

**BHASVIC**

**Higher Education Evening  
Applying to HE 2018**

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# Higher Education

- Choosing a **Course**
- Choosing a **University**
- How **universities choose**
- **After** the application?
- How **BHASVIC helps**
- Common **mistakes**
- Recent **changes**
- **BHASVIC Students**



# Trends

- **38% of 18 year olds** nationally made a UCAS application 2017
- **BHASVIC cohort** – around 76%
- Nationwide agenda to increase participation from **disadvantaged and BME students**
- More and more students getting into uni with **BTEC qualifications**

# Developments

- Change to linear – **2 year A level courses** – predicted grades now key to applications
- Universities increasingly competing with each other for students – a **buyers' market!**
- **Unconditional offers** and other offers with **strings attached**
- Students increasingly able to **negotiate**
- **Clearing / UCAS Extra**



# Choosing a course

Where do you get information from...

Lots of websites but some key ones are:

- **Complete University Guide** (general info about universities)
- **Unistats** (comparing Universities)
- **UCAS** (excellent info about the application process itself)
- **BHASVIC VLE** has what we think are the best of the best



# Considerations

- **Interests and enjoyment**
- **Professional; academic**
- **Employment**
- **Single or joint**
- **Content**
- **Assessment**
- **Realistic choices**



# Entrance Requirements

- **Required subjects**
- **Grades requirements**
- **Entrance test**
- **Non academic requirements, e.g. work experience**

# A Levels

- **Generally all A levels are acceptable** - depending on course / university.
- **'Facilitating subjects'** - true some 'high tariff' universities prefer candidates to have **at least two**.
- A **'spread' of courses** is fine e.g. Biology, Maths, Drama - 2 courses strong academically.
- But Drama, Music and Dance would be excellent for any **performance related degree**



# Points or Grades?

- Some universities ask for grades, e.g. **Chemistry at Oxford** requires **A\*A\*A**
- Some ask for **points**, e.g. **Chemistry at Brighton** requires **96 points (CCC)**
- Points are calculated using the **UCAS Tariff**
- The **UCAS Tariff** also gives details of the points allocated to **L3 BTEC** qualifications.

# A level UCAS Tariff

A levels	
A*	56 (equiv D* at BTEC Sub Dip)
A	48
B	40
C	32 (28 is A* for EPQ)
D	24 (20 points is A at AS level)
E	16

Extended Project (higher tariff than AS)	
A*	28
A	24
B	20
C	16
D	12
E	8

# BTEC UCAS Tariff

And their equivalents at full A level

BTEC Subsidiary Diploma		
D*	56	(A*)
D	48	(A)
M	32	(C)
P	16	(E)

BTEC Diploma		
D*D*	112	(A*A*)
D*D	104	(BBD)
DD	96	(AA)
DM	80	
MM	64	
MP	48	(DD)
PP	32	

BTEC Certificate		
D*	28	(C/D)
D	24	
M	16	(E)
P	8	

There are lots of online UCAS calculators – try googling them

# Choosing a university

- The **right course**, quality of facilities, provision
- **Type and size**, quality of accommodation
- **Distance** from home



# Other factors

- **Reputation** league tables, employer links, word of mouth
- **Scholarships** and **bursaries**
- **Support services**
- **Student mix** state school / private / mature international students / diversity

# Art Degrees

- Direct Entry?

- ▶ Acting BA(Hons)
- ▶ Animation & Visual Effects BA(Hons)
- ▶ Architecture BA(Hons)
- ▶ Business & Data Analytics BSc(Hons)
- ▶ Business & Digital Marketing BSc (Hons)
- ▶ Business & Entrepreneurship BSc (Hons)
- ▶ Business & Financial Technology BSc (Hons)
- ▶ Business & Management BSc(Hons)
- ▶ Business Development Management BSc(Hons)
- ▶ Computing for Games BSc(Hons)
- ▶ Creative Advertising BA(Hons)
- ▶ Creative Events Management BA (Hons)
- ▶ Creative Music Technology BA (Hons)
- ▶ Creative Writing BA(Hons)
- ▶ Dance & Choreography BA(Hons)
- ▶ Drawing BA(Hons)
- ▶ English BA(Hons)
- ▶ English with Creative Writing BA (Hons)
- ▶ Fashion Design BA(Hons)
- ▶ Fashion Marketing BA(Hons)
- ▶ Fashion Photography BA(Hons)
- ▶ Film BA(Hons)
- ▶ Fine Art BA(Hons)
- ▶ Game Art BA(Hons)
- ▶ Game Development BA(Hons)
- ▶ Graphic Design BA(Hons)
- ▶ Illustration BA(Hons)
- ▶ Interior Design BA(Hons)
- ▶ Journalism and Communications BA (Hons)
- ▶ Journalism and Creative Writing BA (Hons)
- ▶ Journalism BA(Hons)
- ▶ Marine & Natural History Photography BA(Hons)
- ▶ Music BA(Hons)
- ▶ Music, Theatre & Entertainment Management BA(Hons)
- ▶ Photography BA(Hons)
- ▶ Popular Music BA(Hons)
- ▶ Press & Editorial Photography BA (Hons)
- ▶ Sports Journalism BA(Hons)
- ▶ Sportswear Design BA(Hons)
- ▶ Sustainable Product Design BA (Hons)
- ▶ Technical Theatre Arts BA(Hons)
- ▶ Television BA(Hons)
- ▶ Textile Design BA(Hons)

