



## Advice and guidance for students applying to Uni post-BHASVIC Sept 21 entry and for Sept 22 entry (Applying as an Ex-Student)

So, you are applying after a year (or two) out or perhaps considering other options. Maybe your grades did not meet the original requirements of your first choice.

**I hope this might be some useful information as you will re-apply through BHASVIC.**

### Contacts & Help:

We can support you:

- Checking your **UCAS Apply form**
- Checking your **personal statement**
- Updating your **reference** (although we will use the one we have on file)
- With any **guidance or information** if needed. This booklet is a useful first point of call so please take a read through first.

I am happy to meet if needed or liaise through email.

General Office will normally put students in touch with me.

**Nikki Fabry**

**Guidance manager / HE lead**

[n.fabry@bhasvic.ac.uk](mailto:n.fabry@bhasvic.ac.uk) / 01273 859820 (direct dial)

### 1. Holding Deferred offers:

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If you are holding a deferred offer you have accepted a place at university. If you change your mind and have accepted the place for a course or university, you will essentially need to withdraw from that place during your gap year and re-apply. Please see other information in this booklet for more details.

### 2. UCAS timeframe and Early Applications:

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**The UCAS timeframe** for University applications in Autumn 2021 will be the same to the usual pattern. **If you wish to apply to Oxbridge, Medicine, Music Conservatories** – then the early deadline of 15<sup>th</sup> October still exists. You **MUST** link up with BHASVIC in September! And do not forget to book any relevant Admissions Test with BHASVIC Exams.

All other Uni applications must reach the Unis by 15<sup>th</sup> Jan'22 – but it is pretty silly to leave it late! – so definitely by end of November.

If you are applying/re-applying to Oxbridge – do link up with Neil [n.commin@bhasvic.ac.uk](mailto:n.commin@bhasvic.ac.uk) earlier than October as he can share ex-tutee contacts with you. Oxbridge post A Level applications / re-application can be successful .... And quite interesting! A student this year did not get an offer for English and then reapplied securing BHASVIC's first ever Fine Art offer. We have had students shift from PPE to Physics in a reapplication for example too. (Do remember that for Oxbridge and Medicine – you may need to be available for interviews in your gap year).

Don't forget to put WP – Widening Participation – if this applies to you under each university choice.

### 3. Re-applications:

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**If you applied to Uni this year and wish to re-apply next year – the process remains straightforward.** Uniquely, during Covid, UCAS allowed students in the year above you to hold a deferred offer, and also re-apply to universities. NB Uniquely! Unclear what the approach will be for this year as yet. Universities are not at all fussed by reapplications (although I advise applying to a different College if reapplying to Oxbridge). NB some Medical Schools do not allow reapplications.

**If you are applying for the same degree subject** – then you can submit essentially the same Personal Statement – the plagiarism controls do not arise. I'd tweak it a bit. Of course, if a different subject – then you'll need to rewrite. It may be worth investigating the Reading Lists which are commonly published by Universities – for first year undergraduate courses – to inspire some 'super-curricular study'.

### 4. Re-sits:

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**Remember to link up with BHASVIC Exams [exams@bhasvic.ac.uk](mailto:exams@bhasvic.ac.uk) should you wish to book an A Level resit** – do this early so as not to miss any key dates.

### 5. References:

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**Your UCAS Reference will be essentially the same as that on the system with Actual rather than Predicted Grades.** If you are resitting an A Level – the Reference will say that but BHASVIC is unable to give a predicted grade for a resit. If you link up with me – I will send you your draft Reference and we can then polish it together – reflecting your – perhaps – new subject choice.

