



parent & carer guide to university.

wgu.ac.uk/parents

PRIFYSGOL
Glyndŵr
Wrecsam

Wrexham
Glyndŵr
UNIVERSITY



welcome.

We recognise that making the transition from school or college is not only challenging for many students but for parents, guardians and carers too.

This guide is designed to help you understand the application process, enabling you to better support your child.

In most cases your child will be standing on their own two feet for the first time when they go to university, so it's important you know how we will support them from the moment they arrive until graduation and beyond, as they enter the world of work and follow their chosen career.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us or come along to an open day.

To book a place at our open day please visit wgu.ac.uk/open

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why go to university?

If your child is considering studying at university, here are some reasons why it could be the right choice for them:

- University graduates tend to have better employment prospects and increased opportunities
- An internationally recognised qualification respected by employers worldwide
- Increased earning potential
- The experience is likely to help your child become more independent and mature
- Expands their social network
- Is a route to higher level qualifications such as Masters and Research Degrees.



why choose us?

rise of
45 places
in **student**
choice awards

What Uni Student Choice Awards 2019



commended
for personalised
student
support

QAA Quality Assured 2019

multi-award-
winning
students'
union

NUS 2018, 2016



award-winning careers service

AGCAS Excellence Award 2018 - Supporting Student and Graduate Employability



silver award for quality of teaching

TEF 2017

number 1 in the UK for social inclusion





why choose us?

Community Feel

Students always comment on the friendly community feel on our campuses. From our vibrant Students' Union and diverse range of student societies, to supportive lecturers who feel like family, students find that studying here feels like home.

Personalised Support

We've been commended for the personalised support we offer students by the QAA. Students benefit from our award-winning careers team, individual learning skills development, on-site DSA assessment centre, free counselling service and a vast array of other support teams here to make their university experience the best it can be.

Employability

We're top in North Wales for graduate-level employability (Destination of Leavers from Higher Education Survey 2016), which is why we're driven to ensure they leave us 'work-ready'. Students can get tailored advice from our award-winning careers team, or benefit from the business support offered by our Enhancing Entrepreneurship service.

Work-related learning

Work-related learning is at the heart of our course portfolio, providing opportunities for students to learn by working with industry, employers and professional clients. This gives students the chance to gain valuable experience through placements, work experience, responding to live briefs and developing their own enterprising projects.



Accreditation

Many of our courses are recognised by industry and business, and are accredited by appropriate, recognised bodies.

Study Facilities

Our campuses feature a host of study facilities, equipment, learning tools and spaces to ensure students have everything they need to support their university experience.

We provide a vibrant, friendly and supportive community, focused on inspiring each person to reach their potential through academic excellence. You can find out more at wgu.ac.uk/facilities

Practice-Informed Teaching

Students are taught by staff who have experience of industry and professional practice, ensuring that they get the right mix of practical and theoretical insights. The projects students work on will range in size; from collaborating with local businesses to developing and enhancing practices. We emphasise the importance of problem-solving through the latest cutting-edge ideas and contemporary technical knowledge.

Personal Tutor

We'll provide students with a personal tutor who'll help them get the most out of their studies. When they enrol they'll be allocated to a member of staff who will provide them with advice, pastoral and academic support throughout their studies.



choosing a subject.

If your child has ambitions of a particular career, then it's likely they'll need to study a specific degree to help them achieve it.

You can help your child to research which universities offer these courses – use the UCAS website (www.ucas.com) to search for courses, view course details on individual university websites and request some prospectuses.

Even if they haven't fully decided on a career yet, this shouldn't stop them from pursuing a subject that they are passionate about.

Parental encouragement is key here – it can be all too easy to dismiss your child's desire to study something that might not lead to an obvious profession; instead focus on the knowledge and skills that will be developed and could open up a whole host of opportunities. It is important that they start to consider their options as early as possible, and you can help by discussing their next steps with them.

Do they want to study:

- A particular subject in more depth
- A subject related to a career
- A completely new subject

In choosing what to study, you might want to ask your child:

- What subjects will you be interested in for a further three or four years?
- What do you want to do after university and could your subject choice help with this?
- What courses accept the subjects you're currently studying?



Whatever their decision, we've got a huge choice of subjects to choose from across a host of routes (foundation, undergraduate, postgraduate), with both part and full-time pathways, making university the perfect opportunity to study something they love or are interested in.

The majority of our study programmes begin in late September, but others have start dates throughout the year; check out specific course pages for details.

Discover our courses by visiting wgu.ac.uk/courses





attending open days.

At our open days you can speak with lecturers and current students and tour our campus, facilities and accommodation.

Your child can even get help and advice on their personal statement, how to apply, interview guidance, welfare issues, finance and much more!

To book a place at our open day please visit wgu.ac.uk/open

Alternatively you can email enquiries@glyndwr.ac.uk or call our dedicated team on **01978 293 439**.

how to find us.



gateway to the region.



