

How to research courses and apply for admission at UK universities

Courses, colleges and UCAS

Download from:

www.oxford.lu

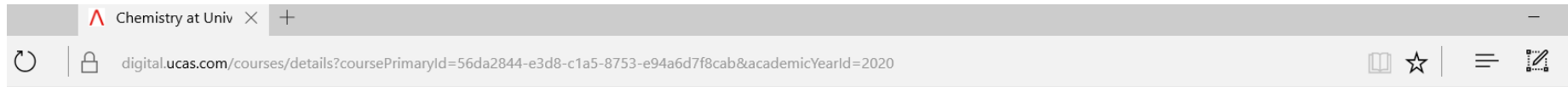
www.cambridge.lu

UCAS website for UK higher education

www.ucas.com

- Over 150 universities and thousands of undergraduate courses in the UK
- Information about ALL courses can be found on UCAS
 - Course summaries with links to universities' websites.
 - Information for parents, schools and students.
 - Also information about UK student finance.
- UCAS is also the centralized (only) application portal for UK universities.
 - You can open an account by June *of the year before start of studies*.
 - Complete your application from September (of the year before start of studies)
 - Deadlines are different for different studies and universities. Deadlines for Medicine and Oxbridge are in October (of the year before start of studies)
 - From February until June offers are made. Most offers are conditional on final year grades!
 - In June of the year of start of studies, a “clearing” process starts.

UCAS course summary



Chemistry
University of Oxford
Degree level: Undergraduate

Course options

28 other course options available

Academic year: **2020 - 2021** | Qualification type: **Master of Chemistry (with Honours) - MChem (H)** | Location: **St Anne's** | Start date: **October 2020** | Study mode: **Full-time** | Duration: **4 years**

Apply

Course summary



University of Oxford has opted into the [TEF](#) and received a Gold award.

[Find out more about the TEF.](#)

Chemists are a constant source of innovation: it is hard to imagine any product introduced in recent times that did not require the creative efforts of a chemist. Chemistry underpins the conceptual framework and methodology of biochemistry and molecular medicine and is at the heart of many major industries.

A good Chemistry degree opens the door to an extensive choice of careers.

Teaching and research are closely linked: Oxford is one of the leading chemistry

Open days

20
SEP

Oxford University Open Day

Undergraduate

Unistats information

[Compare information on the Unistats website](#)

[Course summary](#)

[How to apply](#)

[Entry requirements](#)

[Fees and funding](#)

