



Higher Education



Overseas Universities: A Guide

2019–20

PREFACE

The purpose of this booklet is to offer you a practical guide concerning how to apply to Overseas Universities as well as detailing the support offered at Downe. The processes are very different to UCAS as the UK is almost unique in having a single unified system of university entry. It is important, therefore, that you are familiar with the requirements for each individual university that you are applying to as they can vary substantially. We are aware that some of you choose to seek professional guidance outside of Downe and are happy to work with such agencies especially as some documentation has to be exclusively provided by Downe.

Over recent years, Downe House girls have left the school to take up their places at a number of American universities including the following: Harvard, Brown, Princeton, Columbia, Georgetown, Johns' Hopkins, USC and UCLA, McGill, Trinity Dublin and Melbourne University. Several of our girls have also been offered merit scholarships to these institutions.

It is our wish that those who are determined to succeed in gaining access to these and other institutions have the right opportunities made available to them whilst encouraging them to develop their independent learning skills. We try, where numbers allow, to make 'in house' tutoring available for the SAT/ACT testing. Over recent years, we have been building up contacts with other schools so that we can mutually benefit our students through allowing them access to resources, such as talks from admissions officers.

This guide is primarily aimed at assisting you, in negotiating the process of applying overseas. If you have any specific questions or would like to discuss elements of the application process in more detail then please feel free to contact me.

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Choosing a University & Course in the USA

There are so many universities in the USA that deciding on the 'best fit' can be a tricky decision. Below you will find some suggestions concerning where to start your decision making process. You might want to think about the following criteria:

Location

The US spans over six time zones, offering a wide range of geographic and cultural diversity, climates, ways of life, etc. It is important to take into account the location of a university, as it could be the place you live for the next four years.

Many English students might want to stay closer to the East Coast to be nearer their family in England. If you have family or friends that you are close to out in the US already, you might want to consider where in America they live as this also might affect your decision. For some people weather is important – obviously the further south you go the warmer it is (Hawaii State University might seem rather appealing after Downe House)

You will also want to consider the campus setting (urban, suburban or rural) and size, some universities are as small as 1,000 students and some are larger than 30,000.

Size

The size of colleges varies from as small as a few hundred students to over 50,000. Smaller universities might offer more individual focus, though you might find them claustrophobic, whilst larger ones might offer more facilities and opportunities. There is greater scope for feeling lost when there are too many people and too much is going on. It is important to consider both the class size and the size of the student population, especially when you have been used to living in a community of just under 600.

Cost

Tuition fees can range vastly from university to university. Even the top universities have a considerable variance with UCLA fees starting at \$26,000 and Brown at \$40,000. Living expenses are obviously higher if you live in one of the big cities. You will also need to take into account the cost of transportation between your home and the US, as well as health insurance etc. Most US students apply for and get financial aid, especially at the top universities which are well endowed and can afford to give lots of grants. However, scholarships that cover total expenses are rare. Some universities offer sports scholarships or arts scholarships. Some universities will offer scholarships specifically for UK and/or international students. The Fulbright Commission is able to provide information on specific colleges that offer this type of funding. The following websites may also prove useful

www.scholarships.com

www.globalgrant.com

www.InternationalStudentLoan.com

Campus Life / Extra curriculars

Each university has its own distinct atmosphere. You will also want to make sure the universities you select have your desired organizations, clubs, athletics, community service opportunities, facilities, etc. on offer. Consider also if you will need access to labs, computing centres, music or theatre. Some universities were established with specific missions, such as religious affiliations, women-only campuses, or with a particular ethnic majority on campus. Some colleges have fraternities and sororities (referred to as 'Greek Life') and most will have clubs and traditions that are foreign to those educated in the English system.

