

# Welcome to the UK!



Information session  
17 May 2023



# What we'll cover in this presentation

- About the UK
- Why study in the UK?
- Study options
- Types of university
- How to apply?
- Visas and fees
- Health and wellbeing

# About the UK

# The four UK nations

- The UK is a union of four nations.
- Each nation has similarities and differences that make studying there unique.
- Choosing to study in the UK gives you the opportunity to discover all four.



# Why study in the UK?

- Home of the English Language
- A place to think differently
- Employability
- At the forefront of science, research and innovation
- Strong links with industry



# Study options

# A variety of study options



UK universities have one of the most diverse subject offerings in the world.

**Undergraduate courses** include:

- bachelor's or undergraduate degrees (full-time or part-time)
- shorter courses such as a foundation degree etc.

**Postgraduate courses** include:

- master's degrees (most of them can be done in one year)
- MBA courses
- PhDs or doctorates
- professional and vocational qualifications.

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# Choosing a location



**In the UK, there are over 160 higher education institutions to choose from, and you will find them in every location.**

- Here are some of the things to consider when choosing your location:
- Would you prefer being in a city, or somewhere quieter and more remote?
- Do you have an extra-curricular passion that would suit a certain location?
- Do you have family or friends in the UK that you would like to be near?
- Have you considered cost of living in big cities?
- Do you have a preference for studying in England, Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland?

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# Finding a course that's right for you



When choosing a course, think about:

- What subject are you most interested in?
- What modules and options are on offer?
- Does the course include a work placement?
- What do you want to do next?
- What grades do you need?
- Do other students enjoy this course?

Search for more than 50,000 undergraduate courses using **UCAS** (Universities and Colleges Admissions Service) <https://digital.ucas.com/search>

Search for postgraduate courses using **Prospects** <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/postgraduate-courses>

Use **Discover Uni** to compare data on undergraduate courses: <https://discoveruni.gov.uk/>

Search all courses available on our Study UK platform: <https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/>

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# Types of universities

- Traditional universities
- Metropolitan universities
- Campus universities
- Specialist universities



# How to apply



# Applying as an undergraduate

**Most undergraduate applications are made through UCAS.**

## **Mid-October**

- Universities of Oxford and Cambridge.
- Most courses in medicine, veterinary medicine/science, and dentistry.

## **End of January**

- Most undergraduate courses.

## **March**

- Some art and design courses.

## **June**

- Applications after this deadline go into Clearing, so you will not be guaranteed your first choice.



