

UCAS International Admissions Review - Consultation response form

This online response form supports the International Admissions Review consultation document and should be used to submit responses to the consultation.

A PDF version of all consultation questions is available for your reference whilst preparing your responses but ALL RESPONSES SHOULD BE SUBMITTED USING THIS ONLINE RESPONSE FORM.

You should be able to re-enter the online response form to add or amend responses until it's complete and submitted. To do this you'll need to use the same computer each time. In order for the form to remember all your responses please click through to the 'next' page before shutting it down. It will not remember responses for the page you are working on if you close it before clicking on the 'next' button.

UCAS wants to consult widely on the recommendations outlined in the consultation document and welcomes feedback from all stakeholders. Please feel free to answer only the questions that are most relevant to you.

Thank you for responding to this UCAS consultation.

UCAS International Admissions Review - Consultation response form

About you

1. Name:

Jon Beard and Mike Sewell

2. Job title:

Director of Undergraduate Recruitment and Director of Admissions for the Cambridge Colleges

3. Name of your organisation or higher education provider:

University of Cambridge

4. Organisation type:

- Higher education Provider - university
- Higher education Provider - college
- Higher education Provider - private provider
- School or FE college
- Education agent or agency
- Independent adviser
- Government body
- Non-government body
- HE sector body (including international higher education sector body)
- Applicant or potential applicant
- International student already studying at university or college in the UK
- Parent of an applicant, potential applicant or student
- Other (please specify)

5. Are you responding on behalf of your organisation or higher education provider?

- Yes
- No - I'm responding as an individual
- Unsure

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6. In which region is your organisation or provider mainly based:

- England
- Scotland
- Wales
- Northern Ireland
- EU
- Other overseas (please specify)

UCAS International Admissions Review - Consultation response form

Theme 1: Simplify the UCAS Apply process

Recommendation 1: Revise current UCAS deadlines for international fee-paying applicants

1. To what extent do you agree in principle with the recommendation to revise current UCAS deadlines for international fee-paying applicants?

Strongly agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Not applicable

If you agree what would you like the deadlines revised to?

We would very much welcome the ability for international applicants to submit UCAS applications as soon as the new cycle opens in June each year. We do not consider late applications, nor do we enter Clearing, and therefore have no opinion on the revision of the 30 June deadline. The RBD and DBD dates related to the 15 January deadline require further consideration - both deadlines are a means of ensuring that the process flows efficiently so we would not wish to see them removed altogether.

More generally, we see no reason to have different deadlines for international and other applicants, especially given the vast majority of communications are now dealt with electronically.

2. To what extent do you agree that this recommendation will have a positive impact on your organisation/provider?

Strongly agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Not applicable

Please use this box if you wish to give further detail about your answer.

Receiving applications earlier from international applicants will be very beneficial to us, especially those applying to be interviewed in one of the overseas countries we currently send teams to. However, we are mindful that this may create additional work for other HEPs at a time when they are still busy processing in the previous cycle and the impact of this would need careful consideration.

3. What are your views on the list of proposed deadlines which will be removed?

We approve of the revision to the 1 September application process opening date and we have no opinion on the removal of the 30 June deadline as we do not consider late applications. The RBD and DBD dates related to the 15 January deadline need further consideration - these ensure that the application process flows smoothly and we would not wish to see this negatively impacted.

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4. What are your views on the list of proposed deadlines which will remain in place?

We have a well established and efficient admissions process which is dependent on a 15 October deadline. Both the 15 October and 15 January deadlines are well established and understood and should remain in place.

5. To what extent do you agree that this recommendation supports fairness, equality and efficiency in HE admissions for all applicants?

Strongly agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Please use this box if you wish to give further detail about your answer.

Neither agree nor disagree. There are both pros and cons to this recommendation. Having different deadlines/arrangements for international applicants inevitably means that applications for certain groups of students are dealt with differently – this may result in questions being asked about fairness and equality, but they can be easily justified through careful communication, information and guidance.

The ability to receive international applications earlier will create significant efficiency savings for the University of Cambridge.

6. What unintended consequences do you think there might be if this recommendation was implemented?

There may be requests for all applications to be processed to an earlier timetable and this may cause unwelcome strain on the system at a very busy point in the admissions cycle but is worthy of further consideration.

