

USA admissions webinar

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Agenda:

- Introduction by Doug Pearce, Head of International Recruitment
- The educational structure in the USA
- Admissions tests in the USA
- Contextual admissions
- SAT Digital, ACT and AP scores reporting
- Q&A

Introduction - UG



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UG

HESA total 2021/22 = 3,380, RG only = 1,060; **Leeds = 20 (15 in 21/22 and 13 in 20/21)**. NB: St Andrews 545; Edinburgh 285; Glasgow 145. Market is very static. Study Abroad much more popular, 52 at Leeds (80 peak pre Covid)

Leeds RG position has been 13th-18th since 2016/17; up to 12th in 2021/22; 5th outside London/Scotland/Oxbridge. Seeing some growth due to focus on target schools/events, but less than competitors.

Top subjects: Nearly 50% of the RG total is Vet Science at Glasgow and Edinburgh

Others: AHC (non-Media, Design), FSS (mainly IR or SSP, some Law)

Introduction PGT



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PGT

HESA total 2021/22 = 7,460, RG only = 4,230; **Leeds = 50 (35 in 2020/21)** NB: Oxford got 595 and LSE got 58. Market declined during Covid and is starting to bounce back.

Leeds RG position has been from 13th to 16th since 2016/17; 5th outside London,/Scotland/Oxbridge.

Top subjects: 455 and 375 on the London and Oxford MBAs. Popular courses tend to be more niche and less likely to study at home, e.g., international focussed/conflict-related, global health, IR etc.



Secondary education

- Education in the US is mainly provided by the **public sector**, with control and **funding coming from three levels: federal, state, and local**. There is a well-established private education sector
- **Curriculum in the US is not nationalised** – it is agreed at state level
- The **rise in independent education counsellors** hired by parents to assist their children in the college application process indicates the increasingly competitive nature of the university admissions process in the US
- The University generally visits international schools in the US who offer **easily comparable qualifications** such as A-levels, IB or the French Baccalaureate.

Higher education

- A degree is designed to be **completed in four years**, although there is no fixed timescale. Most undergraduates complete their studies within 6 years of the date they first enrolled. **Continuous assessment** is a common feature, and many do not require students to write a final thesis
- American degrees are based on a Liberal Arts philosophy, unique to the U.S. Students take a **wide variety of courses** in the arts and sciences before choosing a 'major'.
- Professional degrees such as **law, medicine, pharmacy, and dentistry**, are offered as **graduate study** after earning at least three years of undergraduate education/bachelors' degree. These fields do not require a specific undergraduate major, though medicine, pharmacy, and dentistry have set prerequisite courses that must be taken before enrolment.

What do US colleges ask for and why?

- *Usually* all their applicants are required to take one or more standardised test. These tests include the SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test), and the ACT (American College Testing)
- The role of standardised tests is to provide institutions a way of **evaluating all their applicants on an equal level**. Comparing grades received for coursework or exams is not always enough because different universities and colleges have varying academic standards. The High School Diploma is internally assessed
- The main part of the application is usually an essay written specifically for that university
- Certain tests (e.g AP's) also allow them to **earn college credit**. Not mandatory for most colleges excluding Ivy League
- At graduate level GRE and GMAT are common
- Some US universities are now **completely test optional**

What are our publicised entry requirements?



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Undergraduate

- A minimum of three Advanced Placement (AP) exams with grades of 4 or 5. Subject specific requirements may apply. Where there is a Mathematics A-level requirement, AP Calculus BC will be required.

Postgraduate

- GPA 3.0 = 2:1

Minimum English & Maths requirements

- SATR 1290 (650 in Evidence-Based Reading and Writing and 620 in Maths)
- OR ACT 26 in English
- OR AP English Literature and Composition/ AP English Language and Composition at grade 3 minimum
- OR IELTS/another recognised English Language qualification

For postgraduate only: Applicants who have studied in the USA for at least two years to complete an undergraduate degree or one year to complete a Masters degree, where the medium of instruction was English, are not required to undertake further English language tests.

AP's – in context

- The closest and only equivalent to A-levels (SAT subject tests discontinued in 2020)
- Not all schools offer AP's and those that do may only provide a small number. Some may offer no AP's at all
- Usually offered outside of the school calendar
- Cost barrier - \$98 per exam
- Students may be able to sit an exam/s at a nearby school at the discretion of their AP coordinator if it is not offered at their school
- Not all students are aware that UK universities require them, and they may not be aware of pre-requisite requirements

Undergraduate

In response to the challenges faced by US students and the University's strategic objective of diversifying our undergraduate international cohort, we now consider additional qualifications in lieu of APs from prospective US students, these are:

1. Dual enrolment AKA college courses
2. AICE – equivalent to A-levels

Note that we are unable to accept Honors courses in lieu of AP's

Postgraduate

We can also consider 2 years of an Associate's degree on case-by-case basis for entry into year 1. In exceptional cases we may grant year two entry.

Accessing SAT & ACT Scores



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- The University now has institutional access to both platforms to access SAT Digital and ACT scores
- SAT Digital (via College Board)
- ACT (via Encoura)
- Debbie Senior and Dave Baldwin are your administrators and will grant access

Useful resources from the College Board:

Higher Ed resources:

<https://professionals.collegeboard.org/higher-ed/digital-sat-suite-resources?excmpid=mtg736-pr-2-mat>

SAT digital suite of resources:

<https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/digital>

Score reporting resources: https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/higher-ed-professionals/score-reports/score-reporting-resources?SFMC_cid=EM722286-&rid=34160424

Accessing AP Scores



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- **We cannot access AP scores electronically**
- Students are able to submit scores via the College Board portal to the University but we are not setup to receive them
- The College Board are in the process of hosting all scores on their portal in the next 1-2 years but at present they are held by a third party
- **We suggest that teams continue to chase results after they are released in early July and where possible reiterate at the offer stage that applicants will need to send us their results via email once received. Students will be able to download a PDF of their results from the college board portal.**



Any Questions?

**Please type in the chat or
raise your hand**