



CRGS Sixth Form: *A Brief Introduction to Applying to University*

CRGS *Futures* Series Presentation 2: Mrs Johnston



“The future
depends on
what we do in
the present.”

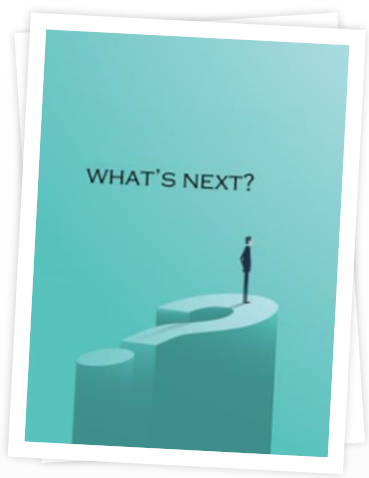
Mahatma
Gandhi

CRGS *Futures Series*

This is the second CRGS Sixth Form Futures presentation:



1. *An Introduction to CRGS Futures*
2. *A Brief Introduction to Applying to University*
3. *Getting Started on your Personal Statement*
4. *Completing your UCAS Form*
5. *A Brief Introduction to Applying for Higher and Degree Apprenticeships*
6. *A Brief Guide to Student Finance*
7. *A Brief Guide to Specialist Admissions Tests*
8. *Replying to Offers*
9. *A Brief Guide to Results Day*



Have you watched the *Introduction to CRGS Futures* (Presentation 1)?



- If not, watch that first!
- The purpose of this guide is to briefly explain the application process for higher education

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

Nelson
Mandela



What is 'higher education'?

- **Higher education (HE)** is an optional stage of formal learning that occurs after completion of further education. It is mostly delivered in universities
- Students who are studying for their first degree at university are called **undergraduates**. They are studying for their undergraduate degree. Most degrees will give you the qualification of BA (Hons) or BSc (Hons)
- Once you have graduated (usually after 3 years) if you carry on studying you are a **postgraduate**. Postgraduates are usually studying for a Masters degree (MA or MSc) or a PhD
- You apply for HE courses via UCAS.





Where do CRGS students go?

In 2019 the top 10 destinations for CRGS students were:

1. Newcastle University
2. Lancaster University
3. University of Liverpool
4. Northumbria University
5. Manchester Metropolitan University
6. University of Central Lancashire
7. University of Leeds
8. University of Nottingham
9. The University of Manchester
10. University of York





How does the UCAS application work?



The **CRGS Futures Handbook** includes a detailed guide on how to apply via UCAS.

There are lots of very helpful short videos on the UCAS website, but in brief:

- You can apply for up to 5 courses (you don't need to put them all on at once, although most people do)
- If you apply for medicine, dentistry or veterinary science, you are only allowed to apply for 4 courses and you can add a fifth, additional course
- The application process is “blind”; no institution can see where else you have applied
- You should use our “buzzword”: clitheroe21 to attach your application to our centre.



How does the UCAS application work?



- It costs £26 to make an application for more than one course (£20 if you apply for just one course)
- When you get all your responses from the universities, you will have several weeks to make a decision
- Applicants then select their Firm and Insurance choices from their offers
- Sometimes universities make unconditional offers. If you put one of these as your firm offer, you will not be allowed to select an insurance choice
- If you receive no offers, or wish to decline any you have had, you can apply to additional courses via Extra. This operates from late February until early July. It means you can add extra choices to your form, one by one.



What is included on a UCAS form?

