



ALSA's GUIDE TO CLEARING

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WHAT IS CLEARING?

Clearing is the process offered to applicants through UCAS to apply to a university, which still has vacancies. Last year, over 73,000 students got their university places through clearing.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

- You applied after the 30th of June UCAS deadline
- You didn't receive any offers
- You declined the offers you did receive
- You didn't meet the entry requirements for your firm and insurance choices
- You did better than your predicted grades and want to change

HOW DOES IT WORK?

1. Log into your UCAS account and go to your current application.
2. If you are eligible for Clearing, then UCAS would have already set up Clearing matches (courses and universities you may like) for you based on your application. You can find these in your UCAS hub under 'view your matches.' You can also use the general UCAS search tool and the Clearing app to do your own research.

3. Once you have found the course/ courses you'd like to apply to, contact the university directly (universities will typically have Clearing hotlines – so do your research beforehand and have this ready).
4. If the university gives you permission to/ makes an informal offer over the phone, add this Clearing choice to your application on Track and fill in the relevant course details, for your university to officially accept. Once the university accepts, this will be an acceptance on your 'choices' page. If the university doesn't accept or if you change your mind and cancel, you will have the option to add another application.

TOP TIPS!

- * Look at the Clearing options prior to your results day and note the names of universities and courses you're interested in, as well as the course code and the university's Clearing hotline number to make the process easier.
- * Also research into the course and the university (if they differ from your original application). Approach this as though applying for the very first time, look at the entry requirements, course modules, accommodation, travel ... -> note down any questions too, these can be answered on the call with the university.
- * On the call, the university will also ask for your UCAS and Clearing numbers, your qualifications/ A-level grades and possibly GCSE grades, so have these ready. Since it is an application, they might ask you about your interest in the course/university, so do your research and familiarise yourself with your personal statement again.
- * Make sure you choose the university/course that is suitable for you – this is where/how you'll be spending the next 3+ years.
- * First come first serve basis – so whilst you shouldn't rush to pick the first available choice, be aware that spaces are being continuously filled.

- * If you can't find any courses or universities you like through Clearing, you can always re-apply through UCAS the following year
 - meaning you can retake A-levels/ other qualifications, gain more experience, and just see if the course you've chosen is really for you.
- * Remember Clearing is not a bad thing and does not invalidate your place at that university, thousands of people go through clearing for different reasons so think of it as an alternative not a last resort.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ...

When is clearing this year?

Clearing will be open from 5 July and will close on 21 October 2024

What do I say to universities on the phone?

Contacting universities can be an anxious moment, but the university will be happy to talk to you and discuss any questions. When you call, express your interest in applying for your chosen course through Clearing and at that university.

Where do I find my UCAS Clearing number?

When applying through Clearing, UCAS will automatically provide you with a Clearing number which will appear on your application on Track. This number lets you contact universities, make enquiries, and submit your Clearing application, plus universities will specifically ask you for your clearing number - so it is important you have this in hand.

How do I enter clearing if I already have an offer?

This may be the case for offer holders who have changed their mind, or who want to switch to their insurance. You will need to 'self-release' by declining the offers you have and re-applying for a place/ for your insurance choice through Clearing.

– Note after declining you will lose that offer and the reserved place at that university so make sure this is really what you want.

What if my course isn't available?

Course vacancies are constantly being updated throughout the Clearing period, so your desired course may become available later on. Although, it is worth looking at similar courses, or joint honours including your course (just in case).

My course is on Clearing, should I be worried?

Course vacancies appear on Clearing for various reasons, it may be that other prospective offer holders have not met their entry requirements, or that the university has opened more places to cater to demand.

However, the myth that a course appearing on Clearing is a 'bad one that no one wants' is not true.

Can I apply to multiple places in Clearing?

You can only apply for one place at a time through Clearing, so if you're accepted onto a place, you can't continue making applications. Instead, if you're unsuccessful or have changed your mind, you'd need to cancel that place and apply again.

AN ALTERNATIVE: ADJUSTMENT

Adjustment is another alternative offered to applicants who have met and exceeded the entry requirements for their firm, allowing them to

consider other places/courses of study without losing their secured choice.

What to know about Adjustment?

- The Adjustment process runs from 16 August to 31 August – During this time applicants will need to register to for Adjustment on Track
- Once they have registered, they have 5 days to use this process
- Under Adjustment, there are no vacancy lists, but instead the applicant must directly contact universities to discuss an Adjustment place.
- To secure this place, you must receive an offer through UCAS and accept this offer, otherwise you remain accepted onto your initial secured firm offer.

APPS AND WEBSITES TO VISIT

- <https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/clearing-and-results-day/what-clearing>
- https://www.ucas.com/file/15811/download?token=5w-ji_HYr#:~:text=Adjustment%20is%20an%20optional%20service,without%20losing%20their%20secured%20place.
- <https://www.unifrog.org/know-how/results-day-and-clearing-are-you-ready-for-clearing>
- <https://www.unifrog.org/know-how/results-day-and-clearing-what-is-clearing-and-how-does-it-work>
- <https://www.ucas.com/providers/our-products-and-services/student-recruitment-and-marketing/clearing-plus>