## Instructions for Applying to U.K. Universities (Class of 2018)

### England/Other UK vs. Scotland Systems of Higher Education

The Scottish higher educational system is distinguished from that of England and the rest of the U.K. by the fact that in England, degree programs take three (rather than four) years and students specialize in one main subject from their main year. In Scotland, degree programs are four years and students are not required to specialize until their third year (similar to the U.S. and Canadian systems).

### Minimum Qualifications for Admission

Most British Universities will evaluate the credentials of an undergraduate applicant by his/her standardized test scores. U.S. applicants should expect to submit the SAT or ACT and two or three AP exams or three to four SAT subject tests. Many other institutions have clear guidelines for testing requirements on their websites, such as those from University of Aberdeen: a minimum of a combined SAT score of 1800, or two subject test scores of 600, or a combined ACT score of 27, or two AP tests of a score of 4 or above. For Oxford or Cambridge, you should have SAT scores of 700 or higher in each section or a 32 or higher on the ACT composite. You should also have two to three AP scores of 4 or 5 or three to four subject test scores of 700 or higher (see below). Offers of admission will be made on a conditional basis until any/all testing is completed. **PLEASE NOTE:** some programs (or “faculty”) do not require standardized testing to be sent from the College Board until the conditional offer is made (i.e., after interviewing), particularly at Oxford and Cambridge. Please check the requirements for the faculty you are applying to for details.

### How and When to Apply

**Whenever possible, students should apply to UK institutions through the Common Application.** Common Application schools in the UK include, but are not limited to: University of St. Andrews and Universities of Aberdeen and Stirling (Scotland); King’s College London, University of Bristol (England). Cambridge, Oxford, the London School of Economics, University College London, University of Edinburgh, and University of Glasgow, among others, are not on the Common App and use the UCAS system only.

The UCAS application, called Apply, is available in mid-May online: [http://www.ucas.com/students/apply/](http://www.ucas.com/students/apply/).

It is important to review each year’s application forms and deadlines. While many schools in the British system use a “rolling admissions” process, we encourage students to submit their applications sooner rather than later. **Oxford and Cambridge have application deadlines of Oct. 15.** **NOTE:** You may apply to either Cambridge or Oxford, but not both. All other universities have Jan. 15 deadlines with the exception of programs in medicine and art/design (see UCAS website for details).

To initiate the online application, register at [http://www.ucas.com/student/apply/](http://www.ucas.com/student/apply/) and select “Register/Login to use Apply2017.” You will not apply as an individual; rather, you must apply through Loomis Chaffee. This enables your college counselor to upload the reference on your behalf and to submit the completed application to UCAS for processing.

When prompted, enter LC’s buzzword, which is **LOOMISCHAFFEE2018**

After completing each section of the application, you will pay the application fee for up to five universities. Next, you will email your college counselor to indicate your application is ready for review for accuracy and for uploading the reference and submitting your final application for processing (your college counselor submits your application, you do not).

To ensure time to communicate regarding any issues, please submit your UCAS application two weeks prior to January 15, 2018. Remember, the earlier the better!

(SEE OTHER SIDE)
Writing the Personal Statement

In the UCAS personal statement, you are addressing what makes you qualified to study what you want to study. It is NOT the Common App essay. You should be concise and link your interests and skills to the course you are applying for. The following link is very helpful regarding how to write the UCAS personal statement: https://www.ucas.com/ucas/undergraduate/getting-started/when-apply/writing-personal-statement

Application Timeline

This is a detailed and time-sensitive process. Therefore, we have established specific deadlines to help guide you through the UCAS application:

- **Immediately.** Choose a course of study, select a referee from your chosen area of study (with your counselor’s help), and begin your UCAS personal statement to submit it to your college counselor for review.

- **Once a referee has been selected, email him/her** to alert them to the timeline for UCAS (early fall if Oxford or Cambridge) and **ask them to email comments regarding your qualifications for your course of study to your college counselor.** The college counselor will incorporate those comments into a general reference for you that will be uploaded after you submit your application through Loomis Chaffee’s UCAS account.

- **Two weeks before your first deadline (remember OXFORD and CAMBRIDGE are due OCT 15; all others are due JAN 15) finalize your UCAS application on Apply online for approval by your college counselor. It is very important to do this EARLY as in all likelihood you will need to make edits, and your counselor needs to review it before submitting it with your reference.**
Specific Information for Cambridge and Oxford

Cambridge University: PLAN AHEAD!!

Application Instructions

http://www.cam.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/apply/

Students applying to the University of Cambridge living or going to a school outside the European Union must also complete the Cambridge Online Preliminary Application (COPA):

http://www.cam.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/international/apply.html

After submitting both UCAS and COPA, students applying to Cambridge must also complete a supplemental form called the Supplementary Application Questionnaire (SAQ). You will need your COPA reference number to complete the SAQ.

http://www.cam.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/apply/saq.html

NOTE that your high school transcript must be uploaded as a part of COPA.

Oxford University

Application Instructions:

http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/international-students/international-qualifications

The application process for Oxford is the same for international applicants as EU residents. Testing qualifications for Oxford are as follows:

- SAT Reasoning Test with at least 1400 in Critical Reading and Mathematics and also 700 or more in Writing, giving a combined score of at least 2100 OR ACT with a score of at least 32 out of 36.
- AND grade 5 in three or more Advanced Placement Tests in appropriate subjects OR SAT Subject Tests in three appropriate subjects at 700 or better. A combination of APs and SAT Subject Tests (or other equivalent qualifications) is also acceptable, if they are in different subjects.
- Superscoring is not allowed.
- Candidates are also asked to include any pending test scores on the UCAS application: that is, details of any test they intend to take up until the end of Senior Year. Again, this is to give tutors a complete picture of the candidates’ academic record, including studies which are still in progress.

For most Oxford courses, all candidates (including international candidates) must take a test as part of their application. You can take this test at Loomis Chaffee, but please note that separate registration is required. For further details please see www.ox.ac.uk/tests and discuss your testing requirements with your college counselor as early as possible to ensure you can schedule the test here in the U.S.

Interviews for Cambridge and Oxford

If you are granted an interview, you are given a specific date and time, which cannot be altered. British interviews are typically oral, academic examinations; hence you must know something about the area of study to which you have applied. It is our understanding that students who interview in the U.K. are advantaged in the process. If you need to travel, you will need to petition to miss class and leave flexible travel plans. Again, please consult with your college counselor.