

A group of approximately 12 students, both male and female, are walking down a wide set of stone steps. They are dressed in casual attire, including t-shirts, sweaters, and jeans. Some students are carrying backpacks or bags. The background features a large, ornate stone archway, likely the entrance to a school or university building. The overall tone of the image is slightly desaturated, giving it a vintage or official feel.

Year 12

**2016 - Higher Education information
evening**

Purpose of this section:

- Concerns over Higher Education – myth vs reality
- Timeline of events / applications
- Q&A – I will be available for consultation at the end of this evening, or via email over the coming weeks

Do not take notes:

- Copy of this presentation – via email

Terminology

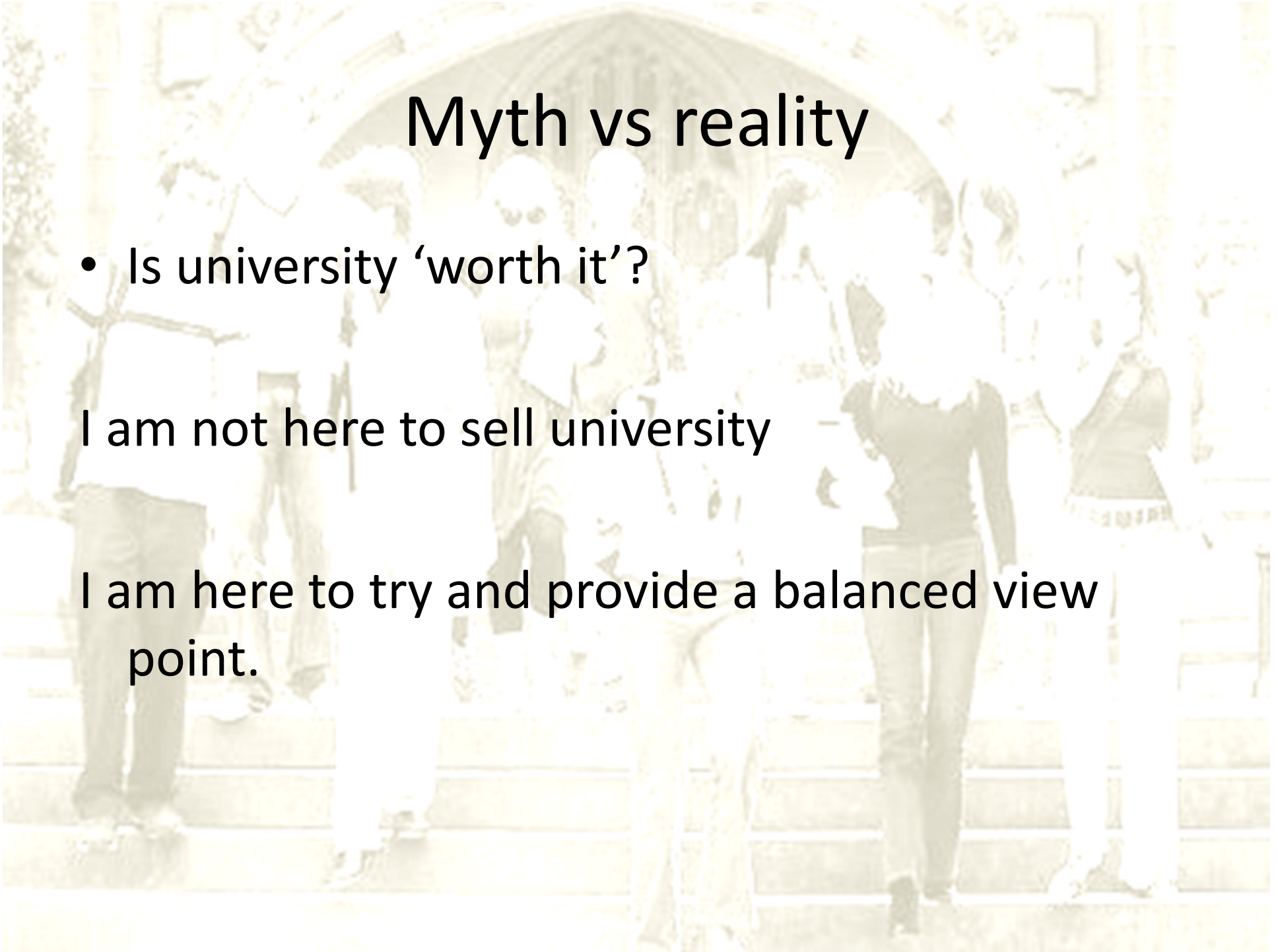
- **UCAS** - Central organisation through which applications are processed for entry to higher education.
- **Predicted grade** – an honest, aspirational grade issued by each subject for each student
- **Entry requirements** – the grades a student will need to be admitted on to a university course
- **Personal statement** – a 4000 character statement written by the student to support their UCAS application
- **School reference** – the reference written by the school to support the students UCAS application – normally made up of 4 parts – 3 subject references and 1 tutor reference
- **Deadline** – a date in which a certain event needs to happen by – not a definition that all yr 12 students seem to know at the moment!

