

How to research courses and apply for 2016 admission

Courses, colleges and UCAS

Download from:

www.oxford.lu

www.cambridge.lu

USE *UCAS* TO RESEARCH COURSES

www.ucas.com

- Information about ALL UK higher education courses
 - 2015 course info there now – 2016 update in June 2015.
 - Very easy to use - multiple ways to search.
 - Summaries of every course in every university with links to universities' own websites
 - ...much more detail there.
 - Information for parents, schools and students.
 - Also information about UK student finance.
- Aim for Oxford or Cambridge
 - but research alternatives too!

e.g. search for 'politics' at Oxford

UCAS Search tool - Venue x

search.ucas.com/search/providers?CountryCode=&RegionCode=&Lat=&Lng=&Feather=&Vac=5&AvailableIn=2014&Query=politics&ProviderQuery=Oxford+U

Apps Suggested Sites Web Slice Gallery Imported From IE New Tab

Single/Combined subjects

- Single subject (0)
- [Joint subjects \(1\)](#)
- Combined (0)
- Major with a minor subject (0)
- Major with more than one minor (0)
- [Triple subjects \(1\)](#)
- Other type of combination (0)

Provider types

- [Universities and colleges \(1\)](#)
- Conservatoires (0)

How you study

- [Full-time \(1\)](#)
- Full-time with a placement (sandwich) (0)
- Full-time with study abroad (0)
- Flexible/Part-time study (0)
- Flexible study (evenings only) (0)
- Flexible study (daytime only) (0)

Oxford University

Combined subjects

Course	Qualification	Duration	Study mode
History and Politics (LV21) Oriel Undergraduate Degree	BA (Hons)	3 Years	Full-time
History and Politics (LV21) St Hugh's Undergraduate Degree	BA (Hons)	3 Years	Full-time
History and Politics (LV21) Lady Margaret Hall Undergraduate Degree	BA (Hons)	3 Years	Full-time
History and Politics (LV21) Wadham Undergraduate Degree	BA (Hons)	3 Years	Full-time
History and Politics (LV21) University Undergraduate Degree	BA (Hons)	3 Years	Full-time

Course closed to new applicants

Course closed to new applicants

Course closed to new applicants

Course closed to new applicants

Course closed to new applicants

[View all relevant courses at Oxford University >](#)

Oxford & Cambridge are each made up of ca. 25 colleges. UCAS lists every college offering this course!

UCAS course summary

UCAS Search tool - Philos...

search.ucas.com/course/entryrequirements/86606/philosophy-politics-and-economics?Vac=5&AvailableIn=2014&Query=politics&ProviderQuery=Oxford%20U

Apps Suggested Sites Web Slice Gallery Imported From IE New Tab

Philosophy, Politics and Economics

Oxford University

Duration 3 Years	Study mode Full-time	Attendance Study on site	Qualification BA (Hons)	Course code LOVO
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[Summary](#) [Entry requirements](#) [Fees & finances](#) [How to apply](#) [Assessment info](#)

Link to university website

First year entry

Qualification requirements

Levels	<h3>Baccalaureate - International</h3> <p>Oxford University will make offers based on the following qualifications individually and when they are combined with others</p> <h4>International Baccalaureate Diploma</h4> <p>General information on subjects/grades required for entry: 38-40</p> <p>Information: These give an indication of the range of offers likely to be made to successful candidates. Achievement of these grades does not guarantee a place as admissions for all courses are competitive.</p>
BTECs	
OCR Awards	
Baccalaureate - AQA	
Baccalaureate - Welsh	
Baccalaureate - International	
Baccalaureate - European	
Scottish qualifications	
Cambridge Pre-U	

Interviews, auditions and portfolios

For the first year entry of this course you will be assessed by interview/audition.

Minimum entrance requirements

– varies by subject and university but...

- 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

University websites

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

www.ox.ac.uk/admissions

- Details of all courses offered at each university
 - UCAS course and institution codes
 - Course overview, topics covered in each year, modules and options
 - How the course is taught and assessed
 - Which colleges offer the course
 - Entry requirements by college
 - Careers followed by students with that degree
 - **Number of applicants - number admitted**
 - **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.

Choosing a college

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.



RELATED LINKS

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

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



What is a College?



