

Developing Outstanding Personal Statement: 25 Subject Specific Guides

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Introduction

The purpose of this publication is to give potential higher education applicants a clear view of the route ahead early in Year 12. This will enable them to:

- (1) Understand the key elements of the UCAS application process without, at this early stage, getting too drawn into details
- (2) Develop an awareness that they will be required to write a Personal Statement in Year 13 as part of their application.
- (3) Give them a clear idea of what the expectations for the Personal Statement will be and of what they need to do in the run up to be in a position to write a successful one.
- (4) Develop an awareness of enrichment activities they should pursue from Year 12 on, to demonstrate a commitment and enthusiasm for subjects they may choose to apply for in higher education.

For 25 of the most popular higher education courses there are photocopiable guides with:

- Subject pointers
- Suggested enrichment activities
- Suggested reading
- Useful websites for further research

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Higher Education Applications: the Route Ahead

- The Higher Education application process starts in earnest after AS exams but you need to start thinking and planning earlier than this.
- You apply online for up to 5 universities through UCAS by 15 January except for some art courses (24 March)
- For Medicine, Vet Science/Medicine or Dentistry you only apply to 4 universities (plus one other course) with a 15 October deadline.
- Oxford and Cambridge also have a 15 October deadline. Apply to one or other, together with up to four other universities.
- If a university likes the look of your application they will make you an offer in the form of A levels grades (or equivalent) for example BCC, unless you have already taken your exams in which case the offer will be unconditional.
- **IMPORTANT:** Get yourself into a position to **apply early** in the September/ October period of Year 13 because this may well increase your chances of a getting offers of places from universities

Make the most of the UCAS website: <http://www.ucas.com>

- When you come to submit your application early in Year 13 you will apply through UCAS (Universities and Colleges Admissions Service) which is based in Cheltenham.
- UCAS is a central organisation through which applications are processed for entry to full-time higher education (HE) courses in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland
- Your application will be submitted online using the UCAS **Apply** website and you will be able to make up to five course choices

Start Using the UCAS website early in Year 12 to get a feel for what support is available. The website gives you excellent advice about all stages of the application process:

- Where to start
- Choosing courses
- Applying

- Offers
- Results
- Next steps
- Starting university or college
- UCAS terms explained
- UCAS Tariff
- Student finance
- Events
- News
- Important dates
- FAQs

There is also a very useful collection of UCAS video guides to all aspects of the application process at the link:

<http://www.ucas.tv/ucas/video/XKPKL>

Why get the big picture early in year 12?

- If you are clear about the route ahead with regard to UCAS it will help you to submit a strong application
- There are things you need to start thinking about, doing and keeping on the back burner to make your eventual application a strong one
- It will give you a head start compared to many students who are applying nationally and will give you a competitive edge over other students who have left things till the last minute

Above all

- Research the possibilities and keep your options open. No final decisions will be taken until early in Year 13
- You will find Courses to suite a wide range of A level grades from very competitive AAA* to two year foundation degrees with lower offers (passes at A level in many cases)
- Make sure you look at the alternatives to higher education as well, such as careers with training.

What is the Personal Statement and why is it important?

The Personal Statement is a very important part of your university application, around an A4 side in length. Many courses do not interview so the Personal Statement may be your only chance to impress selectors.

In most cases it will be written between July of Year 12 with a final version in September/ October of Year 13 but if you know where you are going early in Year 12, it will help you to collect experiences and engage in enrichment activities so that you have something significant to write about when the time comes.

The Personal Statement gives you an opportunity to:

- tell the universities and colleges why they should choose you
- tell universities and colleges about your suitability for the course(s) that you hope to study.
- demonstrate your enthusiasm and commitment, and above all, ensure that you stand out from the crowd

What should go into the Personal Statement?

Some of the best advice on the Personal Statement comes from UCAS who suggest that **at least two thirds of your personal statement should relate to the course you wish to study at university and your suitability for it.**

For a mind-map and worksheet to help you use the links:

<http://www.ucas.com/documents/statement/mindmap.pdf>

<http://www.ucas.com/documents/statement/worksheet.pdf>

UCAS also give the following important pointers about how you should include in your Personal Statement:

(1) Why you are applying for the course you have chosen?

- Why does the subject interest you?
- **Include evidence that you understand what is required to study the course**
- What got you interested in the subject?

- What have you learnt about the subject?
- Any activities that demonstrate your interest in the course(s)

(2) Why you are suitable for the course:

- Which skills and experience do you have that will help you succeed on the course.
- What have you done to develop your knowledge of the subject?
- What evidence is there that you have read, studied, gained experiences outside the confines of your A level courses?

What about the EPQ?

If you are involved in this mention it in your Personal Statement

- Show how it has helped you to develop intellectually with examples
- Show how it has helped you learn new study and research skills
- Show how you think it has helped you prepare for university

How can I show my commitment to a university subject I want to study?

The first priority is to be on top of the subjects you are studying at A level (or equivalent) because without achieving the required you will not get a place at university. You need to be:

- Up to date with assignments
- Cover the specification thoroughly
- Clear about the assessment criteria for each subject
- Have a good revision programme in place

The second priority is to enrich the A level subject you wish to study at university and any other related A levels by engaging in a range of activities to broaden and deepen your knowledge and to persuade university selectors of your commitment.

If the subject you want to study is not one of your current courses, Engineering or Vet Science for example, the same applies. Engage in activities to show that you have made a substantial effort to find out about the subject and that you have a genuine commitment to it.

Read widely

- Textbooks quickly get out of date and have a narrow focus. Read more about topics you are studying and about other areas of the subject that interest you.
- Get a breadth of understanding beyond what is in the specification.
- Read subject magazines and journals to keep in touch with the latest developments.
- Philip Allen Updates subject review magazines are worth subscribing to and will keep you up to date with new research and ideas in your subject:
<http://magazines.philipallan.co.uk/>

Find out about the historical development and scope of the subject

- It helps to know how your subject has developed over time and how people approached it in the past. This will give you a better sense of what

it is about and a clearer insight into how it has reached its current position.

- Understand that in all subjects there is not just one way of looking at things. There will be different perspectives, schools of thought, different views about how the subject should be studied. Be clear where you stand in relation to these debates.
- Oxford University Press (OUP) have a very useful series of books called *Very Short Introductions* which give you excellent background to academic subjects and topics within subjects.
- Wikipedia also has some useful articles on different academic subjects, their scope and historical background.

Be clear why the subject is important and worth studying

Think about what the subject has to offer.

- It may help to bring economic and technological benefits to society.
- It may help us to understand how humans behave.
- It may simply be worth studying in its own right

Understand the importance of argument and evidence

Serious academic debate revolves around argument or attempts to persuade others to your point of view using evidence and examples to support your case.

It is important to:

- Ask yourself how convincing is the evidence you are using to support your views
- Ask others what evidence they have to support theirs and challenge it.
- Familiarise yourself with terms such, as argument and counter argument and be aware of the dangers of misrepresenting, insufficient or unrepresentative evidence
- Understand the common fallacies in argument that others might use such as correlation not causation or restricting the options.
- Be aware of the criteria we should use to decide whether sources of evidence are reliable.
- If you are not already studying Critical Thinking which deals with these issues, any Critical Thinking A level textbook will help you with all this or the website:

<http://www.criticalthinking.org.uk>

Get relevant experience

- This will depend on the subject you want to study. Some university subjects like Medicine or Vet Science will require extensive work experience and it is also expected for subjects such as Nursing, Teaching or Social Work.
- For other subjects you should try to gain relevant experiences in the world outside school such as theatre visits for English, industrial and business experience for subject such as Economics, Business Studies and Engineering, voluntary work for caring careers
- A useful website is:
<http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/YoungPeople/Workandcareers/Workexperienceandvolunteering>.

Use radio, television, newspapers and their websites productively

- Use the media to keep in touch with issues and debates relevant to your subject: news, documentaries, arts programmes, reviews.
- Radio and television programme and newspaper websites will have archives of programmes and articles which you can search for relevant material. Radio 4, for example has extensive archives of broadcasts relevant to a wide range of academic subjects.

Do an Extended Project Qualification

- The EPQ offers the opportunity to study a topic in depth to AS level and produce a self-directed 5000 word dissertation.
- Although the EPQ will not usually form part of a university offer for a place on a course, it gives you the opportunity to develop independent and advanced research skills and to extend your knowledge of a subject that interests you.
- If you choose a topic that is related to a course you want to study at university it will strengthen your application, give you something to talk about in your Personal Statement and at interview and help you develop skills that will be useful at university.
- Useful link:

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/qualifications/projects/extended-project-epq.php>

Involve yourself in serious talk and debate

- Be enthusiastic about debating with and expressing your ideas to other students. It is only in discussion and debate with others that we really clarify what we think.
- Test your views against others.
- Do not be defensive and get used to being relaxed about having your views challenged by others.

Above all do not believe all that you are told: learn to be sceptical

- Constantly question views, theories and opinions that you are faced with.
- Test every idea to destruction so that you can tell which ones really stand up.
- Understand that what we currently think is only the best knowledge we have at the time.
- Don't be too easily persuaded

Find out about post-graduate employment

To get some sense of where you might be going after you get your degree. The following websites are very useful:

Prospects.ac.uk website Click 'Careers advice' link then click 'Options with your subject' link which will give you information on:

- skills the degree will give you
- job options related to your degree
- jobs for which your degree would be useful
- links to each of the jobs for further details
- career areas chosen by those with your degree
- where the jobs are
- other possibilities after your degree.

The **icould** website: <http://icould.com/> has over a thousand videos of individuals talking about their careers with hundreds of supporting articles giving an insight into:

- what each career involves
- what people who follow the career actually do
- what it is like
- how they came to be where they are
- their plans for the future.

National Careers Service website: <https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk>

The National Careers Service provides information, advice and guidance to help you make decisions on learning, training and work opportunities. The service offers confidential, helpful and impartial advice, supported by qualified careers advisers.

The service is freely available for people living in England. Links to organisations offering targeted advice for people living in Scotland, Northern Ireland or Wales are provided on the website.

Help and support is provided to show you how to:

- develop your CV
- search and apply for jobs
- understand the job market
- search for courses and training schemes
- find funding to support any learning
- identify your key strengths and skills
- explore your career options
- choose training routes that fit your lifestyle
- develop an action plan to help you achieve your goals.

