Year 13: The Year Ahead

We've put together this useful booklet to guide you through your next steps on your journey to university.

From Newcastle. For the world.
Your Timeline

The timeline below outlines what the next academic year will look like, so you’ll know what to expect every step of the way.

8th September 2020 - UCAS Apply Opens
University applications open and can now be submitted through the UCAS website at www.ucas.com

15th October 2020 - First UCAS Deadline
Deadline for applications to Medicine & Dentistry and Oxbridge

15th January 2021 - Main UCAS Deadline
Deadline for all undergraduate courses (except those with 15th October deadline- see above)

Early Feb 2021 - Student Finance Applications Open
Students from England can apply: www.gov.uk/studentfinance
Students from Wales, Scotland and NI apply via their government funding bodies in March/April

25th February 2021 - UCAS Extra Opens
If you’ve used all five choices on your application and haven’t been made any offers, you could still find a place through UCAS Extra.

Late May 2021 - Student Finance Deadline
Exact date will be confirmed nearer the time. Be sure to apply before the deadline to ensure you get your payments on time for the start of your first year.

19th August 2021 - A Level Results Day
Time to get your results! If you don’t get the grades you were hoping for, you can consider applying for a university place through Clearing. If your results are better than expected, you can choose to apply to a different course through Adjustment.

September 2021 - University Term Starts
Choosing a Course

You can only apply to five courses, so it's important to consider what you want from a university experience

The Subject
- You'll be studying this subject for at least 3 years, so make sure it's something you really enjoy.
- If you're not sure which university course to study, start by thinking about which subjects you currently enjoy most at sixth form or college.

Career Prospects
- Some professions require a certain degree, e.g. doctor, teacher, lawyer
- If you have a career in mind, do some research find out if you need a specific degree to go into that area of work
- Approximately 60% of graduate schemes accept graduates from any degree discipline

The Course Content
- The same subject can vary greatly from university to university, as different institutions will offer different modules
- Look up courses that you are interested in on university websites and you'll be able to see exactly what classes they offer at each stage of the degree

Accreditation
- Accredited courses have been approved by a professional body, such as the British Psychological Society, Solicitors Regulation Authority etc.
- Accreditation is a mark of quality and means that the course content is relevant for a career in that particular industry
- Check university website to see if a course is accredited.
Choosing a University

Some important things to consider when choosing which universities to apply to:

Campus or City?
- A campus university has all of its teaching buildings, student accommodation, leisure facilities etc. based closely together.
- A city university has its facilities spread out across a city.
- Look on university websites for virtual campus tours to see which type you would prefer - each provides a different university experience.

Local or Further Afield?
- Think about whether you would want to stay studying close to home or move further away to a new place.
- If you're considering moving away, have a look at the accommodation options at universities.
- There are advantages to both studying locally and further away, think about what you would most enjoy.

The Facilities
- Look into what the facilities are like at different universities for the courses you are interested in e.g. laboratory facilities for science-based courses.
- You might also want to look into other facilities such as sports centres, libraries, study spaces etc.

Graduate Prospects & Rankings
- What are the prospects like for after graduation? University ranking guides such as The Guardian League tables are useful for this and allow you to compare universities by subject.
- At Newcastle University, 96% of our graduates progressed to employment or further study within six months of graduating, with 85.5% in graduate-level employment or further study.
The personal statement is the most important part of your application. Here’s how we recommend structuring your statement:

### The Course
- Why does this course interest you?
- How do your current studies relate to the course?
- Show that you understand what the course requires - you can find out more about the course content on university websites

### Skills
- Research your course using the university website and think about the skills required for the course
- E.g. A course with group projects will require good teamwork skills
- Give examples of how you’ve gained these skills

### Achievements
- What have you achieved that you are proud of?
- What positions of responsibility have you had?
- What makes you interesting or unique?
- Examples: Prefect, sports, music qualifications, charity work, Duke of Edinburgh Award, head boy/girl, drama etc.

### Hobbies & Interests
- Make this section interesting by talking about your own experiences
- Add in anything that relates to your course
- Think about how your hobbies might demonstrate your skills & abilities

### Work Experience
- Include any examples of work experience you have. Talk about the skills you gained and how this would help you on your course
- Examples: Placements, part-time jobs, helping out school/college, volunteering, shadowing etc.

### Conclusion
- Summarise your key selling points
- Mention any future plans
- Focus on the course for this part of the personal statement
- What can you offer the university?

Remember to write several drafts of your personal statement, check for any spelling/grammar errors and ask for feedback from your teachers.
Student Finance

Your guide to applying through Student Finance England

Create an Account
Student Finance application will open in February 2021
Go to [www.gov.uk/student-finance](http://www.gov.uk/student-finance) to apply
Here you can create your Student Finance England account
Once you have created your account, you can then access the application form

The Application Form
Application Deadline: Late May 2021 (date TBC)
Apply early to make sure you receive your payments on time
Have your National Insurance number and passport to hand
When asked for details of your university course, put down your first choice.
You can always change this later if necessary

Submit Evidence
You may be asked to submit documents to verify proof of your identity
Parents/carers may be asked to provide evidence of their income.
This is important as it determines how much maintenance loan you are entitled to

Receive Confirmation
It can take up to 6 weeks to process your application
You will receive a letter to confirm how much you are entitled to
You'll get your first payment when you register at university at the start of term
Apply early- if you miss the deadline, your payments may be late
Adjustment - This allows students who receive higher grades than they were predicted to potentially swap their place for one on another course they prefer.

Clearing - If you don't get the grades you were hoping for on results day, you can still look for a place at university through Clearing.

Maintenance Loan - This student loan goes straight into your bank account for you to use to cover everyday costs e.g. rent, food, clothes etc. How much you receive is dependent on your household income - this will usually be based on your parent/carers' income. You can work out how much you are entitled to by using the Student Finance Calculator: www.gov.uk/student-finance-calculator

Tuition Fee Loan - This loan is paid directly to your university to cover your tuition fees. You apply for your tuition fee loan and your maintenance loan at the same time through the Student Finance England website.

UCAS - The University and Colleges Admissions Service. In the UK, you apply to university through the UCAS website.

UCAS Extra - If you've used all five choices and you're not holding any offers, you'll be able to add another choice using UCAS Extra, which opens in February. If you're eligible, during this period you'll be able to apply to additional universities, one at a time.

Undergraduate Course - An undergraduate course is for students who haven't yet completed a university degree. If you apply to university straight from college or sixth form, you'll be applying to an undergraduate course.
Ask us your Questions

Make an Enquiry:
If you have a question about anything from accommodation to our courses, fees to health & wellbeing, you can submit it here and someone from the relevant team will be able to help:
apps.ncl.ac.uk/contact-us/general-enquiry

Ask our Students:
Go to our Unibuddy page to ask current students about what it's like to study at Newcastle University.
www.ncl.ac.uk/study/contact/unibuddy/

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