

YEAR 13 'A' LEVEL RESULTS 10 AUGUST 2021

WHAT'S NEXT

Going to University?

You will fall into one of three categories upon receiving your results.

- 1) If the university offers met, there is nothing to worry about. You are in!
- 2) If you do not meet the grades for your CF (1st choice), you will automatically be accepted by your CI (Insurance choice), if you have met the requirements of that offer.
- 3) If you have missed the grades for both of your choices you are in a position to apply for courses through Clearing. You need to act quickly as thousands of other students will be applying for last minute courses that still have spaces but in order to make a reasoned decision you are only able to enter your choices from 3pm on results day (see notes on Clearing). **We do also encourage you to go onto Track and check that you have not been accepted despite missing the required grades.** This does occasionally happen.

If you have not been accepted by either choice, you have a number of options (listed below):

Consider ringing up the university departments that you had offers from to see if there is a chance that they might offer you an alternative course. Bear in mind though that it is very important that you end up on a course that you are sure that you want to do. By far the most common reason for dropping out of university is getting the course wrong. If a university makes an alternative offer to you, you are not obliged to accept it, but you must make UCAS aware of your decision within 5 days. **It is important that you rather than your parents or the school ring the admissions tutors. Make sure that you have your Personal ID, username and password available.**

- **Go into Clearing** (explained below). If you do this, it is worth bearing in mind that, if you accept an offer through Clearing, but then get a re-marked paper back, which means that you have now met your CF or CI, the CF/CI university is no longer obliged to take you.
- **Look abroad.** I fully appreciate that this is a very big decision to make at such a stressful moment, and so it is unlikely, but I thought it only right to mention that there are some excellent universities in e.g. Australia that you could get into with lower grades than you might expect. You might be able to get a place for January 2022, when their academic year begins.
- **Take a Gap Year and retake some modules. Re-apply for 2022.** If you decide to do this, you should first check with your chosen university that you intend to go and whether they are happy to acknowledge re-take grades. See Heather Richardson about sitting examinations.
- **Take a Gap Year and re-apply for 2022 with the grades that you hold.**

Clearing

If you have missed the grades for your offers you will automatically be eligible for **Clearing**.

Clearing opens at the beginning of July. If you would like to plan for every eventuality you can create a back-up list so you are ready to go if you are placed in clearing.

You can apply for any course for which there are places available. You do not have to stick to your original choice of course. Be careful though! It is very important to get the course right.

You just have to get on the phone and ring up the admissions tutors for any course for which there are places available.

You will need your Clearing number (shown on Track) when you ring up universities.

If a university provisionally offers you a place through Clearing, they will give you a date by which you must enter your course details in Track. If you wish to be formally considered, you need to click on the 'Add Clearing choice' button in Track and enter the institution and course details. You can only enter details for one choice. **You should only enter a Clearing choice if the university or college has provisionally offered you a place on the course and you want to accept it.** If you enter a Clearing choice without discussing it with the university or college, this may delay the progress of your application.

I appreciate that this is likely to be a very stressful situation, but I am afraid that you really need to try to get on with looking as quickly as possible. There will be a lot of competition for the places in Clearing, and they will go quickly. That said, it is worth continuing to look in Clearing for several days after 10/8 because sometimes new courses appear in Clearing.

Clearing places will be on the UCAS web site (www.ucas.com) from early July. They will also be in The Telegraph on 10 August. For further information on clearing see

<https://www.ucas.com/ucas/undergraduate/apply-and-track/results/no-offers-learn-how-clearing-works>

UCAS – Direct Contact Service

This is a service designed to help those who find themselves without a university or college place in the summer.

- If you're eligible, they will have sent you an email asking if you'd like to use this service. You can sign up via the link in the email.
- The service is entirely optional. If you sign up, unis and colleges can phone you from 10 August - mid September if you're eligible for Clearing and they have a relevant course for you.
- A maximum of five universities or colleges may contact you.
- If you sign up you can still go through Clearing in the same way as previous years – if you want to.
- You don't have to accept any offers, and should consider all your options before committing to a place.

What about if you do better than your CF requires?

It seems sensible to make sure that you are fully aware of the UCAS Adjustment period. It can be used by students who have achieved better results than their Firm University Offer requires, and as a result wish to try to upgrade to a stronger university, in academic terms.

Adjustment runs for two weeks from August 10th (A Level Results Day)
You have 5 days to use it from the later of 10/8 or when your CF (conditional firm) becomes UF (unconditional firm) on the UCAS web-site.

You need to register for Adjustment on Track.

If you have **exceeded** your CF (conditional firm) offer you should see a button allowing you to 'Register for Adjustment'.

You must contact universities to discuss an Adjustment Place. Places that are available for Adjustment will appear in the Clearing vacancy list. However, when applying, you should make it clear to the universities that you are applying through Adjustment rather than Clearing. There is no separate list for Adjustment.

To secure a place through Adjustment you must have received a verbal alternative offer and had it confirmed through UCAS before the 5 day period ends.

KEY POINT: if you do not get a new offer, you remain accepted at your already held UF choice. So you **MUST NOT** reject your UF offer unless you receive a preferable offer through Adjustment.

In reality even UCAS admit that most competitive courses are not going to have any places left in Adjustment (Cambridge have certainly said that they will not be using it).

One area where I can perhaps see Adjustment working is regarding deferred entry. UCAS state that students can apply to 'adjust' to a deferred place. Thus, if a student exceeds the grade requirements for their Confirmed Offer, if that student decides to take a Gap Year, he/she could ring up any university in that five-day period to see whether they might be willing to take them for 2022.

For further information on Adjustment please see:

<https://www.ucas.com/ucas/undergraduate/apply-and-track/results/ucas-adjustment-%E2%80%93-if-you%E2%80%99ve-done-better-expected>

Things that you should bear in mind

- Do you really want to upgrade? You probably made your original decision for sound reasons, based upon a considerable amount of research, as well as your own view about your academic potential, and that of your teachers. Should this all be dismissed because you have done better than expected?
- There may be difficulties in arranging accommodation and student finance if you change course at this time.

- You can contact as many universities as you wish in the 'Adjustment Period' but you will receive only one formal decision through Adjustment.
- If you accept a new offer through 'Adjustment' you will be giving up your UF.

What counts as Exceeding your Offer?

- Fairly obviously AAA where the offer is AAB
- Also ABC (A in History) for a course that required ABC (B in History)
By contrast AAC (C in History) would not count as exceeding that offer because of the grade in History.

There is further information about Clearing and Adjustment on the UCAS web-site on www.ucas.com/parents or www.ucas.com/students as well as on www.ucas.tv