



Advice for School Leavers and Young People Looking for Work

FAQ During COVID-19 Pandemic

We understand that this is a worrying time for students. Below you can find a number of FAQs to help guide you through this uncertain time. Here you can find answers to questions such as applying to college, apprenticeships and university, as well as how this may affect employment.

Please bear in mind the situation is constantly evolving, so please also have a read of the links we have supplied.

1. How will my GCSEs/A Levels grades be calculated this year?

Information from the government website states that:

“Ofqual, working with the exam boards, and with teachers’ representatives will agree a consistent approach to how grades are calculated. Your teacher will be asked to provide the grades you would have got if you had sat an exam. The final process is still to be confirmed but this will take into account a range of evidence such as mock exams and non-exam assessment. We will use other data, such as prior attainment, to decide on a final calculated grade.”

You can read more information about this [here](#) and you can read the official government letter to students [here](#).

2. What if I didn’t do well in my mocks? How will this affect my grades?

Schools will be making Centre assessment grades based on more than just mock results. Teachers will be carefully considering grades awarded, making sure that they are fair and objective. They have been asked to award students with the most likely grade they would have achieved if they had sat the exam, taking into account a full range of available evidence. This will include a balance of:-

- Classwork
- Bookwork
- Participation in performances – music, drama and PE
- Records of student’s performance over the period of study
- Any non-examined assessment – whether or not completed
- Results of any assignments.

Students who perhaps feel they did not do as well as they would have hoped in their mock exams need to be aware that their grade will be made up of much more than just that result.

3. I want to apply to a course at college. Can I still do this?

Yes, colleges are still accepting applications, please apply online through their website. The college will process your application and if an interview is required this will be over the telephone/skype/face time.

You can get in touch with your Ansbury Adviser if you need further support to complete your application. Your school will be able to pass on their contact details.

4. Will Sixth Forms be flexible with their entry requirements when offering places?

Feedback from sixth forms is currently mixed with regards to flexibility. Some sixth forms might be slightly more flexible, others will stick to the required grades. Our advice is to contact them. However, also have a Plan B such as a college course. You can apply to more than one college/sixth form and decide once you have received your grades.

5. Will I be able to appeal the grade awarded?

Yes, there will be a process for appeal. There is a genuine focus on making sure a young person is not disadvantaged by these difficult circumstances, including allowing for appeals where appropriate.

6. Will there be an opportunity to sit exams eventually?

If a student does not feel their grade reflects their performance, they will have the opportunity to take an exam in the autumn. Students will also have the option to take their exams in summer 2021, in line with usual practice.

7. What is the date for GCSE and A level results day?

The date of the results day is remaining the same as originally planned.

GCSEs – 20th August 2020

AS/A Levels results – 13th August 2020

Results days for other qualifications are set by individual exam boards. Check with your school or college when these will be issued.

8. Can I still apply for apprenticeships?

You could continue to search and apply for vacancies on the government's [Find An Apprenticeship website](#) . You could also apply to apprenticeship courses at the local colleges for potential future opportunities. However, be aware apprenticeship vacancies may be put on hold at this time. This is an ever-changing situation so we would strongly advise you have a back-up plan, such as a full time course at college or sixth form.

9. I am due to start an apprenticeship soon. What will happen?

We would suggest you contact your training provider or employer to find out what will happen now. The Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) have put together a support package, whereby they will assist with the following:

- Encourage training providers to deliver training to apprentices remotely, and via e-learning, as far as is practicable
- Allow the modification of end-point assessment arrangements, including remote assessments wherever practicable and possible
- Clarify that apprentices ready for assessment, but who cannot be assessed due to COVID-19 issues, can have their end-point assessment rescheduled
- Apprentices whose gateway is delayed can have an extension to the assessment time frame
- Enable employers and training providers to report and initiate a break in learning, where the interruption to learning due to COVID-19 is greater than 4 weeks
- Clarification on how to record breaks in learning so that funding is not unnecessarily disrupted

10. I have been made redundant from my apprenticeship. What do I do now?

The Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) have made it their ambition to support all redundant apprentices to find alternative employment and continue their apprenticeship within 12 weeks. The training provider must also assist with this so don't be afraid to contact them and ask for their help.

The government are working hard to put support packages in place to help employers retain their apprentices and continue to pay them. If you are forced to take a period of unpaid leave, you may be able to claim Universal Credit during this absence and return to training when it is safe to do so.

