

Ucas (Universities and Colleges Admissions Services) is the application service for all UK universities and has been an online service since 2006. Schools are encouraged to be registered centres checking and supervising applications in order to avoid needless mistakes. They provide excellent training and a comprehensive support system for schools in order to make the system run smoothly. The system is clearly geared towards UK qualifications and the European Baccalaureate Diploma is offered in only 1% of applications.

Over the past six years Anglophone careers coordinators from all the European Schools, with the support of the Department of Education in London, have made a tremendous effort to have the Diploma fully recognised in the UK by visiting universities, meeting to discuss and agree on our method for presenting our schools, producing a brochure on the European Schools as well as negotiating with universities on acceptable offers to our students for specific subjects.

Universities in the UK have become extremely competitive particularly in the more popular courses and colleges. Due to the increase in work, it was felt that there should be a contribution from the students involved, particularly in the larger schools such as Luxembourg where they can easily have 120 applications to process

In Varese, we have between 30-40 applications a year. The workload is still manageable if the teacher is not on a full timetable. However, we have been increasingly aware that it is unwise to have the whole system dependent on one person. Therefore, we hope to use the funds provided by the parents to make sure that there is always more than one teacher who is trained to process applications.

Normal procedure would be that the students have four lessons after the exams in June where they are introduced to the system, advised on choosing a course, given some examples of personal statements and then registered with the school. The registration would not involve any commitment on the part of the student to proceed with the application and he would be free to make his final decision in September.

I would like to emphasise the importance of making a school application rather than an individual one in order make sure that our schools are presented in the best way possible. One faulty application will put the whole system in a bad light and clearly this will have an effect on other students.

We are always happy to have feedback and suggestions in order to improve.