### 6. The application process as an ex-student:

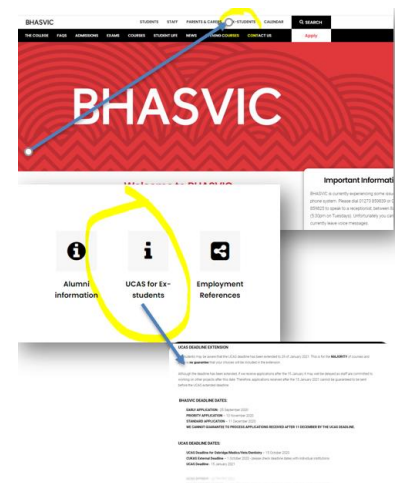
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**This is VERY straightforward at BHASVIC – please see clear guide and instructions under the Ex-Student tab of Webpage. But please follow the guidance given there! Jane is the member of Staff who oversees Ex-Student UCAS – she's brilliantly helpful [j.cooley@bhasvic.ac.uk](mailto:j.cooley@bhasvic.ac.uk). We strongly urge you to message Jane if you are applying post A-Level before starting the process.**

#### 1. Your application:

You will need to:

- **Complete a UCAS Apply form.** Follow the instructions on our college website here <https://www.bhasvic.ac.uk/ex-students/advice-for-bhasvic-ex-students-on-completing-their-ucas-applications>
- **Use the UCAS Apply helpsheet** which will appear in the summer. This will link it to the college, and we can add your reference.
- **You will need your ULN (Unique Learner Number) from Advantage,** take a screenshot of it now from your Advantage Personal Details or email Nikki or Jane who will send it through to you.
- **Your college reference is checked** and put into the past tense. If there is anything helpful we can add (extenuating circumstances etc. please tell us).
- **Complete a personal statement.** If you need support you will find them on the ex-student section above.
- When you have sent the application, **check your emails.**
- **You will be aiming to complete any application by around mid-November.**



The **Completing UCAS Apply helpsheet** is a step by step guide for filling in your UCAS form (correctly) if you are stuck!

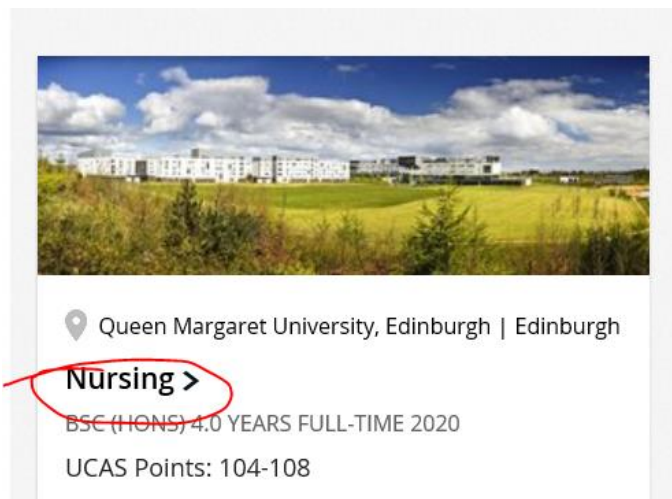
## 7. Help researching options:

There is a plethora of online resources to assist you in your choice of 5 universities. Just a few here:

- The Guardian and Complete University Guides
- Future Learn/Open Learn
- A range of useful research tools – UCAS Course Search/What Uni/ HEAP/SACU
- Much of this may well not apply, but it is designed to give you the **most useful links to any research** that you are undertaking for potential courses.
- **Useful website links are also listed on the UCAS for ex-students page**

## 8. Useful things to know:

- **Universities may accept on lower grades than advertised** – it all depends on how competitive the courses are. **RING THEM** and ask. You hold actual grades, not predicted. It is just the time and cost of a phone call to admissions to ask whether they are likely to make you an offer.
- There is actually no point **adding choices to your UCAS form that are unlikely to result in an offer** – phone and check!
- **Clicking on the course on [TheUniGuide](#)** will give you much useful information

