

Guidance Bulletin 45, 4th June 2018

Year 13: University of Buckingham Direct applications outside of UCAS to the University of Buckingham are still being accepted through www.buckingham.ac.uk/admissions/applyonline for entry in October 2018. Opened in 1976, and granted its royal charter in 1983, the University of Buckingham is the only university in the UK independent of direct government support. By foregoing a long summer holiday, students can complete a bachelor degree in two years. The Multiple Mini Interview selection days for Medicine take place between July and October for entry in January 2019. For more details go to <https://www.buckingham.ac.uk/>.

Year 12: University Presentations Representatives from ESADE Barcelona (at 10:50) and University College London (14:45) will be in Room 424 on 20-Jun-18. Parents are very welcome to attend.

Year 12: UK Law The Law National Admissions Test (LNAT) is required by some UK universities as part of an application through UCAS to read Law. These include Bristol, Durham, Glasgow, KCL, LSE, Nottingham, Oxford, SOAS and UCL. Registration begins on 01-Aug-18. LNAT can be sat from 01-Sept-18 in Lausanne at a time and date of choosing. For application to Oxford, LNAT must be taken by 20-Oct-18. For all other universities the latest date is 20-Jan-19. Further details, including preparing for the test and learning about the different aspects of law, can be found at www.lnat.ac.uk.

Year 12: UK Medicine To help with practising for UKCAT the following website may be of interest: www.dukesmedicalapplications.com/application-resources/undergraduate-applicants/resource/ukcat-practice-test/. Adam Kay *This is Going to Hurt: The Secret Diaries of a Junior Doctor* offers a different view of practice in the NHS. “At sixteen, your reasons for wanting to pursue a career in medicine are generally along the lines of ‘My mum/dad’s a doctor’, ‘I quite like *Holby City*’ or ‘I want to cure cancer’. Reasons one and two are ludicrous, and reason three would be perfectly fine – if a little earnest – were it not for the fact that’s what research scientists do, not doctors. Besides, holding anyone to their word at that age seems a bit unfair, on a par with declaring the ‘I want to be an astronaut’ painting you did aged five a legally binding document ... One brilliant consultant [in obstetrics] tells her trainees that by the time they retire there’ll be a bus full of dead kids and kids with cerebral palsy, and that bus is going to have their name on the side. A huge number of ‘adverse outcomes’, as they say in hospital, will occur on their watch. She tells them if they can’t deal with that, they’re in the wrong profession”.

Year 12: Supercurricular activities To assist with exploring academic subjects in greater depth, the University of Cambridge offers the following website: <http://www.myheplus.com>.

Years 11 and 12: Notes from a visit to Saint Louis University in Madrid on 04-May-18 Founded in 1818, Saint Louis University in Missouri is the oldest university in the USA west of the Mississippi River. *The Princeton Review* ranks it among the top places in the USA for undergraduate study. Situated in the attractive university quarter close to the Guzmán el Bueno metro station (lines 4 and 7), the Madrid campus of Saint Louis University was set up in 1967. Elegant buildings, modern classrooms and the latest technology make for one aspect of the educational experience; the other comes from the diverse student body, the personal care and the proximity to wonderful cultural riches. While the full degree programmes are in humanities, the first two years of the sciences programmes are also offered, the last two years being completed in Missouri. The classrooms include science laboratories, a practice medical station with simulation mannequins and a wet room for the life sciences. Biochemistry and Aviation Science are therefore as accessible as History and Psychology. Following with an engaging professor the pattern of a typical class in History of Art, I experienced at first hand in the Prado gallery the style of Socratic dialogue that underpins much of the teaching, exploring with exhilarating sensitivity the cultural, historical and philosophical aspects of the human condition. Accommodation is arranged with host families, student residences or private flats. Discovering Spain is an integral part of life at Saint Louis University, whether on a weekend social trip or as part of an academic module. The Sports Department offers a range of possibilities, from baseball and golf to soccer and swimming. To enquire about the athletic possibilities, the Sports Director can be contacted directly at cesar.rioja@slu.edu. With its commitment to social justice, Saint Louis University encourages students to engage in service work.

