



A Guide to Clearing

What is Clearing?

Clearing is a process through UCAS that allows students to find university places if they don't hold an offer or want to explore alternative options. It opens in early July but is most active on A-Level Results Day.

What You Will See on Your UCAS Account on Results Day

On the morning of Results Day, you can log into your **UCAS Hub** to check your application status. You're likely to see one of the following scenarios:

- You might have a **confirmed place at your firm**. This could mean you've achieved the grades you needed for your offer - but not necessarily. Universities often accept students who have missed their offer by one or even two grades.
- You might have missed out on your firm but got into your **insurance**.
- You might have been **unsuccessful for both choices**, so that you are now in Clearing.
- Perhaps the most frustrating option is that you find nothing has changed or only your insurance offer has been updated. This leaves you in limbo until you can get hold of your results and start ringing unis to find out why your place hasn't been confirmed.
- Finally (and less commonly) you might have been offered a place at your firm but for a different course. This would normally be because you missed your main offer, and the university has a place available on a related course. You don't have to accept this alternative.

You **won't see your actual grades** on UCAS, these will be emailed to your school email address on Results Day. You're welcome to come into school to collect your results—we'll confirm the time with you.

Finding Available Courses in Clearing

Courses available in Clearing are listed on:

- **UCAS Clearing Search Tool** (on the UCAS website)
- **University Websites** (some universities publish their vacancies directly)
- **University Hotlines** (to discuss available places and eligibility)
- **Social Media & News Outlets** (some universities advertise spaces on Twitter, Instagram, and newspaper websites)

Courses can fill up quickly, so be proactive in your search.

How to Prepare for Clearing

- **Research in Advance** – Before Results Day, make a list of universities and courses you'd consider if things don't go as expected. Many universities will update their websites with Clearing vacancies the night before Results Day.



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- **Have Your Details Ready** – You'll need your UCAS ID, personal statement, and details of your results when calling universities.
 - **Stay Calm & Act Fast** – Be prepared to call universities quickly, as places are limited.
 - **Check Course Entry Requirements** – Make sure you meet the necessary grades before calling.
 - **Speak to Admissions Staff Yourself** – Universities prefer to talk to students directly rather than parents or teachers.
 - **Talk to Multiple Universities** – You can contact as many universities as you want and hold multiple email confirmations of offers, but you can only upload one final choice to UCAS once the option becomes available.
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If You No Longer Want Your Firm Offer

If you've accepted a firm offer but changed your mind:

- **Find a New Course Through Clearing** – Before declining your current offer, secure a verbal or email confirmation of a place from another university.
 - **Decline Your Place on UCAS** – You can self-release into Clearing by choosing the "Decline My Place" option on your UCAS Hub.
 - **Be Certain Before Declining** – Once you've given up your place, you may not be able to get it back.
 - **Do Not Decline Until You Have an Email Offer** – Ensure you have written confirmation of a new offer before releasing your current place.
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If You've Done Better Than Expected

If you've exceeded your predicted grades and want to explore alternative universities:

- **Use Clearing to Apply Elsewhere** – You can apply for more competitive courses through Clearing.
 - **Check for Higher-Entry Courses** – Some universities may have spaces in higher-ranking courses.
 - **Contact Universities Quickly** – If a university accepts you, you will need to ask them to confirm the offer on UCAS.
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Submitting Your Clearing Choice to UCAS

- You can add your Clearing choice on UCAS from **13:00 (UK time)** on A-Level Results Day.
 - You can only add **one** Clearing choice at a time, so make sure you have confirmed the offer with the university before submitting it.
 - Once your choice is submitted, the university will review and confirm your place if everything is in order.
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Final Advice

- **Seek Guidance** – Talk to teachers, career advisors, or family before making decisions.
- **Act Quickly** – Popular courses fill up fast.
- **Be Flexible** – If your preferred course isn't available, consider alternatives within the same subject area.
- **Stay Positive** – Many students secure great university places through Clearing.

Good luck on Results Day!