



# ACCESS: INSIDE KNOWLEDGE **ADMISSIONS BEST PRACTICE**

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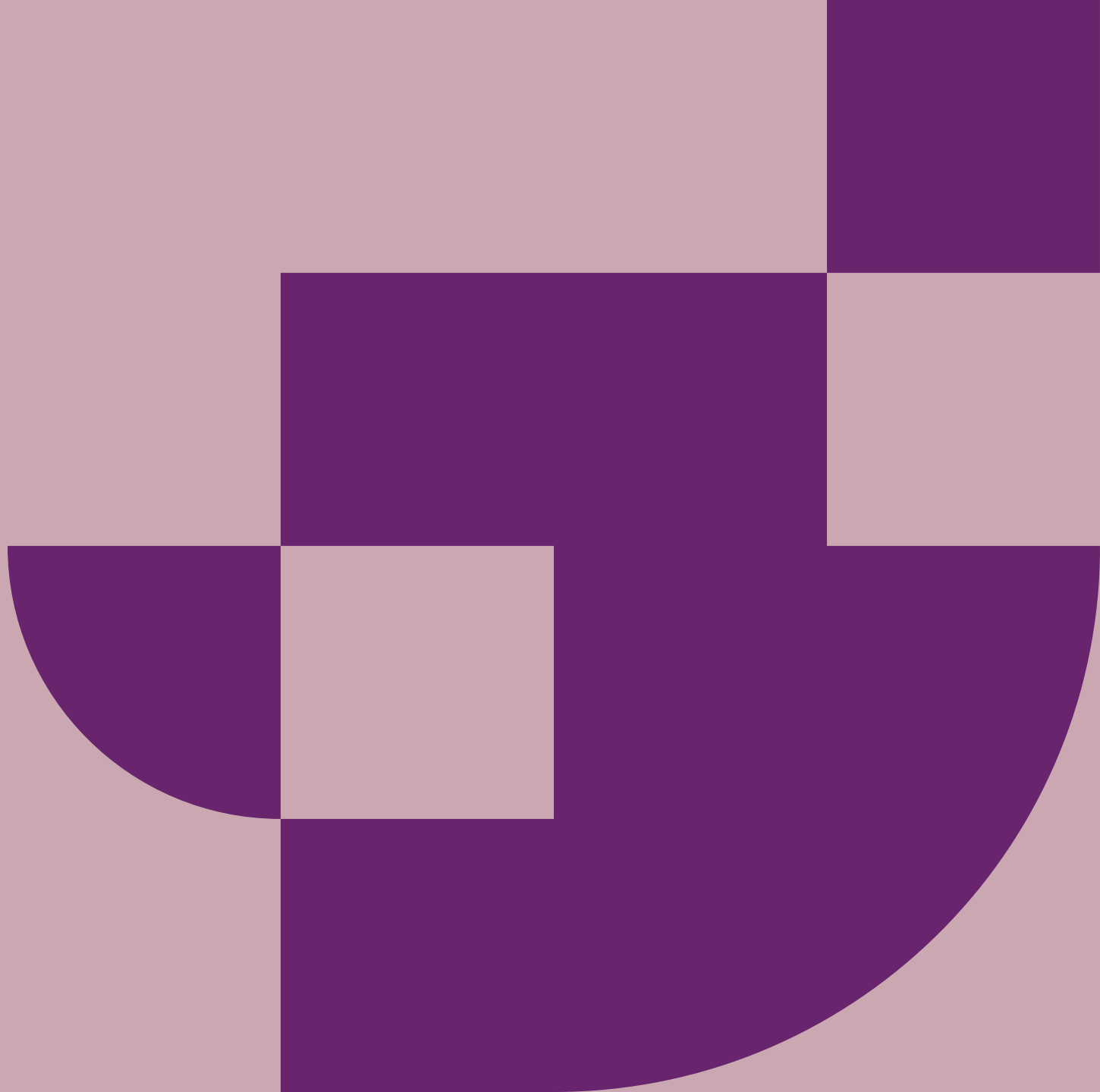


# This session will cover:

- Foundations of Best Practice
- Admissions Best practice- experience of two universities
- Discussion
- UCAS resources

# Best Practice

Miriam Clift  
Head of Admissions



# All about Durham

- Higher Education provider since 1832, awarding its first degrees in 1837
- Member of the Russell Group
- Collegiate – every student is a member of a college
- c. 34000 applications a year
- Low volume of interview courses
- High proportion of applications from independent school sector
- Selecting and recruiting
- Foundation Year – but not in the way you might expect
- Centralised decision making since 2018

# Factors influencing decision making

- Qualifications – very small proportion of vocational qualifications
- Volume v places
- Turnaround times
- Oxbridge deadline
- Interview courses – only in Education
- Foundation Year – not designed as a ‘mop-up’ for applicants who don’t achieve their grades
- Competitor set – not always what you might think
- Gathered field

# Factors influencing decision making

- Complexity on some courses – Combined Social Sciences, Liberal Arts, Natural Sciences
- Additional tests
- State v independent
- Polar quintiles
- Personal statement
- Reference
- College membership, college beds and overall bed capacity of the city

# Types of offers

- Combination of offers:
  - Unconditional where met academic requirements
  - Conditional
  - Change of course
  - Deferred
  - International
- Contextual offers and APP
- Incentives





## Institution Type

- Large Post-92 Institution
- c. 27,000 applications a year
- We have both selecting and recruiting courses
  - High volume interviewing courses (health, A&D, teacher training)
  - PSRB requirements
- A large Foundation Year option across all of our provision
- Applicant centred: rounded decision making

## What's in the toolkit?

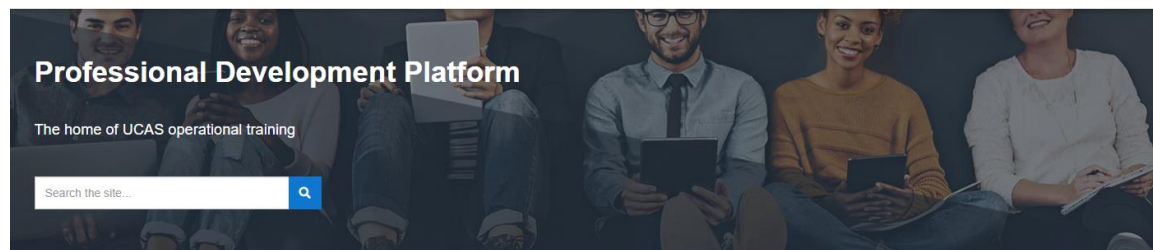
- Turnaround times
- Acceptance of a variety of qualifications – informed
- We don't use:
  - Incentives for applicants – nothing is linked to accommodation or acceptance of our offer
- We have used
  - Gathered field approach
    - high volume
    - homogeneity of applications

## What's also in the toolkit?

- We do use a variety of types of offer:
  - Unconditional
  - Contextual
  - Personalised - variable
  - Change course
  - Deferred
- What goes into that?
  - Predominantly qualification based

# SUPPORT FROM UCAS

## UCAS training



## Best Practice resources



### **Widening access and participation**

Working in partnership with charities and other sector organisations, we've pulled together expert information and advice to help you support widening participation – take a look.



### **Supporting disadvantaged and under represented groups**

View our range of resources which share how you can help applicants with particular support needs.



### **Admissions policies**

View our range of resources to support with developing and reviewing admissions policies.



### **Admissions processes**

Resources to support processes that are part of admissions, such as additional admissions assessments, managing mistakes, and the applicant experience.



# QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION

