

UNIVERSITY ADMISSIONS

What do all these words mean?!

Have you applied to uni, or are you considering applying in the future? See lots of words floating around about uni admissions, but not sure what they mean?

Look no further, we've got the guide you need to understand all the uni lingo and make sure you know all the important terms when going through the application process.



ADJUSTMENT

If you met and exceeded the conditions of your offer (e.g. you achieved AAB when your offer from your firm choice was BBB), you can have a look and see if there is a course that has higher entry requirements in Adjustment on UCAS. You can apply for these courses whilst holding onto your firm choice place, and you have five days to decide which course you'd prefer.

ADVISER

Someone who provides you with guidance and support for your university application. This could be your teacher, tutor, specific UCAS adviser or an agent if you're an international student. If you have any problems with or questions about your application, they're a good place to start.

APPEAL

A route for students who feel that there was a mistake in their A-level results. If you disagree with the judgement made by your teacher then you may submit an appeal through your centre that will be reviewed by your exam board who will check that your school or college followed its own processes and the exam board requirements. They'll also review the evidence your teachers based your grade on and assess whether the grade awarded was a reasonable judgement of your work. Appeals are not likely to lead to adjustments in grades where the original grade is a reasonable exercise of academic judgement supported by the evidence submitted by teachers.

CENTRE

A school, college, or other organisation that helps students apply to higher education. If you're a private candidate, your centre is the first port of call for any issues.

CONDITIONAL UNCONDITIONAL OFFER

Where your unconditional offer has a few conditions outside of entry requirements if you want to accept it. This may be accepting this offer by a certain date, or the offer only being unconditional if you make that uni your firm choice. Make sure you read the offer carefully before making any decisions.

CLEARING

Clearing is a UCAS service used to look for courses that have available spaces. You may use it to find a university that has spaces you can apply for if you didn't achieve your place on your course, declined your offers or didn't get any offers.

[Check out our survivors guide to Clearing here!](#)

CHANGED COURSE OFFER

You may be made a changed course offer if you haven't met the conditions for the original course you applied for, or if the university or college has made changes to the course. It can mean several different things, including a new start date or point of entry (Year 1 or 2, for example), or a different course altogether.

CONDITIONAL OFFER

This means you have been made an offer to study on a course, but you need to meet the conditions they set out before you are accepted. This could be achieving certain grades, or a certain grade in a particular subject.

CONFIRMATION

When your place at university is confirmed. Usually this will display in UCAS as a change to 'unconditional offer' from a conditional offer. Congratulations!

DEFERRAL

If you want to carry over an offer to start in the next year, you can defer your place. You can apply for a deferred place if you know you want to go to uni but take a gap year first, or you can defer if you change your mind about starting this year during the application process. Contact your uni if you are unsure.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

What the uni or institution running the course specifies you need to achieve for entry onto the course. Usually this relates to exam results, interviews, admissions tests or other things you may be doing, like an EPQ or language requirements. Even if you meet these on paper, you may not get an offer if the course is popular.

[Find out more about what entry requirements are here!](#)

EXTRA

If you miss the UCAS deadline, apply late, or don't receive any offers from your original choices, you can use UCAS Extra to apply for other courses.

FIRST GENERATION

A first generation student is someone who is the first in their family to enter higher education. Sometimes called First in Family, if you fit this criteria you may be eligible for certain grants and extra support. Speak to your advisor for more information.

FIRM CHOICE

The first choice university you wish to go to out of the offers you've received.

INSURANCE CHOICE

You can put an insurance choice down in your UCAS application as a backup in case you don't meet the conditions for your first choice.

PERSONAL ID OR 'PID'

The ten-digit number given to you when you create your application links you to it. If you have a problem with your application, UCAS may ask for this number when you contact them for support.

FRESHER

A first year student at university!

POSTGRADUATE

A course you can apply for after you have completed a degree, which furthers your learning in a particular area. This is the main term used for several different types of courses, including masters, diplomas, certificates and PhDs.

PREDICTED GRADES

The grades your teacher or tutor believes you will achieve based on previous work and academic ability. These form part of your application, and unis will look at these to see if you will meet their entry requirements.

POINT OF ENTRY

What year you wish to start the course at. Usually this is '1', but if you're transferring universities you may want to start in your second year, in which you'd put '2'.

STUDENT FINANCE

Student finance is a series of loans and/or grants you can apply for to help fund your university course and living costs.

[More info can be found here:](#)

SELF-RELEASE

If you have decided you no longer want to attend the university you have been accepted to after your place has been made unconditional, you can release yourself from this university by clicking the self-release button in track. You are then free to add a clearing choice if you have been made an offer, or not attend university altogether.

TARIFF POINT

A tariff point is a UCAS system where different points are equivalent to different qualifications and grades. For example, under the tariff system a B grade at A-level will equate to 40 points, contributing to the overall number of points you may need to meet the entry requirements. Some unis may make you an offer in tariff points instead of grades, or a combination of both.

[You can check what your tariff points are here:](#)

UCAS

The Universities and Colleges Admissions Service in the UK. This is the online service you'll use to make your application to university!

UCAS TRACK

The platform you'll use to create and keep track of your application through its various stages. You'll need your personal ID number and your password to enter track.

UNDERGRADUATE

The first step in studying in higher education, an undergraduate degree is what you'll complete to achieve a Bachelors degree in either arts or science, depending on your course.

UNCONDITIONAL OFFER

Where a university makes you an offer of a place on a course with no conditions, including achieving certain grades. If you get an unconditional offer, you have a place if you want it!

UNSUCCESSFUL

Unfortunately you either were not made an offer to study on the course, or you did not achieve the entry requirements for you to take up your place after you have accepted an offer.

WITHDRAWAL

If you no longer want to study at that particular uni or uni in general, you can withdraw your application so you are no longer considered.

Considering university, or need some help with your application?

[Get help and support in our Applications and Ucas forum now!](#)