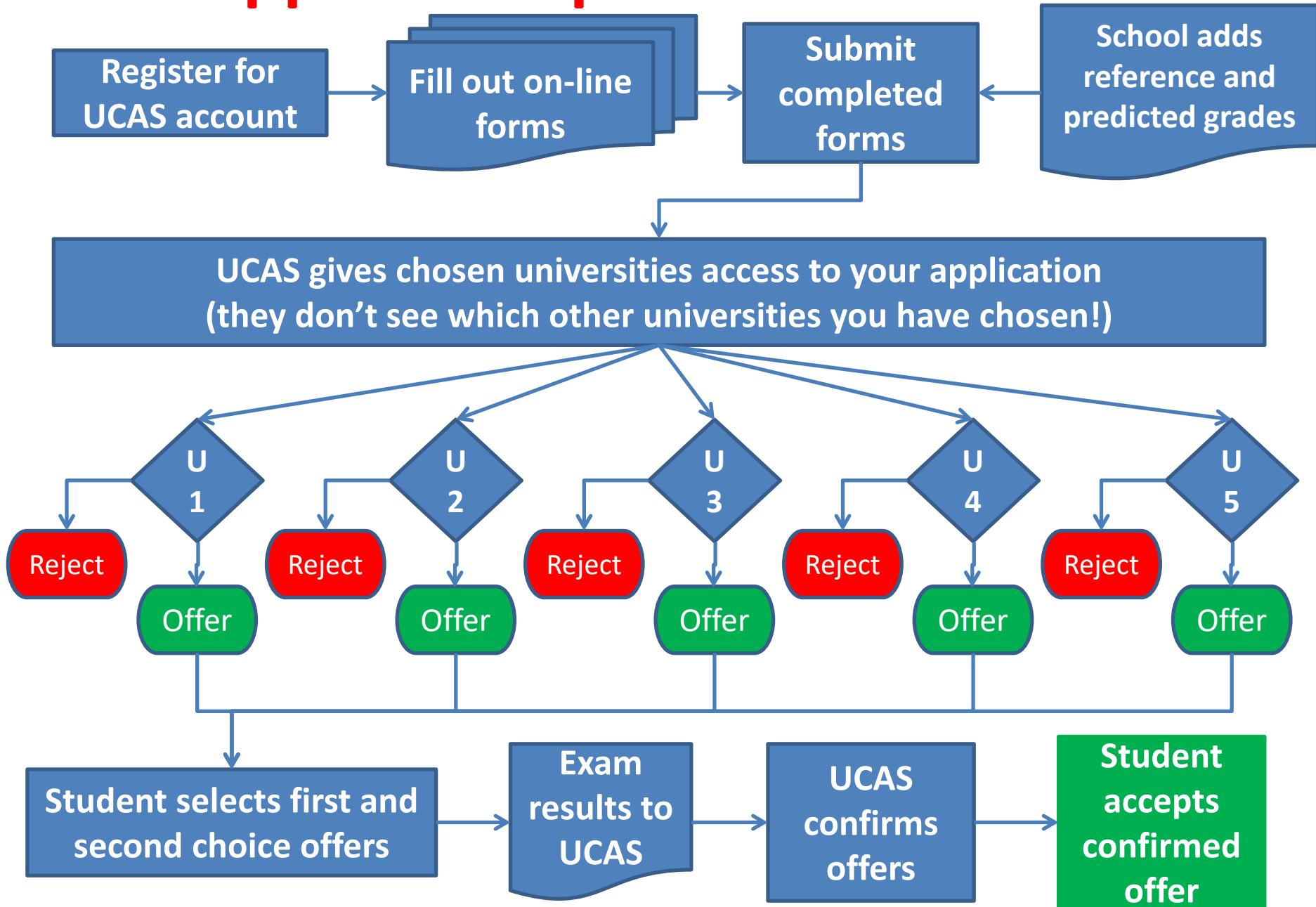
[Provider information](#)

Link to university website
- MUCH MORE DETAIL.

University websites: all different but...

- Details of all courses offered at each university
 - UCAS course and institution codes
 - Course overview, topics and optional modules for each year
 - Opportunities to study abroad
 - How the course is taught and assessed
 - Entry requirements (by College for Oxford & Cambridge)
 - Number of applicants per place, number of acceptances
 - Careers followed by students having that degree
 - **Related courses** – think broadly about what interests you!
- And lots of general information and videos about the universities, colleges, student life, open days & events... try to get to an Open Day if you can.

UCAS application process



UCAS application process

Most universities offer **conditional** offers.

This means that they require you to achieve certain grades.

Top universities may require A*A*A or 39 IB points with a 7 in the chosen subject.

Other universities require AAA or 35 IB points with 6 in chosen subject.

What if you don't meet these grade requirements?

You may still receive an offer, but more likely your offer becomes 'unsuccessful'.

If you do not have any successful offers you can enter a ***Clearing*** in June/July.

