



UCAS

What next?

Congratulations on submitting your UCAS application! This guide is designed to help you navigate your way through the next steps. It covers:

- [Replying to offers](#)
- [UCAS Extra](#)
- [Student Finance](#)
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- [Results day](#)
- [Deferring and GAP years](#)
- [Applying as a former student](#)

Replying to offers

NB – this advice is taken from the UCAS website – [Replying to your Undergraduate Offers](#) . You should check this website for any updates as well as reading the information below.

When will I need to reply by?

- When your last decision comes in UCAS will send you an email as usual to say there's an update. You will be able to see the deadline you need to reply by – this deadline will vary from applicant to applicant, and depends on when you received your last decision.

What do I need to select my choices?

- You should select **“Firm acceptance”** for your first choice.
- Assuming the offer conditional, the place is yours if you meet the offer conditions.
- In case you don't meet the conditions, you can pick a second offer as a backup, this is called your **“Insurance acceptance”**. When choosing an insurance, go for something with lower offer conditions – make sure it's somewhere you'd still be happy to go to though.
- That way, if your results are lower than expected, you might still meet the conditions at your insurance choice; then you'd have your place confirmed there.
- Remember, you'll only attend your insurance choice course if you don't meet the conditions of your firm choice, but you do meet the conditions of your insurance. You can't choose between your firm and insurance when you get your results, so make sure you're happy with which is your firm and which is your insurance before you reply.
- You can only accept one firm choice and one insurance choice (if you choose to have one) so you will then need to decline any other offers you have.

What if I don't like any of my offers?

- If you decide you don't want to accept any of the offers, you can decline them all and add more courses in our Extra service. Alternatively, you can see what courses still have vacancies later on in our Clearing service. We would strongly advise you to e mail careers@reigate.ac.uk for advice before doing this.

What if I don't have any offers?

- If you don't have any offers, you can use UCAS Extra to add another choice. You can do this between 25 February and 4 July. If you want to do this, then read the information about [UCAS Extra](#) on the UCAS website.

Student Finance

What Financial support is available?

- All UK students can apply for a loan to cover the cost of their tuition fees.
- Loans to cover your living costs are called maintenance loans, and the amount you can borrow depends on your family income.
- You may also be eligible for bursaries or scholarships – see the websites of the universities you have offers from for details of these. It is worth doing this as every year thousands of pounds worth of these go unclaimed.

- Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA) is support to cover the study-related costs you have because of a mental health problem, long term illness or any other disability. Information about eligibility and how to apply can be found on the [UK Government DSA website](#)

How do I apply for Student Finance?

- You need to apply for Student finance on-line, on the [UK Government student finance website](#).

When should I apply for Student Finance?

- Applications for student finance open in March and you should apply as soon as possible. You can apply before you have confirmed your choices. UCAS say it takes six weeks to process finance applications but recommend applying as soon as possible.

Where can I get help and advice about student finance?

The College do not have qualified financial advisors to advise you on student finance, but there is a lot of help and support available. We suggest you start by looking at the links below:

- UCAS have a range of videos on [Applying for Student Finance](#)
- There is also useful information on the Martin Lewis's [Money Saving Expert website](#)

Accommodation

- Most universities offer guaranteed accommodation to students that select the university as their first choice, but you should check university websites to see if this is the case.
- UCAS have a range of videos on [University Accommodation](#).
- You will probably get a chance to visit accommodation on applicants' days – so make use of this opportunity

Results day

When is results day?

- A level Results Day is Thursday 18 August. Results are e mailed to students.
- It is important to make sure you're available on results day, because UCAS cannot speak to anyone else about your application details unless you [give them nominated access](#) to speak on your behalf.

What should I do if I have not met the entry requirements for the courses I have applied for?

- If you have only just missed the grades the university or college might accept you anyway – it is worth trying to contact the universities, but be prepared to be patient as their lines will be very busy
- You might be offered an alternative by the university/college – a 'changed course offer' (which you'll need to accept or decline)
- If you do not get a place, in which case you can search through the [UCAS Clearing service](#) to see what courses still have vacancies.
- Careers and Senior members of staff will be on hand to help you if your results mean you have not met the entry requirements for your choices.

Where can I find more advice on what to do on results day?

- The UCAS website has a lot of advice about [Results Day, Confirmation and Clearing](#), which covers how to prepare for results day, and what to do on the day, whatever your results result

Deferring and Gap years

What if I decide I want to defer a year?

If you have been offered a place for 2022 but would now like to defer, it will be up to the university or college whether they accept this. As this is considered a late deferral, you may be asked to reapply. Make sure you're confident of your choice, if you defer at this point it will become a final decision.

You can only ever defer by one year.

Where can I find advice about GAP years?

The UCAS website has some useful advice: [Gap Years Ideas and things to think about](#)

There is also advice on the National Careers service website: [National Careers Service advice on Gap years](#)

We would advise you to weigh up the pros and cons of taking a gap year carefully. You may want to ask yourself these questions

- Why do I want to take a gap year?
- If I want to take a gap year to travel, how will I fund this? What will I do if the pandemic or other factors stop me from being able to travel? Could I travel in the holidays I will have from university instead of taking a gap year?
- If I am going to work in order to save up for university, what job will I do? Will I need to pay any living expenses whilst I am working?
- If I am going to work or do voluntary work in order to prepare for university (e.g. to gain work experience for nursing, teaching etc) have I researched opportunities for this?
- Will I be able to get back in to studying easily after a Gap year?

Applying as a former student

We have approximately 100 students a year who apply to university having left us. They apply as "former students". College still writes their reference and manages their application, but of course you will not be able to access the same level of help and advice as you can when applying as a current student.

There is a [Former Student UCAS Guide](#) on the College website that is updated every year. You will still be able to access the [Reigate College Careers Bulletin](#) and other useful resources on the website after you have left.