Choosing a College



Contacting a College

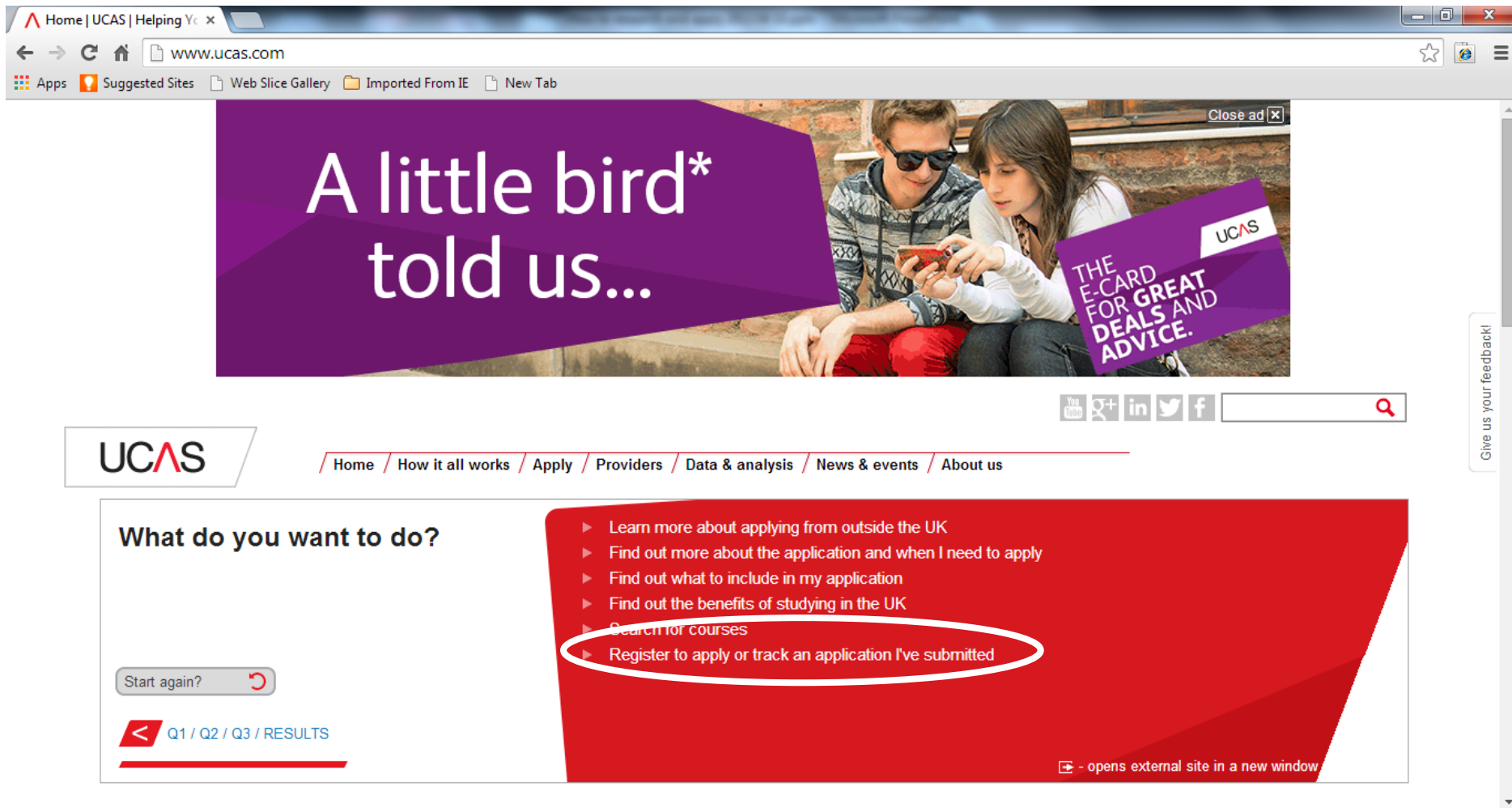


Your College is much more than a hall of residence; it's also where you'll do a lot of your studying and socialising. How much time you spend in your College is up to you. For some students, their College is simply the place where they sleep and attend supervisions. For most, though, it provides experiences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

