

## INTRODUCTION TO RESULTS DAY

This handbook will help to guide you through Results Day and the process of going through Clearing or Adjustment – should it be required.

We hope you find it helpful. Please also be aware that our live chat feature will be available on the day at [aspire-higher.co.uk](https://aspire-higher.co.uk) where an advisor will be able to support you as needed.

This handbook contains an overview of the Clearing and Adjustment processes to guide you. You will also find a list of universities, which normally have a variety of places available through Clearing.

UCAS will have the official vacancies listed online at <https://digital.ucas.com/search>. The website also contains useful information about Clearing that we advise you to review in advance of the day. In addition, we advise following UCAS on social media to get key updates in the lead up to results day.

Due to Covid-19 students across the UK have not been able to sit public exams, this means grades have been predicted from historical data and teacher assessments.

Many international students are not coming to the UK, which means universities are likely to have more vacancies for students. This should improve the availability of places at higher tier universities.

## FIRST THINGS FIRST

We advise collecting results as early as possible on the morning of the 10th.

If you have just missed out on the grades needed for your first-choice university (e.g. required BBC and achieved BCC), it is **very important** to ring that university and **ask for the place**.

Be ready to give your **name**, the **course** of study, details of **conditional offer**, and your **actual grades**.

If you have missed the Insurance choice too, it is well worth ringing that university up as well. If both universities refuse, you can begin the Clearing process.

## CLEARING

### Introduction to Clearing

Clearing is an important part of the UK university admissions process. Around three quarters of Russell Group universities generally advertise places through clearing. It gives students who do not yet have a place at university for the coming September a great chance to gain one.

Students are automatically entered into Clearing when they fail to meet the Conditional offers of their Firm **and** Insurance university choices. A minority of students may be in Clearing because they received no offers (or rejected those they did receive) or else because they applied too late.

Students can check UCAS Track from around 07.35am on 10th August to find out whether they have achieved the required A Level grades; if not, UCAS will clearly tell them that they are now in Clearing. The Track status will have changed to 'You are in Clearing' or 'Clearing has started'.

### Clearing - Checklist

*Situation:* The student has missed required grades to get into both university choices. (Student will have clearing number)

1. Look on the UCAS website for a suitable course that meet your needs and for which the grade expectations are realistic.
2. Make a list of these courses, along with contact numbers for each of the universities. Make a note of all the key information you need. This might include your UCAS ID number, your clearing number, your A-level, BTEC and GCSE results, details of relevant work experience, portfolios, and a copy of your personal statement, plus any notes and queries on the courses and universities that interest you.
3. Ring these universities and try to secure a place. Let the university know you are a student from a widening participation background, attending a school in an area with typically low progression to higher education.
4. Be sure to obtain documentation/ evidence from any university that offers a place. This is most often in the form of a confirmation email.

N.B. Some universities may need the student to send official documents off before he/she can be officially accepted, and the student may even have to visit the university for an interview.

5. If you can secure a new place, please consider other practical considerations, which will now need to be reassessed. For example, location and accommodation which is often planned for long in advance.
6. Later in the day, pick one university, which has offered a place, and add this choice to the UCAS system. This should happen around 3pm when this option becomes available on the UCAS website.

### **Extra Details**

- Clearing continues for a while after results day, but of course all the best places are taken up extremely quickly.
- Universities will continue to update clearing vacancy details in the UCAS search tool until mid-September.
- Clearing closes at the end of September.
- Mid to Late October is the deadline for adding clearing choices and universities accepting applicants.

Dates will vary dependent on year of entry; you can find out specific dates by looking on the UCAS website.

## ADJUSTMENT

### Introduction to Adjustment

Students go through Adjustment when their achieved grades have **exceeded expectations**. Gaining higher results than predicted mean they can try for a place at a university higher up the league tables than their Firm and Insurance university choices.

To be eligible for the Adjustment process, a student must have accepted a Firm conditional offer, and met and exceeded the conditions of that Firm offer. However, not every university has places available through the Adjustment process; the majority of the most competitive programmes will already be full. It is definitely worth a try though, as if the student does not accept any new offers, they can still return to their original choice.

### Adjustment - Checklist

*Please note students are not required to enter Adjustment if they exceed their grades.*

*Situation:* The student has achieved grades above their expectations - higher than what was required to get them into first choice university.

1. The Student should logon to the UCAS website and select 'register for adjustment'. The Student will receive an adjustment number. This will appear when the offer has changed from CF to UF.
2. If they wish, the Student now has five 24-hour periods to find another university without this being disclosed to their 'firm' university.
3. Look at the UCAS website for suitable courses. There are a greater number of universities than ever before taking part in this. Make a note of all the key information you need. This might include your UCAS ID number, your clearing number, your A-level, BTEC and GCSE results, details of relevant work experience, portfolios, and a copy of your personal statement, plus any notes and queries on the courses and universities that interest you.
4. Ring universities to secure an offer. The student can line up as many offers as they like. Only one offer can be accepted.
5. Be sure to obtain documentation/evidence from any university that offers a place. This is most often in the form of a confirmation email.
6. If you can secure a new place, please consider other practical considerations,

which will now need to be reassessed. For example, location and accommodation which is often planned for long in advance.

