



UCAS Clearing Advice

UCAS Hub and Results Day

UCAS Hub will show changes to your child's university offers – but it will not show their grades – they will need to get these from St Mary's. **The school opens for results at 8am Thursday August 17th.**

Most applicants waiting for results choose a firm and insurance choice – essentially a first and second option – the insurance choice being their backup.

A few different things can happen, depending on what each university's decision is:

Their first-choice university place is confirmed. UCAS Hub will show their place as unconditional firm. If they have also been confirmed by their insurance choice this place is then declined.

The insurance choice university place is confirmed. This occurs when your child has not achieved the conditions for their firm choice but has their insurance choice.

If your child has an unconditional offer and wants to take up another place elsewhere, they will need to self-release in their UCAS Hub. This will then generate a Clearing number for them. Your child should never self-release unless they are absolutely sure they no longer want their firm choice institution and have secured a place at a university of their choice. Once an applicant self-releases, their original place is lost, and they are unlikely to be able to get it back.

UCAS Hub may show an unconditional change course offer made by their firm choice, this is not very common. If this happens, it's important to see what decision their insurance choice has made. Applicants don't have to accept a change course offer made by their firm choice, and if they've been accepted for their original course by their insurance choice, they can choose to go there instead. In these cases, it's essential to find out about the new course before deciding. Change course offers are 'open' for five calendar days, so you'll have time to talk to your child and find out if the change of course is right for them. After five calendar days, UCAS will decline the change of course on their behalf if they haven't actively accepted or declined it themselves. They will then be placed at their insurance choice if that offer was confirmed.

If both firm and insurance choices are unsuccessful, your child/dependent is in Clearing. At this point, your child will be given a Clearing ID.

On rare occasions, the UCAS Hub does not update the profile (it goes to 'Waiting for Confirmation'). This occurs if universities have yet to decide regarding your child's place or they are missing key information from the examination boards. If this is still the case by 8.30am on Thursday August 17th, your child should contact the universities directly regarding a decision.

Clearing

When universities still have places available after 5 July, they can offer them through Clearing.

Clearing runs from 5 July to 18 October and is essentially just a different way to apply to university.

Clearing is also an opportunity. For those without an offer, it is an opportunity to find a place on a course, and for those who might want to change their mind, it offers the freedom to switch courses and universities, especially if they have done better than expected.





The Clearing Process

Universities that have vacancies in Clearing will advertise them through UCAS and on their own websites.

Your child can access potential vacancies on the UCAS website or by googling 'Clearing' and the name of the universities.

It is advised that your child researches which universities they can or want to apply to – it is advisable to check the entry requirements of the course (including GCSE grades), the course content and the type of qualification provided by each course.

If your child decides to enter Clearing, they will need to call their selected universities themselves (they have to call). The clearing hotlines for each university can be found on the university websites or on the St Mary's website. When they get through, they'll need to tell us what course they're interested in, their results (including GCSEs or equivalent if asked), as well as other achievements, such as work experience and other extracurricular activities, they may have taken part in. Your child will also be asked to provide their UCAS Personal Identification Number, Clearing ID, and the title and UCAS code of the course they are applying for.

Your child will also need to provide their contact details, including an email address they can access easily. If they are verbally offered a place on the course, this will be followed up by an email providing instructions on what they need to do next.

It is important to note that your child can call multiple universities during the day and then decide which course is right for them after receiving their offers.

When your child has decided to accept an offer from university through Clearing, they then must refer themselves for this on the UCAS hub. The length of time in which they have to do this (many universities typically give students a few days to a week to decide) is normally given in an e-mail from the universities, but the earliest a student can do this is **1pm August 17th**.

To refer themselves in Clearing, your child/dependent will need the institution code of the university they want to apply to and the code of the course they wish to apply for. Your child can only refer themselves to one university and one course. Once your child has referred themselves, they are accepting the verbal offer the university has given them. They will then need to wait for the university to process their decision and send it to UCAS. When that happens, they can start to prepare for the start of term!





General Advice

- It is very important to offer reassurance and calmness throughout the stressful process of Clearing. Many Clearing hotlines get very busy on the day, and it is important for your child to keep calm during this time.
- Ensure your child check their emails throughout the day. Most universities will confirm offers by email.
- On the day, check out websites with your child (and have a list of Clearing hotline numbers). If you want to know exactly which courses are available on the day, some universities' homepages will be displaying live updates.
- Whilst Clearing feels like a very pressurised system where decisions need to be made immediately, there is time for your child to reflect on what they want to do moving forward. Remember that no one can accept an offer through Clearing before 1pm.
- Most universities have their Clearing hotlines open at 8am, it is important that the students are well-informed about their grades, information on the universities and contact information before they start calling the hotline numbers (it always good for your child to ask questions about accommodation, course information and student finance on the call as well).
- While Clearing is a fantastic opportunity for many, not everyone wants to enter Clearing. There are other options, and it is essential that they know about all the choices they have before deciding on their next step. Some applicants may want to appeal their results, resit their exams, or re-apply to university next year.

