

Guidance Bulletin 89, 18th May 2020

Year 13: Notes from a UK universities webinar on 30-Apr-20 This webinar was delivered by representatives from the Universities of Durham, Edinburgh and Bath. Students are the *raison d'être* of any university. Admissions staff therefore want to admit them. School-leaving qualifications are being gained, but they may be judged on different evidence, for example internal assessments rather than final exams. IB grades, despite the absence of exams, are going to be treated at face value. On these will decisions about admittance be based. Nearly all candidates will have mitigating circumstances, not least because of the current health situation, so the criteria for mitigation will be narrower than usual. Alternative tests to IELTS for English proficiency are being considered, for example Duolingo, but no decision has yet been reached, although HL/SL English in nearly all cases fulfils the requirements. The timetable for the publication of exam results remains the same: 06-Jul-20 for IB, 13-Aug-20 for A-levels. UCAS Clearing and Adjustment will be run as usual. In the meantime, UK universities remain open. There are, for example, 3,500 students still on campus at the University of Durham. The general move is to online teaching and assessment. Whilst it is hoped to welcome all new students physically to campus in the autumn, with plans afoot for physical distancing and possible periods of confinement, teaching may have to remain online. Certainly for large lectures it is impossible to effect physical distancing. Some students, too, may not be able to travel immediately. It is important that students read every communication from their chosen universities, especially over instructions for joining and starting dates. The focus will always be to support students safely and with the minimum of disruption.

Year 12: Guidance meetings All Year 12 students should be looking to complete the Google form at <https://forms.gle/hkR3b4M2JCaXGuFV8>. Only after this form has been filled out can a twenty-minute online guidance meeting be booked between 09:00 and 16:00 with Mr Rowlands via Calendly <https://calendly.com/martyn-rowlands/20min>. These guidance meeting must take place during free periods when there are no other commitments. Calendly allows parents to join the meetings if wished.

Year 12: Applications to UK universities The Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) is now open for applications from Year 12 students for entry in 2021 (deferred entry 2022) to UK institutions at <https://www.ucas.com/account?m=register&t=student&returnUrl=/dashboard>. Although applications cannot be submitted until Sept-20, the form can be started. All applications should go through the school to allow for the references and predicted grades to be uploaded. The Buzzword is Otho69. There are some suggestions about writing a personal statement in Guidance Bulletin 70 and at <https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/writing-personal-statement>.

Year 12: Notes from a webinar by CEU on 07-May-20 Founded in 1991, the Central European University is international in outlook, its mission, following the collapse of the communist governments across Eastern Europe, to sustain the relationship in open societies between higher education and political leadership. It is highly ranked for its research into sociology, anthropology and political sciences. All members of faculty are at the forefront of their academic fields. In total there are some 1,200 students. Accreditation comes from New York State and Austria. With the recent move from Budapest to Vienna, CEU is expanding into undergraduate courses. The two bachelor programmes are interdisciplinary. They also incorporate possibilities for internships. These four-year programmes are designed to promote critical and independent thinking. PPE (Philosophy, Politics and Economics) is modelled on the classic Oxford degree, albeit with added depth because of the length of the course. CPS (Culture, Politics and Society) follows the pattern of an American liberal arts degree with a wide range of choices. At the core of both degrees is literacy, but not just through the written text. Rather literacy now includes big data, digital media, podcasting and programming. This aspect can be developed further through the capstone project/bachelor dissertation. Essentially CEU is an American university located in Europe. The admissions process is therefore holistic via an online application form. The grades achieved in the last three years of high school are important, not predicted grades. Alongside the application form is an essay of five hundred words on a topic of choice. While there is a priority deadline of 01-Jan, the admissions process is rolling, the final deadline not being until 14-Aug. The first undergraduate class will number about forty. CEU is looking for students who can manage a rigorously academic course that involves intensive reading. In the third year there will be a semester abroad through

the CIVICA network (<https://www.civica.eu/>) of European universities, which includes the London School of Economics, Sciences-Po, Bocconi and Stockholm School of Economics; and through individual relationships, for example Bard in Berlin and New York. There is a student life office to help arrange social activities. In the fourth year some classes, but not written assessments, may be shared with Master's level students. Currently the student body is one third EU/EEA/Swiss and two thirds from the rest of the world. For more details go to <https://www.ceu.edu/vienna>.

