

Tutorial

Summer Independent Learning July/August 2022

Introduction

For Tutorial, your Summer Independent Learning (SIL) is focussed on building on the work that we have done in Tutorial within the last term, your tutor will have put all tutorials on Teams under Block 3. This is now focussed on ensuring that you are in a position to apply for university and/or jobs or apprenticeships upon your return in September.

The tasks that you need to complete are listed below:

You have registered with UCAS and completed at least the 'Personal Details' and 'Education' sections of UCAS Apply

- You should use the **UCAS Apply Guide for 2023** Entry to help you. This is available on Teams.
- We ask that you do this, even if you are not applying to university, for three reasons:
 1. Many students decide very late on that they actually do want to go to university – this saves time later on.
 2. It is useful for Progress Tutors when they are writing specific job/apprenticeship references as it provides them with a list of qualifications you have previously studied and the exam board that you studied with – we don't hold information about the exam board you sat your GCSEs with.
 3. The content in a Personal Statement can be converted to an Expression of Interest letter to prospective employers.

You should have set up your username and password in tutorial.

Task 1 - Personal Statements/University

Task 1 requires you to submit a 1st draft of your personal statement via Teams before your first tutorial back.

You can use the Personal Statement Builder available on the UCAS Hub.

You can complete the questions to help you to plan the sections you need to include in your Personal Statement.

UCAS Personal Statement Builder support:

- <https://webucas.com/personal-statement-guides>
- <https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/writing-personal-statement/how-write-personal-statement>

Russell Group Universities:

- https://www.leeds.ac.uk/info/128005/applying/744/writing_your_personal_statement
- <https://www.careers.manchester.ac.uk/applicationsinterviews/studyapplication/statement/>
- <https://www.dur.ac.uk/study/ug/apply/ucas/personalstatement/>

Non-Russell Group Universities:

- <https://www.shu.ac.uk/study-here/how-to-apply/your-personal-statement>
- <https://www.northumbria.ac.uk/study-at-northumbria/guides/writing-your-personal-statement/>
- <https://www.mmu.ac.uk/study-advice/personal-statement/>

Task 2 – Create a shortlist of University options

Create on UCAS Hub a shortlist of courses that you would consider by selecting the heart icon to save to your favourites.

You need to check

1. Entry requirements – UCAS Points (**University course document**)
2. Location
 - Have 2-3 Aspirational (above current target grades)
 - Have 2-3 Secure (your current target grades)
 - Have 2-3 safe (just below your current target grades)

Task 3– Skills and Experience Statement

You should complete a ‘Skills and Experiences Statement’ for a job or apprenticeship that you are interested in.

- This should focus on how you can demonstrate the OPTIC employability skills as well as two skills specific to your job or apprenticeship of interest.
- You should use the **Skills and Experience Statement Template** to help you do this. This will be made available through Teams.

Your Tutorial SIL will need to be uploaded to your current Year 12 Tutorial Team Group via the Assignment set up by your tutor. It must be uploaded by Friday 9th September.

CHOOSING A COURSE

You may already have an idea of the sort of university course that you may want to do. However, if not, you could choose a course based on:

- what you might need for your chosen career**
 Check the degree requirements for your chosen career at <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles> or <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/explore-careers>
- what you could do from your current subjects**
 Enter the subjects you are currently studying at <https://www.theuniguide.co.uk/a-level-explorer> (Note that this is suitable for BTECs/WJEC too) or <https://www.informedchoices.ac.uk/subjects>
- what you enjoy**
 Remember that only 50% of graduate jobs require a specific degree, so you could try entering something you are interested in into UCAS course search at <https://digitalucas.com/search> (Choose 'Entry Year 2022-23')

You should also use the extra help sheet called 'what to study at university' to help you prioritise the factors that are important to you.

SAFE, SECURE AND ASPIRATIONAL CHOICES

When you first look search for courses, you should try to identify a range of universities with different entry requirements. When you decide on your final five choices, it is recommended that you have 1 or 2 aspirational choices, 2 or 3 secure choices and 1 or 2 safe choices. Therefore, initially you should aim for an extensive list of 5-10 courses in each category.

When listing their entry requirements, some universities state A-level and/or BTEC grades, some state UCAS points, and some use a combination of both. You can work out the range of UCAS points that you should use when searching for safe, secure, and aspirational choices using the method below.

Example

A Level Example

	SAFE		MOST LIKELY (SECURE)		ASPIRATIONAL
End of Y13 Grades	B C C	Take one grade from three single courses	B B C	Add one grade onto two single courses	A B C
UCAS Points	$40+32+32=$ 104	←	$40+40+32=$ 112	→	$48+40+32=$ 120

A Level + BTEC example

	SAFE		MOST LIKELY (SECURE)		ASPIRATIONAL
End of Y13 Grades	Distinction C D	Take one grade from three single courses	Distinction B C	Add one grade onto two single courses	Distinction* B B
UCAS Points	48+32+24 = 104	←	48+40+32 = 120	→	56+40+40 = 136

BTEC Triple Example

	SAFE		MOST LIKELY (SECURE)		ASPIRATIONAL
End of Y13 Grades	Distinction Merit Merit	Take one grade	Distinction Distinction Merit	Add one grade	Distinction Distinction Distinction
UCAS Points	112	←	128	→	144

You start in the middle, writing in the grades that you are most likely to achieve. Once you have worked out your 'safe' and 'aspirational' end of Y13 grades, you should convert these into UCAS points using the UCAS Tariff outlined below. For BTEC courses, you should use the points listed for the relevant 'Y12 and 13' course.