Chester	25 mins	15 mins
Liverpool	50 mins	1 hr 5 mins
Manchester	1 hr 10 mins	1 hr 30 mins
Warrington	45 mins	1 hr 5 mins
Crewe	55 mins	45 mins
Stoke-on-Trent	1 hr 10 mins	1 hr 30 mins
Shrewsbury	55 mins	35 mins

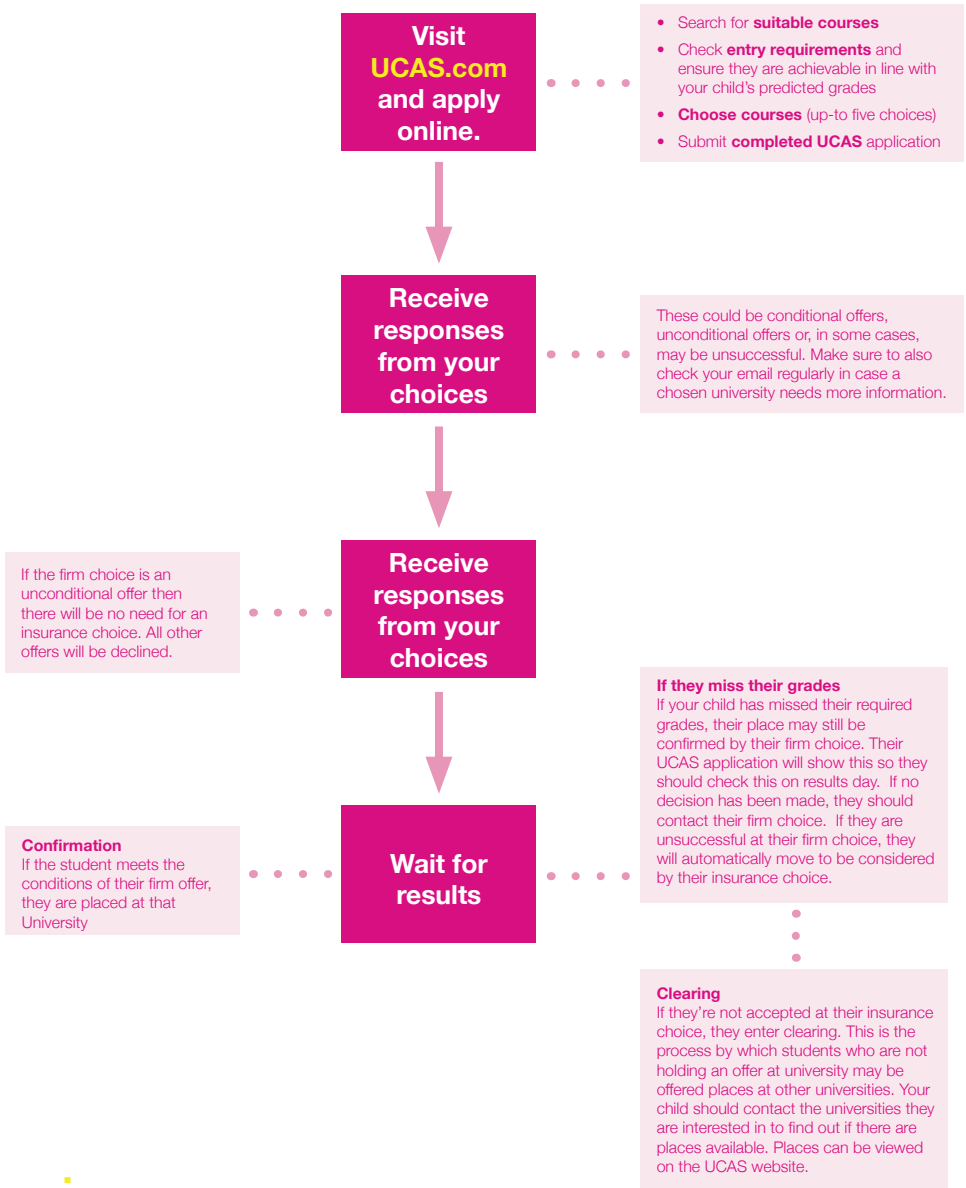
by air.



Belfast International to Liverpool John Lennon	45 mins
Belfast International to Manchester Airport	1 hr
Dublin Airport to Liverpool John Lennon	55 mins
Dublin Airport to Manchester Airport	1 hr

applying to University.

Here's a brief timeline of a typical university application process:





completing a UCAS application.

The university application process can be daunting for your child – but it can be just as overwhelming for parents who, although want to be supportive, may not be entirely sure how the process works. We are here to help.

If your child is applying to university, then the official Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) application process will begin in the autumn when they are in Year 13.

However, it's worth starting to think about things a little earlier than this, as you will need time to discuss their options i.e. what careers are they interested in, what courses are on offer to support this and where they'd like to study.

If your child has decided that University is right for them, here is what they'll need to know:

- All applications are completed electronically via the UCAS website. There is a small application fee to pay, the cost of which will differ depending on whether they are applying for one or multiple courses
- Students have a maximum of five choices (these can be the same course at different institutions or multiple courses at the same institution)
- One application is submitted to all five choices
- At this stage they don't need to rank their choices in order of preference
- Each university only sees the application made to them, they won't know which other institutions a student has applied to.

entry requirements.

