

# U6 University Information March 2026 – Next Steps

## Deadline for relying to UCAS 6 May

At this point you need to choose one firm offer and one insurance offer which hopefully will be easier to get into in terms of the offer. This isn't always possible. If you have received any special offers like unconditional, just check the conditions attached.

## Accommodation

Usually, when you accept a university as your first choice, the university will then contact you to offer accommodation. If this doesn't happen within a couple of weeks, it is worth phoning them to remind them.

**Finance** Apply online at : [www.gov.uk/apply-online-for-student-finance](http://www.gov.uk/apply-online-for-student-finance)

You can apply for a tuition fee loan and a maintenance loan.

## A-level results day: Thursday, 13 August 2026

**You must be available on this day.** Other people cannot sort things out for you. If you need to sort anything out like clearing, universities will want to speak to you in person. Results are available from 8.00am.

## How can I prepare for results day?

There are several things you can do to get ready for the big day. Having all the important information to hand will prove useful, especially if your results are lower than expected and you plan to apply for a place through Clearing.

You'll likely need:

- a fully charged mobile phone (and charger)
- a notepad and pen
- details of conditional offers, university contact numbers, your UCAS number, universities' UCAS and Clearing numbers
- notes from having researched universities and courses beforehand, with a list of questions to ask course tutors
- your personal statement and GCSE results.

For general information and advice on results day, you can **call the UCAS exam results helpline on 0808 100 8000.**

## What happens on Results Day?

### You've met your firm offer

Congratulations are in order. If you have got the grades you needed, you'll be sent a confirmation from your firm choice. This may take a little while to update as UCAS Hub will be busy. Once you get your offer you can relax and start to plan for going to university.

### You've just missed your predicted grades

This may not be the end; you could still get an offer from your firm choice. Check UCAS Hub and see if your status has changed to 'unconditional' or if you've been offered a place on a different course at the same university, which you'll need to accept or decline.

## You've met your insurance offer

Wait for your confirmation email to arrive and if you are happy to accept this course then it's time to think about accommodation at your new university. Have a look at your student loan details – you might be entitled to slightly more in financial support depending on where you're now going to study.

## Other useful Information

### What time does UCAS Hub update on results day?

As UCAS Hub is where you're kept informed of your application's progress, the UCAS site is the place to go on results day. However, UCAS Hub is 'frozen' in the days leading up to the publication of your A-level results, meaning you won't be able to make any changes during this time. **If you have any changes or requests regarding your application, you can call UCAS on 0371 468 0468.**

The system will be available around 8am on results day, but it can often take UCAS a few hours to update and allow you to make changes.

### What will UCAS Hub show?

If decisions have been made by your university choices, and UCAS have been notified, you can expect to see the following changes to offers on UCAS Hub:

- **Unconditional** - your place on the course has been confirmed. This may be your firm or insurance offer, or both.
- **Unsuccessful** - you've not been accepted by your choice(s). You're now eligible to enter Clearing.
- **Unconditional Changed Course (UCC)** - you don't have the necessary grades for your offer, but the university has proposed a similar course requiring lower grades. They may also offer an alternative start date, such as deferred entry. You have five days to decide and can discuss the opportunity with the university in question.

Bear in mind that your A-level results won't appear in UCAS Hub.

What do I do if I meet my offer?

If you're holding at least one conditional place and you've met the requirements, the offer will change to 'unconditional'. This firm acceptance is confirmed in UCAS Hub, and you'll then receive details on what you need to do next and when. This will either come from UCAS or directly from the university. For example, some institutions will ask you to provide evidence of your qualifications.

If you've used [UCAS Extra](#) to add another choice and have been offered a place, you'll just need to accept it by the date displayed in UCAS Hub. You can also add another choice should you wish to decline the offer.

What if I don't get the grades I need?

Don't panic, as there are a number of options open to you:

- **If you've missed the grades by just a few marks**, you should talk to the university in question. While they're under no obligation to reconsider their decision, especially with places so competitive, they may listen to you if you plan to appeal any grades.
- Alternatively, you could simply **accept the decision and go through the results day Clearing process** instead.

- **If you feel you could have achieved better grades**, you may be able to retake [A-levels at college](#). This means that you may need to delay your entry for a year until you get your results.
- If you **change your mind entirely and would like to take a break from studying** before applying to university again the following year, consider exploring [gap-year](#) ideas or countries where you'd like to spend a year [working abroad](#).
- To **enter the world of work while studying for a vocational qualification**, consider securing a [degree apprenticeship](#). Make an informed decision by exploring [whether to go to university or do an apprenticeship](#).

### What if I get better grades than I expected?

If you managed to meet and exceed the conditions of your firm offer, and you're happy with that, then great. However, if you'd like to explore the possibility of picking an alternative course requiring higher grades, you can now simply do this through the UCAS Clearing service.

## Clearing

On results day, if you fail to get into either your firm choice, or your insurance choice, you can go through clearing. You can also use this if you change your mind about the course you want to do. You must be prepared for this in advance.

### Clearing opens: 2 July 2026

#### How to Use Clearing

**Check eligibility:** UCAS Hub will indicate if you are eligible for Clearing.

**Search for courses:** Use the UCAS search tool to find available courses. Many high-quality courses are listed, not just less popular ones.

**Contact universities:** You can phone, email, or use online forms to discuss available places. Universities may offer related courses or foundation years if you narrowly missed your grades.

**Add a clearing choice:** Once you receive an offer, log into UCAS Hub, click 'Add Clearing choices' and enter the course and institution codes. Confirm your acceptance to secure your place.

#### When can I add a Clearing choice to my application?

You can't add a Clearing choice using UCAS Hub until 1pm on A-level results day (10am on SQA results day), but you may still want to find out about your offers as early as possible. This gives you more time to consider your options.

#### Can I contact potential universities about Clearing once I get my results?

Yes, as soon as you get your A-level results, you can start contacting universities about the Clearing courses that interest you. While you can only receive a verbal course offer at this point, as your choice can't be added until 1pm, being proactive can pay off in the long run. By contacting universities earlier in the day, you can arrange an invitation to add a course, so everything is in place when UCAS updates its Clearing option.

Remember, you should **accept only one verbal offer over the phone.**

## **Tips for Success**

**Prepare in advance:** Research potential courses before results day to reduce stress.

**Be proactive:** Contact multiple universities to increase your chances of receiving an offer.

**Check deadlines:** Universities may set short deadlines for accepting offers, so respond promptly.

**Consider flexibility:** Some universities may accept students slightly below their grade requirements or offer alternative courses.

Clearing is a valuable opportunity for students to secure a university place even if their initial plans do not go as expected, and careful preparation can improve your chances of success.

**Last date to add Clearing choices:** 19 October 2026