UCAS application system – all on-line

www.ucas.com

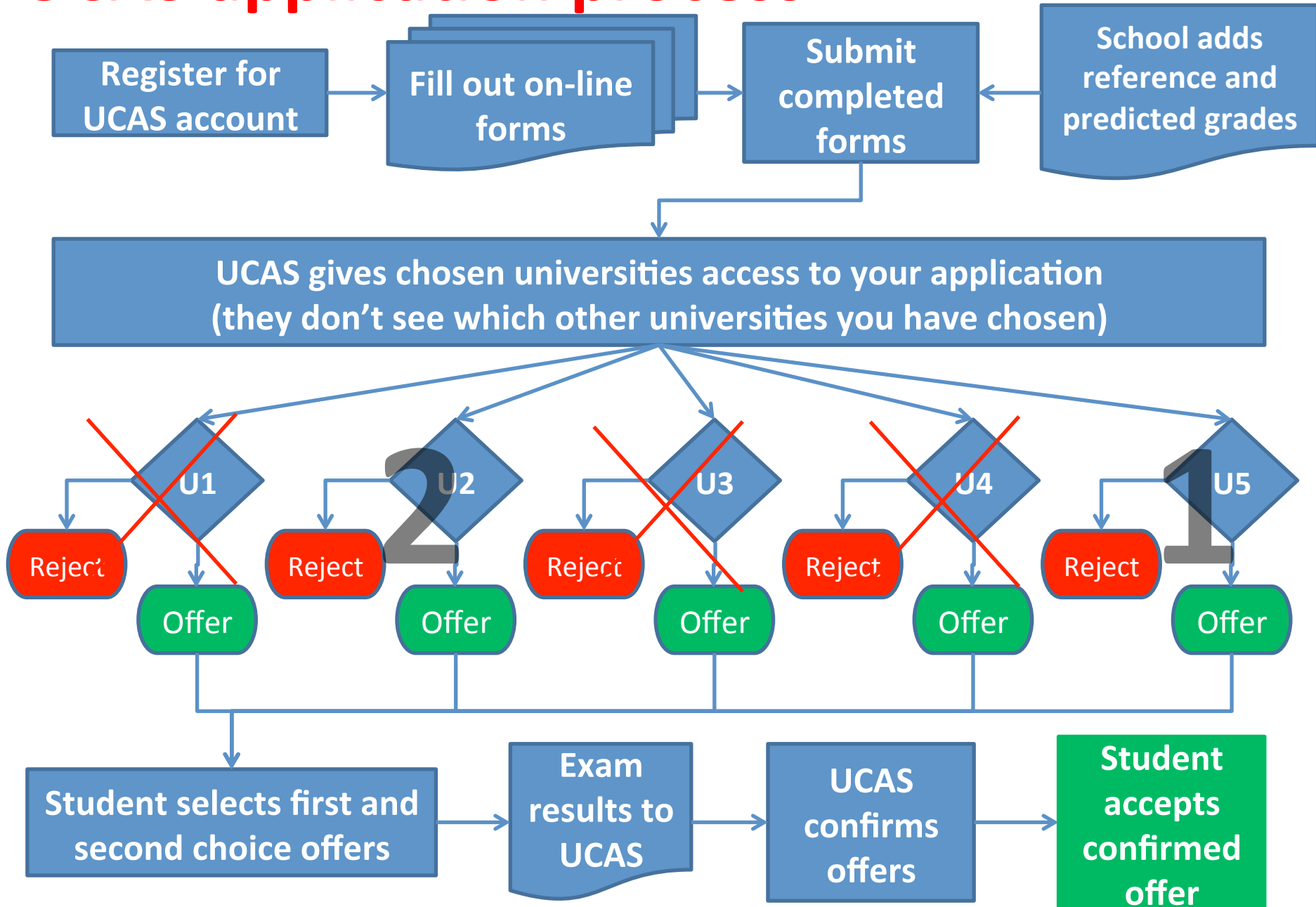


The screenshot shows the UCAS website homepage in a browser window. The browser's address bar displays "www.ucas.com". The main banner features a purple background with the text "A little bird* told us..." and an image of a young man and woman looking at a smartphone. A purple box on the right side of the banner says "THE E-CARD FOR GREAT DEALS AND ADVICE." with the UCAS logo. Below the banner is a navigation menu with links: Home, How it all works, Apply, Providers, Data & analysis, News & events, and About us. A search bar is located to the right of the navigation menu. The main content area is titled "What do you want to do?" and contains a list of options:

- ▶ Learn more about applying from outside the UK
- ▶ Find out more about the application and when I need to apply
- ▶ Find out what to include in my application
- ▶ Find out the benefits of studying in the UK
- ▶ Search for courses
- ▶ Register to apply or track an application I've submitted

The last option, "Register to apply or track an application I've submitted", is circled in white. Below the list is a "Start again?" button with a refresh icon. At the bottom left, there is a navigation bar with a back arrow and the text "Q1 / Q2 / Q3 / RESULTS". At the bottom right, there is a small icon and the text "- opens external site in a new window".

UCAS application process



Register for a UCAS account

- Registration opens late June 2015 for 2016 entry.
 - Name, address, birth-date
 - UK resident or not
 - Address/telephone
 - E-mail address –
 - use a ‘boring’ 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.
 - Many 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 from 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 links to help on every page and a telephone helpline if you are really stuck!

Sections of the 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

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 2015
 - Same for medicine, veterinary and dentistry anywhere in UK.
 - 15th January for most other courses/universities.
- Supplementary Application Questionnaire for Cambridge applicants
- Interviews in Oxford/Cambridge
- Admissions tests depending on the subject

Tests

- 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)
 - ...
- 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 you will apply to Oxford or Cambridge - deadline is 15th October 2014
 - Start drafting your Personal Statement
 - Study requirements for entrance tests
 - Download past papers and start practice

Timing

- September - October:
 - Check that your teacher has your reference ready
 - Apply to sit any necessary admissions tests (check deadlines!)
 - Complete your Personal Statement and UCAS form and submit by 15th October.
 - 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!
 - Practice interviews offered from late October through November

Timing

- Interviews at Oxford & Cambridge – early December
 - Academic interviews - not like job interviews!
 - May include tests at Cambridge
 - Expect to spend one night in a college
- Offer of places – by end of January 2016
 - Offers from other universities by end of March
- Follow progress in UCAS – Track
 - Accept or reject offers by early May 2016
- 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
 - to PLAN
 - to MAINTAIN high marks at school
 - to PREPARE yourself for tests and interviews
- A test of your commitment and self-discipline