Writing a Personal Statement using present experiences, background reading and knowledge: Task Sheet

Task 1

Name

You have 30 minutes to write part of a Personal Statement for an admissions tutor about yourself. You do not need to write about course choice at this stage.

You might include:

- relevant reading and research you have carried out
- your interests and experiences in school
- your interests and experiences outside school
- work experience
- voluntary work

Your Personal Statement

Exchange your draft Personal Statement with another student and assess whether you feel their statement captures your interest. Use the headings below:

Strengths of the statement

Weaknesses of the statement

Discussion

What do you and your fellow student need to do between now and the beginning of Year 13 to ensure that they have done enough to be able to write a persuasive statement?

ART AND DESIGN DEGREES: POINTERS, ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES AND RESOURCES FOR APPLICANTS

Make sure that when you write your UCAS Personal Statement early in Year 13 that you have something relevant and interesting to write about. Here are some suggestions for activities you should start as early in Year 12 as you can.

Subject pointers

- Many students complete a one-year art foundation course after Year 12/13 to help them progress to higher education. Applications are made direct to the college or university running the course.
- Art foundation courses are classified as further education so students taking the course are not eligible for a student loan but no tuition fees are charged to students under 19 at courses run by a local authority. Courses by independent, fee-paying colleges may charge.
- Fine Art degrees offer the studio skills associated with becoming an artist alongside an exploration of the theoretical, historical and critical foundations of the subject.
- On Design degrees students tend to follow a particular course to reflect future career option such as graphic design, illustration, textiles, interior design, fashion design, digital media, photography and many others
- For most Art and Design courses, you will be asked to attend an interview or submit a portfolio of your work (sometimes electronic)

What should I be doing: Subject enrichment activities in Year 12 and beyond

- Get as much experience in the different disciplines of art and design as you can
- Visit as many exhibitions as you can in your local area and especially in London
- Read the arts pages of national newspapers and use their websites
- Visit the websites of the major galleries such as Tate Britain, Tate Modern, the National Portrait Gallery, the National Gallery, the Design Museum, the Saatchi Gallery
- Visit the websites of contemporary artists such as Antony Gormley, Damien Hirst, David Hockney, Grayson Perry and others to find out more about their work.

- Try the online extension activities for AS and A2 students on the Villiers Park Educational Trust website: <http://www.villierspark-online-extension-activities.org.uk>

What should I be reading?

- *Progression to Art and Design*, UCAS Books
- *Real Life Guide: Creative Industries* by Karen Holmes
- *Getting Into Art & Design Courses* by James Burnett
- *Design: A Very Short Introduction* by John Heskett
- *Contemporary Art: A Very Short Introduction* by Julian Stallabrass
- *Photography: A Very Short Introduction* by Steve Edwards
- Read magazines such as the *Architectural Review*, *Art Monthly*, *Art Review*, *Blueprint*, *British Journal of Photography*, *Ceramic Review*, *Frieze*, *Photography Monthly* and *Portfolio*

Which websites will be useful?

- *Design Council* for publications , resources information about design, case studies.
- *British Arts* Information about arts competitions, arts events, art festivals and many other links
- *Your Creative Future* is a guide to educational and careers opportunities in the creative industries
- *Design Museum*
- The Tate *Learn Online* website and the *Tate Channel* which has video clips about contemporary artists and their work
- *Theatre Design* the website of the Royal Society of theatre designers
- *Arts Council*
- *Association of Photographers*,
- *British Film Institute*
- *Crafts Council*
- *Prospects.ac.uk* website ‘Careers Advice’ link to find out more about careers and jobs in this area of work

BIOLOGY DEGREES: POINTERS, ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES AND RESOURCES FOR APPLICANTS

Make sure that when you write your UCAS Personal Statement early in Year 13 that you have something relevant and interesting to write about. Here are some suggestions for activities you should start as early in Year 12 as you can

Subject pointers

- Many courses prefer applicants who offer A Level Biology and two other science A Levels.
- A Level Human Biology/Social Biology may be acceptable if accompanied by two other science A Levels.
- The more competitive courses prefer the two other science A Levels to be from Chemistry, Physics, or Mathematics

What should I be doing: Subject enrichment activities in Year 12 and beyond

- Read more about the topics on your course and other biology topics and issues that you have not yet studied
- Go on a Biology AS and A level Day at the Natural History Museum in London
- Consider doing an EPQ into an area of the subject that interests you
- Enter the Biology Olympiad: <http://www.biology-olympiad.org.uk>
- Explore the videos articles and podcasts on the biology section of the *Podology* website: <http://www.podology.org.uk>
- Try the online extension activities for AS and A2 students on the Villiers Park Educational Trust website: <http://www.villierspark-online-extension-activities.org.uk>

What should I be reading?

- Subscribe to the *Biological Sciences Review* magazine published by Philip Allan Updates and look at the back-numbers if they are in your school library
- Read *New Scientist* magazine and visit its website: <http://www.newscientist.com/>
- *Darwin: A Very Short Introduction* by Jonathan Howard
- *The Animal Kingdom: A Very Short Introduction* by Peter Holland
- University of Cambridge suggested reading list at: <http://www.bio.cam.ac.uk/sbs/facbiol/mvst/keyconcepts.html>

Which websites will be useful?

- *Biology Mad*: <http://www.biologymad.com/> A very useful website with biology resources and dozens of links to useful Biology websites
- *Biology Guide* <http://www.biologyguide.net/>
- BBC *Science and Nature* website
- *Nature* magazine website
- *New Scientist* Articles on the latest science and technology news, reports, developments and research.
- <http://www.ibiblio.org/virtualcell/amazingbiology/>
- Cellsalive! <http://www.cellsalive.com/>
- Centre of the Cell: <http://www.centreofthecell.org/>
- Biology Online: <http://www.biology-online.org/>
- *Scientific American* Insights Coverage of developments and research in science and technology.
- *ECSITE-UK* - Represents over 80 science centres and discovery centres in the UK.
- *BioMedNet News* News and features for life scientists *Natural History Museum*
- *BioEthics Education Project (BEEP)* Deals with ethical dilemmas that arise out of modern applications of Biology: genetic technology, reproductive issues, cloning, environmental issue etc Content is linked to exam syllabus specifications.
- *Natural History Museum* website especially the Nature Live archive
- Prospects.ac.uk website 'Careers Advice' link to find out more about careers and jobs in this subject area

BUSINESS STUDIES DEGREES: POINTERS, ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES AND RESOURCES FOR APPLICANTS

Make sure that when you write your UCAS Personal Statement early in Year 13 that you have something relevant and interesting to write about. Here are some suggestions for activities you should start as early in Year 12 as you can.

Subject pointers

- Business Studies courses give a broad overview of how the commercial world operates with the following topics either compulsory or optional:
Strategic Management:
 - Accounting & Finance
 - Marketing
 - HR Management
 - Sociology,
 - Law
 - Management Science
 - Economics
 - Information Systems
 - Quantitative Techniques
 - Foreign Language(s)
- Business Studies graduates are found in almost every employment sector Around 20% enter employment in commercial, industrial and public sector management.
- Around 17% of business studies graduates enter employment in business and finance professional roles

What should I be doing: Subject enrichment activities in Year 12 and beyond

- Organise a work experience placement with a local company to get an idea of the range of activities within the business world
- Attend one of the student conferences at Nottingham University run by The Workshop for students interested in applying for Business courses at university:
<http://www.workshop-uk.net/>
- Find out more about the particular branch of business studies that interests you.
- Use the media to keep up with current issues and debates within the business world

- Get a paid gap year placement with a company with the Year in Industry scheme: <http://www.etrust.org.uk>
- Consider doing an EPQ into an area of the subject that interests you

What should I be reading?

- Subscribe to the *Business Review* magazine published by Philip Allan Updates and look at the back-numbers if they are in you school library
- Read *The Economist* magazine
- *Progression to Economics, Finance and Accountancy*, UCAS Books
- *Complete A-Z Business Studies Handbook* by Lines, Martin and Marcouse
- *Key Management Ideas* by Crainer
- *Principles of Marketing* by Kotler and Armstrong

Which websites will be useful?

- *biz/ed* website: economics and business related learning materials, data sets, company information and simulations
- BBC News Business pages on the BBC website to keep up to date with issues in the news
- *Bank of England*: <http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/>
- *Business Link* : www.businesslink.gov.uk Practical start-up advice for businesses. Case studies and practical information.
- BusinessWeek: <http://www.businessweek.com/> Good site for business news and features.
- Times 100 Case studies, theory, quizzes, company information links (taking you to specific sections of the featured company website) <http://www.thetimes100.co.uk>
- Prospects.ac.uk website ‘Careers Advice’ link to find out more about careers and jobs in this area of work

CHEMISTRY DEGREES: POINTERS, ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES AND RESOURCES FOR APPLICANTS

Make sure that when you write your UCAS Personal Statement early in Year 13 that you have something relevant and interesting to write about. Here are some suggestions for activities you should start as early in Year 12 as you can.

Subject pointers

- There is a shortage of applicants for chemistry degrees despite the fact that they can lead to a wide range of interesting careers: pharmaceuticals, medicine, veterinary science, health, agriculture, petroleum, cosmetics, plastics, the food industry and a range of careers to do with environment
- A BSc will take three years, but in many cases you will be able to do a fourth year for an MChem or MSci, usually involving a research project or some kind of industrial experience.
- Some chemistry course will give the opportunity to study abroad for part of the course
- Most universities will ask for Maths A level and another science. If you are not studying A level maths you will have to learn fast at university, and you should apply to somewhere that will support you with this.

What should I be doing: Subject enrichment activities in Year 12 and beyond

- *Use the resources on the Chemistry World website* which has the latest chemistry news, analysis articles, features, opinion: <http://www.rsc.org/chemistryworld>. There is also an Android and iPad app
- *Subscribe to the Chemistry World monthly magazine:* <http://www.rsc.org/chemistryworld/Subscriptions.asp>
- *Subscribe to the Royal Society of Chemistry Chemnet website* to keep up with current developments in Chemistry as well information about universities and details of seminars:
<http://www.rsc.org/Membership/Networking/ChemNet/>
- *Attend lectures and seminars* on topics that interest you in Chemistry at your local university.
- *Visit or do work experience* with companies in the chemical industry or at a chemical laboratory
- *Get a paid gap year placement* with a chemical company with the Year in Industry scheme: <http://www.etrust.org.uk>

- Use www.rsc.org/profiles for case studies of chemistry graduates working in a range of careers, with information about how they got there and what their job involves
- Use www.futuremorph.org for information on science careers

What should I be reading?