Application is made online either through the Common Application or through the institution's own portal. Included with the application must be a personal essay, the title of which is prescribed, and the predicted grades. While they are not compulsory, the addition of a CV and two letters of recommendation can only strengthen an application. SAT and ACT are not required. The tuition fees are about €20,000 per annum. For more details go to www.slu.edu/madrid/academics.

Years 11 and 12: Notes from the visit by Parsons Paris/New York on 14-May-18 The New School in New York is the same institution as Parsons Paris. Ranked every year as the leading art school in the USA, it is also among the top in the world, the only such hive of creativity within a comprehensive US university. At the New School some 30 per cent of the student body is international. Those admitted are artists who are interested in the wider intellectual scene, whether feminism, politics or anthropology. Held in small classes, learning is based around projects. Among the main majors at the New School are Architecture, Interior Design, Design Technology and Fashion. At Parsons Paris three majors are offered: Art, Media and Technology, Fashion Design and Strategic Design. In the first year these disciplines are mixed together in order to break down any preconceptions. Rather than being a foundation year, therefore, this is a transdisciplinary year. During the application process a portfolio must be uploaded to the online platform SlideRoom. It is recommended that each page is fully filled. This allows for the process of working to be shown. One idea should be developed further as a personal challenge. Alongside this personal challenge is an essay of 500 words which describes the inspiration behind the idea and the journey through the skill. ACT and SAT are not required. A third of the degree programme accesses liberal arts subjects such as literature and politics. From the second year students are involved in projects linked to the wider world. There is a close link between creativity and salary. Thus the Student Success programme helps guide students into composing a CV, applying for jobs and planning careers. The tuition fees are \$50,000 in the New School, \$30,000 in Parsons Paris. Merit scholarships are available based on the grades achieved at school, the letter of motivation and the portfolio. National Portfolio Day is held on alternate years at Parsons Paris. This affords the opportunity for a portfolio to be critiqued by different art schools free of charge. To foster inspiration it is strongly recommended that students, in the company of parents or friends, go to exhibitions of new work in Geneva, seek out the responsible artists and talk with them about their work. Situated in the first arrondissement, a short walk away from the Louvre, Parsons Paris has some 260 students. Accommodation is provided in flats, with host families or in student halls of residence arranged by Academic Programs International. For more details go to www.newschool.edu/parsons-paris/.

Years 11 and 12: Notes from the visit by Merrimack College on 29-Sept-16 Merrimack College is situated in Andover, Massachusetts, a forty-five minute ride by MBTA train from Boston. Suburban and safe, the campus has guaranteed accommodation for the first two years of undergraduate study. There are over one hundred majors and minors on offer. Especially popular is the major in Engineering with a minor in Business. This has led to work with prosthetics, internships at NASA and repairing bridges in Nepal after the earthquake. With a Bloomberg terminal on which to practise, certification for trading can be awarded. Merrimack College is Division 1 for ice hockey, Division 2 for all other sports. Altogether there are 3,200 students. The intimate 13:1 student-to-faculty ratio allows for research to be conducted by undergraduates. Such a focussed student body, willing to be involved in a wide range of academic and extracurricular activities, leads to exciting and fruitful potential. Service work, for example, has recently been conducted in Costa Rica and Ecuador. Nearby is a predominantly low-income Latinx community and students regularly participate with helping remedy the resulting inequalities. For admission SAT and ACT are optional. The stipulated GPA of 3.0 for entry equates to about 5 on the IB scale. For more details go to <http://www.merrimack.edu>.

Years 9, 10, 11 and 12: Some websites for careers exploration Careers in general www.careersbox.co.uk and [www.mycareersspringboard.org](http://www.mycareerspringboard.org) Computing www.codecademy.com/skillup Engineering www.tomorrowseengineers.org.uk Horseracing www.careersinracing.com/career.map Maritime www.maritimeuk.org/careers/ Musical Theatre www.youthmusictheatreuk.org Procurement www.beabuyer.org Surveying www.rics.org/uk/the-profession/

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