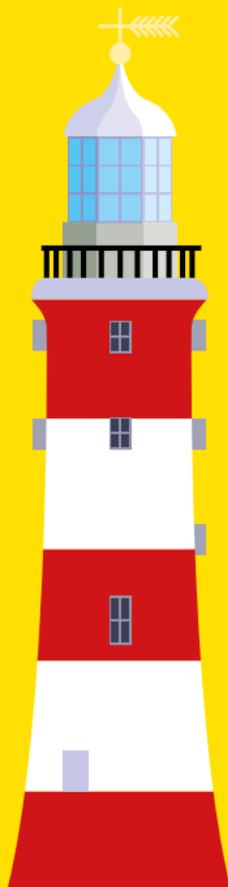


CLEARING MINI GUIDE



Hints and tips on
Confirmation and Clearing



UNIVERSITY OF
PLYMOUTH

Why university?



Studying your chosen degree at university is a big decision to make, and a life changing experience. The main benefits of going to university include: improving your career prospects, increasing your earning potential, improving your key life skills, gaining independence and making new friends for life.

Enhance self-confidence

Access world-class facilities and research



Gain employment

in a specific field



Average, working age graduates earned

£10,000

more than the average non-graduate in 2017. *

* Department for Education Graduate Labour Market Statistics 2017



Meet new people

and find fresh interests

Lifetime earnings can increase by

53%

for women



Lifetime earnings can increase by

28%

for men*

* Department for Business Innovation and Skills Research Paper No. 112 August 2013. www.gov.uk



Study what you

LOVE



Increase your

independence

Become an expert

in your field

Clearing timeline

STEP 1

The evening before A-level results day, universities will publish their course vacancies in national media and online. This is a good time to look at universities and courses prior to getting your results.

STEP 2

A-level results day at 08:00.

You will receive A-level results, and will be able to see online (via trackucas.com) whether you have a confirmed place at university.

STEP 4

If you receive a verbal offer from a university they will give you a unique application code number. You have the option to call as many universities as you like, and gain multiple verbal offers, **but you can only make one Clearing application through UCAS Track.**

STEP 3

A-level results day. If you have no confirmed place at university, you will need to contact universities directly to confirm vacancies and see if they will consider an application from you. Most universities have a 'Clearing helpline' phone number that is usually in operation for several days from results day morning (our hotline number is: 0333 241 6929). Remember, universities will need your results so have them to hand along with a copy of your personal statement.

STEP 6

Keep checking UCAS Track until the university confirms your place. If they don't confirm within 24 hours, you will be able to send another choice.

STEP 5

A-level results day from 15:00. You can apply to your chosen university by selecting 'Add Clearing choice' on UCAS Track.

STEP 7

Once your place is confirmed you may need to think about student finance (page 7) and accommodation (page 10), or visit an Open Day (page 14).

Did you know?

Some universities will offer the chance to register your interest in a Clearing place in advance. If you're worried about your university place, you can start your Clearing research before results day to see if universities have places available. This will also mean that you can beat the results day rush, as these universities will contact you on the morning of results day.

Find out more about advance registration here:
www.plymouth.ac.uk/clearing

Clearing explained



If you get your results and you don't get the university place that you'd hoped for, don't panic, you still have plenty of options.

The Clearing system could help you find your solution; in fact, it might unlock opportunities you had never even considered. Use our guide to navigate your way through Clearing, and remember – stay calm.



What is Clearing?

Clearing is the process universities use to fill remaining vacancies on their courses (often with slightly lowered entry requirements), by matching them with suitable students who are without a place at university.

Who can use Clearing?

You can use Clearing if you:

- apply after Sunday 30 June 2019
- applied before Sunday 30 June 2019 but didn't receive any offers (or any that you wanted to accept)
- didn't meet the conditions of your offer.

For more information search 'Clearing' on www.ucas.com

Student finance

Undergraduate fees are published on university websites and you can get a tuition fee loan to cover the full amount, alongside your student maintenance loan, so nothing is paid upfront to the university. For more information visit www.gov.uk/student-finance.

ALREADY APPLIED FOR A LOAN BUT YOUR DETAILS HAVE CHANGED DUE TO CLEARING?

