



**HURTWOOD
HOUSE**
LIFE AFTER
HURTWOOD

**WHAT NEXT?
WE WANT TO HELP YOU!**

THE UNIVERSITY ADVICE DEPARTMENT

HURTWOOD HOUSE

LIFE AFTER HURTWOOD



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THE UNIVERSITY ADVICE DEPARTMENT: HOW DO WE HELP YOU?

Getting into the right university on the right course is a highly complex business. According to the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) there are over 300 institutions in the UK offering more than 50,000 courses. Most universities offer a wide variety of course combinations and therefore the choice you face is huge. Here at Hurtwood House you will be pleased to know that we handle the entire university application process for you from A to Z. Our aim is to help our students make decisions which are right for them in terms of their future plans – whatever route they intend to take. Our advice is individually tailored to specific needs, so that all students can make an informed and balanced decision. We are proud of the fact that 63% of Hurtwood students go on to gain places at the prestigious Russell Group universities. The Russell Group represents 24 research intensive universities, which include Oxford, Cambridge, LSE, Imperial College London, King’s College London, Bristol, Warwick, Edinburgh and Manchester among their number. However, we also know that this kind of course does not suit everyone and helping each student find a course perfect for them is our goal.

The University Advice Department is open every day of the week, from 9am to 6pm. We really want to help and we have an enormous amount of experience to share with you. We should be able to answer most of your questions and give you the advice you need, but even if we don’t know the answer to your specific enquiry straight away we will be doggedly determined to find out!!



WHAT WE PROVIDE FOR YOU, AT A GLANCE

- Expert and individual advice on the process of choosing and applying for Higher Education courses, in the UK, EU, USA or elsewhere in the world.
- Careers diagnostic tests to help point undecided students in the right direction.
- Individual help with completing the applications online and crafting the best possible personal statements.
- Mock interviews.
- For Oxbridge candidates, we provide accompanied trips to the Oxford and Cambridge conference, a trip to the Oxford open day and classes in tackling the Oxbridge entrance examinations.
- Advice regarding the subject specific entry tests to the top universities (for example in Law and Medicine).
- SAT preparation classes to support students in their applications to universities in the USA.
- A Higher Education Intranet page with a host of useful resources including course information 'So you want to study...' packs, comprehensive reading lists and information about how to research your course, and future career options.
- A Higher Education Library with university prospectuses, the latest books on university entrance and computers available for student use.
- Visits to Hurtwood by admissions tutors from a range of universities to explain the admissions procedure and what they are looking for.
- Visits to Hurtwood by admissions tutors of the leading Drama Schools and individual tailor-made sessions to help prepare for the auditions.
- The best quality advice for students interested in Art College including trips to the UCAS 'Design Your Future' fair accompanied by their teachers and visits from university lecturers.
- Provision of information on taster courses for highly competitive courses such as Medicine, Veterinary Science, Engineering and Economics.
- Individual help on applying for accommodation and finance at university.
- Help in preparation of C.V.s to gain work experience.
- Guidance on gap year schemes focusing on how to have a fun and enriching experience safely.

WHO ARE WE?

With a vast range of interests, the University Advice Department offer a wealth of information to students thinking about their next steps. To contact anyone in the team listed below, you can call us on **01483 279 186** or email **careers@hurtwood.net**

We look forward to hearing from you.

Jane Collier BSc Bradford MEd
Head of University Advice and Applications
01483 279136 or **jane.collier@hurtwood.net**

Jane joined Hurtwood as the Head of University Advice and Applications in January 2014. Prior to Hurtwood she was the Head of Sixth at Ardingly College where she also taught Business for 14 years. She has extensive experience as a higher education adviser and is able to offer comprehensive guidance and support to students with their UK and overseas applications.

Chris Mercer BA Teesside
University Applications Adviser

Chris is now in his third year at Hurtwood, having previously spent a number of years working as an Admissions Officer in both a specialist Art & Design College, and at a major London university making decisions on heavily over-subscribed courses. As such, he has a deep knowledge of admissions processes and a strong understanding of how vitally important accuracy in a UCAS application is.

Janice Van der Weyden
University Applications Secretary

Janice has worked at Hurtwood for nine years including three years in the University Advice Department. She is the one who keeps us all organised and offers an outstanding level of support to the students here. Janice will provide guidance in completing application forms and she is able to produce supporting documents including references and grade transcripts when they are required.

Tina Jackson MA Oxon PGCE
University Applications Adviser (Oxbridge Coordinator)

Tina has been at Hurtwood for 20 years and has a wealth of experience at her disposal. She has a degree in Politics, Philosophy and Economics from Oriel College, Oxford and is an experienced History teacher. As Hurtwood's Oxbridge coordinator Tina handles the applications for Oxford and Cambridge and specialises in preparing students for the Thinking Skills Assessment.

