

# Higher Education in 2020

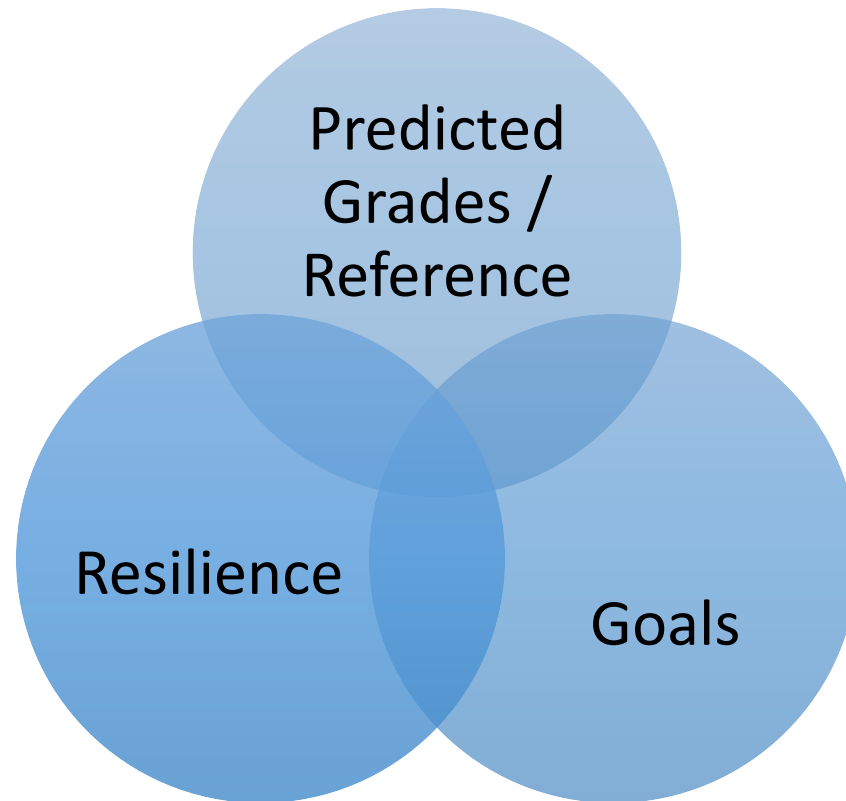
Steve Minney – Head of Undergraduate Recruitment



# What differentiates applicants?



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Prifysgol Abertawe



UK TOP **5** GRADUATE  
PROSPECTS

(Guardian University League Table 2020)

# Higher Education as a commodity



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- Tuition Fees – altered dynamic between applicant/HEI
- Increasingly market oriented behavior on both sides
- Shifts in demand across subjects/HEIs
- Increased focus on student experience and outcome
- Value for money – contact time
- Economic Uncertainty
- Growth of degree apprenticeships



UK TOP **5** GRADUATE PROSPECTS  
(Guardian University League Table 2020)

# Degree apprenticeships

- Apprenticeships let you earn and learn simultaneously, from minimum wage up to £300 per week.
- You'll be a paid employee of a company, with a contract of employment and holiday entitlement.
- Apprenticeships offer a package of work and study, where you'll gain qualifications and hands-on experience while you work.
- Employers including Deloitte, BMW and the BBC take on apprenticeships and opportunities span across sectors, from engineering to law.
- There were more than 28,000 apprenticeship vacancies available in 2018, across more than 1,500 roles.
- A degree apprenticeship is a relatively new type of apprenticeship, which leads to a full university degree, e.g. Swansea Airbus collaboration



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# What are Universities looking for?

