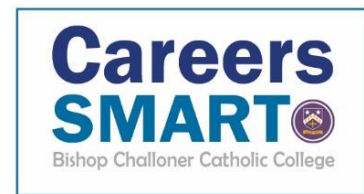


UCAS

Jargon Buster



Adjustment: A service available on results day to those students who have gained higher results than expected and therefore would like to change the institution or course they will be studying.

BA: Bachelor of Arts, the undergraduate degree awarded to those studying an arts or humanities degree.

BMAT: The Biomedical Admissions Test. Another form of medical admissions test required by certain universities.

BSc: Bachelor of Science, the undergraduate degree awarded to those studying a scientific discipline.

BTEC: Business and Technology Education Council. Vocational qualifications that equip students with theoretical and practical knowledge in a range of subjects. There are three main levels: BTEC firsts that are equivalent to GCSE level, BTEC national diplomas that are equivalent to A-level, and BTEC apprenticeships.

Bursary: A non-repayable monetary award made to students who satisfy certain criteria as set by the awarding universities and colleges.

Clearing: A service that opens on results day each year whereby those students without a place at a higher education institution can gain a place on courses with spaces still available.

Combined Honours: A degree encompassing more than one subject.

DSA: Disabled Student Allowances are monetary awards made to those students who may need additional support through their studies as a result of a disability or long-term health condition. For example these awards may pay for specialist equipment, printing costs, a note-taker etc. These awards are assessed on a case by case basis.

FE: Further Education. Refers to the qualifications taken post 16, i.e. after a student has taken their GCSEs.

Firm Choice: A student's first choice of higher education, this is the institution and course they will attend providing they meet the conditions of their offer.

Foundation Year: A year taken at the start of a degree course aimed at preparing students for university study. Courses with an integrated foundation year are usually 3 years instead of 4. Courses with a foundation year usually have lower entry requirements than the main degree.

Fresher: The informal term given to first year students at university.

Gap Year: Students may opt to take a year out of their studies before beginning a higher education course, this year can be used to work, travel, volunteer or a mixture of the three!

GCSE: General Certificate of Secondary Education. The qualifications are taken at the end of a student's secondary education, in year 11.

Halls: The term given to the university accommodation students can opt to live in during their first year of study at university, should the student chose to move out.

HE: Higher Education. Refers to the qualifications that are taken at level 4 or above, i.e. those that are taken after A-Levels or equivalentents.

Hons: Honours - indicates a level of attainment attached to a BSc or BA

Insurance Choice: A student's second choice of higher education, usually with slightly lower entry requirements. This is the institution and course a student will attend should they not meet the terms of their Firm choice.

Key Stage 3: Key stage 3 (or KS3) refers to school years 7-9.

Key Stage 4: Key stage 4 (or KS4) refers to school years 10-11.

Key Stage 5: Key stage 5 (or KS5) refers to school years 12-13.

Lecture: A style of teaching whereby staff deliver content in a theatre style room with students taking notes.

Module: A period of study covering a particular topic. Many programmes are divided into modules with a certain number of modules required to study the course to completion.

Sandwich Year: A work placement year taken in the middle of a degree course, usually taken between the 2nd and final years.

Semester: A block of study containing certain modules (at universities the year is usually split into two semesters).

Seminar: Smaller, more interactive, group teaching. Usually centred on group discussion with some work to prepare prior to the session.

SFE: Student Finance England are the body who manage applications for maintenance and tuition fee loans across England.

Term: The periods of teaching time throughout the academic year.

UCAS Extra: An additional period of time to apply for courses through UCAS when someone has not applied during the main UCAS application period or has received no offers of a place.

UCAS Track: The online service allowing applicants to track the status of their higher education applications.

UCAS: University and College Admissions Service. The central organisation who handle applications for higher education across the UK.

UCAT: The University Clinical Aptitude Test. An admissions test required by some medical and dental schools across the UK.