Abi Hoyle BA Durham PGCE
Careers and University Applications Adviser

Abi has worked at Hurtwood for three years, having previously been the Head of Sixth Form at Woldingham School. She leads the Geography Department here at Hurtwood and is Deputy Head (Curriculum). Abi has considerable experience as a careers advisor and is able to provide professional support with all aspects of university applications.

GETTING STARTED: FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS

The whole process of higher education can seem baffling – particularly after the routine of school. The options are immense and the rumours which abound as to applications and university choices can be unsettling. There is an enormous amount of information available which is good but it can be difficult to assess, mystifying in its complexity and occasionally downright contradictory! We will help you with the entire process. To do your own research on top of all our help, the best place to start if you are looking for a UK university is **www.ucas.com**.

This encyclopaedic site has information for both students and parents and it also provides the online application system. It has an impressive and all encompassing 'Course Search Facility' to look for the latest information on both courses and universities. The parents section is also very informative.

The screenshot shows the UCAS website homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for UCAS, Advisers, Providers, Corporate, Events, Connect, and Careerfinder (marked as 'NEW'). There are 'Sign in' and 'Register' buttons on the right. Below this is the UCAS logo and tagline 'At the heart of connecting people to higher education'. To the right, there is a 'Next event' section for 'Tayside higher education exhibition' in Dundee on 22 Sep 2016, with a 'More events' link and a 'Keyword search' box. A secondary navigation bar includes '16-18 Choices', 'Undergraduate' (highlighted), 'Conservatoires', 'Teacher Training', 'Postgraduate', and 'Not sure?'. Below this is a red bar with 'Getting started', 'Choosing a course', 'Apply and Track', and 'Finance and support'. A black banner below that says 'Our website is changing! - Read more'. The main content area features a large red banner with the text 'You can now send us your undergraduate application for courses starting in 2017' and a 'Sign in to Apply' button. Below the banner are four columns of content: 1. Getting started (with 'Information for parents' circled), 2. Find a course, 3. Apply and Track, and 4. Finance and support.

UCAS At the heart of connecting people to higher education

Next event: **Tayside higher education exhibition**
Dundee, 22 Sep 2016 - [More events](#)

Keyword search

16-18 Choices **Undergraduate** Conservatoires Teacher Training Postgraduate Not sure ?

Getting started Choosing a course Apply and Track Finance and support

Our website is changing! - [Read more](#)

You can now send us your undergraduate application for courses starting in 2017

[Sign in to Apply](#)

- 1. Getting started**
 - Thinking about uni?
 - What to study
 - International and EU students
 - Information for parents**
 - Sign up to the UCAS Undergraduate newsletter
- 2. Find a course**
 - Find out how to choose courses
 - Thinking about an apprenticeship?
 - Browse through our search tool
 - Visit unis and colleges
 - Book to visit an exhibition
- 3. Apply and Track**
 - Filling in your application
 - Writing a personal statement
 - Interview invitations
 - Tracking your application
 - No offers? Use Clearing
- 4. Finance and support**
 - Tuition fees and student loans
 - Additional funding
 - Getting student support
 - Students' unions
 - Watch our video guides

WHAT IF I DON'T KNOW WHAT I WANT TO DO?

Being undecided about which route to take is a fairly common problem and the FastTomato or UKCourseFinder websites can help provide a valuable focus. Both websites give you the opportunity to complete a few quick and easy questionnaires, they then use your responses to guide you to possible course and career choices. These choices are provided having taken into account your interests and educational achievements. You can print a full personal report and both websites save all your information so you can access it later. FastTomato also offers detailed case studies providing you with useful information on what a career in the suggested field actually entails. You can alternatively find out if a career is possible by trying different combinations of subjects.

The screenshot shows the FastTomato website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the logo 'FastTomato' on the left and links for 'Why Fast Tomato?', 'Pricing', 'Schools', and 'Contact' on the right. Below the navigation bar is a large hero image of a young man in a green beanie looking to the side. Overlaid on this image is a text box with the heading 'Career Guidance for 12-18 year olds' and a paragraph: 'Since 2003, Fast Tomato has become one of the most popular online career guidance programmes for young people, helping millions of students explore the many different career opportunities open to them. It is accurate, relevant, easy to use and excellent value for money.' Below the hero image, there is a section with the text: 'Fast Tomato career guidance is suitable for students aged 12 – 18 and is used by schools all over the world.' This is followed by a smaller paragraph: 'Fast Tomato has been designed to help young people broaden their horizons and consider a broader spectrum of career and education options. Students take a short psychometric questionnaire which gauges interests, attitudes and motivations. They are then offered career and education suggestions, personalised to them.' At the bottom of this section is a red button that says 'FOR SCHOOLS >'. The footer of the page is a solid red bar with the text 'Why Fast Tomato?' centered.