Each programme of study will stipulate entry requirements for that course. These may be stated as a UCAS tariff point requirement (ie, 112 UCAS tariff points) or as specific grade requirements (ie, grades BBC at A-Level).

Traditional A-level routes aren't the only way to access higher education though—BTEC Diplomas, Access courses and even work/life experience can provide alternative routes in.

To help calculate what grades are needed to get onto a particular course, visit ucas.com/ucas/tariff-calculator.

Many of our programmes offer a foundation year for those students who do not quite meet the requirements for an honours degree.

A foundation year could also be the right choice for applicants who've been out of education for a while or are looking for a new challenge by embarking on a new career path. wgu.ac.uk/foundation

Helping with the application

Applications are all done online via UCAS (ucas.com), so it's worth familiarising yourself with their website, and making a note of the various dates and deadlines. There are four key sections to the application: personal details, education, personal statement and references.

The key section is the personal statement, as this provides an opportunity to demonstrate why they are the perfect candidate for the degree course they are applying for. Please note that your child's school/college will have their own deadlines to give them time to write the references.

For some tips on writing a personal statement, visit wgu.ac.uk/



offers & clearing.

Once the application form has been submitted, a notification of receipt will be received from UCAS and they will then forward the application on to the relevant Universities.

Admissions tutors will consider the whole application, not just the results or predicted results, so this will include the information given in the personal statement and the reference.

There are three possible outcomes:

Conditional offer - This means the place will be confirmed if certain conditions are met, usually specific grades.

Unconditional offer - Entry requirements have been met, and nothing further needs to be done before being accepted on to the course.

Unsuccessful or rejected - Entry requirements have not been met and a place has not been offered. A reason is usually provided, but the University admissions team will be able to provide further information if required.

If your child hasn't received any offers, didn't get the grades they were expecting or are too late to apply through the normal channels, then clearing is the final option. Applicants can approach universities directly for a place on courses where there is still availability.



student finance.

The costs associated with university can be a major worry for parents and students but there is funding available which is designed to allow higher education to be accessible to all.

Student Loans

All students who plan to study at university in the UK can apply for a student loan through the Student Loans Company (slc.co.uk).

Key Facts:

- Students will only start paying anything back after they leave university, if they are working and earn at least £25,725* per year, £2,144 a month or £495 a week
- The amount that is paid once a student earns over the threshold is a fixed rate of 9% of income above the threshold
- If a student stops earning or their income drops below the threshold their payments will stop



Maintenance Grants and Loans

A student loan can cover more than your child's tuition fees. They could also qualify for a maintenance loan to help them to cover their living costs, such as accommodation.

The amount of maintenance loan they get depends on where they study and your household income.

Your child may also be able to get additional help depending on their circumstances, for example if they pay for childcare, have an adult who depends on them financially, or have a disability. Some of this may come in the form of grants, which they won't have to pay back.

If your child is from Wales, they could also benefit from the new student finance package from the Welsh Government, which provides the equivalent to the National Living Wage through a mix of non-repayable grants and loans.

The amount and type of support they are eligible for will depend on where they normally live. For more information visit www.gov.uk/studentfinance or contact our student welfare team on **01978 293295**.

- Eligibility for a loan to cover course fees isn't affected by the amount parents earn and should be accessible to most students who haven't already done a degree
- The debt doesn't pass on to anyone else.

*please note student loans income threshold changes on 6 April every year.



accommodation.

We know that you will want to know that your child is living somewhere safe and secure in a supportive community.

Moving to a new place can be exciting and daunting, so we'll do everything we can to help your child feel right at home.

There are three options for accommodation available; living at home, halls of residence or a more private house.

Our Residential and Campus Life team are on-hand to help your child find their new home and support them through their big move every step of the way.

Full details about accommodation can be found at wgu.ac.uk/accommodation

Welcome to Wrexham Village

Our flagship student accommodation is located on our main campus, within easy walking distance of the town centre, social scene and a number of supermarkets.

There's free parking and lockable bike storage, 24/7 security, an on-campus sports centre and that all-important, free, unlimited WiFi.

Your child will find generous amounts of social space and a community atmosphere in our halls, perfect for making new friends. Our friendly, approachable staff have an open door policy, so if there's anything they need while they're with us, you can just drop in.



student support.

The supportive environment we offer is something we are very proud of.

Lecturers are always on hand to provide support and our class sizes are small which develops a friendly community which extends right across the campus.

Students are assigned a personal tutor and should they need it, our support services team are on hand to give advice

and find solutions from disability support through to academic study support and everything in between.

Further support is available from the teams in counselling, funding and money advice, chaplaincy and we are proud to be the first higher education institution in North Wales to become a Stonewall Diversity Champion.

useful contacts.

Admissions and Enquiries	01978 293439
Accommodation	01978 293344
Student Welfare	01978 293295
Student Funding and Money Advice	01978 293295
Student Loans Company	0300 100 0611
Inclusivity Team	01978 293266
UCAS Helpline & Customer Service	0843 557 3708

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