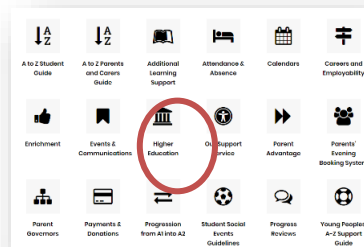




BHASVIC support for Higher Education – FAQs

Please visit our parents and carers dashboard for more information about Higher Education.

<https://www.bhasvic.ac.uk/parents-carers-dashboard>



How do we do in terms of HE success?

- Around 72% of our students enter Higher Education with around a quarter taking a gap year before they go.
- We continue to be pleased our percentage of Higher Education acceptance routes for Widening Participation (including low income, first in family to go to university, care-leavers) and BAME groups is significantly higher than the national average.
- 55% of BHASVIC students accepted a place at a high tariff university (including Oxbridge & Russell Group), substantially higher than the national average of 28%.
- Oxbridge offers increase year on year with 148 offers in the past three years – making us the highest non-selective state provider to Cambridge. Our disadvantaged students have an equal, or higher chance of an offer compared to our wider cohort.
- We have seen a sustained increase in Medics, Veterinary and Dentistry offers with an offer rate of around 1:2 compared to 1:10 nationally.
- HESA data shows 93% of our students achieve first and 2:1 degrees, substantially higher than the independent, state and sixth form sectors in general. For students from low participation wards the figure is 92% compared to 69% for the state sector.
- 70% of our vulnerable and disadvantaged students (low income, young carers, in care, care leavers) go onto university and 60% of our students receiving learning support – figures equal to our main student cohort
- 9% of our students progress into specialised further education, including very successful art foundation entry.

How can I find out about subject success and option for HE?

You will find more specific subject information with graphs and guides on our Parents and carers HE page <https://www.bhasvic.ac.uk/parents-carers-dashboard/higher-education>

*Please note these are currently being updating to include Sept 20 entry figures. Please re-visit before the end of November for updates.

HIGHER EDUCATION SUBJECT POSTERS: Please find a list of helpful resources below relating to Higher Education and Employment in the subject areas we offer:-

Biology	Business	Business & Finance	Chemistry	Classical Civilisation	Computing
Economics	Engineering	English Language	English Literature	Environmental Science	Graphic Design
Geography	Health & Social Care	History	Law	Mathematics	Medical Careers
Philosophy	Photography	Physics	Politics	Psychology	Sociology



What subjects should I choose to entry specific HE Courses

Subject choices at A level are important. Please see separate document giving more detail.

Do universities accept BTECs

The very top universities will still expect A levels but the vast majority of universities see BTECs as equivalent to A levels and have either option in their entry requirements. A Distinction/Distinction* at BTEC is equivalent to and A/A* at A level.

In fact our highest acceptance rate for uni comes from a mix of BTECs and A levels.

What support does BHASVIC offer for entering HE

The following calendar gives you some idea of how we support students at BHASVIC in deciding whether to apply for higher education and if they do decide to apply, how to select their university and relevant course, and how to complete the application process.

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A1 Year (Autumn 2021)

- **Careers staff available** – students encouraged to book appointments with our careers staff
- **How parents/carers can support:** Talk to students about their BHASVIC course choices, future plans.

A1 Year (Spring 2022)

- **My Future Plans** - Tutor sessions considering pathways – higher education, apprenticeships
- **Futures Fair** – wide range of exhibitors from all sectors
- **A1-A2 Transfer** - Students make their second year course choices

- **Higher Education/Specialist evenings** for parents/carers – parents evenings
- **Careers staff available** – students encouraged to book appointments with our careers staff
- **How parents/carers can support:** HE evening for parents/carers, talk to students about their BHASVIC course choices, future plans.