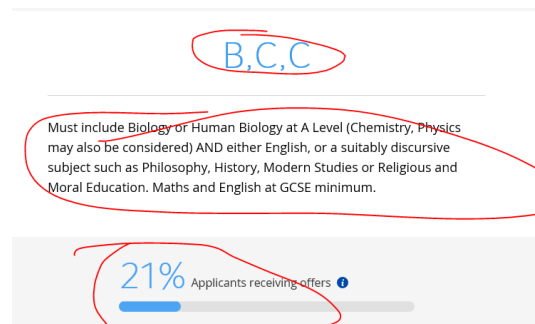


Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh | Edinburgh

**Nursing >**

BSC (HONS) 4.0 YEARS FULL-TIME 2020

UCAS Points: 104-108

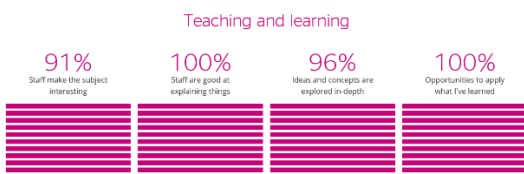


B,C,C

Must include Biology or Human Biology at A Level (Chemistry, Physics may also be considered) AND either English, or a suitably discursive subject such as Philosophy, History, Modern Studies or Religious and Moral Education. Maths and English at GCSE minimum.

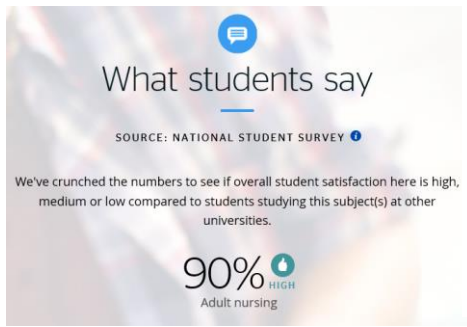
21% Applicants receiving offers

- **Check out requirements and number of students** receiving offers
- **But look further – student satisfaction is important and this is up to date info**



- **This information here is gold-dust** – very useful on what grades were accepted.
- **Draw up a shortlist**
- **Phone them**

info

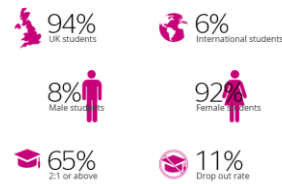


## Student voice



## Who studies this subject and how do they get on?

SOURCE: HESA

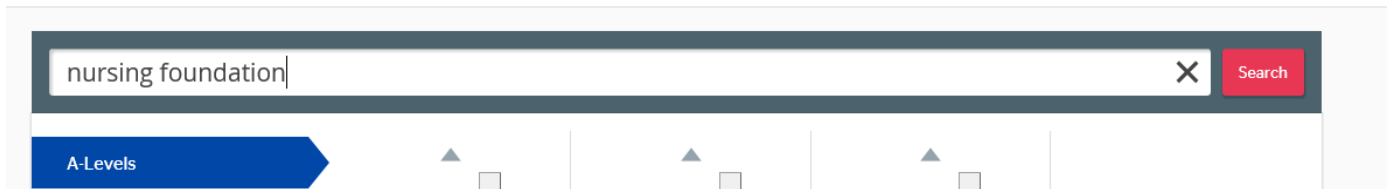


Most popular A-Levels studied (and grade achieved)

Biology	C
Psychology	B
Home Economics	B

## 9. Foundation years:

- **Foundation years are excellent for getting into universities of your choice.**
- Yep it's an extra year's study, but may be better for you than retakes, and really ups your study skills to enable you to get onto the degree of your choice. Stats show students who begin a foundation year are more successful in their final degree result, and more go on to study a Masters or PhD. Around 60% will change degree choice through their foundation year as well!
- **Yes it's funded with a student loan** but you only pay this when you are earning a decent wage.
- **This is important** – depending on the course and your A-levels, you may well still get onto the full degree (e.g. a Business degree if you have a Business A-level) so again **PHONE THEM**.
- **The tariff points vary considerably** and are often very achievable.