7. The student will receive an offer from the new university via UCAS which they must now accept.

## **Self-Release**

This enables students to change choices, withdraw and choose another course.

Before pursuing this route please be sure of your destination by contacting the university you intend to study at and getting confirmation, they will offer a place before you put yourself into clearing and lose any other places already secured.

If you wish to, self-release can also be used to remove your application to university for this academic year – whether the offer is conditional or unconditional.

## **SCENARIO**

### **Students that don't want to go to their second choice**

Some students may miss the requirements of their first choice offer but meet those of their second (Insurance) choice. In this case, UCAS will assume that the student is taking up the second offer. Sometimes students have not seriously contemplated this second choice and would rather look for other options than take up an enrolment on this course. At this point the student may wish to consider entering clearing through self-release.

## **WHAT TO DO IF...**

### **UCAS is frozen**

If a student logs into UCAS and their UCAS Track screen is frozen, this will usually mean that although a student has missed their grades, a university is still considering if they will accept them. This could be the Firm or Insurance choice, or both.

Track freezing normally happens when a student has missed their Conditional offer by a grade, e.g. if the offer was AAB, and the student achieved ABB. It is really important that the student immediately call the universities, establish which university is still considering them, and fight for their place. The earlier the student calls, the higher the likelihood the university will accept them. In this case, Track will unfreeze and UCAS will show that the student achieved their place; if the university decides against accepting the student, Track will unfreeze, and the

student will automatically be entered into Clearing.

### **Changes of course, place of study and student finance**

Whilst it is important to consider changes in outgoings based on living away from home, it is very easy to get in contact with student finance to update details. It takes a very short amount of time to change any of the details on there, including accommodation information, bank account details, university info, etc.

It is important that the student does not change any of their student finance details until they have definitely been accepted into an alternative university.

This year, some universities have struggled to fill places on a range of courses.

All **Russell Group** universities have spaces on select courses.

Cardiff University

Durham University

Imperial College London

King's College London

London School of Economics and Political Science

Newcastle University

Queen Mary University of London

Queen's University Belfast

University College London

University of Birmingham

University of Bristol

University of Cambridge

University of Edinburgh

University of Exeter

University of Glasgow

University of Leeds

University of Liverpool

University of Manchester

University of Nottingham

University of Oxford

University of Sheffield

University of Southampton

University of Warwick

University of York

### **Other Good Universities to call**

- Oxford Brookes University (esp. for Business courses)
- Bournemouth University (esp. for the Arts)
- University of Surrey
- University of York
- University of Leicester
- University of Liverpool
- University of East Anglia
- University of Kent
- University of Essex
- University of Brighton
- University of Portsmouth
- University of Hertfordshire
- University of Bedfordshire
- University of Northampton
- Royal Holloway, University of London
- City University London
- Edge Hill University (Liverpool)
- Aston University

### **St George's, University of London**

- All medical degrees

## **IMPORTANT CONTACT DETAILS**

\*\*UCAS student helpline (for pupils) 0371 4680468

<http://www.aspire-higher.co.uk>

## UCAS POINTS

A-Level	AS Level
<b>A*</b> : 56 pts	<b>A</b> : 20 pts
<b>A</b> : 48 pts	<b>B</b> : 16 pts
<b>B</b> : 40 pts	<b>C</b> : 12 pts
<b>C</b> : 32 pts	<b>D</b> : 10 pts
<b>D</b> : 24 pts	<b>E</b> : 6 pts
<b>E</b> : 16 pts	

National Extended Diploma	National Diploma	Foundation Diploma	Extended Certificate	National Certificate
<b>D*D*D*</b> : 168 pts	<b>D*D*</b> : 112 pts	<b>D*</b> : 84 pts	<b>D*</b> : 56 pts	<b>D*</b> : 28 pts
<b>D*D*D</b> : 160 pts	<b>D*D</b> : 104 pts	<b>D</b> : 72 pts	<b>D</b> : 48 pts	<b>D</b> : 24 pts
<b>D*DD</b> : 152 pts	<b>DD</b> : 96 pts	<b>M</b> : 48 pts	<b>M</b> : 32 pts	<b>M</b> : 16 pts
<b>DDD</b> : 144 pts	<b>DM</b> : 80pts	<b>P</b> : 24 pts	<b>P</b> : 16 pts	<b>P</b> : 8 pts
<b>DDM</b> : 128 pts	<b>MM</b> : 64 pts			
<b>DMM</b> : 112 pts	<b>MP</b> : 48 pts			
<b>MMM</b> : 96 pts	<b>PP</b> : 32 pts			
<b>MMP</b> : 80 pts				
<b>MPP</b> : 64 pts				
<b>PPP</b> : 48 pts				