- Subscribe to the *Chemistry Review* magazine published by Philip Allan Updates and look at the back-numbers if they are in you school library
- *Degrees in Chemistry and the Chemical Sciences* is an excellent PDF guide on the RSC website:
http://www.rsc.org/images/Degrees_in_Chemistry-The_Essential_Guide_tcm18-10333.pdf
- *The Fontana History of Chemistry* by William Brock
- *Periodic Tales: The Curious Lives of the Elements* by Hugh by Philip Ball
- *Molecules: A Very Short Introduction* by Philip Ball
- *Molecules at an Exhibition* (The Science of Everyday Life) by John Emsle
- *The New Chemistry* by Nina Hall
- *Nature's Building Blocks: An A-Z Guide to the Elements* by J. Emsley
- *Why Chemical Reactions Happen* by James Keeler and Peter Wothers
- *A Short History of Nearly Everything* by Bill Bryson
- *How to Fossilise Your Hamster* by Mick O'Hare
- *The Periodic Table* by Primo Levi
- For the University of Oxford Chemistry suggested reading list go to:
http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate_courses/courses/suggested_reading.html

Which websites will be useful?

- *Royal Society of Chemistry*: <http://www.rsc.org/> has support resources for chemistry students, careers advice and advice on studying chemistry
- *Chemistry-degrees.co.uk* is a small site offering advice to students preparing for a chemistry application to university with help on personal statements, interviews, textbooks and choosing a degree. Go to the link <http://www.chemistry-degree.co.uk/textBooks.html> for useful advice on chemistry textbooks
- *Molecule of the Month* is a Bristol University site with quirky information about molecules

COMPUTER SCIENCE DEGREES: POINTERS, ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES AND RESOURCES FOR APPLICANTS

Make sure that when you write your UCAS Personal Statement early in Year 13 that you have something relevant and interesting to write about. Here are some suggestions for activities you should start as early in Year 12 as you can.

Subject pointers

- Computer Science courses tend to focus on software engineering and the development of computer solutions, covering such fields as database design, network systems and the Internet as well as areas like games design, artificial intelligence and cybernetics.
- You need strong maths skills, an interest in physics or electronics, and to be good at technical problem solving as well as analytical skills, the ability to use abstract concepts and symbols and the capacity for independent work
- If you are new to programming, it is recommended that you pick up at least one computer language because languages change quickly and you will be expected to learn more than one.
- ICT courses tend to focus on the use of ICT in business and the ways in which computers can be used to inform, improve or control business decisions and procedures
- Modules such as games design, programming and software engineering will be found on Computer Science and ICT courses but research your course carefully because content can vary considerably. Information systems or Business Information Systems might be alternative courses.

What Should I be doing: Subject enrichment activities in Year 12 and beyond

- Gain as much experience of working with computers and programmes in a wide variety of context as you can
- Get work experience with a computer company or a company with a large IT department
- Get a paid gap year placement in an IT company or the IT department of a company with the Year in Industry scheme: http://www.etrust.org.uk/year_in_industry.cfm
- Enter the British Informatics Olympiad: <http://www.olympiad.org.uk/>
- Consider doing an EPQ into an area of the subject that interests you
- If you are female, investigate the *Women in Technology* website which has advice on getting into ICT and information about the AXIOS A Star

awards which offer bursaries to encourage female students into ICT:
<http://www.womenintechnology.co.uk>

What should I be reading?

- *The Computer: A Very Short Introduction*, Darrel Ince, Oxford University Press
- *Out of Their Minds* by D Shasha and Cathy Lazere.
- *The Pattern on the Stone: The Simple Ideas That Make Computers Work* by Daniel Hillis.
- *The Pleasures of Counting* by Tom Körner.
- *The Code Book* by Simon Singh.
- *Algorithmics: The Spirit of Computing* by David Harel.
- *The New Turing Omnibus* by A Kee Dewdney.
- Articles by Sara Robinson: <http://www.msri.org/people/members/sara/>
- Articles by Brian Hayes in American Scientist archived at: <http://www.americanscientist.org/authors/detail/brian-hayes>
- Good suggested reading list from Oxford University Computer Science department:
http://www.comlab.ox.ac.uk/admissions/ugrad/Background_reading

Which websites will be useful?

- Computer Science Unplugged: <http://csunplugged.org/>
- CS4FN Computer Science for Fun website with twice-yearly magazine
- Oxford University GeomLab website:
<http://www.cs.ox.ac.uk/geomlab/home.html>
- The website for web developers and web designers:
<http://www.webreference.com/>
- *coolhomepages* for website design: <http://www.coolhomepages.com/>
- The online computer dictionary: <http://www.webopedia.com/>
- *howstuffworks*: <http://computer.howstuffworks.com/dns.htm>
- The IT encyclopaedia and learning centre: <http://whatis.techtarget.com/>
- Prospects: www.prospects.ac.uk Very good on computer science/IT careers

DENTISTRY DEGREES: POINTERS, ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES AND RESOURCES FOR APPLICANTS

Make sure that when you write your UCAS Personal Statement early in Year 13 that you have something relevant and interesting to write about. Here are some suggestions for activities you should start as early in Year 12 as you can.

Subject pointers

- High academic ability necessary but not sufficient
- You will need to provide evidence that you are caring and sensitive that you have team work and leadership skills and can communicate clearly and effectively.
- Evidence of manual dexterity is very important: model-making, handicrafts, musical ability, embroidery and you may need to take this evidence to the interview.
- There are only 16 dental schools and competition is strong making dentistry one of the most competitive subjects
- You will need to take the UKCAT selection test for most dental schools

What should I be doing: Subject enrichment activities in Year 12 and beyond

- Work experience in a variety of dental settings is very important: general dental practice is necessary, together with settings such as private dentistry, orthodontics, hospital dentistry, a dental laboratory, oral and maxillofacial surgery and in a community dental practice. Experience in different socio-economic areas is also useful.
- Use the British Dental Association *Find a Dentist* webpage to find work experience placements
- You need to show evidence of sustained voluntary commitment, to helping and caring for people in settings other than dentistry itself, for example, in a home for old people
- It is advisable to find out as much as you can about the structure of dentistry profession and how dentists are trained at university and the routes and options after qualification.
- Visit the British Dental Association Museum at 64 Wimpole Street in London
- Use the British Dental Association *3D Mouth* resource on their website.

What should I be reading?

- *Getting Into Dental School* by Adam Cross
- *Getting Into Dental School* by Steven Piumatti
- *Succeeding in your Application to Dental School: How to Prepare the Perfect UCAS Personal Statement* by Matt Green
- *Dental School Interview Guide* by Matthew Brutsche
- *Oxford Handbook of Applied Dental Sciences* by Crispian Scully
- *Standards for Dental Professionals and the First Five Years* PDF file on the General Dental Council website

Which websites will be useful?

- British Dental Health Association website: <http://www.dentalhealth.org>
- General Dental Council website
- The British Dental Journal website
- NHS Careers website including *Starting a Career as a Dentist* web-pages and PDF booklet on *Work Experience in the NHS*
- Volunteering England website
- *SciCentral* collects breaking research news from reputable sources including health sciences.
- Prospects.ac.uk website 'Careers Advice' link to find out more about careers and jobs in this area of work

DRAMA AND THEATRE STUDIES DEGREES: POINTERS, ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES AND RESOURCES FOR APPLICANTS

Make sure that when you write your UCAS Personal Statement early in Year 13 that you have something relevant and interesting to write about. Here are some suggestions for activities you should start as early in Year 12 as you can.

Subject pointers

- You will need to think about whether you wish to apply to drama colleges or university or both and choose between a practical performance degree and a more academically inclined qualification. There are also non-degree courses available.
- If you want to act you can also apply to drama colleges such as RADA as well as your 5 UCAS application places. The top drama schools typically have over 11,000 applicants for 1500 places. Auditioning will be vitally important.
- As well as acting in theatre, film, musicals, circus and mime, drama encompasses writing, set design, directing, stage management, lighting and sound.
- Acting work is very hard to get into with twice as many female as male applicants to drama school, so you need to be bear this in mind before taking a decision about what kind of course to apply for.

What should I be doing: Subject enrichment activities in Year 12 and beyond

- See as much live theatre as you can in your local area and in London
- Read more by authors you are studying and texts from contrasting periods of drama history: Greek/Jacobean/Restoration, for example
- Get as much acting and production experience as you can in school and with local drama groups or theatres
- Get involved with youth theatre schools such as Sylvia Young, or Stagecoach and join youth groups at your local professional theatre
- Do work experience or work shadowing at a local theatre
- If you have the chance of professional acting find yourself an agent to help you get extras work, advertising and audition experience.
- Find out if your regional BBC and ITV have youth acting groups
- Go on the National Youth Theatre Summer School
- Go to the Edinburgh Festival

What should I be reading?

- *Year of the King* by Antony Sher
- *Tales from an Actor's Life* by Steven Berkoff

- *The Empty Space* by Peter Brook
- *Experimental Theatre* by James Roose-Evans
- *Theatre Studies* by Simon Cooper and Sally Mackey
- Read *The Stage* newspaper and use its website: <http://www.thestage.co.uk/> for the latest theatre news

Which websites will be useful?

- *National Council for Drama Training* website especially the *Guide to Training* section
- *Conference of Drama Schools*: www.drama.ac.uk for information on courses, funding and other website links. Downloadable PDF guides on courses and on careers.
- Arts Council *Get into Theatre* website
- *Equity*, the actors' trade union website has advice, links and fact-sheets on careers in the theatre.
- *Search the Arts*: www.search-the-arts.com A directory for dance, drama, music, arts, training, education, classes, theatre, film, television, technical theatre, schools, shows, event listings.
- *UK Theatre Web*: Theatre, opera, dance and concert information:
www.uktw.co.uk
- *UKP-Arts*: www.ukperformingarts.co.uk/ Searchable index of performing arts colleges, courses and classes
- Prospects.ac.uk website 'Careers Advice' link to find out more about careers and jobs in this area of work

ECONOMICS DEGREES: POINTERS, ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES AND RESOURCES FOR APPLICANTS

Make sure that when you write your UCAS Personal Statement early in Year 13 that you have relevant and interesting something to write about. Here are some suggestions for activities you should start as early in Year 12 as you can.