If this is the case, then your application details will need to be changed. If you're funded by Student Finance England, this can be done easily and quickly at www.gov.uk/studentfinance by logging into your student account, or by contacting the relevant funder if you live elsewhere.

APPLYING TO UNIVERSITY THROUGH CLEARING BUT HAVEN'T APPLIED FOR A LOAN YET?

The official deadlines for student finance applications have passed but don't worry, you can still apply. However, please be aware that the funding body may not be able to process your application in time for the beginning of your course.

Whatever happens, the funding body will make sure you have some money as close to the start of your course as possible.

STUDENT MAINTENANCE LOAN

The online application process does take a while to complete and your parents or guardians need to complete their parts too, so make sure you do it as early as possible.

Maintenance loans are means-tested against household income, but you don't have to repay either loan until the April after you graduate, and only if you are earning over £25,725. Until you reach this earning threshold, you won't pay a penny. When you do reach it, the repayments are arranged on a sliding scale depending on your earnings.

Clearing FAQs

WHERE CAN I FIND CLEARING VACANCIES?

Vacancies will be listed in the UCAS search tool on their website, as well as on each individual university website. Although these are both updated regularly, to get the most up-to-date information it's best to call a university directly.

HOW MANY VERBAL OFFERS CAN I GET?

There is no limit to the number of universities you can call, or verbal offers you can get. However, do keep in mind you can only submit one application.

HOW DO I REPLY TO A CLEARING OFFER?

You don't need to reply to a Clearing offer. Once you add the choice, it's then up to the university to confirm your place in UCAS Track.

I DON'T WANT MY FIRM CHOICE, CAN I USE CLEARING?

You need to ask the university who has confirmed your place if they can release you into Clearing. This will be at their discretion.

WHERE CAN I FIND MY CLEARING NUMBER?

If you are eligible for Clearing, your Clearing number will be on the welcome page and 'Your choices' section of UCAS Track (via track.ucas.com).

I DIDN'T MEET THE CONDITIONS OF MY OFFER. DOES THAT AUTOMATICALLY MEAN I WON'T GET IN?

No, check UCAS Track. Some universities may still let you in even if you have dropped a grade, so don't panic and check online or call the university directly.

CAN I SWAP MY FIRM AND INSURANCE CHOICES NOW I HAVE MY RESULTS?

No, you can't swap your firm and insurance choices if you achieve your grades. If you now want to go to your insurance choice, you need to go through Clearing. You need to check with your insurance choice university that they can accept you in Clearing.

I WANT TO CHANGE MY COURSE, CAN I SUBMIT A NEW PERSONAL STATEMENT?

All applications submitted through Clearing will use your original UCAS application. If you want to submit a new personal statement then contact the university directly to find out what their process is for this.



Ask us your Clearing questions on WhatsApp. **07860 593512**

University accommodation



There are lots of university accommodation options out there, although those available through Clearing may be limited and will vary across different universities. Be aware different types of accommodation have a range of prices, so make sure the rent is in your price range.

Halls of residence



A great opportunity to meet people straight away. It's often your flat mates that become your first university friends! There are also plenty of other opportunities to make friends on your course and through extra-curricular activities.

University-managed halls



- Directly located on campus and in the nearby Student Village
- Live-in Hall Volunteers
- 'Residence Life' programme of events and trips for residents
- 24 hour patrols by University security
- Maintenance and emergency on call
- Safe social media communities
- Discounts and exclusive deals for residents
- Services of University Accommodation Team.

Other providers

Accredited private providers also manage large halls of residence in the city. Check out www.plyunihomes.uk to see what's on offer.



Living at home

If you live close enough to your place of study, you could always consider living at home. Commuting to university can really help save on your living costs.

Other options

A wide range of properties are available for students to let through agencies or directly with private landlords.

Halls of residence, either University-managed or from accredited private providers, are guaranteed when you find your place through Clearing at the University of Plymouth.



What happens next?

Once you have booked a room, research what to bring and find out more about what happens when it's time to move in. You may also like to join university social media pages to meet new flat mates and find out about Freshers Week events. For more information visit: www.plymouth.ac.uk/accommodation

Clearing stories

Find out more from some of our students as they share their personal experiences of Clearing.

NANNA SIVAMANOCHARAN ► BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

"Clearing changed my life 100%! I am more than happy that I ended up in Plymouth.

