How to make your firm and insurance choice decision

Once you have received replies from all your university choices you then need to decide on who you're going to make your Firm and Insurance universities. This is not an easy decision, so you need to think carefully about what you want to do. Talk through your thoughts with your teachers, friends and family; this is not a decision that you need to make alone.

Deciding on your Firm choice

Essentially, your Firm choice is the university that you most want to attend. Think about why you loved it so much, what were the best things about the course and the university. Can you see yourself spending three or four years of your life there? If the answer is Yes, then select that university as your Firm choice. This means that if you achieve the grades you were given in your conditional offer, then you will be accepted for study.

What about your Insurance choice?

Your insurance choice should be a combination of your second favourite university and normally the one with slightly lower grades in the conditional offer. Remember, if you do not achieve the grades for your Firm choice then you will automatically be considered by your Insurance choice, so this university also needs to meet your requirements.

Unconditional offers

Some universities may try to attract you to make them your Firm choice by offering incentives, for example, they will change your offer to Unconditional or guarantee accommodation. Whilst it might feel reassuring by making one of these universities your Firm choice, make sure you only do so if the university is truly your favourite. Once you have made your Firm choice you are effectively entering a contract with the university, so you need to feel completely comfortable with your decision.

Unusual times

2020 is an unusual year for everyone as we find ourselves in unusual times. Think carefully about your decision and remember that the universities need you as much as you need them. That doesn't mean that you should be overconfident, but it does mean that you have options.

If you do not meet the entry requirements for your Firm and Insurance choices, then you will find Clearing a great resource. Yes, it can be a time of anxiety, but you will likely find a place through Clearing, just don't stress yourself about the process and think with a clear head.