

UCAS SURVIVAL PACK

University of
South Wales
Prifysgol
De Cymru



Name:

School/College:

UCAS Username:

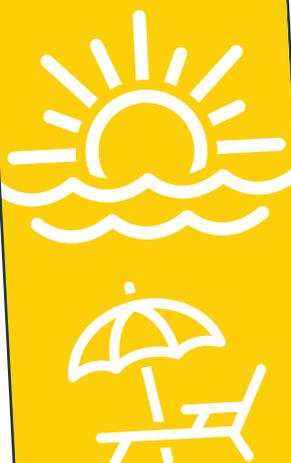
UCAS Personal ID:

DISCOVER
YOUR POTENTIAL

southwales.ac.uk

UCAS TRAIL

Applying to university can seem a daunting process, so to make sure you know what happens when, here is a handy overview to help you keep on top of it all.

JUNE-DECEMBER	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
<p>JUNE-SEPTEMBER</p> <p>Research With more than 36,000 courses available across hundreds of universities, narrowing these down to just five can be hard work.</p> <p>It's important to start early. The best way to research universities is to attend Open Days. You can find our Open Day dates on page 14, and you can book your place online at: southwales.ac.uk/opendays</p>	<p>JANUARY-MAY</p> <p>Offers Once you have applied, you'll start to receive offers. The types of offers are below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unconditional offer is an offer of a place on a university course, where the applicant has met all of the entry criteria. • Conditional offer is dependent on the applicant meeting certain criteria, such as particular grades or UCAS tariff points. Most applicants receive this type of offer. Depending on the course, some universities may invite you to attend an interview or audition before they make their decision. • Unsuccessful means that the applicant has not been accepted for the university course. <p>Acceptance Once you have received your offers, you will need to decide on your firm acceptance, which is the offer you accept as your first choice. In addition, you can make an insurance acceptance (your second choice), in case you don't get the grades needed for your first choice. It is important that the entry requirements for your insurance course are lower than those of your firm acceptance course. You have until the beginning of May to reply to all offers.</p>						<p>AUGUST</p> <p>Results Day and Clearing If you haven't secured a place at university after receiving your results, or if you fail to meet the entry requirements for your firm and insurance choices, you can enter a system called Clearing. This matches students with spare university places.</p>	<p>SEPTEMBER</p> <p>You're now a UNIVERSITY STUDENT!</p>	
<p>SEPTEMBER-JANUARY</p> <p>Apply Applications are made to UCAS between September and January, with most of this process completed at your school or college.</p> <p>The personal statement is one of the most important parts of the application. University tutors rely on this information when making a decision about whether to accept potential students, so it needs to be the best reflection of you. You'll find more guidance on writing your personal statement in this booklet.</p>	<p>FEBRUARY-JUNE</p> <p>Apply for student finance Students from Wales can make a student finance application at: www.studentfinancewales.co.uk. Students from England can make a student finance application at: www.gov.uk/student-finance</p> <p>UCAS Extra If you receive no offers from your five UCAS choices, or choose to decline all the offers you are made, you will have the chance to enter UCAS Extra. This is a second chance for some students who were not successful with their initial applications. You will only be able to apply for courses at institutions that still have vacancies. For more information, please visit: ucas.com</p>						<p>MAIN UCAS DEADLINE</p> <p>15 OCTOBER - The deadline for courses such as medicine, dentistry and veterinary science, and for applications to Oxford or Cambridge.</p> <p>15 JANUARY - The deadline for most UCAS applications. Some scholarship and bursary application deadlines are also tied to this date.</p>		

RESEARCH: WHAT TO CONSIDER

Institution	Course Title(s)	Open Days	Scholarship/ Bursary Available?	Entry Requirements
University of South Wales				

PERSONAL STATEMENT

Students often find the personal statement the most challenging part of their UCAS application. It may be difficult to squeeze all of your achievements and experiences into just **47 lines** or **4,000 characters**.

Mind Map

Before you start working on your personal statement, you need to consider what you want to include and what you want your chosen universities to know about you. Map out your ideas, achievements and experiences below.



PREPARING YOUR PERSONAL STATEMENT

1

Preparation

- You can only write one personal statement, so remember to make a list of all the things you want to include in it.
- Remember that the same statement will be sent to all the universities you apply to.
- Start drafting your personal statement early to ensure you have enough time to read through and edit.
- Research! Research! Research! Look at different university websites and see what skills and qualities they're looking for.



2

What to include

- You will need to explain why you're interested in that specific subject area.
- How your current and previous studies relate to the course you've chosen.
- How your previous jobs and work experiences relate to your skills and the course you've chosen.
- Explain any training you've had and achievements you've gained.



3

How to write it

- The introduction and the way you start your personal statement determines whether the reader wants to continue reading it.
- Structure your personal statement and be clear and concise.
- Check grammar, spelling and punctuation.
- Emphasise your commitment, enthusiasm and skills.



4

Technical details

- Don't copy! UCAS software systems detects if a statement has been copied which could hinder your chances of being accepted.
- You will need to write 47 lines of text max, which is equivalent to 4,000 characters (this includes blank spaces).



MEET OUR USW BLOGGERS

USW Bloggers share what student life is like through their vlogs – follow them to hear about USW life in their own words.

If you've got a question about being a student here, just get in touch through Instagram.



Follow their blogs at: southwales.ac.uk/uswbloggers
Or look for them on Instagram: [@uswbloggers](https://www.instagram.com/uswbloggers)



OPEN DAYS: WHAT DO I WANT TO KNOW?

Use this space to list some questions you'd like to ask at university Open Days, such as what careers graduates have gone on to.

1

4

2

5

3

6





USEFUL INFORMATION

UCAS online: ucas.com

Student finance: studentfinancewales.co.uk (if you currently live in Wales)
gov.uk/studentfinance (if you currently live in England)

WhatUni: whatuni.com

University of South Wales: southwales.ac.uk | 03455 76 77 78



YouTube

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@USW_SCL

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