The screenshot shows the UKCourseFinder website. At the top left is the logo 'UKCourseFinder' with a magnifying glass icon. To the right is a search bar with the placeholder text 'Enter subject' and a 'Search' button. In the top right corner is the 'MORRISBY' logo. Below the search bar is a horizontal navigation menu with five items: 'Home', 'Course Search', 'What to Study?', 'Services for Schools & Colleges', and 'Articles'. The main content area is divided into three light blue boxes. The first box is titled 'University Course Search' and contains the text: 'Course and university search with information about more than 40,000 courses from over 500 institutions in the UK, as well as Ireland and English speaking courses throughout Europe.' Below this text is a black button with 'Course Search' and a right-pointing arrow. The second box is titled 'What to Study?' and contains the text: 'Deciding what you want to do after you leave school is not easy. Our online tools will guide you through choosing study options and a career.' Below this text is a black button with 'What to Study?' and a right-pointing arrow. The third box is titled 'Services for Schools' and contains the text: 'Our Morrisby Online service helps schools and colleges provide guidance on choosing study options and careers.' Below this text is a black button with 'Service for Schools' and a right-pointing arrow. At the bottom of the page is a black footer bar with the text 'Terms | Privacy | Service, Quality & Ethics'.

HOW DO I FIND THE BEST COURSE FOR ME?

League Tables

League tables can be a key part of the decision making process and two of the most helpful are **The Times Good University Guide** and **The Guardian University Guide**. Another free and easy to use informative league table can also be found on **The Complete University Guide**.

The screenshot shows the 'University League Table 2017' page on The Complete University Guide website. The page features a navigation menu at the top with options like 'League Tables', 'Universities', 'Courses', etc. Below the navigation, there's a search bar and a 'Register / Log In' link. The main content area is titled 'University League Table 2017' and includes a table with columns for 'Table', 'Year', 'Region', 'Group', and 'Order by'. The table is currently set to 'Universities', '2017', 'ALL', 'All', and 'CUG Score'. Below the table, there are filters for 'Institutions' (Universities, Arts/Music Institutions) and 'Subjects'. The 'Subjects' list is extensive, covering various fields from Accounting & Finance to Veterinary Medicine. To the right of the table, there's an 'Essential Information' sidebar with links to 'Results Day and Clearing 2016', 'Ask Us a Question', 'How to use the Tables', and various subject guides. Below that, there's a Facebook widget for 'The Complete Univers...' with 24k likes, and a tweet from '@CompUniGuide' about 'Top 5 UK Unis to study Ophthalmology: 4 is @OfficialUoM! Well done @EBM4_UoM #EyeHealthMatters #eyeh'. At the bottom right, there's a 'Compare Universities' button.

However, it is worth sounding a note of caution. Most league tables use a range of criteria including the research quality of the university, their entry standards, student satisfaction, graduate prospects, value added scores, student spending and teaching ratios to create an overall ranking. Most league tables use different criteria and any ranking does not necessarily mean that a particular course at a university will suit an individual student.

Websites and open days

The only real way to find out if you are suited to a course is to read the university website pages carefully. Having narrowed down your choice a little, it is indispensable to visit any university you are considering. All universities advertise open days on their websites and you can get an overview at **www.opendays.com**. These are a great opportunity to see the university in the flesh, to meet some students and probably to experience some of the facilities on offer. Some open days are very popular and you may need to book ahead on the university website.

Don't worry if you can't get to an official open day – most universities are very helpful if you still want to go and visit. Many offer campus tours throughout the year which are advertised on their websites. Although a campus tour is more of an overview it still offers that all important flavour which helps in the decision making process. Many universities also offer self-guided walking tours and if you contact the department to which you want to make an application, they can often

arrange for you to meet a member of staff or students when you visit. After all, universities are businesses and they need to do all they can to attract the best students!

For parents – open days are for you too and even though your son or daughter might prefer to go alone, it is good for you to see where they might be spending several years of their life. Many open days have a session which caters for parents' questions and although the ultimate choice must lie with your son or daughter, it can only be good for the family to have all the information at their disposal. More and more universities are holding open days at the weekend to enable parents to attend.

Unistats

www.unistats.com is an invaluable website which allows you to find out detailed information on your course at your chosen university. Detailed statistics on the recent graduates such as student gender breakdown, degree class and employment prospects are at your fingertips. Moreover the National Student Survey gives the opinions of current students on the course. The statistics on their satisfaction with teaching, assessment, learning resources and academic support can be very illuminating.

