

KING'S
College

LONDON



Making a
COMPETITIVE APPLICATION
To King's and other universities

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A competitive field
HOW MANY...?

- King's offers over 150 courses
- We received over 50,000 applications this year
- 50% are for 14 courses, 75% for 28 courses
- KCL's most applied for courses are Business Management, Law and Medicine
- UCAS tariff not used as part of the admissions criteria e.g. for Economics, A*AA, one of which must be mathematics – not 152 UCAS points



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WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Research the course
- Research the industry/career
- Start your application early
- Prepare and practice for interviews and aptitude tests
- Any necessary work experience or volunteering
- Have an open mind
- Public lectures, TED talks, taster days, news articles, exhibitions...



THE PERSONAL STATEMENT

- Tell us what excites you about your chosen course
- Imperative if applying for competitive courses
- Orientated towards a profession or industry sector (if you can)
- 4,000 characters (or 47 lines!)



personal statement

WHAT TO INCLUDE

- 75-90% relevant to academic pursuits in and outside of school/college
- Extended Project Qualifications
- Key skills and competencies
- Work experience or placements
- Relevant extra-curricular activities
- Any awards/achievements



'I have a dream...'

WHAT TO AVOID

- Mentioning university names
- Lying
- Thesaurus
- Negative language
- Shopping lists
- Irrelevant quotes



personal statement

MAKE A START NOW!

- Make a list of your experiences, interests and qualities
- Be selective – What's most impressive? What's relevant?
- Quality not quantity!
- Draft it, think about it, discuss it with others and redraft
- Go to taster days and Open Day and speak to current students



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APTITUDE TESTS

- A way of differentiating between a number of good applicants
- **Are not intelligence tests**
- Tests skills such as verbal, numerical, situational reasoning
- Some have essays
- Can't revise but you can do practice tests
- Law - LNAT
- Medicine & Dentistry - UCAT / BMAT
- Maths – MAT / STEP
- Various – Thinking Skills Assessment

**Look online for
past papers**



Applying for Medicine

UCAT

- A way of differentiating between a number of good candidates
- Required by 25 universities
- Taken between 1 July and 6 October
- Focuses on cognitive powers and valuable attributes of healthcare professionals rather than curriculum or science content
- No particular threshold – but average of 650+ a good guideline score



Applying for Law

LNAT

- As many schools do not have Law at level 3, the LNAT gives us a way of seeing how you'd cope with a brand new subject.
- Required by 8 universities
- Taken between 1 September and 20 January (20 October for O&C)
- Tested on verbal reasoning, interpretation of information and deductive reasoning
- There's no pass or fail mark, but the LNAT result is out of 42



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INTERVIEWS

- Check if an interview is part of the application process
- Assess your suitability for the course/profession
- Questions based on personal statement
- Different types: one-to-one, panel, group interviews, MMI