7. What communications and guidance would be necessary to support implementation of this recommendation?

Clear, consistent and timely communications and guidance for applicants, their advisers and HEPs will be essential. Common deadlines (for all applicants) will help to simplify the process significantly.

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Theme 1: Simplify the UCAS Apply process

Recommendation 2: The ability to make instant offers to international fee paying applicants at any point in the cycle.

1. To what extent do you agree in principle with the recommendation to allow higher education providers to make instant offers to international fee-paying applicants at any point in the cycle?

Strongly agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Not applicable

Please use this box if you wish to give further detail about your answer.

In principle we agree that HEPs should be able to make instant offers to international applicants at any point of the cycle and UCAS should be flexible enough to support this process. However, it will be essential for there to be an appropriate mechanism in place to allow HEPs to do this robustly as well as fairly and efficiently – we would not wish to see management information being negatively impacted by poor data quality/large amounts of missing information. It will be important to ensure that appropriate fraud/verification and quality checks are carried out on the data. It will also be important to ensure that there is a legitimate process to ensure HEPs do not circumnavigate established rules.

2. Does the process for making instant conditional and unconditional offers need to be different?

Yes

No

Not applicable

Please use this box to explain why.

We see no reason why such offers need to be processed differently - any system should be easy to understand and implement for all involved.

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3. To what extent do you agree that this recommendation will have a positive impact on your organisation or provider?

Strongly agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Not applicable

Please use this box if you wish to give further detail about your answer.

We would not wish to take advantage of early offers as we already have a robust decision process in place for all of our applicant groups. However, we can see that this may be beneficial and provide the opportunity for a competitive advantage to other HEPs (if properly implemented and if there are clearly defined rules which are adhered to).

4. Would your provider wish to absorb the single choice application fee on behalf of an applicant?

Yes

No

Not applicable

Please use this box to explain why.

We see no reason why this should be necessary.

5. To what extent do you agree that this recommendation supports fairness, equality and efficiency in HE admissions for all applicants?

Strongly agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Please use this box if you wish to give further detail about your answer.

Whilst we recognise the potential benefits of instant offers for HEPs, we do not consider it fair to allow instant offers for one group of applicants but not others – this does not support fairness or equality.

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6. What unintended consequences do you think there might be if this recommendation was implemented?

There is a risk that applicants will make ill-informed decisions, particularly if they feel railroaded into committing to a specific HEP at a very early stage in the application process. Applicant choice may be limited and the ability to allow instant offers may result in undesirable game playing.

7. What communications and guidance would be necessary to support implementation of this recommendation?

If implemented, clear, concise, unambiguous and timely communications will be essential and will be equally important for applicants and their advisers as well as HEPs.

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Theme 2: Improve the experience for international and EU applicants

Recommendation 3: Improve the information and advice available through UCAS for international and EU applicants.

1. To what extent do you agree in principle with the recommendation to improve the information and advice available through UCAS for international and EU applicants?

Strongly agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Not applicable

Please use this box if you wish to give further detail about your answer.

Clear, precise and unambiguous information about the application process is important for all applicants, not just international/EU applicants. However, we do recognise that this is particularly important for applicants/advisers who are less familiar with the process.

2. Within UCAS application process, which terminology is the most problematic for applicants? Please tick as many of the example terms as you want below, and use the free text box to add others.

Conditional offer

Extra

Unconditional offer

Clearing

Firm choice

Domicile

Insurance choice

Nationality

Adjustment

Other (please specify)

This is a matter for applicants to comment on, not
HEPs.

3. Do you agree with the suggested improvements to ucas.com?

Yes

No

Please use this box to explain why.

We broadly agree - however, it will be important to ensure that the provision of information on scholarships, bursaries and loans complies with Competition Law. Collection of key information needs to be efficient and streamlined in order to avoid overloading HEPs with multiple requests for information.

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4. Is there any additional information you would like to see included on ucas.com to support international and EU applicants?

Further advice and guidance on qualifications and the level of information we need from applicants in order to assess applications fully and fairly without delays would be very beneficial. Information on how a wider range of international qualifications compare to UK qualifications would also be helpful.