First register for a UCAS account

- Registration opens late June (for start of studies in the following year)
 - Name, address, birth-date
 - UK resident or not
 - Address/telephone
 - E-mail address –
 - use a ‘serious’, and permanent e-mail address!
 - Password choice
 - Security questions
- UserID is displayed at the end of registration – make a note!
- To link your application to your school, you need a ‘buzzword’ provided by your school.
 - Most schools in Luxembourg are registered in the system
 - You always can add it later

On-line application form

- Work through the sections in any order.
- Enter data or choose from a drop-down list
- Click “Save” at the bottom of each page
 - Completed sections show a ✓
 - If you log out and log in again later, you can carry on where you left off.
 - You don’t have to complete the whole process in one session!
 - You can go back and change anything before you submit the application.
- There are guidelines and links to help pages everywhere, and a telephone helpline if you are really stuck!
- **Complete and submit by 15th January**
- **15th October** for Oxford, Cambridge, Medicine, Veterinary science and Dentistry
- The earlier the better at many universities – it’s a competitive process

Personal statement

- Study UCAS guidelines carefully!
<http://www.ucas.com/students/applying/howtoapply/personalstatement/>
 - Your chance to grab their attention in no more than 4000 characters.
 - Why is the course right for you and why are you right for the course?
 - Show your passion for the subject you are applying to study.
 - Present yourself in a favorable light, but don't invent!
 - Keep it relevant to the course – keep it concise.
- Big challenge to write about yourself – so start early and expect to re-write many times until you are satisfied!
- Write off-line and paste into the UCAS form when complete.
- Must be your own words – not parents, friends or professional personal statement companies.
 - but get someone to proof-read to check for mistakes!

Teachers' references

- Confidential section of UCAS form completed by teachers
- MUST INCLUDE PREDICTED MARKS for your school-leaving exams
- Must be in English –may be written by your English teacher with input from teachers of your relevant subjects
- To maximise your chances teachers should follow UCAS guidelines!

<http://www.ucas.com/students/applying/howtoapply/reference>

What's different for Oxford & Cambridge?

- **Application deadline 15th October for all subjects**
- Only one UCAS choice can be at Oxford or Cambridge (so, cannot apply for both)
- Supplementary Application Questionnaire for Cambridge applicants
- On Campus interviews in Oxford/Cambridge
- Admissions tests depending on the subject
 - Admissions assessment test taken in your school or at a local test centre. 2 hours, content depends on chosen course - half multiple choice thinking skills questions, half longer answers. More details on university websites.

Additional Tests – may be used by other universities

- Additional tests may be required depending on course, college and university
 - Thinking Skills Assessment (TSA)
 - Physics Aptitude Test (PAT)
 - Bio-Medical Admissions Test (BMAT)
 - Cambridge Law Test (CLT)
 - Law National Admissions Test (LNAT)
 - History Aptitude Test (HAT)
 - Modern Languages Admissions Test (MLAT)
 - Oriental Languages Aptitude Test (OLAT)
 - Sixth Term Examination Papers in Mathematics (STEP) (taken in June)
 - ...
- Many of these can be taken at the Lycée des Garçons d'Esch or at the European School of Brussels
- Check test dates (Oct – Nov) and application deadlines

Plan your time – this is a project!

- NOW (if not already doing this)
 - Read around your subjects – not just text books
 - Make sure you can discuss your subjects in English.
 - if you are not studying in English, read English books/articles about your subject so you have appropriate vocabulary
 - Plan to visit before you apply (open days or privately)
- End of this school year:
 - Research and choose courses
 - Ask your teacher who coordinates UK applications for a reference – make sure they know if you will apply to Oxford or Cambridge - deadline is 15th October
 - Start drafting your Personal Statement
 - Study requirements for entrance tests
 - Download lots of past papers and start practicing!

Start of next school year:

- September - October:
 - Check that your teacher has your reference ready
 - Apply to sit any necessary admissions tests (check application dates – may be before the UCAS deadline!)
 - Complete your Personal Statement and UCAS form and submit by 15th October (Oxbridge or Medical) or 15th January
 - Complete and submit Supplementary Application Questionnaire (Cambridge) by 22nd October – Cambridge will send you a link.
- October-November
 - Continue to study for and take any required entrance tests
 - Prepare for interviews (like an oral exam, not a personal interview)
 - **Apply to the Oxford and Cambridge Societies for a practice interview as soon as you submit your UCAS form**
 - Don't wait until you are called for interview!
 - Interviews are possible in November
 - We try to find suitable volunteer interviewers but can't guarantee it

End of this year

- Interviews at Oxford & Cambridge – early December
 - Academic interviews - not like job interviews!
 - May include tests
 - Expect to spend one night in a college
- Offer of places – Between January (Oxford and Cambridge) and early May (other universities)
- Follow progress in UCAS – Track section
 - Accept or reject offers by end May
- If you achieve the grades, offer is confirmed by UCAS
- When you accept the offer, you are enrolled
 - University will contact you about accommodation, when to arrive, what to bring, etc...!

