

# UCAS - WHAT HAPPENS NEXT!

Once you have applied and we have sent off your application/reference, all communication takes place between UCAS, the Universities and you.

**1. You will receive a welcome notification from UCAS, giving details of the universities and courses you have applied to.**

You can check your applications progress via the TRACK system on UCAS by logging into your account.

**2. You may be invited for interviews and open days before decisions are made.**

You may be invited to attend an interview, send additional information or provide examples of your work, it is important to respond to universities within 5 days of receiving their email. If not, the university may decline your application. If you cannot make the interview date/time you will need to contact the university to arrange an alternative.

**3. Receiving offers**

UCAS will write/email/text you as each university or college makes a decision about your application. They will tell you if the university is offering you a place or if you have been unsuccessful.

Contact the university directly if you have a question about a decision. Don't consider any offer received from a university as official until you have received notification from UCAS!

Don't panic if you don't hear back quickly, some departments do not start to make decisions until after Christmas.

There are three types of offers:

- Unconditional - this is usually made if you apply upon completion of your courses and you know your results already.

- Conditional - this is usually given to students who are still awaiting the results or completion of their courses.
- Rejections/Unsuccessful - unfortunately a large number of students apply for a limited number of spaces and sometimes a rejection is received. Don't worry - you can still apply through Extra or Clearing.

**UCAS Extra** - this system comes into place in February if you have no offers. You can add one university at a time to find a place.

#### **4. Decision Time - Usually around April/May**

Be patient - wait for all your replies and offers. When all the universities have given a reply UCAS will ask you to make decisions about which offers you want to accept.

- Unconditional Firm (UF), or Conditional Firm (CF) if awaiting exams results
- Insurance (CI), only needed if you are still awaiting exam results

UCAS will give you a date by which you must make your choices. **If you do not reply by that date, your offers will be withdrawn.**

You can accept an offer before you've received decisions from all your choices, but you need to be sure it's the right course and university for you. To do this you go into your UCAS account and withdraw your application from the universities you are still awaiting a reply from, you will then be able to accept the offer.

#### **5. Student Finance**

Information relating to student finance can be found here - <https://www.gov.uk/apply-online-for-student-finance>