

## Clearing Top Tips

Results day for students who are waiting on their A levels results takes place on the third Thursday in August every year and this year it will be on August 18<sup>th</sup>.

Clearing starts on the same day and it provides an opportunity for students who didn't get the grades that they were expecting to apply to alternative Universities. It also gives students who received results that were higher than their predicted grades the chance to apply to university, and opportunities for those students who already have a place to consider what other university options are open to them.

### Preparation before Clearing

1. Make sure that you have the 18<sup>th</sup> August as a clear day in your diary. If you have a part-time or full time job explain to your employer in advance that you need to be able to pick up your results as soon as your school opens and depending on the outcome you may need to contact universities by telephone throughout the day.
2. It is important to think about what your plan will be if you don't secure your first choice of university. If you have had an opportunity to visit other universities you'll be able to see what their facilities, accommodation and social activities are like. It is important to think about what other universities and courses would interest you, where are they based geographically, how the courses are taught and finally what other graduates have gone on to do who have studied the degree you are interested in. This site below shows what London based graduates have done:

<http://www.london.gov.uk/graduates/>

3. Make sure that you write down all the relevant contact details of the Universities and courses that you are interested in so that you have this to hand from the 18<sup>th</sup> August onwards.

### On Results Day Itself

1. Please remember to log into your UCAS track account <https://trackucas.com/ucatrack/Login.jsp> to see your status. It will provide you with one of two options; whether you are UF with either your first or insurance choice universities, or if you don't have any offers from university you will have a button on your track account called 'Add Clearing Choice'.

2. If you do go through clearing you will have a clearing number on both the welcome and choices pages in Track. When you contact a university they will ask you for your clearing number and then they can view your application on a secure online system.
3. Official UCAS clearing vacancies are published on the UCAS website. In addition to this the Independent, The Telegraph, The Times and The Guardian will have their own listings and individual universities will provide a list of their courses online.

### Talking on the phone to Universities/Colleges

1. It's important that you make the call to universities yourself, so don't leave it up to your parents or friends. The admissions tutors will want to ask some questions that only you can answer; like what you have to offer, whether you are motivated, if you show potential to succeed and are committed to the course.
2. Have your UCAS and clearing numbers to hand as well as you're A-level and GCSE results. Have a pen and paper in case you need to make notes and have your laptop nearby, in case you need to look anything up.
3. Remember that UCAS personal statement you spent all that time perfecting? Get it out again, as a reminder of how good you are and all the things that you wanted to say about yourself in relation to course. Be positive and enthusiastic - Clearing is another opportunity to get on to the course you wanted, or one very similar with the same or another university, so don't be negative - you may still get what you want!
4. Make sure that you fully understand the course and its structure before you accept an offer - after all you will be studying for the next three years so you need to be sure about your choice. If possible visit the university to meet with an admissions tutor, this is also an opportunity to see the campus and look around the local area. Alternatively, Clearing Hotline operatives tend to be students themselves, so you can always ask them for information about the university, teaching, local area and activities.
5. You may only be given a few hours to consider provisional offers before you choose which one to accept, so make sure you have the time free. Once you've made a decision, remember to go back to your UCAS account and add you chosen university to the 'clearing choice' box in Track, that way your university can formally accept you for a place on their course.

### University Challenge

These tips are from The University Challenge Course that is run by C2, part of The Careers Group, University of London. For more information about this course, and other services offered by C2 please visit our website <http://www.c2careers.com/Education/Education.aspx>