Personality of College

This is difficult to define and best assessed by visiting the campus yourself, and speaking to people who are there or at other colleges. Try not to pay attention to the stereotypes that you hear about certain universities as there is a lot of rivalry between universities and everyone is rightfully proud of their own choice. Greek life, as it is referred to, is a feature of some top universities and whilst many have started to curb the notorious influence of fraternities and sororities, this may be a factor that adds to or detracts from the appeal of a particular college. The US, unlike the UK, also has some single sex colleges such as Smith and Barnard which are all female. Although 4 years at an all girl's institution may be less than ideal for some after 7 years at Downe, Barnard offers classes with Columbia and your degree is ratified by Columbia.

Reputation

This factor might not be as important to some as others; it depends on the individual. Remember that above all it is important to go by your own criteria. Gaining a good degree in an area that you are interested in, whilst being happy and having fun is perhaps more important than being at the top university.

Some of the top US universities are known as the 'Ivy League', the more famous ones being Harvard and Yale. However, the Ivy League is just a group of universities in the North East of the States so great universities on the West Coast, like Stanford, are not on the list.

There are also 'Liberal Arts' colleges, which tend to be smaller, private universities that focus on undergraduate teaching. Many US students apply to colleges such as Amherst, Williams and Wellesley and their reputation speaks for itself when you consider that 17 former US Presidents attended these institutions.

If you are aiming high then do not just rely on what is 'Ivy League' as that can be misleading. There is no centralized, authoritative ranking system of US universities. Unofficial rankings, such as *US News and World Report* and [Princeton Review](#), will give you a general idea of the academic reputation and relative prestige of a university but the differences between the top twenty five are absolutely minute and marginal, as well as constantly fluctuating. It is best to look at several ranking systems to get an idea as they all judge by different criteria.

For 2019, the top 10 National Universities and Liberal Art colleges according to US News are

Ranking	National University
1	Princeton, NJ
2	Harvard, MA
3=	Columbia, NY
3=	Yale, CT
3=	UChicago, IL
3=	MIT, MA
7	Stanford, CA
8=	Duke, NC
8=	UPenn, PA
10	Johns Hopkins, MD

Ranking	Liberal Arts Colleges
1	Williams, MA
2	Amherst, MA
3	Swarthmore, PA
3	Wellesley, MA
5	Bowdoin, ME
5	Carleton, MN
5	Middlebury, VT
5	Pomona, CA
9	Claremont McKenna, CA
10	Davidson, NC

Admission Considerations

Most universities look at more than academic performance when making admissions decisions, much more so than in the UK ; straight As will not guarantee you a place at your first choice university. Sport and charity work carry much more importance to US universities than UK ones. Admissions rates are often as low as 6%, for top universities such as Harvard and Princeton, and with more and more English students applying to the US it is getting harder and harder. For Columbia’s intake in the fall of 2019 only 6.1% of those who applied will be admitted. This shows how great the competition for places can be.

You would be well advised to apply to a maximum of 2-3 highly-competitive universities and pair these selections with 2-3 universities at which you fall on the upper end of the average SAT scores and GPAs of last year’s admitted students. This information can usually be found on the **relevant college websites and www.commonapp.org**

Course

US undergraduate degrees often embrace a ‘Liberal Arts’ philosophy, where students take a variety of courses in the arts and sciences before concentrating in one academic area.

Bachelor’s Degrees consist of

- A general education course in a range of subjects
- A Major, which is a concentrated field of study
- Electives, which are non required classes a student chooses to take

These degrees are usually completed in 4 years. However, there is no fixed time scale: instead, a specified number of ‘credits’ are required, and the degree is awarded upon their completion. Each course taken is given a credit value. You undergo continuous assessment and testing, and are graded for each class on a scale of 0–4 or 0-5. Each score is averaged to create a grade point average (GPA), which is used as an indicator of performance that determines whether you pass that class.

The Application

As in England, it is a good idea to choose a few colleges that are slightly above your level, some middle ones and some safety ones, i.e. applying to a good range. Unlike in England where you write a single application that can be sent to 5 schools through UCAS in the US you have to apply to each college individually. We would recommend that you choose **between 5 – 8 schools**.

Common Application

Many colleges use the Common Application but you will have to check each one separately as some require supplements or are not part of the Common Application scheme.

