



St Mary's
University
Twickenham
London

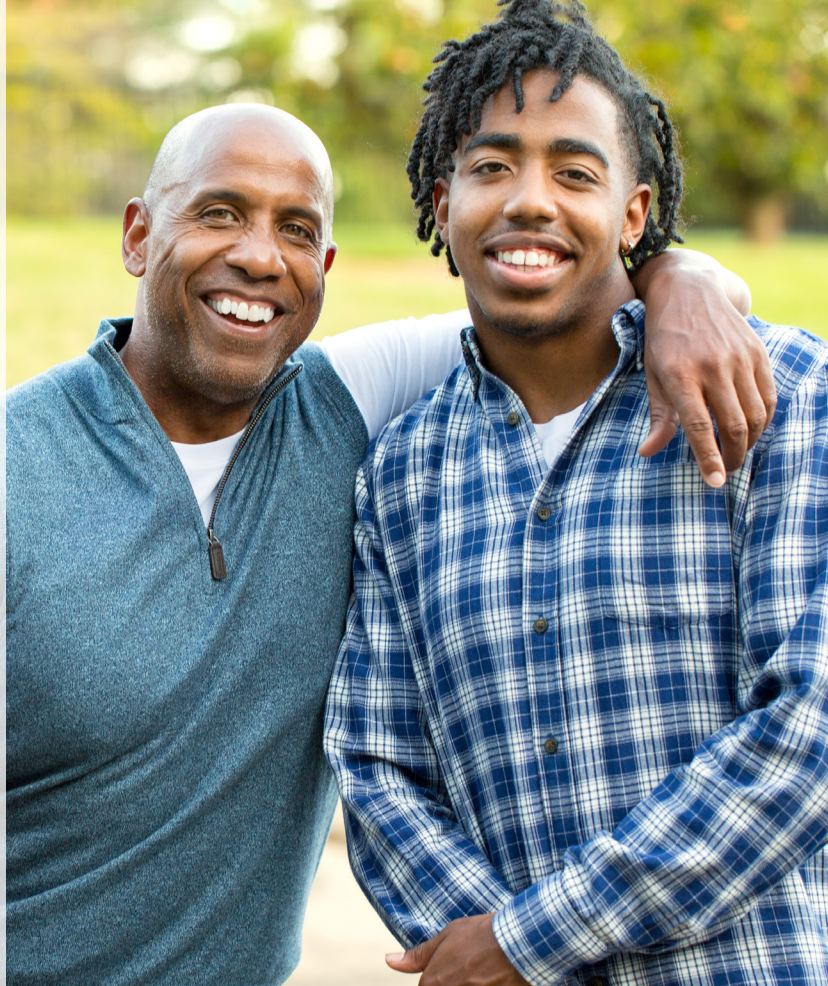
Guide for Parents

Getting Started

Balancing wanting the best for your son or daughter with knowing exactly how involved to get in the decision process, or even having the relevant information, is sometimes difficult for parents.

Don't worry, we're here to help! We've put together some useful University Buzzwords to help get you started. Also visit our website for more information:

www.stmarys.ac.uk



University Terminology Explained

Halls of Residence	Accommodation where students normally share a flat with a communal living and kitchen area in which to cook their own meals.
Catered Halls	Accommodation where students are provided with meals that are included in their rent.
Lectures	A method of teaching at university. Large classes in a room with tiered seating and a lecturer talking at the front while students take notes.
Undergraduate	A student usually studying for their first degree on a programme which normally lasts for three or four years.
Postgraduate	A student who has completed an undergraduate degree and is studying for a higher degree, such as a Masters or PhD.
Students' Union	An organisation found in all universities that is run by students and is dedicated to the representation and support of students.
Foundation course/year	A one year course that is taken prior to commencing an undergraduate degree to bring students up to the required academic standard.
Foundation degree	A qualification which combines work-based learning with academic study. The course is equivalent to the first two years of a Bachelors degree and can be topped up to gain an Honours degree.
Combined or Joint Honours degree	A type of degree where a student studies two subjects which are split equally (50/50) to make up your degree.
Major/Minor subject	When a student studies two subjects but concentrates on one (normally taking 75% of their time), this is their major subject. The second subject (normally 25%) is known as their minor subject.
Placement year	To complete a placement year, a degree is normally 4 years and the student will spend a year completing work experience/placement in between studying.
Student Tuition fees	UK universities usually charge for course tuition. Fees can vary between universities and courses. Please check our website for more details: www.stmarys.ac.uk



UCAS Application Terminology Explained

UCAS	Universities and Colleges Admissions Service is the impartial service that sends a student's application to universities.
Adjustment	An optional service that gives students that have exceeded their conditions the opportunity to get on to a course with higher entry requirements, while still holding their original confirmed place.
Apply	The name of the UCAS application system.
Unconditional offer	An offer of a place on a course with no conditions – the place is theirs if the student wants it.
Conditional offer	An offer of a university which requires a student to get certain grades.
Clearing	The process through which students who did not achieve their firm or insurance choice look at alternative courses.
Extra	If a student finds themselves without the offer of a place, UCAS Extra enables them to have an additional choice through UCAS. This means the student does not have to wait until Clearing.
Firm choice	This is when students accept a university as their first choice.
Insurance choice	This is when students accept an offer as their second choice, just in case they don't meet the conditions of their firm offer.
Personal statement	This is the section of the UCAS application form where students tell universities and colleges about their suitability for the course(s) that they hope to study. There is only one personal statement for all five application choices.

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