

# What to do on IB results day 2018... step by step!

---

**First of all, congratulations! Whatever the result, you've survived the International Baccalaureate and that's no mean feat.**

Read on for a step-by-step guide on how to prepare and what to expect on IB results day 2018.

## **What to do on IB results day**

- **Results will be issued on 6 July in the library from 9.00am**

**OR**

- **Login for your results online**

- 1) Find your PIN and personal code that you have given earlier in the year. It's also a good idea to get the admissions numbers for your firm and insurance choice universities. That way, you're prepared if things don't go to plan.
- 2) Find out what time your results are released. This is done on a rolling basis based on time zones, basically so the website doesn't collapse under the weight of thousands of students all logging on at the same time. It usually falls around 2pm for the UK. Remember, good things come to those who wait!
- 3) To get your results, go to the [IB candidates website](#) and enter the information you've been given. You can be doubly prepared by logging in about 30 minutes before and refreshing the page frequently, just so you know you're definitely in.

## **What to do if you've met your offer**

If you have met your conditional offer – congratulations! You don't need to do anything now until your university contacts you. UCAS will update when the IBO sends your grades to them, which should take two to five days. If your offer hasn't changed to unconditional after a week, consider emailing the admissions team. Do not call or email the universities to ask if your offer is now unconditional, as people will be trying to get through having missed their offers.

## **What to do if you've missed your offer**

If you've missed your firm offer, don't panic. Stay calm, and remember the university still might take you. After you have received your results, call the university. As fewer people do the IB in the UK, it probably won't be as difficult to get through. Have your UCAS ID ready for when you call them and see what they say, and if your firm is still happy to take you, congratulations, you're in!

The university might instead ask you to call back on A-level results day on 16 August, when they will be in a position to confirm. Unfortunately this will mean more waiting. You can turn this into an advantage by looking into other options that may be available through Clearing. This will provide you with the opportunity to be more prepared and approach the situation with a more level head in August. Worst comes to worst, you're still into your insurance.

### **Clearing- more on this at the end of this document**

If you missed both your firm and your insurance, the same still applies. You should call your firm and insurance and see what they say. However, if you've missed both, you should also definitely look into [Clearing choices](#). The Clearing course catalogue opens in July, and if you're willing to be flexible with where you want to go and want to study, then it's very likely that you'll find another university to attend.

### **Remarks**

You should also consider seeing how close you are to the grade boundaries. If you're close, you may want to consider going for a remark. See Miss Aherne's guide which will be in your results envelope

### **If you need to wait for A level results day**

On A-level results day, call up the universities and see what they say. Again, have your UCAS ID at the ready to quote to them to speed up the process. If your firm choice is happy to take you, brilliant! If not, call your insurance and see what they say. If they're happy to take you, congratulations, it might not have been your top choice but there is no reason why you won't end up loving being there. Maybe it'll be a case of "everything happens for a reason".

If your firm and insurance both reject you, call up your Clearing choices. You will have had time to compile the courses and universities you like from Clearing over summer, so give them a call, and see what they say.

### **Gap year**

Taking a gap year and trying again in 12 months is another sensible route to take. There is plenty of time for university, one year later is going to make very little difference in the grand scheme of things. This applies for those who want to take resits in either November 2018 or May 2019 and for those who have greatly exceeded their predictions and may want to aim for a different university.

Whatever happens good luck for IB results day 2018!

If you've got any more questions, head over to the sixth form office where there we can help.

# What happens on IB results day as far as Ucas is concerned?

---

If you have met your offer UCAS Track will update on IB results day and confirm that you have your place. Time to celebrate!

If you have your results and not checked UCAS Track but can see you've missed your offer, don't panic! You might still be in with a chance

If you've missed your offer there is a possibility that UCAS track will not update. This is because your firm university might have chosen to sit tight and make a decision on your application and confirmed grades once the A-level results have been released.

## **Do I have to wait until A-level results day to use Adjustment?**

If you have met and exceeded your firm offer and you're wondering whether you have a chance of a place at another university now is the time to go for it. Remember, you have a six week head start on A-level students. This means you have time to contact the university to discuss whether this could be an option for you, find out about accommodation availability and actually go and visit the uni and the city if you haven't already done so.

If you are offered a place and you confirm that you would like to take it, the university will then change your status in UCAS Track for you. Until this moment you will retain your place at your previously firmed uni.

## **Do I have to wait until A-level results day to use Clearing?**

If your firm and insurance uni reject you UCAS Track will update to confirm your Clearing number. You don't have to wait for A-level results day and you can then search for a new course and apply through Clearing immediately.

We recommend you don't rush, remember you have plenty of time and it's worth making a list of courses you're interested in.

