

Preparing for

Life After SNS



Progression Week Schedule – 3rd – 7th July 2017

Name:		Interview Time and Location:	
ALPS		Last Progress Check:	

Favoured Subject: (E.g. Biology)	
Career Ambitions: (E.g. Research Scientist)	
UCAS Buzzword: stokey18	UCAS Password: Password needs to be set up by 4 th July



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday Students at Home	Thursday	Friday		
<p>10 am <i>Introduction to the week and Unifrog</i></p> <p>All students</p> <p>6th Form Building</p>	Progress Week Interviews – All student Various locations	Progress Week interviews - All student Various locations	<p>10am Ben Rutter Student Loan Company 6th Form Building</p>	<p><i>UEA Campus Tour</i></p> <p>All students</p> <p>Leave school at 8:30am Arrive back to school at 5pm</p>		
<p>11:30am-1pm <i>Researching HE Courses/ Unifrog/ UCAS signup</i></p> <p>C23 – 12S 12K D21 – 12T 12O E01 – 12I 12T H07 – 12N 12E</p> <p>All remaining students to 6th Form computers</p>			<p>Students to draft personal statements at home</p>		<p>11:30-1pm <i>Researching HE Courses/ Department for Work & Pensions</i></p> <p>C21 – 12S 12T D21 – 12W 12I</p> <p>All remaining students to 6th Form computers</p>	
<p>2pm – 3pm <i>Miss Alexander Ex year 13 students Sixth Form Building</i></p>			<p>11:30am-1pm <i>Researching HE Courses</i></p> <p>C21 – 12W 12G D21 – 12H 12K E01 – 12S 12N <i>All remaining students to 6th form computers</i></p>		<p>Students to come in for their interviews and Science students to visit The Royal Society: 6-9 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AG.</p>	<p>2pm – 3pm <i>Careers Fair</i> 6th Form Building</p>
<p>6pm Parents' Evening Miss Alexander Ben Fowler Sixth Form Building</p>			<p>2pm Ben Fowler Goldsmiths Theatre</p>		<p>Students to come in for their interviews and Science students to visit The Royal Society: 6-9 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AG.</p>	

Which Course?

1. Begin by thinking about the subject areas or specific career paths that you find most interesting. Are there highly specialised areas that you might like to focus on E.g. Marine Biology, Anthropology, Chinese?
2. What are the possible career pathways for the subjects you are interested in? Some courses are very specialised and will lead to very specific career pathways (E.g. Law, Medicine) whilst others have much broader application (e.g. History).
3. Now begin researching the different courses. Which institutions offer these courses? Do you want to stay in London or move away? Which ones have the best reputation for the course you are interested in? What grades do you need to get? Find 4 or more institutions and see what they offer. You may choose a number of course options. <http://www.ukcoursefinder.com/>

1. Applying to Courses

How to write a Personal Statement

You have 4000 characters available, including spaces. Do not worry about length at this stage, however, it should be no more than 1 typed A4 page (font size 10).

You need full sentences and paragraphs. Grammar is very important as is spelling.

Do not lie, you could be interviewed and asked about what you have written.

	Course or Apprenticeship	Institution and Requirements	Career Pathways
Example	BSC Human Biology	Birmingham University <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AAB – ABB Including Biology and at least one other science 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and Pharmaceutical • Research • Teaching etc
1			
2			
3			
4			

Getting started

What courses are you interested in studying and why? Be specific about areas that interest you (even if you think it makes you look like a geek). You do not necessarily need to have studied the subjects before; however, you have to some knowledge of that subject area. *'My interest in science has led me to want to follow a career in medical research, particularly drug discovery and Pharmacology'*.