The screenshot shows the Unistats website interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links: Home, Your Unistats, Subjects, Universities & colleges, Course Assistant, and About Unistats. Below the navigation bar, there's a search bar with a red arrow pointing to the right. The search bar contains the text "Subject or course" in a white box, "in" in a small box, "Institution or location" in a white box, "Search" in a yellow box, and "More search options" in a white box. To the right of the search bar, there's a black box with the text "Compare: No courses added". Below the search bar, there's a section titled "The official website for comparing UK higher education course data" which includes a brief description of the data provided. To the right, there's a "VIDEO GUIDE: USING UNISTATS" section with a thumbnail showing a bar chart and a play button. The main content area is divided into two columns: "Course assistant" with icons for Subject, Qualification, Study mode, Location, and Characteristics; and "Universities & colleges" with an A-Z grid. A sidebar on the right shows tweets from @UnistatsUK.

Talk about it

Having friends, siblings and relatives at university is another way to develop ideas and get information. They might even provide a floor on which to sleep so you can go and visit! Be careful not to let their views, positive or negative, sway any decision too much – it is simply another point of view.

Alternative websites

You can get more student focused information by reading the prospectuses they write and organisations like **www.push.co.uk** give independent assessments of universities and provide top ten lists on everything from lowest graduate unemployment rates to cheapest campus beer!

THE APPLICATION CYCLE AT HURTWOOD

A1 YEAR SPRING TERM

Introductory Seminar

The process begins very early in the Spring Term when you are given a presentation on your options after Hurtwood. You also receive an outline of the application process for university and we spend some time answering the queries which are common at this stage. Additional lectures are given to students interested in studying at Oxbridge, Medical Schools or overseas universities.

Individual Meetings

We meet with you individually during the remainder of the term to find out what plans you have as to your future and to establish your interests and strengths. At this stage those who are interested in making an application to Oxford or Cambridge or pursuing courses in particularly competitive courses such as Law and Medicine are identified and we begin to give them guidance as to the specific criteria they need to meet. (See specific section below)

We write to your parents on many occasions during your time at Hurtwood, explaining the entire admissions process and your specific interests. We keep them up to date on all the events in the University Advice Department such as the compulsory Higher Education Programme after the AS examinations and what happens on results day.

A1 YEAR SUMMER TERM

Visits to Hurtwood by admissions tutors

Once the AS exams are over we run a series of activities with visiting speakers to help you begin to focus on this crucial part of your education. Every year we host a 'Life After Hurtwood Careers Fair' and representatives attend from the top London Universities such as LSE, UCL, King's College and Imperial, together with representatives from the Art Institutions, Gap Year organisations and Overseas Universities. This provides a refreshing and informative insight into the world of university, gap years etc. as well as being an excellent source of information. They have never yet been unable to answer a student's question!

Registration for UCAS

We run a hands-on session which shows you how to register online for the UCAS application system and we encourage you to start work on this form over the summer holidays at a time when you can discuss your plans with your parents. We also help you find the right course for you, be it Digital Media Production, History, Chemical Engineering, Economics or English and Philosophy to name but a few. (See our '**Where did they go**' section to gain a real flavour of the different courses that our recent students are now studying at university.)

University open days

Seeing a university helps you develop an idea of what you like and don't like, and gives you something by which to measure other universities you visit.

Here is an example of the programme arranged for you after the AS examinations:

The Personal Statement	How to master writing an effective personal statement
Applying to university	Q&A sessions with speakers from the London Universities
University Admissions Tests	A preparation & practice session for students required to sit a test
Register for UCAS	A session for you to begin your UCAS applications
Oxford Visit	An opportunity for students considering Oxford or Cambridge to visit some colleges
Results Day	The office will be open from results morning offering you help with understanding the implications of your AS results

A2 YEAR AUTUMN TERM

Completing the online application & help with personal statements

The UCAS site opens for business in September. We hope that you will have begun your form over the summer, and in the Autumn Term we spend a lot of time supporting you as you finalise your application.

One of the key elements of any application is the all-important 'personal statement' – something surrounded by mystique and potentially able to bring you out in a cold sweat! The University Advice Department provides lots of information, including fact sheets and examples on our detailed Higher Education Intranet page, so that you can start to work on this key project straight away. This page has a host of useful resources including course information 'So you want to study...' packs, comprehensive reading lists and information about how to research your course and future career options. We, along with teachers, house tutors and housemasters, help you hone your personal statement and we offer advice on the way to make the very best impression in the quest for that all important place!

Be aware that universities run personal statements through a plagiarism search and of course admissions tutors read a huge number of applications and will notice if they come across the same things again and again! Beware of companies who offer to write the actual statement for you. It is worth remembering that the best way to succeed is to have a genuine interest in your chosen course and if you can communicate that clearly in your own words you will impress.