You can now use an online system to apply via Common the website address is www.commonapp.org and students can usually register online from **August 1st 2019** for entry in Fall 2020. The website contains comprehensive instructions of how to register. This year the essay titles have changed so it is vital that you check the most recent information available.

Types of Application

There are two main types of application: **Early** or **Regular**.

Early Application: This can mean either an **Early Action application** or an **Early Decision application**. The **latter** is legally binding. If the College accepts you then you are legally bound to go and you should withdraw all your other applications.

Early applications of both kinds are becoming more and more popular as they have a slightly higher success rate given that you are effectively demonstrating a preference for a certain university. The advantage of these systems is that you would know by December (rather than March / April) as to whether you had a place. You must take care to read each college website carefully as most offer Single Choice Early Application where you can apply to only one early, but some offer multiple choice Early Application where you can apply early to several colleges.

Early Applications usually have to be sent by **1st November**.

Regular Application: The deadline for regular applications is usually the **1st or 15th January**. The decisions for these usually arrive in late March / early April. You can still make regular decision applications whilst you are waiting to hear from an early application.

Application Information

College applications can seem overwhelming at first glance as there are many parts to the process. However, as long as you are methodical in your approach and keep everything together then it should be relatively straightforward.

Applications normally require the following information

- General application questions
- Name, Date of Birth, Family information
- A Transcript (This is a school completed form containing GCSE grades as well as predicted A Level / Pre U grades)

- Extracurricular activities and interests
- Application and / or college supplementary essays
- Secondary School Report including a reference from Mrs McKendrick
- School Profile (This details information about Downe and gives exam related %s so that universities can place an applicant within their own system)
- Two teacher references
- Mid Year School report (an update of your predicted grades based on your UVI Lent term examination and a brief report)
- Financial Aid Form
- Optional Art / Music / Drama supplement forms

We advise you to make your application of the highest quality possible and really think about the different supplement questions that you are being asked,

Do your research and look at the different courses offered e.g. are there subject specialists who teach an area you are particularly interested in at these universities and also what extra curricular options would be available to you.

The Secondary School report is completed by Mrs Barnard and includes your transcript, school profile, an explanation of the UK grading system and Mrs McKendrick's reference.

For your teacher references, you will be expected to identify two current teachers who you feel you have a good relationship with and can write positively about you. You should approach your teacher for this reference and provide them with a copy of any information about your interests, work experience and prizes that you may have been involved in / received outside of the classroom. Your teachers will take into account the fact that American teachers writing about their students tend to be very effusive and far more praising than is natural for most teachers working in England.

Generally speaking your application should be a 'consistent portrait of who you are and what you will bring to the college. 'The more pieces of the puzzle support one portrait, the more confident the admissions committee will be in admitting you. If the essay contradicts information you gave on other parts of the form then they may have cause to have doubts about accepting you. If all the parts of the application are filled out honestly and carefully, with an attention to your conviction that each school is a good match for you, you will come across in the best light possible'.

Application Requirements

As well as the application form and fee you will also need to submit the following:

- UK final examination results
- SAT/ ACT scores
- Application Fee (usually c.\$70-\$90)
- You may also be asked to attend an interview (usually with an alumni)

UK Examination Results

For admission to four year degree programmes you are expected to hold at least five GCSE's at grade C or above and be preparing for three Pre Us/A levels. Your GCSEs should usually include English and Maths. *US universities are also increasingly expecting you to achieve your predicted grades and are at liberty to rescind your offer if you do not.*

The SAT /ACT

You will almost certainly be required to sit a standardised admissions exam in the **Spring of Year 12**, if not before, to gain entrance to a US university. These are one of the most important parts of your application as they are the measure of your intelligence that can be most directly compared to other applicants. Most universities require you to take the SAT I 'Reasoning Test' or the ACT. Many of the Ivy Leagues and other top universities will also require you take the SAT II subject tests.

You cannot take the SAT I and SAT II on the same day but can take both tests several times.