Subject pointers

- Economics is one of the most popular degree choices in the UK and thus experiences a high level of competition not only at Oxbridge and LSE but also at several other top courses
- Some courses require A-level Maths, but most do not.
- Virtually all require GCSE Maths at grade C or B.
- **No courses require A-level Economics**, although it *may* be an advantage.
- Students studying on a BSc Economics degree course will learn pure mathematics and statistical theory and techniques for application in economic theory
- Students studying on a BA Economics degree course may use some mathematics, but to a much lesser extent than those on a BSc Economics programme.

What should I be doing: Subject enrichment activities in Year 12 and beyond

- Keep up to date with economic issues in the news in the ‘quality’ press and on their websites
- *Follow the Public Lectures and Events: podcasts and videos* link on the London School of economics website
- Consider doing an EPQ into an area of the subject that interests you
- Do some work experience in industry, business or finance
- Try the online extension activities for AS and A2 students on the Villiers Park Educational Trust website: <http://www.villierspark-online-extension-activities.org.uk>

What should I be reading?

- *Economics: A Very Short Introduction*, by Partha Dasgupta, Oxford University Press
- Subscribe to *Economics Review* and *Business Review* magazines published by Philip Allan Updates and look at the back-numbers if they are in your school library
- *The Economist* magazine

- *Progression to Economics, Finance and Accountancy*, UCAS Books
- *The Undercover Economist* and *The Logic of Life* by T Harford
- *The Ascent of Money: A Financial History of the World* by Niall Ferguson
- *Freakonomics* and *Superfreakonomics* by S D Levitt and S J Dubner
- *The Return of Depression Economics and the Crisis of 2008* by P Krugman
- *The Bottom Billion: Why the Poorest Countries are Failing and What Can be Done about it* by P Collier
- *Microeconomics and Behavior* by R Frank
- *Macroeconomics: European Edition* by N G Mankiw and M P Taylor

Which websites will be useful?

- BBC News Economy, Global Economy and Business webpages
- The *Why Study Economics?* website is very useful and gives invaluable advice on such things as:
 - What qualifications do I need to study economics?
 - What qualities do I need?
 - Where can I study Economics?
 - What makes a good Economics department?
 - How do I apply?
 - What makes a good Economics personal statement
 - What is economics at university like?
 - A day in the life of an Economics student .
- *Studying Economics* is the sister site of *Why Study Economics* and is aimed at economics undergraduates but is useful for A level students
- *biz/ed* website: economics and business related learning materials, data sets, company information and simulations. Includes the Virtual Economy - an online model of the economy based on the Treasury model - and the Virtual Developing Country where you can take a series of economics-related virtual field trips.

ENGINEERING DEGREES: POINTERS, ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES AND RESOURCES FOR APPLICANTS

Make sure that when you write your UCAS Personal Statement early in Year 13 that you have something relevant and interesting to write about. Here are some suggestions for activities you should start as early in Year 12 as you can.

Subject pointers

- Some degree give you a general engineering education but require you to specialise in one of the disciplines. Others allow you to specialise from the beginning: The main engineering disciplines are: Aeronautical Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Civil Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Information and Information Systems Engineering
- Mathematics is a requirement for virtually all BEng/MEng courses at A-level standard. Some universities only ask for an AS, providing the applicant offers a full A-level in Physics.
- Further Mathematics would benefit an engineering applicant at the top universities.
- Physics is the primary 'preferred' subject. Chemistry is preferred (and often required) for many chemical engineering applicants.

What should I be doing: Subject enrichment activities in Year 12 and beyond

- Arrange some work experience with an engineering company if you can
- Find an engineering mentor on the *Brightsides* website
- Find out more about the particular branch of engineering that interests you. L
- Organise a team through EDT for the Engineering Education Scheme which links teams of year 12 astudetns and their teacher with local companies to work on real scientific, engineering and technological problems: <http://www.etrust.org.uk>
- EDT also offer 4 day residential *Headstart* university course to help you choose the right degree: <http://www.etrust.org.uk>
- Get a paid gap year placement with an engineering company with the Year in Industry scheme: <http://www.etrust.org.uk>
- Consider doing an EPQ into an area of the subject that interests you

What should I be reading?

- *Progression to Engineering and Mathematics*, UCAS Books
- *Engineering: A Very Short Introduction*, David Blockley. Oxford University Press
- *Civil Engineering: A Very Short Introduction*, David Muir Wood, Oxford University Press
- *The Computer: A Very Short Introduction*, Darrel Ince, Oxford University Press
- Cambridge University suggested reading at:
<http://www.eng.cam.ac.uk/admissions/information/reading.html>

Which websites will be useful?

- The Institution of Chemical Engineers
- The Institution of Civil Engineers
- The Institution of Engineering and Technology
- The Institution of Mechanical Engineers
- The Institution of Nuclear Engineers
- The Institution of Structural Engineers
- Royal Aeronautical Society
- *Construction News*: www.cnplus.co.uk
- *New Civil Engineer*: www.nce.co.uk
- *Prospects*: www.prospects.ac.uk Very good on engineering careers
- *Brightside* engineering pages for information about studying engineering, careers and case studies of 'real world engineering'.
- National STEM Centre *website*
- *Young Engineers*: <http://www.youngeng.org>
- *EngineerGuy.com* is a fascinating website explaining how things work

ENGLISH LITERATURE DEGREES: POINTERS, ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES AND RESOURCES FOR APPLICANTS

Make sure that when you write your UCAS Personal Statement early in Year 13 that you have something relevant and interesting to write about. Here are some suggestions for activities you should start as early in Year 12 as you can.

Subject pointers

- English is one of the most competitive and popular university subjects with around 6 applicants for each place.
- You will need to achieve AAA or AAB or equivalent in most cases although you will find some lower offers

What should I be doing: Subject enrichment activities in Year 12 and beyond

- Go to the theatre to see serious plays
- Watch arts programmes on TV and iPlayer: *The Culture Show*, *Newsnight Review*, *the Book Show*
- Look at the author interview archive of videos on Sky's *Book Show* website
- Use the Guardian *Book Club* website for a access to interviews, podcasts, and talks on literature.
- Use the *Poetry Archive* website which has recordings of poets past and present reading their work with background material to help understand the context of their work. There are also filmed interviews on the writing lives of poets.
- Go to literature festivals: Cheltenham, Bath, Hay, Edinburgh, London and many other places to listen to authors talk about their work. Literature Festival calendar at: www.literaryfestivals.co.uk
- Look at the websites of contemporary authors such as Ian McEwan, Julian Barnes
- Consider doing an EPQ into an area of the subject that interests you
- Try the online extension activities for AS and A2 students on the Villiers Park Educational Trust website: <http://www.villierspark-online-extension-activities.org.uk>

What should I be reading?

- Read more texts by authors you are studying: novels plays and poetry
- Explore new authors

- *English Literature: A Very Short Introduction* by Jonathan Bate, Oxford University Press
- *Doing English: A Guide for Literature Students* by Robert Eaglestone
- Subscribe to the *English Review* magazine published by Philip Allan Updates and look at the back-numbers if they are in your school library
- Subscribe to *emagazine* and use its website *English and Media Centre*
- Read authors from different historical periods
- Good suggested reading list on the University College London website:

<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/english/prospective/ug/reading14-18.htm>

- Read book, theatre and poetry reviews in the ‘quality’ press and on their websites

Which websites will be useful?

- The *Why Study English* site is a very important website and gives excellent pointers about applying for English degrees and studying English at university: Why Study English Literature? Choosing a University, Entrance requirements, Personal Statements, What's Studying English Like? What You Study - Literature, What You Study - Language, What Do You Do All Day? A Student's View
- The *After English* website looks at opportunities for English Literature graduates after university
- The *Converse* website is a collection of multimedia resources, games and essay to help students of English Literature resulting from a project between Cambridge University and schools across the country: <http://www.english.cam.ac.uk/converse/>
- *Bookseller World* has links to websites of and about authors past and present: <http://www.booksellerworld.com/author-websites.htm>
- Interviews with and talks by contemporary authors at the Hay Festival archive: <https://www.hayfestival.com>
- Interviews with and talks by contemporary authors on the Clive James website: <http://www.clivejames.com/>
- Prospects.ac.uk website ‘Careers Advice’ link to find out more about careers and jobs after an English degree

GEOGRAPHY DEGREES: POINTERS, ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES AND RESOURCES FOR APPLICANTS

Make sure that when you write your UCAS Personal Statement early in Year 13 that you have something relevant and interesting to write about. Here are some suggestions for activities you should start as early in Year 12 as you can.

Subject pointers

- You can follow BA or BSc degrees in Geography depending on the combination of A levels you have studied
- Content of courses will vary with some putting greater emphasis on human, physical, economic or social geography. For physical geography courses, A level science subjects are preferred.

What should I be doing: Subject enrichment activities in Year 12 and beyond

- Travel and experience as wide a range of environments, climates, urban and rural settings as you can.
- Take opportunities to do as much fieldwork as you can. There will be opportunities to write about your fieldwork experiences in your personal statement or at interview
- Consider doing an EPQ into an area of the subject that interests you
- Become a student member of the local branch of the Geographical Association or a member of the Royal Geographical Society and use their services and websites: <http://www.geography.org.uk> and www.rgs.org
- Use the 11-19 and University Geography sections of the Royal Geographical Society website for ideas and resources
- Keep up to date with current events relevant to Geography on the BBC especially the Weather and the Science and Nature webpages
- Keep up to date with daily TV and radio news coverage, as well as the BBC's *Horizon*, *Question Time*, *Newsnight* and *Panorama* for issues relevant to Geography. The BBC News website is very useful especially the contributions of David Shuckman the Science editor who is a geographer.

What should I be reading?