Myth vs reality

- Is university 'worth it'?

I am not here to sell university

I am here to try and provide a balanced view point.

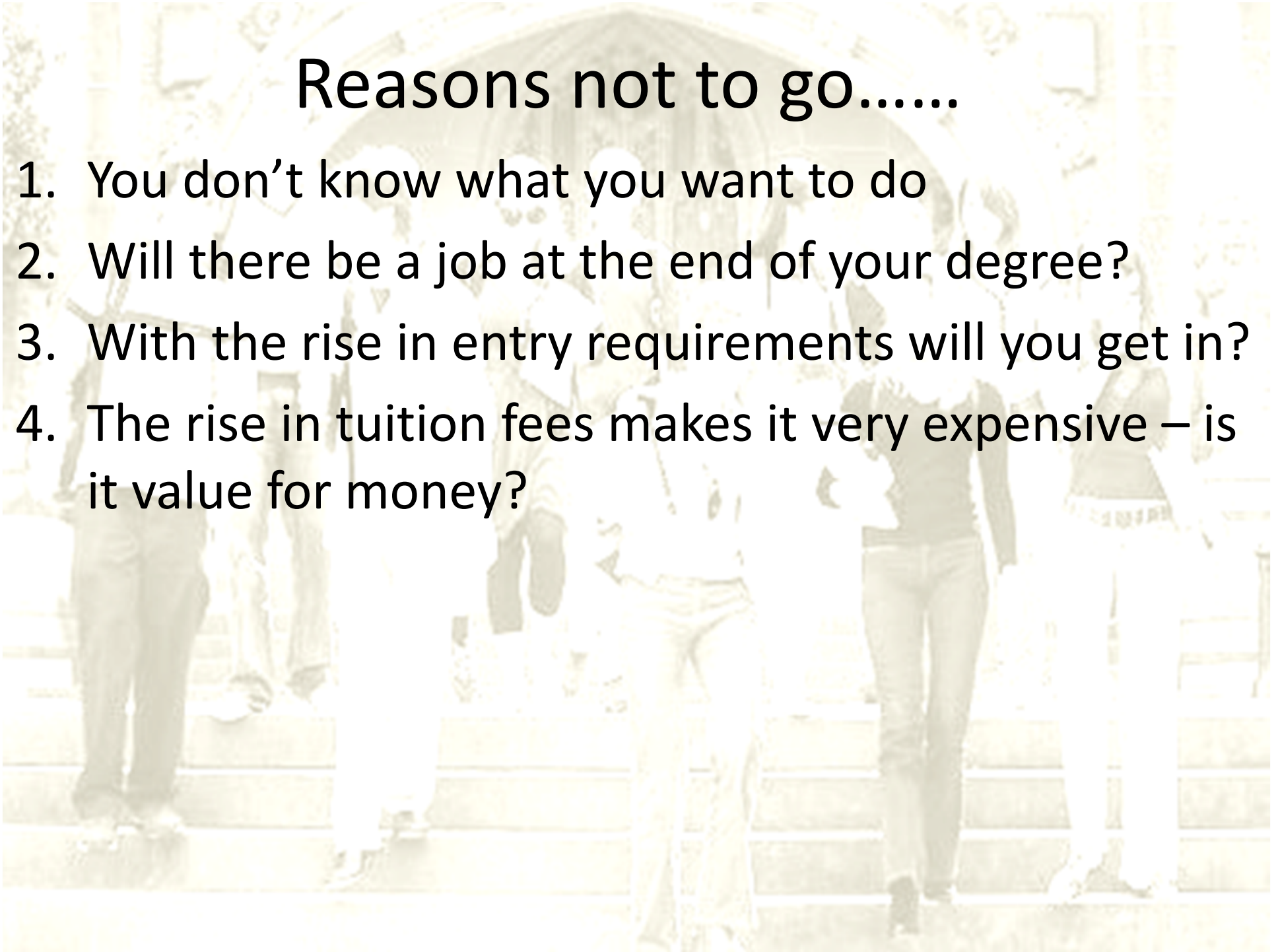


Reasons to go.....

1. You enjoy learning
2. You have found a subject you really enjoy
3. You have identified a career you need a degree for
4. It's the stepping stone to 'independence'
5. Graduates still earn, on average, £200,000 more over a career than non-graduates

Reasons not to go.....

1. You don't know what you want to do
2. Will there be a job at the end of your degree?
3. With the rise in entry requirements will you get in?
4. The rise in tuition fees makes it very expensive – is it value for money?



