

Results Day & Clearing , the game plan

How to land a great place on 13 August, even if the grades don't go to plan

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First, the mindset

Clearing isn't the bargain bin anymore. Good universities have places in it, last year Edinburgh, Warwick and Bristol all did. The catch is speed, the best UK spots can go within hours on results day, so the families who prepare win. This is your plan.

Before results day (do this week)

- Know your firm and insurance choices and the exact grades each one needs.
- Research 3 or 4 Clearing backups you'd genuinely be happy with, use the UCAS search tool.
- Save each university's Clearing hotline number.
- Get one page ready with your UCAS Personal ID, your Clearing number, your grades including GCSEs and a couple of course codes.
- Write a 30-second pitch, who you are, your grades and the course you want. You will say it on the phone.

On results day, 13 August

- Check your UCAS Hub from early morning for your status.
- Got your firm or insurance? You're done, congratulations.
- Missed by a little? Call your firm first, they may still take you or offer a similar course.
- Not held anywhere? Call your Clearing backups straight away, don't wait, the good places move fast.
- Did better than expected and want to trade up? You can self-release into Clearing to look for a stronger offer. Just be sure first, because you give up your current place to do it.

What to say on the call

"Hi, I'm calling about a Clearing place for [course]. My grades are [grades] and my UCAS ID is [ID]. Am I eligible?" Have your questions ready and be ready to accept quickly if it's right.

The links you need

- [UCAS Clearing](#) , how it works and your Hub
- [UCAS course search](#) , to find courses with places

One last thing

Act fast but land somewhere your child would actually be happy. A rushed yes to the wrong course helps no one. If you want a second pair of eyes on a Clearing shortlist for their subject, that's exactly what I do.

Want a hand on the day?

An EduStrategy 1:1 gets your child a ready Clearing shortlist and a plan before results day. Book a 1:1 or reply.

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