Sending the UCAS forms

We encourage you to complete your form as early as possible so that the stress of the application process is over, allowing you to concentrate on getting the best grades. We certainly aim to send all UCAS forms before the end of the Autumn Term. The first official UCAS deadline is January 15th but since many universities start to make offers once they receive forms, and given the hectic Hurtwood year, we believe that the earlier the form is completed the better.

Those applying for Oxbridge, Medicine, Veterinary Science and Dentistry must apply by October 15th.

A2 YEAR SPRING TERM

Receiving offers

During the Spring Term you will receive offers, hopefully from all five of the universities to which you applied, and you can see the status of your application via your own personal UCAS Track facility. UCAS will set a date by which you have to decide which two offers you will hold – one is your firm offer and this means that you will go to that university if you achieve the grades for which you have been asked and an insurance offer, normally with lower grades, which is the university to which you will go if you have missed the grades for your firm offer.

A2 YEAR SUMMER TERM

Getting the grades

After you receive your offers you simply need to work hard to get the grades!

From the moment that the results are published in mid-August we are available to counsel and support any student questions. We will contact you if we are aware of any problems and we are here for a week to help you make your final decisions and to help with the UCAS Clearing Scheme and Adjustment. Clearing runs from results day and matches students without places to courses with vacancies. However, you will be pleased to know that over the last decade more than 90% of Hurtwood students gained a place at their 'firm choice' university.



OXBRIDGE

How we help you apply to Oxford and Cambridge

We advise you on the increasing number of Oxford courses which require students to sit an additional test. Many of these are subject specific such as LNAT (for Law), BMAT/UKCAT (for medicine), ELAT (for English), MAT (for Mathematics), MLAT (for Modern Languages), PAT (for Physics) and HAT (for History) and the University of Oxford Philosophy Test. Cambridge are also introducing additional tests, many of which will be taken at school before students are called for interview.

- Cambridge requires mathematicians to take the STEP (Sixth Term Examination Papers) in Mathematics and the school provides extra tuition to help you with this.
- A range of courses require you to sit a TSA (Thinking Skills Assessment) and we work with you to improve your skills in your assessments, so that you have the best chance of success.
- We take you to visit Oxford to explore different colleges in the last week of the Summer Term.
- We help you fill in your UCAS forms by the deadline of October 15th.
- Once called for interview, we conduct mock interviews and give helpful feedback on what you can do to maximise your chances of attaining a place.

Applying to Oxford or Cambridge – The Facts

You may only apply to Oxford or Cambridge, not both.

- In addition to choosing a course you will also need to choose a college. However, if you have no particular college in mind it is also possible to make an open application, where the university places you. University statistics suggest that students who choose this method are not disadvantaged.
- You need exceptionally strong GCSE grades along with excellent A level predictions.
- You need a real passion for your chosen subject and for learning. Taking an EPQ related to your degree choice can be very useful. See more info here
- You need a genuine enthusiasm for life and the opportunities it offers, demonstrated through outside interests such as involvement in clubs and societies.
- The entry requirements differ enormously with some departments asking for written work, some requiring tests to be sat and some relying solely on the interview process. As this situation is so fluid it is always best to check on the relevant university website for the most up to date information – www.ox.ac.uk and www.cam.ac.uk. These websites provide a fund of other information relating to courses, colleges, the application process and application statistics from previous years – all of which can be instrumental in your decision making process.
- Subject specific tests for Oxford and Cambridge are sat at school early in November and play an integral part in the selection process.
- Interviews take place in early December, but you have to wait until early January to see if you have been successful.

ENTRY TESTS

As well as those mentioned above which refer specifically to Oxbridge, entry tests are another way in which universities assess your potential.

Law

If you want to study Law, you may, depending on your choice of university, have to sit the LNAT test – www.lnat.ac.uk which is a computer based test sat at an external centre which tests legal skills. There are sample tests on the website but is designed to be a test for which it is very difficult to prepare. It comprises two sections – the first being multiple choice for which you are awarded a score and the second being an essay which is sent to the university to which you have made an application.

This test is very demanding and it can be a key, but not sole, discriminator in deciding whether to make the offer of a place. Interestingly, Cambridge used to use the LNAT, but have now abandoned it in favour of their own test, as LNAT did not prove to be as effective a filter as had been anticipated.

Medicine

Those who choose to study Medicine will almost certainly have to sit an entry test – individual medical schools will specify whether it is the BMAT or the UKCAT. The BMAT – www.bmat.org.uk – is paper based and sat in school. It is a subject-specific admissions test assessing skills and knowledge. The UKCAT – www.ukcat.ac.uk – is a computer based test sat at an external centre and assesses a range of mental abilities and innate skills.

Both of these tests have deadlines as to when they must be completed for a valid application and students need to check this information carefully on the relevant website. As medical schools now interview all applicants, we provide our medics with an opportunity to have extra guidance on interview technique.

SPECIALIST SUBJECTS

Art

Students are given specialist guidance from the Head of Art to find the best course for their interests, whether they want to study Fine Art Painting, Sculpture, Printmaking, Fashion, Textiles, Graphics, 3D Design, Photography, Architecture, Art History or another of the myriad of options available.

The normal procedure is for students to apply for a one year Foundation Diploma Course in Art and Design, in order to progress the following year to a degree course. Foundation Diploma courses have a separate application process to UCAS which the Art Department will help you complete. They are diagnostic courses which prepare students for degrees in Art and Design. As their name suggests, these foundation courses give students a strong grounding in all the main disciplines from fine art, to moving image, film, photography, and three dimensional design. This enables them to make an informed choice of degree. However as Art at Hurtwood is so advanced and akin to a foundation course a number of our applicants each year manage to gain places straight on to BA Degree programs.

Students are advised to book Open Days at each of the colleges or universities they intend to apply to for both Foundation Diploma and BA Degree courses. This is invaluable as students have the opportunity to meet current staff and students, tour the facilities, and experience the atmosphere of art school. Staff from UAL and other universities are invited into Hurtwood to talk to students about the different courses on offer.

Students are given advice on which pieces to include in their portfolios for interview to display their range of drawing, research skills and creative processes. If they are required to complete an additional project they are given extensive help and guidance on the requirements. Students are regularly put in mock interview situations where they practise discussing their work in both groups and individually. Personal statements need to be tailored precisely to the course and as a result, students may often need help with more than one statement.

We regularly place all of our students who apply to Art related courses at the leading Art Colleges or universities due to the quality of our teaching and back up and support services.

Dance

Hurtwood students are exceptionally well prepared for getting into Dance Schools and the many institutions that offer further dance study. Hurtwood's specialist dance teachers advise students where the best courses can be found and past students have gained places at prestigious schools such as; London Studio Centre, Bird College of Dance, Music and Theatre Performance, Laine Theatre Arts, Urdang Academy, Millennium and the professional conservatoire at Arts Educational in London.

At Hurtwood there is an impressive range of dance including jazz, tap and ballet, and the Hurtwood Dance Company is specifically designed to offer concentrated technique and performance opportunities. We help prepare students for their auditions on a one-to-one basis in relation to their own specific needs and choices. Our AS Dance students benefit from engaging in choreography, dance technique and analysis, the history of dance and injury prevention. The A2 students develop their choreographic talents and build on their dance technique whilst becoming confident at discussing, analysing and writing about dance. Crucially, both the full-time and visiting staff in the dance department are experts and replicate the demanding situation of the dance world and its many facets. There is consistent feedback where students are advised how to improve and give themselves the best possible chance of success to enter both professional dance training and dance within a more academic context.

Drama

Students who wish to continue studying Drama, Theatre or Performance are very well supported at Hurtwood. If you wish to continue your actor training you can apply to one of the many Drama Schools or opt to study Drama at university. Indeed many students decide to apply for both as it is difficult to secure a place at Drama School. The competition is fierce; for example at Guildhall 2000 people often apply for just 20 places. However, we are fortunate to have one of the country's leading Drama School specialists here at Hurtwood to help you.

Drama School

Hurtwood students applying for drama school work under the careful eye of Andy Johnson (*Head of Acting & Director in Residence*). Andy guides and supports each and every application and helps students to find the right course for them. He has a detailed knowledge of each Drama School and knows the content of every course on offer. Andy has taught at several of the leading Drama Schools and is in regular touch with current course leaders. His finger is well and truly on the pulse! Andy also advises those students wishing to study abroad.

The administrative process for Drama School is complicated and each Drama School has their own unique way of doing things. Some use UCAS, some use CUKAS and some have their own individual forms. Andy keeps on top of this and the University Advice Department ensure that the administrative procedures of each application are completed correctly. As part of the formal application, the majority of students will have to produce a personal statement. This is an important part of the process and Andy will help each applicant write their personal statement. His expert advice is second to none, so much so that *Nick Hern Books* have published his first book. *How to do Excellent Auditions!* Speak to him nicely and he might give you a signed edition!

We also direct students to *Drama UK* which is the new advisory, umbrella organisation that is responsible for managing the quality assurance of all leading Drama training providers. The first step for anyone wishing to continue their actor training after Hurtwood would be to look at this website which will give them a detailed overview of the best courses available in the UK.