- Breadth of subjects & experience
- Wider reading and genuine interest in the subject area – extended comfort zone
- Evidence of independent learning & research
- Project based qualification
- Engagement with extracurricular activities
- Academic record – resilience & ability



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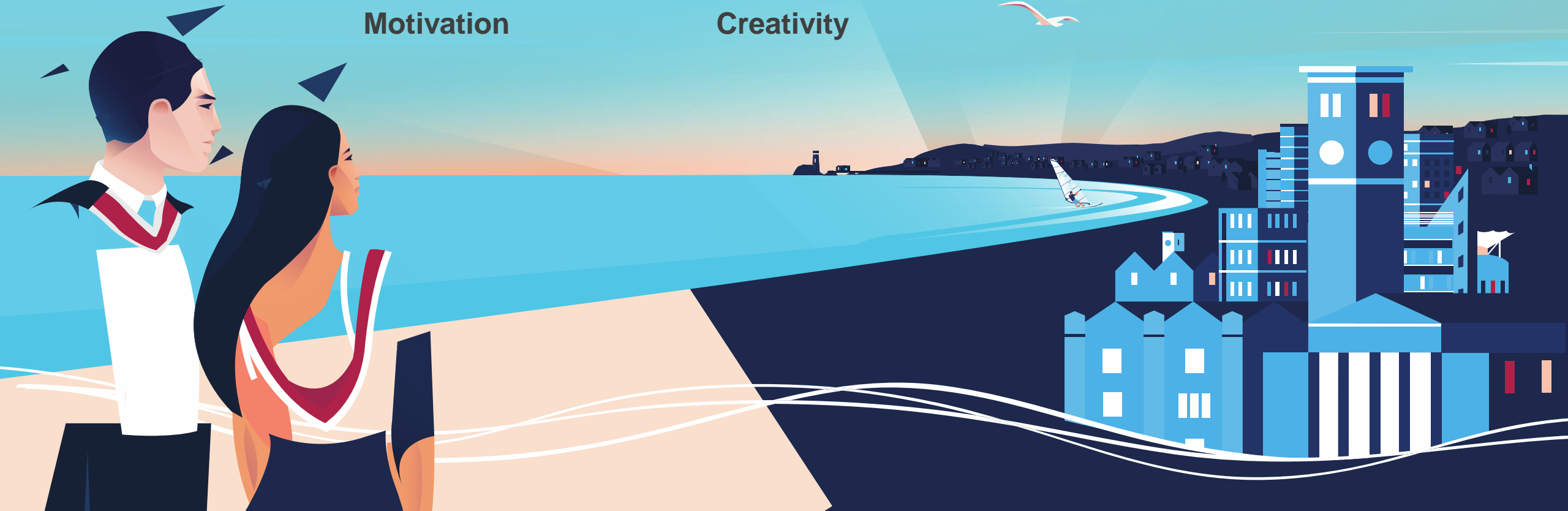
(Guardian University League Table 2020)

# Skills

Admissions Tutors look for context/explanation of what skills you have gained and why they are relevant to your future study/career, for example:

**Commitment**  
**Leadership**  
**Initiative**  
**Motivation**

**Teamwork**  
**Time management**  
**Communication**  
**Creativity**



# Go Global

Study Abroad

Volunteer Abroad

Research/Field Trips Overseas

Overseas Placements

Partner Institutions

At Swansea, all of our courses offer the opportunity to study abroad

Find out what your chosen institutions offer.



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Traditional subjects  
e.g. Mathematics, History



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Vocational  
e.g. Cardiac Physiology, Pharmacy



