UCAS & Apprenticeship Update

Year 13, April 2020

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UCAS Coronavirus Updates Hub: https://www.ucas.com/coronavirus-updates-hub
Apprenticeship Coronavirus Updates: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-apprenticeship-programme-response

Accepting University offers

Due to the current situation, UCAS has extended the May offer deadline for UCAS Undergraduate Applicants. You now have until 18th June 2020 to accept your offers.

You do not need to make your replies until you've had decisions back from all your choices, you should receive up to five offers from your UCAS choices. When you've had all your decisions, your reply date will show in 'Track'. This is the date you need to reply by.

https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/after-you-apply/coronavirus-covid-19/what-does-mean-your-application

https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/after-you-apply/types-offer/replying-your-ucas-undergraduate-offers

- You can accept one offer as your Firm Acceptance (often called your UF choice if the offer was unconditional or your CF choice if it was conditional (based on grades))
- If your Firm Acceptance is CF (conditional), then you can accept a second offer as your Insurance Acceptance (often called your CI choice) and then you must decline any other offers
- Most applicants who have more than one conditional offer will accept their first-choice university as CF (conditional – based on grades) and then a university which has made a lower offer as their CI (insurance) choice.

Once you have accepted an offer, you and the university are bound together by the rules of UCAS.

- If you firmly accept an unconditional offer then you definitely have a place at that university
- If you firmly accept a conditional offer and then meet all the conditions (e.g. entry requirements), the university is obliged to accept you and you are obliged to go there to study

It is important to remember that places are not decided on grades alone. Information in your personal statement and reference are part of the decision-making process, along with your interview, portfolio, audition and any other information that's relevant to your potential to succeed on an undergraduate course.

Student Finance – APPLY NOW!

The deadline is usually end of May, but this has not yet been confirmed (due to the current situation). Applications take at least six weeks to be processed, but the sooner you apply the better, so that you have money as soon as you start your course. If you leave it too late, there is no guarantee your money will be ready for a September 2020 start.

You can apply now through Student Finance England for 2020 entry, for a loan to cover tuition fees (paid directly to the university) and maintenance costs (paid directly into your bank account each term). You do not need to have a confirmed offer of a place at university to start the process.

Government Website: Provides detailed information including the application. You will need to apply with your parent(s)/guardian(s) as you will need to provide a number of pieces of evidence to prove household income. https://www.gov.uk/student-finance

UCAS Website: Provides additional, helpful information on how to apply and how much you could be given for your University studies. https://www.ucas.com/finance/undergraduate-tuition-fees-and-student-loans

Student Accommodation – Apply once offers have been accepted

Once you have chosen your firm and insurance choices, you can then apply for accommodation at your firm choice university.

First year students often choose to live in their course provider's halls of residence but there are a number of options available to you. Use the UCAS website to look at how to find the right accommodation for you. You can choose to live in the Halls of Residence, private halls of residence, or shared houses/flat. A number of universities are also offering virtual tours!

https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/student-life/undergraduate-accommodation

Had a change of mind?

Universities are still accepting applications for courses starting in September 2020. If you have not yet applied and have now changed your mind, why not apply, even if it becomes a back-up option! Your application will continue through the admissions process the same as it would. You won't be able to get on campus for open days, but there's lots of information online to give you a feel for what studying at different providers is like. This includes virtual open days and 'Unibuddy' – where you have the chance to speak to current students about their experiences.

Feeling anxious about your future as a result of the changes?

UCAS have been working with Student Minds to create information and advice to help students manage their mental health and wellbeing during this challenging time.
Visit the UCAS guide: https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/after-you-apply/coronavirus-covid-19/looking-after-your-mental-health-and-wellbeing
Or Student Minds: https://www.studentminds.org.uk/coronavirus.html

Apprenticeships – APPLY NOW!

There are still 6982 Apprenticeships live on the government website in England, and if you haven't yet applied for an apprenticeship you should be doing so NOW!

Most apprenticeship providers have already advertised and began the recruitment process for apprenticeships starting in September 2020. Whilst there are some new ones being updated each day, some companies are choosing not to offer an apprenticeship due to the current situation. If your dream apprenticeship is no longer, it may be worth considering back up options such as an alternative apprenticeship or even applying to university.

You should be checking the government website every day as this has the most up to date information, as well as directly on the company websites.

https://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/apprenticeshipsearch

Intended Destinations Survey

Please ensure that you have completed the Year 13 Destinations survey as sent out by Steph on Tuesday 21st April 2020. This is vital information for us to gather a snapshot of your intentions and enable us to understand who requires and be able to implement additional support at this time. Please complete by Friday 1st May 2020.

https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Year13Destinations