



Outreach North East: UCAS - Preparing for the January Deadline Q&A

Do you have any tips for supporting students who have virtual interviews as part of their application process?

Our top tips for virtual interviews are very much the same however we would also recommend the student has a quick run through/practice beforehand just to ensure the technical side is set up and working. We still advise students to dress formally, have a quiet surrounding (where possible) and to turn up on time for their interview.

It can be really useful to also have pointers written down for questions they have prepped so that they can refer to these whilst doing the interview. There are some more generic tips on this web page here: <https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/after-you-apply/undergraduate-interview-invitations>.

Make sure that students who have interviews understand the logistics for their session i.e. will the interview be via zoom or Teams and do they have those installed on the device they will be using? Who will call who on the day? If they need to do a presentation what are the parameters for the presentation? If in doubt the student should contact the provider organising the interview prior to the session

Will the events for students that are coming up be accessible after it has happened in case they clash with online learning priorities?

If students have signed up for events and can't attend, they will be able to access these on demand using the platform **it's** hosted on. The time frame the content is made available differs, however they will be made aware of how long **it's** accessible for.

For the UCAS events there are usually repeat sessions throughout the day of the event to ensure there are multiple opportunities for students to attend.

How can students talk about work experience that hasn't been able to go ahead?

Universities and colleges are understanding of the difficulties around this however there are a few ways students can work around this.

Some providers have changed their approach and requirements for work experience as a result of the pandemic. Remind students that most (if not all) of their peers will be in the same situation as them. If a student has been unable to do work experience but they had planned they could perhaps talk about what they had hoped to gain from the work experience. Also try to remind students to stay as positive as possible with their applications and talk about lockdown with a positive tone (not easy we know!)

Some organisations are offering a virtual experience and it can be equally as valuable as doing it in-person. Students could also have a phone or video call with people working in the field they're interested in. Students who take this pro-active approach will really stand out against their peers. In addition, lots of universities and colleges are offering free webinars and lectures to help students expand their knowledge and get a better understanding of the subject.

Students could also attend virtual tours, tutorials, and galleries. Check out some more ideas around virtual activities on this webpage: <https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/writing-your-personal-statement/work-experience-and-volunteering>

Is there any extra support in place for students applying onto exam heavy courses, as it will now be over 2 years since they've sat official exams?

Universities and colleges will be individually providing support to their students around this. If there is specific support the student is looking for it would be worth them contacting the individual universities and colleges to see what they can offer.

How can we support students who are worried that next year will be a repeat of this year and therefore aren't sure whether to apply?

We should still be encouraging students to apply to university or college if they desire. We cannot predict the next coming year or two so it is difficult to advise them on what is best for them. If they apply now for 2021 entry they might be able defer their application later down the line however this isn't guaranteed. There are two deferral options here:

Deferring after submitting the application – in some cases, this is possible, but it will depend on the university or college and course students have applied to. They should contact the university or college directly for advice. They may be asked to give reasons for deciding to defer.

Deferring after they get their results/after their place is confirmed – if they're due to start the course in September and decide they want to defer a place for a year, they must contact the university or college directly. Some course providers may not allow deferral for some courses at this point in the application cycle. They will be asked to give reasons for the late decision to defer. The request will be considered, but there is no guarantee that it will be accepted, and they may be asked to reapply.

If students apply for and receive an offer of a deferred place for the following year's entry, **but then decide they want to start the course this year, they'll need to contact the university or college directly.** This process is not straightforward, and will depend on whether there are places available on the course.

It is important to note deferred applicants cannot apply through Clearing (summer 2022) using their deferred application.

See more information about deferred entry here:

<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/when-apply/deferred-entry>

What is the process to amend grading?

Predicted grades cannot be amended once the application has been sent. You would need to discuss the amendments with the universities individually about this. If the student needs to amend qualifications added on the application form they can do this using this link:

<https://www.ucas.com/content/request-amend-qualifications-listed-your-application>