SAT I: This is a three hour test (without the essay) or three hours and fifty minutes (with the essay) and comprises four sections:

- Reading Test
- Maths Test
- Writing and Language Test
- Essay

A perfect score is 1600. You can register for these tests at www.collegeboard.com.

The test dates for 2019–20 are

2019 - 20 Test Dates	Register by	Test
October 6th 2018	September 6 th 2019	SAT & Subject Tests
December 1st 2018	November 1 st 2019	SAT & Subject Tests
March 9th 2019	February 7 th 2020	No Subject Tests
May 4th 2019	April 3 rd 2020	SAT & Subject Tests

The ACT

The ACT is three hours and thirty five minutes in length and is comprised of five sections, although the writing section is optional for application to some colleges. It has become an online test since September 2018.

- English Test
- Maths Test
- Reading Test

- Science Test
- Essay writing

For girls who have an interest in Science, this section may be beneficial in increasing their scores. A perfect ACT score is 36.

You can register for these tests at www.act.org. The testing dates for 2019 – 20 are

2019- 20 Test Dates	Register by
September 14 th 2019	August 16 th 2019
October 12 th 2019	September 20 th 2019
December 14 th 2019	November 8 th 2019
February 8 th 2020	January 20 th 2020
April 4 th 2020	February 28 th 2020
June 13 th 2020	May 8 th 2020

The exams are offered at a variety of centres. Our closest location is often Bradfield or Radley although they do not offer all testing dates (and may not offer the ACT). In previous years, girls have used ACS Cobham, St Clare's Oxford and The American School in London. There is no late registration for international students so it is important to meet the relevant deadlines. If you are unsure whether to sit the ACT or SAT then Mrs Barnard is happy to discuss this.

Preparation: Girls at Downe are offered SAT I / ACT preparation classes in the Michaelmas Term of LVIth (This is dependent on numbers). We use A List Education, please find a list of other useful contacts in the appendix at the back.

SAT II: These are one hour tests, mostly in multiple choice format. A mark is awarded out of 800. Most universities require that you do two subject tests, in addition to either the SAT I or ACT, and you can choose from five subject areas most of which have several subsections:

- English : Literature
- History and Social Studies : US History, World History
- Languages: Chinese with Listening, French, Modern Hebrew, Italian, Latin, German with Listening, German, French with Listening, Spanish, Spanish with Listening, Japanese with Listening, Korean with Listening.
- Mathematics : Math Level 1, Math Level 2
- Science : Biology, Chemistry and Physics

These are designed to test your knowledge and skills in particular subject areas as well as your ability to apply that knowledge. NB: Some universities such as Georgetown require three subject tests so do always check each college requirement.

Results: The scores for SAT I, ACT and SAT II are usually available online two to three weeks after the test and are mailed to you later.

Essays

In your applications you are normally required to write at least one essay. This is certainly the case if your university requires the Common Application form.

The essay is a crucial part of the application process as it is what sets you apart from other applicants and shows what you can bring to the process. Unlike the UCAS personal statement, these do not ask you to explain your interests and achievements in a particular field. You really need to think about the topic you choose and the manner and style in which you respond. Sometimes, colleges will ask the same questions, in which case you can recycle the same essays and use it more than once. However, if a college is asking for a slightly different question then you need to respond in a different manner rather than stretching your essay to make it fit. Admissions officers will be able to tell where essays have been adapted and this will not assist your application. Try not to name specific colleges in your Common Application question.

Some questions that have been used in the past include

- Ben Franklin once said, "All mankind is divided into three classes: those that are immovable, those that are movable, and those that move." Which are you? (350 – 500 words)
- Virtually all of Stanford's undergraduates live on campus. Write a note to your future roommate that reveals something about you or that will help your roommate, and us, know you better. (250 words)
- List the required readings from courses during the school year or summer that you enjoyed most in the past year. (25 words)
- Imagine looking through a window at any environment that is particularly significant to you. Reflect on the scene, paying close attention to the relation between what you are seeing and why it is meaningful to you. (250 words)

Schools have also increasingly been using short answer questions which can require anywhere from 25 – 250 word responses.

