ACCESS: INSIDE KNOWLEDGE PLAYING BY THE (BUSINESS) RULES: THE UCAS RULES AND PRINCIPLES FRAMEWORK

LYNSEY HOPKINS UCAS KIM ECCLESTON UCAS

THIS SESSION WILL COVER:

- Business rules
- Admission principles
- Grey areas
- Regulation
- Discussion

THE BUSINESS RULES (1)

- Must recruit all FT UGs through UCAS
- Must use standard application route/RPA
- Must consider all applications on equal basis if received on time
- Invisibility don't ask where else applicants have applied!
- Must use UCAS as authoritative source of information
- Must transmit offers and all conditions through UCAS
- Offers must distinguish between conditions for enrolment and others
- Offers once made mustn't be made harder without applicant's permission

THE BUSINESS RULES (2)

- Mustn't ask for early replies, and must give applicants time to respond
- Must make decisions by published date
- Must not try to influence applicant's decisions inappropriately
- Must not reject at Confirmation with outstanding conditions unless offer can't be made or deadline has passed
- Must abide by the terms of the embargo to get access to results
- Must give UCAS access to up-to-date info so show abiding by terms of service
- Must report security incidents in timely way

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR PROVIDERS AND APPLICANTS?

- Advisory dates vs fixed deadlines
- Unconditional offers
- Incentivised acceptances
- Contact from universities and colleges
- Accommodation

THE ADMISSIONS PRINCIPLES

- Consistency, fairness, avoidance of bias
- Evidence-based entry requirements and offer-making strategies
- Clear, current and transparent information
- Listing offers on UCAS search tool, including contextual variations
- Conditions to be clear, unambiguous and within applicant's control to meet
- Good reason and reasonable deadline for any additional info
- Reasonable notice for interviews, auditions or other assessment
- Reasonable consideration to requests for flexibility
- No undue pressure to directly or indirectly influence applicants' decisions

GREY AREAS

- Legal status of offer
- Over-recruitment
- Under-recruitment
- What's 'reasonable'
- Waiting lists



* REGULATION

- UCAS is not a regulator; sanctions limited
- Cohesive system for diverse providers and applicants
- Further recourse for applicants:
 - UUK Fair Admissions Code of Practice
 - The university or college
 - Admissions policies
 - Office for Students
 - Office of the Independent Adjudicator
 - CMA



ANY QUESTIONS?