

The UCAS Process

What happens now?

Need to Respond to Offers:

Firm acceptance – this is their first choice

- If it's an unconditional offer, the place is theirs!
- If it's a conditional offer, the place is theirs **if they meet the offer conditions**

Insurance acceptance – their back-up choice

- We recommend going for something with lower offer conditions – and somewhere they'd still **be happy to go**
- If their results are lower than expected, they might still meet the conditions at their insurance choice
- Remember, **they'll only go to their insurance choice course if they don't meet the conditions of their firm choice (but they do meet the conditions of their insurance)**

Think about the INSURANCE choice carefully...

- Ideally this should be one or two grades below their UCAS Predicted Grade
- Remember, offers are based on predicted grades – which are on the optimistic side...
- Some of them may choose to keep TWO high offers
- Need to be realistic about the pros and cons of an unplanned GAP year vs a 'second choice' university place

Decline – they'll need to decline any other offers they get

- (They can decline them all, if they decide they don't want to accept any of the offers - they can see what courses still have vacancies later on in 'Clearing')

Can only accept one firm choice and one insurance choice.

All other offers must be declined.

On Results Day (15th August 2019):

They can't choose between their Firm and Insurance when they get their results.

So it's important that they are happy with both their Firm and Insurance choice before they respond

Offers with 'strings attached'

- Unconditional/low conditional offer – if put them as their first choice
- Brilliant – if it really is where they want to go (i.e. it's their first choice anyway)
- But:
- If it's lower down their list – think carefully before accepting
- It's a competitive market
- Either the university really wants them
- Or they are trying to fill spaces...

Unconditional firm (UF):

They're in!

Conditional firm (CF):

They're in if they meet the conditions

Conditional firm (CF) and Conditional insurance (CI):

They've made a first and second choice – they'll be in at the first if they meet the conditions. If not, they might have met the conditions of the second – if so they'll be on that course instead

Conditional firm (CF) and Unconditional insurance (UI):

They've made a first and second choice – if they meet the conditions of the first they'll be on that course. If not, they'll definitely be on the second.

Do not need to respond to any offers until **ALL** offers/decisions are received

If all decisions are received by March 31st
Response **MUST** be by **May 1st**

Otherwise, response **MUST** be by **June 6th** (if all offers are received by May 2nd)

Other later deadlines may apply and are shown on Track

Student Finance

Can apply for student finance NOW.

Must do this **before MAY 31st**

Do not have to wait until after response to offers before applying for finance

KES is not involved in HE finance

Any questions go to:

www.gov.uk/apply-for-student-finance

www.ucas.com/ucas/undergraduate/undergraduate-student-finance-and-support

www.slc.co.uk

Accommodation

- Organise once CF/CI decisions have been made
- Don't delay
- Need to be happy to be placed anywhere
- As they may not get first or second choice

What is 'Clearing'?

- Clearing is a UCAS system that allows students to:
 - **Find unis that offer their course and still have spaces (at their grade level)**
- Students contact those unis direct (on the phone)
- Have to 'sell' themselves
- Secure a place
- A little stressful...
- But avoids an un-planned Gap Year

When to use 'Clearing'?

- If students don't make the grades for either their Firm or Insurance
- If they are not holding any offers at all
- If they didn't apply – particularly if their results are better than expected

- 'Clearing' opens before Results Day on 5th July
- So can start looking for places early

On Results Day:

- Students will probably already know if they haven't secured a place at their CF or CI (but won't know their grades)
- If unsuccessful in gaining a place at CF or CI
- Come into KES early and speak to member of HE team
- Look at 'Clearing' places on UCAS website and in broadsheet newspapers
- Find suitable courses
- Call up the unis direct to try and secure a place
- Confirmation of a place is by email
- **MUST have UCAS number, password and GCSE results with them**

If they have not applied before:

- Should come armed with a few notes about themselves (not a full personal statement) – key skills/abilities, co-curricular interests, any work experience, why this type of course interests them etc.
- **MUST have GCSE results with them**
- Usually have to make a late (independent) application via UCAS on-line on the day
- Usually Mrs Millar supplies a brief reference

Adjustment

- Process where students who do better than expected can 'adjust' upwards to a 'better' course
- Students have to be holding a CF place
- The system allows them to 'hold' onto their CF place whilst they search to see whether there are suitable courses available elsewhere
- Perhaps courses that required higher entry grades or at a more prestigious or competitive university
- Contact the unis direct
- 'Sell' themselves
- If secure a place – then have to decline their original offer – through UCAS track
- Unusual to have adjustment places available at top unis

Post Results Services

- These include:
 - Priority enquiries about results
 - Obtaining photocopies of scripts
 - Enquiries about results
 - Original scripts
- Discuss with a member of the HE team
- Discuss with Heads of Department
- Complete appropriate forms
- See Mrs Owen
- Details and deadlines will be posted on the School website

Post Results Clinic

- KES runs the Post Results Clinic on Results Day and the following day
- Open for any members of the Upper Sixth
- Members of the HE team will be available for one-to-one chats, advice, support and help
- Responding to emails and phone calls is very difficult at this time – it is much better to come into School

Post Qualification Application

- Made in the Autumn term following Results
- Students apply through UCAS - for courses starting in 2020
- Personal statement required
- Discuss options with tutor
- Two routes:
 - 1) Through the School (preferred option) or
 - 2) as an Independent candidate

Through KES v Independent

- Pros and cons:
- Through KES: Tutor gives full support, checks personal statement and UCAS application – but must adhere by our internal deadlines
- Independent: Tutor is not involved, no checking – the School simply provides a reference direct to UCAS – but the internal deadlines are later

Leavers' Booklet

- Will receive after half term in Summer term
- Includes details on:
 - Post Results Clinic
 - Clearing and Adjustment
 - Post Results Services
 - How to make a Post Qualification Application (PQA)
 - Deadlines for PQA applications