



AT A GLANCE: CLEARING

Didn't get the grades you wanted?

WHAT IS CLEARING?

Clearing is a chance for students without uni places to find one and for unis to fill any unfilled places. Thousands of students find places with Clearing every year.

HOW DOES CLEARING WORK?

On results day unis publish lists of the courses that they have spaces on. As soon as you've got your grades, you can start contacting their hotlines (by phone or online).

Be prepared to make lots of calls. To help find unis you don't know, Push has a handy map at: bit.ly/PushUniMap

UCAS has lots of Clearing advice, a list of course vacancies and offer a service [UCAS PLUS] to match you with a course: bit.ly/ucasClearing

HAS COVID AFFECTED CLEARING 2021?

This year's marking will likely mean higher grades than usual and so fewer spaces. However, some unis might have overcompensated and have spare places anyway. Competition will be high and if you can wait till next year, it's worth considering.

CAN I APPEAL MY GRADES?

If you're not happy with the grades you got, you can appeal. The first stage is to ask your 'centre' (your school or college) to review. After that, you can appeal to the exam board. It's free, but grades could go down as well as up (but it's less likely). If you want to appeal, do it early and let your uni know. They'll have to delay their decision until 8th Sept.



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WHAT IF I GOT BETTER GRADES THAN I NEEDED?

Even if you have a uni place, you can use UCAS 'Adjustment' to hold your original offer while you use Clearing to trade up to a place you might want even more.

WHAT ARE MY OPTIONS?

You can resit your exams, take a 'gap year' (bit.ly/PushGapYears), apply for a job or apprenticeship, or enrol on an access course or foundation year. One setback doesn't define you or your life.

TOP TIPS FOR CLEARING:

Only accept a place through Clearing that you'd accept normally. Better wait till next year than make a bad mistake.

If you don't know, do your research. Read up. Ask questions. Visit the uni.

UCAS tries to lay down rules for Clearing, but what matters is what the unis say. If you want to know if they'll take you speak to them directly.

Each uni makes up its own mind – if you want a place, keep trying.

