

UCAS APPLICANTS 2026

Guidelines for pupils receiving replies to applications

WHAT TO DO ABOUT OFFERS

Once you have your five responses, you can only retain two offers – a firm and an insurance. Deciding which university offers to accept is one of the trickiest and most important stages of the whole UCAS application process.

Universities must decide **by 14th May 2026** on applications submitted by 14th of January. After this date, if you have heard nothing from a university, you can assume that your choice there has been unsuccessful. However, contact the university to find out the outcome.

Deadlines for you to reply

If you have received **ALL** your decisions by 31st of March, you must reply by **6th May, 2026**

If you have received **ALL** your decisions by 14th of May, you must reply by **2nd June, 2026**

For more information on key dates go to the UCAS site [Key Dates](#)

CHOOSING AMONG YOUR OFFERS: what to do

- See this link for useful guidelines: [The Uniguide- Making your firm and insurance choices: top tips](#)
- Find out about the different decisions universities and colleges can make on your application.
<https://www.ucas.com/applying/after-you-apply/tracking-your-ucas-application>
- Review your offers
- Your **firm** choice should be your **first** choice as you cannot choose between your firm and insurance choices
- **Ask yourself are the offers achievable?**
 - ✓ An insurance choice with conditions, which are harder or equal to the conditions for your first choice, is NOT an 'insurance' choice! It does not offer you a backup if you miss your grades. As an **insurance**, choose something with **lower offer conditions** than your firm choice, but make sure it is somewhere you would be happy to go
- If your firm and insurance choices conditions have to be equal (for example, because all the offers are the same conditions), try to choose an insurance choice which attracts fewer numbers of students to the course or has a history of making offers to students with lower grades (check the [historical entry grade data](#) information from UCAS). These suggestions may help:
 - ✓ Re-familiarise yourself with the course description and modules on offer to be sure that the content is really what you want
 - ✓ See if the university offers admissions statistics to see how competitive a course is
 - ✓ Visit the university if possible

WHAT IF YOU HAVE NO OFFERS or you have declined all your offers?

If you have not received any offers, or you do not want to accept any of the offers you have received, you may be eligible to add a new choice using UCAS [Extra service](#). *Extra* is free to use and is open from **26 February and 1 July 2026**.

Extra enables you to apply for another course – even a different subject at a different university. There are some rules to follow to be eligible for *Extra*:

- ✓ All five choices must have been used
- ✓ You have received no offers or
- ✓ You have declined any offers you have received.

NB. Do not decline all of your offers until you have checked with an alternative university that would be happy to consider you.

Once you hold no offers (because either you received none or because you declined any you got), you can search for vacancies using the [search tool](#), and can apply for any courses that are clearly labelled as being available in *Extra*.

You can only apply for one choice at a time through *Extra*, but there is no limit as to the number of times you can do this.

If you are uncertain about your decisions or have any issues, please come to the CIO to book an appointment.