



# The TBS University Application Process



# School support

- We provide one session a week on university applications, giving help and advice on all stages of the application process. These include support on writing personal statements and Common App essays. We also provide individual feedback on drafts of these sections of the application.
- 1:1 support from the HE coordinator
- Interview practice, where needed
- SAT support
- Required documentation: school transcripts, academic references, counsellor recommendations etc.
- Any other supporting documentation requested for university applications or visa requirements.



# Choosing a country: try to choose one!

- Academic programmes and admissions systems are very different
- Applications are time consuming and deadlines for different countries vary. If deadlines coincide, students will be very busy; if they are spread out, they will spend much of the year completing applications. A levels will suffer.
- There is little advantage in applying to multiple systems. You can only go to one university!
- We do, however, encourage applying to a range of universities within the same system. It is important to include aspirational and safe choices within your university shortlist.
- We will support applications to up to two different countries.



**3 Years**  
UK (BA)  
Australia (BA)  
Germany  
Netherlands (Res.  
U)  
Ireland  
India  
Sweden

**4 Years**  
USA (BA)  
Australia (Hons)  
Canada  
UK (MA)  
Singapore  
Netherlands (App Sci)  
Hong Kong  
Thailand  
Korea  
Spain

**2 Years**  
USA  
(AA/AS)  
Canada (A)  
Netherlands  
(Ad)  
UK (Buck)

**Watch!**  
Foundation years  
Medical courses  
Architecture /  
Engineering  
Scotland  
Credit programmes



Single  
discipline

Multiple possibilities

Multiple  
discipline

UK / Australia / Sweden / Ireland

Netherlands

Singapore / Spain

Canada

Hong Kong / Thailand

USA





## Case study: Materials Science at Sheffield

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Introduction to materials Chemistry Microstructure, kinetics and properties Biomaterials Mechanics and thermodynamics	Industrial materials Microstructure & thermodynamics Computational methods Deformation and failure	Analysis techniques Finance and law for engineers Fracture mechanics Finite element modelling Surface degradation

## Case study: Rhode Island

Freshman	Sophomore	Junior	Senior
Core	Core / nomination of Major	Major - Economics	Requirements
10-14 courses divided between "21 <sup>st</sup> century challenges" "Natural Sciences" "Social & Historical Inquiry"	Core courses leading to your major / minor	Minor – History	Requirements
Electives	Electives	Electives	Electives



Countries also vary enormously by cost. You need to consider:

- Tuition fees
- Cost of living
- Travel
- Visa requirements
- Students' right to work

[Top 10 Cheapest Countries to Study Abroad in 2021](#)

[What are the most expensive study abroad destinations?](#)

[Cheapest Vs Most Expensive Countries To Study Abroad](#)





Rank	Country	Annual university costs (USD)	Annual cost of living (USD)	Annual total cost (USD)
1	<b>Australia</b>	24,081	18,012	42,093
2	Singapore	18,937	20,292	39,229
3	United States	24,914	11,651	36,564
4	United Kingdom	21,365	13,680	35,045
5	Hong Kong	13,444	18,696	32,140
6	Canada	16,746	13,201	29,947
7	France	247	16,530	16,777
8	Malaysia	2,453	10,488	12,941
9	Indonesia	4,378	8,527	12,905
10	Brazil	59	12,569	12,627

11	Taiwan	3,338	8,573	11,911
12	Turkey	1,276	10,089	11,365
13	China	3,844	6,886	10,729
14	Mexico	750	8,710	9,460
15	India	581	5,062	5,624



	1 app	Multi apps	A level	SAT	Essay / PS	Dead-line	3 or 4 year	Single subject	Multi subjects
US	★	★	★	★	★	Jan	4		★
UK	★		★		★	Jan	3	★	★
Can		★	★	★	★	Apr	4	★	★
Neth	★	★	★		★	Apr	3	★	★
Aus		★	★			Nov	3/4	★	
Sin		★	★	★		Feb	4	★	



## Doing your research

All students have access to [unifrog](#), a platform with a wealth of information and tools to help you research university options and complete the application process.

Make realistic choices. Most university offers will be made predominantly on the basis of exam results and predicted A level grades. It is good to be aspirational. However, it is wise to be realistic. If you apply only to universities outside your range you may end up without a place.

When you do a search on unifrog, options are categorised as 'aspirational' (top of your range or just outside it); solid (with offers that match your predicted grades); and 'safe' (typical offers that are lower than your predictions). The majority of your choices should be within the 'solid' category, and at least one in the 'safe' category.

You can also access helpful advice on the UCAS website: [www.ucas.com/parents](http://www.ucas.com/parents)

# The Unifrog tools

## Exploring pathways

- Careers library
- Subjects library
- Know-how library
- MOOC

## Searching for opportunities

- UK universities
- US universities
- European universities
- Oxbridge
- Apprenticeships
- College/ Sixth Form
- Canadian
- Asian universities
- Special

## Recording what you've done

- Activities
- Competencies
- Interactions

## Drafting application materials

- Personal Statement
- CV / Resumé
- Teacher References
- Common App Essay

## Making applications

- Post 16/18
- Locker
- Applications list



# The application process

- UK applications go through UCAS. Students need to register on UCAS and link their application to the school via the buzzword. They complete the application but school sends them off. The deadline for most courses is 25 January. School's internal deadline is 25 November.
- Most US applications can be made through Common App. Again, students must register themselves and complete their parts of the form. They need to request references from subject teachers and school HE counsellor. They are responsible for submitting the application on time! Deadline for most colleges is 1 January. However, they do vary so students must check individual college deadlines and requirements.



# US Early Decision, Early Action, Regular Decision

- The 1st January deadline is for **Regular Decision**.
- However, many US colleges have an option of applying early.
  - **Early Decision** - you can apply to only ONE college on this scheme and if you are offered a place you **MUST** accept it. This is binding, and should not be taken lightly!
  - **Early Action** - you can apply to multiple colleges and the decision is not binding.
- If applications are ready there are advantages to applying early. However, early decision should only be considered if you are absolutely sure of the college you wish to go to including the financial commitment.
- Some further information [here](#).



# The application process

- Most applications to universities in the Netherlands go through studielink.
- For other countries, applications need to be made direct to each university.

**IMPORTANT:** Apart from for the UK, deadlines and requirements vary. It is important that students complete their university shortlist as soon as possible and check the application deadlines and requirements of their university choices on each college website.

[Higher education timeline](#)



# Requirements

- UK applications: personal statement
- US applications: Common App essay.
  - It is important students start these early and get feedback. This is usually the only part of the application where students get to write about themselves and make a case for why they should be accepted.
- There is a lot of guidance on how to write these on unifrog. We also have sessions at school and students get feedback on drafts.





# SATs

Many (but not all) US colleges require SAT scores (or ACT).

The next test date is 2 October for those already registered. There is another (the last one before the January deadline) on 4 December. You must register by 4 November but registering earlier is advised.

Register at: <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/register/international>

It is a good idea to get this out of the way in year 12.



# SATs preparation

The best way to prepare is to do lots of practice tests.

Free practice tests and guidance are available on the Khan Academy website. You can do full practice tests there which will give you an indication of your likely SAT score (important in deciding what colleges are within your reach).

<https://www.khanacademy.org/mission/sat>

At school, we are providing SAT support at lunchtimes (Maths and English).



# Using agents

- Agents are businesses. They do not have special powers to secure you a place.
- Some offer help with personal statements and common app essays. We provide that guidance in school.



Questions?