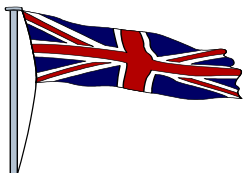


# Applying to College in Great Britain and Northern Ireland



## UCAS - Entry 2008

UCAS, the Universities & Colleges Admissions Service process all applications for third level places in participating institutions in the United Kingdom.

The application procedure is **only on line** through the UCAS website ([www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)). Applicants can list up to six course choices from participating institutions, listed in the alphabetical order and no preference can be indicated.

Cork Youth Information Centre in Marlboro Street are providing a service where students can apply through the internet, this may also be available in schools and colleges. Further information is available on the UCAS website ([www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)).

Applications can be received between September '06 and the 15th January, 2008. The normal application fee is Stg£15, however applicants who enter one choice only pay a reduced fee of Stg £5. Applicants are advised to apply in good time, as late applications will be considered solely at the discretion of the institutions concerned.

## Early Closing Dates

An early closing date of the *15th of October* applies for application to either Oxford or Cambridge Universities (with additional requirements). This closing date also applies to courses in medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine or veterinary science. Your choice is reduced to four in these subjects, however you can still use your other two choices for different subjects if you wish.

## Art & Design Courses

There are two routes of equal status for applications to courses in Art & Design. These courses are listed in the UCAS Directory under Route A or Route B. Applications through Route A should be made before 15th January 2008, and for Route B between 1st January and 24th of March 2008, though early application is advised. Application may be made through both Routes A and B, but no more than three of the six choices possible may be through Route B. When completing the UCAS application form for Route A courses tick the box in section 3 to indicate you will later apply for some courses via Route B. At the appropriate time UCAS will send you additional documentation to add your Route B choices.

## Acknowledgement of Application

On receipt of an application submission, the applicant can check via the website the acknowledgement and progress of their application. Soon afterwards applicants will be sent a welcome letter from UCAS, giving them their personal identifier and application number, their personal details and the list of courses applied for. This information should be checked immediately and if incorrect UCAS should be informed. At the same time copies of the application form are sent simultaneously to each of the institutions which the applicant has listed.

## Offer of Places

Soon after institutions applied to will begin to send their decisions to applicants via UCAS. Offers made to applicants due to sit examinations are likely to be conditional offers. The offer will specify the exact conditions which must be met before the applicant can be admitted to the course.

## Replying to Offers

When all of the applicants choices have decided whether or not to offer them a place, UCAS will send the applicant *Replying to Offers* letter and leaflet. The applicant can then reply to offers using Track at [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com). Or by phoning Customer Service Unit on 0044 8701122211. The applicant can accept one offer firmly and, if the offer is conditional, can hold one other offer as an insurance, normally an offer with lesser academic requirements. All replies made are final, and applicants are not entitled to change their minds later.

## UCAS Extra

UCAS Extra enables applicants who haven't accepted or received an offer at this stage to make an additional choice between late February and the end of June. UCAS will inform students when they become eligible to use Extra. They do *not* have to wait until clearing! Applicants who are eligible for Extra can apply for several other courses, but only one at a time. Use course search on the UCAS website to find a course, check the college can take them and apply online using the Track service.

### **Confirmation of Offers**

Following notification of examination results UCAS will send confirmation of offers to successful applicants, and details of clearing (see overleaf) to those who have been unsuccessful.

While UCAS will have direct access to the results of the Irish Leaving Certificate examinations (Higher Level only) as soon as they become available, it is still advisable to fax your results directly to the college in question, quoting your UCAS application number and specifying the course for which you hold a conditional offer.

### **Clearing**

Clearing takes place between mid-August and late September. The purpose of clearing is to attempt to place applicants who have been unsuccessful either earlier in the year or at confirmation, and to fill any remaining places in institutions. Those eligible for clearing UCAS will automatically let you know and you can find your Clearing Entry Number by using Tracking. Clearing also acts as a very late application procedure for those whose applications are received in UCAS after the 30th June, 2006.

From mid-August, clearing vacancies will be available daily at [wwwucas.com](http://wwwucas.com) and published in 'The Independent' newspaper. Identify and make a shortlist of the course(s) you are interested in and telephone the admissions office of the Universities/Colleges concerned to negotiate a place. They will want to know your Clearing Entry Number, possibly your UCAS number, and your Leaving Certificate results.

If you find a place through Clearing, the university or college will tell UCAS and send a letter of confirmation.

### **Grants (2008-2009)**

For those who wish to attend college in September 2008, English colleges are charging up to £3,134 for tuition fees and a means tested loan may be available, which is paid off when the student has finished their course, is working and reaches the appropriate income.

Colleges in Wales are charging £1,255 and those whose income is below £23,660 are also entitled to a means tested tuition fee grant

If you intend to study in England or Wales and wish to claim financial assistance towards your tuition fee you must complete and return an EU6N form to the EU Customer Service Team, (DfES), Mowden Hall, Staindrop Road, Darlington DL3 9BG, Durham UK Tel: 00-44-1412433570 or [www.directgov.uk](http://www.directgov.uk)

Further information and CD on student finance available from [www.unimoney.directgov.uk](http://www.unimoney.directgov.uk)

For Scotland, while tuition fees have been abolished for all EU students studying full time higher education courses, it is necessary to complete an SAS 3 form as you may otherwise be liable for fees. These forms are available from the Student Awards Agency for Scotland (SAAS), Gyleview House, 3 Redheughs Rigg, South Gyle, Edinburgh EH12 9HH Tel: 0044-845-1111711 E-mail [saas.geu@scotland.gso.gov.uk](mailto:saas.geu@scotland.gso.gov.uk) or download it from <http://www.student-support-saas.gov.uk> or apply online

Once your application has been approved you will be sent an 'awards letter' which will tell you how much help you will receive. The sum of money awarded will be paid direct to your institution after the start of the academic year.

EU applicants are not eligible to apply for British Maintenance Grants, however it is possible to transfer means tested maintenance grants made primarily under the Higher Education Grant Scheme to the UK. Application should be made through your Local Authority.

### **Accommodation**

As for student accommodation each institution has its own halls of residence to accommodate students at reasonable rates, particularly first year students. Apply immediately after being accepted for study. Information will also be available on alternative forms of accommodation locally.

### **Further Information**

Further information is available from the British Council website at [www.britishcouncil.org/ireland/education](http://www.britishcouncil.org/ireland/education)