

<b>UCAS Parent meeting – Sept 2021 Question/Comment</b>	<b>Reply:</b>
<b>What is the criteria for scholarship/bursary?</b>	Scottish Government offer free bursaries to any student whose household income is less than £34000- apply through SAAS For all other bursaries/scholarships, first check university websites, most offer bursaries in the main to support students from lower income households, but can be for other things. In addition, check <a href="http://www.thescholarshipclub.org.uk">www.thescholarshipclub.org.uk</a> to find available scholarships/grants/bursaries, usually granted for financial support plus sporting & academic achievement or for students studying particular subjects. Students needs to apply early, always deadlines.
<b>Is there a comprehensive guide to what the process is for Oxbridge from the school - rather than just on their individual websites?</b>	No overall guide but both Cambridge and Oxford have excellent parent guides on their websites: Please be aware that students can only apply to either Cambridge or Oxford. Oxford Parent Guide: <a href="https://www.ox.ac.uk/sites/files/oxford/field/field_document/1435-Parents%20%26%20Carers%20Guide%20%28UAO%29%202019_%20web.pdf">https://www.ox.ac.uk/sites/files/oxford/field/field_document/1435-Parents%20%26%20Carers%20Guide%20%28UAO%29%202019_%20web.pdf</a> Cambridge Parent Guide: <a href="https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/sites/www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/files/publications/uoc_teachers_guide_2022.pdf">https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/sites/www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/files/publications/uoc_teachers_guide_2022.pdf</a>
<b>is it too late to apply for Oxford/st Andrews?</b>	No – Oxford/Cambridge deadline is 15 <sup>th</sup> October 2021 (early applicants deadline) St Andrews is the usual deadline date of 26 <sup>th</sup> January 2022. However, preparation for an Oxbridge application usually starts March of the application year as the additional “super curricular” activities can happen over the summer. If a young person would like to apply now they should contact their Pupil Support Leader as soon as possible.
<b>Can pupils who study in England still apply for the living loan?</b>	Yes, in addition, students from Scotland who want to study in England can borrow their £9250 a year tuition fees from SAAS -see pages 19-23 of parent guide for more information (see below for link)
<b>Can you post the link to the guide in the chat?</b>	<a href="https://www.jamesgillespies.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2021/09/uni-guide-parent-sept-21-2.pdf">https://www.jamesgillespies.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2021/09/uni-guide-parent-sept-21-2.pdf</a>

<b>What if they didn't get the required grade at Higher in 5th year eg a B rather than an A - is it better to resit the Higher to get a better grade or sit the Advanced Higher (which is recommended)?</b>	<p>It's not that cut and dried. The university will look at the students results from S5 year and the subjects and examinations the student is sitting in S6 as well as their personal statement and school reference before deciding whether they will make them an offer. Any conditional offer they make will reflect what grades the student needs from their S6 results to bring them in line with the universities ideal grades for that subject (see entry requirements on university website for each degree) Useful to know that universities regard a B at Advanced Higher as an A at Higher and a B at Advanced Higher as a C etc.</p> <p>The best advice is always to contact the admissions department at the applicable university.</p>
<b>Are resits for Highers possible? How do we arrange if so?</b>	It depends on the subject and the grade the student achieved last session. The person to contact is <a href="mailto:Jeff.warden@jamesgillespies.edin.sch.uk">Jeff.warden@jamesgillespies.edin.sch.uk</a> or your child's Pupil Support Leader (PSE teacher).
<b>How will our children write their personal statement if the live support was cancelled?</b>	Pupils are supported in PSE every Monday morning in sessions on how to write personal statements and links to personal statement tools. They also did some work in English on personal statements in June. Their UCAS mentor will help give them feedback on their draft and read second and if necessary third drafts if they are emailed within the timescale. There are also a lot of live and recorded online sessions available through the UCAS hub and posted on the S6 Year announcements team.
<b>Are there some examples of personal statements available to show what they look like? Thanks.</b>	Yes, pupils will be shown examples in PSE on a Monday morning. There are also examples online. You can also buy books online for guidance.
<b>If they are taking a gap year at end of S6, do they need to fill in their UCAS form this year?</b>	If they apply to UCAS this year they can apply for deferred entry for 2023. If not they can apply next session as a former pupil. We ask that all pupils have a mentor this year so that they have a personal statement ready for next year and a reference written. That means if they don't apply this year but apply in the future we have the information available.
<b>Please tell me again what the event is on 30th September</b>	This is the UCAS Discovery Day Scotland. All S6 pupils school emails have been uploaded to the UCAS Discovery Day Administration and they will contact pupils directly by email. Pupils can also register themselves and parents can register too. <a href="https://wwwucas.com/events/ucasdiscovery-scotland-399686">https://wwwucas.com/events/ucasdiscovery-scotland-399686</a>

<b>Do early applicants have to make all 5 UCAS choices at the time of early application, or can they add in choices later (if they don't use all 5)?</b>	They have to do it at the time of the application. They can't add in choices later
<b>Surely you can apply for different courses when you pick your 5 choices. Tania seemed to say there just the same course at 5 different unis?</b>	A student can apply for different courses within their 5 choices, but the student only writes one personal statement which must work for "all" choices– see P12 of the UCAS parent guide for more information and guidance on this.  <a href="https://www.jamesgillespies.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2021/09/uni-guide-parent-sept-21-2.pdf">https://www.jamesgillespies.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2021/09/uni-guide-parent-sept-21-2.pdf</a>
<b>do the universities know which other unis the student is applying to and which order the applicant ranks them?</b>	No, only UCAS knows this information. There is no order of preference on the UCAS form
<b>Is the school available to help a student make a university application after they have left school?</b>	Yes, we do that often.

<b>Please confirm who writes the school reference?</b>	The students assigned UCAS mentor or their Pupil Support Leader.
<b>Is it possible to re-listen to the meeting? I missed the early part but it's been very helpful.</b>	Yes, the link is within the email.
<b>how do we access alternative pathways?</b>	Speak to your child's Pupil Support Leader or our Careers Advisor Kyle Hamilton.
<b>What is the timescale between a conditional offer, having to decide between different offers and results ... do results come out before the pupil has to accept an offer?</b>	The UCAS deadline for hearing about offers is the 5 <sup>th</sup> May 2022. Universities all have difference timescales, they can hear anytime. Once the student has heard from all their universities, they need to confirm their Firm (first choice) and Insurance choice (second choice) in UCAS Track by 9 <sup>th</sup> June. So, in answer to the question, the results in August come out after the student confirms their Firm and Insurance choices in UCAS Track.