

# A final summary

**The timeline below summarises the possible stages you may have to progress through in order to successfully gain a place at a University.**

## Stage 1:

- Think about your options
- Speak to staff/ check out prospectuses - discuss your plans and raise any questions you would like answered.
- Visit colleges/universities; remember it's ok to make an initial visit even if you aren't sure if you would like to study there and even if you don't have the required entry qualifications.
- Remember - for many popular college courses applications need to be in as early as February.

## Stage 2 (August onwards):

- Commence a relevant course (such as an Access course) which will provide you with the entry requirements for the course of your choice.
- Institutions usually hold their open-days in September & October. Make sure you know when these will take place and check out if there are any particular sessions you wish to attend (e.g. talks for mature students, taster workshops for specific courses).
- If appropriate, organise a work placement or shadowing opportunity. Many courses expect you to do this before applying.
- Apply through the UCAS system (official deadline is 15th January in the year you intend to start).

## Stage 3 (January onwards):

- You may be invited for an interview (some QMU courses interview candidates in order to decide who to offer places to).
- Wait to hear the outcome of your application. You will be notified in due course as to whether or not you are being made an offer.
- You may be invited to an Applicant Open Day (usually late February onwards). Many QMU courses, which don't interview, hold these. This is an ideal opportunity for you to meet other applicants and staff and to hear more about the course.

- Make your decision about which course/university you want as your first choice and which (if any) is your 'insurance' choice.

## Stage 4 (March onwards):

- Apply for funding - SAAS usually accept application from early April onwards. Remember to apply as early as possible.
- Moving to Edinburgh? Checkout our Accommodation Teams webpages for more information on accommodation options for mature students.

## [www.qmu.ac.uk/services/student\\_accommodation.htm](http://www.qmu.ac.uk/services/student_accommodation.htm)

- Complete your preparatory studies (e.g. Access course etc)

## Stage 5 (July onwards):

- Receive your QMU Joining Pack. This includes important information about your course, start date and the induction and matriculation process.
- HNC/D students - send a copy of your exam results to our admissions office.
- Get in touch with us if you have any questions about your course or the support available.
- Apply to take part in optional activities such as QMAdvance (for mature students) and/or QMConnect.

## Stage 6 (September):

- Start your new course!
- Remember to give yourself time to settle into this new situation and try to opt into any workshops or activities that you think may help you to maximise your chances of succeeding and enjoying life here at QMU.

**We hope you are looking forward to beginning your studies here at QMU and we look forward to welcoming you and to working with you to help you achieve your goals.**

**Remember to get in touch at any stage if you want to discuss anything that has been raised in this guide or if you have any other questions or concerns.**