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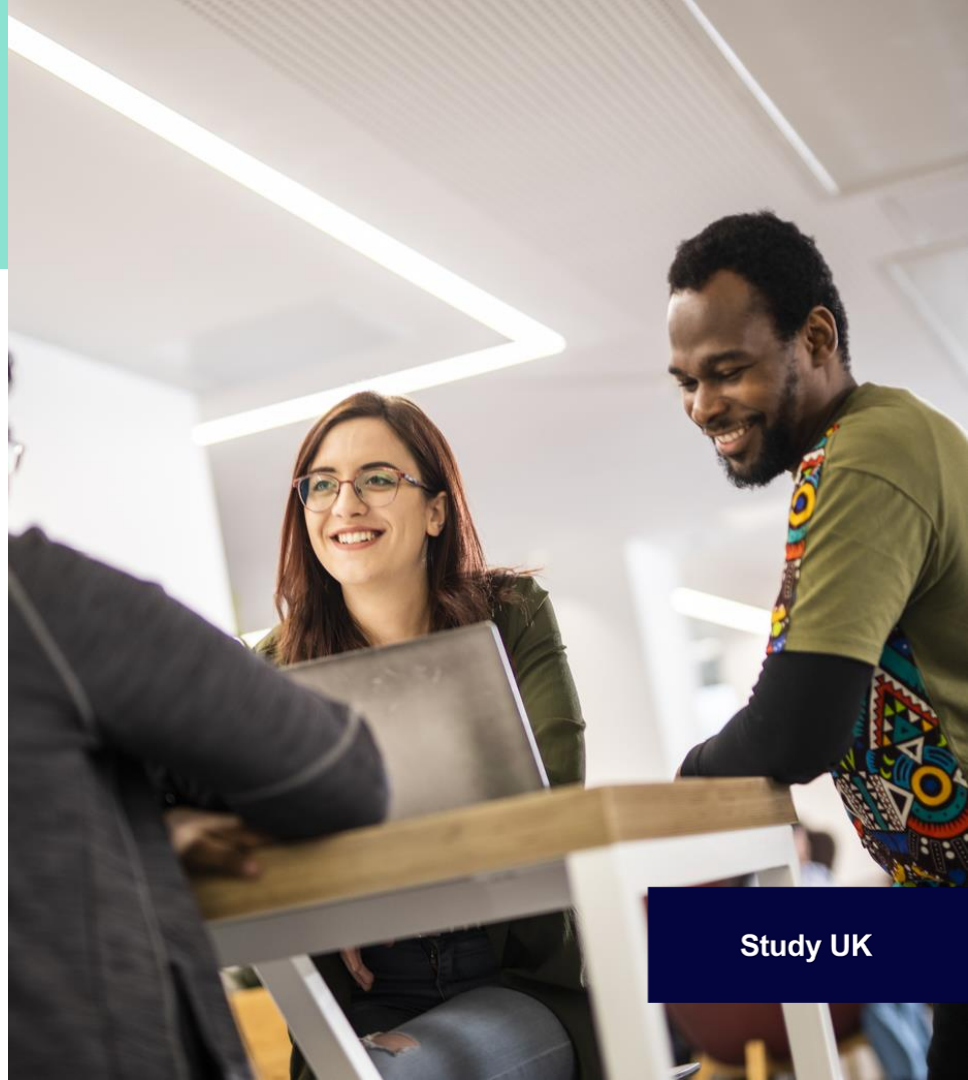
# Applying as a postgraduate

**For postgraduate courses, you apply directly to your chosen university in the UK.**

- Complete an application form.
- Apply for as many courses as you like.
- Deadlines for postgraduate courses in the UK are flexible.

More information:

- UCAS postgraduate website:  
[www.ucas.com/postgraduate](https://www.ucas.com/postgraduate)
- Visit universities' own websites.



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# Your application form

**There is a range of information you will need to provide on your application form.**

This includes:

- your email address and contact information
- your education history
- your employment history
- your statement (only one)
- a reference
- any support you may need while at university.





# The reference letter



## Essential part of application

Ideally, should be by one of your teachers, or a school counsellor (not family or friends!)

It must discuss academic performance

Always give personal statement to the referee

Must provide a **predicted grade** for the overall Bac or diploma

Chance to explain any anomalies

Should be in English

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# Speaking English



**The International English Language Testing System (IELTS) measures your English language proficiency.**

- All UK universities accept IELTS results.
- International students are typically required to gain a score of 6.5 or above in order to study here.
- The UK's top universities can require a score of 7.5.

To find out more about IELTS, visit [www.ielts.org](http://www.ielts.org)

Other tests are also accepted depending on the institution:

- Duolingo English Test
- Pearson English Test
- Cambridge C1 Advanced and C2 Proficiency

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# Applying for a UK visa



**As a European student, you now have to apply for a student visa through the Student Route.**

- Once you have an unconditional offer and a CAS, you can apply for your student visa.
- It costs £363 to apply for this student visa outside of the UK.
- Your student visa will allow you to live and study in the UK throughout your course.
- If you study in the UK for less than 6 months, you don't need a visa, it's the visitor route
- For more information on the student visa and your options, visit <https://www.gov.uk/student-visa>

As a student from an EU country, you can use the 'UK Immigration: ID Check' app to complete the identity stage of your application.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/using-the-uk-immigration-id-check-app>

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# Stay in the UK after you graduate

The Graduate Route allows you to apply to stay in the UK for two or three years after you finish your degree.