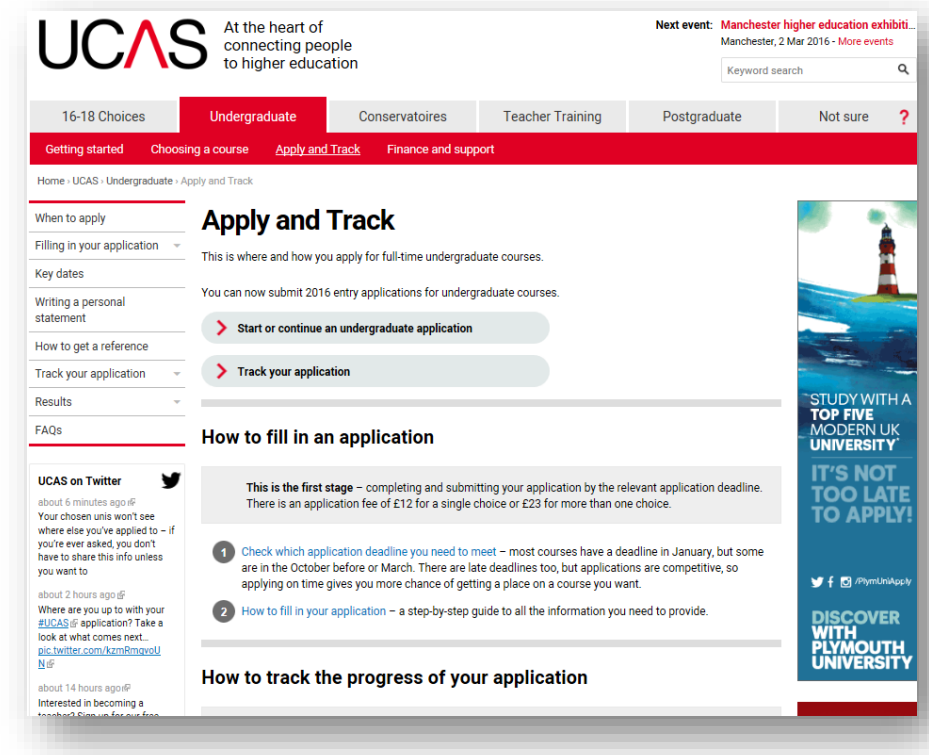
# Studying abroad

- Some degrees at UK universities will offer a **year abroad**
- A student could think about studying their **entire degree abroad** – EU guaranteed for Sept 18 entry
- This year **BHASVIC** students have applied to study in the **US** and **Netherlands**
- **Applications need to be started early!**



# Using UCAS Apply

- Once student has decided on **potential courses** and universities, they apply to them using [ucas.apply](https://ucas.apply)
- UCAS: **universities central admissions system**
- **Handles applications** for all full time first degree higher education courses.
- **FIVE** choices



The screenshot displays the UCAS Apply website interface. At the top, the UCAS logo is accompanied by the tagline 'At the heart of connecting people to higher education'. A navigation menu includes '16-18 Choices', 'Undergraduate' (highlighted), 'Conservatoires', 'Teacher Training', 'Postgraduate', and 'Not sure'. Below this, a secondary menu shows 'Getting started', 'Choosing a course', 'Apply and Track' (highlighted), and 'Finance and support'. The main content area is titled 'Apply and Track' and provides instructions for submitting 2016 entry applications. It features two prominent buttons: 'Start or continue an undergraduate application' and 'Track your application'. A section titled 'How to fill in an application' includes a note about the application fee (£12 for a single choice, £23 for more than one choice) and a numbered list of steps: 1. Check which application deadline you need to meet, and 2. How to fill in your application. A sidebar on the left contains a 'UCAS on Twitter' section with recent tweets. On the right, there is a promotional banner for Plymouth University with the text 'STUDY WITH A TOP FIVE MODERN UK UNIVERSITY' and 'IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO APPLY!'.

