

Right I'm going to tell you how British students apply for admission to universities in Britain / that's the students who want to do an undergraduate course leading to a degree such as the B.A. that's the Bachelor of Arts / the B.Sc. the Bachelor of Science I or the M.A. which is the Scottish equivalent to the B.A./

well first of all there are no separate entrance exams for different universities / except for Oxford and Cambridge / the students in Britain take national school-leaving examinations / now in England they're called A levels and in Scotland they're called Highers / there's a slight difference in these exams / the A levels are slightly more specialised and so people tend to take fewer /

anyway acceptance to a university depends on the number of these exams you have and the grades / and it varies according to each university / I would say at a very rough estimate that you would need about say five Highers for acceptance to a British university / and about / or about three A levels / that's a very rough estimate /

anyway the students choose the universities and the courses that they're interested in by looking at prospectuses / now these are booklets produced by the universities which give information about the courses that they offer / and these prospectuses are available in the schools careers offices / or libraries / or directly from the university /

now all applications are processed through one central body called UCCA / that stands for the Universities Central Council on Admissions / in other words the students don't apply directly to the universities themselves / except for Oxford and Cambridge / they have to apply

one year in advance / that is between September and December of the year before the October entry date / you know that the academic year in Britain is from October to June /

well there's one standard form to fill in called the UCCA form / and on this form you put details of your education qualifications any relevant work experience etcetera / plus the exams that you're going to sit during the school year / you also put down a list of the universities that you're interested in / and the courses / and it has to be a maximum of five universities / you can't put them in order of preference / but they're listed according to their code number / the code number is given in the UCCA handbook / however you can mark the university that you strongly prefer /

then you send off the form to UCCA with a fee of six pounds / and once you've sent the form you can't change your list / and by the way you can only send one form per year /

UCCA then sends copies of your application form to the universities on your list / and the universities reply to the student directly / either offering them a firm place / if they meet their requirements / that is they have the right number of exams and grades / or a conditional place / that is acceptance on condition that the students pass the exams that they're going to sit / and at the required grade / so then the students sit their school exams and they wait anxiously for the results to see if they've met the requirements / and then they let the university know the results / and if they're accepted / they're ready to start in October of that year / (3 minutes 45 seconds)