

University and Career Guidance Services - COVID-19 UPDATE 'FAQ'

Dear Student

We are here to support you during this uncertain time. To help you answer questions related to your university application and career choices, we have put together a list of Frequently Asked Questions for you to look at.

1. How will Universities regard this year's IGCSE, A-Level, and IB results?

All examinations have been canceled across the globe so university approaches should be consistent and you will face no disadvantage. Your final reports will look different this year but there will still be assessment of your work, both by the school and external examiners. You will have official grades, even if the process is different.

2. How will I get my transcript and predicted marks?

As the school is closed you will receive your transcript by email. If you require a transcript, you need to send an email to wadih.abouaziz@rakacademy.org and indicate what grades (G9, G10 etc.) you want be included. Be sure to specify 'predicted grades' if your university is requesting them. For the time being the predicted grades will be taken from the last Data Capture report.

3. I need to ask my teacher for a recommendation letter, how should I do that?

First you are required to fill out a form (Recommendations-student-self-assessment 2020) for the teacher to write you the recommendation. You can find this form on the google classroom (G11/G12 Careers & University Guidance). Send the form to Mr. Wadih so he can forward it to your teacher. You should do this as early as possible to give your teacher enough time to prepare it.

4. I applied through UCAS, what will happen with my application?

The Government has asked universities in England, Northern Ireland, and Wales to stop making unconditional offers or amending existing offers until 20 April (1 May in Wales). This is because they're worried you may feel pressured into accept these offers over others you might be better suited for. More information in the link <https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/after-you-apply/coronavirus-covid-19/what-does-mean-your-application>

5. I should take the IELTS exam to apply for the UK visa? What should I do now?

All IELTS test centers in the UAE are still accepting applicants. Find your nearest test location and register for the test. RAK Medical-Health Sciences University is the nearest location in our region. Make sure to register for the General exam if you are applying for a visa and not the Academic Exam. <https://www.ielts.org/book-a-test/find-a-test-location/location-list/united-arab-emirates/tv>

6. I feel that I'm confused about my future and still not sure what degree I should study at University

Contact Mr. Wadih for a one-on-one meeting. During the meeting you will do an online interests inventory assessment that will help you find out what your interests are and how they relate to the world of work.

<https://www.mynextmove.org/explore/ip>

7. The SAT canceled several test dates and I am worried I will not have enough chances to earn a top score. How will this affect my university applications?

For the time being it is important to keep studying for these standardized tests. We suggest you look at www.khanacademy.com for a full SAT preparation course. The test date cancellations in March, April, and May were frustrating for many students. Recently, some universities have announced test-optional policies beginning this autumn. A few of them have started an online admission test but at the moment the situation is still fluid.

8. How will I complete my Visa paperwork with many official buildings closed due to social distancing protocols? Will I be able to begin university in autumn?

Many embassies are no longer having in-person visa application interviews. We also anticipate that there will be delays in the VISA application process. We recommend that you begin the VISA application process as soon as possible. Check the link for more information about the VISA <https://www.vfsglobal.com/en/Individuals/covid-19-frequently-asked-questions.html>

9. I had planned to visit many university campuses during the spring break in order to make a final decision about where to attend. However, all campuses are now closed. How can I make this important decision?

Many schools have created virtual tours so students can still see campuses. A document with virtual tour links has been created by Rebecca Chabrow an admission officer and is a great place to start investigating schools.

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1sO7pVos0EvK0BvXoMbnyg00K6r7hXbOQE0HNXF4N4eM/htmlview>.

Moreover, UCAS has put together an alphabetical link virtual tour

(<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/what-and-where-study/open-days-and-events/virtual-tours>)

Universities have also planned virtual information sessions. Make sure to check the website for each university you are interested in.

10. When should I start with my Personal Statement and How?

START NOW. There is a section on the Google Classroom 'how to start with your personal statement' and what questions you need to ask yourself to make it stand out. You also have to submit it as an assignment so that Mr. Wadih can review it.

11. I want to study at one of the UAE Universities and I need to register for EmSAT.

Under the current precautionary measures taken by the Ministry of Education to prevent Corona Virus (Covid-19), kindly note that all Emirates standardized tests (EmSAT) have been suspended for the Academic year 2019/2020 until further notice. More information will be out on the MOE website and we will update you with this, as it arises.

12. Where can I find University resources and look for updates?

There are lots of resources that you can look at on the Google Classroom – Careers & University Guidance. We will keep posting updates on the steam to on daily basis.

13. We are finding difficulty in communicating with university representatives, how can we reach out?

We will contact university representatives from different countries and ask them if we can schedule an online meeting with them, this will help all of you to find answers to your questions.

14. What are the online universities (distance learning) that the MOE recommend?

<https://www.moe.gov.ae/En/EServices/Pages/ElectronicRecommendedInstitute.aspx>

15. What are the UAE Universities that are recognized by MOE and KHDA?

<https://www.caa.ae/caa/DesktopModules/InstInfo.aspx?emirate=Any&major=Any&level=Any>

16. How can we contact Mr. Wadih? We have few questions to share with him about university and career choices?

Please feel free to contact Mr. Wadih on his email: wadih.abouaziz@rakacademy.org or meet with him on google classroom during the school hours on the below codes:

G12 code [ggc3gw4](#)

G11 code [dtgbg2g](#)

G10 code [56yxusm](#)

G9 code [uhpp4kp](#)

You can also contact him via mobile: 050 480 5800