

APPLYING TO A RUSSELL GROUP UNIVERSITY – WEBINAR

5TH OCTOBER 2022

Note

RG refers to Russell Group

The people below, who were at the webinar, are staff representatives of RG universities

Katie – University of Manchester

- Need to show understanding of what you are applying for and have done the research – read course profiles/attend open days – will come through in your Personal Statement
- Show potential skills and qualities needed for the course – again, with the Personal Statement – show real evidence of what skills you have developed and how you got them
- Independent decision-making – need to have a GENUINE interest and this will be clear from your Personal Statement
- It may lead to a career choice – makes sense in some cases, of course BUT you are applying for a COURSE so focus on that – if law, you could put in debating/love the subject etc – don't use too much space on career ideas
- What contribution would you make as a student? Extra-curriculars - mention but don't go overboard – also mention if you intend to do anything at university such as volunteering etc – anything you are looking forward to? Need a full and honest picture

Roshan – University of Cambridge

Predicted grades – important first part of the process – see websites for typical offers

Not a lot of flexibility with more competitive programmes – so think carefully if you are below predicted grades

Choose courses wisely – above/below what you are predicted can be a good idea

Typical offers for Cambridge – A*A*A* (sciences) and A*AA (arts/humanities)

Personal Statement – should be no difference between those you do for RG universities and those you do for non-RG universities – same requirements, really

Some CAN be specific to the course – such as Bristol request dexterity skills to be included but this needs checking if still the case now

See guidance on Personal Statements on the university websites – extra-curriculars not going to put you at much of an advantage at Cambridge – music/sports etc – we generally state that 80% should be academically focussed – other universities can take a broader view – can put at the end of your Personal Statement

Gap year – know there can be lots of reasons why you would want to take one – most RGs are ok with this – better to apply for deferred entry as you can then get support from school etc – if you do not apply for deferred entry, for subjects such as Maths, it could be difficult – could lose that knowledge/skills re the subject and keeping up to date could be tricky too. Need to know your reasons AND plans – 1 or 2 sentences at the end of the Personal Statement

Raoul – UCL

EPQ – varies according to university – for some, it is part of the assessment – can lower offer slightly – for many, it is a useful tool anyway – eg if law/engineering/architecture are not part of the A level curriculum and you are applying for one of these, then the EPQ can be beneficial – can make your application stand out

Find the best university for YOU – be happy! If you are happy with your course choices it doesn't too much about the university – (I would tend to disagree with this last bit! - Amanda Watson)

Interviews - no fixed rule

Needed for few members of the RG now – a minority of degrees

Exceptions are courses at Oxford, Cambridge and Imperial – they interview for ALL programmes

LSE do not interview for ANY programmes

UCL – we interview for some degrees- such as medicine, pharmacy, architecture, Fine Art, English

Literature and Arts/Sciences programmes have an assessment day

Stephen – University of Warwick

Courses at Warwick start at ABB at the lower end – such as for Sociology and History of Art and go up to A*A*A* at the top end for others

Do the research! – check for specific subjects – engineering will require Maths and Physics, for example

Personal Statement and school reference important – we take a holistic approach to assessing applications

What to avoid –

- Spelling mistakes / grammatical errors
- Don't write your Personal Statement in list form /bullet points – needs to be in prose
- ABC rule – Activity/Benefit/Cause – write about what you have done/what skills and experiences you gained/how this links into the course you are applying for
- Don't repeat information such as the A levels you are taking
- Don't make jokes – Admissions Tutors may have a different sense of humour than you!

3 Top tips –

- Research! – so many universities out there – UCAS website good place to start as well as the university websites
- Attend open days and other events
- Personal Statement - important so spend time on this

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OCTOBER 2022