Reasons not to go..... lets address these issues

1. You don't know what you want to do:

This is a common problem, and one which will not go away until you act on it:

- Visit universities, talk to people
- Talk to Sally Spencer - our careers person
- Take some time on the UCAS website – courses available

Which? University

[Find a course](#)

[Discover a uni](#)

[Get advice](#)

[Compare](#)

We found **30,838 courses** at 287 universities and colleges

Reasons not to go..... lets address these issues

1. Will there be a job at the end of your degree?

The BBC state that:

- Graduates aged 21-24 were still less likely to be out of a job (8.1%) than their peers without degrees (18.6%), the figures showed.

The research by the Association of Graduate Recruiters revealed an 8.9% annual increase in graduate jobs

Graduate job vacancies predicted to 'rise by 10%'

By Patrick Howse
BBC News, Education reporter



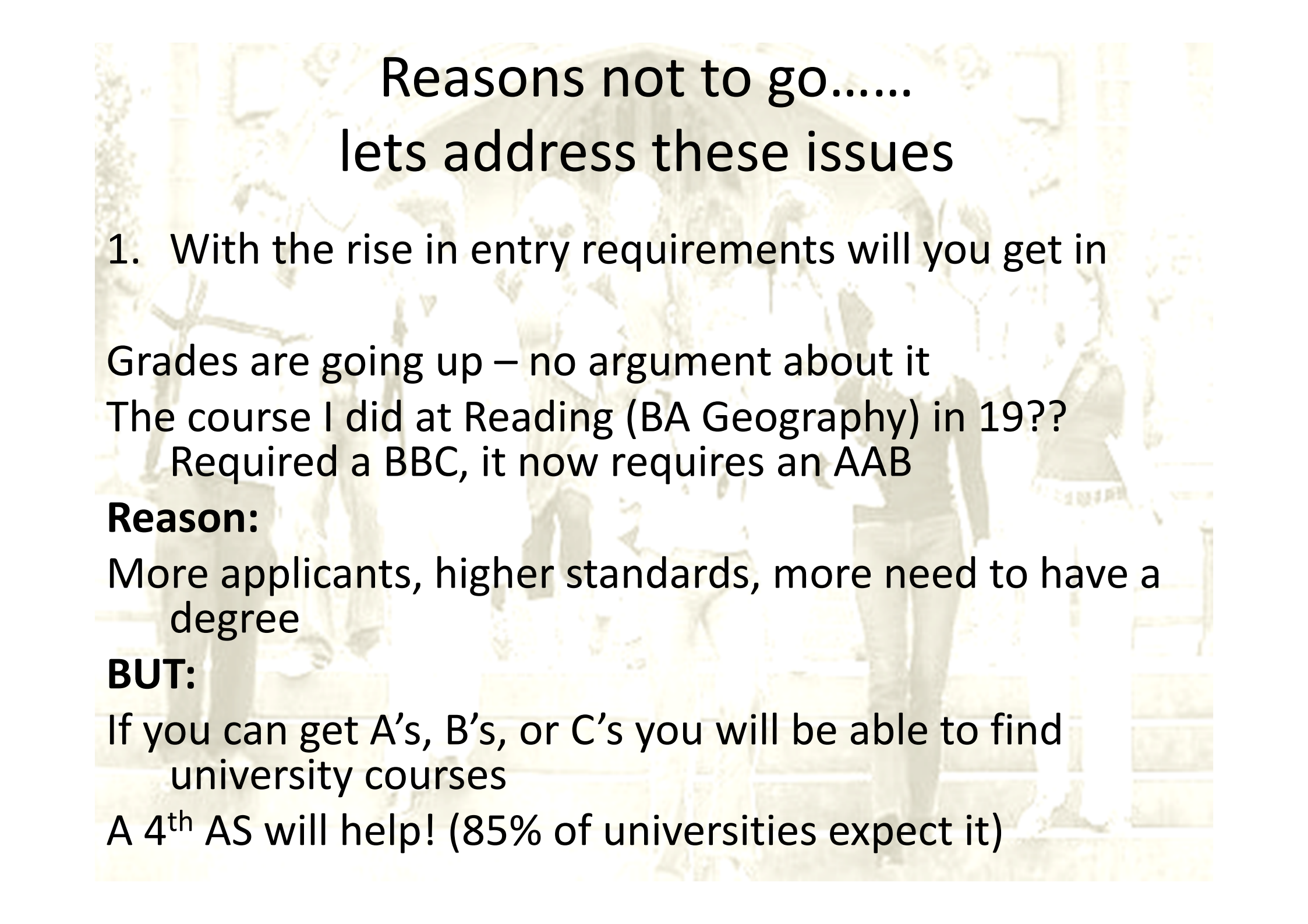
Big growth sectors include IT and telecommunications, energy and banking

Employers are expected to recruit many more graduates this year, according to the Association of Graduate Recruiters.

