



Select Slides - Supporting Postsecondary Applications Outside of Canada

Grade	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer
10	Career Studies Meet Reps	Career Studies Course Selection	Career Studies Meet Reps	Explore Volunteer
11	Explore Meet Reps	Explore Meet Reps Standardised Testing* Course Selection	Visits Meet Reps Confirm Plan Confirm Teacher Referees**	Visits Write Volunteer
12	Confirm your list Apply Standardised Testing*		Confirm selection Meet Graduation Requirements	Organise / Prepare / Confirm destinations

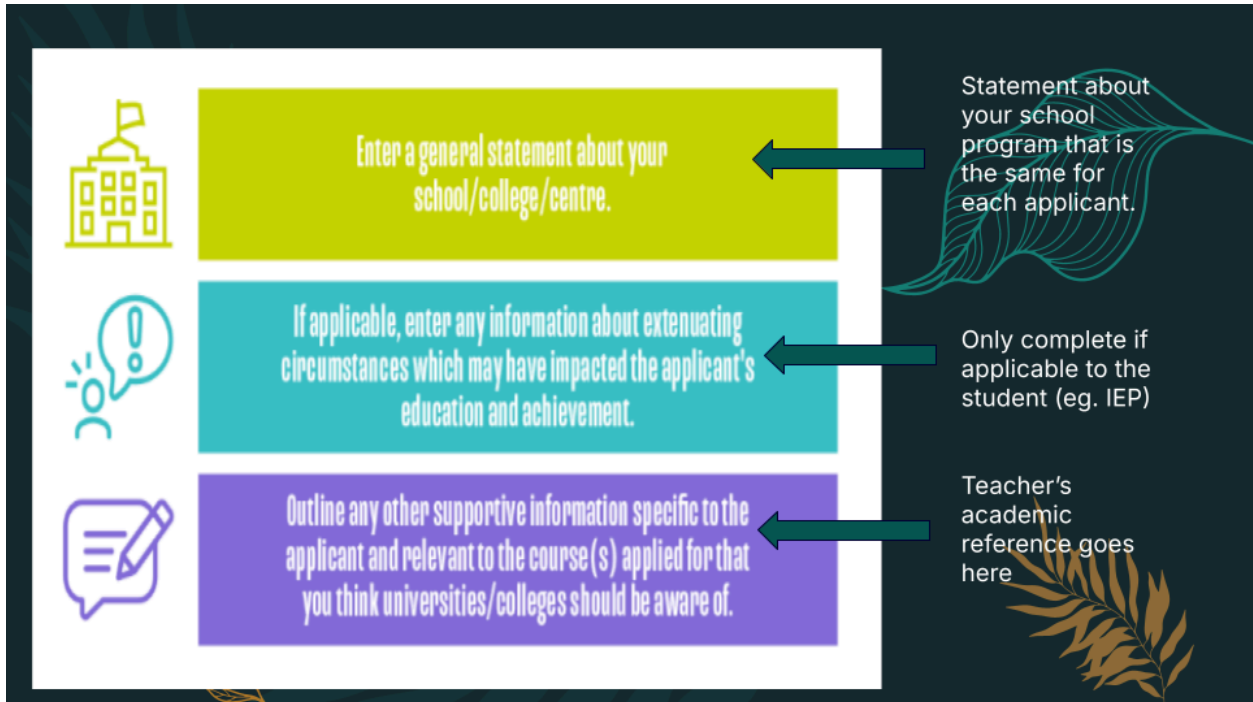
U.K./U.S.Timelines - Highlights

U.K. – General Information

- Generally speaking, degrees are 3 years in length and are focused on a specific area of study;
 - **UCAS**
 - **Can apply to professional programs**
 - maximum of 4 medical/veterinary programs;
 - Age requirement: 18
- You can only apply to either Oxford or Cambridge as an undergrad;
 - **Cambridge - must have APs or IB Diploma**
- Specific test requirements for Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science, Law, as well as Oxford and Cambridge, could include the BMAT, UCAT, LNAT or TSA

U.K. – General Information

- Fee Status
 - Not tied to a student's passport;
 - Based on residency → information is on the university website.
- Scholarships
 - Few and far between;
 - Nominal if available.
- Competitive Admissions
 - Top 2% of graduating class for most competitive universities;
 - Medical schools VERY limited for international students.
 - Max. 7.5% of total seats;
 - Approximately 32 students invited to interview for a A100 course.



The diagram shows three colored boxes representing different sections of a UCAS application form. Each box has an icon to its left and an arrow pointing to it from the right. The top box is yellow and contains the text 'Enter a general statement about your school/college/centre.' with a school building icon. The middle box is teal and contains the text 'If applicable, enter any information about extenuating circumstances which may have impacted the applicant's education and achievement.' with a speech bubble and exclamation mark icon. The bottom box is purple and contains the text 'Outline any other supportive information specific to the applicant and relevant to the course(s) applied for that you think universities/colleges should be aware of.' with a speech bubble and pencil icon. To the right of each box is a text box with an arrow pointing to the corresponding box. The top text box says 'Statement about your school program that is the same for each applicant.' The middle text box says 'Only complete if applicable to the student (eg. IEP)'. The bottom text box says 'Teacher's academic reference goes here'. There are decorative leaf graphics in the background.

