

Welcome




St. Thomas of Aquin's High School
UCAS evening



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Applying to University




A brief guide



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1. Questions to ask
2. Research
3. Preparing the application



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Which subject?

Wide range of subjects available:

- School-related?
- Vocational?
- Something completely new?

Explore all options and
choose something you enjoy!



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Which degree course?

- **Research** course content carefully – even for familiar subjects
- **Flexibility** of degree course
- Study abroad, internships or industrial placements?
- Quality of teaching and research
- Consider **future career paths** – professional accreditation, graduate employability



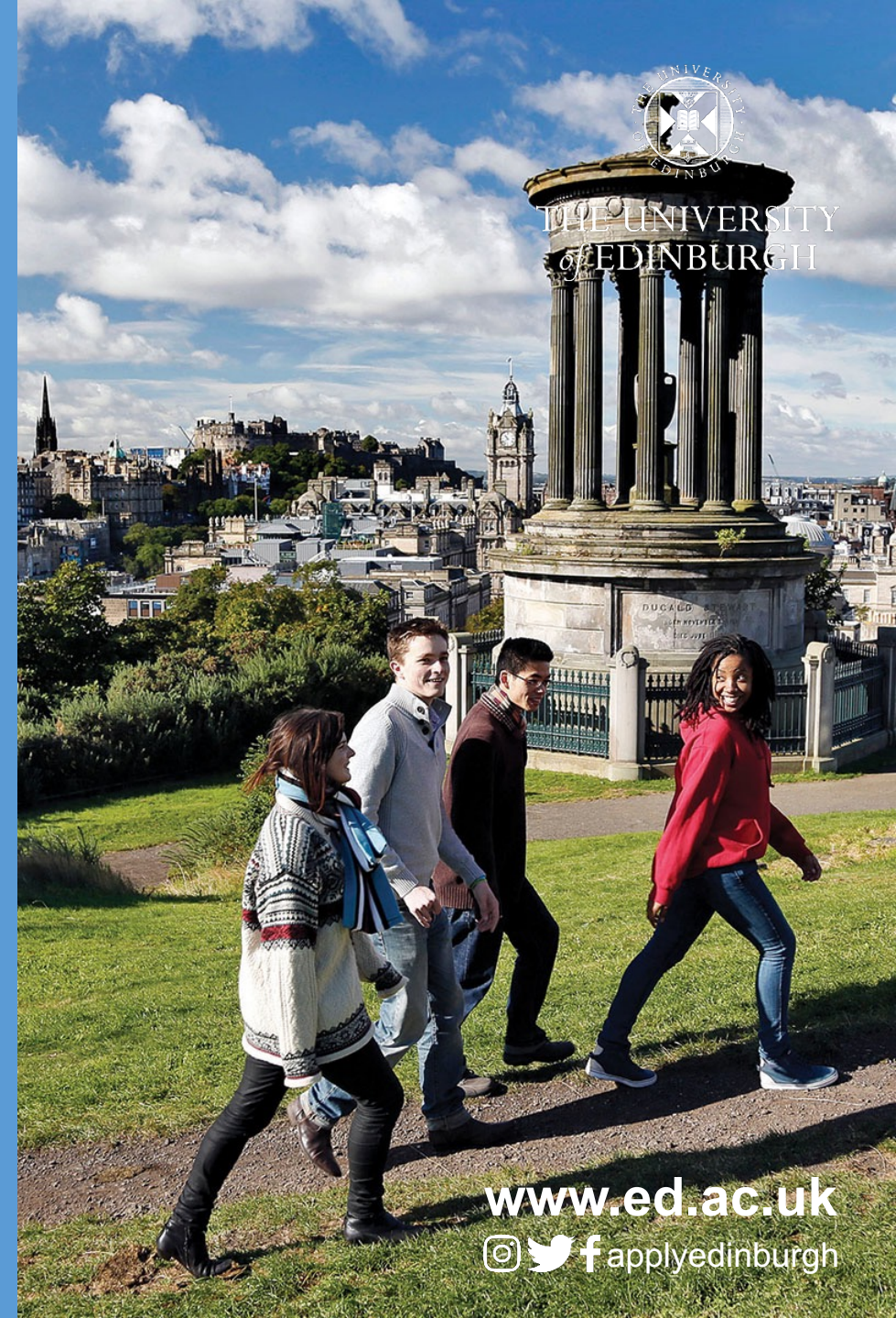
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Which university?

What sort of environment will suit you best?

- Location?
- Large or small?
- Traditional or modern?
- Campus or city?



Which university?

Consider university facilities – *do you have any particular interests or requirements?*

- Accommodation
- Academic, social and sports facilities
- Student support & welfare
- Scholarships or bursaries available?



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Preparing your application

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Admissions checklist



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- Minimum requirements: widening access offers and contextual admissions

www.ed.ac.uk/studying/undergraduate/applying/selection/widening-access

- Standard requirements:
 - Subject specific? Breadth of study?
 - Number of Highers per year? Advanced Highers?
- Level of competition?
- Additional tests, portfolio or interviews? (Check deadlines!)
- If in doubt – check with University directly before applying

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The UCAS System

- Application system for degree (and HNC/D) courses at any UK University or Higher Education college (including Art & Design and Nursing)
- One application for up to five courses (four for Dentistry, Medicine & Vet Medicine)
- Application to be completed by **26 January** of the year of entry, except for:
 - **Dentistry, Medicine & Vet Medicine** applications or applications to **Oxford or Cambridge**, where the deadline is 15 October the year before entry.

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The UCAS Application

Information required:

- Personal information – name, address, email etc
- Year of entry
- Educational history and qualifications
- Employment history
- Subject & university choices
- Personal statement
- School reference



What are universities looking for?

Academic achievement – and potential to do well at university

Evidence (via **personal statement**) of:

- strong interest in your chosen subject area.
- commitment, motivation and readiness for higher education
- suitability for your chosen degree programme (especially for vocational courses).

Supporting **school reference** – any challenging circumstances may be entered here






Getting started



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- Start in the middle
 - Suitability for your course
 - Skills
 - Experience
- Write down everything and anything!

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Top tips

- One statement for all five course choices
- Passion and skills
- Brevity and focus
- Check grammar and spelling
- Draft and redraft



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Finding out more

- UCAS website: useful videos and guides for applying, plus writing a personal statement
- University websites (entry requirements)
- Open Days (virtual or in-person) or campus tours?
- Online resources (virtual tours, online info sessions, on-demand resources, UniBuddy/student online chat)



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Any questions?






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University of Edinburgh:
[www.ed.ac.uk/studying/undergraduate
/open-days-events-visits](http://www.ed.ac.uk/studying/undergraduate/open-days-events-visits)



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