## **When will Clearing open this year?**

Clearing opens on the 5th July this year and the course search will be regularly updated leading up to A-level results day on Thursday 16 August. It's definitely worth keeping an eye on it!

**Which universities will be in Clearing this year?** Last year the majority of UK universities had courses in Clearing and we suspect it will be very similar this year. On IB results day last year 14 out of 24 Russell Group universities announced places on 2,500 courses.

**IB results day is without doubt a stressful time for all students. For certain people, their university entrance will depend upon their IB exam results..**

Nevertheless, don't fret - if you end up missing your predicted grades and obtain a lower score than you had expected, there is an opportunity to retake.

If you do decide to register for the next session having done your exams in May, you can retake papers in the November exam session, or the following May. Bear in mind, though, that candidates get a maximum of three exam sessions in which to obtain the diploma.

**Why should I register for an IB retake?**

1. If you were unwell or had extenuating circumstances during the exam period, it is highly possible that you were not able to perform to your best potential. In this case, retaking your exams in another session would provide the opportunity for you to perform better and perhaps gain a higher overall score.
2. If you were disappointed with your IB exam results and are also taking a gap year before university, you may be well be able to improve your grades with retakes. If you are looking into going to a university which requires higher grades, retaking certain exams would probably be the best solution for you.

**Before deciding to retake any of your exams**

You should be consulting with us about your situation and whether it would be in your best interests to register for the next IB exam session.

You should also consider the option of remarking any papers that are close to the next grade boundary. The papers you send back for remarking will be marked by another examiner and moderated by a senior moderator. You never know - this may just tip the odds in your favour! However, your grade may well stay the same, or even drop, so bear this in mind.

Retaking an IB subject is not a small decision - it will require the same diligent preparation, motivation and time as any other exam session, although admittedly you will be at home and not in school. Use this to your advantage! Ultimately, it will be worth it if you are able to significantly pull up your IB grades at the end.

**Registering for the November IB exam session 2018**

You should contact Miss Aherne in order to register for the next session. According to the IBO, lower registration fees were charged last year for retake candidates registered before 29 July. If you decide to send some of your papers for remarking and the grade improves, it's possible to withdraw the registration for the subject concerned on request from the coordinator.

# Guide to Clearing-

## full details on Ucas

---

**If you miss the grades you need for your university offers, you don't need to give up on going to university in 2018. By going through [Clearing 2018](#) you could still get a place at uni.**

Clearing is a way for universities and colleges to fill the remaining spaces on their courses that start in September 2018 and so it gives you a second chance at getting onto a uni course.

If you're eligible for UCAS Clearing it will say so on your Track. That's also where you will find your Clearing Number (which universities need to access your UCAS application). Clearing 2018 starts in July and runs until 22 October (provided that you have made an application by 19 September 2018), but full vacancy lists are only really available after A-level results day on Thursday 16 August 2018

Scottish students receive their results earlier, so Scottish universities will advertise some Clearing 2018 vacancies from 9 August for anyone already holding their results.

In Clearing, applicants make contact with universities directly to talk to them about the courses available and whether their application can be considered. You can contact as many universities as you like and may receive verbal offers from several.

If an offer is made, each university will provide you with a course code, institution code and a time period, for which the offer is valid (typically 12-48 hours). When you have decided which offer you want to take up, you must enter the details on UCAS Track within the agreed time period using the 'Add a Clearing Choice' button.

This button will only appear once Track becomes fully functional (around 5pm or later on results day). You can only enter one choice, and you **must have discussed your application with the university first**. If you enter a choice without having first spoken to the university you are likely to cause yourself significant delays and may even lose out on a course you were really interested in.

## Preparing for Clearing 2018

### If you know you will be in Clearing

If you already know that you will be in Clearing in 2018, you can start looking for information, trying to decide where you want to go and contacting universities.

Universities may publish vacancy information on their website several weeks before results day. Avoid contacting universities during the days immediately prior to results coming out unless they specifically mention that it is OK, as the system is frozen and universities won't usually speak to you during this period.

- Have a look to see what courses were still on offer in UCAS Extra at the end of June. Although not all courses that were in Extra will be in Clearing (and there will be some in Clearing that didn't feature in Extra at any stage) this can be a useful rough guide.
- Check out the entry requirements (do not assume they will be lowered for Clearing) and be realistic in terms of the grades you expect to achieve.
- Check out the university websites for those courses to make sure that the course content is suitable. Just because a course has the same name as another one that you like it doesn't mean that you will be studying the same content - they might be really different.
- Contact universities to state your interest before results day (especially if you're interested in Scottish unis but are waiting for A-level results)
- Make a list of courses to look out for when the Clearing lists are published on results day.
- Research the unis that interest you using our [university guides A-Z](#)

This way, when you ring up about a course you will have the advantage of knowing something about it and will sound like a much more attractive candidate than someone who had never even heard of the course until 15 minutes before ringing the uni. Also, the more informed you are, the less likely you will be to make a bad choice in the heat of the moment.