- Subscribe to the *Geography Review* magazine published by Philip Allan Updates and look at the back-numbers if they are in you school library
- *National Geographic* magazine www.nationalgeographic.com
- Kings College, London have a very useful reading list on their website at:

<http://www.kings.cam.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/offerholders/reading-lists/geography.html>

- *Geography: A Very Short Introduction* by John A. Matthews, David T. Herbert
- *Global Catastrophes: A Very Short Introduction* by Bill McGuire
- *Globalization A Very Short Introduction* by Manfred Steger
- *An Introduction to Physical Geography and the Environment* by Joseph Holden
- *Atmosphere, Weather and Climate* by Barry, Chorley and Chase
- *An Introduction to Coastal Processes and Geomorphology* by Masselink and Hughes
- *Study Skills for Geography: A Practical Guide* by Pauline Kneale
- *An Introduction to Human Geography: Issues for the 21st Century* by Peter Daniels, Michael Bradshaw, Denis Shaw and James Sidaway.

Which websites will be useful?

- *The Met Office*: www.metoffice.gov.uk
- *The Royal Geographical Society*: www.rgs.org especially the *Geography in the News* link
- *The Ordnance Survey*: www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk
- *The Environment Agency* www.environmentagency.co.uk/floods
- *Econet*: www.econet.org.uk/weather/floods
- *The Power of Geography*: <http://www.thepowerofgeography.co.uk/> is very good on the applications of Geography in the world of business
- *People and Planet*: www.peopleandplanet.org.uk
- *United Nations*: www.un.org
- *Oxfam*: www.oxfam.org.uk
- *Internet Geography*: www.geography.learnontheinternet.co.uk
- *Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs*: www.defra.gov.uk
- *Food and Agricultural Organisation*: www.fao.org/
- *GeoResources*: www.georesources.co.uk
- *Prospects.ac.uk* website 'Careers Advice' link to find out more about careers and jobs in this subject area

HISTORY DEGREES: POINTERS, ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES AND RESOURCES FOR APPLICANTS

Make sure that when you write your UCAS Personal Statement early in Year 13 that you have something to write about. Here are some suggestions for activities you should start as early in Year 12 as you can.

Subject pointers

- You will need high predicted grades of at least AAB for most courses
- There is a tremendous variety of courses covering different historical periods and the history of different countries
- Although History is a non-vocational subject the graduate employment pattern for historians is encouraging

What should I be doing: Subject enrichment activities in Year 12 and beyond

- Read more texts by authors writing about the periods of history that you are studying – do not rely solely on those textbooks written specifically for the A Level market but aim to read more widely referring to the work of at least one professional historian
- Explore periods of history that are new to you; if you have studied twentieth century history at both GCSE and A Level, widen your historical horizons by reading about ancient Rome or Greece, the Crusades, the Renaissance, Tudor England, the Scramble for Africa.
- Understand that there are different kinds of history: History as the study of ‘great’ individuals, history as ‘progress’, history as a social science, the Annales school, Marxist history, Anti-Marxist history, Feminist history, Post-modernist history
- Read about what history is and how it has changed through time; think about the value of a study in depth in contrast to a broader more thematic study of the past.
- Visit sites of historical importance. You will probably have visited many historical sites already as part of school / family trips. Think about their value as windows into the world of the past; think about what they reveal about the culture, values and social mores of a bygone era.
- Get work experience in a museum
- Go on archaeological digs
- Consider doing an EPQ into an area of the subject that interests you
- Try the online extension activities for AS and A2 students on the Villiers Park Educational Trust website: <http://www.villierspark-online-extension-activities.org.uk>

What should I be reading?

- *History a Very Short Introduction* by John H Arnold, Oxford University Press
- *In Defence of History* by Richard Evans
- *The Uses and Abuses of History* by Margaret Macmillan
- Subscribe to 20th Century *History Review* magazine published by Philip Allan Updates and look at the back-numbers if they are in you school library
- Read the magazine *History Today*
- Read reviews of new history books in the ‘quality’ press and on their websites

Which websites will be useful?

- Oxford University *History off the Shelf* website
- The BBC History website and history documentaries on iPlayer
- Channel 4 History website and history programmes on 4oD
- The *Reviews in History* website which reviews recent books and other resources which have been published
- The websites and web archives of any of the major museums such as the British Museum covering periods of history that interest you

LAW DEGREES: POINTERS, ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES AND RESOURCES FOR APPLICANTS

Make sure that when you write your UCAS Personal Statement early in Year 13 that you have something relevant and interesting to write about. Here are some suggestions for activities you should start as early in Year 12 as you can.

Subject pointers

There are two main routes into Law

1. A Law degree plus law training
2. A degree in a subject other than Law degree plus lengthier law training

Qualities needed: work intensively, analytical, logical, draw fine distinctions, communicate and listen effectively

What should I be doing: Subject enrichment activities in Year 12 and beyond

- Visit a Magistrates' and Crown court in your area
- Visit the Supreme Court and Royal Courts of Justice in London
- Do work experience with a solicitor or barrister or in the legal department of a large company or local council
- Find out about the branches of law other than criminal law
- Follow some current trials in the media especially the court report pages of the quality press and think and read about the issues they raise
- Get as much debating experience as you can
- Sign up for free copies of *Young Lawyer* magazine: <http://www.solicitorsjournal.com>
- Attend one of the Exploring Law student conferences courses at Nottingham University run by The Workshop for students interested in applying for Law at university: <http://www.workshop-uk.net/>
- If you are not already studying it read some books about Critical Thinking which provide a very useful background for the analytical skills needed for law
- Consider doing an EPQ into an area of the subject that interests you
- Try the online extension activities for AS and A2 students on the Villiers Park Educational Trust website: <http://www.villierspark-online-extension-activities.org.uk>

What should I be reading?

- *Progression to Law*, UCAS Books

- *What About the Law: Studying Law at University* by Barnard, O’Sullivan and Virgo
- *Law: A Very Short Introduction*, by Raymond Wacks, Oxford University Press
- *Human Rights: A Very Short Introduction*, by Andrew Clapham, Oxford University Press
- *The Rule of Law*, by Tom Bingham
- *The Justice Game*, Geoffrey Robertson
- *Just Law*, Helena Kennedy
- *Defending the Guilty*, Alex McBride
- Subscribe to the *A Level Law Review* magazine published by Philip Allan Updates and look at the back-numbers if they are in you school library
- If you want to go into more depth Oxford University recommend:
 - How to Study Law by A Bradney et al
 - Understanding Public Law by C Ganz
 - Understanding Law J Adams and R Brownsword
 - Understanding Contract Law by C Clarkson
 - Understanding Criminal Law by C Clarkson
 - Modern English Legal System by Smith and Bailey

Which websites will be useful?

- BBC *Law in Action* web-pages
- Guardian website Law pages
- *Being a Juror* web-pages good on how courts work
juror.cjsonline.gov.uk
- Brightside website law pages for careers, studying law, famous cases and Spotlight on Law
- Times Online: *The Cases that Changed Britain*
- *Pathways to Law* website to put you in touch with law specialists who will mentor you.
- Prospects.ac.uk website ‘Careers Advice’ link to find out more about careers and jobs in this area of work

MATHEMATICS DEGREES: POINTERS, ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES AND RESOURCES FOR APPLICANTS

Make sure that when you write your UCAS Personal Statement early in Year 13 that you have something relevant and interesting to write about. Here are some suggestions for activities you should start as early in Year 12 as you can.

Subject pointers

- Mathematics graduates have good career prospects in education, finance, government, research IT, insurance
- It is essential to have taken A Level maths or equivalent if you want to study Mathematics at university. Some universities also ask for some Further Maths modules and this will increase your chances of being accepted on a course, particularly at a competitive university

What should I be doing: Subject enrichment activities in Year 12 and beyond

- Develop an interest; knowledge and expertise in a particular aspect of your Maths A level that interests you
- Get involved in wider reading
- Enter maths competitions such as the UK Mathematical Challenge and British Mathematical Olympiad
- and the
- Join or start a maths club in your school or college
- Try the online extension activities for AS and A2 students on the Villiers Park Educational Trust website: <http://www.villierspark-online-extension-activities.org.uk>
- Consider doing an EPQ into an area of the subject that interests you
- The Bridging the Gap web-pages on the Oxford University website has interesting handouts and transcripts of lectures of interest to mathematicians:
<http://www.maths.ox.ac.uk/prospective-students/undergraduate/background>
- Use the handouts for single A level Maths students applying to university on the Oxford University website at:
<http://www.maths.ox.ac.uk/prospective-students/undergraduate/single-a-level>

What should I be reading?

- *Progression to Engineering and Mathematics*, UCAS Books
- *The History of Mathematics: A Very Short Introduction* by Jacqueline Stedall
- *Mathematics: A Very Short Introduction* by Timothy Gowers, Oxford University Press
- *Story of Numbers* by J. McLeish
- *Concepts of Modern Mathematics, From Here to Infinity, Nature's Numbers, Does God play Dice?* All by Ian Stewart
- *What is Mathematics?* by Richard Courant and Herbert Robbins
- *The Music of the Primes: Why an Unsolved Problem in Mathematics Matters* by Marcus du Sautoy
- *Finding Moonshine: A Mathematician's Journey Through Symmetry* by Marcus du Sautoy
- *Indra's Pearls: The Vision of Felix Klein*, by David Mumford, Caroline Series, David Wright
- *The Pleasures of Counting* by T. W. Korner (Cambridge University Press 1996); showing the kinds of problems that interest mathematicians.
- *The Book of Numbers* by John H. Conway and Richard K. Guy
- *Calculus Gems* by G. F. Simmons.
- *The Mathematical Experience* by P.J. Davis and R. Hersch (Birkhauser 1997).
- *The Shape of Space* by Jeffrey R. Weeks
- *Fermat's Last Theorem* by Simon Singh

Which websites will be useful?

- www.cam.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/requirements
- www.maths.cam.ac.uk/undergrad/admissions/
- www.stepmathematics.org.uk
- www.nrich.maths.org.uk
- <http://meiklriggs.org.uk>
- www.priorexams.com
- United Kingdom Mathematics Trust website
- British Mathematical Olympiad Committee site

MEDICINE DEGREES: POINTERS, ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES AND RESOURCES FOR APPLICANTS

Make sure that when you write your UCAS Personal Statement early in Year 13 that you have something relevant and interesting to write about. Here are some suggestions for activities you should start as early in Year 12 as you can.

