

St. Mary's



# PEP Guide

Y13 2023-24

**NAME**





## Where do I start?

The key decision to make is whether to go down the university or career route, (or programme).

So, you need to think about:

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Start with the UCAS website, [www.ucas.com/hub](http://www.ucas.com/hub) and set up your own personalised UCAS hub. This will give you access to loads of information to help you search all the options open to you once you leave school including

## Higher Education (University)

There are more than 45,000 courses available at over 300 institutions in the UK. Not surprisingly, lots of potential university applicants do not know what they want to study or where

A higher education course typically lasts 3 or 4 years, and will involve borrowing a lot of money, so it makes sense to be sure that whatever you do will be worthwhile. Start by asking yourself:

- Why do you want to go to university?
- What subject areas interest you most?
- Is there a specific career you are interested in?
- Do you have any preferences about where you study?
- What are your thoughts about size, location, distance from home or accommodation?
- What financial help may be available?

So now you need to **research** your options. This will take time. Start early and it until Y13 when exam pressure will slowly start to build!

### **Which course? THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT BIT...**

More than half of graduate jobs are open to graduates with any degree. This means that, unless you have a specific career plan in mind that requires some kind of vocational degree (such as engineering, medicine or veterinary), it makes sense to do a **subject you enjoy**. Of course, this could be an entirely new subject or combination of subjects.

Be aware, courses that share the same title (and code) may vary hugely between different universities. Not only can the entrance requirements differ, but the way the course is delivered and taught, the amount of contact time, the type of study involved and the

[www.discoveruni.gov.uk](http://www.discoveruni.gov.uk) and [www.push.co.uk](http://www.push.co.uk) are two websites that allow you to make direct comparisons between courses at different universities. You can compare course content, competition for places, staff/student ratios, student satisfaction figures, graduate employment and lots of other factors that will help you to narrow down your choice.

There are also many valuable university comparison sites available on the internet

## Which University?

Universities come in many shapes and sizes, from the elite research-led Russell Group universities with a worldwide reputation to newer universities that have their origins in the old polytechnics. They range in size from 2,000 to 30,000 students, so there are lots of things to consider here:

**Academic reputation:** the Russell Group universities (such as the University of Leeds) base their reputation on the quality of their research, which means you will



## Making your UCAS Application

All university applications are processed by UCAS, but each course you apply for is considered individually by an admissions tutor at each university. The most important points about the UCAS process are:

- You can apply for up to 5 courses (medicine, veterinary medicine and dentistry are limited to 4, plus one other if desired)
- You register with [www.ucas.com/apply](http://www.ucas.com/apply) and complete your application online (you will success24 for 2024 applications)
- The UCAS deadline is 31 January 2024, although you are strongly advised to complete your application well before that so you can concentrate on your A level study. The internal school deadline is 24

## UCAS Tariff

The UCAS tariff allows universities to make offers that include a wide range of qualifications such as A levels, AS, OCR National and BTECs. It gives points that allow different qualifications to be added together (and to be compared).

The key equivalences for qualifications we offer are these:

	A level	AS level or equivalent	EPQ (1/2 A level)	L3 Technical (1 A level)	A level equivalent	UCAS points
A*	56		28	D*	A*	56

## Personal Statement

interview prospective students, so the 4000 characters or 47 lines of your personal statement are the only opportunity you have written!

There really is no set model for a personal statement: It helps to think about your universities are looking for to gain a place on your chosen course

### What admissions tutors want to know:

- why exactly have you applied for that particular course
- is there evidence that you enjoy studying and are specifically interested in the subject
- can you demonstrate the skills requires to study independently and successfully
- are you mature enough to cope with university life
- how you can demonstrate dedication and time-management skills, for example through extra-curricular achievements

You need to get the balance right: **at least half** the statement should be **directly relevant to the course**.

It also needs to be engaging and attention-grabbing: you have to stand out from the crowd!

### How to start

**UCAS website** on how to go about writing

your personal statement at:

[www.ucas.com/how-it-all-works/undergraduate/filling-your-application/your-personal-statement](http://www.ucas.com/how-it-all-works/undergraduate/filling-your-application/your-personal-statement)

Here you will find two worksheets you should print off and work through:

- personal statement mind map
- personal statement worksheet

The following pages will help you start to **plan**, **draft** and **re-draft** your personal statement. Your Form teacher will also give you lots of advice and support.

**IMPORTANT:** Make sure that for each point you make you explain and give **examples**.

## Do

## Don't

- take
- use quotes from the internet admissions tutors want to know what **you** think
- plagiarise. UCAS puts every application through anti-plagiarism software and may disqualify you
- list things you have done without showing what you have learnt
- over-
- have you
- work
- tutor
- that

## Transferable Skills

What skills do you have that will be useful for your degree? How can you show in your personal statement that you have these skills?



**Study now –**

## FAQs

These frequently asked questions are arranged in order of the different sections on **help** link on each section of the online form.

### **Personal details**

#### ***Preferred first name.***

If you are known by another name than your legal firstname, enter it here eg Tom (Thomas)

#### ***What e-mail address should I use?***

Use a personal email address and NOT your @stmarysmenston.org address as this will be disabled once you leave school following your exams.

#### ***What do I put for fee code?***

Choose from the drop-down menu. In the next question (*student support arrangements*) enter the name of the local authority area you live in.

### **Additional information**

#### ***What does parental education mean?***

Click yes if one or both parents have been to university, click no if neither has.

#### ***What does occupational background mean?***

The job or profession of your highest-earning parent eg banker, teacher.

### **Choices**

Your choices can be entered in any order the universities only see that you have applied to them.

#### ***What does point of entry mean?***

Chose Year 1

### **Education**

#### ***How do I fill in my qualifications?***

- a) for completed qualifications eg GCSEs you must enter subject, exam board, date taken. Exam boards, module numbers or names are written on your exam certificates and statement of results. (See table for details of qualification descriptions)
- b) for ongoing qualifications,





# Skills Glossary

**General Skills**

**People-oriented Skills**

**Self-reliance Skills**

## Useful Websites

UCAS the essential website for student research and applications to higher education [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)

The official website for comparing UK Uni course data [www.discoveruni.gov.uk](http://www.discoveruni.gov.uk)

Pure Potential -quality, free advice on university applications, career decisions and school leaver opportunities [www.purepotential.org](http://www.purepotential.org)

[www.guardian.co.uk/education](http://www.guardian.co.uk/education)

[www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk](http://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk)

[www.timeshighereducation.co.uk](http://www.timeshighereducation.co.uk)

[www.russellgroup.ac.uk](http://www.russellgroup.ac.uk)

[www.ukcoursefinder.com](http://www.ukcoursefinder.com)

[www.push.co.uk](http://www.push.co.uk)

[www.university.which.co.uk](http://www.university.which.co.uk)

[www.opendays.com](http://www.opendays.com) - the university and college open day directory.

Admissions tests [www.admissionstestingservice.org](http://www.admissionstestingservice.org)

The Student Room [www.thestudentroom.co.uk](http://www.thestudentroom.co.uk) for help and advice from fellow students