A1 Year (Summer 2022)

- **Research skills** – 6 Tutor sessions dedicated to considering future pathways
- **Open days** – Students begin to attend open days at universities they may be interested in
- **Progression Day** – Students have an opportunity to attend a local university
- **Careers Enrichment Day** – Students must attend careers sessions of their choice
- **Careers staff available** – students encouraged to book appointments with our careers staff
- **Personal Statements** – Students introduced to personal statements – an important aspect of their applications
- **Help me write your reference** – Students give information to tutors to help them write individual references
- **Subject references** – are completed in July. Subject references are made available via Parent Advantage to parents / carers at the end of term
- **Predicted Grades** – are completed in July and made available via Parent Advantage to parents / carers at the end of term
- **Tutor references** – student provide info and drafts completed, prior to September final updates.
- **Preparation work for Personal Statements** – to be completed in the autumn term
- **Summer schools and taster days** – in preparation for applying to university
- **How parents/carers can support:** Support students in researching options. Support and encourage students to attend university open days. Discuss choices and encourage matching preferred choices with realistic predicted grades. Home will receive subject references.
- **Open Days:** There is a lot of useful info online. Students will be spending a lot of time and money at University and we strongly suggest visiting universities to check they are right for them. Prime times are June/July and September/October. Students need to plan and book online in advance. We will authorise absences on receipt of evidence (emails) to reception.
- **UCAS Open Days search tool:** <https://www.ucas.com/ucas/undergraduate/getting-started/events-and-open-days>

A2 Year (Autumn 2022)

- **College Internal Deadlines for all guaranteed UCAS applications**
 - **Early Application deadline** Fri 25th September for Oxbridge and Medics.
 - **Priority Application** deadline Fri 13th November for guaranteed processing before the national deadline.
 - **Standard deadline** Fri 11th Dec.
 - **Ex-student deadline** Fri 11th Dec.
- **Personal Statements** – focus in tutor on writing Personal Statements (5/6 sessions) and support given by tutors on draft statements to improve quality. Additional support offered to WP students.
- **UCAS Apply Sessions** – BHASVIC runs regular sessions (every lunchtime through mid-October to end of November) where Guidance managers will check students online applications. Students MUST attend a session for their application to progress
- **References, Predicted Grades and Personal Statements** – checked and reviewed in tutor sessions
- **How parents/carers can support:** Continue to support researching options. Open days will still be available early in the autumn term. Read through personal statements. Encourage to be realistic about choices reflective of predicted grades. Remind students to check their emails.
- **Ensure deadlines are met:** This is crucial. Our general office staff (and university staff) are term time only so do not work over Christmas.

- **Encourage email checking:** If there is an error on a student's Apply form we will need to contact the student to ask them to correct the information. If students do not check their emails regularly this becomes problematic.
- **Aspirational/Solid/Safe:** We encourage students to make a mix of applications. Aspirational choices will be slightly above predicted grades, solid will predict their grades and safe may well be slightly under. This will ensure they are able to make effective Firm and Insurance Offers when universities make offers later on.
- **Firm/Insurance offers:** There is lots of really good information online regarding offers.

A2 Year (Spring 2023)

- **FINAL UCAS Application deadline 15th January 2021** (Internal deadline to book UCAS Apply session 27th November 2020)
- **Tutor – University preparation** - accommodation / Student Finance / Independent Living
- **1st May** – Deadline for offers and replies otherwise they disappear
- **Student Finance Applications**
- **How parents/carers can support:** Remind students to check their emails and UCAS track. Students need to register for student finance around May-time. They will need their NI number. If they delay their finance maybe delayed, including their maintenance loans for September.
- **Student Finance Applications:** Usually open for registration in May. Students must register before the deadline (please check – Usually sometime in May). They will confirm after results day when accepting their offers.



A2 Year (Summer 2023)

- **Deadline for University replies and offers** – check UCAS website
- **Clearing and UCAS Extra** opens for late applications.
- **Study leave and revision!**
- **How parents/carers can support:** Support students with revision. Planning for University – discuss accommodation and finance. Encourage learning skills of Independent Living including budgeting, basic cooking skills etc.

A2 Year (Results day)

- **Mid-August 2023** – BHASVIC Helpdesk opens (until end of August)
- **UCAS Adjustment opens**
- **UCAS Apply 31st August** Offer conditions must be met & Adjustment ends

How can I contact BHASVIC to ask a specific question?

If you have a specific question regarding Higher Education please contact Nikki Fabry on he@bhasvic.ac.uk

The email is monitored all year round.

Thank you.