The most important part of the Drama School application process is the audition itself. Andy and Ezra Hjalmarsson run an intense Drama School programme one afternoon a week that allows students to prepare, perform and perfect their audition pieces. This programme is about being open to advice and sharing experiences. Our students feel exceptionally well prepared for their auditions and workshops because they have already experienced similar practical exercises on the Hurtwood programme. Past students who are reapplying for Drama School places or ex-students working professionally often return to Hurtwood to ensure that they are fully prepared for future auditions.

Applying for Drama School is not an easy option. It is full of rejection, emotion and heartbreak. However, the support systems in place at Hurtwood are professionally managed in order to give students every fighting chance! There is no other school that prepares its students for Drama School like Hurtwood as can be seen from our success rate over the years.

Drama at University

Applications for Drama at university go through UCAS and although some aspects of the application procedure may be similar, the course content is often very different at university. Rather than the intense training programme for actors at Drama School, the training offered at university usually has a more academic edge. Often half of the course is academic and there is more emphasis on independent research and less contact time with tutors. Many students studying Drama at university are able to specialise in particular areas such as acting, directing, movement, devising and performance analysis.

Media and Film

The Media Department supports a significant number of applications for media and film related study after Hurtwood. In the first instance, the department can offer advice on the range of courses available and the balance of production and academic content in these courses. Many of these applications will be for degree courses and will go through the UCAS system; others may be direct applications to UK-based private universities such as the Met Film School or overseas institutions such as the New York Film Academy. In each case, the department can offer help in writing a personal or suitability statement, as well as assistance in producing a showreel of practical work to support an application.

Students who are keen to move on to film production or related courses after Hurtwood are advised to apply for a place in the prestigious Hurtwood Film Academy in their first year. The Academy offers students a level of training in fiction and non-fiction film making that goes far beyond the normal A Level experience and provides a unique experience which can be discussed in personal statements or at interview. Over the years, Hurtwood students have studied media and film at most of the major universities and film schools, including Bournemouth, Ravensbourne, Westminster, Chapman University and UCLA. As a result, many Hurtwood alumni now have successful careers in media industries worldwide.

Music

There are three different types of music courses available when students have completed their A Levels: the traditional classical music courses, contemporary music performance courses and music production courses.

Applications for the traditional courses at the Royal Academy of Music or the Royal College of Music for example, are handled by CUKAS rather than UCAS and there is an extremely early deadline whereby forms have to be submitted by the 1st October. The University Advice Department gives individual advice for students wanting to follow this route.

For the contemporary performance courses students need to have a solid background in performance and song writing and a high grade in an instrument or singing. At Hurtwood there are a myriad of opportunities for students to gain experience in performance with major shows every term and regular lunchtime concerts. Individual peripatetic teachers spend a considerable amount of time helping students choose and rehearse their audition pieces. We also advise the students on the merits of different one year foundation courses at specialist institutions such as the Academy of Contemporary Music in Guildford or the Brighton Institute of Modern Music, affiliated to the University of Sussex.

Students wishing to study Music Technology courses are helped through the entire process by Hurtwood's A Level Music Technology Department. Hurtwood has had students go on to study at LIPA (Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts), Leeds and Westminster. Music Production courses look at recording, mixing and production techniques and the Music Technology Department helps students to put together their portfolio and fine tune their interview technique. Students are extremely well prepared for these production courses, as they gain practical experience from being involved in various projects here at school including preparing the Hurtwood Album. Throughout their time at Hurtwood, students are working with industry professionals and are encouraged to meet exacting standards. Live sound for concerts and shows also forms an important part of many courses and Hurtwood students have numerous opportunities to hone their skills providing technical support for the Theatre and Music departments. Students are involved in the entire process of putting on shows from planning and designing the sound, to operating the sound desk.

There are also a variety of commercial studios which also run their own courses and the Music Tech Department advises students on the merits of these less mainstream courses.

UNIVERSITIES OUTSIDE THE UK

We have experience in helping students apply to a wide range of universities in other parts of the world. A number of ex-Hurtwood students are currently studying at institutions across the globe including; University of Amsterdam, Holland; University of Madrid, Kosminslo University, Poland, Medical School, Warsaw, Spain; NABA, Italy; Boston University, NYU, and Chapman University in the USA; Toronto, Canada; La Salle, Singapore; and Hong Kong University.

USA & Canada

A number of our students make applications to the US and one of our teachers offers specialist guidance and helps students prepare for the SAT or ACT tests. Although US universities have an understanding of the UK education system and the value of GCSE, AS and A levels the performance scores achieved in SAT and ACT tests are very important, along with the letters of recommendation and a transcript of student grades. The SAT and ACT tests are very skills driven and any student embarking on them needs to do careful research to prepare effectively. Information can be found on www.collegeboard.com along with sample questions. For some courses there are different levels of tests to be sat and we offer specific advice for those students intending to pursue this route.