Subject pointers

- Medicine is one of the most competitive courses. A significant proportion of student will receive no offers at all even though predicted at least three As grades.
- You have to think very carefully about your application and make sure you fulfil all the requirements if you are to put yourself into a competitive position.
- Academic ability is not enough and you will also need to demonstrate the ability to be sensitive and caring towards others and provide evidence of this.
- Qualities needed: integrity, confidentiality, caring, compassion, commitment, responsibility, and a spirit of enquiry.
- You may have to take either the BMAT or UKCAT selection test
- Check on the GCSE requirements for different courses which can be very specific

What should I be doing: Subject enrichment activities in Year 12 and beyond

- Find out about the different ways in which medical courses are structured: the traditional course, problem based learning and integrated courses, to find which will suit you.
- It is very important to start work experience as early in Year 12 as you can. 3-4 weeks or more may be needed but you should look at the specific requirements of particular medical schools
- Use the PDF *Work experience in the NHS* which is on the NHS website to help you with your placements
- Get a range of different experiences in variety of settings hospital work, GP, socially different areas. Keep a journal of insights to draw on when you write your personal statement
- Evidence of ‘sustained voluntary commitment’ is equally important, for example, working with old people
- Make sure that you are clear about what you have gained from your placements, ask intelligent questions, perhaps keep a log-book or diary to record insights and experiences

- Attend one of the medicine student conferences courses at Nottingham University run by The Workshop for students interested in applying for medicine at university: <http://www.workshop-uk.net/>
- Consider doing an EPQ into an area of the subject that interests you

What should I be reading?

- *Epidemiology: A Very Short Introduction* by Rodolfo Saracci
- *The History of Medicine: A Very Short Introduction*, by William Bynum. Oxford University Press
- *Medical Ethics: A Very Short Introduction* by Tony Hope, Oxford University Press
- Subscribe to the *Student British Medical Journal*
- Oxford suggested reading list at:
http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate_courses/courses/suggested_reading.html
- Cambridge suggested reading list at:
<http://www.bio.cam.ac.uk/sbs/facbiol/mvst/keyconcepts.html>
- *Bad Science* by Ben Goldacre

Which websites will be useful?

- *The Big Project* has a comprehensive list of links to a large number of UK and international charitable organisations many of which give opportunities to volunteers:
http://www.thebigproject.co.uk/links_charities.htm
- BBC News Health website for topical news and issues
- Medicine and Healthcare section of the *Bright Knowledge* website
- NHS Choices website
- Wellcome Trust website for the latest medical research
- *Royal College of General Practitioners* website
- **ISC**Medical for support to applicants and medical interview courses
- Ministry of Ethics website for video case material and support material on medical ethics issues
- Prospects: www.prospects.ac.uk Very good on medical careers
- *SciCentral* collects breaking research news from the most reputable and reliable sources including health sciences.

MODERN LANGUAGES DEGREES: POINTERS, ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES AND RESOURCES FOR APPLICANTS

Make sure that when you write your UCAS Personal Statement early in Year 13 that you have something relevant and interesting to write about. Here are some suggestions for activities you should start as early in Year 12 as you can.

Subject pointers

- Languages degrees vary in content. Some focus on literature or language, some on both. Some will place the emphasis on interpretation and or translation, some on the cultural, political and social aspects of the country .
- Most degrees last for four years with one year studying abroad.
- Some degrees will offer the opportunity to study more than one language.
- To be a strong applicant you need to have sound knowledge of the language(s) you are applying for, both written and spoken, and a clear interest in the society, civilisation and culture of the country itself.
- Job prospects are good, with career options in translating, interpreting and teaching, but also in the civil and diplomatic services.
- Around 10% of language graduates obtain their first job after graduation outside the UK.

What should I be doing: Subject enrichment activities in Year 12 and beyond

- Visit the countries that speak the language you are studying as often as you can and go on school exchanges
- Keep up regular links and communication with students you have met or stayed with on your exchange
- Read relevant foreign magazines, newspapers and watch television programmes and news in languages that you are studying on satellite TV
- Read books in the foreign language or in English translation, and go and see films or plays by relevant foreign authors.
- Watch French films on the Cinemoui channel and rent films in other languages that your are studying from LoveFilm.com and other sources and watch new foreign films in your local independent cinema

What should I be reading?

- *Languages: A Very Short Introduction* by Stephen Anderson
- *The Discovery of France* by Graham Robb
- *The Secret Life of France* by Lucy Wadham

- *France 1815-2003: Modern History for Modern Languages (Modern History of Modern Languages)* by Martin Evans
- *Germany Divided and Reunited 1945-91* by Angela Leonard and Nigel Bushnell
- *The Berlin Wall: 13 August 1961 - 9 November 1989* by Frederick Taylor
- *The New Spaniards* by John Hooper
- *The Basque History Of The World* by Mark Kurlansky

Which websites will be useful?

- *BBC Languages* webpages www.bbc.co.uk/languages
- *The National Languages website* CILT www.cilt.org.uk
- *The Chartered Institute of Linguists* www.iol.org.uk

French

- Links to all major French newspapers at:
<http://corumcle.edres74.ac-grenoble.fr/presse/pressefr.htm>
- *The Academie Francaise* www.academie-francaise.fr
- *The Institute de France* www.institut-de-france
- *The Society for French Studies* www.sfs.ac.uk
- *The About France* website for information about France and about studying there: <http://about-france.com>

German

- Information and resources about German society: www.planet-wissen.de
- Information about Germany relevant to young people: www.young-germany.de/deutsch
- Up to date information about German society: www.tatsachen-ueber-deutschland.de/online
- *The Goethe Institute* www.goethe.de
- *Bundeszentrale für Politische Bildung* website www.bpb.de -
- www.sowieso.de
- For daily news written, video, podcast and archived www.tagesschau.de - www.morgenpost.de
- In depth national and international coverage of news www.welt.de –
- General website about Germany www.germanonline.com

Careers

- Prospects.ac.uk website ‘Careers Advice’ link to find out more about careers and jobs in this subject area

NURSING DEGREES: POINTERS, ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES AND RESOURCES FOR APPLICANTS

Make sure that when you write your UCAS Personal Statement early in Year 13 that you have something relevant and interesting to write about. Here are some suggestions for activities you should start as early in Year 12 as you can.

Subject pointers

- A professional qualification is essential for jobs within nursing. Employers also look at your wider personal skills and abilities; the way you engage with people and a strong sense of professionalism, for example, are crucial.
- Nursing is now one of the most popular university subjects with 5 applications for each place
- Some courses will require Biology A level or another science. Most will ask for GCSE grade Cs in English, Maths and Science
- Apply for a particular type of nursing: adult nursing, mental health nursing, children's nursing, learning disability nursing
- Make sure you understand how the training and career structure of nursing is organised

What should I be doing: Subject enrichment activities in Year 12 and beyond

Try to do a range of work experience:

- Supporting younger students in your school or college
- Voluntary work
- Working in a youth club
- Experience in helping older people is very important because a high proportion of the patients you will deal with will be old
- Charity work
- Working with the disabled
- If possible, some work experience in the NHS in a hospital, GP surgery or health centre
- Attend one of the Nursing student conferences courses at Nottingham University run by The Workshop for students interested in applying for Nursing at university:

<http://www.workshop-uk.ne>

What should I be reading?

- *Progression to Nursing, Healthcare and Social Work* UCAS Books

- *The History of Medicine: A Very Short Introduction*, by William Bynum. Oxford University Press
- *Epidemiology: A Very Short Introduction* by Rodolfo Saracci
- *Medical Ethics: A Very Short Introduction* by Tony Hope, Oxford University Press
- Subscribe to the *Student British Medical Journal*
- *Careers in Nursing* PDF booklet on NHS website
- Subscribe to the *Nursing Times* and use the website

Which websites will be useful?

- Royal College of Nursing especially *How to Become a Nurse of Midwife* pages
- Nursing and Midwifery Council: <http://www.nmc-uk.org/>
- NHS Careers website
- NHS choices to find out about health issues
- *Day in the Life* <http://www.dayinthelife.org.uk/>: is an extremely useful website which gives invaluable advice on:
 - *How the NHS works*
 - Work experience
 - Voluntary opportunities
 - Careers options
 - Careers videos
 - The higher education application process for Nursing
 - Interviews and presentations
- BBC Health News website
- Brightside Medicine and Healthcare web-pages
- *SciCentral* collects breaking research news from the most reputable and reliable sources including health sciences.
- Prospects.ac.uk website ‘Careers Advice’ link to find out more about careers and jobs in this area of work

PHYSICS DEGREES: POINTERS, ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES AND RESOURCES FOR APPLICANTS

Make sure that when you write your UCAS Personal Statement early in Year 13 that you have something relevant and interesting to write about. Here are some suggestions for activities you should start as early in Year 12 as you can.

Subject pointers

- Physics is a challenging and rewarding degree like any other but there is a shortage of applicants making it less competitive than many courses
- On most courses you are able to choose options such as microwave devices, cosmology, medical physics, solid state electronics and many others
- Maths A level is important although in some cases AS Maths will be considered instead of A-level Maths, depending on the requirements of particular universities. Further Maths would be an advantage at the most competitive universities

What should I be doing: Subject enrichment activities in Year 12 and beyond

- Read more about the topics on your course and other physics topics and issues that you have not yet studied
- Go to the public lectures on Science and Technology at Imperial College London <http://www.imperial.ac.uk/P1973.htm> or at your local university
- Visit the *Institute of Physics* website to find out more about the work of physicists <http://www.iop.org/> You can join the IOP free to get: regular updates on what's new in physics, exam and university guidance, information about physics careers, the chance to interact with other young physicists
- Look at the *Physics Lives* link on the Institute of Physics website for the videos *Baths and Quarks*, *Written in the Sky* and *Ion Beam Cop*
- Consider doing an EPQ into an area of the subject that interests you
- Visit Jodrell Bank Science Centre
- Visit relevant museums and their websites such as: the National Space Science Centre, Leicester, the London Planetarium, Hampstead Observatory, the Royal Observatory Greenwich and Planetarium, the Science Museum, the **Michael Faraday Museum**
- Get a paid gap year placement with a company relevant to your interests in Physics with the Year in Industry scheme: <http://www.etrust.org.uk>

What should I be reading?

