



# Supporting your **students** – higher education admissions 2021



Discover  
Uni

Research has shown that students are likely to be confused and concerned about their exam results and university applications. It is more important than ever that they get the information and advice they need so they can make the choices that are best for them. This guide and the accompanying student resource, are designed to help students successfully navigate the decision-making process over the coming months.

## The admissions process

While the process for awarding grades is different this year, the admissions process will remain broadly the same. UCAS is working with universities and colleges to ensure that all applicants are treated fairly and consistently.

UCAS will receive grades from the awarding bodies and will match them to your students' application choices and send them on to the universities. Their chosen universities are expected to consider and respond to these grades in the same way as they would have done previously.

A full list of the exam results UCAS receives can be found at [ucas.com/sending-exam-results](https://ucas.com/sending-exam-results). If any of your students are taking an examination not listed, it's important they send their results/certificates to their chosen course providers.

You can find information about how exams will work this year in the resources section of this document.

## What next for students

While your students await their grades, it is important for them to continue their research so they can make well-informed decisions for their future.

You can also look at the course information on Discover Uni – it includes surveys from students who've done the course and information on what they've gone on to do. Check out our short [video](#) to help you understand the statistics that are available through Discover Uni.

Some students may have questions or be uncertain about what options they have. If a student has already applied, or intends to apply through Clearing in August, they should review university and college websites to confirm how their course will be delivered, and ensure that they understand any changes that have been made. Adjustments may have been made to the delivery of a course, such as whether it will be online or in person, or start dates.

# Help for students doing their research

There are many things for your students to consider when deciding what and where to study. Here are some things they can think about. Not all these things will be important for everyone, so it is a good idea for your students to start by thinking about what matters most to them.

Some things they might want to consider are:

- Which subjects they are interested in and they will enjoy.
- The details of courses and which modules appeal to them most.
- What they want to get out of their course. Is it a career change, to study a subject they love, or something else?
- If they want to study at home or move to a new place.
- Whether they want to study full-time or part-time.
- Whether they want any practical experience on their course, such as a placement or an internship.
- The entry requirements for courses they are considering. Universities and colleges set their own entry requirements, and these vary depending on the subject and course.

You will know the support your students need individually. To support you further, there is information on [Discover Uni](#).

There is also support available from local information, advice and guidance hubs through [Uni Connect](#).

Here are some key things for your students to consider if they have already applied or still intend to:

- ? Do they know whether the universities or colleges they have applied to will have face-to-face learning available or only online provision? Is this important to them?
- ? Do they know what the arrangements are for accommodation at each of their choices?
- ? What are the deferral policies at the universities or colleges they have applied to? Do they know whether they can defer or not, should they wish to?
- ? Do they know what arrangements universities and colleges will make if new restrictions are put in place due to the pandemic?
- ? Have they considered any effects on their career prospects of either going to university or college this year, or deferring for a year?

We have developed a [downloadable resource](#) to help students consider these questions.

## Clearing section

If your student has already applied to university or college, they should receive a reply by 20 May. They need to respond to any offer through the UCAS website by 10 June. They have until 30 June to apply for courses that still have places. There is more information about this process on [UCAS](#).

Clearing will be available from 5 July until 19 October this year, giving students the flexibility to make choices through the summer. This year, students in Clearing can also use Clearing Plus, which is an optional service that allows applicants to 'match' to universities and colleges which match their qualifications and grades. Applicants should remember there are other options beyond institutions they are matched with, including deferring or looking at other universities and colleges in Clearing. Clearing Plus is only available for students not matched with an institution they have applied to.

## Online resources

Face-to-face UCAS events, along with university and college open days, have been postponed or cancelled this year. However, UCAS keeps an up to date list of virtual open days on its [website](#), along with deadline information and resources for decision making. University and college websites also include information on how students can find out more about their chosen course.

If there is a significant change in the application cycle – for example, a deadline extension that affects a student's application – UCAS will contact students to let them know. It is really important for students to check their Track account to ensure their contact details are correct and up to date. Universities may also get in touch with applicants directly to discuss any specific requirements or to offer support.

# Where to get more information

## Discover Uni support and advice

Support to choose a course: <https://discoveruni.gov.uk/how-do-i-choose-course/>

Support for teachers and advisers: <https://discoveruni.gov.uk/teachers-and-advisers/>

Information on student finance: <https://discoveruni.gov.uk/how-will-i-pay-for-it/>

## Information on exams this year

- A levels and Scottish Highers:
  - England: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/awarding-qualifications-in-summer-2021/awarding-qualifications-in-summer-2021>
  - Scotland: <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/96763.html>
  - Wales: <https://gov.wales/examination-and-assessment-guidance-2020-2021>
  - Qualifications Wales: <https://www.qualificationswales.org/>
  - Northern Ireland: <https://ccea.org.uk/summer-2021>
- BTECS:
  - <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/about-us/qualification-brands/btec/btec-information-hub.html>

## Admissions support

Discover Uni: <https://discoveruni.gov.uk/corona-covid-19-information/>

UCAS: <https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/ucas-undergraduate-when-apply>

## Careers and degrees

- [Prospects](#)
- [The National Careers Service](#)
- [Skills Development Scotland](#)
- [Careers Wales](#)
- [NI Direct](#)

## Information on what you can do with your degree

Prospects: <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/careers-advice/what-can-i-do-with-my-degree>

## Funding changes for EU students:

UKCISA: <https://www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/EU-EEA--Swiss-Students/Brexit---fees-and-Student-Support>

## International student advice

UKCISA: <https://www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice>

British Council: <https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/moving-uk/support-guidance>

## Mental health support

Student Minds: <https://www.studentminds.org.uk/>

