



2023 2024

Hampstead Fine Arts

UCAS and Predicted Grades Policy

Universities ask schools and colleges to supply A level grade predictions with students' UCAS applications. Along with an academic reference from the school or college, the predicted grades help university admissions tutors to choose the best candidates for each course and also indicate that the student is capable of reaching at least the minimum grade requirements for each degree course. The predicted grades are entered onto the UCAS form by the school or college together with the reference just before the form is sent off to UCAS.

At Hampstead Fine Arts, grade predictions are made for each A level subject by the students' subject tutors in September at the beginning of the Upper Sixth year. By this stage, the subject tutors know their students' academic or creative abilities and performance very well and are in the best position to know what each student is likely to achieve in the final exams. The decision is made using a wide range of evidence.

The subject tutors will base their predictions on:

- the student's academic or creative track record
- their homework grades,
- their mock exam results,
- the results of other tests and internal assessments
- performance in exam coursework, if there is any
- a view on the student's rate of progress and likely improvement in the coming months.
- the student's attitude to learning and their commitment to the subject

In deciding a predicted grade, we are as optimistic as it is possible to be, while still fulfilling our professional responsibility to be accurate and realistic, so as not to mislead the universities. Tutors also take into account the fact that A level work becomes harder in the second, Upper Sixth, year, so calculations of future improvement are strongly based on how the student has coped with the gentler requirements of the Lower Sixth.

As an example, a student who consistently receives homework and Mock grades in the C

range, is likely to be predicted a C for their final result. A prediction of a B grade might be possible if that student shows an increasing rate of progress and an excellent work ethic. However the student would be unlikely to be predicted an A grade as there would not be sufficient evidence to support this.

The Predicted Grades and UCAS Advice

When students begin the university application process, they discuss their choice of courses and universities with the Director of Careers at FAC. The Director will guide students to look at courses with appropriate entry requirements. The UCAS form allows up to five course choices. It is our policy that students should always choose courses with a range of entry requirements that include one or two aspirational courses, one or two courses with mid-range requirements and one or two with gentler requirements as a safety net in case the final exams do not go as hoped.

These conversations will include discussion of the student's recent grades in homework and the Mock exams so that the choices are being made in the context of the student's performance.

Obtaining information about predictions

Students' predicted grades are available to parents on request. We ask parents to send an email, with their son or daughter's consent, requesting this information. We then reply including caveats about the nature of the predictions and the fact that they cannot be understood as a guarantee. We make it clear that they are dependent on the student consistently working well and making the expected progress during the last year of A levels.

The predicted grades are not negotiable. The subject tutors' decisions are final and they cannot enter into any discussion about predictions or make alterations once they have been decided. (See the formal Appeals process below.) It is up to each student to work well during the Lower Sixth year and into the Upper Sixth so that the tutors have all the information they need to make an accurate prediction that reflects the student's ability and performance.

Parents and students can be assured that our tutors are very experienced in this process and know their students and their capabilities extremely well.

Extenuating circumstances will always be taken into account. For example if a student has had an extended period of illness or a personal situation that may have affected their performance up to the deciding of the predictions, this will be considered.

Appeals process

If a student feels strongly that a predicted grade does not reflect their ability or what they may achieve at the end of Year 13, then they may ask for the prediction to be reviewed by sending a letter of appeal to the Principal and the Head of FAC. The letter should explain, with evidence if possible, why they think the predicted grade is not a fair assessment of what they may achieve. The Principal and the Head will consult the subject tutors or tutors and a final decision will be made.

September 2023
Reviewed by: ES