- Subscribe to the *Physics Review* magazine published by Philip Allan Updates and look at the back-numbers if they are in you school library
- *The Elegant Universe* Brian Greene
- *The Pleasure of Finding Things Out* Richard Feynman
- *The Meaning of It All* Richard Feynman
- *A Brief History of Time* Stephen Hawking
- *The End of Time* Julian Barbour
- *In Search of Schrödinger's Cat* John Gribbin
- *E=mc²: A Biography of the World's Most Famous Equation* David Bodanis
- *Big Bang: The Most Important Scientific Discovery of All Time and Why You Need to Know About it* by Simon Singh
- *Do Polar Bears Get Lonely?: And 101 Other Intriguing Science Questions* New Scientist
- *Why Don't Penguins' Feet Freeze?: And 114 Other Questions* New Scientist
- *The New Scientist* magazine
- *Scientific American* magazine
- *Physics World* magazine

Which websites will be useful?

- Physics.org is a very useful guide to Physics sites on the web with many useful video clips showing Physics demonstrations
<http://www.physics.org>
- *Institute of Physics* Site <http://www.iop.org/>
- Physics animations <http://phet.colorado.edu/index>
- Dr Quantum explains the weird world of Quantum Physics
- http://www.youtube.com/results?search_type=&search_query=dr+quantum&aq=f
- *The Great Relativity Show: Albert Einstein*
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mj_exSXj0
- *Nature Video* has short films on the future of physics including dark matter, dark energy, the Large Hadron Collider, space-time and quantum computing. <http://www.nature.com/video/lindau/index.html>
- Prospects.ac.uk website 'Careers Advice' link to find out more about careers and jobs in this subject area

POLITICS DEGREES: POINTERS, ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES AND RESOURCES FOR APPLICANTS

Make sure that when you write your UCAS Personal Statement early in Year 13 that you have something relevant and interesting to write about. Here are some suggestions for activities you should start as early in Year 12 as you can.

Subject pointers

- On a politics degree you will explore answers to the following kinds of questions. Who has political power and why? What is globalisation? Why does political conflict occur and how is it resolved? Why do people vote as they do? Who participates in politics? Is violent protest legitimate? How are political decisions made?
- A degree in politics prepares students for many forms of employment as well as further study. You will gain analytical and practical skills including the ability to conduct research, oral and written communication and IT.
- In most cases you will not be expected to have studied Politics at A level.

What should I be doing: Subject enrichment activities in Year 12 and beyond

- Try to organise work experience with a local councillor, MP or pressure group such as Shelter, Greenpeace or Oxfam
- Consider doing an EPQ into an area of the subject that interests you
- Keep up to date with current events on the BBC News Politics website and listen to radio programmes such as *Today*, *PM*, *The Week in Westminster*, *Today in Parliament*, *From Our Own Correspondent*, *Any Questions*, *Any Answers*, *The Moral Maze*
- Keep up to date with daily TV news coverage, as well as the BBC's *Question Time*, *Newsnight* and *Panorama*.
- The *Parliament Channel* on television and its website: <http://www.parliamentlive.tv/Main/Home.aspx>) has live coverage of the House of Commons and includes some coverage of the Scottish Parliament, Welsh Assembly Government, Northern Ireland Assembly.

What should I be reading?

- *Democracy: A Very Short Introduction* by Bernard Crick
- *Government and Politics in Britain: An Introduction* by John Kingdom

- *Understanding Politics* by Moyra Grant
- *The New Statesman*: <http://www.newstatesman.com>, left-ish current affairs/politics magazine
- *The Spectator*: <http://www.spectator.co.uk>, a right-ish current affairs/politics magazine
- *The Economist*: <http://www.economist.com>, in-depth national and international political coverage
- *Time* magazine : <http://www.time.com/time> and *Newsweek*: <http://www.newsweek.com>) are good for coverage of American politics.
- *Prospect* : http://www.prospect-magazine.co.uk/landing_page.php. for more academic articles about politics

Which websites will be useful?

- *Political Studies Association*: www.studypolitics.org Has a good guide to course and an examination of why you should study politics, as well as two downloadable PDF files *Political Studies UK* and *Study Politics*
- *Parliament* : www.parliament.uk
- Research on the British constitution: www.ucl.ac.uk/constitution-unit
- *Prime Minister's Office*: www.number-10.gov.uk
- *Cabinet Office*: www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk
- *Civil Service*: www.civilservice.gov.uk
- *Conservative Party* : www.conservatives.com
- *Labour Party*: www.labour.org.uk
- *Liberal Democrats*: www.libdems.org.uk
- *Courts* : www.justice.gov.uk
- *Devolution* : www.devolution.ac.uk; or www.ucl.ac.uk/constitution-unit/nations
- Opinion polls/political research: www.statistics.gov.uk or www.ipsos-mori.com/political/trends.shtml
- Electoral systems: www.electoral-reform.org.uk

PSYCHOLOGY DEGREES: POINTERS, ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES AND RESOURCES FOR APPLICANTS

Make sure that when you write your UCAS Personal Statement early in Year 13 that you have something relevant and interesting to write about. Here are some suggestions for activities you should start as early in Year 12 as you can.

Subject pointers

- Psychology is now one of the most competitive and popular university subjects You will need to AAA or AAB in many cases
- Good numeracy skills are important because statistics figure heavily on courses
- Some BSc courses require at least one science A Level (or evidence of the applicants' scientific ability at GCSE level if no science A Levels taken) There are also BA courses for which non-science A levels will be acceptable
- It is recommended to take a degree accredited by the British Psychological Society. Even if you have no current plans to become a professional psychologist you will need an accredited course if you do decide and need to become a member of the BPS.
- There are over 12,000 psychology graduates a year but relatively few opportunities to work as a professional psychologist in areas such as Educational, Forensic, Clinical or Occupational Psychology. You will need to get at least a Masters degree after your first degree and in the case of Clinical, a PhD, as a basic requirement.
- Psychology will equip you for a wide range of other careers including teaching, nursing and personnel management

What should I be doing: Subject enrichment activities in Year 12 and beyond

- Do some work experience which is not always easy to organise because of confidentiality issues but you may be able to:
- Talk to and perhaps shadow an educational psychologist who works in your local authority or a psychologist who works in a prison
- Talk to and perhaps observe a psychologist working in a children's unit in a hospital
- Contact children's charities who may employ psychologists eg Barnardo's or NSPCC
- You could also support special needs children in your own school/college on a regular basis

- The BPS has a Directory of Chartered Psychologists on its *Find a Psychologist* page on its website which will give you contact details for psychologists in your area.
- Consider doing an EPQ into an area of the subject that interests you Perhaps you could undertake some form of research that shows that you have developed your independent learning and understanding of research methods
- Attend one of the Psychology student conferences courses at Nottingham University run by The Workshop for students interested in applying for Psychology at university: <http://www.workshop-uk.net/>
- Explore the videos articles and podcasts on the psychology section of the *Podology* website: <http://www.podology.org.uk>
- Join the British Psychological Society's Student Members group (SMG) which entitles you to copies of *The Psychologist* magazine every month as well as issues of the newsletter *PsychTalk* and discounts on books, journals and events.

What should I be reading?

- Read *Psychology: A Very Short Introduction* (and other psychology titles in this series) by Gillian Butler, and Freda McManus , Oxford University Press
- *Progression to Psychology*, UCAS Books
- Subscribe to the *Psychology Review* magazine published by Philip Allan Updates and look at the back-numbers if they are in your school library
- Read more about topics on your A level course and about aspects of Psychology that you are not currently studying such as the different branches of the subject

Which websites will be useful?

- The British Psychological Society
- The A level Psychology website: <http://alevelpsychology.co.uk/>
- The *All in the Mind* Radio 4 programme archive on the BBC website
- The *Simply Psychology* website
- *Psychology Today* <http://www.psychologytoday.com/>
- The *Psychology Faculty* provides free, short films of university lecturers on topics on the A-level curriculum.
- *Prospects*: www.prospects.ac.uk Very good on Psychology careers

SOCIAL WORK DEGREES: POINTERS, ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES AND RESOURCES FOR APPLICANTS

Make sure that when you write your UCAS Personal Statement early in Year 13 that you have something relevant and interesting to write about. Here are some suggestions for activities you should start as early in Year 12 as you can.

Subject pointers

- The degree in social work is a professional social work qualification for social workers in all settings: residential, field, day, domiciliary, healthcare and education and sectors: statutory, voluntary and private.
- Bursaries are available to social work students administered by the NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA). If you have any queries about bursaries visit the NHSBSA website
- Make sure that you are clear what the demands and pressures of being a social work are before you make a final decision

What should I be doing: Subject enrichment activities in Year 12 and beyond

Try to do a range of relevant work experience:

- Supporting younger students in your school or college
- Voluntary work
- Working in a youth club
- Helping older people
- Charity work
- Working with the disabled

Try to work shadow a range of social workers and/or interview them about the realities of what can be a very emotionally demanding and stressful

What should I be reading?

- *Progression to Nursing, Healthcare and Social Work* UCAS Books
- *Understanding Social Work: Preparing for Practice* by Neil Thompson
- *Social Work: Themes, Issues and Critical Debates* by Adams, Dominelli, and Payne
- *The Blackwell Companion to Social Work* by M Davies
- *Becoming a Social Worker* by V Cree
- *Social Work: A Companion to Learning* by Lymbery and Postle
- Read the Guardian *Society* pages each week and explore the *Society* archive on their website: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/society>. This has up

to date news, feature articles, blogs and an archive of articles about a range of social work related issues.

- Subscribe to the weekly magazine *Community Care*

Which websites will be useful?

- *SWAP* the Social Policy and Social Work Subject Centre student web-pages:
<http://www.swap.ac.uk/aboutswap/website/student.html>
- *Age Concern*
- *Samaritans*
- *Shelter*
- *NSPCC*
- *Oxfam*
- *The Big Project* has a comprehensive list of links to a large number of UK and international charitable organisations many of which give opportunities to volunteers:
http://www.thebigproject.co.uk/links_charities.htm
- *Socialworkandcarejobs.com*
- *The General Social Care Council (GSCC)* the regulator of social workers and social work education in England. Very important website with information about social work courses
- *Volunteering England* website for links to charities and voluntary organisations you might work with
- *Prospects.ac.uk* website 'Careers Advice' link to find out more about careers and jobs in this area of work

SOCIOLOGY DEGREES: POINTERS, ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES AND RESOURCES FOR APPLICANTS

Make sure that when you write your UCAS Personal Statement early in Year 13 that you have something relevant and interesting to write about. Here are some suggestions for activities you should start as early in Year 12 as you can.

