

HEO UK/US Timelines Guide 2025/26

How to use the *Timelines* guide
for students applying to UK/US this cycle



UK and US application portals

All applications to UK and US universities go through the school. Follow HEO guides to create your accounts and link them to the school. **Do not** create accounts before reading our UCAS and CIALFO guides.



University admission tests

Many top universities in the UK require admission tests. Almost all Law and Medicine courses also require admission tests. Do check university web sites carefully to ensure you take the necessary tests. Apply and register for your test independently.



Letters of recommendations and CT's reference

Both UK and US applications require references from your civics tutor and for US apps, your subject teachers as well. Follow HEO's recommended timeline to approach your teachers. Please respect your teachers by asking early and in person, before ping them on the system.



Do not miss submission deadlines!

All students must submit UCAS applications and confirm your US college choices on CIALFO by **our internal deadlines**. This allows your teachers and HEO sufficient time to complete your apps and submit the necessary documents to support your app.

Students **adhere to all internal deadlines**. This is **non-negotiable**. Your teachers and HEO need time to get materials ready for you. We are unable to guarantee that any app submitted after the internal deadlines can reach the universities in time.

Go through each page of To-do's; check off completed tasks. Be aware of upcoming deadlines.

Check Ivy HEO for our guides to all things app-related. In all cases, check with colleges & testing websites directly for their specific deadlines and updates. Students register independently for all external tests.

Note to alumni: All necessary app guides are uploaded on our open web. If you wish for feedback on your essays, please see Instructions for Written Feedback from Sep onwards.



UK Application Timeline

To-dos:

- ☐ Follow HEO Guides to create your UCAS account.
 - ☐ Complete all sections of your App. Report **all** grades accurately. Do not leave out subjects: this includes Mother Tongue, Project Work, all Year 4 subjects, etc.
- ☐ Request for a reference from your civics tutor in person and do so early.
 - ☐ UK Oct Apps – inform HEO of your intent to apply through our online form (link to online form on Ivy and in UCAS guide).
- ☐ Register independently and sit for university admission tests, if required.
- ☐ Pay and submit your UCAS application – one submission only.
- ☐ **IMPORTANT! Students abide by RI's internal deadlines.** This allows your CTs and HEO sufficient time to complete your apps for all of you. HEO does not guarantee that any app submitted after our stipulated deadlines can reach your universities in time.

Deadline	What to do
14-Jul-25, Mon	Guide to UCAS uploaded on IVY and open web. Creation of UCAS accounts begins after reading guide. Do not create accounts prior.
14-Jul-25, Mon	All UK applicants can begin to approach CTs to request for references. Tip: a good time to do so would be in August. UK applicants with Oct deadline to register their intent to apply on HEO's online form. Do not miss this - enables HEO to prepare the requisite supporting materials for your app and contact you on important matters throughout the app process as needed.
Jul to Oct	Register and sit for the necessary university admission tests . All students register independently for this. Refer to pages 3-4 for deadlines and to-dos.
26-Sep-25, Fri	Last day for UK applicants with Oct deadline to request for CT reference. Your teachers need time to write for you. Last day for UK applicants with Oct deadline to inform HEO.
5-Oct-25, Sun 2359h	Last day to submit UCAS for Oct deadline (i.e. Cambridge/Oxford/Med/Dentistry/VetSci applicants). Students adhere to this deadline.
15-Oct-25, Wed	Official UCAS deadline for Oct applications. You may check your application status after this date. All students must submit earlier by 5 Oct 2359h .
21-Nov-25, Fri	Last day for all UK applicants with Jan deadline to request for CT reference. This is one week before school closure. Kindly respect your teachers' personal time thereafter by meeting this deadline.
Early to Mid Dec	Oxbridge interviews for shortlisted applicants.
4-Jan-26, Sun 2359h	Last day to submit UCAS for Jan deadline (i.e. all other UK courses). Students adhere to this deadline.
14-Jan-26, Wed	Official UCAS deadline for Jan applications. You may check your application status after this date. All students must submit earlier by 4 Jan 2359h .



University admission tests: LNAT, UCAT

To-dos:

- ☐ Refer to university web sites to check if your course requires an admission test and which test. Look under “Entry Requirements” for each course.
- ☐ Register for an account with Pearson VUE (note that each test may be a separate account). All students to register independently, and not through RI. When registering, you may be asked to enter a UCAS ID. It’s OK to leave this blank until after you open your UCAS account.
- ☐ Book your test early to secure your preferred test date. Plan ahead to avoid clashes with prelim or A Level exams.
- ☐ **IMPORTANT!** If your test date falls on the same day as your A Level Practical Exam, **inform HEO asap** and where possible, book your test slot at or later than 2:00pm.
- ☐ Prepare for and sit for the test. Refer to the test web sites for prep materials.

What to do	UCAT	LNAT*
Register for account	13-May-25, Tue	1-Aug-25, Fri
Booking for test opens	17-Jun-25, Tue	1-Aug-25, Fri
First day to take test	7-Jul-25, Mon	1-Sep-25, Mon
Last day to book test date	19-Sep-25, Fri	15-Sep-25, Mon for Oxbridge applicants
Last day to take test	26-Sep-25, Fri	15-Oct-25, Wed for Oxbridge applicants
		31-Dec-25, Wed for LSE, UCL and KCL applicants
Last day to book test date	-	20-Jan-26, Tue for all other UK LNAT universities
Last day to take test	-	25-Jan-26, Sun for all other UK LNAT universities

* LNAT deadlines based on 2024 dates. Pending confirmation.

