



UCAS: What happens next? 2026 Entry



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Track, offers & interviews

UCAS Student helpline 08714 680 468

We don't have an email address, but you can reach us with a direct message on Facebook or Instagram:

Facebook: [facebook.com/ucasonline](https://www.facebook.com/ucasonline)

Instagram: [ucas_online](https://www.instagram.com/ucas_online)

If you want to keep up-to-date with everything we're up to, then you can also follow us on TikTok, YouTube, Threads, and X.

TikTok: [ucas_online](https://www.tiktok.com/@ucas_online)

YouTube: [@ucasonlineofficial](https://www.youtube.com/@ucasonlineofficial)

Threads: [@ucas_online](https://www.threads.net/@ucas_online)

X: [@ucas_online](https://twitter.com/ucas_online)

Track

- The Track system is part of UCAS: it is a way of finding out how your application is progressing and will enable you to reply to any offers you receive.
- You can log into Track once you have received your welcome email from UCAS. It can be accessed via a link on the UCAS website.
- You will need your ID Number, Username and Password to log onto the Track system. Please check this regularly, as all offers you get will appear on Track. UCAS will email you to the email address provided with any updates.
- No one else has access to your Track, so if you need any help with the system please bring along your log in details.
- For more information see the 'Introduction to Track' video guide on the UCAS website, www.ucas.com



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Receiving Offers

UCAS will start sending your application to your chosen universities/colleges as soon as they receive it. No university will know where else you have applied.

The universities/colleges will reply to your application at different times. Please do not worry if you haven't heard from a university/college straight away, some will take longer to reply than others.

Some will reply within a couple of weeks, it may take others a couple of months. There are 5 types of reply/offer you will receive:

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.



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 at this point.

You can then reply via Track. You will have a deadline shown in Track to do this by – you must reply by this date. If you do not reply by the deadline then your application will automatically be rejected.

There are deadlines for replying to offers. Your reply date will depend on when your last university makes their decision, see Track for your personal reply date.

Last decision from the university	Applicants must reply by
31 st March	6 th May
13 th May	3 rd June
15 th July	22 nd July



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It is your responsibility to check your deadline on Track (sometimes can be slightly different e.g. if using Extra).

Don't want to wait for all your uni decisions?

If you want to, you can permanently withdraw from any outstanding choices to reply to offers you've already received. Or you can wait until all decisions have been received, and we'll then give you a deadline to reply.

If you decide to withdraw a choice, it will not be available to you later and the university or college will be informed you no longer wish to be considered for the course.

Take your time to consider your options and only do this if you're sure. We strongly recommend that you [contact us](#) to discuss your options before making any changes.



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.
- Take a look at this useful link [First and insurance university choices explained - The Uni Guide](#)

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?

Once you and your tutor agree, please sign and accept your offers via track:

Student signature:

Tutor signature:



Interviews

Applicants to Oxford or Cambridge, Medicine, Dentistry and Vet Medicine/Science will be interviewed before being made an offer.

For Social Work, Nursing, Midwifery, Healthcare Professions, Teaching and Art and Design courses it is also highly likely that you will have an interview before you are made an offer. Some other universities and courses may interview you.

If you do not attend an interview the university will withdraw their offer.

It is a good idea to research the type of questions you will be asked and to prepare some answers.

Read over your personal statement and remind yourself what you have said about your experience and knowledge.

The following websites offer useful interview advice but you may wish to tips that are more specific to your course.

<http://www.allaboutcareers.com/careers-advice/university-interviews/how-to-prepare-for-a-university-interview>

<http://university.which.co.uk/advice/ucas-application/university-interviews-as-told-by-students>

<https://www.studential.com/university/applying/UCAS-application-guide/interviews>

If at this stage you don't get any offers... don't panic! You can still go to university!



Accommodation

When to apply for accommodation will vary depending on the university, campus and the type of accommodation you choose.

Use the following UCAS link to ensure you have a good idea when it comes to your top choice universities:

<https://accommodationucas.com/article/when-apply-student-accommodation>

It is likely that universities may send out accommodation information prior to your decision deadline. This should not pressurise you into making your firm and insurance choices any quicker. Once you have confirmed your choice, accommodation information will be sent out sooner than you think. Always make sure you check your junk emails as information is often sent by an individual member of staff at a university, and may not be accepted into your inbox.

Student Finance

When to apply for accommodation will vary depending on the university, campus and the type of accommodation you choose.

Use the following UCAS link to ensure you have a good idea when it comes to your top choice universities:

<https://accommodationucas.com/article/when-apply-student-accommodation>

It is likely that universities may send out accommodation information prior to your decision deadline. This should not pressurise you into making your firm and insurance choices any quicker. Once you have confirmed your choice, accommodation information will be sent out sooner than you think. Always make sure you check your junk emails as information is often sent by an individual member of staff at a university, and may not be accepted into your inbox.



Extra, Clearing & Adjustment

UCAS Extra

Extra is another chance for you to gain a place at university or college, between 26 February and 1 July 2026. 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.

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 2 July, you will be able to add an additional choice using Clearing.

UCAS Clearing

Clearing is how universities and colleges fill any places they still have on their courses. From 2 July – 19 October 2026, 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're applying after 30 June
- 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

When does Clearing start and end?

Clearing is open from 2 July until 19 October 2026.

Clearing Plus

This can be used on results day.

With thousands of different courses available, we know it can be hard to find the perfect option – Clearing Plus is designed to help you do this. If you use Clearing Plus, we'll signpost you to relevant universities with spaces whose entry requirements match your results.



FAQ's

I've changed my mind! What can I do now?

You can substitute a choice for a different one within 14 days of the date on your welcome email. You can only substitute each choice once.

- Within 14 days of the date on your welcome email you can substitute the choice from your application. The 14-day period starts from the day you receive your email.
- However, you can't substitute a choice after 30 June.
- If you substitute after the relevant deadline for your new course choice, it will be considered late. Contact your chosen university or college first to check they'd consider your application.
- In the very rare case of your university or college discontinuing the course you've applied for, please contact us to discuss your options.

I've sent my application off, but now I want to add another choice.

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: 08714 680 468



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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 Clearing Plus service available through UCAS which is for students who want to look for alternative courses. This allows you to 'shop around' for an alternative course whilst still keeping your original place on hold and safe. Clearing Plus is available from results day.

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)

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.

I haven't applied, but now I've got my results I've decided that I should go to university after all. What to do?

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 2026) for entry in the following year, September 2027.



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

You can swap a choice for a different one in Track within fourteen 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.

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 adhoc 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.

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

It's available 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.



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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.

There is an 'update my details form' for change of address.

There is a 'qualification amendment form' to change any inputted qualifications.

It is getting close to the decision deadline and I still haven't heard from all of my uni choices; what do I do?

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.



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