Numbers of vacancies rose by more than 4% last year, with the AGR predicting a rise of 10.2% in 2014.

Related Stories

[More new graduate jobs promised](#)

A faded background image showing a group of students walking along a path, possibly in a park or campus setting. The students are dressed in casual attire, and the scene is captured in a slightly blurred, artistic style.

Reasons not to go..... lets address these issues

1. With the rise in entry requirements will you get in

Grades are going up – no argument about it

The course I did at Reading (BA Geography) in 19??

Required a BBC, it now requires an AAB

Reason:

More applicants, higher standards, more need to have a degree

BUT:

If you can get A's, B's, or C's you will be able to find university courses

A 4th AS will help! (85% of universities expect it)

Reasons not to go..... lets address these issues

1. The rise in tuition fees makes it very expensive – is it value for money?

Over half of students said it was not value for money.

1) Shop around – some uni's dropping prices!!

2) Get your course right – if it's the right place to be doing the right thing – it's value for money

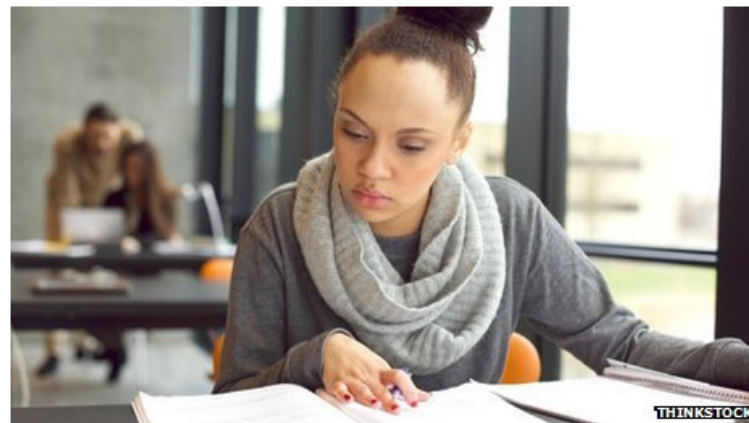


21 May 2014 Last updated at 15:37



Degree courses 'not value for money', say many students

By Katherine Sellgren
BBC News education reporter



Students in England pay tuition fees of up to £9,000 a year

- Look at <http://university.which.co.uk/> for course costs

University of Hull

Chemical Engineering



COURSE MODES

BENG (HONS) | 3 YEARS | FULL-TIME | 2014

UCAS Points

280

Tuition fee

£9,000

Add to compare

% applicants
receiving offers
95%

University of Huddersfield

Chemical Engineering



COURSE MODES

BENG (HONS) | 4 YEARS | FULL-TIME, SANDWICH | 2014

UCAS Points

300

Tuition fee

£8,250

Add to compare

% applicants
receiving offers
No data

University of Bath

Chemical Engineering



COURSE MODES

MENG (HONS) | 5 YEARS | FULL-TIME, SANDWICH | 2014

UCAS Points

360-370

Tuition fee

£9,000

Add to compare

% applicants
receiving offers
82%



there's no denying it....

- Fees went up (2012)
- University costs more:

Reason: direct funding to universities was cut by up to 80% - universities must balance the books somehow.

There are 2 forms of support for students:

1. Loans – money which does need to get paid back
2. Grants / bursaries – money that does not need to get paid back

Tuition Loans:

Have to be repaid

Automatically cover tuition fees for 1st degree.

For 2015/16 first year students:

You repay 9% of your income above £21,000.

Salary	Monthly repayment
£25,000	£30.00
£30,000	£67.50
£35,000	£105.00
£40,000	£142.50
£45,000	£180.00
£50,000	£217.50
£55,000	£255.00
£60,000	£292.50

Maintenance Loans:

This is the money to live:

- Accommodation
- Transport
- Books, paper etc
- Mobile, internet costs
- Food
- Beer?

Maximum Maintenance Loan rates for full-time students

Where you live and study	Maintenance Loan
You live at home	£4375
You live away from home and study outside London	£5500
You live away from home and study in London	£7675
You spend a year of a UK course studying overseas	£6535

So that's money you have to pay back....



....any free money?

Well yes, actually there is!



Student Support – Government is insisting on it....

How much household income? Household income of £16,000 and below

What am I eligible to receive?

Who is eligible? Due to be starting your studies in 2015/16 and having a household income* £16,000 or below, you are eligible for the Access to Exeter (ATE) Bursary.

Between what years? You are eligible to receive a £2,000 ATE Bursary for the first year of your studies and a £1,500 ATE Bursary from the second year onwards for the duration of your undergraduate studies as long as you continue to meet the eligibility criteria.