Transcript

A transcript is submitted by the school and lists your academic qualifications and marks. US universities are especially interested in what subjects students have taken over the last four years of secondary school and how their performance has changed over time. An official school transcript will therefore be submitted on school headed paper, listing your GCSE results and your predicted Pre U / A Level grades.

NB for students who have come to Downe in the VIth Form, they will need to request a transcript from their previous school well ahead of the application deadline.

References

US universities usually ask for two subject references as well as a general reference. Letters of reference comment on your ability to contribute positively as well as your ability to succeed academically once you are at university.

Mrs Barnard will always ask who you would like to nominate as your subject referees and it is important that you choose someone who knows you well. It is a good idea to meet with your referees to discuss your interest in particular universities as well as your future goals so that they can write the best reference possible.

Teachers realise that when writing references for the US they need to veer away from modesty and be positive and enthusiastic in their comments.

Interviews

You are often invited to attend an interview which is usually conducted by alumni of the university. These interviews are not always compulsory but it is highly advisable to attend, especially if you are applying to a very competitive university. There can be a range in the degree of formality of these. Some will want to meet you at their home or office; others may want to come to school and some offer a telephone interview.

The main aim of these is for the interviewers to find out what you are like as a person. They will have a copy of your application so remember what you have written. It is also important that you know basic facts about the college that you have applied to.

The Decision Process

Unlike in England, where it is acceptable to breathe a sigh of relief after UCAS applications and interviews, American universities will not be impressed if you do nothing but wait to hear their decision. It is not just a passive waiting game and there are things you can do to boost your chances. Take the initiative and write a letter or send new documents, artwork etc to the admissions office to show them your eagerness. Universities always encourage you to send any new application materials such as your latest accomplishments and activities to supplement what they know about you which might help in their decision making. Emphasise your desire to attend their college and why you would be a great student. Equally, the school has to submit a **Mid Year Report** which can also reflect any changes, positive or negative in your levels of achievement. This takes the form of updated predicted grades as well as some short comments from your original referees. These will take your January, of the **UVI**, mock results in to consideration.

Receiving an offer

Early decisions are received in December and regular decisions in late March / early April. If you are unsure which college to choose then talk to your parents, teachers, current students at the university etc. If you are really unsure then try to visit the campus again. Most colleges want a decision by May 1st so you usually have about a month to make your mind up.

Once you have made a decision, send in your acceptance letter. Remember to inform all schools that you have applied to of your decision so that you are not holding a place unnecessarily.

Wait listing /Rolled

If you do not get a clear 'yes' then you may be 'waitlisted' or at early decision stage you may be 'rolled' to regular decision. This happens when you meet all the admissions requirements but the college has already accepted a maximum number of students or wants to see how you compare when they look at the rest of the applicant pool. You will be offered a place if spaces become available.

It is important that if you get waitlisted, you make a decision about whether you really wish to attend this institution before agreeing to go on the list. You may only get a few days to decide if you wish to accept the place. It is also worth investigating whether there are conditions attached to being waitlisted. Girls have been accepted to prestigious universities as a result of being waitlisted so you should not see this as simply a polite form of rejection.

Rejection

If you are rejected then you should not take it personally. Universities have many more applicants than places and very often they simply do not think you are the right 'match' for the university. They also consider the whole year group and try to ensure that they create the right mix of students. There is also a huge element of luck in the process. Inadvertently, rejection from one college can help you to decide where you will go. **If you decide to reapply the same support systems will be in place for you during your year out.**