Plymouth was not my first choice, as I lived in London. However, after visiting on an Open Day, I fell in love with the city and the campus. It made me see how amazing it was compared to other smaller universities that had less to offer.

I was devastated when I failed to get the grades for Optometry. However, when I was offered a place to study Biomedical Science instead, I did some research and was impressed enough to take a shot.

It has paid off as I'm currently undertaking various work experience programmes while studying, and really enjoying life here. My course has given me a load of experience in the field I initially wanted to study, meaning



graduate opportunities will arise which I feel a lot more prepared for. The student life here is great and I have made a lot of friends."

Nanna graduated in 2017

www.plymouth.ac.uk/clearing-stories

MELIA CRAWFORD ► ART HISTORY

I chose to apply to Plymouth and found the process surprisingly easy.

"I came through Clearing at the very last minute. I was upset that I didn't get the grades that I was expecting, and I felt deflated by the whole situation, so I didn't make a decision straight away. When I realised I did want to go to university and my lower than expected grades weren't the end of the world, I chose to apply to Plymouth and found the process surprisingly easy. I came to Plymouth a stranger to the city, but I'm leaving feeling confident and fully prepared for life."



NANNA AND MELIA'S CLEARING TOP TIPS

1. Trust your gut when making your decision.

I hadn't visited Plymouth but I felt that would be the best place, so I confirmed the offer and then went to the Clearing Open Day – it was the best decision I ever made. - *Nanna*

2. Don't panic. It may seem like there are no choices left but trust me, sometimes the best outcomes happen through Clearing. Call the place you want to go to as soon as you have your results, and make sure you know exactly what you want. Stay patient, positive, and keep persisting. - *Melia*

3. Stay positive! Not getting accepted into your top choice university will never be the end of the world, and you shouldn't let it get you down. You never know, your decision in Clearing could change your life for the better – it did for us! - *Nanna*

Clearing Open Day



If you are applying for a different course, or to a university you have not visited before, then it's a great idea to attend a Clearing Open Day. Here are our top tips to make the most of your visit:

Meet students

Clearing Open Days are usually much smaller than main Open Days, but there will still be plenty of opportunities to have a chat with current students about life at university.

Ask questions about your course

Course tutors will be around so make sure you ask questions. They can tell you about course content as well as assessment methods and other opportunities such as placements, field trips etc.

Find out what accommodation is available

Accommodation options could be limited coming through Clearing, so it's a good idea to find out what's available. Have a look around and try to secure your accommodation.

Explore the campus

Current students will take you on a tour, which is a great opportunity

to see the facilities and to ask more questions. Also, have a look at the library, Students' Union, sports facilities and find out about support services on offer.

Discover the city

A big part of your university experience is immersing yourself in your university city and its surrounding area. You need to make sure that you would feel happy living in that city for the duration of your studies. Therefore, it is so important that you familiarise yourself before you make an application.

The University of Plymouth has a limited number of complimentary rooms for visitors to stay in if they are visiting the Clearing Information Day on **Sunday 18 August 2019**.

There are at least 50 rooms available and they will be offered on a first come, first served basis. For availability please contact studentrecruitment@plymouth.ac.uk

Useful contacts

All universities will have their own websites with loads of information, so make sure you check them too. For more information about the University of Plymouth visit: www.plymouth.ac.uk.

Call our hotline 0333 241 6929

Other useful links:

www.ucas.com | www.thestudentroom.co.uk | www.gov.uk/student-finance

Connect with us /PlymUniApply

Join the conversation to find out about student life, courses, student accommodation, campus events, sports, societies and much more. Contact us via WhatsApp for a quick and easy way to get the answer to any questions you may have about Clearing. Our number is 07860 593512, please note this number is not monitored for phone calls.

Bloggers

Meet our **#MyLifeWithPlym** student bloggers to give you an insight in to what it is really like to be a student with the University of Plymouth. www.plymouth.ac.uk/blogs



The University is committed to the promotion of equality and diversity. If you require this publication in an alternative format, please contact us on +44 (0)1752 585858.

This publication went to print in May 2019 which may be more than two years before the start of your course. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information in this publication. However, as our courses and services are regularly reviewed and updated, some details may change. We would advise you to check our website at:

www.plymouth.ac.uk
for the latest information.

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