- **Your subjects** - this is the longest part of your statement, at least 65%
- This is the longest part of your UCAS form. Try to make your subjects relevant to your subject choice. Write about your principal / most relevant subject first, then use another paragraph to write about the other subjects. Remember to explain how subjects complement / contrast with each other
- It is important to write as specifically as you can in relation to all subjects. Think of the knowledge, understanding and skills you have gained from each subject, give tangible examples
- **Mention any relevant books/articles you've read which have a bearing on your choice of course** to show your interest and commitment to the subject, particularly if you have not done the subject at AS/A2.
- **You need to distinguish yourself from the other students with the same qualifications - mention any achievements outside your academic studies.** Don't be scared by this – it doesn't have to be anything amazing – work experience, helping at clubs and societies, voluntary or community work, member of school clubs, everyone has something to offer.
- **You need to look closely at what you do "From working in....I've gained...."** - break it down into the kinds of skills you've acquired, what you've got out of it – focus on the benefits you have gained from them.
- **Do not** at any time name a particular university you want to go to unless you have only chosen 1 university.
- **Get help from those who know you e.g.** teachers, tutors, and ask them how they see you, e.g. your strengths.
- **Include a sentence or two about your social/sporting interests and activities and what you've gained from these: universities want to see well-rounded people.** If you are brilliant at football, just mention that you play for the school team or are captain of it and say what you get out of it (enjoyment...team work...leadership skills etc).
- **Taking a gap year.** If you want to defer entry, YOU MUST say what you plan to do and how it will benefit you.
- **Get someone else to check it for spelling, grammar and content, to ensure that it represents you and that nothing relevant has been left out.**

Note for Art Foundation Applicants

- Your A Level Subjects - you must write about Art first and relate other subjects to Art.
- Work Experience the work experience you have should be as relevant to Art as possible.
- Other Interests you must write about museums, galleries, specific exhibitions and artists.

Turnover and use the table to help you start to make notes for your personal statement.

2. Personal Statement

Your notes	
<p>List the courses or subject areas that you are interested in studying at university.</p> <p>(If you can, put the name of university and the grades</p>	

<p>that you need to get onto the course).</p> <p>www.ucas.com</p>	
<p>Current subjects, skills/knowledge, successes, etc.</p>	
<p>List some books, articles, journals, areas of particular interest in the above chosen subject, eg favourite architect, poet, historical figure, scientist, etc.</p> <p>Can <u>you</u> convey <u>passion</u> for your subject choice?</p>	
<p>List outside interests, hobbies that might be relevant to your application. Add skills and qualities that you have acquired.</p>	
<p>Taking a gap year? Explain what you plan to do and how it will benefit you personally. List skills and qualities you hope to acquire.</p>	

Exemplar Statements:

Biology

I was inspired to study biology in 2008 when my family exchanged homes with a family in Panama. I spent a day on the Panama Canal with a biologist who was working on panther migration across Central America. It was exciting to experience the ecology of a tropical rainforest and the sheer abundance of species there, but even more fascinating to try to understand how they had evolved and adapted to fill their ecological niches. I love the

breadth of biology, from molecular and cellular biology to the study of whole organisms and ecosystems, and the mix in the subject of theoretical and practical work, in the laboratory and in the field.

For me the best part of biology A level so far as been the extended research report I produced

on chytrid fungus in amphibian species. It allowed me to study a subject in depth and topics which are not on the A level syllabus, such as fungi physiology

I enjoy the problem solving aspects of both maths and chemistry. I'm numerate and comfortable

with learning and applying new mathematical concepts. Chemistry has helped me make sense of biological processes such as photosynthesis and I have learnt many lab skills such as the importance of precise measurement in experiments. Economics views the world from another perspective. Applying economic models to complex systems and human behaviour has developed my

analytical skills and my ability to take in and present information in written and graphical form. I am a practical and organised person with skills in planning and time management. In Moving Image Arts I shot 1400 individual frames and edited them into a successful 3 minute animation film. I am interested in the use of new technology in fieldwork and in the communication of scientific ideas and have software skills in Word, PowerPoint, Final Cut Pro, Illustrator, Flash and Photoshop. My main leisure interest and relaxation is music. I play guitar and bass guitar. For 5 years I played baseball competitively, which taught me a lot about concentration and teamwork.