5. To what extent do you agree that this recommendation supports fairness, equality and efficiency in HE admissions for all applicants?

Strongly agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Please use this box if you wish to give further detail about your answer.

6. To what extent do you agree that this recommendation will have a positive impact on your organisation or provider?

Strongly agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Not applicable

Please use this box if you wish to give further detail about your answer.

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Theme 2: Improve the experience for international and EU applicants

Recommendation 4: Facilitate payments from international and EU applicants.

1. To what extent do you agree in principle with the recommendation to facilitate application fee payments from international and EU students?

- Strongly agree Agree Disagree Strongly disagree Not applicable

Please use this box if you wish to give further detail about your answer.

2. To what extent do you agree in principle with the feedback that a system which could also collect tuition fees from international fee-paying students on behalf of a provider would be a welcome addition?

- Strongly agree Agree Disagree Strongly disagree Not applicable

Please use this box if you wish to give further detail about your answer.

The collection of tuition fees is a matter for each HEP, not UCAS.

3. Are there any additional financial services you would welcome, such as a service which would enable students to deposit funds in an Escrow account prior to arrival?

None –it is not appropriate for UCAS to be involved in financial transactions between students and HEPs and we see no reason why a third party should be involved. UCAS should focus on ensuring that the application process runs smoothly and efficiently, it should not extend its remit by offering financial services.

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4. To what extent do you agree that this recommendation will have a positive impact on your organisation or provider?

Strongly agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Not applicable

Please use this box if you wish to give further detail about your answer.

More flexible application fee options will have a positive impact for applicants and we would welcome this, but it will not impact HEPs directly in any significant way.

5. To what extent do you agree that this recommendation supports fairness, equality and efficiency in HE admissions for all applicants?

Strongly agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Please use this box if you wish to give further detail about your answer.

But only in terms of more flexible payment options for application fee for international applicants.

6. What unintended consequences do you think there might be if this recommendation was implemented?

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7. What communications and guidance would be necessary to support implementation of this recommendation?

Clear instructions on the various different application fee payment options will be necessary.



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Theme 2: Improve the experience for international and EU applicants

Recommendation 5: Reconsider how the reference request is managed for international and EU students.

1. To what extent do you agree in principle with the recommendation to reconsider how the reference request is managed for international and EU students?

Strongly agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Not applicable

Please use this box if you wish to give further detail about your answer.

Reconsideration of how the reference request is managed for international/EU applicants could be beneficial. However, we would prefer to see a more structured reference request rather than a greater level of flexibility - it is important that we have consistent reference information for our applicants wherever possible.

2. To what extent do you agree in principle with a more flexible approach to references?

Strongly agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Not applicable

Please use this box if you wish to give further detail about your answer.

We would consider a more flexible approach to be of value, but only if it ensures that we get meaningful and structured references for all of our applicants. It would be particularly helpful to have comprehensive prediction and ranking information.

3. What value does your provider place on references provided by international and EU applicants?

International (fee-paying)

EU

The reference doesn't affect decision-making

The reference is some use in decision-making

The reference is essential for decision-making

The reference is useful for CAS issue

Please use this box if you wish to give further detail about your answer.

We strongly value all references and would not like to see the importance of these diminished within the UCAS application process.

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4. To what extent do you agree that this recommendation will have a positive impact on your organisation or provider?

Strongly agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Not applicable

Please use this box if you wish to give further detail about your answer.

Neither agree nor disagree - this will depend on what is ultimately implemented. We would be supportive of the upload of references in languages other than English but only if a robust mechanism is in place to guarantee the validity of the notarised translation.

5. To what extent do you agree that this recommendation supports fairness, equality and efficiency in HE admissions for all applicants?

Strongly agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Please use this box if you wish to give further detail about your answer.

But only if appropriately implemented and flexible enough for institutions to receive the type of reference they need in order to fairly and robustly assess applications.

6. What unintended consequences do you think there might be if this recommendation was implemented?

Depending on what is implemented we might find that the references submitted via UCAS are no longer fit for purpose. Furthermore, we can envisage challenges from applicants who are applying to other institutions which may be willing to accept some other form of reference/a sponsor letter in lieu of a reference – this would not be acceptable to us. Referees may find that they are expected to provide multiple types of references for applicants and this is likely to increase workload for them. There may be system implications for institutions which will come at a cost and will need to be considered carefully.