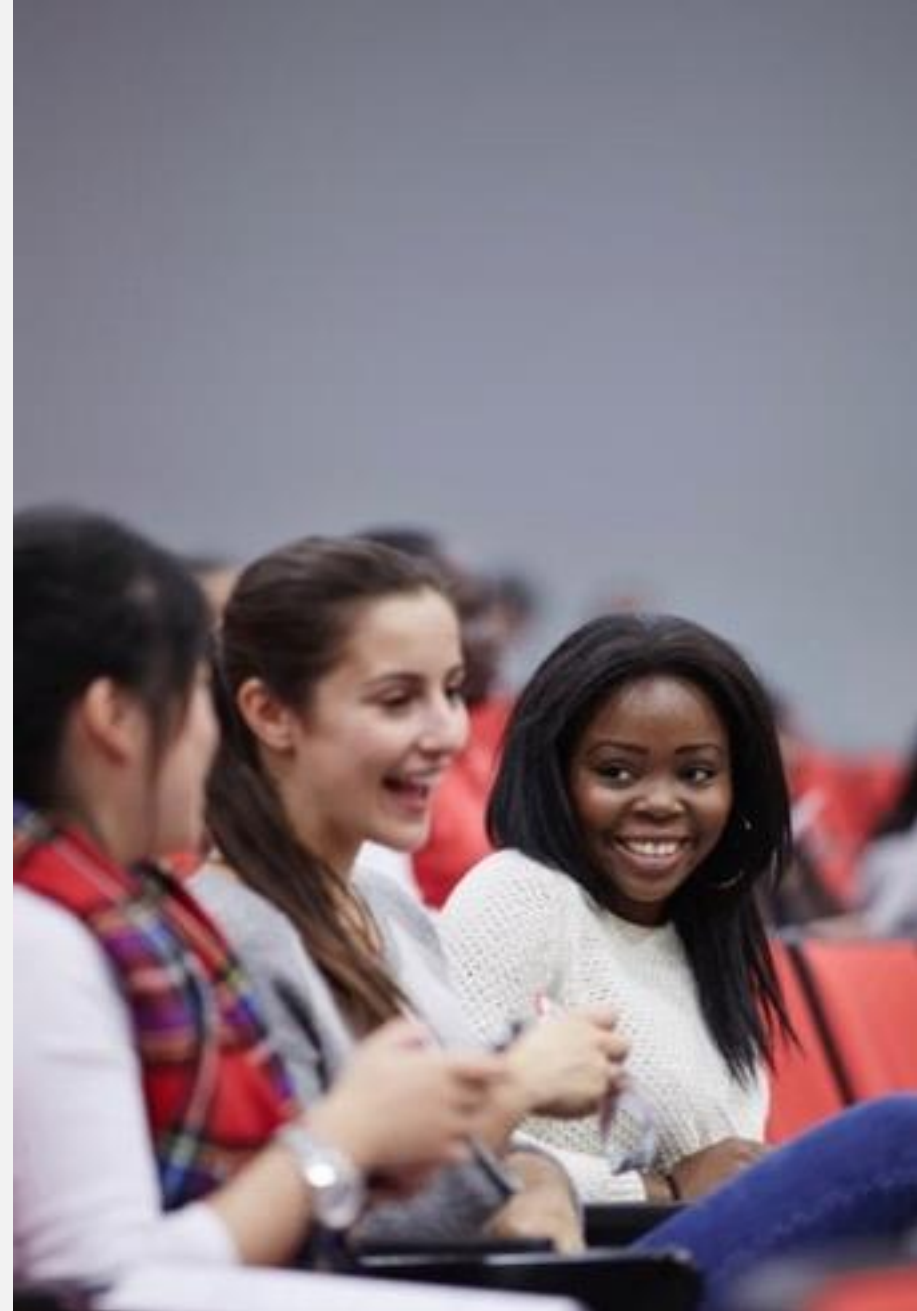
**A chance for you
to interview the
university**



