



Results Day 2021

UK University Enrollments

Confirmation, Clearing & Adjustment

Introduction

The summer between secondary school graduation and university is an especially daunting time for students, parents, and counsellors alike!

And today, the big day we've all been waiting on is finally here... To help you navigate this exciting time, we've been working closely with our university partners in the UK to make sure you have access to the most up-to-date information about 2021 applications and enrollments.

Students interested in studying in the United Kingdom who want (or need) to adjust their study plans can find their perfect options through Clearing, and its sister process Adjustment. Both offer students a second chance at university applications in time for 2021 enrollment.

Here at BridgeU, we know it's been an especially confusing year: from COVID-19 to Brexit, international students applying to the UK have had all kinds of extra unknowns to contend with.

And remember, nothing beats receiving **tailored, personalised advice**. That's why we've teamed up with our UK university partners to bring you the **BridgeU Office Hours**.

Free to all BridgeU students (and their parents), our exclusive Office Hours are a chance for you to book a one-to-one session with the university of your choice, so you can ask your questions directly and get the answers that matter.

For more information, visit our 2021 Results Resource Hub at [2021 Results Resource Hub](#). You can also check out the dedicated portion of this guide (p. 10).

Contents

Confirmation	04
First-time applicants	04
Clearing FAQs	05
Adjustment FAQs	09
BridgeU Office Hours FAQs	10

Confirmation

UK universities are notorious for their conditional offers: promising students a place at university *if* they achieve a particular set of grades. Suddenly, receiving their results is the big make-or-break moment: have they got into their chosen university, or not?

Students who have met or exceeded their offer conditions will find either their firm or insurance university place confirmed on UCAS. If that's the case, congratulations! Their university offers will be updated to *confirmed* or *unconditional* in UCAS Track.

Students in this situation will now need to start organising their next steps: for international students, that usually means starting with visa applications and organising their accommodation.

Most UK universities guarantee on-campus accommodation (commonly referred to as 'halls') to first year students, but rooms are not automatically allocated: students have to apply for accommodation separately.

Visa applications tend to take approximately three weeks to process, though delays can occur, so we recommend students apply as soon as their place at university has been confirmed. For the latest on UK student visas, visit: <https://www.gov.uk/student-visa>

Note: As of 2021, EU students will now need to apply for student visas like all other international students. The only exception is Irish passport holders.

For more in-depth information on accommodation, visas, and student life in the UK, visit our dedicated article on our 2021 Results Resources Hub: <https://bridge-u.com/2021-results/uk-ultimate-guide/>

For students who would like to change their mind and apply to a different university or course, or for students who have *not met their offer conditions*, the UK is unique in offering students a post-results application pathway: Clearing & Adjustment.

First-time applicants

If you've not yet applied to any universities in the UK, we'd recommend starting by registering on UCAS (Universities and Colleges Admissions Service) **as soon as you have your results**.

Note: If you're applying after 5th July for 2021 enrollment, you'll need to apply through Clearing.

Clearing FAQs

What is Clearing?

Clearing is an application system provided by UCAS for all students who would **like to apply to a UK university course in time for 2021 entry** (depending on the university, this will mean beginning either in September or October):

- **If they don't currently hold any offers, or haven't yet applied, to UK institutions** and still want to enrol in time for Autumn 2021 entry.
- **If they already hold offers from a UK institution** and their results are better than expected.
- **If they already hold offers from a UK institution** and meet either their firm or insurance offer, but decide they want to apply elsewhere instead.
- **If they receive a counter-offer from one of their universities** but decide they want to apply elsewhere instead.
- **If they already hold offers from a UK institution** but miss their offer conditions (i.e. get lower than their predicted grades) but still want to go to university this Autumn.

When does Clearing open?

- **IB students:** 5th July 2021
- **A-Level students:** 10th August 2021
- **Everyone else:** From the 5th July onwards, but students can only apply **once they have their final grades/transcripts**.

Why do students need to wait until they have their results?

Courses become available in Clearing once universities know they have vacancies. That means universities need to wait to know students' results to know both which courses still have vacancies, and which students are eligible to fill these.

Can students apply to any university, and any course, through Clearing?

No. Universities use Clearing as a way to fill outstanding course vacancies. This means that available places change year to year.

Note: Because Cambridge and Oxford have their own admissions process, they don't participate in Clearing at all. As for all other universities? It will vary year to year.

So how do I know which courses will be available in 2021?

Courses will be listed on [UCAS's search tool](#) from the **5th of July** onwards.

When will I know which courses will be available in 2021?

Now this one is a little trickier. This year, **Clearing officially opens on the 5th July**, and that's when courses will start to appear on UCAS.

However, the majority of courses will become available on the 10th August. In order to accurately publish the full list of course vacancies, universities need to wait for all students to have their results: this means waiting for A-Level results day.

In select cases, some universities are able to start advertising course vacancies early (on their own websites and social media). This year, for example, both the University of York and the University of Liverpool have already begun advertising places.

If IB students can apply before A-Level students, doesn't that give them an unfair advantage?

No. Whilst it's true that IB students can apply for course vacancies before their peers waiting for their A-level results, it's also true that fewer courses are listed before A-level students get their results.

Universities and UCAS also have their own monitoring systems in place to ensure the playing field is as level as possible.

So, for students who can apply from the 5th July, when's the best time to apply?

It depends. We recommend IB students start looking as soon as possible, as they may come across the perfect opportunity. However, if they don't find the right match, then it's absolutely worth waiting until the 10th August in order to browse the full list of course offerings.

Can students still apply to prestigious universities in Clearing?

Yes. Whilst it's true that league table toppers tend to have fewer courses available (for the simple reason that they tend to be more popular!), there's still plenty of prestigious places for students.

