Y13

University Offers & Options

Offer Types

Unconditional Offer:
an offer that is made without any conditions. Congratulations! This means that you have already secured your offer of a place on the course. You've already met the entry requirements, which takes the pressure off on results day.

Conditional offer:
an offer that is made on the basis that you meet certain requirements/conditions (often grades) before you can be accepted onto your chosen course. This is the most common offer type for students that have not already completed their A-level exams.

Unsuccessful

Accepting Offers

You need to select one FIRM and one INSURANCE offer:

Firm acceptance – this is your first choice. If it's an unconditional offer, the place is yours! So that course provider will expect you as their student. Or if it's conditional, the place is yours if you meet the offer conditions.

Insurance acceptance – the back-up/second choice to a firm acceptance. If you're choosing an insurance, go for something with lower offer conditions – make sure it's somewhere you'd still be happy to go to though. That way, if your results are lower than expected, you might still meet the conditions at your insurance choice; then you'd have your place confirmed there. Remember, you'll only attend your insurance choice course if you don't meet the conditions of your firm choice, but you do meet the conditions of your insurance. You can't choose between your firm and insurance when you get your results, so make sure you're happy with which is your firm and which is your insurance before you reply.

Decline – you'll need to decline any other offers you get. However, if you decide you don't want to accept any of the offers, you can decline them all and add more courses in the UCAS Extra service later on in the summer term. Alternatively, you can see what courses still have vacancies later on in the UCAS Clearing service.

Accepting Offers

Offer and reply combinations

- **Unconditional firm (UF)** – You're in!
- **Conditional firm (CF)** – You're in if you meet the conditions.
- **Conditional firm (CF) and conditional insurance (CI)** – You've made a first and second choice – you'll be in at the first if you meet the conditions. If not, you might have met the conditions of the second – if so you'll be on that course instead.
- **Conditional firm (CF) and unconditional insurance (UI)** – You've made a first and second choice – if you meet the conditions of the first you'll be on that course. If not, you'll definitely be on the second.

Replying to Offers

Click on	Click on “reply to offers” link
Select	Select firm choice (the one you most want to take)
Select	Select an insurance choice if appropriate
Review	Review your replies
Send	Send your reply

Accepting Offers

Decision making:

- Academic reputation and rankings (research rankings, faculty expertise)
- Course content & Flexibility (compare modules, electives, course structure)
- Graduate Prospects & Employability (employment rates, average graduate salaries, internship opportunities, industry connections, career support)
- Location & Campus life (research city vs campus, student life, accommodation and facilities, extracurricular, social opportunities)
- Cost and Financial support (cost of living, available scholarships and bursaries offered by the Universities RESEARCH!!!!)
- Entry requirements & Offer conditions (ensure you can realistically meet the grade requirements, look at alternative entry routes or foundations if needed)
- International opportunities

No Offers

If you have heard back from all 5 university choices and have received no offers you have a few options available to you:

UCAS Extra:
Another chance for you to gain a place at university or college, between 26th February and 4 July 2025. If you used all five of your choices on your original application and you're not holding an offer, you'll be able to add another choice using Extra.
UCAS Extra | No Offers? Add More Choices With Our 'Extra' Service

UCAS Clearing:
From 5 July – 20 October 2025, you can apply for a course using Clearing if you're not already holding an offer from a university or college, and the course still has places.
You can use Clearing if: you didn't receive any offers (or none you wanted to accept), you didn't meet the conditions of your offers, you've declined your firm place using the 'decline my place' button in your application, your applying after 30 June, you've paid the multiple choice application fee of £27

Results Day – Options

1. **Start at your confirmed place**

   Got an unconditional firm place? Congratulations! Your chosen uni will direct you on what to do next.

2. **Enter Clearing**

   If you didn't get any offers, or declined the ones you've got, you can find a course through Clearing once it goes live on our search tool. Use our guide to help you out.

3. **Appeal for your grades**

   Think your results need reviewing? Talk to your school to know your options, and how to submit an appeal to the exam board. You'll need to alert your uni to see if they can hold your place, or if you need to enter Clearing while waiting for your appeal.

4. **Defer**

   Maybe you're not quite ready for uni. A break sounds nice, and you might even be thinking of gaining some work experience.

   Inform your uni immediately if you choose to defer your studies. Most unis will hold your place for a year if you've met all conditions for entry. Be prepared to explain your decision.