We work with the Fulbright Commission, a London based body which specialises in helping students apply to US universities – www.fulbright.co.uk – and we encourage students to attend the annual College fair held in London in late September. The US application process is quite complex as, unlike the UK, not all universities use the same the application forms but we can help anyone who wants to pursue this route.

The screenshot shows the Fulbright Commission website. At the top left is the logo with the text 'FULBRIGHT COMMISSION'. To the right are social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, LinkedIn, and Tumblr, along with a search bar labeled 'Quick Links'. Below the header is a navigation menu with links for 'ABOUT', 'FULBRIGHT AWARDS', 'STUDY IN THE USA', 'ALUMNI', 'NEWS & EVENTS', and 'RESOURCES FOR'. The main content area features a large banner with a photo of four people and the text 'Partner with us and support US-UK educational exchange'. Below the banner are three columns: 'NEWS' with dates from 15 SEP 2016 to 30 AUG 2016; 'EVENTS' with dates for 'USA College Day 2016' and 'University in the USA Advisor Training Conference' on SEP 23; and 'AWARDS SPOTLIGHT' with the heading 'Awards to the US for UK Citizens' and a 'Find out more >' link. A Fulbright logo is also present in the awards section.

Similar to the top universities in the USA, the leading Canadian Universities are popular with UK and international students. Students apply directly and further details can be found on the **Education in Canada website**.

Europe

An increasing number of students are exploring higher education opportunities in Europe. Many undergraduate programmes are now taught in English and European universities are actively recruiting overseas students across a range of humanities and science programmes. The entry requirements are typically lower than in the UK and tuition fees are either free or very low. A high number of European universities are listed in the top 100 world institutions and hence students can be reassured that studying abroad will give them affordable access to high quality education and give them a USP in the global employment market. See www.eunicas.co.uk for more information.

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Keyword

EUNICAS is the European Universities Central Application Support Service.

EUNICAS is unique. It enables UK and Irish students to apply to up to eight degree programmes, **taught through English**, in universities across Europe.

In addition to accessing comprehensive and independent information on programmes in Europe, you can, on registering with us, access:

- > independent advice on choosing your programme
- > expert support, and reassurance, in applying to your chosen programmes
- > guidance on all elements of your application package, inc Letters of Motivation [Personal Statements] and Entrance Tests
- > regular updates on new programmes and developments
- > assistance in organising university visits
- > alerts on extended deadlines and late vacancies

..... so, if you want to take part in the new era of transnational university education, **register now.**

Latest News

Vacant Places Across Europe
18/08 - There are still some vacant places in universities across Europe: their equivalent to Clearing. These include those listed below. Contact EUNICAS to, [...more]

Brexit: Implications for UK...
09/08 - Brexit: The Implications for UK students. Clearly, the implications of Brexit, for both the UK and the EU, are deep, significant and far-reaching. Here, [...more]

Danish Vacant Places Announced
30/07 - Vacant Places in Denmark Today (30th July) is the day when students should receive their acceptance letters to programmes in Danish universities. As part, [...more]

Important Dates | **Webinars** | **Featured Courses**

01 Oct 16	Applications open for most Dutch programmes
17 Oct 16	1st round applications open for most Swedish progs (close 16 Jan) (EU sts can apply in 15 March - 15 April round, for most progs)
15 Jan 17	Application deadline for for most progs in Netherlands that have a selection procedure (excl. Liberal Arts & Sciences)
01 Feb 17	Applications open for most Danish programmes (close 15 March)

[See Dates of University Open Days Here](#)

Australia and New Zealand

Universities in Australia and New Zealand have experienced a growth in international applicants in recent years. They are home to a number of prestigious research-led universities and their degrees are highly regarded by global employers. The February start to the academic year can also be attractive as students have time to pursue gap activities before university study. For more information about studying in the antipodes, visit www.studyoptions.com.

WHAT IF I CHANGE MY MIND?

Some students do not know what course they would like to study when they leave Hurtwood and some change their mind as to their chosen degree course once they have finished their A level courses. The Hurtwood House University Advice Department continues to offer advice to these students even after they have left school and they can still make their UCAS application through Hurtwood. They get exactly the same support and are welcome to work closely with us by phone or email or by a visit to school. Indeed in the last academic year we processed the UCAS form of a student who had finally decided to go to university after a gap of 9 years!

Remember though, that 40% of all first year dropouts at university never actually visited their chosen institution before enrolling – make sure you don't make that mistake!

CONCLUSION

We are here to help you. We have many years of experience and we will try to assist you and your parents in any way we can. Please come and see us and use us as your first port of call for any questions regarding universities, courses, student finance or gap years.