### **If you don't know if you will be in Clearing 2018**

- It's often easier to work out what you definitely don't want rather than think about what you do want. Spending time evaluating your opinions of aspects like location, cost, course content and university "feel" will mean that you can be much more focused and level-headed if you do end up using Clearing after results day.
- Think back to when you originally made your five choices and make a list - which universities/courses didn't you like? If you didn't want to go to a campus university or a university really far from home when you originally applied then it's unlikely that you will want to go there now.
- Consider subjects related to the one that you originally applied for and consider joint honours (eg English **and** history) options if you originally applied for single honours (eg English) courses. Some courses have extremely similar content but might have different names meaning applicants don't always realise that the course content is similar. Likewise, other courses have identical names but the course content can be incredibly different. Reading the detailed course information on university websites in advance will better prepare you to consider these issues on results day.

## How do I enter Clearing 2018 - a step by step guide

---

You are eligible for Clearing 2018 if you have applied in the current application year, you have not withdrawn your application and have paid the full UCAS application fee. If you have only paid and made a single choice, then you will need to pay a further £11 to UCAS to use Clearing.

### **If you missed your firm and insurance offers and they both rejected you**

If you missed both your firm and insurance offers and UCAS Track is showing that you were unsuccessful, then your Clearing number will show on Track and you are already in Clearing. If you didn't have an insurance offer, then the same applies to you if you missed your firm offer and it shows as unsuccessful. Start phoning around universities with vacancies that you are interested in and provide them with your Clearing number. Admissions tutors will be able to see your full application and might make you a verbal offer.

If you missed your firm and insurance offers but either one decides to take you with lower grades then you cannot enter Clearing without first arranging to be released from your existing confirmed place (see below).

### **If you missed your firm and insurance offers and one or both are still showing as conditional**

If you missed your firm and insurance offers but one or both is still showing as conditional on Track then phone up your firm and/or insurance. If they tell you that you are unsuccessful but it isn't showing in Track, ask them how long it will be before they let UCAS know.

Similarly if your firm or insurance say they're still deciding whether to confirm your place ask them when you will know. They aren't supposed to keep you hanging on for too long because it stops you from applying elsewhere through Clearing. If they drag their feet over making a decision then contact UCAS, or if you don't want to wait any longer then you can ask them to reject you. Being kept hanging by your firm or insurance is one of the most difficult positions to be in, so do not be shy about seeking advice from UCAS

If you're waiting for a rejection to show on Track you can still phone Clearing universities, but they won't be able to access your application until you are officially in Clearing so they probably won't be prepared to make you a formal offer without it.

### **If you change your mind about your firm or insurance**

If you no longer wish to go to your firm and/or insurance but you met the offer (or they're accepting you with lower grades) then you'll have to phone the universities concerned and ask them to release you. They'll probably want your reasons for doing this, but if you're firm about it they're not going to force you to attend a university you're not fully committed to. They might not release you straight away and it can take up to a couple of days, so do this as soon as possible so you don't miss out on the best places in Clearing.

Ideally, if you knew that this applied to you then you will already have done it before results day. Once your release has been processed, your Clearing number will show on Track. Start phoning around universities with vacancies that you are interested in and provide them with your Clearing number. Admissions tutors will be able to see your full application and might make you a verbal offer.

### **If you are not holding any offers**

If you applied through UCAS before 30 June but are not holding any offers then you will have been entered into Clearing automatically. This will apply to you if you rejected all of your offers, or you were unsuccessful in all of your applications. Your Clearing number will be available on Track from mid-July and if you already have your exam results, you can immediately start contacting universities and colleges about the possibility of a place. If you are awaiting exam results, you should wait until you have these results before contacting universities and colleges. With your Clearing number admissions tutors will be able to see your full application and might make you a verbal offer.

### **If you have not applied through UCAS yet, or applied after 30 June**

If you apply through UCAS after 30 June then you will go straight into Clearing. You need to complete a UCAS application as normal via the [UCAS website](#) including all of the usual things such as a personal statement and a reference. The only difference is that you will not be able to choose five universities/courses to apply for. This will cost the usual £23 fee. Your Clearing number will show up on Track in mid-July, or as soon as your application has been processed by UCAS if submitted later than this. If you already have your exam results, you can immediately start contacting universities and colleges about the possibility of a place. If you are awaiting exam results, you should wait until you have these results before contacting universities and colleges. With your Clearing number admissions tutors will be able to see your full application and might make you a verbal offer.