- Open to all international students who have successfully completed their degree from 1 July 2021 onwards.
- The route is unsponsored: you can apply even if you don't have a job.
- Ability to switch to a skilled work visa once you have found a suitable job.
- Learn more: <https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/after-your-studies/graduate-route>



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# University fees



- For international students, undergraduate fees range from around **£10,000** to **£26,000** per year for lecture-based degrees.
- For medical degrees, you can expect to pay up to **£58,600** per year.
- Postgraduate degrees in the UK are shorter and cheaper: Most postgraduate degrees can be obtained in **just one year**, making them excellent value for money.
- Postgraduate degrees typically range from **£15,000** to **£30,000**.

# Scholarships and funding



The UK is no longer part of the Erasmus+ programme, but:

- Erasmus funding opportunities: the UK is now considered a third country
- Programme developed by Wales (**Taith-ILEP**) to replace Erasmus+
- **Global Wales** postgraduate scholarships
- British Council **Entente Cordiale** Scholarships (law studies)
- Scholarships and discounts for EU students are offered by more than 50 UK universities – **check the [Study UK search engine!](#)**

Always check different institutions' websites to find out what's available.

Study UK

[Why study in the UK?](#)

[Plan your studies](#)

[Scholarships and funding](#)

[Moving to the UK](#)

[After your studies](#)

[Blog](#)

# Study in the UK



[Courses](#)

[Institutions](#)

[Scholarships](#)

Scholarship search keywords

Select level of study



Select subject



Any nationality



Search



# Your health and wellbeing



As part of your visa application (if your stay is longer than 6 months), you will pay an Immigration Health Surcharge that allows you to use the NHS for:

- consulting a doctor on any physical or mental health issue
- accident and emergency services (excluding follow-up treatments and in-patient admissions)
- diagnosis of sexually transmitted diseases
- accessing the Covid-19 vaccine.

Its cost is £470 per year for a student visa, which can be **reimbursed** in full if you have an EHIC card (**CEAM**) and you don't work during your studies



# Webinars



**7 June, 16.00-17.00 UK time**

**What I wish I'd known as a new international student in the UK**

Prospective students put questions to current students and get their top tips for starting studies in the UK.

Direct link: <https://study-uk-events-eu.britishcouncil.org/new-webinars/what-i-wish-i-d-known-as-a-new-international-student-in-the-uk/>

**19 June, 16.00-17.00 UK time**

**Pre-departure briefing: European students**

A session with representatives from UKVI about getting ready to start studies in the UK.

Direct link: <https://study-uk-events-eu.britishcouncil.org/new-webinars/pre-departure-briefing-2023/>

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# British Council University Preparation Courses

<https://www.britishcouncil.fr/anglais/book-test-special>

<https://www.britishcouncil.fr/en/english/children/bilingual/preparation-university-studies>

Study UK



A wide-angle photograph of the Cardiff University main building, a grand neoclassical structure with multiple stories, arched windows, and a central pediment. A flagpole with the Welsh flag stands in front of the building. In the foreground, a paved path leads towards the building, flanked by green lawns and large trees. Two young women are on the path; one is sitting on a bicycle with a backpack, and the other is standing next to her. Other students are visible in the distance on the lawn.

CARDIFF  
UNIVERSITY

PRIFYSGOL  
CAERDYDD

**Applying to the UK**  
**What are we looking for?**  
**Chris Wright – Cardiff University**

# UK Admission



UK universities operate a transparent, selective admissions process

Research **entry requirements**, including any admissions tests, portfolios, interviews

Apply through the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (**UCAS**)