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7. What communications and guidance would be necessary to support implementation of this recommendation?

Clear, concise, unambiguous and timely communications will be essential and will be equally important for applicants and their advisers as well as HEPs.



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Theme 2: Improve the experience for international and EU applicants

Recommendation 6: Enabling applicants to link themselves clearly to agents and link their applications to sponsoring bodies.

1. To what extent do you agree in principle with the recommendation to enable applicants to clearly link themselves to agents?

- Strongly agree Agree Disagree Strongly disagree Not applicable

Please use this box if you wish to give further detail about your answer.

We agree in as far as we can see the benefits this will bring for other HEPs. The University of Cambridge does not use agents and therefore this would be of no benefit to us.

2. To what extent do you agree with the recommendation to enable applications to be linked to sponsoring bodies?

- Strongly agree Agree Disagree Strongly disagree Not applicable

Please use this box if you wish to give further detail about your answer.

3. Would it be desirable for a student to be able to link themselves both to a school and agent in UCAS Apply?

- Yes No Not applicable

Please use this box to explain why.

This would be highly desirable - it will help us to easily identify which schools/colleges our international applicants are coming from – this would be a significant improvement on the current situation whereby a large proportion of applications have the default ‘apply online overseas’ value.

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4. To what extent do you agree that this recommendation will have a positive impact on your organisation or provider?

Strongly agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Not applicable

Please use this box if you wish to give further detail about your answer.

The provision of robust school/college information would be the biggest benefit of this particular recommendation to our institution.

5. To what extent do you agree that this recommendation supports fairness, equality and efficiency in HE admissions for all applicants?

Strongly agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Please use this box if you wish to give further detail about your answer.

6. What unintended consequences do you think there might be if this recommendation was implemented?

None identified, but we do not use agents and are therefore unable to comment further.

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7. What communications and guidance would be necessary to support implementation of this recommendation?

Clear, concise, unambiguous and timely communications will be essential and will be equally important for applicants and their advisers as well as HEPs.



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Theme 2: Improve the experience for international and EU applicants

Recommendation 7: Enable the upload of digital documents.

1. To what extent do you agree in principle with the recommendation to enable applicants to upload digital documents in UCAS Apply?

- Strongly agree Agree Disagree Strongly disagree Not applicable

Please use this box if you wish to give further detail about your answer.

2. Are there any other documents you would like added to the list with respect to digital upload, and at what point in the process should these be captured?

We would fully support a thorough investigation into the possibilities of the upload of digital documentation. Additional examples of useful documents include verified written assessed work and examination certificates (as well as transcripts).

3. What would you want to be able to do with these documents (download, save etc)? Please indicate how important functionality in addition to 'view only' would be.

	Very important	Important	Quite important	Not required
Download	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Save	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Annotate	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Use this box to tell us what else you would like to be able to do with these documents.

We would like to append documents to other application information which we currently already do with our internal system.

4. What is the maximum number of megabytes you would want to allow?

- Less than 10MB
 11-15 MB
 More than 15MB

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5. A digital document capture service will have a cost implication. Would your provider support a slightly differentiated fee for international applications on the basis of the additional cost of this service?

Yes

No

Not applicable

Please use this box to explain why.

This would need further consideration once UCAS is in a position to confirm options and provide estimates of cost. Given we will need to make changes to our own system (and the significant resource already invested in ensuring we were prepared for paperless processing) we would not expect the cost to be high. Furthermore, we would expect a digital document solution to be available to all applicants, not just those overseas.

6. To what extent do you agree that this recommendation will have a positive impact on your organisation or provider?

Strongly agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Not applicable

Please use this box if you wish to give further detail about your answer.

7. What benefits, if any, would this recommendation bring to you?

If properly implemented, digital documentation could provide significant efficiency savings and streamline the process for our Colleges.

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8. To what extent do you agree that this recommendation supports fairness, equality and efficiency in HE admissions for all applicants?

Strongly agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Please use this box if you wish to give further detail about your answer.