### **What to do once you're in Clearing**

For a comprehensive list of all the courses available in Clearing, your best bet is the [UCAS website](#). Its listings are updated throughout A-level results day and beyond. Most universities will have lists prominently displayed on their own websites; some may even have webforms to fill in to register your interest and request further details.

If you prefer to work from pen and paper, you can pick up a copy of The Telegraph on A-level results day. This paper has a full listing of Clearing vacancies available at the beginning of results day. The list becomes quickly out-of-date, but it's another thing that useful as a rough guide.

Prepare yourself by reading [top tips](#) for surviving Clearing 2018, but the most important thing is not to rush into calling universities and making decisions. The first step in Clearing isn't applying on Track, it's approaching universities by telephone. Before you start doing that you need to prepare.

Start off by checking through the UCAS listings and note down any courses which appeal to you. Rank them and make some notes on why a particular course and university interest you. Have a look at your personal statement to refresh yourself. If you're applying for a different course through Clearing then think about what experiences you have which show your aptitude and passion for the new course. Have you done anything more recently that wasn't on your PS? Did you get any particularly good results?

### **How many universities can I apply to?**

You can approach as many institutions as you like and can receive multiple verbal offers over the phone, but you can only add one Clearing choice on Track. That means you don't need to stop once you have your first offer, you can ring other universities you're interested in and try to get offers from those too, then decide which to take up later. Of course for many people they will have their mind set on one university and don't need to look around elsewhere once they have their offer from that institution. Whatever you do, don't add a Clearing choice on Track before a university makes you an offer by phone or email, if you do they may well just reject you, and until they reject you, you can't apply anywhere else.

### **Do universities accept lower grades through Clearing?**

Some will, but many won't. It depends on many factors, including the subjects you are offering, how many places are still available, or whether there are minimum subject requirements for a specific course. Since places are so competitive it is usually correct to assume that you still need to meet the entry requirements given on the university website and prospectus. The only way you'll know for sure is by asking them. They may be willing to accept you with lower grades if you're enthusiastic about the course, or if you have relevant work experience, so make sure you really try to sell yourself when talking to the admissions tutor.

### **Contacting universities in Clearing 2018**

Don't rush to contact universities, as you want to make a good first impression. Yes, Clearing places do go quickly but a few minutes to prepare yourself will help you more than hinder you. If they're the type of university that will offer places to the first people to contact them, rather than the best and most passionate students, do you really want to go there anyway?

The best means of contacting the university is by phone, although an increasing number of universities now allow you to register an interest via their website which avoids you having to stay on hold for ages only to be told they're not interested in you. Replies may be by email so check your emails (including junk mail) regularly. Remember that with webforms and emails it's easier to ignore a full inbox than a ringing phone; if you want to be at the front of the queue then the phone is always a better bet.

It's important that YOU make the call, not your parents or your teacher. It's a good idea to go home to make calls if it's not too far, as it will be quieter and you will have easy access to a phone and the internet. Keep your notes, pen, and UCAS details handy. Eventually, you'll

need your Clearing number too. If you don't yet have your Clearing number you may still be able to talk to universities, but they won't be able to view your application and you won't be able to complete the final step of adding a Clearing choice on Track until you have one.

The universities will be very busy, so be prepared to wait. Initially you might just get through to an adviser who will take a few details. If your grades and experiences match what they're looking for, you'll either get called back by an admissions tutor or you might have to call them back at an agreed time. You'll have a chat which won't be that formal but remember you're trying to impress them rather than wanting to be their new best friend. The best thing to do is show your passion. They want to know about you personally, so try to sell yourself as best you can. This is also an opportunity to ask any questions that you have, for example you probably want to check what their accommodation policy is for Clearing applicants. If they make you a verbal offer, then ask them to follow it up with an email to confirm it, so that you have it in writing.

### **Adding a Clearing choice on UCAS Track**

You can only add a Clearing choice on Track after 5pm on 16 August 2018. The button won't appear until then, specifically to make sure that you have time to think about your decision rather than rushing into the first offer you get. You should only add a choice on Track if you have spoken to the university and received a verbal offer first. When making you a verbal offer, universities will also tell you how long the offer is valid for and you need to enter it in Track before this period ends, otherwise the university may give your place to someone else.

Find out as much as you can before deciding where you want to spend the next three or more years of your life. Don't just pick the first one that shows any interest in you! It's a good idea to talk things through with as many people as possible before deciding. If you can, try to get along to an Open day so that you can meet the tutors and other applicants, and can look around the university. Unfortunately the time pressures of Clearing may prevent you going before you need to make a decision, but it's worth asking about the opportunity to visit.

Once you have added a Clearing choice on Track it can take a short while for the university to accept your application. You will receive an email to confirm your place, your UCAS Track will show "Clearing Accepted" and an AS12 letter will be sent to you in the post.