interviews

MMIs

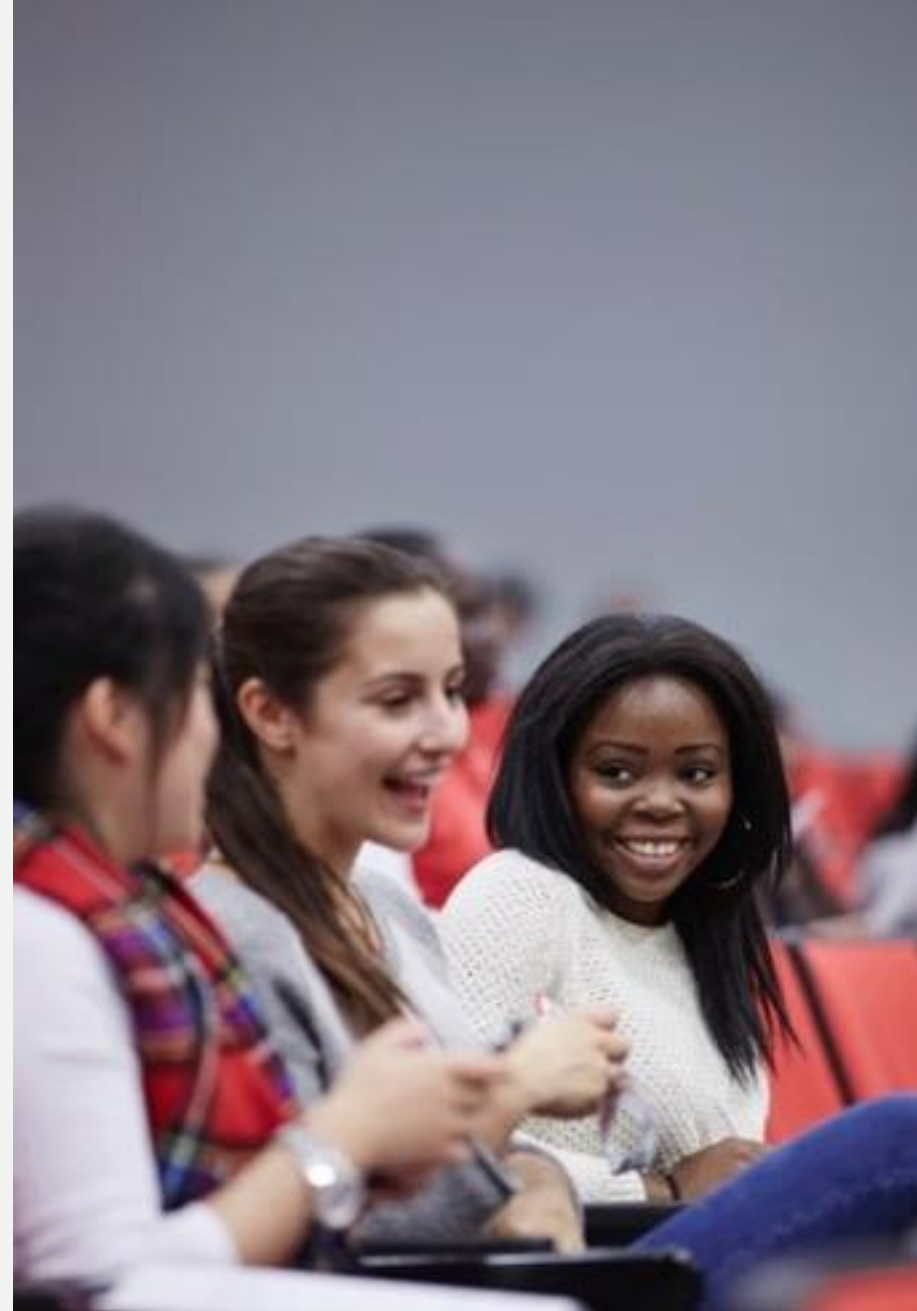
- 5-8 stations
- Usually 1-2 tasks per station, 5 to 7 minutes
- Understanding and motivation for the profession
- Case study
- Science knowledge
- Actors/scenarios
- Key values and qualities (NHS values), e.g. team work
- Communication, interpersonal skills



interviews

TOP 3 TIPS

1. Be prepared for likely questions and have questions to ask
2. Give full answers but don't memorise speeches
3. Be yourself!



What you need to know

Key dates



Check ucas.com
for full dates and
deadlines before
you apply

September

APPLICATIONS
OPEN

November

KING'S BEGIN TO
SEND OUT OFFERS

**15
Oct**

DEADLINE FOR
MEDICINE AND
DENTAL COURSES

**31
March**

DEADLINE FOR KING'S
TO RESPOND TO ALL
APPLICATIONS

**15
Jan**

DEADLINE FOR THE
MAJORITY OF
KING'S COURSES

**7
May**

STANDARD DEADLINE
TO ACCEPT YOUR
OFFER

Questions?

For more information:

www.kcl.ac.uk/undergraduate

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