

A guide to Clearing

Clearing is one important way that students can find university courses. Last year a total of 73 000 applicants (13%) were placed in this way. Clearing can be used by those students who apply late, those who have been turned down by all universities or by those who don't achieve the grades for their firm and unconditional choices on results day. Recently clearing has been expanded to allow students to 'self-release' (i.e. turn down a firm or provisional choice if they get the required grades) and see what other options are available.

Courses that are available through clearing (i.e. those which are not full) can be seen through the UCAS clearing search. Traditionally contact with universities is done over the phone (universities employ large teams of staff to take the calls) and then confirmed on UCAS Track. Please make sure you think carefully about offers that universities give you – don't just agree the first one. It is also worth phoning your first choice university to check that they can't offer you something similar to what you want.

This year (2020) there is a new service – 'Clearing Plus'. This looks to help students and universities to be successfully matched by providing students with suitable matches in Track. If you click 'interested' this sends your information to the university and they will contact you. As this is a new process it is difficult to know how successful it will be (or, indeed, whether all universities have signed up to it), but it definitely has the potential to make the process more efficient.

Don't forget that there is also 'Adjustment' – this means that if you exceed your entry requirements you could 'upgrade' to a university with higher entry requirements (assuming that they still have space on their course).

We will ensure that you have the opportunity to use school computers on results day and staff will be on hand to guide you through the process should you need it.

There are many good guides available on the internet that are worth reading before results day – here is a selection of the better ones:

<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/results-confirmation-and-clearing/what-clearing>

<https://www.theuniguide.co.uk/advice/clearing-results-day/the-survivors-guide-to-clearing>

<https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/student-advice/final-choice/clearing-faqs>