

HEO UK/US Timelines Guide 2026/27

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 & interviews.

Many 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. Refer to Pg 3-4.



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 relevant 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.
- ☐ 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
13-Jul-26, Mon	Guide to UCAS uploaded on IVY and open web. Creation of UCAS accounts begins after reading guide. Do not create accounts prior.
13-Jul-26, Mon	All UK applicants can begin to approach CTs to request for references. Tip: a good time to do so would be in August.
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.
25-Sep-26, Fri	Last day for UK applicants with Oct deadline to request for CT reference. Your teachers need time to write for you.
4-Oct-26, 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-26, Wed	Official UCAS deadline for Oct applications. You may check your application status after this date. All students must submit earlier by 4 Oct 2359h .
20-Nov-26, 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.
6-Jan-27, Wed 2359h	Last day to submit UCAS for Jan deadline (i.e. all other UK courses). Students adhere to this deadline.
13-Jan-27, Wed	Official UCAS deadline for Jan applications. You may check your application status after this date. All students must submit earlier by 3 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. Refer to the HEO UCAS guide and register your UCAS account first.
- ☐ Book your test early to secure your preferred test date. Plan ahead to avoid clashes with prelim or A Level exams.
- ☐ **IMPORTANT! H2 Chem students: Do NOT book your test on the date of A-Level Chem Practical (14 Oct)**
- ☐ **Given that all these tests have more than one possible date, ensure you do not clash with necessary A-Level exams.**
- ☐ Prepare for and sit for the test. Refer to the test web sites for prep materials.

What to do	UCAT	LNAT
Register for account	20-May-26, Wed	1-Aug-26, Sat
Booking for test opens	23-Jun-26, Tue	1-Aug-26, Sat
First day to take test	13-Jul-26, Mon	1-Sep-26, Tue
Last day to book test date	16-Sep-26, Wed	By 15-Sep-26, Tue for Oxbridge applicants
		Before 14-Jan-27, Thu for Bristol and Durham applicants
		Before 20-Jan-27, Wed for all other UK LNAT universities
Last day to take test	24-Sep-26, Thu	15-Oct-26, Thu for Oxbridge applicants
		31-Dec-26, Thu for LSE, UCL and KCL applicants
		14-Jan-27, Thu for Bristol and Durham applicants
		25-Jan-27, Mon for all other UK LNAT universities

Useful links:

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



University admission tests: ESAT, TMUA, TARA.

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. Refer to the HEO UCAS guide and register your UCAS account first.
- ☐ Book your test early to secure your preferred test date.
- ☐ **IMPORTANT! H2 Chem students: Do NOT book your test on the date of A-Level Chem Practical (14 Oct)**
- ☐ **Given that all these tests have more than one possible date, ensure you do not clash with necessary A-Level exams.**
- ☐ Prepare for and sit for the test. Refer to the test web sites for prep materials.

What to do	ESAT, TMUA, TARA
Register and book Oct test date	20-Jul-26, Mon
Last day to book Oct test date	28-Sep-26, Mon for Cambridge/Oxford applicants
October Test Dates (Cambridge/Oxford applicants must sit for Oct test dates)	12 to 16 Oct-26 (Mon-Fri)
Register and book Jan test date	26-Oct-26, Mon
Last day to book Jan test date	21-Dec-26, Mon
January Test Dates (not applicable to Cambridge/Oxford applicants)	4 to 8 Jan-27 (Mon-Fri)

Note on interviews:

Oxbridge conducts interviews. Shortlisted applicants will usually interview in the first weeks of Dec. Do note that some Cambridge colleges have reverted to in-person interviews, so **please select your college carefully if you are unable to fly to the UK in Dec.** Increasingly, colleges like Imperial College London may also conduct online interviews. This can be major-dependent. Students are to check their respective university websites carefully thus, to see if interviews may be required, and if so, are they online or in person. For non-Oxbridge schools: interviews can be held anytime, usually from Dec – Feb.

Useful link:

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



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
28-Aug-26, Fri	Guide to CIALFO & Common App uploaded onto IVY and open web. Creation of accounts begins after reading slides. Do not create accounts prior.
28-Aug-26, Fri	All US applicants begin to request for CT and ST recommendations in person and <u>on CIALFO</u> .
4-Oct-26, 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.
16-Oct-26, Fri 1700h	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 thereafter. 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.
20-Nov-26, 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-26, Thu to 30-Nov-26, Mon	University of California application submission period on UC portal. There is only one app period for the UCs.
14-Dec-26, Mon 1700h	Last day and time for all US applicants to confirm all college choices on CIALFO . No further change to college list thereafter. 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. #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.