Overseas Applications : A Timeline

Time		Action
Upper Vth	Lent / Summer Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any girls who show an interest in the US meets individually with SB, if they wish to do so. Introductory assembly on applying overseas Girls who definitely want to apply could sit SATs / ACTs in the May / June (although not necessarily advisable due to the clash with GCSEs)
	Summer Holidays	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A good time to participate in US Summer College Courses / visit US colleges
Lower Vth	Michaelmas Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SAT/ACT tuition course run in school by A List Educational. Exploratory interviews with SB
	Lent Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SAT/ACT tuition course run in school by A List Educational. Jan : Sit SATs / ACTs Begin to research US universities
	Summer Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May / June : Sit SATs / ACTs Meet with SB to prepare individual plans for the summer holidays
Upper Vth	Michaelmas Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sept : Post applicants who wish to apply to Australia (Due to Australian terms need to apply as a PQA) Oct : All Early Applications to the USA to be completed before half term Nov : Last chance to take SATs / ACTs for Early Applicants. University of California applications to be completed Mid Nov : Closing date for HKU fast track Dec : Last chance to take SATs / ACTs for Regular Applicants Application deadlines for HKU / CUHK Late Dec : Early applicants to the US receive responses

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular Applicants to the US complete applications
	Lent Term / Summer Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Jan</i> : Applications to Canada and Ireland usually completed and offers received from Australia • <i>Feb</i> : Mid Term Reports completed for the US • <i>Early April</i> : US Regular applicants and applicants to Canada receive responses • <i>Early May</i> : Decision has to be sent to US universities • <i>August</i> : Begin in the US / Canada and offers received from Ireland

Other Overseas Universities

Canada

Canada has started to become a very popular destination for students who wish to experience an overseas university but with a more recognisably British style of education than the US offers. It also offers the opportunity to engage in bilingual study at universities in Quebec.

Canada has some excellent institutions which regularly feature in the Times University World Rankings.

Canada rank 2019	World University rank 2019	University
1	21	University of Toronto, Ontario
2	37	University of British Columbia
3	44	McGill University, Quebec
4	77	McMaster University, Ontario
5	90=	University of Montreal, Quebec
6	132=	University of Alberta
7	176=	University of Ottawa, Ontario
8	190=	Western University, Ontario
9	199 =	University of Calgary, Alberta
10	201 - 250	University of Waterloo, Ontario

Canada is made up of ten provinces and three territories and each one runs its own education system and therefore university entry. Depending on your own passport provision, you may be required to apply through one of the provincial systems or directly to the university but Mrs Barnard can advise on this.

Application requirements

Applications are usually completed online and require the submission of basic personal details along with your exam results, and in some cases, a personal statement style essay. We are also usually asked to send a transcript showing your GCSE results and predicted A Level / Pre U grades.

Deadlines for application are usually **March 1st of the UVI year** so you would find out if you have been offered entry in the middle – end of April. This tends to be unconditional but could be rescinded if a you do not meet your predicted grades.

NB : You are also expected to send exam certified copies of their results to the university upon their release. This means that you would have to contact your exam boards and ask them to send these directly to the institution. School cannot do this for you.

Australia

Australia is another destination that we have seen some girls have apply to in recent years.

If you wish to apply to Australia, it will be necessary for you to apply after the completion of your A Level / Pre U studies as the academic year begins in January. This means the window of application is **from the September to December preceding January entry.**

Application to Australian universities has been almost exclusively by girls who have a family connection to the country and are passport holders. The holding of an Australian passport is the critical factor when it comes to determining the method of application as you will be classed as a domestic student, if this is the case, for application purposes. You would therefore need to apply through one of the state run application systems such as VTAC for Victoria. These are all available online.

Australia also has some excellent institutions which regularly feature in the Times University World Rankings.

Australian rank 2019	World University rank 2019	University
1	32	University of Melbourne
2	49	Australian National University, Canberra
3	59=	University of Sydney
4	69	University of Queensland
5	84=	Monash University, Melbourne
6	96=	University of New South Wales
7	134	University of Western Australia
8	135=	University of Adelaide
9	196	University of Technology, Sydney
10	201- 250	Macquarie University, Sydney

Application requirements

The entry requirement for admission to undergraduate study in Australia is for you to have successfully completed A-Levels / Pre U. Each university then sets its own grade requirements per course as UK universities do.

