

# A Level Results Not What You Expected?



## If you've applied to university but haven't met your offers:

- Start by ringing your Firm Choice offer, **they might still take you**
- Then try your **insurance offer**
- Then you can try **Clearing**

## Clearing

- You're eligible for Clearing if:
  - You're not **holding** any offers
  - You didn't make your **offer** grades
  - You applied **after** 30 June
- Check **Track** – if you're eligible you will be entered **automatically** and Track will say "You are in Clearing" or "Clearing has Started"
- Track will show your **Clearing Number**, have this ready when you contact universities
- If your status on Track hasn't changed, it might mean your universities are **still considering** you, so contact them
- Clearing vacancies are advertised at [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com) and in the Daily Telegraph. The situation changes **constantly**, so keep checking
- Clearing runs until the **end of September**
- See [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com) for details of how to use clearing
- Sign up for the **UCAS Direct Contact Service** so that universities can contact you direct if they have courses which might **suit** you
- Keep your phone **charged!**



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## Things to consider when looking at Clearing Vacancies

- Get advice from school and your **Ansbury Careers Adviser**
- You don't **have** to stick with your original subject choice
- Consider **other** subjects which link to your A levels/Level 3 course
- Are there any **related** courses at your first choice university?
- Could you do your original choice of subject as part of a **joint honours or modular degree**?
- Could you do a relevant **Foundation Degree or HND**? Foundation Degrees/HNDs are available in vocational subjects and you can do a third year to top up to a full degree. They are usually taught at FE colleges and accredited by the local university and are often **cheaper** than a degree
- Some courses, usually in science or engineering, offer a **Year 0** for students who don't have the right qualifications
- It's also worth trying courses you're **interested** in, even if they don't appear in the vacancy lists – **you never know**

## What to do when you find a suitable vacancy

Think – is it **really** what you want?

- Check the course details – what will you be studying?
- What about the university – do you **want** to spend the next three years there?



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## If you're sure, contact the university, but before you ring:

- Be prepared to explain **why** you want to do this course at this university
- Have your **Clearing Number** ready
- Have your **Personal ID** ready so that they can look at your **application form**



## On the phone:

- If they offer you a place, ask what will happen **next** and take notes – they will give you an acceptance date
- Ask if you can **visit** and look around
- Ask about **accommodation**

Get informal offers over the phone and then decide which you want to accept. Think carefully; **don't panic** and make a snap decision. Make sure you try visit the university before you make any decisions.

## Accepting an Offer

- If a university has offered you a **place**, add a Clearing Choice to Track by the acceptance date – this will count as your acceptance and the university will then **confirm**
- You can only add **one** choice at a time, but can add another if the university doesn't confirm
- The university will confirm on Track and will also send you a **confirmation letter** – read it carefully there could be things you need to do
- Contact the accommodation office at the university **immediately**
- Give details of your course to **Student Finance England**.



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## Contacts

- There will be staff at school and college to help you
- Find **everything** you need to know about results at [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)
- For **Clearing Advice** contact Exam Results Helpline on 0808 100 8000 Contact UCAS on 0371 468 0 468 or through social media
- Check **opening times** at [www.ucas.com/who-to-contact](http://www.ucas.com/who-to-contact)

## Alternatives

### Re-marks

- Talk to your school or college if you are considering asking for your exams to be **re-marked**. They will have to arrange this, there will be a cost and your mark **could** go down
- Tell your university you are getting a re-mark – they might not be able to offer you a place but may offer you one for **next year**
- Find **more details** on what to do at [www.ucas.com/ucas/undergraduate/apply-and-track/results/exam-re-marks](http://www.ucas.com/ucas/undergraduate/apply-and-track/results/exam-re-marks)

### Apply Next Year

If you don't get the university place you hoped for, you could take **a year out** and apply again. Research courses in **detail** and think about:

- Something related but **less competitive**
- A related course at the **same university**
- The same course at a **less competitive university**
- Your original subject choice as part of a **joint honours or modular course**



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- A **Foundation Degree/Higher National Diploma (HND)** which you could top up to a full degree. Foundation Degrees/HNDs are available in vocational subjects and usually taught at a college linked to a university and are likely to be **cheaper** than a full degree
- **The Open University**, where you study part time by distance learning - [www.open.ac.uk](http://www.open.ac.uk)

## During your Gap Year

Use the time to **improve** your skills and application.

You could:

- **Visit** the universities you are considering
- Do **voluntary work** at home or abroad, see [www.do-it.org](http://www.do-it.org)
- Do **work experience** or shadowing relevant to your course
- Do work experience or shadowing to make sure the career you're considering is right for you
- Get a **job**. It doesn't need to be directly relevant to what you want to do. Anything working with the public would be great for developing your **communication skills**
- **Travel**
- Take a **qualification part time** – do you need to **improve** your maths, English, science or IT?



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## A Job or Apprenticeship

- Many employers offer **school leaver schemes** where you can gain professional qualifications whilst you work. These will be **directly related** to your job and could be up to university level
- Do a **CV** and send it to companies; look for jobs in the local papers; check company websites for **vacancies**
- Research jobs using the Job Profiles at <https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk>
- You could take qualifications through the **Open University** whilst you work – [www.open.ac.uk](http://www.open.ac.uk)
- Gain university level qualifications through a **Higher or Degree Apprenticeship**. Register for vacancies and find out more at [www.getingofar.gov.uk](http://www.getingofar.gov.uk)
- Find out more about all your **options** at [www.notgoingtouni.co.uk](http://www.notgoingtouni.co.uk)

## A College Course

Colleges offer some **Post A level/Level 3 courses**. Examples include Association of Accounting Technicians; Business Administration and Air Cabin Crew. Check college websites for details of courses and Open Days. Ask if you will have to pay **fees**.

## Get advice

Whatever you are considering, get **advice**. Talk to staff at your school or college and to your Careers Adviser.