Year 12: Notes from a webinar by ESCP on 28-Apr-20 Founded in 1819, ESCP was the first business school in the world to be established. To gain an international experience, all undergraduates must attend three of the six campuses in Madrid (taught in English and Spanish), Berlin (in English and optional German), Turin (in English), Paris (in French), Warsaw (in English) and London (in English). B1 is the minimum level on the Common European Framework for managing a course in a particular language. Six months of work experience is compulsory in a sector of choice, whether marketing, finance or sales. ESCP is fully accredited, which ensures a smooth transition should a master's programme be selected after graduation. The academic year usually runs from September to April, but there could be changes this year because of the current health situation. Many students are curious about rankings and employment. After graduation last year 67 per cent started work immediately, 33 per cent chose to pursue postgraduate study. Those who embarked on the former plan of action joined institutions such as Accenture, Allianz, EY, McKinsey and Company, Rocket Internet and the World Health Organisation; those on the latter Columbia, Cornell, Copenhagen Business School, Rotterdam School of Management and University of St Gallen. For the application process through Parcoursup, UCAS, Common Application or the ESCP website, students should show that they aspire to a top international career, are keen to experience different cultures, and are able to adapt to new situations. A minimum of 32 points (not including core points) is demanded from the IB diploma, including 4 in HL or 5 in SL Mathematics. Both Applications and Analysis are accepted. This autumn physical attendance will be flexible, with online access provided to all courses. For EU and Swiss students the tuition fees are currently €14,600 per annum. For further details see Guidance Bulletin 3 and <https://www.escpeurope.eu/>.

Year 12: Virtual university meetings To find out more about Canadian, Dutch and American higher education, students are invited to attend the following meetings using the Google links provided. Babson College (MA-USA), Brandeis University (MA-USA) and American University (DC-USA) on 19-May-20 from 16:30 to 17:30 CET (meet.google.com/tzx-wzet-hcw) / McGill (QC-CAN) on 26-May-20 from 17:00 to 18:00 CET (meet.google.com/dwh-pmsr-kai) / Leiden University (NL) and University College Roosevelt (NL) on 26-May-20 from 14:00 to 15:00 CET (meet.google.com/hbj-azbf-jmg).

Years 11 and 12: Medicine Premed Projects is offering students the chance to take part in an interactive television event conducted on a partly synthetic human cadaver. Designed for students interested in medicine, biology and the human body, it will take place live each evening at 19:00 GMT (20:00 CET) from 25 to 29-May-20. It will also be available on demand to watch anytime. For more details go to <https://www.premedprojects.co.uk/anatomy-lab-live-online-event-may-20th-25th-2020>.

Years 9, 10, 11 and 12: Supercurricular activities Oxplore engages with complex ideas across a wide range of subjects. Organised into a series of thought-provoking Big Questions, it encourages debate and critical thinking. Each question is linked to articles, quizzes, podcasts, videos and image galleries that draw on research at the University of Oxford. To engage with the 50 Big Questions on Oxplore, go to <http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/increasing-access/oxplore>. A series of lectures is being offered by New College of the Humanities in London: History ('Why do queens matter?') on 18-May-20, Economics ('How can people in poor countries make use of new technologies?') on 19-May-20, English ('Shakespeare's plays and the relationship between the city and the countryside') 20-May-20, Law ('A person is killed, when is it murder?') on 21-May-20, Creative Writing ('Why study creative writing?') on 26-May-20, and Art History ('Beneath the surface') 02-Jun-20. These lectures take place at 16:00 CET. When registering as a participant at <https://www.nchlondon.ac.uk/study/visit-us/taster-lectures>, the URL of the school is <https://www.ecolint.ch/>.

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