A successful digital documentation solution would support efficiency in the process. It would speed up and streamline the process and make it easier for applicants to supply us with all of the information we require in order to assess their application fairly and robustly.

9. What unintended consequences do you think there might be if this recommendation was implemented?

We would need to be assured that any digital documentation solution will not negatively impact on the performance of the UCAS system or on our own Student Information System. We would need to liaise carefully with our technical colleagues to ensure that our system would be able to cope with digital documentation and this may have cost and resource implications which would need to be considered carefully.

10. What communications and guidance would be necessary to support implementation of this recommendation?

Clear, concise, unambiguous and timely communications will be essential and will be equally important for applicants and their advisers as well as HEPs. It will be particularly important to ensure that our technical colleagues and software houses are consulted at a very early stage in the process to ensure that solutions are fit for purpose and achievable from a HEP perspective.

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Theme 2: Improve the experience for international and EU applicants

Recommendation 8: Improve data collection for the purposes of fee status.

1. To what extent do you agree in principle with the recommendation to improve data collection for the purposes of fee status assessment?

- Strongly agree Agree Disagree Strongly disagree Not applicable

Please use this box if you wish to give further detail about your answer.

We support this recommendation, but only in relation to international applicants.

2. To what extent do you agree in principle with the recommendation to standardise the collection of fee status assesment data?

- Strongly agree Agree Disagree Strongly disagree Not applicable

Please use this box if you wish to give further detail about your answer.

3. To what extent do you agree that UCAS Apply should enable the capture of routine items of evidence used in fee assessment?

- Strongly agree Agree Disagree Strongly disagree Not applicable

Please use this box if you wish to give further detail about your answer.

We support this recommendation, but only in relation to international applicants.

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4. To what extent do you agree that this recommendation will have a positive impact on your organisation or provider?

- Strongly agree Agree Disagree Strongly disagree Not applicable

Please use this box if you wish to give further detail about your answer.

5. To what extent do you agree that this recommendation supports fairness, equality and efficiency in HE admissions for all applicants?

- Strongly agree Agree Disagree Strongly disagree

Please use this box if you wish to give further detail about your answer.

6. What unintended consequences do you think there might be if this recommendation was implemented?

Incorrect fee assessments can be problematic and might lead to legal challenges so any central data collection system will have to be extremely robust. As ever, there is a possibility that institutions may assess a particular fee status differently and this may lead to challenges by the applicant, particularly if exactly the same information has been used for the assessment in each case. It would be an illusion to suppose that one can reduce fee status classification to the collection, without more, of a defined set of information. The most that this can do (which is itself valuable however) is to identify those cases in which further information needs to be sought.

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7. What communications and guidance would be necessary to support implementation of this recommendation?

Clear, concise, unambiguous and timely communications will be essential and will be equally important for applicants and their advisers as well as HEPs. It will be important for UCAS to work closely with UKCISA on the data capture/collection development.



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Theme 2: Improve the experience for international and EU applicants

Recommendation 9: Improve data collection around visa status.

1. To what extent do you agree in principle with the recommendation to improve data collection around visa status?

- Strongly agree Agree Disagree Strongly disagree Not applicable

Please use this box if you wish to give further detail about your answer.

Ensuring applicants provide clear and full information on their UCAS application about previous UK studies to determine academic progression would certainly be useful from a Tier 4 compliance perspective.

2. To what extent do you agree that this recommendation will have a positive impact on your organisation or provider?

- Strongly agree Agree Disagree Strongly disagree Not applicable

Please use this box if you wish to give further detail about your answer.

3. To what extent do you agree that this recommendation supports fairness, equality and efficiency in HE admissions for all applicants?

- Strongly agree Agree Disagree Strongly disagree

Please use this box if you wish to give further detail about your answer.

It will only be beneficial for applicants who require a visa to study in the UK.

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4. What unintended consequences do you think there might be if this recommendation was implemented?

[Large empty text area for response]

5. What communications and guidance would be necessary to support implementation of this recommendation?

Clear, concise, unambiguous and timely communications will be essential and will be equally important for applicants and their advisers as well as HEPs.

[Large empty text area for response]

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Theme 2: Improve the experience for international and EU applicants

Recommendation 10: Improve the collection of qualification information in UCAS Apply and provide more information about international and EU qualifications.

