

Application Jargon buster

UCAS - Universities and Colleges Admissions Service. UCAS is the organisation that handles nearly all of the university applications.

www.ucas.com

Tariff points - The UCAS Tariff is a means of allocating points to post-16 qualifications used for entry to higher education.

Entry requirements - These are conditions that a university makes to a student which they need to meet in order to be accepted onto their chosen course.

Placements - Placements are a year out of university study where students work in industry to gain work experience. They are usually optional but for some courses they are compulsory.

Personal id - A 10 digit number given to a student when they register with UCAS.

Personal statement - A part of the UCAS application. A 4,000 character personal essay written by the student to show why they are applying for specific courses and why they would be a good student.

Reference - The part of the UCAS application written by the school, college or employer to support a student's application

Track - The name of UCAS' online tracking system that allows students to see how their application is progressing.

Unconditional offer - An offer of a place on a course with no conditions – the place is theirs if the student wants it.

Conditional offer - An offer of a place on a course with conditions, the place is theirs if the students meets those conditions.

Unsuccessful - Either the student has not been made an offer or they have not met the conditions of an offer.

Deferral - If a student would like to defer their entry to University and take a gap year.

Firm choice - The offer that the student accepts as their first choice.

Insurance choice - The offer that the student accepts just in case they don't meet the conditions of their Firm choice.

Adjustment – If a student has exceeded the conditions of their Firm choice they can approach alternative universities to explore the possibility of studying there – they can still hold an offer on their original confirmed place.

Clearing – This is the system operated by UCAS to enable students to find places on courses that still have vacancies after the publication of A level results. As well as offering the opportunity to find a course for those who have not met the grades required by their chosen universities, it can also allow last minute applications for students who have not previously applied through UCAS.

- www.exeter.ac.uk (prospective students > questions > FAQs > parents)
- www.exeter.ac.uk/accommodation (parents)
- www.exeter.ac.uk/newstudents/informationforparents

What happens when?