In 2020, for example, **5 of the top 10 ranking UK universities had places in Clearing** - including for competitive subjects like law and physics.

Note: If students are really set on a specific institution, it's worth looking at related courses. For example, *Geography* at King's College London was full in 2020, but they had places in Clearing for *Geography and Global Health*.

Who can use Clearing?

Any student who has their final results! Clearing is open to:

- All international students, **regardless of whether they have previously applied to a UK university.**
- Students who **exceed their predicted grades and offers** as well as those who **miss their offers by achieving lower results than expected.**

Note: to become eligible for Clearing, **students with existing university offers must first reject them**. This can be done through the UCAS **decline my place tool**, which students will see when they log into their UCAS portal once they have their final results.

Can students apply through Clearing even if they have never previously applied to a UK university?

Yes! In 2020, for example, **24, 755 students who successfully applied through Clearing were first-time applicants**, meaning they hadn't previously applied to universities in the UK!

What about students in the Southern Hemisphere who will complete their A-Levels in September/October? Can they still apply for 2021 entry?

Unfortunately not: students need their *final* results in full to apply through Clearing.

Are students eligible if they meet, or exceed, their predicted grades/university offers?

Yes. However, students will first have to log in to their UCAS account and **reject any existing offers** via UCAS's *decline my place* tool **prior to applying through Clearing**.

Note: Declining a place is final, so students must be absolutely sure of their decision. If in doubt, we recommend phoning up the universities in question to discuss options, or booking a slot with our BridgeU One-to-One Office Hours.

Do students really have to phone universities?

Yes. Students must use the phone for both Clearing *and* Adjustment: it's how students apply and initial (verbal) offers are made. On the phone, students will speak to a dedicated member of the admissions team who will ask key questions, and inform them of any subsequent steps.

Some universities have designated numbers for international students calling from outside the UK. And make sure you take into consideration time zone differences!

Note: In select cases, students can nominate a parent, guardian, or teacher to speak on their behalf, but they must officially list this person as **nominated access** on their UCAS profile *before* applying.

How do students confirm a Clearing offer?

Once a verbal offer is made, the university will provide students with the course code. To formally accept the offer, students must log into UCAS Track and add them as a Clearing choice: click 'add clearing choice' and fill in the course details.

Make sure you do this *within* the deadline the university has given you (this is usually 48 hours)! The University will then confirm your place via UCAS Track, so keep checking.

Note: You can only add one choice at a time, but if the University doesn't then confirm it, you'll be able to add another.

How long do students have to decide?

Once students have been made a verbal offer on the phone, they'll **have 48 hours to accept it and add it in UCAS track**. If they don't, it'll count as automatically rejected.

Adjustment FAQs

What is Adjustment?

Adjustment is a chance for students who have exceeded the conditions of their offer to see if another university, one with stricter entry requirements, will consider offering them a place.

Note: In the last 10 years, participation has dwindled by about 80% as more and more students who exceed their offers decide instead to apply directly through Clearing. In 2020, only 260 students enrolled through Adjustment!

How do I know which courses are available through Adjustment?

Unfortunately, universities don't publish available places. It's up to each student to contact each university directly and discuss their options on a case-by-case basis. Students can use the Clearing hotline phone numbers, but they must make it absolutely clear that they are phoning to enquire about Adjustment instead.

Why is Clearing so much more popular than Adjustment?

At first glance, it seems counterintuitive. Both processes let students who have **exceeded their predicted grades apply for better courses**. So why is Clearing, the riskier option (since students must first decline existing offers), also the most popular one?

- There are many, many more opportunities for students in Clearing.
- Universities don't advertise adjustment places: students have to enquire directly. For students who are simply curious about alternative options, this would take days!
- Adjustment takes place over a much narrower window of time than Clearing. Clearing starts in early July and students can apply all the way through to September.
- Most universities don't prioritise Adjustment applications. This can make it frustrating for students.

So who would you recommend Adjustment for?

If a student is eligible for both, we'd recommend Adjustment only for students who have their eye set on a **specific institution and course** but would otherwise be happy with their current offer as a back-up plan.

If a student has changed their mind about where, or what, they would like to study, then Clearing is the way to go.

Can I use adjustment if I have exceeded the requirements for my insurance choice, but missed the results I needed for my firm (first) choice?

No, Adjustment is open only to students who have exceeded **both** offers. Students who have not met the conditions of their firm choice but do not wish to attend their insurance choice will instead have to apply through Clearing.

BridgeU Office Hours FAQs

What are the BridgeU Office Hours?

This year, we've partnered with select UK university partners to offer students (and parents) the chance to have a one-to-one chat with the university of their choice.

Each session lasts twenty minutes. To see the full list of participating universities and to book your slot, visit: <https://bridge-u.com/2021-results/office-hours/>.

Who can sign up? Is it only for students interested in Clearing?

The one-to-ones are for anyone, with *any* university related questions (or worries!). Whether that's discussing a university's (or your) Clearing options, questions about settling in on campus, or wanting to know more details about your first or insurance choice to ensure you're making the right decision, it's a unique opportunity to receive personalised advice from the university of your choice.

Any BridgeU student can sign up, as can parents (and, yes, students can use their personal email addresses!).

Can I only sign up for one?

No! You can sign up to speak to as many universities as you'd like.

For more information, visit our 2021 Results Resource Hub at <https://bridge-u.com/2021-results/office-hours/>.

About BridgeU

BridgeU provides world-class university & careers guidance for global secondary schools, to empower your students, inform your guidance strategy and improve outcomes.

Founded in 2014, BridgeU is the market leader in university & careers guidance for global secondary schools. We partner with schools in over 120 countries and we match students with over 28,000 universities.

BridgeU provides global schools with a comprehensive end-to-end solution for schools, advisors and students.