We have 86 results for nursing foundation. In Clearing? Switch to [2019 courses](#)

University of Surrey | Guildford

**Nursing Studies (Registered Nurse Mental Health Nursing) with Foundation Year >**  
BSC (HONS) 4.0 YEARS FULL-TIME INCLUDING FOUNDATION YEAR 2020  
UCAS Points: 96-120

Birmingham City University | Birmingham

**Adult Nursing (September) with Foundation Year >**  
BSC (HONS) 4.0 YEARS FULL-TIME INCLUDING FOUNDATION YEAR 2020  
UCAS Points: 88

Course name eg psychology Location: city, town or county

business foundation x All locations Search Predicted grades

We have 125 results for business foundation. In Clearing? Switch to [2019 courses](#)

Oxford Brookes University | Oxford

**Foundation in Business >**  
BA/BSC (H) 4.0 YEARS FULL-TIME 2020  
UCAS Points: 88

London South Bank University | Kensington and Chelsea

**Business Foundation Course >**  
ED CERT 1.0 YEAR FULL-TIME 2020  
UCAS Points: 48-64

## 10. Universities to try:

**We know we like Bristol, Exeter, Leeds, Sheffield.**

**This is by no means at all an exhaustive list** but some universities that have been way down on the list for some of our students but they have ended up very happy at (and may have reduced offers) are:

**Sheffield Hallam, Nottingham Trent, Liverpool John Moores, Manchester Met, Chichester (great and just down the road), Leeds Beckett, Canterbury Christchurch, Huddersfield (yep!), Solent, Bournemouth, Portsmouth, Surrey, UAE, UWE..... Salford has come up on our radar as being very pro-active**

**Northbrook** is a great Creative Arts uni (again down the road) And there are plenty of other options.

## 11. Open days:

- **Please go if you can post-pandemic in the autumn!**

- You would not buy a house without viewing it first so why pay a uni over £30K and spend 3 years of your life somewhere without visiting it first.
- <https://www.opendays.com/> is a great one stop shop!
- If you can't go in person make good use of virtual tours

**IMPORTANT:** Don't feel you have to put down all your 5 choices by mid-November – add two or three then any more on UCAS Track in your pyjamas at home once we have processed and sent you UCAS form off, and you have made your final decisions.

You can make one choice if you like by the way – that's fine.

## 12. A complete change of path:

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- Talk to unis to see if they will consider you (see foundation courses above)
- Consider **Access courses at local FE**
- These are **one year courses** that will give you everything you need to get into uni.
- They are funded by an **Advanced Learner Loan** that is absorbed by your student loan when you start uni so a great way to make a complete U-turn.
- **Check out East Sussex College** <http://www.escq.ac.uk/study/access-to-he/> and **GB Met** <https://www.gbmc.ac.uk/access-to-higher-education> for more info.
- You usually have to be 19 to start but phone them – they may take you from 18.

## 13. Last words:

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- **Be creative.** Into Sport? - <https://www.ucfb.ac.uk/> always looks fun.
- **Think of what you might do as a job after uni.** Specialist degrees such as HR, Accounting and Mental Health Nursing might be more useful than Business or Psychology.
- **Use the time off to think wisely.**
- **Don't despair** – plenty of great opportunities out there – just might be a slightly longer path.
- **Get in touch** if you need to,
- **Contact unis** for information.

## 14. And very last word...if it feels wrong and the course you have started isn't for you.

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**Every year we have a small number of students who change courses, and universities from first year to the second.**

**Wrong course, right uni** - contact the uni, see if you can make a switch.

**Right course, wrong uni** - might well be too late to change for first year study but re-apply same course different uni.

**Wrong course, wrong uni** – re-apply. Use BHASVIC.

**Note of advice re Student Finance.** You can study for a year and then change courses. It in affect gives you a year's grace. If you are thinking of leaving your uni/course once you have made the firm decision contact your uni. You will owe some student loan after certain dates. University student services teams will help you.

**And we can help you re-apply.**

**Good luck!**

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**Nikki Fabry**

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