

UCAS Information Evening - 2011



Shaping your future

Student Finance

Tuition fee changes

	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>
• Max Tuition Fee	£3290	£9,000
• living cost loan (62.5K+)	£3250	£3575
• Grant (25K>)	£2930	£3250
• Interest Rate	0%+Inflation	RPI+0 -3%
• Earning Threshold	£15,000	£21,000
• Proportion of Income	9%	9%
• Loan Write Off	25 yrs.	30 yrs.

Student Finance

Package of support for 2012/13

<u>Family Income</u>	<u>Grant</u>	<u>Loan</u>	<u>Total</u>
£25,000 or less	£3,250	£3,875	£7,125
£30,000	£2,341	£4,330	£6,671
£35,000	£1,432	£4,784	£6,216
£40,000	£523	£5,239	£5,762
£45,000	£0	£5,288	£5,288
£50,000	£0	£4,788	£4,788
£55,000	£0	£4,288	£4,288
£60,000	£0	£3,788	£3,788
Over £62,500	£0	£3,575	£3,575

Student Finance

Repayment profile

Based on £39K (27K tuition, 12K maintenance)

Salary	Over £21K	Monthly payment
£25,000	£4,000	£30.00
£30,000	£9,000	£67.50
£35,000	£14,000	£105.00
£40,000	£19,000	£142.50
£45,000	£24,000	£180.00
£50,000	£29,000	£217.50
£55,000	£34,000	£255.00
£60,000	£39,000	£292.50

2011 Student Survey at RHC

- 80% began H.E. OR F.E.
- 10% Took a gap year
- 8% sought employment
- 2011 - 730 UCAS apps.
- Nationally, 700,000 + applicants.
- At the 'best' universities, you may only have a **1:35** chance of a place e.g. English at Bristol!

The UCAS System

- H.E. Convention – ‘Westpoint’ – March 16th 120+ universities and a programme of seminars
- Collect/consider prospectuses – March to August
- **‘Summer Schools’** – ‘Headstart’, Sutton Trust, UWE, Bournemouth, Harper Adams, etc.
- Global Student Fair – Covent Garden – June 18th
- Gap Year Fairs – Bath/Bristol/Exeter (28/29/30th June)
- **UCAS ‘Apply 2012’ workshops begin June 23rd for 2.5 weeks (sign up sheets in B-Block)**
- **‘Next Step’ – tomorrow – new format for 2012**
- Advice from Personal Tutor, teachers, CBR and occasional group visits e.g. Open Days at Cardiff (6/4); Aberystwyth (14/9)
- Oct 1st Kensington Town Hall - US Universities Fair

The UCAS System

- **Careers interview** (Connexions); use LRC Resources; 'Higher Ideas'; 'Kudos'; www.prospects.ac.uk
- ucas.com - **Stamford Test**
- **Open Days** - UCAS strongly advise - directory of dates in College LRC and on university websites
- ucas.com – check 'course profiles' and 'entry requirements'
- *Decision time!! What? Where? When?*
- *CUKAS? BMAT? UKCAT? LNAT (elizabethma@richuish.ac.uk)? UCL? Tests/deadlines to Register (UKCAT 'opened' 3rd May, testing: 5/7-7/10)*
- *If applying for Teaching/Nursing - Register with ISA (Independent Safeguarding Authority)*
- 2010: ex-RHC students began at Plymouth (72), BUWE (40), Cardiff (39); Bournemouth (23); Oxford Brookes (18); Exeter (17)
- Most popular Degrees: 'Finance' (62); 'Biosciences' (61); 'English' (57); 'Health' (51); 'Engineering' (50); 'Earth Sciences' (49);

The UCAS System

- Predicted grades and comments from subject teachers
- Max. **5** choices; **4** for Oxbridge/Medicine/Vet Science (**leave a 'free' choice?**)
- Complete 'Apply 2012' inc. Personal Statement (help on intranet); do NOT plagiarise; discuss with tutor/CBR/JBO
- Complete 'pay/send' £22/£11 (debit card)
- Tutor compiles Reference after CBR has approved hard copy – checked by and sent to UCAS by Faculty Manager
- **College internal deadline - Nov. 25th 2011**

Personal Statement Writing

How to make yourself irresistible



Shaping your future

Why is the Personal Statement important?

