



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 universities to fill any unfilled places. Thousands of students find places with clearing every year.

HOW DOES CLEARING WORK?

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

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

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

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 **7th Sept**.

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.



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WHAT ARE MY OPTIONS?

You can resit your exams, take a gap year, apply for a job or apprenticeship, or enrol on an access course or foundation year.

Remember, this doesn't have to be a setback, and can instead be an opportunity for you to gain some valuable life experience and skills.

TOP TIPS FOR CLEARING:

- Only accept a place through clearing that you would have accepted normally. There is a correlation between people who take places through clearing and dropping out - so it's better wait until next year than make a mistake.
- If you don't know, then do your research - read up, ask questions, visit the uni.
- UCAS tries to lay down rules for clearing, but what matters is what the universities themselves say. If you want to know if they'll take you, then speak to them directly.
- Each uni is different so if you want a place, keep trying.
- Anything offered to you during clearing is likely to be offered to you again next year. Universities will trade a lot in terms of grades for certainty, so retaking your exams and getting your grades in the bag will be worth it to secure yourself a place next year and widen your choices.