*** for further details**
[Direct Gov](#)

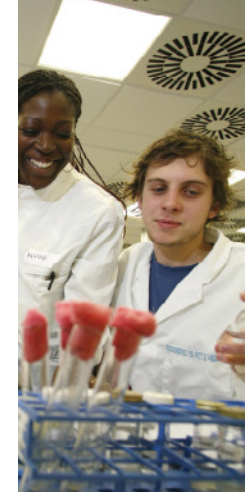
Payment of the ATE Bursary
* for further details on how your household income is assessed, please visit the [Direct Gov](#) website.

Payment of the ATE Bursary

Bank account details Payments are made in 3 instalments and will be made direct to a nominated bank account, with each instalment weighted according to the number of weeks in each term. The table below shows the dates of each instalment and how your payment contributes to your total bursary:

Payment	Payment Date	£2,000 Bursary in Yr 1	£1,500 Bursary in Yr 2 onwards
First	First term (date TBC)	£800	£600
Second	Second term (date TBC)	£800	£600
Third	Third term (date TBC)	£400	£300

ries.



For
and
[Fun](#)

W

Sean Coughlan

Education correspondent

More from Sean



Are we missing the real student loan story?

BANK OF MUM & DAD

9876 5432 1234 5678

VALID FROM: 01/00 EXPIRES END: 12/99

A STUDENT

When Labour finally shows its hand on tuition fees in England's universities it's going to be one of the biggest calls of the election campaign.


Whether Ed Miliband sticks with £9,000 or goes for a cut to £6,000 or a switch to a graduate tax it's going to trigger a blizzard of stories about student debt.

Other things to be aware of....

easyJet

17 February 2015 Last updated 1 Flights >> 2 Flight options >> 3 Hotels >> 4 Car rental >> 5 Checkout >> 6 Confirmation

Choose your flight

[SEARCH AGAIN](#) 

Choose type of fare

STANDARD FLEXI

SUMMER 2015
Flights now available to book.

FLEXI

- ✓ Up Front seats
- ✓ Hold Luggage
- + much more...

[Compare fares](#) ▼

3 day view 3 week view Year view

✈ Outbound journey

London Gatwick to Cologne/Bonn
👤 30 people currently looking at this route

Wed 25 Mar	Thu 26 Mar	Fri 27 Mar
£7499 Dep 18:00 Arr 20:15	£4799 Dep 07:05 Arr 09:20	LOWEST FARE £4299 Dep 07:05 Arr 09:20
	Sold Out Dep 18:00 Arr 20:15	£7799 Dep 18:00 Arr 20:15

✈ Return journey

Cologne/Bonn to London Gatwick
👤 26 people currently looking at this route

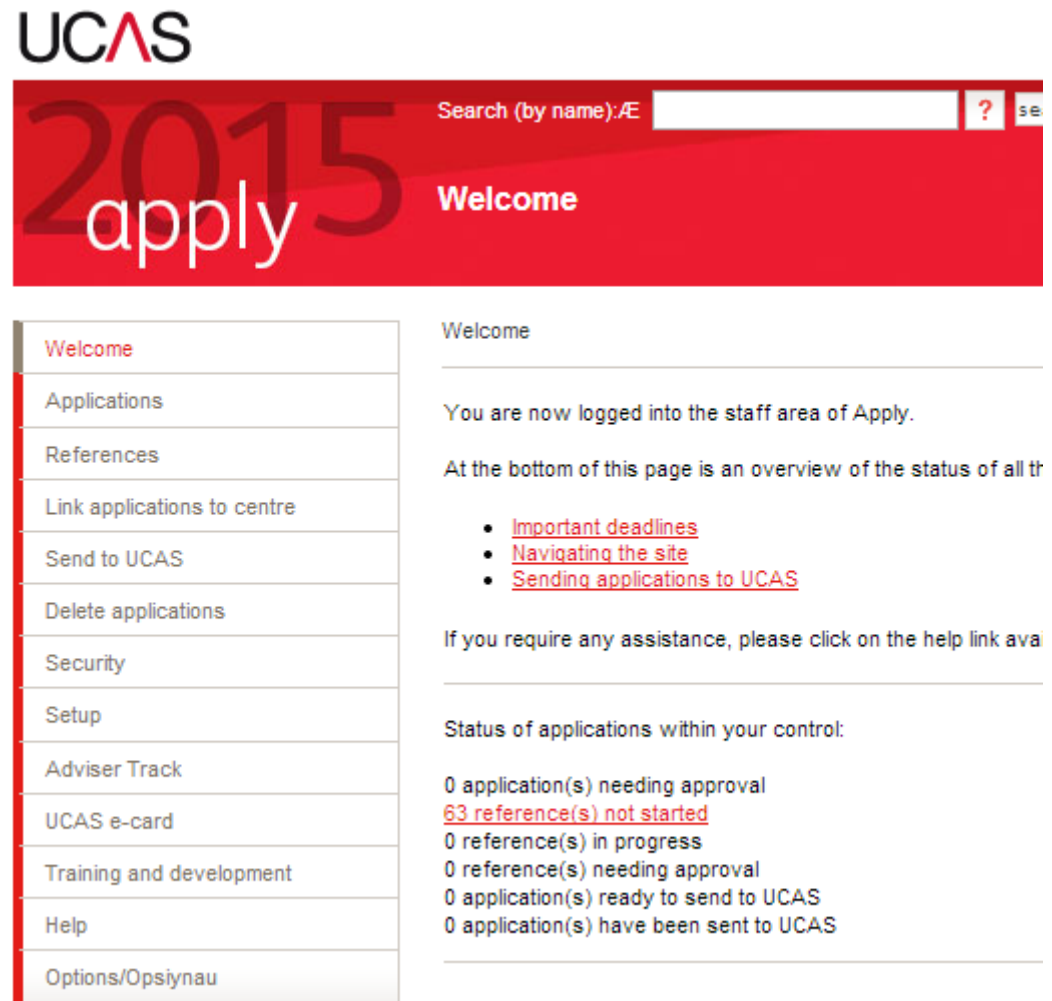
Sat 28 Mar	Sun 29 Mar	Mon 30 Mar
No flight on this day	£10750 Dep 16:35 Arr 17:00	LOWEST FARE £6750 Dep 16:35 Arr 17:00