Creative  
e.g. Digital, Film/TV, Fashion

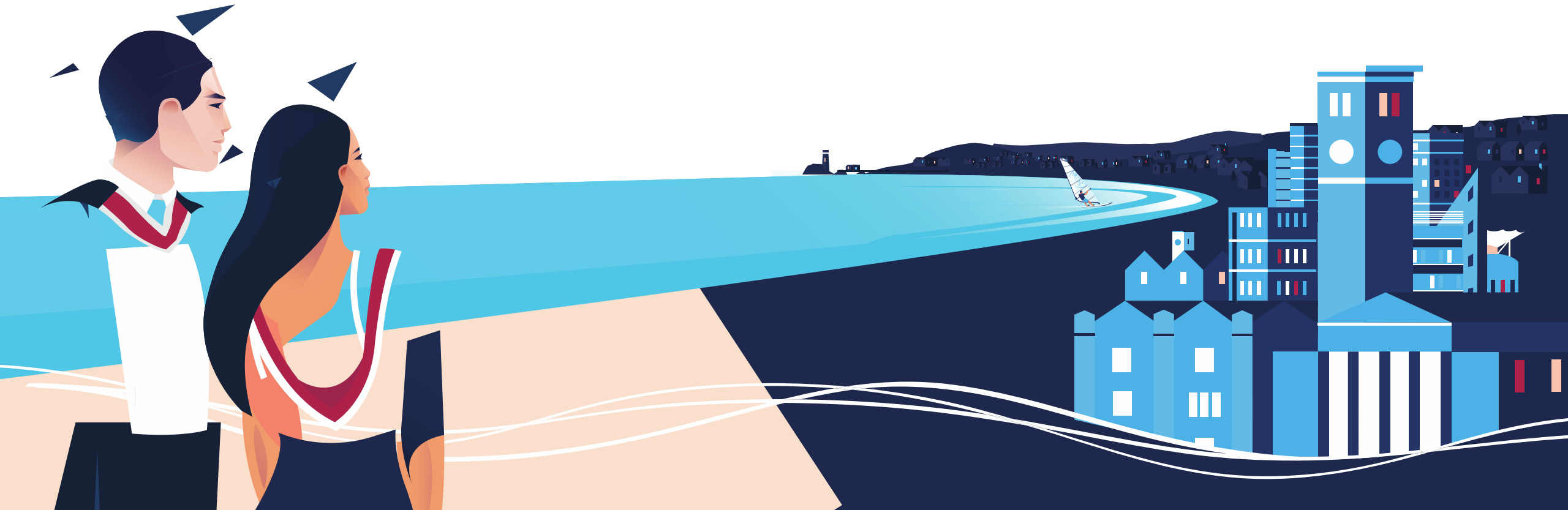


(Guardian University League Table 2020)



# University Applications

- 450,000 applications to UK institutions in 2018
- Around 150 Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in the UK offering tens of thousands of courses including vocational, academic and more 'individual.'



# Choosing What and Where to Study

**UCAS.com** offers students the opportunity to search for every undergraduate course offered in the UK

You can search by institution and/or by course

Other online resources include



HE Fairs – representatives from different institutions

WhichUni

University websites – request prospectuses , contact admissions tutors/enquiries teams

# Resources/things to consi



League tables – compare courses and institutions throughout the UK

University guide  
Guardian students

## University league tables 2019

Find a course at a UK university

- How to use the tables: a step-by-step guide

Illustration: Owen Davey



Find a course  
All fields optional

# Things to think about – statistics/rankings

**Graduate Employment Rate** – what % of students are in a graduate role after leaving university? How does this compare to other institutions?

**NSS** – what are students themselves saying about the course(s)/university

**TEF/REF** – Teaching Excellence and Research Excellence – what are the credentials of the universities you're looking at?



## Courses

**Module Options** – research into the courses you're interested in to find out what areas you can study – *all* courses will vary between institutions

**Assessment Methods** – are there examinations? Course work? Group work? Look into the different methods of assessment for the course(s) you're interested in

## Facilities

**Teaching Facilities** – lecture theatres, laboratories, group study areas, seminar rooms, library and information centres, student 'hubs',

**Accommodation** – on or off campus, costs, parking, WiFi, security/safety, accessibility, additional requirements

**Other Facilities** – shops, eateries, doctor/dentist surgery, parking, open spaces, sport facilities

**Student Services** – career/employability services, Students' Union, wellbeing

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# What is UCAS?

Universities and Colleges Admissions Service

Main role is to operate undergraduate applications to universities throughout the UK