1. To what extent do you agree in principle with the recommendation to improve data collection of qualification information in UCAS Apply and provide more information about international and EU qualifications?

Strongly agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Not applicable

Please use this box if you wish to give further detail about your answer.

This would be extremely beneficial to HEPs in the assessment of applicants presenting with EU/international qualifications.

2. What changes to qualification capture would you like to see in UCAS Apply?

Robust, accurate and consistent provision of information on the qualification applicants present with – greater use of pre-populated drop-down menus from which applicants can easily find and choose their qualification types.

3. Do you currently use UCAS Qualification Information Profiles (QIPs)?

Yes

No

Not applicable

If so, do you find them useful?

The QIPs are a very good reference tool - we would welcome broader roll out of these to a wider set of qualifications.

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4. What EU and international qualifications would you like to see included in the UCAS QIPs?

The current qualifications already covered with QIPs is an excellent start, however, we would welcome QIPs on Malta, Canada, Sweden, Australia, Finland, Netherlands, Belgium, Estonia, Hungary, Portugal, Serbia, Croatia, Switzerland, and Turkey.

5. Would you want international and EU qualifications to be allocated Tariff points?

Yes

No

Not applicable

Please use this box to explain why.

We do not use the Tariff for offer making but if there was a way in which international and EU qualifications could be accurately assimilated to the Tariff then it may be beneficial in terms of assessing equivalencies.

6. To what extent do you agree that this recommendation supports fairness, equality and efficiency in HE admissions for all applicants?

Strongly agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Please use this box if you wish to give further detail about your answer.

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7. To what extent do you agree that this recommendation will have a positive impact on your organisation or provider?

Strongly agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Not applicable

Please use this box if you wish to give further detail about your answer.

8. What unintended consequences do you think there might be if this recommendation was implemented?

9. What communications and guidance would be necessary to support implementation of this recommendation?

Clear, concise, unambiguous and timely communications will be essential and will be equally important for applicants and their advisers as well as HEPs.

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Theme 2: Improve the experience for international and EU applicants

Recommendation 11: Extend UCAS' role in verifying qualifications to support EU and international recruitment.

1. To what extent do you agree in principle with the recommendation to extend UCAS' role in verifying qualifications?

Strongly agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Not applicable

Please use this box if you wish to give further detail about your answer.

We would strongly support the extension of UCAS' role in the verification of qualifications.

2. To what extent do you agree in principle with the recommendation to expand UCAS' ABL service?

Strongly agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Not applicable

Please use this box if you wish to give further detail about your answer.

This would be extremely helpful to us and would save a lot of time and effort at Confirmation, thus streamlining and speeding up the process for all involved.

3. Are there any qualifications you would particularly like to be included in ABL if it were possible to do so?

As many as possible. A complete set of IB results would be particularly helpful (rather than the partial coverage we currently get), as would the provision of results for examinations such as Advanced Placement Tests, the French Baccalaureate, the European Baccalaureate, the German Abitur, Swiss Matura, Italian Matura for example - the more results we get via the ABL the slicker the process will be.

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4. Do you agree that a more extensive fraud and verification service would be of use?

Yes

No

Not applicable

If yes, what additional requirements would you want from such a service?

Verification of examination certificates and previous results would be particularly helpful, as would verification of references (particularly those submitted by an independent applicant). However, we would not wish to see a more extensive service creating delays in the day to day processing of applications.

5. A more extensive fraud and verification service will have a cost implication. Would your provider support a slightly differentiated fee for international applications on the basis of the additional cost of this service?

Yes

No

Not applicable

Please use this box to explain why.

Possibly - although we would not wish to see the UCAS application fee becoming a barrier for international applicants.

6. To what extent do you agree that this recommendation will have a positive impact on your organisation or provider?

Strongly agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Not applicable

Please use this box if you wish to give further detail about your answer.

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7. To what extent do you agree that this recommendation supports fairness, equality and efficiency in HE admissions for all applicants?

Strongly agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Please use this box if you wish to give further detail about your answer.

8. What unintended consequences do you think there might be if this recommendation was implemented?

Delays caused by enhanced fraud and verification processing would be problematic.