Decision

- Over to you.....
- What happens next?

Timeline:

- Students returned for A2 studies on the 13th June
- 15th June – UCAS goes live for yr 12 cohort registration
- Wednesday 20th July – Personal statements should be close to being finished



The screenshot shows the UCAS 2015 Apply staff area dashboard. At the top, the UCAS logo is on the left, and a search bar with the text 'Search (by name):Æ' is on the right. Below the logo, the word '2015' is in large red letters, and 'apply' is in white lowercase letters. A red banner with the word 'Welcome' in white is also present. On the left side, there is a vertical menu with the following items: Welcome (highlighted in red), Applications, References, Link applications to centre, Send to UCAS, Delete applications, Security, Setup, Adviser Track, UCAS e-card, Training and development, Help, and Options/Opsiynau. The main content area on the right has a heading 'Welcome' and a message: 'You are now logged into the staff area of Apply.' Below this, it says 'At the bottom of this page is an overview of the status of all th' followed by a bulleted list of links: 'Important deadlines', 'Navigating the site', and 'Sending applications to UCAS'. Further down, it says 'If you require any assistance, please click on the help link ava'. At the bottom, there is a section titled 'Status of applications within your control:' with the following statistics: '0 application(s) needing approval', '63 reference(s) not started' (in red), '0 reference(s) in progress', '0 reference(s) needing approval', '0 application(s) ready to send to UCAS', and '0 application(s) have been sent to UCAS'.

UCAS

2015 apply

Search (by name):Æ

Welcome

Welcome

You are now logged into the staff area of Apply.

