



University of Essex

CLEARING SURVIVAL GUIDE



WHAT IS CLEARING?

Results Day is looming, we can't magically take away the anxiety you're probably feeling, but we can de-mystify Clearing for you a bit.

What is Clearing?

In short it's a last chance for universities to fill their vacancies for the upcoming year. People often associate Clearing with failing to get the grades needed for your firm choice. This is one part of it; Clearing does give you the opportunity to plot a 'plan B' if your grades are lower than expected.

However, Clearing also gives you the opportunity to change your mind and secure a place at the university of your dreams if your grades turn out better than you expected.

In a nutshell, Clearing is a final chance to secure your dream place at university!

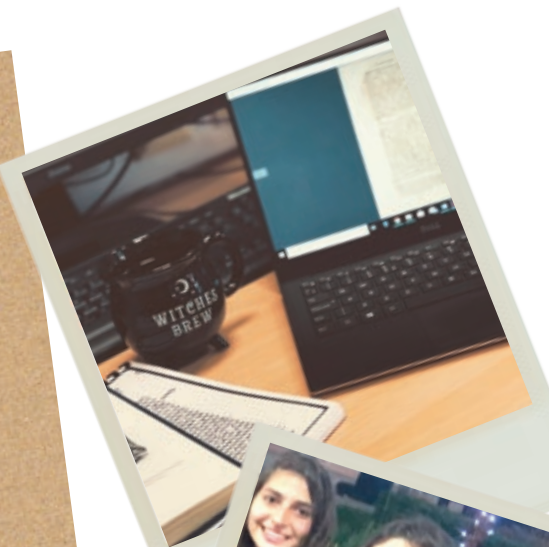
Clearing officially opens on 5 July 2019. After this date, you can use Clearing once you've received all of your exam results. Most students using Clearing will be taking A-levels which means the busiest day for applying tends to be A-level results day, this year on 15 August. If you want to go through Clearing prior to the 15 August you can do this online.

Universities will publish their vacancies on their websites and you can use UCAS.com to help you find places you might be interested in. Once you've found a course you want to apply for you'll need to get in touch with the university to make an application. In most cases this will be online or over the phone.

GET PREPARED...

Before you pick up the phone, make sure you've got everything you'll need:

- ☐ Our number
01206 873666
- ☐ Your UCAS number
- ☐ All of your results
(A-level, AS-level, GCSE and equivalent)
- ☐ Details of the course you want to apply to
- ☐ A list of questions you'd like to ask
- ☐ A pen and paper to keep track of what's discussed
- ☐ A laptop/phone/iPad for research



...I got into my firm choice but want to go to my insurance

If you don't want to go to your firm choice you can release yourself into Clearing on your UCAS Track. You can then add your insurance choice as your Clearing choice. However, there's no guarantee that your insurance choice will confirm this place, so we strongly recommend you speak to your insurance choice before doing this.

SO WHAT HAPPENS IF...

...I don't want to go to my firm choice anymore

If your firm choice was confirmed but you don't want to go there anymore, you can still apply for vacancies at other universities through Clearing. If you get an offer you want to accept, they will tell you what you need to do next.

Remember, it's best not to decline your firm place before you have secured an offer from somewhere else that you want to accept; you could end up with nothing!

...I didn't get the grades for my firm or insurance choice

Your UCAS Track status will change to 'You are in Clearing' or 'Clearing has started'. You are then free to apply for vacancies at universities you might be interested in. Don't worry if your status hasn't updated, you can still make applications.

Once you've been given a Clearing offer that you want to accept, add this to your Track. Just be aware that by adding a Clearing offer to your Track you are essentially accepting it, so be super sure before you submit.

... I did better than expected and want to switch course

Adjustment, another branch of the Clearing process, is an option if you've met and exceeded the conditions of your firm choice. You can find out more about this on the UCAS website.

However, you can still use Clearing to find your dream place at university in this situation if you'd rather not go via Adjustment.

REMEMBER, Clearing isn't designed to catch you out. Here are our top tips:

- It's all about you. Advisers can't talk to your mum, teacher or best friend – be brave!
- Ask questions – this is a big decision and you want to make sure you're informed so get a list of questions and fire away.
- Take your time. There's a common misconception that Clearing is a frantic and rushed procedure – it's not. Universities should want you to make the best decision for you, not to rush and accept an offer within a deadline. It's a big decision, don't feel pressured into it.
- If you do choose Essex, we'll send you a formal offer via email. Make sure you read through all the details thoroughly, this will outline your next steps.



IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO CHOOSE ESSEX!

We may be a little biased but we happen to think Essex is a pretty great place to come and study. Here are our top 5 reasons to come to join the Essex family via Clearing...

1 **WE ARE UNIVERSITY OF THE YEAR** (THE Awards 2018), need we say more!

THE AWARDS 2018 | Winner
University of the Year

2 At Essex you'll meet people from all over the world – **WE'RE TOP 20 FOR THE MOST INTERNATIONAL STUDENT COMMUNITY** in the THE World University Rankings 2018

3 As a first year you're **GUARANTEED ACCOMMODATION** if you accept your offer and apply for accommodation by 11.59pm on 23 August 2019.

4 We offer an amazing student experience and are currently **TOP 15 FOR OVERALL STUDENT SATISFACTION** (NSS 2018, English mainstream universities)

5 **WE'VE GOT A CAT!** His real name is Pebbles but he's been affectionately called Campus Cat (we're a creative bunch).

WE ARE ESSEX, ARE YOU?

A lot of our students come via Clearing and they've got some great stories to tell. Like Abigael and George...

ABIGAE FAGBOLAGUN

"Other uni's gave me 24 hours to make a decision, so the fact that Essex gave me more time made it easier for me to make a decision. I had another uni too, but I decided to come to Essex and I'm so happy I did. I'm so happy I do history too, I just love it so much."

GEORGE PATSALIDES

"Even though Clearing can feel a bit rushed, as you're trying to get a place in a very short period of time, it doesn't feel like I made a hasty decision. It feels like I made the right decision for me."





**ALL PHOTOS
ARE TAKEN BY OUR
WONDERFUL
STUDENTS.**

TO SEE MORE OF WHAT
LIFE AT ESSEX IS ALL
ABOUT JUST SEARCH
#MYESSEX
ON INSTAGRAM