Applying to University

A brief guide

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1. Questions to ask

2. Research

3. Preparing the application

Which subject?

Wide range of subjects available:

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

Explore all options and
choose something you enjoy!

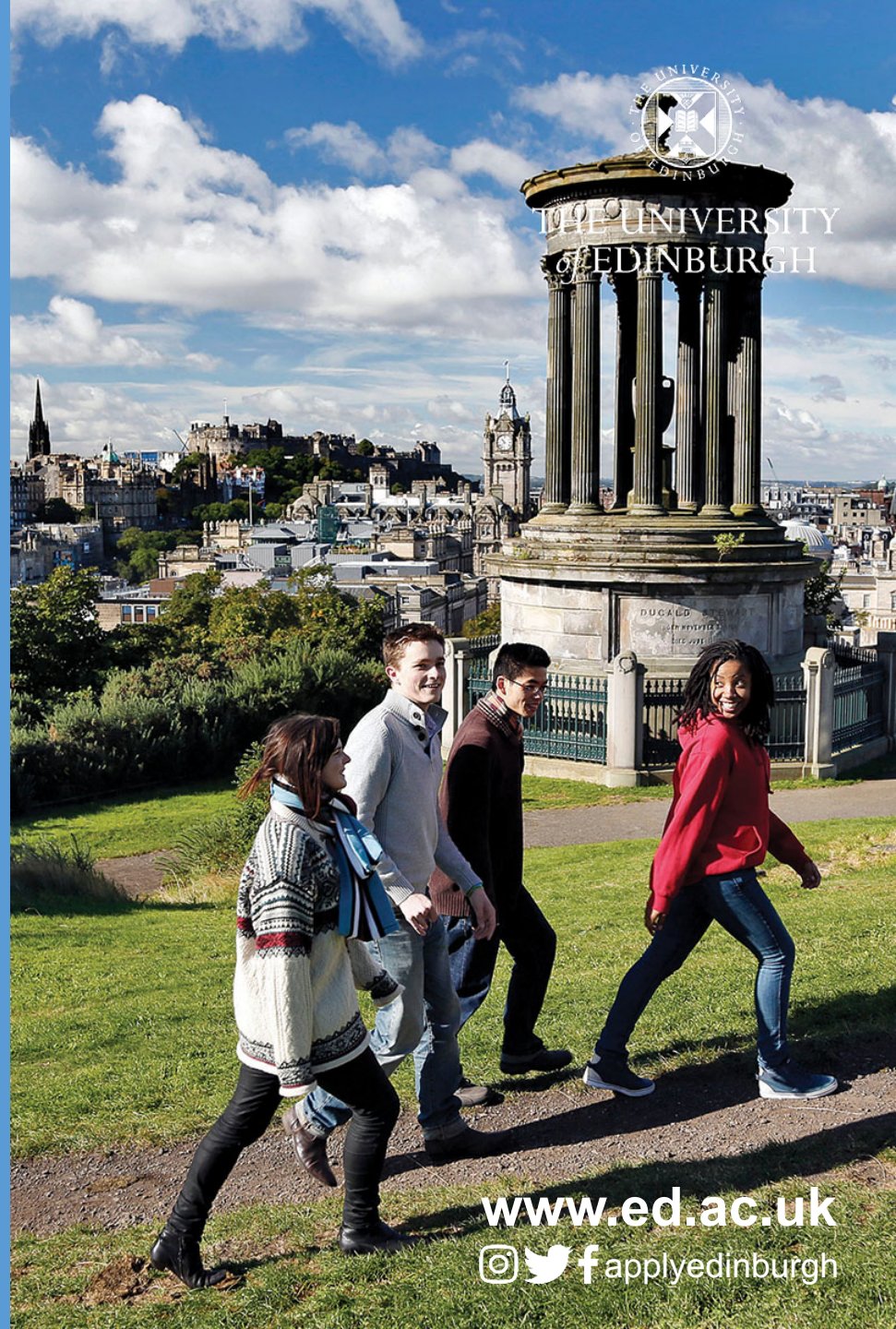
Which degree course?

- **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

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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- Entry requirements:
  - Subject specific?
  - General entry requirements?
  - Number of Highers per year?
  - Vary whether taken up to S5 or S4 – S6?
- Level of competition?
- Are Advanced Highers recommended/required?
- Additional tests, portfolio or interviews? (Check deadlines!)
- If in doubt – check with University directly before applying

The UCAS System

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- 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 15 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.

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**

Getting started

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

Top tips

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

Finding out more

- UCAS website: useful videos and guides for applying, plus writing a personal statement
- University websites (entry requirements) plus details of virtual events, online tours and information sessions
- UCAS virtual events: https://www.ucas.com/ucas/events-training

Useful links

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UCAS: www.ucas.com

UCAS events:

https://www.ucas.com/ucas/events-training

University of Edinburgh events:

www.ed.ac.uk/studying/undergraduate/open-days-events-visits

Open Days:

21st and 27th November

Any questions

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