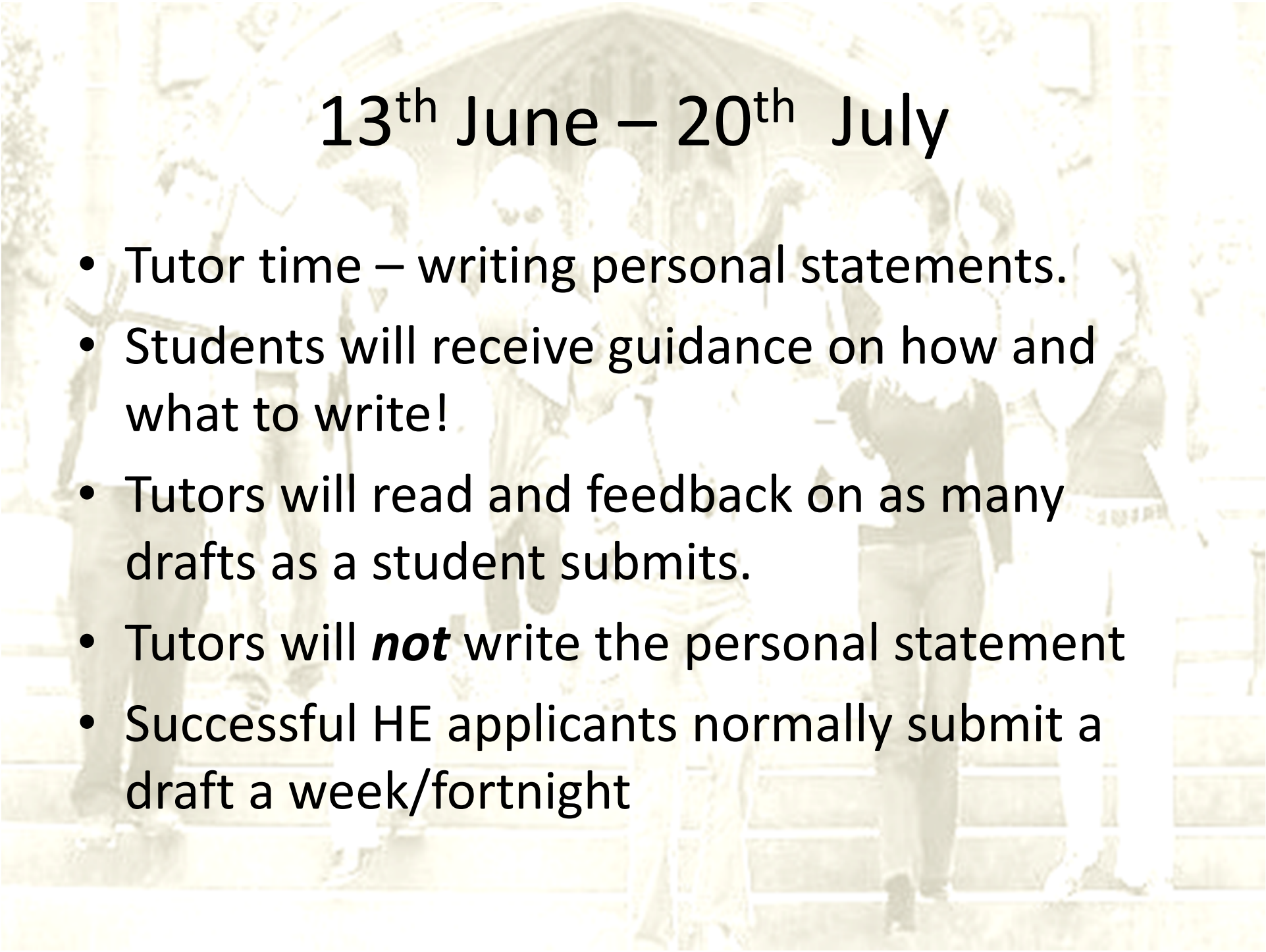
At the bottom of this page is an overview of the status of all th

- [Important deadlines](#)
- [Navigating the site](#)
- [Sending applications to UCAS](#)

If you require any assistance, please click on the help link ava

Status of applications within your control:

0 application(s) needing approval
63 reference(s) not started
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0 reference(s) needing approval
0 application(s) ready to send to UCAS
0 application(s) have been sent to UCAS



13th June – 20th July

- Tutor time – writing personal statements.
- Students will receive guidance on how and what to write!
- Tutors will read and feedback on as many drafts as a student submits.
- Tutors will ***not*** write the personal statement
- Successful HE applicants normally submit a draft a week/fortnight

13th June – 20th July – open days

- The UCAS form requires students to choose a maximum 5 institutions (universities)
- Almost all the universities will be running open days
- Students are planning to spend 3 yrs of their life at one of these places – visiting them is essential.
- Talk to students doing the course you want to study – find out what they think of it

The screenshot shows the homepage of opendays.com. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links like 'Home', 'Search for a university/college', 'Browse open day calendar', 'Advice', 'My Open Days', and 'Contact'. Below this, there are logos for several universities with their open day dates: Trinity Saint David (5-Jul), Aston University (17-Sept), University of West London (17-Jul), University of South Wales (5-Jul), UCS University Campus Suffolk (18-Jul), and University of Leicester (24-Jul). A section titled 'Opendays.com - the university and college open day directory' features a large image of a person's head and a detailed entry for Trinity Saint David's 5-Jul Open Day. The entry includes a description of the open day's purpose and a link to visit the university's website.

opendays.com
university and college open days

Dynamic city-centre university #WeAreSolent

Home Search for a university/college Browse open day calendar Advice My Open Days Contact +

5-Jul Open Day 17-Sept Open Day 17-Jul Postgrad. Open Day 5-Jul Open Day 18-Jul Open Day 24-Jul Open Day 25-Jul Open Day

Opendays.com - the university and college open day directory

5-Jul Open Day

Discover University of Wales Trinity Saint David (Swansea Campus) at our next Open Day on Saturday 5th July 2014.

Our open days allow potential students the opportunity to experience student life at our multi campus University.

Attending an Open Day is an excellent way for you to find out about the University and the programmes. They provide an opportunity for you and your family to ask questions to ensure that you are making the right decision.

Although we encourage prospective students to visit during Open Days, we are also happy to welcome you to our campuses at any time during the year.

Visit UWTSDD at our next Swansea Open Day on Saturday 5th July.

Summer – work, rest and play

- Results day: Thursday 18th August
- Results clinic: Friday 19th August
- MOOC's.....