9. What communications and guidance would be necessary to support implementation of this recommendation?

Clear, concise, unambiguous and timely communications will be essential and will be equally important for applicants and their advisers as well as HEPs.

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Theme 3: Increasing UCAS' presence

Recommendation 12: Attendance at overseas events to support higher education providers.

1. To what extent do you agree in principle with the recommendation for UCAS to have a greater presence in overseas markets?

Strongly agree Agree Disagree Strongly disagree Not applicable

Please use this box if you wish to give further detail about your answer.

Although we would expect to be fully consulted on which areas and events UCAS intends to have a greater presence in. The recommendations proposed in relation to increasing UCAS' presence involve additional cost, and we would expect to be fully consulted on how these are to be met before anything is implemented. An increase to institutional capitation fees would be unwelcome, and we would be unhappy with any scheme which involved collecting and selling on the details of prospective applicants.

2. To what extent do you agree that this recommendation will have a positive impact on your organisation or provider?

Strongly agree Agree Disagree Strongly disagree Not applicable

Please use this box if you wish to give further detail about your answer.

This could have a positive impact in terms of promoting the opportunities available for Higher Education in the UK.

3. Which markets would you most value UCAS support in?

- Africa
- Americas
- Central Asia
- East Asia
- Europe
- Middle East
- South East Asia
- Other (please specify)

We would find it helpful for UCAS to conduct market research on this in order to ascertain which areas would be most valuable

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4. What support would you envisage UCAS providing in-market?

- School visits
- Agent support
- Attending exhibitions
- Other (please specify)

5. To what extent do you agree that this recommendation supports fairness, equality and efficiency in HE admissions for all applicants?

Strongly agree Agree Disagree Strongly disagree

Please use this box if you wish to give further detail about your answer.

This initiative will only support international applicants although there could be significant benefits in this for them.

6. What communications and guidance would be necessary to support implementation of this recommendation?

Clear, concise, unambiguous and timely communications will be essential and will be equally important for applicants and their advisers as well as HEPs.

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Theme 3: Increasing UCAS' presence

Recommendation 13: Develop an enhanced international UCAS registered centre proposition which supports higher education providers overseas recruitment from schools and agents.

1. To what extent do you agree in principle with the recommendation to develop an enhanced international registered centre offer?

- Strongly agree Agree Disagree Strongly disagree Not applicable

Please use this box if you wish to give further detail about your answer.

It is important to support schools (and agents) as much as possible to ensure their students submit valid and complete applications.

2. To what extent do you agree that this recommendation will have a positive impact on your organisation or provider?

- Strongly agree Agree Disagree Strongly disagree Not applicable

Please use this box if you wish to give further detail about your answer.

3. To what extent do you agree that this recommendation supports fairness, equality and efficiency in HE admissions for all applicants?

- Strongly agree Agree Disagree Strongly disagree

Please use this box if you wish to give further detail about your answer.

This will be of significant benefit to international applicants and their advisers, but not all applicants.

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4. What unintended consequences do you think there might be if this recommendation was implemented?

[Large empty text area for response]

5. What communications and guidance would be necessary to support implementation of this recommendation?

Clear, concise, unambiguous and timely communications will be essential and will be equally important for applicants and their advisers as well as HEPs.

[Large empty text area for response]

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Theme 3: Increasing UCAS' presence

Recommendation 14: On-board embedded International pathway providers allied to higher education providers.

1. To what extent do you agree in principle with the recommendation to on-board embedded international pathway providers allied to higher education providers?

- Strongly agree Agree Disagree Strongly disagree Not applicable

Please use this box if you wish to give further detail about your answer.

We have no such courses and therefore have no comments.

2. Do you agree that embedded international pathway courses should be incorporated into the UCAS search tool?

- Yes No Not applicable

Please use this box to explain why.

Although care should be taken to ensure that these courses are clearly differentiated within the UCAS search tool and on the UCAS website. We would not wish to see further enhancements made to the UCAS course search tool until all of the current issues are resolved.

3. Do you agree that applicants should be able to apply for embedded pathway courses through UCAS Apply?

- Yes No Not applicable

Please use this box to explain why.

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4. To what extent do you agree that this recommendation will have a positive impact on your organisation or provider?

