



Advice and guidance for students applying to University post-BHASVIC for Sept 2021 Entry

IMPORTANT: Applying for Sept 2020 entry?

Apply using the BHASVIC20 buzzword. There are resources on <https://www.bhasvic.ac.uk/ex-students/advice-for-bhasvic-ex-students-on-completing-their-ucas-applications> to help you. Email ucasreferences@bhasvic.ac.uk and n.fabry@bhasvic.ac.uk and we can help.

2020 Is a good year to go!

- More places available in clearing due to less international students
- Remote learning – universities will be working hard to make sure it is a good uni experience in the autumn term
- There will be more 18 year olds in the population applying for Sept 2021
- Gap years and employment opportunities are going to be far less fun and useful than in previous years!

Still want to apply for next year – see below.....

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 useful information as you will re-apply through BHASVIC in a slightly different way.

Contacts & Help:

We can support you with:

- Checking your **UCAS Apply form**
- Checking your **personal statement**
- Updating your **reference** (we will use the one we have on file)
- 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

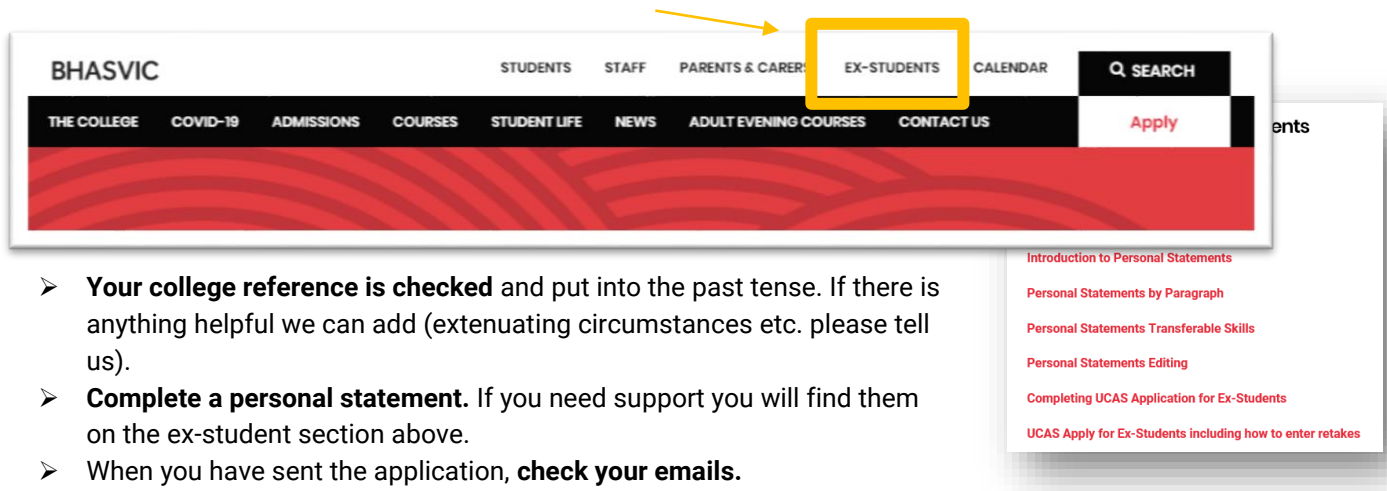
Guidance Manager / HE Lead

n.fabry@bhasvic.ac.uk / 01273 859820 (direct dial)

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>
- This will link it to the college and we can add your reference.



The screenshot shows the Bhasvic website navigation menu. The 'EX-STUDENTS' link is highlighted with a yellow box, and an arrow points to it. Below the navigation menu is a red banner with a white 'Apply' button. To the right, a dropdown menu is visible with several red links:

- Introduction to Personal Statements
- Personal Statements by Paragraph
- Personal Statements Transferable Skills
- Personal Statements Editing
- Completing UCAS Application for Ex-Students
- UCAS Apply for Ex-Students including how to enter retakes

- **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 (BHASVIC deadline).**

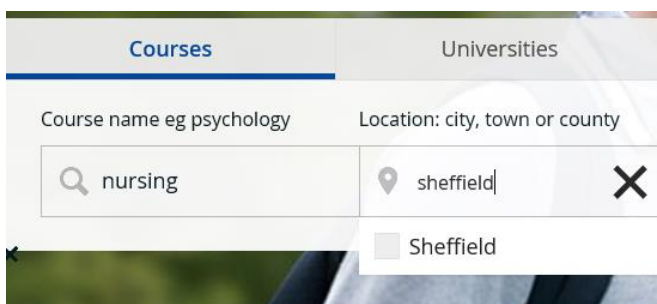
The **Completing UCAS Apply Help sheet** is a step by step guide for filling in your UCAS form (correctly) if you are stuck!

