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TIPS FOR UCAS:

**BEYOND THE BASICS**



*Dr Rachael Pearson and Sarra Jenkins*



**REGIONAL INSTITUTE**  
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**RACHAEL PEARSON**  
Head of Careers and Progression  
Oakham School



**SARRA JENKINS**  
Director of Future Pathways  
Loughborough Grammar School



# SUPER-CURRICULAR

## What is it?

- Academic engagement beyond the curriculum
- Engagement and reflection is important
- Ideal to discuss in the first and second section of the new personal statement and interviews

## Why is it important?

- valued by elite and selective universities
- Shows engagement and academic skills

## Strategy

- Look at course content/modules - any common topics?
- First year reading lists . . .

# INTERNATIONAL PERSONAL STATEMENTS & UKVI

- UKVI visa requires students to be a 'genuine student'
- For universities that sponsor students, this means students must be able to demonstrate a genuine interest in the course of study
- This can cause problems if students are applying for multiple courses of different topics, and may lead to a request for extra personal statements

It is also worth noting that some UK universities allow international students to apply outside of UCAS

- e.g. University of Greenwich, London South Bank University, etc.

Students may also need a CAS and ATAS certificate



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### **Do students need a test?**

- Clinical courses - UCAT
- Law - LNAT (some universities)
- Oxford
- UAT-UK: Cambridge, Imperial, LSE, UCL, Durham, Warwick (some courses)

### **Consider:**

- Timing of tests
- University combinations
- Student strengths and course types
- Non-test options

# **ADMISSIONS TESTS STRATEGY**



- There is no requirement to add all choices at once
- All choices must be made before the Equal Consideration Deadline (ECD)

Challenges this creates - monitoring choice.

## WHY?

Students could:

- Add aspirational choices, get replies, then decide whether a safety is needed
- Add safe choices, get replies, then decide whether further safe offers are needed or go aspirational!

# WHEN TO ADD CHOICES

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## INSURANCE CHOICES

- Ideally the offer should be lower, or more flexible, than the 'firm' choice.
- It is not compulsory, but can be useful. The student should be happy to attend both the course and university - research recommended!
- Competitive courses may mean offers received are similar . . .

Consider:

- Is it likely that a university will have availability in Clearing?
- Is flexibility likely?
- Students can use 'decline my place' if they change their minds

# UCAS EXTRA

- Opens early February
- Commonly seen as for students without offers...

BUT!

- If students have changed their mind, they can also use UCAS Extra!
- They would need to decline all offers first...so before this, hit the UCAS website and phones
- They may need to offer an additional personal statement to universities if the course is radically different from their original plan



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### **Scotland - different degree system**

- Four years of study
- Ancient universities (Aberdeen, Edinburgh, St Andrews, Glasgow) and Dundee issue MA degrees at undergraduate level
- Some flexibility of subjects studied

### **Conservatoires - different application system**

- Music, Drama, Dance, Musical Theatre
- UCAS Conservatoires application for up to 6 courses at 9 institutions
- New, single referee for 2026
- Check deadlines!
- Allows a range of applications, but be strategic. There will also be auditions

**SOME SYSTEMS ARE DIFFERENT!**



...IS FOR EVERYONE!

- Achieved under-predictions
- Achieved over-predictions
- Changed mind on university
- Changed mind on course
- Changed mind on both!
- Decided to apply



GETTING THE MOST OUT OF IT

- Students can call universities without having self-released (although they won't have a clearing number)
- Have a plan!
- Change the narrative around Clearing

**CLEARING...**

**THANK YOU!**

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**ANY QUESTIONS?**

