Clearing

If you miss your grades and a place hasn't been confirmed by either your firm or insurance choice, you will automatically be entered into Clearing which is where universities advertise any remaining spaces on their undergraduate courses. It is worth making a list of potential universities/courses of interest before results day, so, if you need to, you can make a quick decision on which universities to call. You should also consult your school or college advisor to talk through your options.

Places available through Clearing are advertised on the UCAS website. Once a course has been identified as being of interest, you need to telephone (please don't email) the university and be ready to quote your Clearing number and/or UCAS Personal ID. The university will give you a yes/no decision over the phone. If the decision is yes, then a place will be provisionally saved for you and, should you wish to accept the place, you need to add the university and course as your Clearing choice on UCAS Track. There are strict deadlines surrounding Clearing and your place will only be secured if you update UCAS Track within the given deadline, the place will then be confirmed by the university.

UCAS have introduced a new course match system for 2020 – Clearing Plus*. If you find yourself in Clearing this year, UCAS will match you to courses you may be interested in, using what they know about you from your application, and what universities and colleges are looking for in a student.

If you're unplaced or have started a new application, a button will appear in Track – 'My matches'. This will take you to your top 50 course matches. You'll then be able to tell universities and colleges you're 'interested' in their courses. If they still have vacancies and you meet their entry requirements, they may call you.

Overall Clearing can be a bit hectic, but it also has some great options for you to study and it is worth persevering and calling universities to find out what they have available. Then, take your time to assess your options and make a decision, but remember the deadlines you have been given.

*Modified from UCAS.com