

University Applications 2012

Parents' FAQs

This autumn the majority of our Upper Sixth students will be applying for University. We would like to try to answer some of your frequently asked questions, so that together we can support your son or daughter through this process.

You will find it helpful to refer to the booklet that we gave you at the Higher Education Evening in May. A copy of this is also available on the college website.

These are the key dates:

College Deadlines	23 September 2011 Oxbridge/Medicine/Dentistry/ Veterinary Science	w/c 31 October 2011* All other UCAS applications	15 November 2011 Art Foundation applications
External Deadlines	15 October 2011 UCAS deadline for Oxbridge/Medicine/Dentistry/ Veterinary Science	15 January 2012 UCAS deadline for standard applications	31 January 2012 Most Art College deadlines

* Student's individual deadline will vary according to their Tutorial time that week.

How you can help

You can help by offering to read through your son/daughter's application with them and by checking their personal statement for spelling and grammatical errors.

Encourage them to get their application in to their Personal Tutor as early as they can.

It is vital that throughout the application process students regularly check their college and personal email accounts for important information regarding their application.

Stress to them the importance of attending all their tutorials so that if changes to their application are necessary there is no time delay. Personal Tutors will be supporting students through the application process but ultimately the responsibility rests with the student.

Some Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why is the Godalming College deadline so early?

We have an early deadline due to the high volume of applications we receive over the space of a few days. We aim to ensure that all applications meeting our internal deadlines reach UCAS in advance of their deadlines.

2. What is the UCAS tariff?

The UCAS Tariff is the system for allocating points to qualifications used for entry to higher education. This is inside the booklet we gave you at the Parents' Evening. It is also to be found at www.ucas.com

3. How do I know whether the courses my son/daughter is applying for are realistic?

They can find out the grade/tariff requirements for each course by using UCAS Course Search. They will then need to match these requirements against their predicted grades.

4. Where can my son/daughter get help?

There is a huge amount of information on the Careers section of Godalming Online and on www.ucas.com. Here they will find help with writing their personal statement and with making their course choices.

Your son/daughter should seek help from their Personal Tutor during tutorials.

The Careers Dept run lunchtime UCAS workshops – your son/daughter should check the student bulletin for details of these.

5. My son/daughter has finished their application. What do they do now?

Their Personal Tutor will have given them a 'University Choices' form. They need to fill this in, obtaining subject teachers' signatures against their predicted grades. Your son /daughter needs to sign the form themselves, confirming that they have checked their whole UCAS application form and are taking responsibility for its accuracy. Then they need to hand this form to their Personal Tutor.

6. Does my son/daughter have to wait for the October deadline to hand in their application?

No! They can hand it in as soon as they have completed and checked it.

7. When should the online payment be made?

Their Personal Tutor will tell your son or daughter when to make the online payment. Paying effectively 'locks' the application, preventing the applicant from making any changes, so early payment is not recommended.

8. My son/daughter gave their application in to their tutor well before half-term. Why hasn't it been sent to UCAS yet?

The Careers Dept receives a large number of applications in a very short space of time. Last year we processed over 730 applications. All applications are dealt with strictly in date order of receipt and we aim to ensure that all applications meeting our internal deadlines reach UCAS in advance of their deadlines.

It is vital that your son/daughter checks both their college email, and the email they have listed on their application, regularly (daily if possible) after submitting their application as this is our most important means of contacting them should any issues or queries arise. Failure to respond to emails promptly is the most common reason for a delay in an application being sent to UCAS.

9. What happens once the application has been sent to UCAS?

UCAS will send out a 'Welcome' Letter, which explains exactly what happens to their applications, and gives details of how to log onto Track, the system that is used by universities to make students offers, and by students to reply to those offers. Please encourage your son/daughter to read the accompanying leaflet carefully and keep it in a safe place, as it explains everything that will happen, right through to results day in August 2012.

10. I have friend whose son/daughter has already received some offers, but we haven't heard anything yet. Why is this?

Universities and courses vary in how long they take to make an offer. Some courses will wait until the middle of January to make any offers. Admissions tutors are obliged to consider all applications received before the 15 January deadline, but in general the sooner you apply the sooner you'll receive an offer.

For more information on UCAS applications go to the very informative parents' section at www.ucas.com/parents.

Godalming College

Careers Department

May 2011