I try to take advantage of any opportunity connected with biology. This summer I went on a

boat trip on the East River observing the birdlife of New York harbour, learning how conservation has protected the diversity of bird species in this urban environment. I read New Scientist magazine, research articles I find interesting on the Internet and attend scientific lectures. One I found particularly interesting was on astrobiology and what life could be like on other planets. I am a science mentor in my school helping younger children with work in their lessons. This has helped me develop my own ability to explain scientific ideas clearly and in simple language.

In summer 2011 I won a Nuffield bursary and completed a research project in the molecular oncology department of Kings College, London, supervised by a PhD. student, on the sensitivity of cancer cell lines to a protein called apoptin. I planned and carried out my own experiments using techniques including cell culture, viral transfection, GFP tagging and western blots. I wrote my results up in a report and hope to receive a gold CREST award for my work, which I will present at Imperial College in late October. I really enjoyed being part of a team, learning new techniques and doing original research. I took part in the weekly departmental meetings and journal club, and gained an insight into research funding and international collaboration. The whole experience confirmed my desire to study biology and to pursue a career in research.

Law

Last year I watched a video of Luis Moreno-Ocampo, a Spanish native, delivering a report from outside the International Criminal Court in English. This confirmed that as long as I continued to work hard in my chosen third language, I could emulate Moreno-Ocampo's success as Chief Prosecutor of the ICC. My ambition is to work in an international institution concerned with law and human rights.

Law and Languages are two perfectly suited subjects. Writing essays, preparing reports and having debates in both French and Spanish has greatly improved my confidence and ability

to

present information to an audience. This is mirrored in the legal profession when mooting or putting forward a case before a judge or client. My recent work on grammar in French has enhanced my ability to conceptualise arguments thoroughly, and to think on a more abstract level.

My study of English Literature has given me powerful tools of analysis that will enable me to approach the study of such texts, as well as improving my ability to structure arguments. I am now looking forward to focussing more on Literature in French, such as the works of poet Guillaume Apollinaire. Recently, in Spanish we have watched *Los Girasoles Ciegos*, (The Blind Sunflowers), a film illustrating the turmoil experienced during the beginning of the Franco era in the 1940s. I feel this film raised controversial arguments about what happens when those who govern the state and control the justice system are corrupt - an important issue in the legal profession.

In Economics, I have been particularly interested in the current macroeconomic environment, exploring the reasons for the credit crunch and the subsequent series of crises that have engulfed the global economy since. From the US deficit to the EU debt disaster, it has been fascinating to read the papers and apply my new found economic knowledge to the events of the day. Being able to work independently has sharpened my research and analytical skills, as a result of having to regularly interpret data in a number of formats. This is not dissimilar to English literature, a subject predominately concerned with the analysis of texts and the application of critical theory, which requires great attention to detail. This practice in essay writing will aid me in future when writing to clients or assembling case bundles. My great enthusiasm for Law had driven me to organise work experience in various areas across the legal sector. Firstly, at the international corporate law firm, Linklaters LLP, an ideal environment to regularly exercise my two foreign tongues; next, a week getting a taste of Civil Law while shadowing barristers at their chambers; and finally time spent at a small solicitors' office that specialised in Family and Immigration Law. I gained insight into the legal profession from my time at each placement, by taking part in mooting, sitting in on court cases, questioning a judge and even observing video conferences with clients overseas. These all helped develop my self-confidence and ability to construct arguments as well as to predict counter arguments. These opportunities and experiences have served to cement my interest in the legal sector and made me realise how languages can be pivotal in an increasingly globalised world.