A challenge for you

- You need to be able –
 - to RESEARCH universities and subjects
 - to PLAN
 - to MAINTAIN high marks at school
 - to PREPARE yourself for tests and interviews
- But with committment and self-dicipline you can be at university in the UK in October.

Undergraduate admissions websites

www.cam.ac.uk/study-at-cambridge

www.ox.ac.uk/admissions

Choosing a college at Oxford or Cambridge

Welcome | Why Cambridge | Courses | Colleges | Student life | Applying | Finance | Open days and events | Access | Support | Find out more |

List of Colleges | What is a College | Choosing a College | College contacts

Home > Colleges

The Colleges

At Cambridge, as well as being a member of the University, you'll also be a member of a College.

- **Community.** Your College is your base for the time you're at Cambridge - it's where you live, eat, do a lot of socialising, and receive additional academic and pastoral support.
- The **29** undergraduate Colleges provide accommodation for most students for at least three years.
- **Location.** The Colleges are located across the city and all are within walking or cycling distance of the city centre and the academic faculties and departments.

What is a College?



Choosing a College



Contacting a College



Your College is much more than a hall of residence; it's also where you'll do a lot of your studying and socialising. How much time you spend in your College is up to you. For some students, their College is simply the place where they sleep and attend supervisions. For most, though, it provides experiences and friendships that can last a lifetime.

- Offers your course?
- Ancient or modern?
- Large or small?
- City centre or outskirts?
- Type of accommodation?

- Admissions policy?
- All female or mixed?
- Tutors in your subject?
- Atmosphere – personal feeling
- VISIT IF YOU CAN



RELATED LINKS

- [College open days](#)
- [Application statistics](#)
- [College Area Links Scheme](#)

HAVING TROUBLE DECIDING WHICH COLLEGE TO APPLY TO? WATCH OUR SHORT FILM.



Sections of the UCAS application

- Personal details
- Student finance (if you live in the UK)
- Course choices
 - You can apply for up to five courses
 - Only ONE from Oxford or Cambridge
 - Maximum of FOUR for medicine, dentistry or veterinary medicine
 - Use correct UCAS codes – “Campus Code” means “College”
- Education – list secondary schools
 - Choose from a list or type in – many Lux schools are on the list
- Qualifications attained at each school
 - Questions depend on type of qualification selected
 - Choose ‘pending’ for results of exams not yet taken
- Employment (if any and if relevant to your courses)
- Personal Statement
- Reference
 - Nothing here if application is linked to your school – otherwise referee contact details
- Review, pay (~£23, credit card) and submit

If you aim for Oxford or Cambridge typical entrance requirements...

- Luxembourg
 - Diplôme de Fin d'Etudes Secondaires - overall score of at least 50 (55 in most relevant subjects) .
- International Baccalaureat
 - total score at least 38 - 41 points including core, 776 or 766 in Highers.
- European Baccalaureat
 - Average of 85% or above, with scores of at least 8 - 9 in most relevant subjects.
- France
 - French Baccalauréat or Option Internationale du Baccalauréat - average score of at least 15 - 17.
- UK
 - A-levels between A*A*A and A*AA depending on the subject.
- Germany
 - Abitur with a total mark between 1.0 and 1.5 with scores of between 13 and 15 in most relevant subjects.
- Belgium
 - Certificat d'Enseignement Secondaire Supérieur - average score of at least 8. Scores of 9 may be required in particular subjects.
- English language – studying in English or minimum IELTS 7,7,7 or equivalent