

## Preparing for your Long Listing Interview

In order to get the most from your interview, it is important you have done some preparation and research before you meet your tutor. Points to consider include:

### Detailed research into courses you intend to apply for:

- The UCAS website is a good place to start:  
<http://www.ucas.com/students/coursesearch/> contains information on all available courses. Make sure that you are looking at the 2013 entry section!
- <http://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk> is a good place to look at league tables and courses offered by different universities.
- Prospectuses in conjunction with university websites offer good course specific information. Bear in mind that there is significant variation between different universities even if they are offering a course with the same name. This is particularly important if you have a specific area of interest that you definitely want to study.
- Times Good Universities Guide - league table information for different universities and courses.
- Use the resources available in the Common Room UCAS area (next to the computers).
- Draw up a list of possible alternatives appropriate to your interests, strengths and abilities - be clear why you have chosen them.
- **Be realistic about your grades** - make sure you include at least one lower (insurance) option with grades lower than you are expecting.
- For each course/university, check the following:
  - GCSE and AS pre-requisites.
  - Type of offer (grades - less flexible - or points - more flexible) - whether General Studies is accepted.
  - Whether any additional testing needs to be done in order to apply eg LNAT or UKCAT.
  - Number of places offered.
  - Ease of travel to/from home.
  - Type of course (modular/traditional/elective units/sandwich - including a year abroad for language or other students).
  - Accommodation provided/cost.
  - Type of institution - large/small, city/campus, area (North/South etc).

## What happens next?

Once you have a clearer idea of what you want to study, you can start to look at producing a personal statement.

- Refer to the yellow APPLY booklet (there are copies in your form room, library and the Common Room). Use the section on Personal Statements to help you structure your draft statement. Sample statements are also available on the internet at sites such as <http://www.studential.com/personalstatements> (bear in mind some of these are better than others).
- Remember, the admissions tutor wants to have a feeling that you are genuinely interested in the course! Two Thirds of your statement should relate to your academic interests and the course you are applying for.
- Avoid simply listing the interests/ work experience you have. Instead, concentrate on the skills that these have helped you to develop (especially those that would be useful for your chosen course).
- All statements are screened by the UCAS copycatch plagiarism detection system. Any that show a similarity of 10% or more with other statements are highlighted as plagiarised.
- **ASK FOR HELP** at every stage - tutors, teachers, Mr Evans, Mrs Agass parents, older brothers and sisters - and keep your tutor up to date with where you are up to!