



UCAS: What happens next? 2025 Entry



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Track, offers & interviews

UCAS opening hours are Monday to Friday from 08:30 to 18:00. Have your Personal ID number ready so they can find your records

What happens after you submit your application?

Once you've completed your application, we pass it on to your chosen universities and colleges. They'll review and consider – and may invite you to an interview or audition - before deciding whether to make you an offer.

You might get an invitation to an interview, rather than receiving an offer from a university or college right away. It's best to contact them directly to find out how and where you will receive information about your interview – not all course providers will send you an interview invitation via UCAS. After you've attended the interview, they'll decide if they're going to make you an offer.

There are different types of offer you could get from your university and college choices. They come through at different times too, so don't worry if you don't hear anything for a while.

Then you reply to your offers, which involves different deadlines depending on when you receive them. You might need to wait for exam results if your offer is conditional on them.

It's really important you keep your contact details up-to-date to make sure you don't miss any notifications.

When are you likely to hear back from the university?

The wait for decisions on your application can be agonising. It's a good idea to use this time effectively by familiarising yourself with the decisions the unis you've applied to could make, so you know what to expect and what to do when the time comes.

Each university and college will make their decisions at different times, meaning you might hear back before your friends do, or vice versa. However, there are deadlines by which they will need to have decided:

If you're applying to study in 2025

14 May 2025 – if you send your application by 29 January 2025.

17 July 2025 – if you send your application by 30 June 2025.



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How do universities make their decisions?

Each university has different entry requirements. You should check you meet the course and university entry requirements before you apply. However, there are other factors university admissions teams consider when making their decisions.

- What academic and non-academic achievements do you have? Have you met the required grades for the course, and what is the likelihood of you achieving the course entry requirements for any qualifications you haven't yet sat exams for?
- Do you have the experience and skills to succeed at university?
- Do you have a passion for the subject area, and does this enthusiasm come across in your application?
- Who are your references and what have they said about you?
- Is the course and university you've applied for the right course and university for you?

Have you included your individual circumstances? For example, have you been in care? Do you have a disability, such as a mental health condition? Admissions staff will want to consider your achievements in context. This is called 'contextualised admissions', and the aim is to form a more complete picture of you as an individual

Different offers

Conditional Offer – this is a common reply, where the university would like to offer you a place on the course as long as you gain the needed points/grades asked for.

Unconditional Offer – you are offered a place regardless of what grade you achieve on your current course. This is a rare reply and normally only given when you have already gained the qualifications you need to meet the entry requirements of that course. If you're taking exams but have been made an unconditional offer, your results won't affect whether or not you get accepted. But, although your place won't be dependent on your grades, taking your exams is really important to prepare you for university or college and could impact your future employment.

Unsuccessful – the university is unable to offer you a place. Your Track page may give feedback to explain this decision.

Referred – this is a common reply, all this means is that your university is still considering your application, and has not yet made a decision.

Withdrawn – this will appear on Track if either you or the university has withdrawn from a course. The reason for this should be on Track – for example, not replying to correspondence from universities or not attending an interview.



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Replying to offers

You can only reply to your offers once you have received decisions from all of your choices.

Firm acceptance – This is your first choice. If you are holding an unconditional offer you don't have to do anything further, you're in regardless of your grades/points. If you have a conditional offer you are accepted onto that place but depending on you achieving the entry requirements.

Insurance acceptance – This is your second choice and is a back-up option if you don't get the grades/points you need to get into your first choice. You should not choose an insurance choice that has a higher offer (higher grades, more points) than your firm choice. However be realistic and make sure this is somewhere you would be happy to go to.

Decline – Once you have made your decision about your first and second choices, you will then need to decline any other offers you are holding.

Please think carefully about these decisions. You must be happy with both of these choices as you are entering into a contract situation beyond this point.

Who can use extra?

If you included five choices on your application, have received decisions from all five, and weren't accepted, or if you declined the offers you received, you will be able to use Extra. If you use Extra to add another choice you cannot reverse this to go back to your original five choices.

If you did not use all your choices in your initial application, you don't need to use Extra, you can just sign in to your application and add another choice, as long as it's before 30 June, and you've not accepted or declined any offers.

If you don't hold any offers after 5 July, you will be able to add an additional choice using Clearing.



How do you add more choices in extra?

Find a course you want to apply to.

Use the filter 'Show courses with vacancies' in the [UCAS search tool](#).

Contact the universities and colleges to check if they'll consider you.

Apply for the new course.

Add the details to your application.

The university or college will consider your application – if after 21 days you don't hear back, you can choose to either continue to wait or add a new choice.

What do I do when I receive an offer?

- If you receive an offer, reply and subject to meeting entry requirements, you're in!
- If you receive an offer but don't want to accept it, you can decline it.
- If you're not offered a place you can search for other courses and add another Extra choice.

Tips when considering a choice:

- Think about related or alternative subjects, as the entry requirements may be different.
- You can only apply to one course at a time, meaning you won't be able to have an insurance choice.

What happens next?

Once you have received the decision from the university or college, you just need to accept it on your application. If you accept the offer, you won't be able to apply to any more in Extra.

Make sure you reply to the offer by the date shown on your homepage, or your offer will be declined automatically.



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When do I need to have replied by?

2025 entry applications:

If you receive your last decision on or before 14 May 2025, your reply date is 5 June 2025 (except if you're using Extra to find a place).

If you receive your last decision on or before 17 July 2025, your reply date is 23 July 2025 (including Extra choices).

If a university has an earlier start date and they give you an earlier deadline to reply, you should be aware that they may withdraw their offer if you do not accept it before their specified deadline.