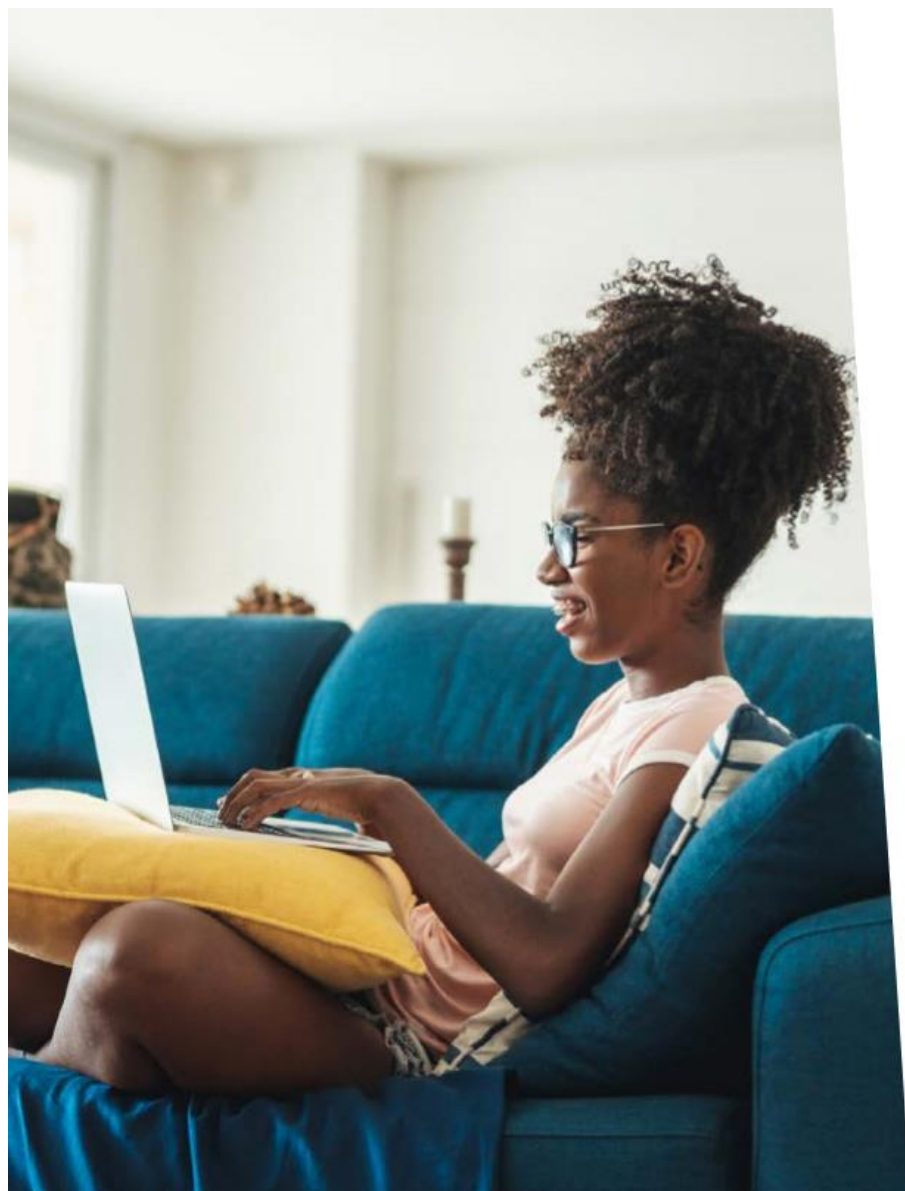


1. Personal details
2. Additional information – a few equality questions and details about any preparation they've done for higher education
3. Student finance – for most students the fee code is 02
4. Choices – applicants can make up to five course choices (but only four for courses in medicine, dentistry, or veterinary medicine/science)
5. Education – provide a list of all the schools attended since the age of 11, including the dates, all their exam results (pass or fail), and details of any exams still to be taken.
6. Personal statement – maximum of lines / characters to convince the university or college to offer a place (see *CRGS Futures Presentation 3*: writing a personal statement)
7. Employment – any part-time jobs should be added here.

You can fill in your application at any time, saving your progress as you go. You can go back and edit it until you are happy it's complete.

Finally, there's a section for the reference, which is added by your Senior Tutor. Please allow plenty of time for us to check and process your application and add your reference.

Journey of an application



Apply online

Explore subjects in the UCAS Hub and find courses in the search tool. Check entry requirements and application deadlines:

15 October at 18:00 (UK time) – all courses at the universities of Oxford and Cambridge, and most courses in medicine, veterinary science/medicine, and dentistry.

15 January at 18:00 (UK time) – the majority of undergraduate courses.

Wait to hear back

Universities or colleges will decide whether to make you an offer. It'll be:

- > unconditional if you've already met the entry requirements
- > conditional if the offer's based on your exam results

If you're not accepted by your choices, or you decline any offers you receive, you can use Extra to apply for more choices, one at a time.

Reply to your offers

Once all the decisions are in, you have to reply to your offers by a specific deadline.

- > Select a firm choice – this is your first choice.
- > If your firm choice is conditional, select an insurance choice too, if you want – this is a back-up.
- > Decline any other offers.

Find out if you've got a place

You'll see in Track if your place is confirmed.

- > If your firm choice is unconditional, the place is yours!
- > If your place is conditional, the university or college will update your status when they have your exam results, or other evidence you've met the conditions.
- > You may be unsuccessful if you don't meet the conditions – in this case, you can use Clearing to apply for more courses.

If you do better than you expected, and meet and exceed the conditions of your firm choice, you can look for an alternative course using Adjustment, if you want to.



Applying to university timeline:



Key Dates in 2020

5 May: Courses starting in 2021 are available in the UCAS search tool

19 May: UCAS Undergraduate Apply – the application system for those applying for courses starting in 2021 becomes available for registration only

8 September: Completed applications can be “paid and sent”. Applications then need to be processed by CRGS (checked and reference added)

15 October: Deadline for applications to the universities of Oxford and Cambridge, and for most courses in medicine, dentistry, and veterinary medicine/science



Applying to university timeline:



Key Dates in 2021

15 January: Deadline for most undergraduate courses. An application can still be sent after this date, but the universities and colleges concerned cannot guarantee they'll give it equal consideration

25 February: Extra opens

30 June: Last date for receipt of applications. Applications received after this deadline are automatically entered into Clearing

4 July: Extra closes

5 July: Clearing opens, and vacancies are shown in the UCAS search tool

19 August: A Level results day. Adjustment opens (Adjustment closes 31 August)

21 September: Final deadline for applications to courses starting in 2021.

What are competitive courses?

- Some university courses are harder to get on than others. There are more applicants per place and usually they require high grades
- Sometimes an applicant may have an interview or do an additional test. It is your responsibility to check this carefully
- It can be the institution that makes the course highly competitive (such as Oxford or Cambridge) or it can be the course
- Don't make assumptions that certain courses are not competitive. For example, Primary Education (teacher training) at Edge Hill receives approximately 17 applications per place.



Specialist help and support is available for students applying to MedDenVet and/or Oxbridge courses. Please make sure Mrs Dickinson (m.dickinson@crgs.org.uk) is aware that you are applying.



The UCAS Tariff (UCAS Point Scores)

About two thirds of offers made to students are based on grades e.g. AAB, BBC but approximately a third of offers use the UCAS tariff:

A Level

A* - 56 UCAS
Points

A - 48

B - 40

C - 32

D - 24

E - 18

EPQ

A* - 28 UCAS
Points

A - 24

B - 20

C - 16

D - 12

E - 8

Core Maths

A - 20 UCAS
Points

B - 20

C - 12

D - 10

E - 6



Useful resources:

- [UCAS guide for parents, guardians and carers](#)
- [Complete University Guide](#)
- [Guardian University Guide](#)
- [The Uni Guide](#)
- [Office for Students \(OfS\)](#)
- [The Scholarship Hub](#)
- [Mo University Assistant](#)