Enter a general statement about your school/college/centre.

Statement about your school program that is the same for each applicant.

If applicable, enter any information about extenuating circumstances which may have impacted the applicant's education and achievement.

Only complete if applicable to the student (eg. IEP)

Outline any other supportive information specific to the applicant and relevant to the course(s) applied for that you think universities/colleges should be aware of.

Teacher's academic reference goes here

Summary – Guidance Counsellor Responsibilities

- Approve a student's **education section**;
- Enter a student's **predicted grades**;
- Enter the teacher's **reference statement**;
- **Submit** the student's UCAS application.

U.S. – General Information

- Programs are 4 years in length often with a liberal arts curriculum;
 - **Core curriculum;**
- **Holistic assessment** of applications;
- Rigor of the academic program throughout high school is the top consideration;
 - Always within the context of the curriculum offered at the school;
- Commitment and involvement in school and community are considered;
 - Depth and long-term commitment is valued over a long list of experiences

U.S. – General Information

- Students apply through the **Common Application;**
- ACT/SAT tests *may* be required;
- Essay/writing supplements are required;
- Counsellor and teacher references are required;
- Interviews, portfolios and auditions may be required;
- Financial aid calculators are available on college websites.

School Profiles

- One per year - can update to reflect changes;
- Should focus on key information about your school:
 - Size of graduating class;
 - Size of school;
 - Semestered/non-semester;
 - Academic program offered;
 - Range of grades (e.g. # % students 90-95% final average in grade 11);
 - Some indication of how many students matriculate at an institution outside of Canada per year/last 5 years;
 - Note: Ontario schools generally don't rank or calculate GPA - I include this statement in my profile.
- Include the name & contact details for your department + Principal + VPs (if applicable);
- 1 page
- Common Application - recall this is US - you don't need to include every item

Reference Letters

Counsellor

- 1 page - can be bullet points
- Focus in on the student's contributions at your school
- Provide context for their academic results, choices
- Some statement about how they compare to other students in their current cohort (and/or your career)
- A statement about your role in the school / how long you've been in that role
- 1 letter goes to all schools

Teacher

- 1 page - can be bullet points
- Focus on academic work done in the teacher's classroom and any related co-curriculars that teacher directly supervised
- Some statement / comparison of how that student compares to other students currently taught and historically in the teacher's career
- Brief statements about how long the teacher has taught (that course) and some key course topics
- 1 letter goes to all schools
- 1 STEM, 1 non-STEM teacher

Suggestions for Supporting Students' Writing

- Dependent on team resources;
 - Can you partner with another teacher - i.e. make the essay writing an English class assignment?
- U.S. - students should start with the Common Essay Prompts
 - Writing should begin in the spring of Grade 11;
 - Essays should be about telling a story - a student's character needs to shine through;
 - The fall of Grade 12 should be about revisions;
- U.K. - students should consult the examples and instructions posted on the UCAS website;
 - Focus is on demonstrating academic curiosity and preparedness for the proposed course of study;
 - Format may change for the 2026 cycle.

Other Considerations

- Use of external (independent) counsellors;
- Set up university fairs at your school;
- Hold information sessions with parents and students;
- External (paid for) summer school programming on college campuses;
- Exploring resources in your community:
 - University fairs, Slate.org, for-profit organizations;
- Organisations: NACAC (American), IACAC (International);
- Get on counsellor email lists;
- Facebook pages: UCAS help, Common Application;

Important Links:

- [UCAS](#)
- [The British Council in Canada](#)
- [Common Application](#)
 - Note - there are some colleges (e.g. Georgetown) that do not subscribe to the Common Application and have their own admission application. This holds true for some State colleges as well.
- [Slate.org](#) → this is a free service that some US colleges participate in. It is another way of uploading & submitting school documents in support of applications.
- [Coalition Application](#) → very rarely, a college will only be on this application in which case an applicant will need to create their own account and add the counsellor and referees

Counselling - Professional Organizations (fee to join / annual renewal):

- [NACAC](#)
- [IACAC](#)

Other - Please note that I have no affiliation with these for-profit organizations or events and do not endorse or otherwise comment on them. I only mention them in case your students inquire. This by no means is an exhaustive list.

- [Study in the UK](#) → this is a for profit organisation - I mention it in case students are looking for external support
 - [Link to the university fair](#) that happened this past September
- [The Princeton Review](#) → offers standardised test prep, has offered free “taste-tester” ACT/SAT exams
- [US College Expo](#) → please note that this is hosted by a for-profit company