



BIRMINGHAM CITY
University

CLEARING 2021 TOP HINTS AND TIPS



IN 2020, OVER 70,000 STUDENTS FOUND THEIR UNIVERSITY PLACE THROUGH UCAS CLEARING, SO YOU'RE NOT ALONE IN EXPLORING YOUR CHOICES.

Here, we give our six top hints and tips on how you can prepare at this early stage – including advice from our current students – so you'll be ready when results day arrives.

 MyBCU

 BirminghamCityUniversity

 BirminghamCityUniversity

“If you decide you don't want to go to the universities you've picked, don't be scared to go through Clearing instead!”

DOMINIQUE

“It's not the worst thing! You're just getting a second chance to prove yourself. Be positive. Everything happens for a reason.”

PRIYANKA

“Find as many degrees and back-up options from all universities linked to the initial degree you wanted to pursue. I only thought I had a limited choice but realistically there were far more.”

MEERA

1



It's never too early to do your research

Although Clearing officially starts in July, you can still do a lot of research beforehand to be better prepared on results day. Unis often publish their Clearing courses early.

Websites like WhatUni and Which? University will give you honest reviews of the universities you're considering. You could plan a visit to the towns or cities where your back-up choices are based. The earlier you have a back-up plan in place, the more time you can spend on fun stuff (like picking out your stationery!).

2



Investigate entry requirements

Most universities reveal their entry requirements just before Clearing. Try checking chat forums like The Student Room to get an idea of last year's qualifications (they could be different in 2021).

You may want to plan for the worst but don't forget things could go better than you expect, giving you the chance to 'trade up' during Clearing. In 2020, a lot of our courses were looking for entry requirements around 96 UCAS tariff points, although courses like Architecture were asking for 112 points.

3



Start looking at other options

If you think you won't have the results to get on to a degree course, you might want to consider a Higher National Diploma, commonly known as an HND, or a foundation degree.

Successfully completing a two-year HND or foundation degree often means you can progress on to the second year of a relevant degree. We offer a number of HNDs and foundation degrees, some of which were in Clearing in 2020 and required a lower amount of UCAS tariff points than required for Bachelor's degrees.

4



Follow Social media accounts

Almost all universities have a Facebook, Instagram and even TikTok account, so make sure you follow those that you're interested in for up-to-date Clearing news

Social media channels are a great place to get help and advice too, including stories from students who have been through Clearing.

We also have a diverse community of student vloggers who share their uni life, give exam tips and show off Birmingham's best bits.

5



Sign-up for updates

By leaving just a few details about yourself (normally your name, email address and a few study details) you can sign up to the latest news from the universities you're interested in.

Emails are a great way to get to know more about the places you want to study, particularly as they often contain exclusive content and links to more information.

Now you've signed up for our updates, we'll send you a list of the courses that are available in Clearing as soon as they're released.

6



Be open about changing your mind

Even at this stage of the UCAS cycle, if you've changed your mind and no longer want to go to your original firm or insurance choice, you can. Just be brave!

It can be a bit of a bold move to change your mind, but it's important that you are making the right choice for you.

Research in advance if the course you're interested in still has places available (we let our students know if we're still accepting applications).