Applications are submitted online

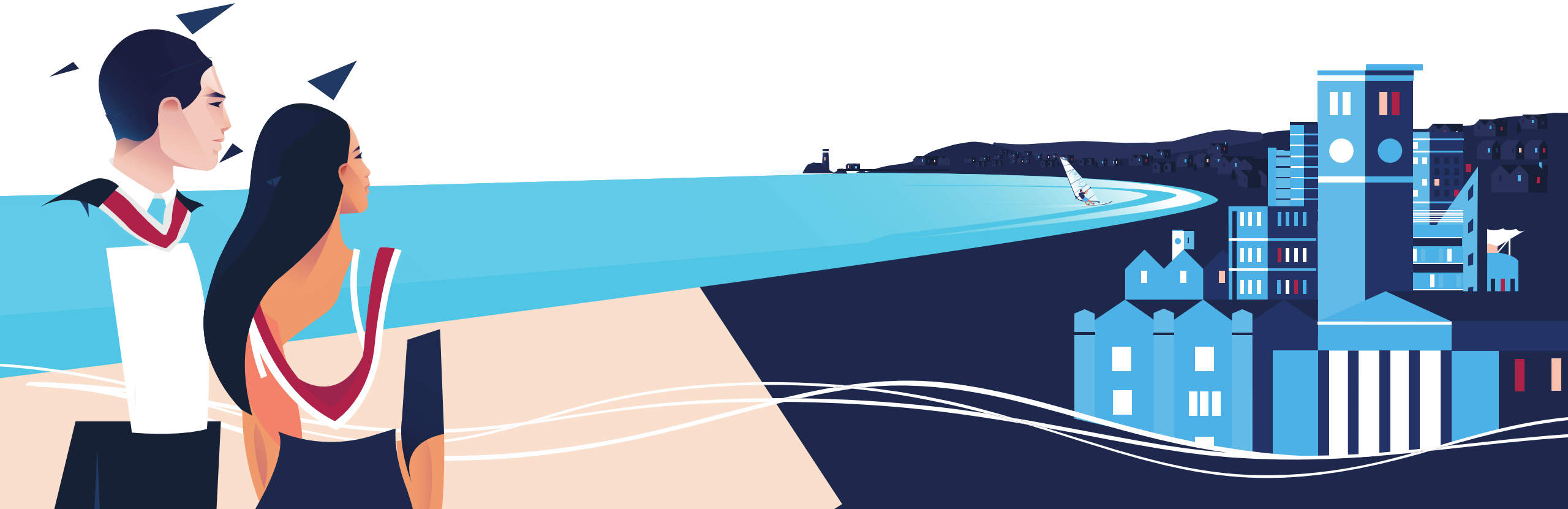
<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/filling-your-ucas-undergraduate-application>

Use tutorial videos



# Submitting and Receiving Offers

- Universities will respond at various times – you receive these offers via the UCAS portal ('track')
- If you submit your application by January 15, universities have until May 2 to provide their offers
- Access all offers via the **UCAS track system**



# Offers

Once the application is submitted, universities will start to respond via UCAS track



## CONDITIONAL

- You have to achieve certain results in order to attain a place at the university
- E.g. 'achieve AAB' at A Level
- Some universities guarantee a conditional offer of study once you have applied



## UNCONDITIONAL

- You have already met the conditions/requirements of the course and have received a place
- There are no further requirements

**Unsuccessful** – you have not received an offer to study on that course

**'Extra'** – if you do not receive any offers you may be eligible for UCAS Extra – this is a free service and you can apply for one course at a time between February and July

**Clearing** – if you do not achieve any of your offers, you may be eligible for 'clearing' - you then apply directly to the university for this after your results in August

# Responding to university offers

**Firm Acceptance** – This is your first choice course – if you received an unconditional offer then the place is already yours! If you received a conditional, then the place is yours if you achieve those conditions (e.g. you were told you had to obtain A,B,B at A Level). If you do not achieve those, then you can go to your insurance...

**Insurance Acceptance** - Insurance acceptances are typically courses that have made you a lower offer – you only attend your insurance (e.g. you were told you had to obtain B,B,B at A Level)  
Universities' discretion – ultimately Admissions Tutors make the decision

**Declines** - You will have to decline any other offers

**For more information about offers and responses, visit [ucas.com](https://ucas.com)**





# Resources/Suggestions

**UCAS.com** – where you search for courses, have access to videos/tutorials, submit your application and respond to offers – also plenty of personal statement guidance and advice – think about the skills you’re gaining in school/outside of school that you can use for your personal statement

**The Student Room** – online forum for prospective and current students, different forum areas depending on what and where you’re studying

**WhatUni** – impartial ‘reviews’ of various aspects of university life, from courses and accommodation to nightlife and local areas

**Universities’ Websites** – request hard copies of prospectuses, attend virtual tours/open days, research scholarships/bursaries, contact Admissions Tutors with any questions

