

Year 13

Advice for Confirmation and Clearing

Wednesday 5th August 2020

1. * Student Ambassador01: Hi, my name is Imogen and I am currently in my second year studying BA English with Study Abroad. The theme for today's forum is Advice for Confirmation and Clearing. For those of you who are new to the forums, you are welcome to ask me questions either directly related to the theme or about any other aspect of university life. Anything I can't answer I will refer on and someone from the Exeter Scholars team will get back to you with a response in the next few days. For those of you that have logged on before, welcome back!

2. * Student Ambassador01: Before we start I just want to give you a quick overview of how the session itself works in case you've not used one before. When you post a message it will be sent to me to reply to and will show on your wall as awaiting reply. When I reply to your message it will then post to the public wall for you and everyone else to see. Until I have replied, no-one else will see your message. Bear with me, as when it gets busy it will take me a few moments to reply – but don't worry, you won't have been forgotten! I will start all messages with the name of the person I am replying to just to make the discussion easier to follow and if I'm posing a question to the whole group I'll start the message with 'Everyone'.

3. * Student Ambassador01: Also answering your questions today is Joshua!

I hope that all makes sense. To get us started ... does everyone know what clearing is?

4. * Student Ambassador01 2: Hi, my name is Josh, I am in the 3rd year of my History PhD, and I will be helping Imogen with answering your questions tonight.

5. Oliver: Yeah

* Student Ambassador01: Great to hear Oliver! Pop any questions you might have down below about the process or the upcoming weeks and we'll do our best to get back to you!

6. Matthew Waldron: Something I don't want to end up in :(

* Student Ambassador01: Hi Matthew! People end up going to university through clearing for many different reasons, and while it can be a very anxious situation to be in, there will be staff from all the universities and UCAS on hand to help all day if you need it! I hope you get the results you need but if you do have any questions about the process feel free to ask.

7. * Student Ambassador01 2: Sorry to hear that Matthew! I hope that everything goes straightforwardly for you on results day

8. Oliver: Do we have to wait for our confirmed results and university place to open a Student bank account?

9. * Student Ambassador01 2: Hi Oliver, thanks for your question! I would expect that a bank would want to see evidence that you are a student here before you can open a student account with them. There are lots of banks in Exeter, including a Santander branch on the Streatham campus!

10. Oliver: What should be the first thing to do once we get our results?

* Student Ambassador01: Hi Oliver! Do you mean what's the first thing you should do to prepare for university once you know you have achieved the grades you need to get onto your chosen course? Or what do more generally on the day?

11. Oliver: On the day

* Student Ambassador01: If you've achieved the results you need to get onto your course and are happy with your results- celebrate! A-Levels are an incredible challenge and you should be really proud of yourself for getting this far despite the coronavirus pandemic and other difficulties you've faced along the way. Unless you need to take action through Clearing or Adjustment (which you can choose if you have exceeded the grades you needed for your course and might want to change course as a result of your better grades) I would take the time to pat yourself at the back or spend some time (socially distanced of course!) with your family or friends and be proud of what you've achieved.

12. Oliver: Or both really

* Student Ambassador01: More generally, once you've had a day or two to take it all in, it might be time to start thinking about what you'll need while you're at university. This might involve regularly checking your emails for correspondence from the university about your course or accommodation, and creating a checklist and going shopping for living at university- pots, pans, books, for example! You could also go on YouTube and see what students first year experiences have been like at your chosen university to see if they've got any tips or tricks for settling in or how to prepare. Is there anything else more specifically that you meant?

13. Tilly: Hi, I was planning on taking a gap year but due to changes in circumstances I'm not totally sure I want to anymore. Do you know if it is even possible to still apply through clearing for 2020 for just Exeter after I get my results? I did have a UCAS account but I realise it's been deleted by my college now as I didn't apply to any unis last year.

14. * Student Ambassador01 2: Hi Tilly, my understanding is that you will need to have a UCAS ID number and log in details for UCAS Track in order to apply through clearing. I'm afraid I'm not entirely sure how you would go about setting up a UCAS account, this may be something to ask either your college or contact UCAS about.

* Student Ambassador01: If you have a specific university in mind for applying to, many (but not all) universities are already accepting phone calls/emails about the clearing process on their clearing pages! It may be worth giving them a call prior to results day to find out what you can do to prepare for potentially applying through Clearing. It's better to be prepared than be panicking on results day so I would definitely try this (as well as what Josh has said) if you can!

15. Tilly: Okay thanks

16. Matthew Waldron: Cheers. Does anyone know what time we get emailed, as far as I'm aware we find out if we're in before our results?

17. * Student Ambassador01 2: Hi Matthew, I'm not entirely sure what time you would get emailed. However, if you get your grades and you think you might need to make use of the clearing system, it would probably be worth looking to see what courses are available straight away. You wouldn't need to give up a place on the course you'd originally applied for until you decide to accept the clearing offer.

18. Matthew Waldron: Whatever happens I'll be having some drinks :)

* Student Ambassador01: Good plan! Just between us my memory of results day is quite fuzzy from about 3PM onwards :)

19. Aasyah2: What if you are not happy with your given grades and wish to sit the exams in September?

20. * Student Ambassador01 2: Hi Aasyah, if you want to re-sit your exams, I probably wouldn't recommend applying for a place in clearing.

21. Oliver: So do we need to get into contact with the university to say we've got our results or do they also get our results and will contact us?

* Student Ambassador01: Hi Oliver! If you've applied to your university through UCAS then they should have received your A-level results directly and will update Track accordingly - typically around 8am. I actually found out I'd got into the University of Exeter before I collected my actual results via text! So I woke up to finding out I'd got in which was nice but a bit of a spoiler for my results :) Not all universities will communicate via SMS about your place but if you're desperate to know if you've got in before you collect your results it might be worth checking Track before you head into school! Hope this helps.

22. * Student Ambassador01 2: Thanks very much for taking part in today's online forum, I hope you've found it useful! Details of the next session can be found at www.exeter.ac.uk/exeterscholars/currentparticipants/liveonlineqaforums/. If you have questions in the meantime, please contact the Exeter Scholars team, who will be happy to help: www.exeter.ac.uk/exeterscholars/contact/currentparticipants/.