CALL FOR EVIDENCE

UNIVERSITIES UK REVIEW OF FAIR ADMISSIONS

GLOSSARY

Adjustment

If an applicant uses UCAS and has met and exceeded the conditions of their conditional firm offer, they may be able to use UCAS’ ‘Adjustment’ service to find an alternative course. For more information see:
https://www.ucas.com/ucas/undergraduate/apply-and-track/results/ucas-adjustment-if-youve-done-better-expected

Clearing

Applicants using UCAS can apply for a course using Clearing if they’re not already holding an offer from a higher education provider, and the course still has places. Applicants can use Clearing if they:

- Are applying after 30 June
- Didn’t receive any offers (or any they wanted to accept)
- Declined all their offers
- Didn’t meet the conditions of their ‘firm’ or ‘insurance’ choice
- Declined their ‘firm’ place.

For more information see: https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/results-confirmation-and-clearing/what-clearing

Conditional offer

An offer made to an applicant from a higher education provider with conditions attached. This usually means that the applicant needs certain exam results. For more information see: https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/after-you-apply/ucas-undergraduate-types-offer

Conditional unconditional offer

An offer made to an applicant which is initially made by the higher education provider as conditional, then updated to unconditional if the offer is accepted as the applicant’s first (firm) choice. For more information see:
Contextual offer
An offer made to an applicant from a higher education provider which uses contextual data and information to assess an applicant’s prior attainment and potential, in the context of their individual circumstances. In some cases, providers may make contextual (lower) offers to flagged students. For more information see: https://www.ucas.com/advisers/guides-and-resources/adviser-news/news/contextualised-admissions-and-what-it-means-your-students

Entry requirements
Higher education providers set their own entry requirements for higher education courses, and these vary depending on the subject, the specific course, and the course provider. They set the entry requirements for each course to ensure applicants have the right skills and knowledge to successfully complete the course. For more information, see: https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/what-and-where-study/ucas-undergraduate-entry-requirements

Estranged students
Applicants who are considering higher education and don’t have support from a family network. For more information see: https://www.ucas.com/estranged-students

Firm choice
An applicant’s first choice course at a higher education provider, chosen on UCAS.

Incentives
Some higher education providers may offer incentives to applicants such as guaranteed accommodation. For more information see: https://www.ucas.com/connect/blogs/think-carefully-when-you-reply-your-offers

Insurance choice
An applicant’s second choice of course at a higher education provider, used as a back-up (or insurance option) if they didn’t meet the conditions of their firm (first) choice, chosen on UCAS.

Mature applicants
An applicant who is over the age of 21 who didn’t go to university straight after school or college. For more information see: https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/student-life/mature-undergraduate-students
Non-traditional routes

This could include applicants with non-traditional qualifications, or applicants progressing to higher education through vocational routes.

Personal statements

A personal statement supports an application to higher education. They allow applicants to explain why they’d like to study a course or subject, and what skills and experience they possess. For more information see: https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/how-write-ucas-undergraduate-personal-statement

Unconditional offers

An offer made to an applicant from a higher education provider where the applicant has already met the entry requirements. This might include offers to applicants who already have all their exam results or offers made based on a creative portfolio or audition. For more information see: https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/after-you-apply/ucas-undergraduate-types-offer