

APPLICATION DATES

The dates are usually similar each year. Dates for entry in 2004 will be updated next year.

On Time Applications

You can apply from 1 September. The normal closing date is 15 January. For Oxford / Cambridge universities and medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine and veterinary science courses, the closing date is 15 October. Applications received before these closing dates have to be considered by the universities and colleges.

Late Applications

Late applications (received between 16 January and 30 June): UCAS will forward your application to your institutions and your application will be considered at the discretion of the universities and colleges (subject to places still being available).

When will institutions make a decision?

- If you applied on time - institutions will respond by April at the latest.
- If you applied late - institutions will respond by July at the latest.

When do you have to reply?

- You do not have to make a final decision until all institutions have replied. When all your chosen universities and colleges have replied, UCAS will send you a *Statement of Decisions*, summarising all your offers. Your letter will include your individual reply date. If you do not reply by that date, your offers will be withdrawn.
- You can hold one firm (CF) and one insurance (CI) conditional offer. If you accept an unconditional offer (UF), you are committed to that course.

CF: A conditional offer that you have firmly accepted as your first choice.

CI: A conditional offer that you have firmly accepted as your insurance ie second choice.

UF: An unconditional offer that you firmly accept. You will be placed on this course. No second choice is allowed.

You are allowed to decline all your offers if you wish.

UCAS Extra

- Introduced by UCAS for 2003 entry onwards.
- Gives a student the chance to make an application for one further course if they hold no offers or have declined all offers
- Student has the chance to change course at this stage if they wish.

Confirmation of places

- Your first choice place (CF) is guaranteed if your exam results match the conditions of your offer (e.g. if you get the required grades/points).

- If you do not get the required grades/points, the admissions tutor may still decide to offer you a place (especially if you narrowly missed the right grades/points).
- If you are rejected by your first choice institution, your insurance choice (CI) will accept you if you get the right grades/points. Again, even without the required grades/points the admissions tutor may decide to offer you a place.
- If you are rejected by both your choices you will enter the Clearing System.

Clearing

- Applications received after 30 June will go straight into the clearing scheme that operates in August and September. Clearing entry forms will be automatically sent to eligible applicants.
- Clearing is the system of filling vacancies at institutions. It gives non-placed applicants a further opportunity to be considered for a course.
- Students who are not holding any offers from institutions, or did not achieve the necessary grades/points to confirm their conditional course offers, will also enter clearing.
- After 20 September, clearing stops and applicants then have to apply direct to institutions for any places that remain.
- During Clearing in 2001 the UCAS website (www.ucas.com) had over 11 million hits, including over 1.1 million vacancy searches.

The ten most popular subjects in Clearing were as follows:

SUBJECT	SEARCHES
1. Law	52,531
2. Business Studies	47,438
3. Computer Science	37,705
4. Psychology	36,038
5. Economics	29,673
6. English	23,986
7. Medicine	19,351
8. Accountancy	18,573
8. Sports Science / Studies	18,471
9. History	17,236

The ten most popular institution in Clearing were as follows:

SUBJECT	SEARCHES
1. Nottingham University	16,035
2. Leeds University	15,051
3. Birmingham University	14,928
4. Warwick University	13,248
5. Manchester University	12,983
6. Cambridge University	11,436
7. King's College, London	9,877
8. University College London	9,723
9. Sheffield University	9,560
10. Bath University	9,420

Useful web site

The UCAS web site; <http://www.ucas.com> provides help and information on making applications.

Further reading

- How to Complete Your UCAS Form: Published by Trotman.
- The Applicant's Guide to Oxford and Cambridge: Published by Lifetime Careers.
- Applying to Oxford and Cambridge: a step by step guide. Published by Senior Press.