2. Help researching options:

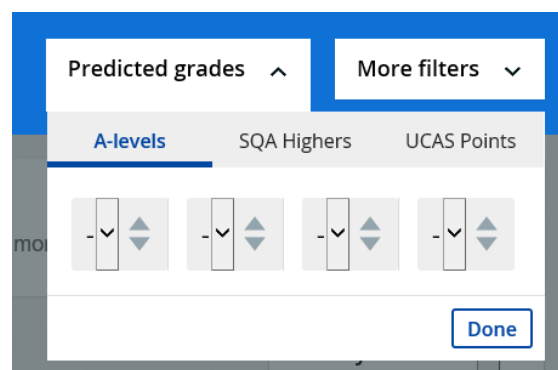
- You will have used at some stage the **My Future Plans Workbook in A1**. It is available also for download in the resources section.
- Much of this may well not apply, but it is designed to give you the **most useful links to any research** that you are undertaking for potential courses.
- **Useful websites** include <https://www.theuniguide.co.uk/> - highly recommended
- **When looking at courses** on The Uni Guide, use the university name, you don't have to enter in a location

UCAS Resources for Ex-Students

- My Future Plans Work Book**
- Personal Statement Student Workbook
- Introduction to Personal Statements
- Personal Statements by Paragraph
- Personal Statements Transferable Skills
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The screenshot shows a search interface for courses and universities. The 'Courses' tab is selected. The search bar contains 'nursing' and the location is set to 'sheffield'. A dropdown menu shows 'Sheffield' as a suggestion.




The screenshot shows a predicted grades filter interface. The 'Predicted grades' section is expanded, showing 'A-levels' selected. There are four dropdown menus for selecting grades, each with a minus and plus arrow. A 'Done' button is at the bottom right.

And use the predicted grades section to put in your actual grades

3. Useful things to know:

- **Universities may accept you 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 <https://www.theuniguide.co.uk/>** will give you much useful information



Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh | Edinburgh

Nursing >

BSC (HONS) 4.0 YEARS FULL-TIME 2020

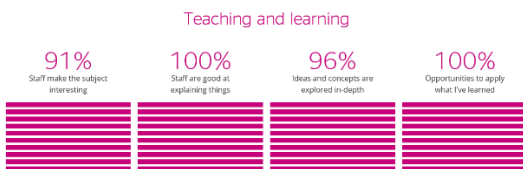
UCAS Points: 104-108

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

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



What students say

SOURCE: NATIONAL STUDENT SURVEY

We've crunched the numbers to see if overall student satisfaction here is high, medium or low compared to students studying this subject(s) at other universities.

90%^{HIGH}
Adult nursing

Student voice

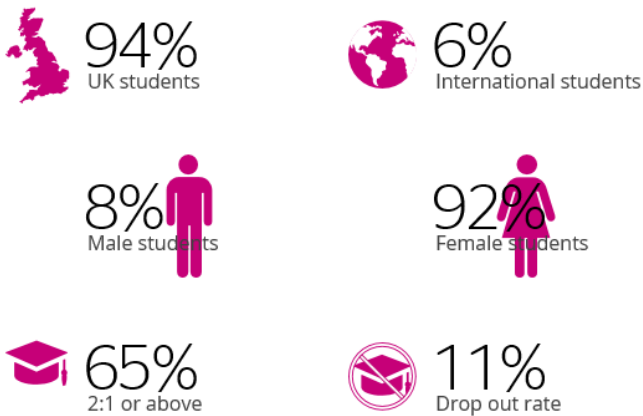


Staff value students' opinions

- **This information below is gold-dust** – very useful info on what grades were accepted

Who studies this subject and how do they get on?

SOURCE: HESA [i](#)



Most popular A-Levels studied (and grade achieved)

Biology	C
Psychology	B
Home Economics	B

- **Draw up a shortlist**
- **Phone them**

4. 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 Masters and PhDs. 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.

nursing foundation

A-Levels

The screenshot shows a search interface with two main sections. The top section is for 'nursing foundation' with 86 results. It lists two courses: 'Nursing Studies (Registered Nurse Mental Health Nursing) with Foundation Year >' from the University of Surrey (UCAS Points: 96-120) and 'Adult Nursing (September) with Foundation Year >' from Birmingham City University (UCAS Points: 88). The bottom section is for 'business foundation' with 125 results. It lists two courses: 'Foundation in Business >' from Oxford Brookes University (UCAS Points: 88) and 'Business Foundation Course >' from London South Bank University (UCAS Points: 48-64). Red circles highlight the UCAS Points for each course.

5. Universities to try:

- **This is by no means at all an exhaustive list** but some universities that our students may not have considered but they have ended up being very happy and doing well 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, Solent, Bournemouth, Portsmouth, Surrey, UAE, UWE.....

Northbrook is a great Creative Arts uni (again down the road)

And there are plenty of other options.

6. Open days:

- **Please go!**
- You wouldn't 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!

Coronavirus update - Virtual Open Day links

- <https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/student-advice/where-to-study/virtual-open-days>
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7-A_z5_d4Tk
- <https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/what-and-where-study/open-days-and-events/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.

6. A complete change of path:

- 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.escg.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 and check about whether there is a cost involved.
- Check with the university that you are applying to that they will accept it.

7. Last words:

- **Be creative.** Into Sport - <https://www.ucfb.ac.uk/>
- **Think of what you might do as a job after uni.** If you know which job area interests you, specialist degrees such as HR, Accounting and Mental Health Nursing are available.
- **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.

Good luck!

Nikki Fabry

Guidance Manager / HE Lead

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