5. **Consider an apprenticeship or Higher Technical Qualification**

   Have a career in mind already? A degree apprenticeship might just be the path for you. Use our guide on finding an apprenticeship for help.

   Alternatively, consider a Higher Technical Qualification, a level 4/5 qualification designed with employers. Find out more.

A level results day 2025

Thursday 14 August

Results Day – Options

You will be able to see the outcome of your application on UCAS Hub from 8am on A-Level results day – you will be able to collect you're a-Level results at the same time from school.

You could be in a position that you login to UCAS before getting your results and have a positive or upsetting outcome… get into school so we can support you!!!!

UCAS HUB – 'Clearing' on results day (Thursday 14th August):
There may be lots of movement on results day depending on grades nationally and therefore places taken and places now available. Thousands of students get offers via clearing on results day as some great options become available.

You may use clearing if you exceed your grades and therefore look for a course or university rated higher that those you selected originally OR if you receive conditional declines due to not achieving the offer requirements and therefore need to find something else.

A level results day 2025

Thursday 14 August

Results Day – Options

Self-release

Any applicant who already holds a place at a university can decline it to release themselves into Clearing. You can then apply to a different university or course through Clearing on your UCAS Hub.

How to use 'Decline your place' on UCAS Hub

- Sign in to your Hub account.
- Click the 'Decline my place' button on your application.
- You'll be taken to a page explaining what this entails and asked to complete a set of questions to confirm your decision.
- You'll then get an email confirming you're in Clearing.

If you decline your place by mistake, phone the university straight away. There is no guarantee you'll be able to reclaim your place as it may be offered to another applicant.

If you decline your place, you will also be giving up any accommodation or scholarships that may have been arranged with that university. If you wish to change to another course at the same university, it is better to call them first before declining your place.

If you decline your place at your firm choice, you enter Clearing. If you want a place at your insurance university, call them to see if they'll accept you before releasing yourself from your firm choice.

Self-releasing into Clearing is a simple process, but make sure you clearly understand what it means to do this.

Word of caution

You should think extremely carefully before releasing yourself into Clearing – your existing university place is unlikely to remain open if you change your mind. Changing universities at this stage means you'll have to reapply for accommodation and update your student finance application.

Results Day – Options

Important things to remember if you need to use Clearing (or you want to look around for another opportunity)

- Prepare in advance – make a list of possible UCAS Clearing courses and universities you're interested in. Put them in priority order to help when looking at the Clearing listings after they're published.
- Apply as soon as you have your results and make sure you're available on results day.
- Don't be put off by the bad press – Clearing is now a buyer's market. Many universities in the top 20 of our league table will have some vacancies in Clearing.
- Regularly check your UCAS Hub – if you become eligible, an 'add Clearing choice' option will appear.
- Check the official Clearing listings – you'll find these on UCAS or university websites.
- Consider other courses – maximise your choice by considering a joint course with another subject instead of a single subject course.
- Start calling possible universities straight away, as vacancies at higher-ranked universities can be filled quickly.
- Have your UCAS Clearing number at hand for any phone calls.
- Always phone the university yourself – you're unlikely to be offered a place if you can't speak for yourself (unless you have a disability that prevents this, of course).
- Keep going – if you're not having much luck on the phone, try sending an email.
- Don't forget you can only add one Clearing choice at a time.

A level results day 2025

Thursday 14 August

Results Day

Have your documents ready

What you really need: your UCAS number, your Clearing number, and results. The last two are particularly important if you enter Clearing to begin your uni search.

Your Clearing number will be available on UCAS Hub if you've been rejected by your firm and insurance offer, or declined all your offers.

Get some support

Don't underestimate the power of having a good support system. Have your close friends or family members go with you when it's time to collect your results at school.

Have a Plan B

Your results might turn out differently than you expected. Having a Plan B, such as listing alternative degree and university choices with their contact details, is something you want to have, so you can swiftly take action once all your feelings have settled.

26 FEB — **Extra opens**

If you've used all five choices and are not holding any offers, you may be able to add another choice in your application. For more information, visit our Extra page.

30 JUN — **(18:00 UK time) Applications received by this deadline will be sent to universities and colleges**

After this time, applications are automatically entered into Clearing.

04 JUL — **Last day to add an Extra choice in your application**

05 JUL — **Clearing opens**

Clearing opens for eligible applicants, and vacancies are displayed in UCAS' search tool. Applicants can release themselves into Clearing. Discover information and advice on our Clearing and Results day pages.

20 OCT — **Last date to add a Clearing choice**