

Clearing Advice 2020

What is Clearing?

UCAS' Clearing process lets you apply for courses that still have places available. This is normally for those who have not received any offers, rejected all their offers, or missed the conditions of their offers.

Last year, UCAS started allowing applicants with firmed university places to release themselves into Clearing in order to apply to different institutions.

In previous years, students had to contact their chosen university and ask to be released before they could contact other institutions.

How do I know if I am in Clearing?

You will know whether you are in Clearing or not because your UCAS Track page will say 'You are in Clearing' or 'Clearing has started'.

If your status has not been updated, your application might still be under consideration by your university, even if you have missed your grades. It is worth ringing them to see what your current status is, so you know what steps to take next.

While it is simple to self-release into Clearing - you just have to sign into Track and click the 'decline my place' button on your homepage - UCAS has incorporated a series of warnings to ensure that all students make an informed choice. If you are holding a firm unconditional place but have changed your mind, you can decline your place in Track.

It is also advised that you chat if needed with Mrs BB or Ms Shaeffer on results day before self-releasing.

How do I apply?

You can search for all available courses on the UCAS website. You can also go onto universities websites and look at their clearing pages.

Once you have made a shortlist of which courses you are interested in, you should call up the individual universities. It is very important that you call up yourself, rather than asking your parents to speak on the phone on your behalf. Be prepared to be on hold and be prepared to be patient.

Make sure you have your Clearing number – which you can find on Track – and your Personal ID number at the ready. In the heat of the moment you might forget your individual A-level/BTEC and GCSE grades, so make sure you write them down, and note their UCAS points value. (see below)

A Level

A* 56 points

A 48 points

B 40 points

C 32 points

D 24 points

E 16 points

What happens when I call?

Do your research before the call as it could end up being an interview. Either way, you will need to sell yourself and explain why you want to do the course, so make sure you do your research beforehand. Also, be prepared to talk about your results.

Most universities will give you an informal offer during your call, so you will still have time to consider other options afterwards. It is important that you do not rush into a decision, and that you choose a course that you will be happy to study for the next three or four years.

What should I do when I have my offer?

Once you have the offer you want – and you are 100 per cent sure you want to accept it – you should add your Clearing choice on Track. If you are eligible, you can add a Clearing choice from 15:00 (UK time) on A Level results day (13th August).

You should only add a Clearing choice once you have permission from the university of college.

You are only able to add one course unless that university does not confirm your offer.

When your place is confirmed, you need to think about student finance and accommodation. You may be able to visit the university to look round in the coming days. Most universities are happy to arrange visits from students applying through Clearing, while many hold designated open days for Clearing applicants, often the weekend after A-level-results day. If you are unable to visit in person, lots of universities have virtual tours available on their websites.

Your confirmation letter should appear in Track five to seven days after your university place has been confirmed.

New for 2020 – Clearing Plus

If you find yourself in Clearing this year, UCAS will personally match you to courses you may be interested in, using what they know about you from your application, and what universities and colleges are looking for in a student.

If you are unplaced or have started a new application, a button will appear in Track – ‘My matches’. This will take you to your top 50 course matches. You will then be able to tell universities and colleges you are ‘interested’ in their courses. If they still have vacancies and you meet their entry requirements, they may call you.

Do not worry, if you want to apply for something different you can still find courses available in Clearing using the search tool.

Anything else?

Remember to be prepared! There is no harm in doing some research on results day and the days following it.

Know what subjects you are looking for, and make sure you have thought about why you want to study them.

Ensure you have all the relevant information on a piece of paper in front of you when you are on the phone. Some universities will ask you to send them scanned copies of relevant qualification certificates, so make sure that you can do this on results day.

Make notes during the conversations – you may forget who has said what if you are contacting a number of universities. Also remember to jot down names and direct contact details in case you need to talk to a particular person later in the day.

Clearing can be an extremely stressful time but try and stay calm. You will sound more confident and will be able to sell yourself better if you are in the right frame of mind.

Face to Face Support

Mrs BB and the Sixth Form Team will be available for clearing support and assistance to all who require it on results day following the grades received for your A Levels/BTEC.

Please identify the category that applies to you for clearing support and contact NSB reception on (01604) 230240 so that we are able to provide targeted support for students throughout the day:

Priority 1: 9:00am to 10:00am

If have missed out on both your Firm and Insurance place and therefore have no University option and need advice, support and guidance on the clearing process.

Priority 2: 10:00am to 11:00am

You have missed out on your Firm place and have got into your Insurance place but no longer want to go to your Insurance university. Advice and support will be provided on how to release your place from UCAS once a clearing place is secure.