# Key dates after Application

<b>Sep – Dec 2018</b>	<b>Applications begin in September</b>
<b>15 Oct 2018</b>	<b>Deadline for Oxbridge, Medicine, Veterinary Science and Dentistry</b>
<b>23 Nov 2018</b>	<b>IMPORTANT: BHASVIC Internal Deadline</b>
<b>15 Jan 2019</b>	<b>Deadline for all other students</b>
<b>Oct 2017 – Mar 2019</b>	<b>Students make their choice of two offers to be their 'firm' and 'insurance' choice</b>
<b>Feb – May 2019</b>	<b>Deadline for all other students</b>
<b>15 August 2019</b>	<b>Results day</b>
<b>Clearing</b>	<b>August/early September</b>



# How BHASVIC helps

Nov - Dec

**My Future Plans (Students)**

March

**Information Evenings (Parents)**

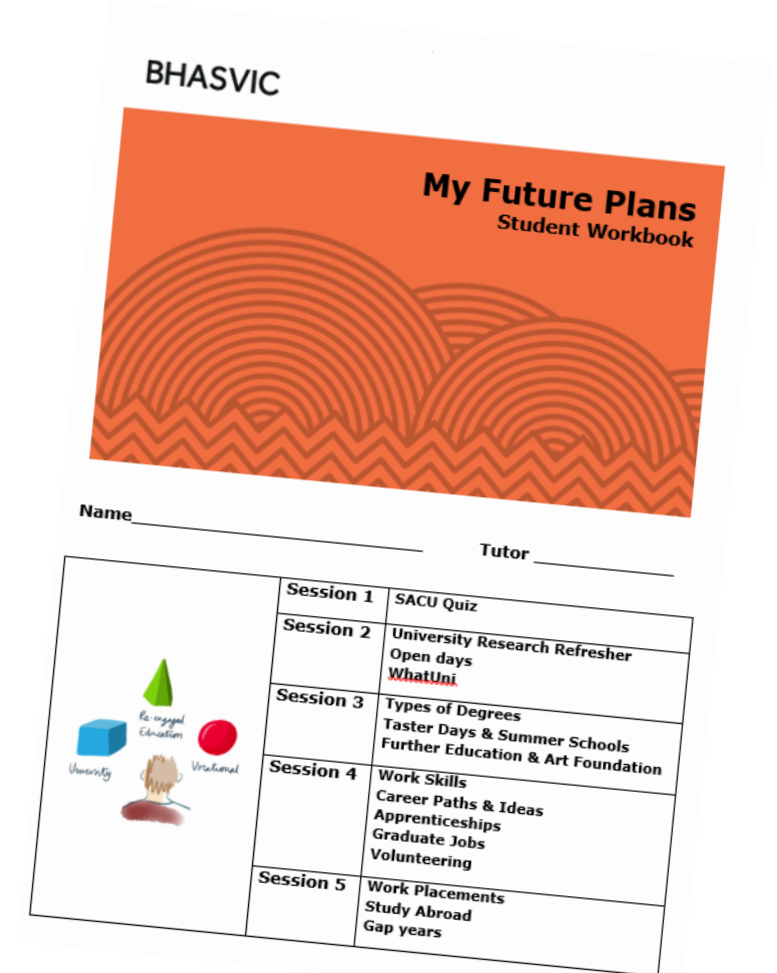
May

**Specialist Application Evening (Parents)**

Sept-Dec

**UCAS (Students)**

- Personal Statements
- Finance
- Using UCAS Apply
- Research Skills



# How BHASVIC helps – Tutorial

**May/June 2018**

**Options / Open days / Help me write your reference**

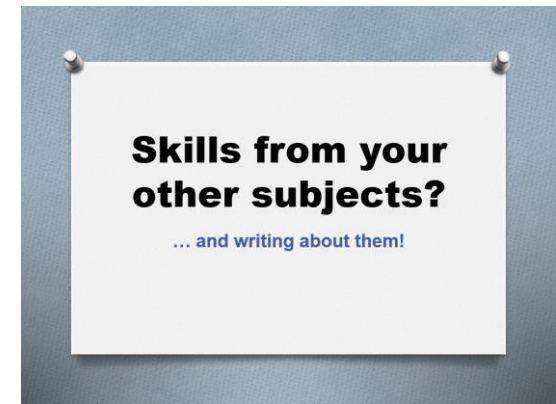
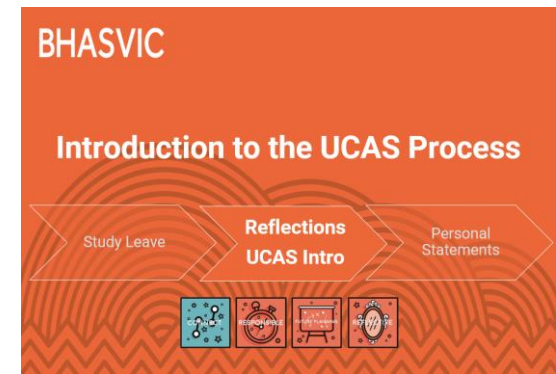
**September 2018 to December**

**Focussed personal statement support**  
**References and predicted grades are correct**

**UCAS Apply sessions** run and managed by Guidance managers to ensure applications are sent off correctly

**Jan – May 2019**

**Tutor support**, finance, accommodation, budgeting, healthy and independent living



**\*Redrafting & Rewriting**



# How do universities choose

## 1. Grades

- \* GCSEs are sometimes important
- \* **Predicted grades** – accurate at BHASVIC



# How do universities choose

## 2. Personal statement

- **Knowledge and passion for subject**
- **Understanding of the course**
- We will advise on the rest



# How do universities choose

3. **Reference** – written in collaboration between teachers and tutor - includes predicted grades
4. **Tests** (BMAT, LNAT, HAT) where appropriate
5. **Interview** (where used)
6. **Widening Participation / EPC criteria**



# Common mistakes

- **Lack of research** - Applying for courses without the right qualifications/subjects
- Leaving writing a Personal Statement/applying until the **last minute**
- Applying to universities or courses they **do not want to go to**

# To defer or not to defer.....

- Students can defer entry for a year – **useful if they are set on a course and a uni**
- + They get **first dibs on accommodation**
- They **cannot apply elsewhere** if holding a deferred entry
- **Any questions** – contact the relevant university