As well as being a dedicated student, I work as a part-time receptionist at a Harley Street Clinic. Additionally, I volunteer in a local charity shop. I exercise regularly at my local gym and have recently begun taking 'boxfit' and salsa classes. I also enjoy baking as I find it rewarding and relaxing. I am capable, determined and diligent and ready to face the challenges that university presents so as to attain my ambition of becoming an international criminal lawyer. I look forward to reading Law and Languages because of the intellectual challenge and rigour, combined with the creativity required to produce the most effective case possible.

History

My enthusiasm for History is deeply rooted in my enjoyment of learning about - and from - the past, and my experiences of History both as a subject in school and as a personal pursuit have steeled my determination to study it. My appreciation and dedication to the subject has grown over time, but this year particularly I have found myself captivated by the politics and conflicts of the Middle East, partly as a result of studying them in such a diverse

environment.

Learning about the build up to the world wars instilled in me a fascination with the rise and fall of ideas and power. A specific interest of mine is the struggle against colonialism in the 20th century, and this - combined with my desire to learn about my father's home country - led me to read more about the Algerian struggle. I am fascinated by how a small revolutionary force could overcome a colonial power, as presented in 'A Savage War of Peace 1954-62'. Having been to Algeria and felt the pride of its people for their culture helps me to understand this; that pride has spurred my interest in decolonisation. That is not however, my sole focus. Less modern topics, notably the Roman period, hold a great part of my interest; I believe that by examining older civilisations we are able to delve deeper into the human condition. Through this I have learned more about the causes of change across time. Aware of the large gap between these two interests, I decided to bridge it by studying more medieval or early-modern history and soon found myself tracing similar patterns of events. Just as Caesar had returned from Gaul as a hero and eventual dictator, so too were monarchs of those periods seeking the esteem attached to military victory. Later, Napoleon seemed to almost, but not quite, mirror Caesar. It was similarities and recurrences like these that made me realise how easy it is to read a cyclical nature into events.

Through my other A-Level subjects I have furthered the skills I need. English Literature has enriched my interest in History, and led me to acquire a greater appreciation for the subject, giving me an acute analytical insight, whilst my delight in reading has expanded my knowledge of History. Indeed my short story about a Historical event - the Black Death - won a national competition and was published in a book of macabre fiction. Economics has given my understanding of History another dimension, allowing me to evaluate the fundamental reasons for change, which have often been based on economic concerns. One only need think of the 1930s. My ability for problem solving has also undoubtedly been furthered by my Maths as I have found it helpful to think of historical phenomena as equations. All these subjects require rigorous academic attention and this has disciplined me further.

My visit to Algiers in 2010 led me to learn Arabic. At first I was not allowed on the GCSE course as I had no experience of the language, but the teacher relented when she saw that I was committed. I am now studying for Arabic AS on Saturdays. Chess is another passion of mine and I won a place on the English Squad at eleven. It has taught me to concentrate for extended periods and has introduced an edge of determination to my character. Chess competitions also took me to Eastern Europe, giving me a glimpse of post-Soviet nations.

I attended a three day taster event on studying History at UCL, and more recently a History day at Oxford. These experiences have opened my eyes to the style of the course at university. I am especially excited by the greater freedom granted to students and feel this will suit me, allowing me to study true interests and to further challenge myself intellectually. The prospect of being taught by leading experts thrills me; I believe I am capable of rising to the academic demands and stretching myself to meet and exceed them.

Key Dates:

24th August 2017

AS Results

15 October 2017

Applications for Oxford, Cambridge or courses in medicine, dentistry and veterinary medicine/science should arrive at UCAS by 18:00 (UK time). The reference has to be completed before the application can be sent.

5th September 2017

First draft of statement to be submitted to your tutor

15 January 2018

Applications for the majority of courses should arrive at UCAS by 18:00 (UK time) today (check course details for the correct deadline). The reference has to be completed before your application can be sent.

7 May 2018

Final date by which all universities will have made their offers.

4 June 2018

Deadline for accepting offers.

16 August 2018

A Level results day – and the start of the full Clearing vacancy search.

Notes