Strongly agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Not applicable

Please use this box if you wish to give further detail about your answer.

5. To what extent do you agree that this recommendation supports fairness, equality and efficiency in HE admissions for all applicants?

Strongly agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Please use this box if you wish to give further detail about your answer.

We can see that this might benefit some overseas applicants, but it will not provide obvious benefits to a large proportion.

6. What unintended consequences do you think there might be if this recommendation was implemented?

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7. What communications and guidance would be necessary to support implementation of this recommendation?

Clear, concise, unambiguous and timely communications will be essential and will be equally important for applicants and their advisers as well as HEPs.



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Theme 3: Increasing UCAS' presence

Recommendation 15: Establish formal relationships with key strategic partners.

1. To what extent do you agree in principle with the recommendation to establish formal relationships with key strategic partners?

- Strongly agree Agree Disagree Strongly disagree Not applicable

Please use this box if you wish to give further detail about your answer.

It would be helpful if increased efficiency can be gained through robust collection and dissemination of information with partners such as the British Council.

2. What should the relationships look like?

We would require further information on what is envisaged before being able to comment on this. UUK already engages on behalf of the sector with bodies such as the UKVI and therefore care would need to be taken to establish exactly what UCAS' role would be - it will be important for a clearly defined remit to be established.

3. To what extent do you agree that this recommendation will have a positive impact on your organisation or provider?

- Strongly agree Agree Disagree Strongly disagree Not applicable

Please use this box if you wish to give further detail about your answer.

Building strong collaborative relationships with key strategic partners would be beneficial to the sector but they will need to be carefully thought through.

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4. To what extent do you agree that this recommendation supports fairness, equality and efficiency in HE admissions for all applicants?

Strongly agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Please use this box if you wish to give further detail about your answer.

An increased presence overseas and the dovetailing of the UCAS application with student visa requirements would be beneficial for international applicants.

5. What unintended consequences do you think there might be if this recommendation was implemented?

It will be important for there to be clearly defined roles if UCAS is to engage with key strategic partners to avoid duplication of effort.

6. What communications and guidance would be necessary to support implementation of this recommendation?

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Implementation and resourcing

1. Given the number of changes proposed in the review, and the long term schedule for delivery, it would be useful to understand which changes you feel need to be given highest priority. Please rank the top five recommendations you consider to be most important (where 1 is the highest priority)

	1 - most important	2	3	4	5
Recommendation 1: Revise current UCAS deadlines for international fee-paying applicants.	<input type="radio"/>				
Recommendation 2: The ability to make instant offers to international fee-paying applicants at any point in the cycle.	<input type="radio"/>				
Recommendation 3: Improve the information & advice available through UCAS for international and EU applicants.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Recommendation 4: Facilitate payments from international and EU applicants.	<input type="radio"/>				
Recommendation 5: Reconsider how the reference request is managed for international and EU students.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Recommendation 6: Enable applicants to link themselves clearly to agents and link their applications to sponsoring bodies in UCAS Apply.	<input type="radio"/>				
Recommendation 7: Enable the upload of digital documents in UCAS Apply.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Recommendation 8: Improve data collection in UCAS Apply for the purposes of fee status assessment.	<input type="radio"/>				
Recommendation 9: Improve data collection around visa status.	<input type="radio"/>				
Recommendation 10: Improve the collection of qualification information in UCAS Apply and provide more information about international and EU qualifications.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Recommendation 11: Extend UCAS' role in verifying qualifications to support EU and international recruitment.	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Recommendation 12: Attendance overseas events to support higher education providers	<input type="radio"/>				
Recommendation 13: Develop an enhanced international UCAS registered centre proposition which supports higher education providers' overseas recruitment from schools and agents.	<input type="radio"/>				
Recommendation 14: On-board embedded international pathway providers allied to higher education providers.	<input type="radio"/>				
Recommendation 15: Establish formal relationships with key strategic partners such as the British Council, UKVI and SELT providers.	<input type="radio"/>				

Please use this box if you wish to give further detail about your answer.

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2. UCAS welcomes comments or suggestions about ways UCAS products and services might be revised in light of these proposals.

3. Are there any additional services for the international customer that you would like UCAS to provide?