# Support for ex-students

- Ex-students will usually apply **through BHASVIC**
- We **check and update** their references
- I can also help with **Personal Statements / UCAS Apply**
- **he@bhasvic.ac.uk**

The screenshot shows the BHASVIC website navigation menu. The 'STUDENTS' link is highlighted with a blue box. Below the menu, a list of services is displayed, with 'UCAS for Ex Students' highlighted by a blue box.

Service	Action
Absence	+
Additional Learning Support	+
Student References	+
UCAS for Ex Students	+
College Commitments and Code of Conduct	+



# Where do BHASVIC students go?

- **Top ten destinations (2017):**



**University of Sussex**  
**University of Bristol**  
**University of Bristol (UWE)**  
**University of Leeds**  
**University of Portsmouth**  
**University of Surrey**  
**University of Manchester**  
**University of Brighton**  
**University of Southampton**  
**University of Kent**

# What do they study?

- **Top ten individual subjects studied by BHASVIC students (2017):**



**Mathematics**  
**Psychology**  
**English studies**  
**Law by Area**  
**Politics**  
**Chemistry**  
**History by Period**  
**Combinations of subjects**  
**Economics**  
**Computer Science**  
**Nursing**

# What can you do at home?

- Support your student looking at **University Open days** (June – November)
- Talk with them about **choices** and **reasons**
- Read through their **personal statements** (Summer-November)
- Remind them of the need to **complete UCAS applications** (September – November)

# Top Tips

- **Grades students achieve in their progression exams** in May/June will relate highly to their **predicted grades**
- **Aspirational, Solid and Safe**
- Attending **Open days** is key to finding the right unis
- Focus on **course content**
- Beware of falling into the **Russell Group trap**
- **Leave an option open**



# Top Tips

- **Summer Schools & Taster Days**
- Admissions officers are really helpful – **ring them**
- Third year of free education – **additional FE**
- There is always a **gap year and retakes!**



# After Results Day 15 August 2019

- We run a **helpdesk** throughout the remaining time in August
- If things **go wrong** – there are usually options – **let us help**



# Support for you at home?

- <https://www.bhasvic.ac.uk/parents-carers-dashboard/higher-education>
- Downloadable help guide
- Email contact
- [HE@bhasvic.ac.uk](mailto:HE@bhasvic.ac.uk)
- Parent and carers newsletters