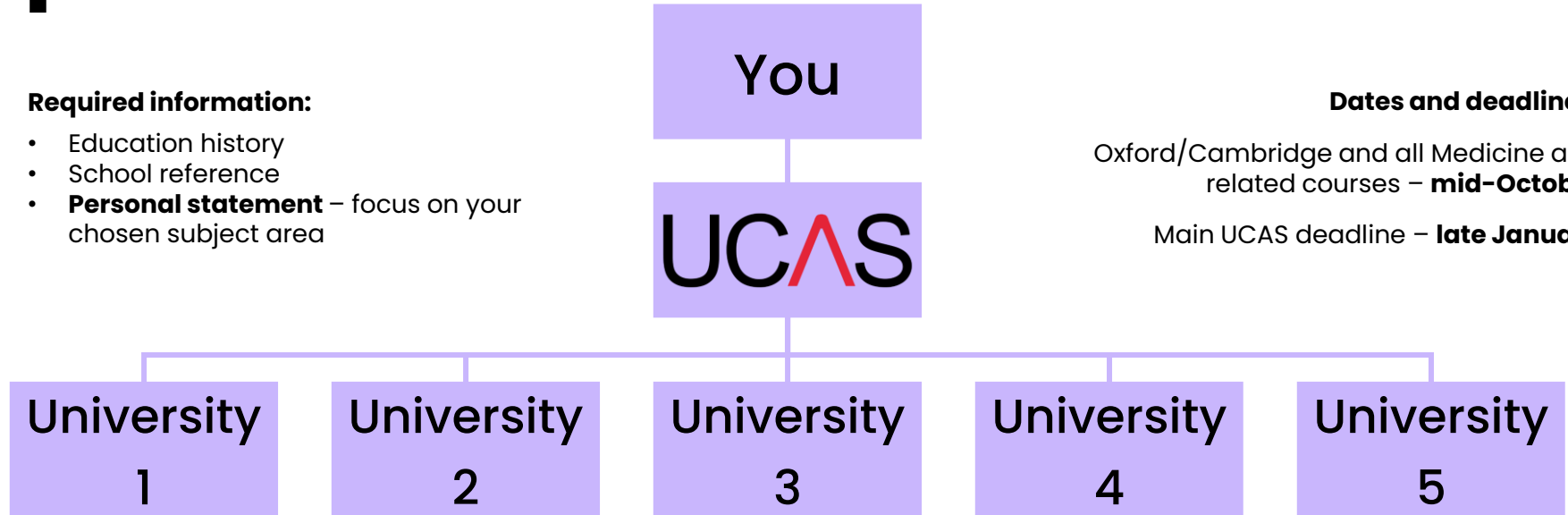
5 choices, 1 application form  
(4 choices for Medicine and related courses)

**Early application deadline** for Oxford, Cambridge and all Medicine and related courses

# Application process

## Required information:

- Education history
- School reference
- **Personal statement** – focus on your chosen subject area



## September–January

## Dates and deadlines:

Oxford/Cambridge and all Medicine and related courses – **mid-October**

Main UCAS deadline – **late January**



## Centralised or Collegiate Admission

**Entry criteria** – academic / English / Other

**Personal statement** dos and don'ts

**Other essential requirements** – level 2  
quals, pieces of work, portfolio, interview,  
auditions, UCAT/BMAT/LNAT

# Applying to the UK



# Personal Statement – Dos

- **Do talk about why you're a good candidate** – talk about you, your motivations and what brings you to this course.
- **Do be enthusiastic** – if you show you're interested in the course, it may help you get a place.
- **Do make it relevant.** Connect what you're saying with the course and with your experiences.
- **Do outline your ideas clearly.**
- **Do avoid the negatives** – highlight the positives about you, and show you know your strengths.
- **Do expect to produce several drafts** of your personal statement before being totally happy with it.
- **Do ask people** you trust for their feedback.

