

Preparing your UK university application

YEAR 10

During the year

- ☐ Study for Mock GCSEs (or equivalent)
- ☐ Narrow down your preferred subject areas for A-Level/university

YEAR 11

During the year

- ☐ Revise for your GCSEs
- ☐ Take your GCSEs
- ☐ Select your subjects for A-Level (or equivalent), taking into account your university subject planning where possible

YEAR 12

Year 12 – Winter Term

- ☐ Hit the ground running with your A-Level (or equivalent) studies
- ☐ Consider university choices and narrow down your options; in particular, consider whether you will apply to Oxford or Cambridge (note that you may only apply to one or the other)
- ☐ Research the entry requirements of any prospective university courses
- ☐ Apply for Oxford UNIQ courses for your chosen university subject (if you are interested)

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YEAR 12

Year 12 – Spring Term

- ☐ Decide on the subject area to which you will apply at university
- ☐ Make a shortlist of university/course options for your chosen subject
- ☐ Begin identifying areas and topics to research for your personal statement

YEAR 12

Year 12 – Summer Term

- ☐ Revise for and sit your AS-Level/A-Level mock exams, usually taken towards the end of the summer term (remember that the predicted grades with which you will apply to university will likely be based on these exam results)
- ☐ Plan important super-curricular activities/work experience you wish to undertake over the summer, and apply for any placements if required (this is especially important for clinical and vocational courses, such as medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine, and law)
- ☐ Note down the dates for open days at the universities you are considering (most open days are held from May onwards), and plan to visit whichever you can
- ☐ Find initial resources (including books, articles, journals, podcasts, films, exhibitions, galleries, lecture, etc.) for your personal statement and begin reading/watching/visiting them

For personalised guidance, we invite you to speak with our Consultative Team, comprised of experienced Oxbridge-graduate advisors, who are available by phone from 9:00 am to 5:30 pm, Monday to Friday. They are happy to answer any questions you may have.

Contact the team at +44 (0) 20 7499 2394 or email info@oxbridgeapplications.com.

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YEAR 12

Year 12 – Summer Holiday

- ☐ Undertake any super-curricular activities or work experience that you have planned for the summer
- ☐ Visit and attend any remaining university open days over the summer holidays
- ☐ Read/watch/listen to/visit as many different resources for your personal statement as possible. The summer holiday is your most valuable time for collecting ideas and references before making the first draft of your personal statement
- ☐ Register your UCAS account ahead of filling in the forms. Familiarise yourself with the UCAS website well ahead of making your application
- ☐ If you are sitting pre-registered admissions tests at Oxford, Cambridge, or another top university, most application windows will be open from the summer holidays (applicants to medicine and law, please note that tests are taken on a rolling basis, so you will need to register, prepare, and take the test earlier than other subjects)
- ☐ Plan the outline/structure for your personal statement (to which you can target your research) and, if possible, write the first draft of the statement before the end of the summer holidays
- ☐ If possible, share a draft of your personal statement with a parent/guardian, teacher, or mentor for preliminary notes and edits
- ☐ Research the format, structure, and content of the admissions test you will need to sit (if applicable)

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Year 13 – Winter Term (**September**)

- ☐ Fill in the preliminary sections of the UCAS form (note that you may submit your completed UCAS form from September onwards)
- ☐ Register for your admissions test (if applicable). Note that registration for most Oxbridge admissions tests closes in September or early October – make sure to register well before the deadline so you can select the most convenient test centre
- ☐ Redraft your personal statement (considering any feedback you have received from others)
- ☐ Submit the final draft of your personal statement to your school (if they require this) or a trusted mentor for final checks
- ☐ Complete mock admissions tests ahead of the real test dates in October (if applicable)
- ☐ Undertake admissions test tuition (if applicable) to target your weaknesses ahead of the real test

YEAR 13

Year 13 – Winter Term (**October**)

- ☐ If applying to Oxford or Cambridge, you must submit your completed UCAS form by the early deadline in late October
- ☐ Make any final preparations and sit your admissions test (if applicable) in mid-late October (other than applicants to clinical courses and law, who will have sat their admissions tests earlier)
- ☐ Applicants to Cambridge university must complete the separate MyCambridge application before the October deadline

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- ☐ Attend the Oxbridge Applications Interview Preparation Weekend to get a head start with interview practice
- ☐ Begin undertaking regular mock interviews and receive feedback from each to hone your interview performance
- ☐ If your course requires written work, select your best pieces and ensure they are marked by teachers ready to be submitted. Double-check the college website/emails to ensure you are meeting any word limits they impose

YEAR 13

Year 13 – Winter Term (**November**)

- ☐ Oxbridge applicants should receive their invitations to interview in November. Be certain to note the college at which you are invited to interview, whether your interview is online or in-person, and key dates for interviews
- ☐ If your course requires written work, the deadline for this is usually in early November
- ☐ Conduct as many mock interviews as possible
- ☐ Prepare technology required if sitting an online interview (including finding a quiet space in which to conduct your interview)
- ☐ Reread any submitted work (including your personal statement and written work) so that you know it well ahead of the interviews

YEAR 13

Year 13 – Winter Term (**December**)

- ☐ Oxbridge Interviews are held in mid-December. Oxford candidates may be asked to additional interviews immediately

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Year 13 – Spring Term

- ☐ Additional Cambridge Interviews (Candidates in the 'Winter Pool') will be held in January
- ☐ Oxford and Cambridge offers are usually released in the first few weeks of January
- ☐ Turn your attention wholly to A-Level (or equivalent) revision – remember that you are very unlikely to be admitted onto your course if you do not make the required grades, so be sure to prepare to the best of your abilities
- ☐ Applicants not applying to Oxbridge must submit their UCAS application by the January deadline (usually in late January)
- ☐ Responses from non-Oxbridge universities will begin later in the spring term

YEAR 13

Year 13 – Summer Term

- ☐ Continue revising for you're A-Level (or equivalent) exams.
- ☐ Sit your exams between May-July of the summer term before enjoying a well-deserved break!

YEAR 13

Year 13 – Summer Holiday

- ☐ A-Level grades are released on a Thursday in mid-August. Before receiving your grades, ensure you have considered any plans for missing/overshooting your grades (such as requesting remarks, telephoning your firm or insurance university...

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for options, taking an insurance offer, entering UCAS clearing, or taking a gap year and resitting your exams)

- ☐ Receive responses from your firm and insurance universities, and confirm your final university place
- ☐ Prepare to start university in September/October; this may include reading lists from your future tutors, as well as practical considerations such as student finance, accommodation, and moving plans

PREPARING STUDENTS SINCE 1999

For over 25 years, Oxbridge Applications has been the unequivocal leader in preparing students to apply to Oxford and Cambridge.

Since 1999, we have led original research into the admissions process, and we offer the data and insights we collect to students through 1:1 consultancy, personal statement guidance, mock testing & interviewing, and industry-leading resources.

We are also home to the largest network of vetted Oxbridge graduate tutors anywhere in the world – over 2,000 – enabling us to offer the highest quality and subject specificity standards.

Our offices are situated close to St James's Park and Buckingham Palace in Central London.

We invite potential applicants to our offices for a Private Consultation, taking a personalised approach to your Oxbridge university application. We are also available for virtual Consultations with clients for whom this is more convenient.

Register online and one of our Oxbridge-graduate Consultants will be in touch to arrange your next steps. You can also contact the team on +44 (0) 20 7499 2394 or email info@oxbridgeapplications.com.

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