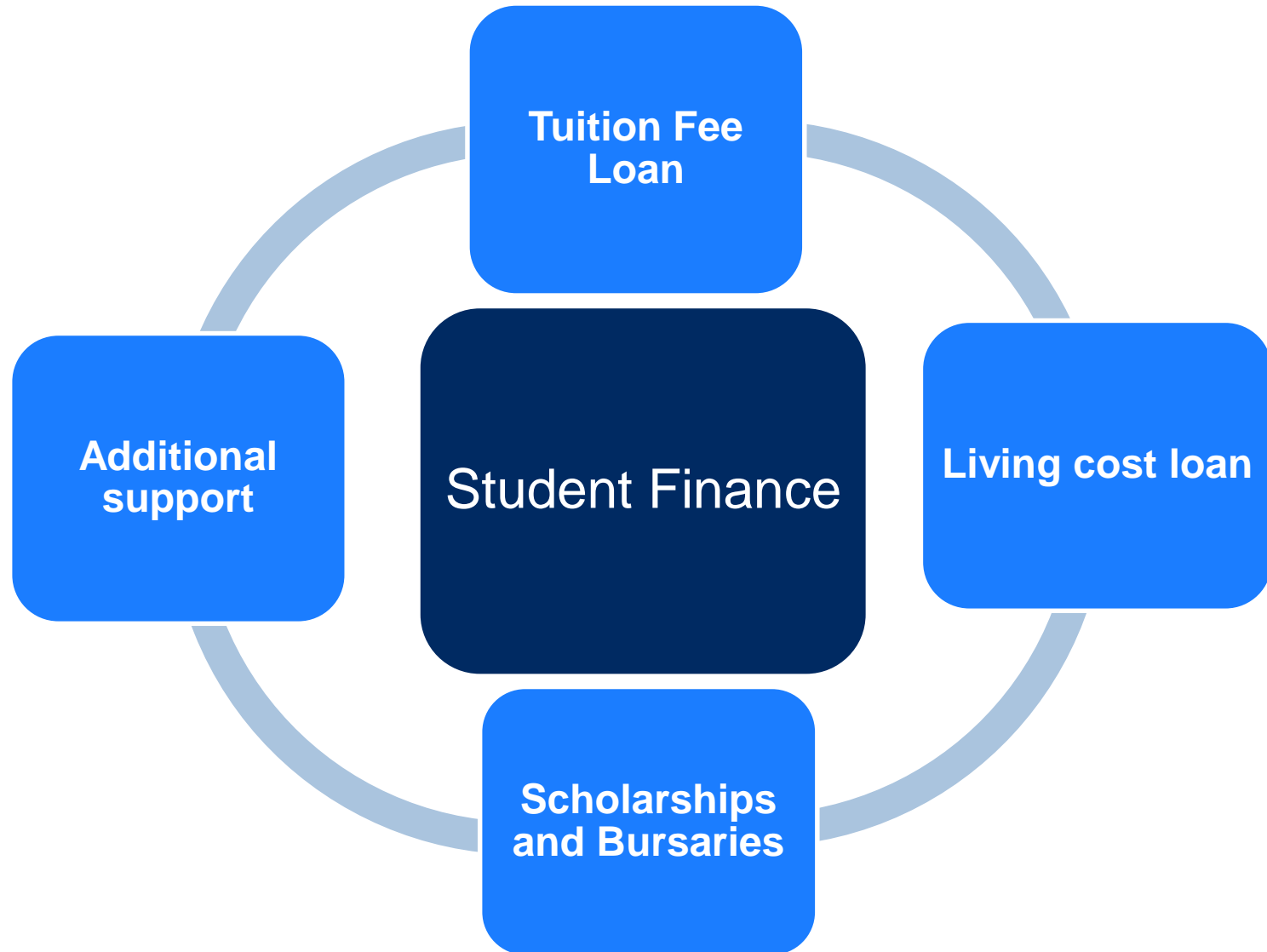
Conclusion

- Getting the UCAS application right is really important, make sure you check it through and speak with school staff who are there to help!
- Remember to check for your personal deadlines and response dates (after the January deadline you may have different dates to your friends).
- Your personal statement may be used as the basis for your interview (so make sure you are truthful)!
- Check grammar, spelling and that everything is correct.

Good Luck!



What makes up your student finance?



What's the difference?

Scholarship?

- Rewards outstanding academic/sporting/musical achievement

Bursary?

- Awards are dependent on your personal circumstances

Kent's Financial Support Package 2020

The University offers one of the most generous financial support packages in the UK.

Kent has a **£4,500 financial support package***, for 2020 across three or four (or five where applicable) years of study.

Who is eligible?

- Those whose household incomes fall below £42,875** per year and who satisfy a range of other socio-economic criteria
- Full information on the 2020 package will be published on our website: www.kent.ac.uk/fees



**Subject to approval for the Office for Students (OfS)*

*** Subject to approval by the UK Government following the outcome of the review into higher education and funding, due to be concluded in 2019.*

Kent scholarships

The Kent Scholarship for Academic Excellence

- **£2,000 for the first year of study** for students who achieve at least AAA at A-level and equivalent qualifications (eg IB, BTEC)
- Students who achieve AAB, where one of those grades is gained in **Maths** or a **Modern Foreign Language**, will also be eligible
- Full criteria at: www.kent.ac.uk/excellence

Other scholarships available:

- Sports, music, and study abroad scholarships
- International scholarships worth £8,000 per year
- Summer School Scholarships in Brussels and Paris



Financial support: a summary

Government support 2020

TBC by UK Government

Tuition Fee Loan 2019

£9,250

Living Cost Loan 2019

Up to £8,944

(living away from home)

Up to £7,529

(living at home)

Up to £10,242

(if you study abroad as part of your course)

Kent's Financial Support Package 2020

(Subject to approval from the OfS)

Year 1

Cash bursary

£1,500

Year 2

Cash bursary

£1,500

Year 3

Cash bursary

£1,500

Scholarships*

Kent Scholarship for Academic Excellence

£2,000 for first year of study

Sport

£250 - £5,000

Music Performance

Up to £2,000 (includes instrumental or vocal tuition up to £500)

Study Abroad

£2,000

Partner Scholarships

£1,000 p.a.

THE UK'S EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY



www.kent.ac.uk

University of
Kent