Australian and New Zealand universities use either grades or the following scale to assess A-Level applications: A = 5 points, B = 4 points, C = 3 points, D = 2 points, E = 1 point. Some universities include the A* in their tariff as being worth 6 points. While for the vast majority of

applications additional tests are not required, if you are applying for admission to medicine and dentistry you may be asked to sit aptitude tests (similar to the UKCAT).

Ireland

It is vital that if you think that you may wish to apply to Ireland that you do highlight this at the beginning of your LVI, or even as early as choosing your options in UV, as it is often necessary to be taking 4 A Levels to be able to make an application to Ireland as their offers are made on a points basis.

Application process

Irish universities, including Trinity Dublin, use the Central Applications Office to submit applications. This is an online system that can be found at www.cao.ie

The form is very straightforward and requires the submission of personal details and course choices. Copies of exam certificates also need to be given to Mrs Barnard so that these can be certified by the school and also submitted. ***NB You will not receive an offer until after you have received your results in August, even if you are a post applicant.***

Applications need to be submitted by **February 1st** of the year of application. Irish universities use a points based entry system. The points requirements for various universities varies from institution to institution but below are examples of how the system works for Trinity Dublin.

Scoring System : A Levels

	Best three A Levels (A2)	Fourth A-Level (A2)	Or AS
A*	185	45	31
A	156	38	26
B	131	32	22
C	106	26	18
D	84	20	14
E	63	15	11

An EPQ counts as an AS Level

Minimum Points Requirements for 2018 entry

Subject	Points Requirements
History	456
English Studies	487
Philosophy, Political Science, Economics and Sociology (PPES)	554
Classics	357
Mathematics	520
Biological and Biomedical Sciences	500

Europe

Europe Rank 2019	World University Rank 2019	University	Country
1	1	University of Oxford	United Kingdom
2	2	University of Cambridge	United Kingdom
3	9	Imperial College London	United Kingdom
4	11	ETH Zurich – Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich	Switzerland
5	14	University College London	United Kingdom
6	26	London School of Economics and Political Science	United Kingdom
7	29	University of Edinburgh	United Kingdom
8	32=	LMU Munich	Germany
9	35	École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne	Switzerland
10	38	King’s College London	United Kingdom
11	40	Karolinska Institute	Sweden
12	41	Paris Sciences et Lettres – PSL Research University	France
13	44=	Technical University of Munich	Germany
14	47	Heidelberg University	Germany
15	48	KU Leuven	Belgium
16	57	University of Manchester	United Kingdom
17	58	Delft University of Technology	Netherlands
18	59=	Wageningen University and Research Center	Netherlands
19	62	University of Amsterdam	Netherlands
20	67	Humboldt University of Berlin	Germany

These rankings are taken from the Times World Rankings and it is clear that whilst the UK has a significant number of the top institutions in Europe, many other countries have very competitive institutions.

Application processes vary from country to country but the most important factor you must check is whether the course you are considering is an undergraduate course taught in English. There are many English taught post graduate courses and this can cause confusion. Most undergraduate courses that are taught in English tend to be in the field of Business, Economics or Science.

Asia

We have had significant experience in assisting girls who wish to apply to universities in Hong Kong.

Application process

Applications have to be made separately to each institution and these can be found online. You will need to complete personal details, educational details as well as information relating to any extra curricular activities.

You will require a transcript from school for your application which contains your GCSE grades and your A Level / Pre U predicted grades. In addition, HKU requires a school reference.

There are two deadlines for application.

2019 Asia ranking	World University Rank 2019	University	Country
1	22	Tsinghua University	China
2	23	National University of Singapore	Singapore
3	41	Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	Hong Kong
4	36	Hong Kong University	Hong Kong
5	31	Peking University	China
6	51	Nanyang Technical University	Singapore
7	53	Chinese University of Hong Kong	Hong Kong
8	42	University of Tokyo	Japan
9	63	Seoul National University	South Korea
10	82=	Sungkyunkwan University	South Korea