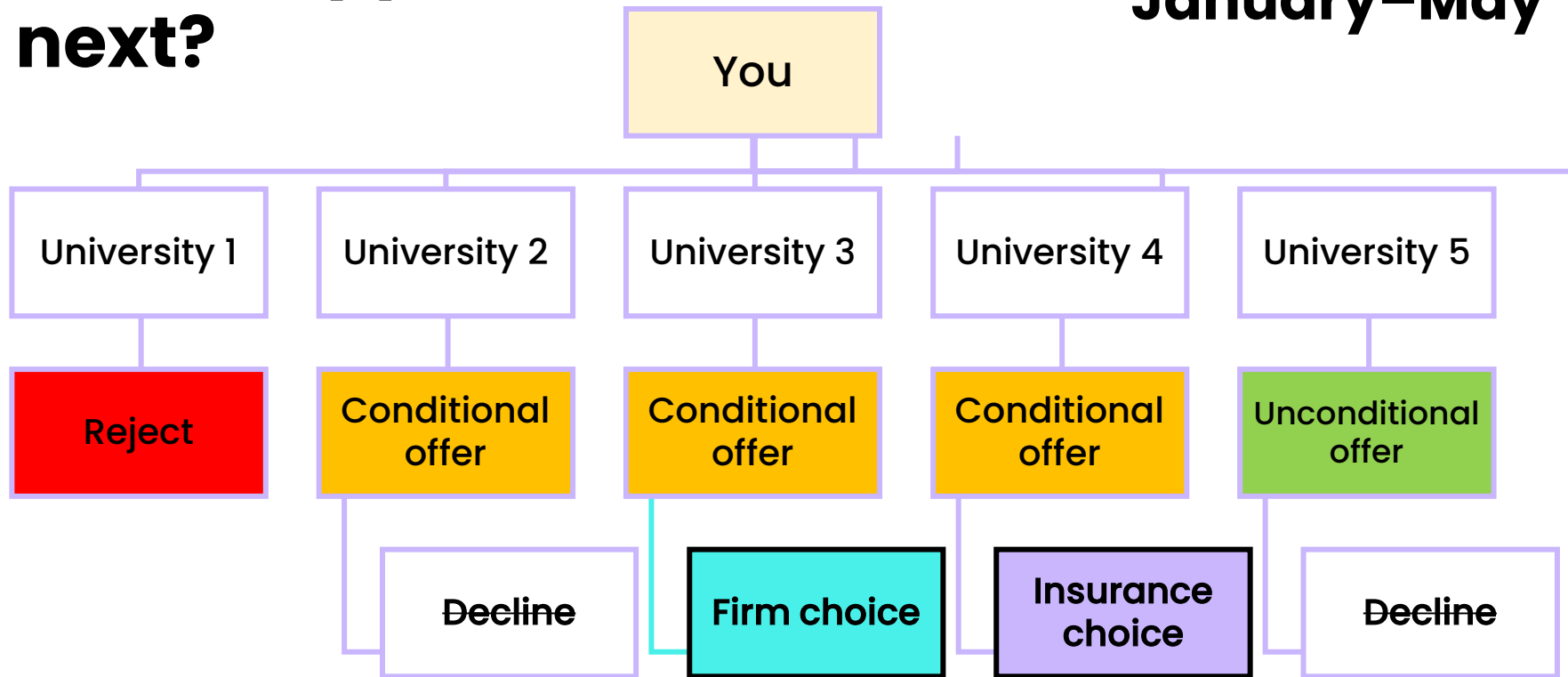
# Personal Statement – Don'ts

- **Don't be modest or shy.** You want your passions to come across.
- **Don't exaggerate** – if you do, you may get caught out in an interview when asked to elaborate on an interesting achievement.
- **Don't use quotes** from someone else, or clichés.
- **Don't leave it to the last minute** – your statement will seem rushed and important information could be left out.
- **Don't let spelling and grammatical errors spoil your statement**, but don't just rely on a spellchecker. Proofread as many times as possible.
- **Don't copy and paste** – make yours original.
- **Don't worry about it** – we have all the advice you need to help you stand out in your personal statement.



# What happens next?

January–May



# Student Support Services



## Supporting student life

Student Connect Team (first point of contact)

Mental health & wellbeing, finance support, disability support, student mentor scheme, and equality, diversity and inclusion

## Unibuddy

Your opportunity to speak to current students via a live online chat about studying and living in Cardiff

## Help before you arrive

Student visas, medical requirements, money & finance, what to bring

## Coach collection

Free service collecting students from Heathrow Airport and transferring them to Cardiff.