Replying to offers checklist:

Things to consider before making your final decision:

- Which is your favourite course?
- Transport? How will you get there and back?
- Social life in the area?
- Accommodation – cost and location
- What University is your Firm Acceptance choice?
- What are the entry requirements for the above choice?
- What university is your Insurance Acceptance choice?
- What are the entry requirements for the above choice? (In almost ALL cases this should be lower than your firm choice)
- What are your current predictions for each of your subjects?



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Student finance

It is up to you and your family to apply to student finance. The main window for applications is March to May, so you should be able to start the process shortly.

Please do not worry if you are asked to provide the name of the university you plan to attend. If you have not as yet made your choices, this will not affect your application. You can use any university name here, but if you do know which one is likely to be your firm choice, then use it!

Please consider the link below, as this proves as an interesting read.

[Student finance in England - Everything you need to know](#)

The main website for student financial advice, details and application information is via this link:

[Apply online now](#), it takes less than 30 minutes to complete.

· Apply using your preferred choice, you can change your university/course details later if you need to!

Find out what you need to know about student finance before you apply and visit our:

[Student toolkit](#)

[Student timeline](#)



FAQ's

I've changed my mind, what can I do?

You are able to swap a choice for a different one in Track within 7 days of the date of your welcome email from UCAS. After these 7 days, you cannot change your choices.

If you wish to apply for somewhere completely different and you are sure you do not want any of your original choices, you can withdraw yourself from your choices and are then able to add on 1 more choice at a time through Extra. Extra is only available from 25th February to 5th July. However, once you have withdrawn from your choices you cannot return to these. This is a risky choice – you need to consider this carefully!

I've submitted my application, but now I want to add another choice, what can I do?

If you haven't used all of your 5 choices you can add more in Track up until 30th June. You may have to pay an extra amount to add more choices if you originally only applied for 1 choice.

If you have used all of your 5 choices you will need to wait until Extra becomes available from February onwards.

You will only be able to use this service if you have either had no offers or have declined all of your 5 choices

I've accepted my firm and insurance offers, but now I've changed my mind about my universities. Can I do anything?

You need to contact the universities directly to discuss this with them. If you wish to withdraw your offer of a place you need to talk about this with the university directly. Staff at school cannot do this for you. For further, more detailed advice about what you can do next contact UCAS on their student helpline number: 0871 468 0 468

You still need to apply through UCAS and fill in a complete application form to be sent to UCAS. Your application form will then go through clearing automatically. Clearing can help you to find courses with vacancies if you've applied late or your results are not as expected. Or you can Apply early in next year's application cycle (September 2025) for entry in the following year, September 2026



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As a BTEC student, when can I go into Clearing?

It's available July-September each year, when a specific Clearing course vacancy search will be available. If you already have your results certificate, but you have no offers, you can use Clearing from July. If you had conditional offers, but your exam results failed to meet these, you can use Clearing as soon as you get your results from July.

As a BTEC student, I already know my result. Do I tell my university?

BTEC qualifications are passed on to UCAS by the examination body, but as and when they receive them rather than on a particular date. They will start receiving batches of results from BTEC at the beginning of July and this will go on until September. This means that universities will receive BTEC results on an ad-hoc basis.

The student will receive their certificate between July and September and can pass these on to their university of choice when they receive them rather than waiting for them to be passed on by UCAS, but they will need to be verified by UCAS.

What do I do if I've missed something off my application form and need to get it back?

Once it has been sent to UCAS, you cannot get it back, or make any changes. Make sure you check and recheck, before you send it. If you have noticed a serious mistake then please speak to us and we will advise you how to proceed.

This is important because you cannot make your firm or insurance choice until all your offers are in. It is rare but unfortunately, some universities do delay decisions until quite late for their own reasons. This can be the case when they want to offer you a place as well as them making you wait only to reject your application.



I've got an offer from my first choice university, but I want to do a different course there now?

You can swap a choice for a different one in Track within seven days of the date on your welcome letter/email. However you can't swap a choice after 30 June, unless for exceptional reasons (like a change in family circumstances or personal problems).

If you're happy with the university or college but you'd like to change the course details, you'll need to get in touch with the university or college rather than us. You are not able to change your UCAS form once it has been sent to UCAS, but you can contact the universities you have applied to by phone to ask if they would offer you a place on a different course. The university can then put in a change of course offer through UCAS, which should show up on your Track page. If you have not used all of your 5 choices you can add on other courses to the maximum of 5 choices. You might, however, need to write a new personal statement if you are changing courses radically.

As previously stated you cannot change the UCAS form, so will have to write a new personal statement which will need to be sent to each university directly. The university will also get a copy of your original personal statement on their UCAS form, so you will need to justify the change of course.

I've got my results and they were better than predicted. Can I go to a better university?

It's totally up to you! You can choose to use the Adjustment service available through UCAS which is for students who exceed their offer grades. This allows you to 'shop around' for an alternative course whilst still keeping your original place on hold and safe.

Adjustment is available from results day and you only have 5 days to use Adjustment from the time your original offer is confirmed. To register for this you need to register for Adjustment in Track.

I've got enough UCAS points for my first choice but I want to go next year instead of this year. What do I do?

You need to contact the university directly and ask if they would consider you for next year instead and accept you as a deferred entry. (UCAS Student helpline 0871 468 0 468)



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Can I choose to cancel a choice on my UCAS application?

If you would like to withdraw just one of your choices, you can cancel it in Track (as long as the university has not made a decision yet). However, you cannot replace this with another choice.

What if I do not hear from one of my university choices?

If you haven't heard from one of your university choices, you need to contact them and ask. Have your UCAS number ready.



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