[Courses](#) [Programs](#) [About](#)

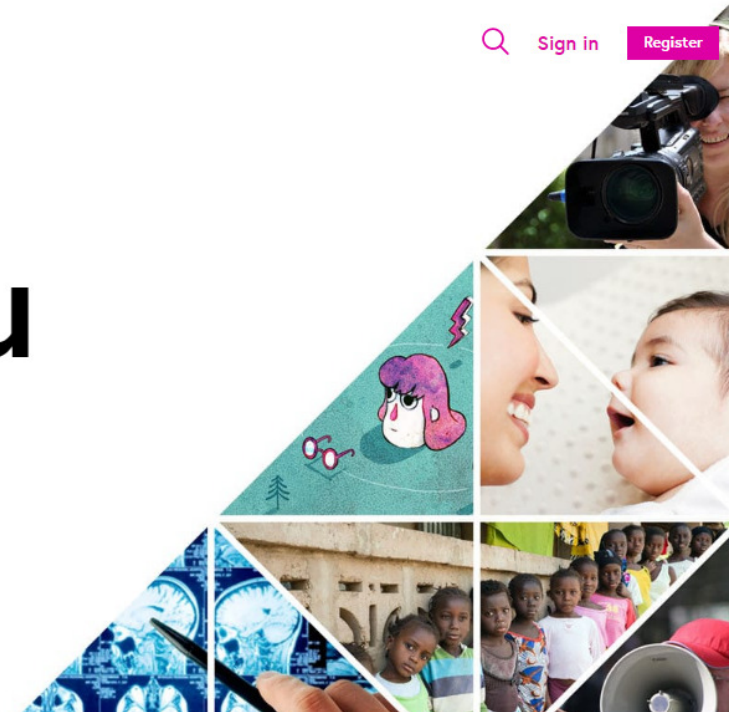


[Sign in](#)

[Register](#)

What would you like to learn?

[Browse free online courses](#)



September

- Students return to school – A2 continues
- UCAS will now be 'live' – ie can be sent
- Applications can begin – tutor time / free time
- Students copy personal statement and complete all 'admin' sections (quite a lengthy process)



September

- School will be:
 1. Writing subject references
 2. Writing tutor references
 3. Completing predicted grades

It is vital that students open a dialogue with teachers about predicted grades – their predictions must match the university requirements

As soon as.....

- The UCAS form is completed the better
- Once it has been 'sent' by the student (including paying the £24 fee), it is not actually 'sent'
- Student arranges a 20 min meeting with me – double checking every detail
- I then send the UCAS form off

Reason: students make errors - this yr 3 students entered codes incorrectly and were applying for either wrong courses or wrong unis!

I also match predicted grades to required grades to ensure student has a realistic chance of getting in (2015, all bar 3 made it to either 1st or 2nd choice)

Does time matter?

- YES!!!
- Universities must get their numbers right to balance books
- As soon as an application arrives, most will read it and act on it
- Students often receive offers while other students are still finishing off their personal statements!

A faded background image showing a group of students in a library or study hall. They are standing in a line, possibly waiting for books or help from a librarian. The setting appears to be an old building with high ceilings and bookshelves.

15 October 2016

- Deadline for receipt at UCAS of all applications, including the reference, for all:
Medicine,
Dentistry,
Veterinary medicine,
Veterinary science courses
and for all courses at the universities of Oxford and Cambridge.

There will be entry exams for some of these courses (and some others)

A faded, sepia-toned background image showing a group of students walking up a wide set of stone steps. They are heading towards a large, arched stone doorway or entrance. The scene is outdoors, and the overall tone is historical or institutional.

15 January 2017

- Deadline for receipt at UCAS of all applications, including the reference, for all courses except those with a 15 October deadline, and art and design courses with a 24 March deadline.



24 March 2017

- Deadline for receipt at UCAS of all applications, including the reference, for some art and design courses except those listed with a 15 January deadline.

What now?

- Talk – to me, to each other, to other students, to anyone who'll listen
- Think – about what you want
- Work – get the highest AS grades you can – leave doors open
- Research – courses, places
- Plan – open day visits
- Question – if university is not for you, then what is, and what do you need to do it

Thank you for listening

a copy of this presentation is available
via email request

Useful reading

- UCAS – <http://www.ucas.com/>
- List of all the open days - <http://www.opendays.com/>
- UCAS guide to choosing courses - <http://www.ucas.com/students/choosingcourses/>
- Student finance England – <http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/EducationAndLearning/UniversityAndHigherEducation/StudentFinance/index.htm>
- Who's charging what? (BBC) - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-12880840>
- Funding Q&A (BBC) - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-11483638>
- How do I choose the best university course for me? (The Times) - http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/life_and_style/education/good_university_guide/article4165929.ece
- Employment and wage data after graduation - <http://www.bestcourse4me.com/>
- Choosing a university 1 - <http://university.which.co.uk/>
- Choosing a university 2 - <http://www.cogentuniversityguide.co.uk>