UCAS Tariff University Entry in 2023

Single Applied Courses

BTEC National Extended Cert & Sub Dip (QCF), Cambridge Technical Introductory Diploma & Extended Cert

Grade	Points
D*	56
D	48
M	32
P	16

Double Applied Courses

BTEC Diploma, Cambridge Technical Diploma

Grade	Points
D*D*	112
D*D	104
DD	96
DM	80
MM	64
MP	48
PP	32

Triple Applied Courses

BTEC Extended Diploma, Cambridge Technical Extended Diploma

Grade	Points
D*D*D*	168
D*D*D	160
D*DD	152
DDD	144
DDM	128
DMM	112
MMM	96
MMP	80
MPP	64
PPP	48

UAL Diploma
Performing &
Production
Arts

Grade	Points
D	84
M	60
P	36

UAL ext'd diploma D= 168 M=120 P=72

A-level Courses and WJEC Applied Diploma

Grade	Points
A*	56
A	48
B	40
C	32
D	24
E	16

AS Further Maths
A=20, B=16, C=12, D=10, E=6

Extended Project Qualification

Grade	Points
A	24
B	20
C	16
D	12
E	8

Art Foundation Courses

If you wish to pursue a degree in Fine Art, it may be necessary for you to complete an Art Foundation Course first. For some Art Foundation Courses, you can search and apply through UCAS, whereas for others, you apply direct to the college that you wish to attend. Note that our sister college, New College Pontefract, offers the Art Foundation Course – you can find out more by visiting <https://ncpontefract.ac.uk/foundation-diploma-in-art-design/> or speaking to your Progress Tutor or a member of the Visual Arts team.

Conservatoires

If you wish to pursue a music or acting/drama degree, you may wish to consider applying to a conservatoire. These have a strong vocational and performance focus, and the structure of the course is reflective of the industry, with teaching staff made up of working professionals. You can find out more about these at <https://wwwucas.com/conservatoires> and <http://www.conservatoiresuk.ac.uk/>

The application process for these depends on which conservatoire you intend to apply to. For example:

Conservatoires where applications are made through 'UCAS Apply':

- Royal Central School of Speech and Drama

Conservatoires where applications are made through 'UCAS Conservatoires' rather than 'UCAS Apply':

- Bristol Old Vic Theatre School
- Leeds College of Music
- Royal Academy of Music
- Royal Birmingham Conservatoire
- Royal College of Music
- Royal Conservatoire of Scotland
- Royal Northern College of Music
- Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama
- Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance

Conservatoires where applications are made through the institution website:

- Conservatoire for Dance and Drama
- Guildhall School of Music and Drama

You should make your Progress Tutor aware if you are interested in applying to a conservatoire.

University Centres

These are further education colleges that have an attached higher education centre. They are often cheaper than universities, and you can complete a degree in stages, for example, leaving after one year with a Certificate of Higher Education, after two years with a Diploma in Higher Education, or after three years with a degree. Local examples are:

- Doncaster College University Centre (degrees are validated by the University of Hull)
- Rotherham College University Centre (degrees are validated by either the University of Hull or Sheffield Hallam University)
- Barnsley College Higher Education (degrees are validated by either the University of Hull, Sheffield Hallam University or Leeds Trinity University)

ADMISSIONS TESTS

Some courses at some universities require you to sit an admissions test. Some of these tests must be taken externally before Sept/Oct, some can be taken in college in October, some are taken at interview, and some are taken with A-level exams at the end of Year 13.

NARROWING DOWN YOUR CHOICES

By the end of June, you should aim to have an extensive list of 10-15 courses that you can narrow down to 5 courses over the summer.

To help narrow down your university choices, you should:

- **Go on Open Days – they are listed at <https://www.opendays.com/>
This is the most important thing that you can do
You should use the extra help sheet called ‘Open Day Checklist’
Many universities are offering Virtual Open Days during the Covid-19 lockdown**
- **Use the extra help sheet called ‘factors affecting university choice’ to help you prioritise the factors that are important to you**
- Compare courses at <https://discoveruni.gov.uk/search-landing-page/>
- Check the subject league tables at <https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/league-tables/rankings>
(Choose ‘Subject League Tables’ near the top)
- Read the Uni Guides at <https://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/university/apply/>

Skills and Experiences Statement Template

Name _____

1. Describe and explain some examples of how you have demonstrated your **organisation** skills
2. Describe and explain some examples of how you have developed your **problem-solving** skills
3. Describe and explain some examples that show you are good at **teamwork**
4. Describe and explain some examples where you have shown your **initiative**
5. Describe and explain some examples that show how you have effective communication skills
6. Research two skills that are specific to the job or apprenticeship that you wish to apply for. Describe and explain how you can demonstrate these skills.