# Then what?

## Hints & tips



**Keep** personal details **up to date**



**Research** student life – email or call us



**Prepare and practice** for interviews



**Don't panic** if you don't hear back immediately



**Respond promptly** – check your junk mail!





Dr Matthias Dörrzapf

Director of Scholarships and International Programmes

St Johns College, University of Cambridge



# Cambridge University

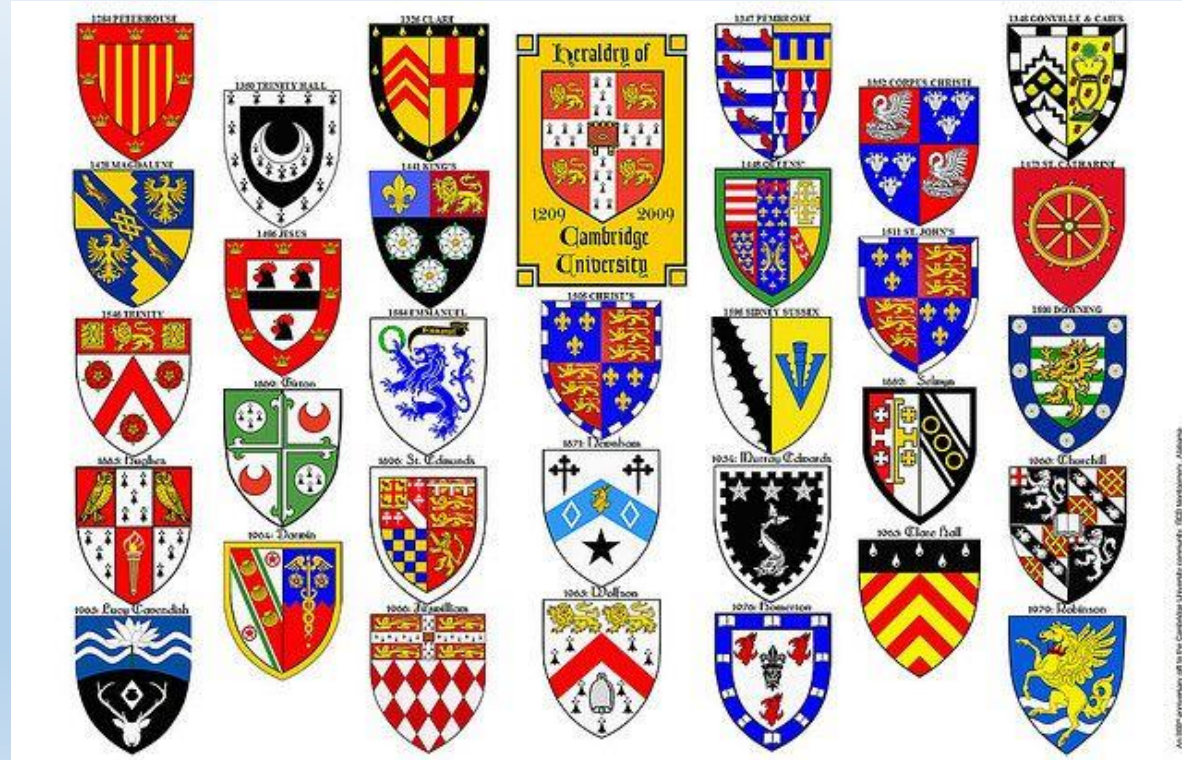
- Focused on students' ideas and understanding
- Substantial personal attention
- Personalised education system
- Professors engage extensively in undergraduate teaching
- College is the student's Home
- Collegiate environment offers both inspiration and opportunities, the 'daily educational life' happens in the College
- Around 23,000 students (12,000 undergraduates & 11,000 graduate students)

# Cambridge University

## Our Education

- Research based courses
- Broad and intense with a very solid foundation
- Flexibility by combining different years of courses
- Wide range of courses at the highest academic level
- Taught by world experts in their fields
- Substantial personal attention and support. The Cambridge supervision system: very small group size, very individual teaching system
- A dedicated Director of Studies and Tutor for every student
- Undergraduate courses take you within 3-4 years to the limits of what is currently known

# Cambridge University



# Cambridge University

- Cambridge University consists of 31 Colleges
- All students (undergraduates and graduate students) studying in Cambridge are a member of one College
- The University organises lectures, examinations and award the degree
- The Colleges organises supervisions, seminars, educational support, welfare support, financial support, educational opportunities, accommodation, extra-curricular activities and opportunities, ...
- Colleges are VERY different ...



