

# Guidance from St Edmund's College.

## The UCAS Form - Some ideas for making a good application

### 1) The Personal Statement - might be not Cambridge-specific but see 2) The Cambridge Supplementary Application Questionnaire

Make sure the candidate addresses the following:

- Interested and capable in their chosen subject(s) - why do they want to study it/them? Try to personalise this and avoid standard answers.
- Capable of enjoying and contributing to/learning from interests outside academic study
- Explain any personal circumstances leading to difficulties with past examinations

in addition consider:

- Understanding of where higher education will take them - career ideas
- What have they read recently and why?
- Relevant work experience and what have they learned from it (especially law, medicine, vocational subjects)
- Relevant outside courses and what have they learned from them (skills and/or experience gained)?
- Able to work to a high academic level, and to be able to cope with the challenges that Higher Education presents - evidence of engagement with chosen subject
- Self-motivated and able to set and work to their own and other's deadlines
- Capable of working well in a team and on their own
- Prepared to take all of the opportunities (academic and social) which higher education provides

### 2) The Reference

In general:

- Place candidate in context with reference to their actual and predicted results
- Support the personal statement - make sure you have seen it
- Make a fair assessment of the candidate's potential to succeed at a higher level

also consider:

- Placing the College/Course in context indicating the level and outcomes
- Predictions which go higher than past performance must be explained
- Indicate candidate's development in subject, development of skills, intellect and relevant outside interests
- Comment on, motivation, self-discipline, independent study, team-work and any past problems with examinations
- Provide an overall view of suitability and potential to succeed in Higher Education

### **3) The Cambridge Supplementary Application Questionnaire**

Not yet finalised, but likely to allow the following which could be more Cambridge-specific:

- Optional additional personal statement - why Cambridge course in particular?
- Further candidate information
- Difficulties with teaching in any subject
- Any outside interests relevant to subject (if not stated earlier)
- Any career plans (if not stated earlier)

#### **Useful web sites:**

##### **General**

<http://www.cam.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/>

[http://www.ucas.com/advisers/apply/about\\_apply/writingreferences](http://www.ucas.com/advisers/apply/about_apply/writingreferences)

##### **Statement**

<http://www.ucas.com/students/startapplication/apply/personalstatement>

<http://www.merlinhelpsstudents.com/studentlife/beforeuniversity/ucas/personalstatement.asp>

<http://www.keele.ac.uk/depts/aa/undergraduate/teachersandadvisers/pdfs/ucasform.pdf>

<http://www.thesite.org/workandstudy/studychoices/applications/ucaswhattowrite>

##### **Reference**

[http://www.ucas.com/advisers/apply/about\\_apply/writingreferences](http://www.ucas.com/advisers/apply/about_apply/writingreferences)

<http://www.keele.ac.uk/a2k/ucasref.pdf>