



Dear Learner,

Results week has arrived. Your hard work and resilience managing the return to exams and the extremely difficult and unprecedented disruption of the pandemic will have prepared you well for whatever choices you make about your next steps, whether that be an undergraduate course, apprenticeship, or employment.

We know you might have questions about your options on results day and Clearing.

Here are a few things we'd like you to remember:

- This year we have returned to summer exams, with all students being assessed on the same basis. Your grade will be determined solely on the basis of your work.
- Don't worry if you don't get your predicted grades. This happens very often. In 2019 only 21% of accepted applicants achieved or exceeded their predicted grades, but 86% of UK 18-year-olds applying to UCAS took up a HE place.
- Universities understood what grades will look like overall this year and took this into account when making offers. It's not meaningful to compare this year's results to those in 2021, because there were different assessment arrangements.
- In 2019, when exams last went ahead, around three quarters of UK 18-year-old applicants were placed at their first choice. Come results day this year, UCAS again expects most students will secure their place at their first choice.
- You have lots of choice for your next step, whether it's an undergraduate degree or an apprenticeship. There are more 18-year-olds in the population this year and more applying to higher education too, but there are still lots of places in higher education and apprenticeships at top employers available. Over 90 per cent of this year's applicants are happy with the offers they've got. In fact, nearly 300,000 UK 18-year-olds are holding a firm offer, up 7,000 on last year and the highest on record – meaning more applicants are in a prime position to secure a preferred course than ever before.
- University admission isn't always just about grades. When deciding whether to make an offer or accept a student, universities generally look at the full range of information within the UCAS application, including the personal statement and reference.

Qualifications Wales

Q2 Building, Pencarn Lane
Imperial Park,
Newport
NP10 8AR
☎ 01633 373 222



www.qualificationswales.org

Cymwysterau Cymru

Adeilad Q2, Lôn Pencarn
Parc Imperial,
Casnewydd
NP10 8AR
☎ 01633 373 222

- If you don't get the grades for your first choice, you may still be accepted by your university of choice, for example, if you are a grade lower than your offer.
- If you don't get your first or insurance choices, there will be lots of choice through Clearing with around 30,000 courses available across a broad range of universities and colleges as well as apprenticeships with employers. UCAS is here to support you with your choices through Clearing. You might find it helpful to think in advance of results day about what you might do if you don't get the results you were hoping for, do better than you expected, or change your mind about what you want to do. You can put yourself in the strongest possible position by thinking ahead and putting together a Plan B.

We are confident that with the right support you will continue to rise above any obstacles in your way and progress onto your next step.

If you'd like to know more, listen to [UCAS' Clearing Choices podcasts](#) about all things to do with results day, and how to take control of your future, and discover your options in the UCAS Hub. For more information on marking and grading this year, check out [Qualifications Wales's blogs](#) and [how qualifications were awarded web page](#). There is also useful information on Qualifications Wales's [Learners, Parents and Carers web page](#).

Yours sincerely



Philip Blaker
Chief Executive, Qualifications Wales



Clare Marchant
Chief Executive, UCAS