

Advice for UCAS applicants in context of coronavirus

Dear UCAS applicants

In recent days the government and UCAS have offered further guidance to applicants concerning the university admissions process. Here is a summary of the advice and guidance below for your reference.

Please feel free to contact progressionplus@worthing.ac.uk if you have any questions. UCAS and universities will also be updating you and offering their support.

Please be assured that the government, universities, UCAS and colleges are all working together to ensure the admissions process remains consistent and fair and we are continuously monitoring this information for our students.

[For up to date advice from UCAS about responding to offers, click here.](#)

Don't forget you also need to submit your Student Finance application. [For up to date advice about Student Finance applications from UCAS click here.](#) For the government website where you complete your finance application, [click here.](#)

Best wishes

The Progression Plus Team

31 March 2020

Summary of Government and UCAS Advice

Do not rush into any university decisions

- Government have emphasised “no applicant should feel pressured into making a quick decision which may end up not being in your best interest”.
- The Government is therefore working with universities to ensure the admissions process is fair and that students' best interests are safeguarded. Within the next two weeks, it will provide more information to applicants, universities and schools about how the new system of awarding qualification grades will work and how the admissions arrangements will function.
- UCAS has stressed the importance of having all the necessary information available to you when making decisions on your offers - including a clear understanding of how the awarding of qualifications will work this summer. UCAS is therefore extending its decision deadline by two weeks as follows:

| Original date | UCAS Undergraduate deadline | New date |
|---------------|---|-------------|
| 5 May 2020 | The deadline for applicants to reply to any offers received by 31 March 2020. | 19 May 2020 |
| 6 May 2020 | The deadline for universities and colleges to make decisions and reply to applications received by 15 January 2020. | 20 May 2020 |

Safeguarding your offers

- A very small number of universities have converted conditional offers to unconditional offers or lowered existing offers in order to influence applicants to select their institution as a firm choice.
- The Government has pledged to use its powers to prevent any university from changing existing offers during the next two weeks, as they believe this is not in the interests of either applicants or universities.

Flexibility to change your choices

- The UCAS process remains flexible. If you make a firm and insurance choice and later wish to change your options, you will be able to release yourself as part of the UCAS self-release process to explore other options during Clearing. UCAS has confirmed that its Clearing service will still be available for you this summer.

Specific advice

| Your situation | Our advice |
|--|--|
| If you have already made your firm and insurance choices via UCAS | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Check your UCAS account. Your firm and insurance offers should remain unchanged• In the unlikely event of a change to one or both offers, please contact Progression Plus for advice. |
| If you have received decisions from all of your universities but have not yet made firm/insurance choices via UCAS | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Our advice remains: be aspirational in your firm choice and safe in your insurance choice• Check your UCAS account. If you are ready to make your firm and insurance choice, you should do so via Track.• In the unlikely event of a change to any of your offers, please contact Progression Plus if you have questions. |
| If you have not received decisions from all of your universities but have received decisions from the universities you wish to choose as firm and insurance options | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Our advice remains: be aspirational in your firm choice and safe in your insurance choice.• If you are absolutely sure you do not wish to consider the universities that have not yet made a decision, you can withdraw from those universities via Track.• This will then release you to make your firm and insurance choice via Track.• In the unlikely event of a change to any of your offers, please contact Progression Plus if you have questions. |
| If you have not received decisions from all of your universities and are still considering firm and insurance options from those universities you have not yet heard from. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• You should email the admissions departments of the universities you have not yet heard from: ask them to give you some indication of their time-frame for decision-making.• If you are unable to get a satisfactory response and you are unsure whether to wait on a decision or whether to make your firm/insurance choices on the basis of the offers you have already received, please contact Progression Plus for advice. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the unlikely event of a change to any of your existing offers, please contact Progression Plus if you have questions. • Our advice remains: be aspirational in your firm choice and safe in your insurance choice |
| If you included five choices on your application, have received decisions from all five, and weren't accepted, or if you declined the offers you received. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You can make further applications before 30 June using UCAS Extra. • Search for courses with vacancies using the UCAS search tool. • Get in touch with the university or college to check they are able to consider you. • Add the details of the vacancy in Track. • See the UCAS Extra page of the UCAS website for more advice. • Or contact Progression Plus. |
| If you have not yet put in an application and are now considering the possibility of applying to university to begin in Autumn 2020. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applications received after 18.00 on 30th June 2020 will automatically be entered into Clearing. • UCAS have made clear today that Clearing will remain available this summer. • Clearing is currently scheduled to open, as usual, on 1st July, 2020 - although we await further confirmation from UCAS. • At that stage, you can apply for institutions with courses available in Clearing. If you wish for further guidance between now and 1st July, please contact Progression Plus. |
| If you have applied for an apprenticeship or degree apprenticeship. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apprenticeships take place in workplace environments; most apprentices are currently working remotely. • Apprenticeship positions are still being advertised, accessible via UCAS, as well as the Government's Find an Apprenticeship site. However, before making an application contact Progression Plus for advice. |
| If none of the above situations apply to you. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please feel free to contact Progression Plus summarising your situation and we will provide what advice we can. |