

CAREERS@NEWSTEAD

Creating opportunities for success

An introduction to UCAS

A message from Mr Lewis

This is always an exciting time of year in schools as our students face the challenges of exams and all of us look back and celebrate everything we have done this year to develop, learn and improve, as well as looking forward to new challenges.

For our Year 12 students it's a particularly exciting moment as they make their choices for their next steps after school and university.

But it's never too early to start making choices about life after secondary school, and I'd like to encourage all our students and their families to use the tools outlined in this newsletter - particularly [UCAS](#) and [Unifrog](#) - to begin to make informed and ambitious choices about life beyond Newstead.

Please do talk to the careers team - careers@newsteadwood.co.uk - if you have any questions!

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Careers Lead at Newstead Wood

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The Careers Team wish all Year 11 and Year 13 students “good luck” in their public exams

UCAS - at the heart of connecting people to higher education



UCAS is an impartial, non profit charity, providing a central source of information and advice about higher education, as well as processing applications to full-time undergraduate courses at UK universities and colleges. On ucas.com you can research your options, search for courses, make your applications and track the progress.

How to apply

Step 1: Choosing courses

Explore the options (there are over 35,000 courses at over 400 colleges and universities) decide on a subject, search for courses, check entry requirements and choose a college or university. You can apply for up to five undergraduate courses; this could be five courses at five different universities or five courses at one university. Try not to make the courses too varied, otherwise writing a personal statement could prove difficult. Also apply for a range of courses with different entry requirements so that you have options if your grades are better or worse than expected.

Step 2: Applying

Complete the application online, get a reference from a teacher and submit your application. As part of the process, you will have to write a personal statement i.e. why you want to study your chosen subject and why you would be a good student. This can take a while, so give yourself plenty of time to prepare.

Step 3: Tracking and replying

UCAS checks applications and sends them to universities and colleges to consider, and sends offers to applicants.

Step 4: Making arrangements

Arrange finances, check accommodation and wait for your results.

A selection of other ways UCAS can help you:

- Everything you need to know about apprenticeships
- A budget calculator that can help you work out the cost of living
- Information about how to choose a town and a university
- Gives you a link to talk to students from various courses and/or universities
- Informs you when the the next UCAS Discovery Exhibition will be
- Helps you choose accommodation
- Interested in going to a conservatoire? - find out details on UCAS



Please note that Unifrog has a wealth of information about UCAS. Type UCAS in the search box or look in the “resources library”

Year 12 UCAS Launch Day at Newstead Wood - Thursday 6 June

Guest universities

- Exeter
- Nottingham
- Brighton and Sussex
- Gonville and Caius, Cambridge
- Bath
- Warwick
- Lancaster
- Durham

Options of lectures that our students can attend

- Help with university applications
- Studying law, STEM, economics, engineering, finance, computer science, maths
- How to register with UCAS
- Personal statement advice - drafting, deadlines and process
- Session for MDV students
- Applying to Oxbridge
- Information about a degree apprenticeship

CONNECTING CURRICULUM TO CAREERS



Psychology is the scientific study of the mind and behaviour. The purpose of psychology is to describe, explain, predict and change/control the mind and behaviour of others.

What skills are required to study psychology?

- You should be naturally empathetic with sensitivity and understanding.
- Enjoy being with other people.
- Have good counselling skills including active listening and a non-judgemental approach.
- An understanding of statistical methods and data analysis.
- Excellent essay skills, useful for writing up research, proposals, reports, presentations.

What A Level subjects would be useful to take a psychology degree?

A mix of sciences and humanities, for example psychology, sociology, English, chemistry, maths, physics, biology. Psychology A Level is not essential but it will give you a general grounding, help with writing skills and with further reading.

What A Level grades do I need to study psychology at university?

There is a huge range of required grades, see list below:

- University of Birmingham and UCL A*AA
- Royal Holloway AAB
- University of Surrey ABB
- University of Portsmouth BCC
- Universities of Greenwich & Winchester 120 UCAS points

What types of psychology degrees are available?

- Pure psychology
- Forensic and investigative psychology
- Educational and development psychology
- Psychology with sport and exercise
- Psychology with criminology and many other options.

What is difference between psychology and psychiatry?

Both subjects study the mind, but to do a psychiatry degree (to be able to prescribe medication) you must study a 5 year medicine course first.

What should I do if I am not 100% sure that I want to study psychology?

Search for “free online courses with the Open University”, this will provide you with a number of short courses, which you can try to see if it interests you. Also go onto UCAS and “chat to students” to talk to psychology students about their courses



What's happening - Careers@Newstead

Young Reporter scheme

Well done to all students who took part in the Young Reporters Scheme and submitted their 8 articles. We will be running this scheme again in the autumn for Year 10 and Year 12 students

Autumn 2024

Career events and trips are already being planned for our next academic term including mock interview and MMI sessions, trips to Imperial and UCL, an advertising trip to London and various Lunchtime@Newstead events.

Careers meetings

Ongoing meetings for Year 12 with Mrs Brown, our external Careers Consultant.

Careers Week (this runs at the same time as Cultural Arts Week). More information to follow in next newsletter

Thursday 11 July - 8 billionideas for Year 9
Friday 12 July - 8 billionideas for Year 8
Monday 15 July - 8 billionideas for Year 10
Tuesday 16 July - 8 billionideas for Year 7
Tuesday 16 July - Speed Networking Day for Year 10
Wednesday 17 July - Visit from Sales Force for Year 10
Thursday 11 July - Wednesday 17 July Work Experience for Year 12



If you have any questions or careers related topics you would like us to include in future newsletters, please contact careers@newstead.co.uk