- Your personal statement allows you to stand out from the crowd
- It carries a lot of weight with universities
- It demonstrates your reasons for applying for a course
- It is the first and often only chance to 'sell yourself' to your university choices
- It gives a flavour of you as an individual
- It is your opportunity to create a good impression with the Admissions Tutors. They are hoping to choose the best and most interesting applicants.

Structure of the Personal Statement

- This should be constructed through key paragraphs:-
 - Paragraph 1 - Explain your choice of subject
 - Paragraph 2 - Describe your suitability
 - Paragraph 3 - Longer term career objectives
 - Paragraph 4 - The person behind the form

You need to show evidence of skills such as communication skills and working as part of a team . These may be gained through your enrichment activities or even your part-time work

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

- Many universities are looking for evidence of student knowledge of the subject they are applying for.
- All U6 students are taking the EPQ. Many are linking this to their degree course and they can discuss their project in their Personal Statement

Work Experience

Many vocational degree courses are also looking for evidence of relevant work experience.

- Working with animals for veterinary science
- Voluntary work in care homes and schools for health care and teaching.
- Work in businesses (The Careers Academy UK students complete a 6 week internship in the summer).

The Careers and Progression team have recognised the need for work experience and have advice and support available to all students

Check out the Careers and Progression intranet pages

<http://share.richuish.ac.uk/site/careers/default.aspx>
Universities & University Applications

The screenshot shows the RHC Intranet website in Internet Explorer. The browser address bar displays <http://share.richuish.ac.uk/Pages/Default.aspx>. The website header includes navigation links for Accessibility, Help, Sitemap, External Website, and Webmail. The main content area is titled "News for Staff" and lists several articles with their dates and authors. A red circle highlights the article titled "End of Course Arrangements for U6th" by Ruth Andrews, dated 19/05/2011 14:59. The article text states: "If you are leaving the college this summer, please click the link below to find out what you need to do before you leave. <http://share.richuish.ac.uk/site/frc/Pages/EndofCourseArrangements.aspx>". Other articles include "Windows 7 Trials" by Steve Prentice, "Huish Job Club - Summer Holidays Tuesday Afternoons and Thursday Mornings" by Ruth Andrews, "Duty Manager" by Rebecca Redstone, "Car park permits" by Bill Perry, "Black and White Summer Ball" by Rebecca Redstone, "Creating a slide for the Announce Screens?" by Simon Lewis, and "Leaving college this year? You don't have to go..." by Claire Thomas. The left sidebar contains navigation menus for Surveys, Lists, Resources, Site Directory, and Accessibility. The right sidebar contains "Staff Resources", "Your Resources", and "Subject Websites". At the bottom of the page, there is a banner for the "Foundation Degree in Business and Management" at Richard Huish College.

Is starting university in September 2012 appropriate for your son/daughter?

- 20% of U6 Richard Huish students do not think so
 - Employment
 - Deferred application after 'gap year'
- Nationally 25% of university students do not complete their course
 - Wrong course
 - Wrong university/location
 - Not ready to live away from home (many Richard Huish students apply locally)
 - Not ready for independent studying
- Don't feel pressured if not certain
- Non 'traditional' alternatives - full or part time
 - HE studies at local colleges
 - Open University
- Be an 'assertive consumer'
 - "Is the course good value?"
 - "Is the teaching good?"
 - Is the course the best route to a successful career?"
 - Be aware of universities overselling
- Planning to gain employment
 - Careers advice including CV writing
 - Job Club

Will your son/daughter need specific support in their U6?

- Range of support in Student Services
 - Counselling/mental health
 - Health including drugs, smoking or alcohol advice and referral
 - Study skills
 - Finance
 - Additional Learning Support eg physical and mental health specialist services
 - Specific learning difficulties eg Dyslexia
 - Reasonable adjustment
 - Evidence and lead-in time
 - Self referral or staff referral

Will your son/daughter need specific support at University?

- Contact disability officer
- UCAS application form disclosure
- Specific evidence required which you may need to pay for
- Ask Student Services