

information for final year students progressing to university

Accepting offers

Any offers that you have already accepted are expected to stand. If you haven't yet made your firm and insurance choices, visit uni websites and take virtual tours to help you choose. You can also go to <https://www.ucas.com/chat-to-students> to chat to current uni students about their experiences.

The deadline for accepting offers has been extended to **18th June 2020** - you must now make your choices by this date.

Results Day and Clearing

You will receive your A level and BTEC results by 13th August 2020 and university places will be confirmed via UCAS Track.

For any student who is not placed at university following results, the **Clearing Process** will enable you to research and apply for a suitable degree programme. UCAS are planning a service called Clearing Plus, which will make this very straightforward for you. More information will become available on the UCAS website in due course.

Start dates

Universities are hoping to start courses in September as usual and are currently working on plans to enable them to deliver degree programmes whilst adhering to government guidelines. This may of course mean that things are a little different to usual, but they are committed to ensuring that you get the best possible experience in the circumstances. As the picture is still changing, universities are not yet able to tell us exactly what things will be like for you as Freshers, but they will share information with you as soon as they possibly can. **Keep an eye on your chosen university's website – the Frequently Asked Questions section is the best place to look.**

Student Finance

The deadline for student finance applications is 22nd May – if you haven't already done so, get your application in by this date: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-online-for-student-finance>. If your family circumstances have changed recently due to Covid-19, don't worry. You can complete a 'change of circumstances' form at a later date – you can also speak to your chosen university's finance advisers for information about extra financial help should you need it.

Accommodation

Universities are planning to manage student accommodation in the usual way (which differs from university to university), however all are looking closely at safety and ways of enabling social distancing. If you have any queries the best thing to do is to check out your prospective university's **FAQ** page or contact the university directly.

Preparing for degree level study

Universities are telling us that, unless you have had direct instruction from your prospective university, there is no expectation that you will be undertaking tasks to prepare for degree level study. However, as you are going to be 'out of education' for a longer period than usual, here are a few suggestions to help you prepare for transition:

- Check out the reading lists for the course you have applied for – this is a good time to get ahead with some preparatory reading.
- Look for MOOCS relevant to your degree subject on Unifrog. Remember that you don't need to pay for certificates – completing the course is good enough preparation.
- The FutureLearn website <https://www.futurelearn.com/using-futurelearn> also gives you access to a number of free on-line courses. They are run by universities and cover a range of topics for you to delve into.
- The Skills4Uni programme offered by University of Birmingham helps you to understand the academic expectations of universities and to develop the different skills needed for degree level study. You don't have to have applied to Birmingham to access this resource – it is open to all students: <https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/teachers/pupil-opportunities/post-16/Skills4Uni.aspx>

One more thing...

Finally, the best overall advice we can give you is to go to your chosen university's FAQ page to seek answers to any further questions – every university does things slightly differently, so it's always best to check with them directly. If you don't find the answers you need there, simply contact the university by phone or email – they will be happy to help you.

And remember...whilst this year will be different in many ways, universities will be working hard to find new ways to welcome you and to give you the best possible experience. It's a really exciting time and there are lots of great experiences ahead!