**Open Days** – get a ‘feel’ for the university – allow plenty of time

**Student Finance Wales** – familiarize yourself with the Student Finance Wales website should you be wanting to apply for financial support

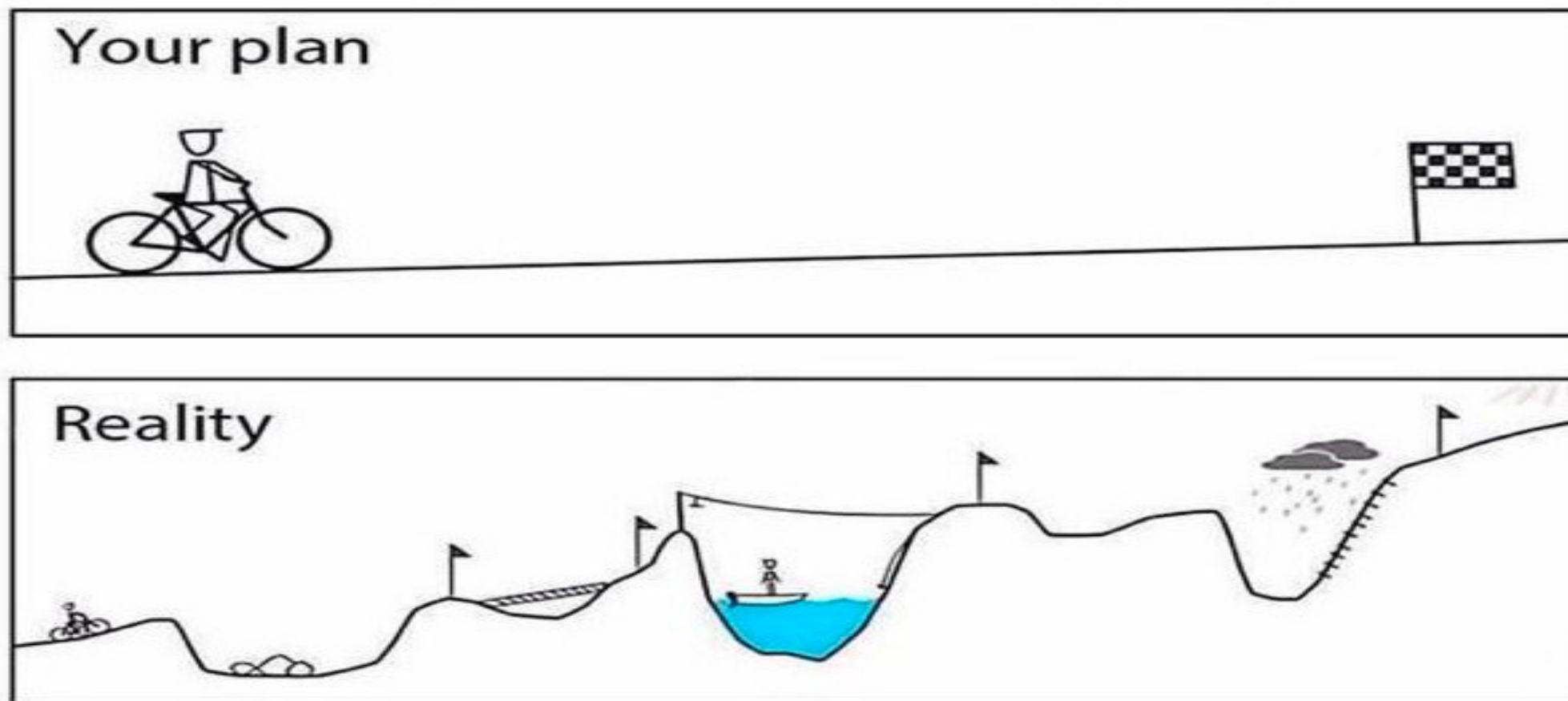
**Social Media** – ‘follow’ universities on social media to find out about recent research undertaken, events, etc.



# The Rocky Road?



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# Undergraduate Open Days 2019

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November

Any questions?

Email [s.n.minney@swansea.ac.uk](mailto:s.n.minney@swansea.ac.uk)