Subject pointers

- A Sociology degree will give a good understanding of human relationships is relevant to a range of careers and sociology graduates can be found across all sectors including the media and arts.
- Social and welfare professions tend to be the most popular career choices for sociology graduate such social worker, counsellor and community development officer.
- Sociologist can also be found in educational, administrative or office-based roles such as teaching and lecturing, social research, human resources management, charity fundraising or within policymaking departments in local or central government.

What should I be doing: Subject enrichment activities in Year 12 and beyond

- Try to organise work experience with a local councillor, MP or pressure group such as Shelter, Greenpeace or Oxfam or in at workplaces relevant to topics on your course
- Visit your local Crown or Magistrates' court and watch trials from the public gallery. You can also sit in on industrial tribunals which deal with workplace issues
- Keep up to date with current events on the BBC News Politics website and listen to radio programmes such as *Today*, *PM*, *The Week in Westminster*, *Today in Parliament*, *From Our Own Correspondent*, *Any Questions*, *Any Answers*, *The Moral Maze* and especially Laurie Taylor's programme *Thinking Allowed* on Radio 4
- Visit the extensive *Thinking Allowed* archive of past programmes on the BBC website
- Keep up to date with daily TV news coverage, as well as the BBC's *Question Time*, *Newsnight* and *Panorama*.
- Read a range of texts by authors writing about topics that you are studying

- Consider doing an EPQ into an area of the subject that interests you and developing your understanding and experience of sociological research techniques such as questionnaires, interviews and observation.

What should I be reading?

- Subscribe to the *Sociology Review* magazine published by Philip Allan Updates and look at the back-numbers if they are in your school library
- *Sociology* by Nicholas Abercrombie
- *Sociology: A Very Short Introduction* by Steve Bruce
- *Sociology* by Anthony Giddens
- *Sociology Themes and Perspectives* by Michael Haralambos and Martin Holborn
- *The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life* by Erving Goffman
- *Stuff* by Daniel Miller
- *The Globalization of Nothing 2* by George Ritzer
- *The Blank Slate* by Steven Pinker
- *Freakonomics* by Stephen J. Dubner and Steven D. Levitt

Which websites will be useful?

- The BSA (British Sociological Association: <http://www.britisoc.co.uk/>)
- The BSA Teaching Group website (formerly ATSS) has a large number of links to useful sociology websites: <http://www.atss.org.uk/>
- *Child Poverty Action Group*
- *The Equality Trust*
- *Office for National Statistics* Statistics available from the National Statistics Office.
- *Sociological Research Online* is the electronic Journal of the British Sociological Association.
- *Sociology Central* has downloadable resources for post-16 sociology students and links to other sites.
- *Studio 4 Learning* is an American site, which has video presentations of basic concepts in sociology.
- *News Online* has video resources available here, relevant to Sociology.
- *Frontline* has video resources contemporary and historical for Sociology.
- *Beauty Matters* has resources about body image, fashion and attraction
- Opinion polls/political research: www.statistics.gov.uk or www.ipsos-mori.com/political/trends.shtml
- Electoral systems: www.electoral-reform.org.uk
- Prospects.ac.uk website 'Careers Advice' link to find out more about careers and jobs in this subject area

SPORT DEGREES: POINTERS, ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES AND RESOURCES FOR APPLICANTS

Make sure that when you write your UCAS Personal Statement early in Year 13 that you have something relevant and interesting to write about. Here are some suggestions for activities you should start as early in Year 12 as you can.

Subject pointers

- Sport is one of the most competitive and popular university subjects with 5 applicants for each Sports Science place, for example.
- You will need to achieve AAA or AAB or equivalent for the most competitive courses especially Sport Science (and for this you will need a science A level for most courses)
- You will find lower offers for other kinds of sport related degrees such Sport Management, Sport Studies, Sport Development/Coaching and Physical Education as well as a range of two year foundation degrees

What should I be doing: Subject enrichment activities in Year 12 and beyond

- Get as much experience as you can playing, organising and getting involved in as wide a variety of sport as possible and in different roles: player, coach, referee
- Get experience of coaching younger students and others when you can
- Get involved with community and voluntary organisations to demonstrate that you are committed to helping others
- Take an interest in the social and ethical issues surrounding sport by following stories on the BBC website and websites of the quality press
- Consider doing an EPQ into an area of the subject that interests you
- Keep up to date with current issues and controversies in sport

What should I be reading?

- *Progression to Sport Science and Physiotherapy*, UCAS Books
- Subscribe to the *PE Review* magazine published by Philip Allan Updates and look at the back-numbers if they are in your school library
- Read *Peak Performance* journal and use the website and article archive
- Keep up to date with the *Inside Sport* pages on the BBC website and the Guardian sport pages: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/sport>
- *Beneath The Surface* by Michael Phelps
- *Rainbow Warrior* by Francois Pienaar
- *What Sport Tells us about Life* by Ed Smith
- *Sports Training Principles* by *Frank W Dick*
- *Sports Psychology* by *Matt Jarvis*

- Sports Motivation by *Ken Hodge*
- Sports Nutrition by *Anita Bean*
- Sports Training by *John Shepard*
- Read or visit the websites of journals or such as: Coaching Edge, Health and Fitness, Journal of Sport Behaviour, Leisure Management and Sports Management

Which websites will be useful?

- pe4u
- Teach PE.Com
- www.thefitnesscoach.com
- Department for Culture, Media and Sport: <http://www.dcms.gov.uk/>
- Sport England: <http://www.sportengland.org/>
- Sports Coach UK: <http://www.sportscoachuk.org>
- Prospects.ac.uk website 'Careers Advice' link to find out more about careers and jobs in this area of work

TEACHING DEGREES: POINTERS, ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES AND RESOURCES FOR APPLICANTS

Make sure that when you write your UCAS Personal Statement early in Year 13 that you have something relevant and interesting to write about. Here are some suggestions for activities you should start as early in Year 12 as you can.

Subject pointers

- You will need to decide whether you want to train for primary or secondary teaching
- You will need to think about whether you want to do a degree in a subject relevant to teaching followed by a one year PGCE teacher training course or whether you want to apply for a three or four year teaching degree

What should I be doing: Subject enrichment activities in Year 12 and beyond

Do plenty of research on the excellent TDA (Teaching Development Agency) website which will give you information on:

- teacher training options
- how to apply
- help with applications and interviews
- life as a teacher
- school experience
- funding for teacher training,
- teacher salaries
- regional teaching events

It is essential that you have experience of working with and observing children before you make your application. You could:

- Visit a school
- Carry out classroom observation in your own school or college
- Support children in local primary schools
- Work with voluntary organisations involved with children
- Get involved with sports activities, play schemes, summer camps, youth clubs, tutoring or mentoring of younger students
- Discuss teaching as a career with one of your teachers
- An absolute minimum of a week doing these things will be needed but check requirements for each course. Some will ask for more and it is advisable to do considerably more.

Keep up to date with education issues on the BBC website Education pages

What should I be reading?

- *Progression to Teaching and Education*, UCAS Books
- *Teaching Today A Practical Guide* by Geoff Petty
- *Becoming a Teacher: Issues in Secondary Teaching* by Justin Dillon and Meg Maguire
- *The Craft of the Classroom: A Survival Guide to Classroom Management in the Secondary School* by Michael Marland

Which websites will be useful?

- TDA (Teaching Development Agency)
- BBC website Education pages
- Times Educational Supplement
- Guardian website Education pages
- Prospects.ac.uk website 'Careers Advice' link to find out more about careers and jobs in this area of work

VETERINARY DEGREES: POINTERS, ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES AND RESOURCES FOR APPLICANTS

Make sure that when you write your UCAS Personal Statement early in Year 13 that you have something relevant and interesting to write about. Here are some suggestions for activities you should start as early in Year 12 as you can.

Subject pointers

- Veterinary degrees are probably the most competitive of all with a high number of applicants for each place so you need to be absolutely sure that you are making a realistic application
- Some vet schools will ask you to take the BMAT selection test
- Academic ability is necessary but not sufficient you will need to demonstrate that you are caring, have teamwork skills and leadership qualities and that you can communicate effectively.

What should I be doing: Subject enrichment activities in Year 12 and beyond

- Attend one of the Veterinary student conferences courses at Nottingham University run by The Workshop for students interested in applying for Vet Science or Vet Medicine at university:
<http://www.workshop-uk.net/>
- Varied and extensive work experience is essential. Check the expectations of different vet schools who may ask for up to 10 weeks. Time spent in a vet practice and in another setting: stables or livery, kennels, farm work, animal rescue centre, abattoir. Work with small and large animals and in different types of practice eg equine or small animal. Keep a journal of insights gained to help when you write your personal statement.
- For Vet Science try to get work experience in a research lab or DEFRA
- Keep any references you get after your work experiences placements because some Vet schools will allow you to submit them as part of your application
- Consider doing an EPQ into an area of the subject that interests you

What should I be reading?

- *Animal Rights: A Very Short Introduction* by David DeGrazia
- *Ethics and Animals* by Lori Gruen
- *Getting Into Veterinary School* by James Barton

- *Vet School: My Foot In The Door* by Christopher Shivelton Queen, Caroline Parkinson and Daniel Vardy
- *Introduction to Veterinary Anatomy and Physiology* by Victoria Aspinall and Melanie Cappello

Which websites will be useful?

- *Animal Health Trust*
- *Walks of Life*
- *You Tube* videos on vet careers
- British Veterinary Association
- *RSPCA*
- *PDSA*
- *Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons*
- *vetsonline*: <http://www.vetsonline.com/> News and publications for vets
- *DEFRA* The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs website is very good for material on key issues and there is a link to the latest research on animal welfare
- *Embryo Veterinary School* for courses for A level students
- Website links on Cambridge vet admissions page: <http://www.vet.cam.ac.uk/application/links.html>
- *So You Want to be a Vet* website for advice on work experience, applications, personal statement and interview
- *SciCentral* collects breaking research news from reputable sources including health sciences.
- *Prospects.ac.uk* website 'Careers Advice' link to find out more about careers and jobs in this area of work