# St John's College



# St John's College

- Academic Strength
- Diversity
- Motivation & Exposure
- Scholarships & Financial Support



# St John's College

- Achieve goals in a positive way, through motivation and excitement rather than through regulation
- Developing all talents of the students
- Offering a 12 months education far beyond just the 9 months academic course
- Offering opportunities and educational activities

# St John's College





# Scholarships

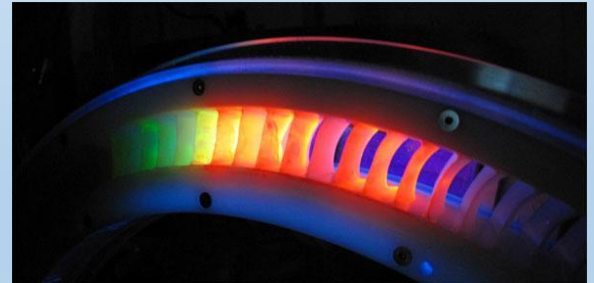
- St John's Studentships for UK students
- St John's Summer Bursaries and Summer Research Programme Funding
- Davies-Jackson Scholarship for first generation University
- St John's Hong Kong Scholarship
- St John's Singapore Academic Award
- St John's France Scholarship
- [Khattar Harrison Scholarship](#)
- [Nathoo Bursary](#)
- ...

# St John's College



# Opportunities & Educational Activities

- Research Projects, Internships and Exchange programmes – increasing the international experience and links for the College
- In 2019 more than 240 of our undergraduates were be involved in projects
- We have programmes in USA, Japan, China, Singapore, Italy, Germany
- Travel Awards – 65 awards given in 2019
- Summer Bursaries – 85 awards given in 2019
- Research Projects – 40 awards made in 2019
- Innovation Internships – 10 awards made in 2019
- Exchange Programmes – 38 places allocated in 2019
- Entrepreneurs workshop – 15 places in 2019



# Our Students





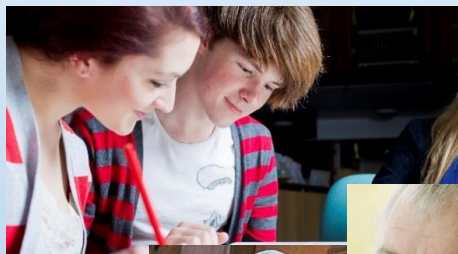
# St John's Innovation Centre

- St John's Innovation Centre exists to provide a dynamic & supportive incubation environment to accelerate the growth of ambitious innovative firms in the Cambridge region.
- *A safe space to try out revolutionary ideas*
- 88 companies
- 384 people
- 87% Business success
- <https://stjohns.co.uk/>





# Our Alumni



# Applications

- Deadline is always 15 October, every year, for University of Cambridge applications
- All undergraduate applications coming through the UCAS online application system
- UCAS (Universities and Colleges Admissions Service)
- [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)
- Admissions Tests end of September in some subjects
- Interviews take place in December

# Our Applicants

- Over 1000 undergraduate applicants per year, for around 171 places
- St John's offers places in all undergraduate courses offered by Cambridge University, both Sciences and Humanities
- Applicants usually apply the year before admission



# Personal Statement

- Excitement & Motivation
- Aspirations
- Intellectual curiosity
- Activities and what they meant to you
- What have you learned?
- 80% academics – 20% extracurricular



# Admissions Tests

- Demonstrate understanding
- Independent thinking
- Far beyond a memory test
- Large choice of questions
- Tests what you know rather than what you don't know
- Quality rather than quantity



# Interviews



- Conducted by Academics
- Potential to think for yourself
- Think and argue logically
- Prepare yourself: talk loudly, be challenged on your ideas
- Engage actively in conversation

# Alumni

- Lisa Lefebvre,  
King's College
- Carolina Vlachakou,  
King's College





**George Wilson**, Senior Teacher bilingual education, British Council

**Carole Hémard**, Project Manager Higher Education, British Council

[education@britishcouncil.fr](mailto:education@britishcouncil.fr)

**Chris Wright**, International Officer, Cardiff University

[international@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:international@cardiff.ac.uk)

# Thank you!

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## Any questions?