Useful links:

- [UCAT registration and booking](#)
- [LNAT registration and booking](#)



University admission tests: ESAT, TMUA, TARA, Oxford

To-dos:

- ☐ Refer to university web sites to check if your course requires an admission test and which test. Look under “Entry Requirements” for each course.
- ☐ Register for an account with Pearson VUE (note that each test may be a separate account). All students to register independently, and not through RI. When registering, you may be asked to enter a UCAS ID. It’s OK to leave this blank until after you open your UCAS account.
- ☐ Book your test early to secure your preferred test date. Plan ahead to avoid clashes with prelim or A Level exams.
- ☐ **IMPORTANT!** If your test date falls on the same day as your A Level Practical Exam, **inform HEO asap** and where possible, book your test slot at or later than 2:00pm.
- ☐ Prepare for and sit for the test. Refer to the test web sites for prep materials.

What to do	ESAT, TMUA, TARA	Oxford Tests
Register and book a test date	31-Jul-25, Thu	15 Aug (tbc)
Last day to book test date	29-Sep-25, Mon for Cambridge applicants	4 Oct (tbc)
October Test Dates (Cambridge applicants sit for Oct test dates)	ESAT - 9 or 10 Oct-25 (Thu/Fri) TMUA - 13 or 14 Oct-25 (Mon/Tue) TARA - 15 or 16 Oct-25 (Wed/Thu)	21-Oct to 27-Oct-25 (Tue–Mon) Refer to specifics on Oxford’s website
Register and book a test date	27-Oct-25, Mon	-
Last day to book test date	19-Dec-25, Fri	-
January Test Dates (not applicable to Cambridge applicants)	ESAT - 6 or 7 Jan-26 (Tue/Wed) TMUA - 8 or 9 Jan-26 (Thu/Fri) TARA - 12 or 13 Jan-26 (Mon/Tue)	-

Test dates that clash with A Level Practical Exams

If you are taking the A Level practical exams on **15 Oct (Chemistry)** or **22 Oct (Physics)**, and your test date is on the same day, inform HEO as soon as possible and book your test slot at or later than 2:00pm.

#protip: Register early, so that you can pick a different test date!

Useful links:

- [University Admissions Tests - UAT UK](#) (administers ESAT, TMUA and TARA)
- [Oxford Admissions Tests](#)



US Application Timeline

To-dos:

- ☐ Follow HEO Guides to create your CommonApp **and** CIALFO accounts, and sync the two.
 - ☐ Complete all sections of your App. Report **all** grades accurately. Do not leave out subjects: this includes Mother Tongue, Project Work, all Year 4 subjects, etc.
- ☐ Request for letters of recommendations from your civics tutor and two subject tutors in person and do so early.
 - ☐ Submit your tutors' names to HEO and on CIALFO (link to online form on Ivy and in CIALFO guide).
- ☐ Confirm your schools on CommonApp and sync to CIALFO.
- ☐ **IMPORTANT! Students abide by RI's internal deadlines.** This allows your CTs and HEO sufficient time to prepare and send the necessary documents to support your application. HEO does not guarantee that any app submitted after our stipulated deadlines can reach your universities in time.
- ☐ Submit each university's application on CommonApp by the university's deadline. Non-CA schools to be submitted via their respective portals. Do not miss this!

Deadline	What to do
29-Aug-25, Fri	Guide to CIALFO & Common App uploaded onto IVY and open web. Creation of accounts begins after reading slides. Do not create accounts prior.
29-Aug-25, Fri	All US applicants begin to request for CT and ST recommendations in person and on CIALFO.
5-Oct-25, Sun	Last day for all US Early applicants (all EA and ED) to request for tutor recommendations personally and on CIALFO. Your teachers need time to write for you.
17-Oct-25, Fri 1700h	<p>Last day and time for all US Early applicants (all EA and ED) to confirm college choices on CIALFO. No further change to Early schools after this deadline.</p> <p>HEO needs a confirmed applicant list to prepare and send your documents for timely consideration. CommonApp package can be submitted later by stated college deadlines.</p>
21-Nov-25, Fri	Last day for all US Regular applicants to request for tutor recommendations both personally and <u>on CIALFO</u> . This is one week before school closure. Kindly respect your teachers' personal time thereafter by meeting this deadline.
1-Oct-25, Wed to 30-Nov-25 Sun	University of California application submission period on UC portal. There is only one app period for the UCs.
15-Dec-25, Mon 1700h	<p>Last day and time for all US applicants to confirm all college choices on CIALFO. No further change to college list after this deadline. HEO needs a confirmed list to prepare and send your documents to all your schools. CommonApp package can be submitted later by stated college deadlines.</p> <p>#HEOprotip: If by this date you are still unsure about a school, just leave it in CIALFO. Should you decide not to apply later, you simply do not submit the CommonApp, and the application will lapse as incomplete. You will however not be able to add in schools after 15 Dec 1700h.</p>