You can find further information about Universal Credit and how to apply here:

<https://www.gov.uk/universal-credit>

11. Can I apply for a Traineeship?

A Traineeship is an unpaid work placement programme designed to prepare students for the world of work. It can last between 12 weeks to 6 months. If you are interested in a Traineeship, we would suggest you contact the providers who deliver them such as [SWRAC](#) to find out if they will be running any programmes.

You can also search for traineeships [here](#), however be aware some of these may be put on hold for the time being.

12. I am in year 13 and will be missing out on my final exams. Will this affect my application to university?

The government is working with exam boards and teachers to ensure a fair process in awarding grades to students. You can read how they will do this [here](#). Your university application will continue through the application process the same as it would have done if you had taken examinations and assessment. UCAS will receive the grades from awarding bodies and pass them onto universities the same as they have done in previous years.

The only difference this year with the application process, is the way the grades will be determined.

13. I have applied to university for September 2020. When will I be given a conditional or unconditional offer?

To give the universities and you more time to make decisions, the 6 May deadline which was for universities to give you a decision if you sent your application by 15 January, has now been extended for two weeks. UCAS will contact you if this change affects you.

The Government has asked universities to stop making unconditional offers or amending existing offers for two weeks. This is because they're worried you'll feel pressured to accept these offers over others you might be better suited to. Our advice to students who have received an unconditional offer is always to consider whether this is the right provider and course for you, before you make any decision.

As always, it is important to remember that places are not decided on grades alone. The information in your personal statement and reference(s) are part of the decision making process along with your interview, portfolio, audition, and any other information that's relevant to your potential to succeed on an undergraduate course.

14. Where can I find more information on applying to university?

For more information on applying to university during this time, have a look at the designated pages on the UCAS website [here](#) . Also look at the universities you have applied to for more information on how they are supporting you.

15. I haven't been able to attend a University open day. What should I do?

We would suggest you do as much research as possible on the university and course using their website. Many universities also offer virtual open days. Take a look at individual university websites or see the list of virtual open days on the UCAS website [here](#). You can also chat to current students through [Unibuddy](#) to find out more about what it is like to study their course or at a particular university.

16. My University course will require an interview. How will this happen?

If you are due to be interviewed by a university, this will most likely be done over the telephone or Skype. The university will inform you how this will take place.

17. What if I am unsuccessful in getting any offers back or I declined all my offers?

If you do not receive any offers back from your universities, or you have declined all your 5 offers, you have up until 30th June to use [UCAS Extra](#) to find a place.

If you don't hold any offers after 5th July then you can apply through [Clearing](#).

18. What support will I get from universities for my transition to university?

Universities have released information on their websites as to the support they can give you during this time about applying, accommodation and any other queries. Please see individual websites for contact details.

19. I want to look for a part time job. Will there be any vacancies anywhere?

As you are aware, many businesses have temporarily closed, so opportunities will be limited in certain industries. You can view the list of businesses that must remain closed [here](#).

There may be opportunities in services considered critical to the COVID-19 response. These could include within health and social care, public services, transport, food and

other essential items, key public services, public safety/security, communication and financial services.

Organisations that may be recruiting include: hospitals, supermarkets, pharmacies, care providers, delivery drivers, The Royal Mail and possibly online companies.

20. Where can I search for jobs?

[Indeed](#) is a good place to search for job vacancies across various sectors such as retail and care, amongst others.

You could also search for vacancies on employer websites such as:

[NHS Jobs](#)

[The Royal Mail](#)

[Dorset Council](#)

[BCP Council](#)

21. What happens if I lose my job?

First of all, try not to panic! There is a Job Retention Scheme in place for employees that are at risk of losing their jobs, also known as 'Furloughing' This means that you take a period of leave from your job. Your employer can keep you on the payroll but the government will pay 80% of your salary, up to a maximum of £2,500 a month. Your employer can top up your salary by paying the remaining 20%, although they don't have to.

If you are furloughed, you will not be allowed to carry out any work for your employer during this period of absence. This is currently for 12 weeks, although it may be reviewed by the government at the end of this period.

22. Can I volunteer with the NHS?

The NHS are currently recruiting for volunteer NHS responders. Volunteers must be 18 or over, and fit and well with no symptoms. See here <https://www.goodsamapp.org/NHS> .

The hospitals in Dorset are not recruiting any more volunteers at this time. However, keep an eye out on individual hospital websites for any changes.

23. Where else can I volunteer?

There may be other volunteering opportunities through your local volunteer centre. See Volunteering Dorset or Do It for more information

<https://www.volunteeringdorset.org.uk/>

<https://do-it.org/>