

# The Way Ahead

**Advertising Feature**



**CLEARING** is a UCAS service that helps people without a university or college place to find suitable vacancies on higher education courses. It's a well-organised, efficient system run by friendly people who help to find places for more than 35,000 people during Clearing every year. If you're flexible and you have reasonable exam results, you have a good chance of getting in to higher education if you follow the guide below.

**Who can use Clearing?**

Most people who use Clearing have already applied through UCAS but have not secured a place on a course. Clearing also helps late applicants who have applied after June 30 (or after June 12 for Art and Design Route B). You are eligible for Clearing for one of these reasons:

- You are not holding any offers from universities or colleges
- Your offers were not confirmed when your exam results were announced
- You have declined, or not responded to, a changed course, a changed date of entry or a changed point of entry offer
- You have applied too late for your application to be considered before Clearing. If we received your application after the dates mentioned above, we will not have sent it to your chosen universities or colleges.

**What do I need to do?**

Talk to a careers adviser or Connexions personal adviser at your school, college or local careers office. They can help you decide which courses and subjects would be most suitable for you, particularly if your original UCAS application was unsuccessful. Remember that you will need to meet the minimum entry requirements for a course (as given in the university or college prospectus) or be able to claim exemption from them. Next, find out which courses have vacancies and make a note of the ones you are interested in. Official lists are published on the UCAS website and in the national media from tomorrow. Find out if the content of the course meets your needs, and check the entry requirements. The lists are updated continually, but not all universities, colleges and courses have vacancies in Clearing, and some vacancies may

be filled quickly. There is no guarantee that places will be available on any particular course. At the same time, a course that is full may have vacancies later. Contact the university or college concerned to check availability as soon as you can. Remember, if you declined an offer from a university or college earlier in the year you can still contact it again to see if they will accept you in Clearing.

**I've made a list of courses. Now what?**

Start contacting the universities and colleges about the courses that interest you. You can use the details on the institution details page to contact them. We recommend that you either telephone, email or call in person, but you can write if you prefer. Keep your Clearing Passport handy, because a university or college that is interested in you will ask for details such as your Clearing number and your application number. You will probably also be asked questions about your exam results.

**What if I'm away or on holiday?**

Don't be! It's best to make sure you are not away, so you can make the telephone calls yourself. Don't leave it to parents, teachers or neighbours to do the job for you. Admissions tutors will want to see you or speak to you in person.

**What do I do when a university or college wants to offer me a place?**

If an institution is happy that you meet its requirements, it might ask you to send it your Clearing Passport. Don't be hasty. When someone asks for your Clearing Passport, he or she wants to confirm your place. Only if you are sure the course is for you should you complete your Clearing Passport and send it off. Or better still, take it there yourself. The best way to find out more about a university or college, its accommodation and social life, is to make a visit. Most institutions are happy to make arrangements to meet applicants and show them around, and many will have open days. They know that you could be spending the next three or four years there, and that you want to be sure you are making the right choice. If you are applying for Art and Design



**SHOW-STOPPING** – Make the most of your talent at Reading Theatre College

courses, be ready to take a portfolio of work with you. Send your Clearing Passport to a university or college only if you decide to definitely accept the offer of a place. The university or college will insist that you send the original Clearing Passport, not a photocopy or fax. If you're not convinced the course is for you, politely explain and carry on telephoning. Please note that any offer made either orally or in writing is unofficial until the university or college has received your Clearing Passport and told UCAS about your place.

**Where do I send the Clearing Passport?**

Do not send your Clearing Passport unless a member of the admissions staff at a university or college asks you to. Please do not send your Clearing Passport to UCAS. Send it to the university or college that has offered you a place, which you have decided to accept.

**What happens next?**

The university or college will tell UCAS that you have accepted their offer and will write confirming your place. By taking up this place, you accept these terms and conditions, so you must read all about them in the university's or college's prospectus or other

published materials. The complete UK Clearing vacancy service will be launched on the UCAS website at 00:01 (UK time) tomorrow. For queries about your application phone the UCAS helpline on 0870 1122211. For expert, independent, confidential advice call the Exam Results Helpline on 0808 100 8000

**READING THEATRE COLLEGE**

READING Theatre College is leading the way in vocational arts training for performers wishing to pursue a career on the stage. From this September students enrolled on its full-time training course will be studying for the Diploma in Foundation Studies which is a QCA accredited qualification at Level 3 (equivalent to Alevels). This means that they will be able to gain a nationally recognised qualification within a theatre school environment. The college was founded by dance teacher Monica Cleaver who identified the need for full-time training for local students. Reading Theatre College is committed to providing a comprehensive practical training in all aspects of performance including dance (jazz, ballet, tap, contemporary) drama, singing and musical theatre. First class teaching is provided by qualified and experienced professionals who are able to pass on their

knowledge and expertise with tuition groups kept small to ensure each student's individual needs are met. As well as a full daily timetable of lessons at its studios in Reading, students have the chance to perform regularly throughout the year with shows at local theatres including pantomime, cabaret, drama and musical productions concluding with a graduation show. Last year's students ended their year with a special showcase at the Holiday Inn, Caversham Bridge. Now entering its sixth year the College has successfully placed their graduates at vocational colleges including Arts Ed, Bird College, Stella Mann, London Studio Centre, Mountview and Urdang Academy (all with scholarships or Dance & Drama Awards) whilst others have found employment within the industry or found personal success in their chosen career path.

If you haven't decided what to do this year its not too late to be apply for a place on this year's course commencing in September. To find out more call 0870 205 2395 or email [rgtheatrecollege@aol.com](mailto:rgtheatrecollege@aol.com).

**UNIVERSITY COLLEGE FOR THE CREATIVE ARTS**

HAVE you got creative flair for art and design but did not get the results you were expecting? If that's the case, don't panic and contact the University College for the Creative Arts at Canterbury, Epsom, Farnham, Maidstone and Rochester. It still has some places left on a range of creative and vocationally focused degree courses at its five campuses across Kent and Surrey. Ucreative is unique – it specialise in art, design, architecture, media and communication. With more than 80 courses which can lead to diplomas, degrees and postgraduate qualifications in the creative arts there is sure to be a course that will interest you and spark your creativity. Its tutors are leading industry professionals who provide

dedicated teaching in your chosen area of study and you will benefit from access to the latest creative resources.

The University College is a vibrant community of creative individuals from over 60 countries – its student exchange programmes also provide the opportunity to study overseas. The students often win prestigious industry awards and showcase their work at national and international festivals. If you choose to study at Ucreative you will follow in the footsteps of many famous former students including fashion designers Karen Millen, Owen Gaster and Gharani Strok; Turner Prize nominee Tracey Emin; and Oscar-winning animators Daniel Greaves and Michael Dudok de Wit. To be a part of Ucreative check out [www.ucreative.ac.uk/clearing](http://www.ucreative.ac.uk/clearing) or email your queries to [clearing@ucreative.ac.uk](mailto:clearing@ucreative.ac.uk)

**BCA**

ARE you looking to start college this September and are still not sure what to do? At BCA there are still places left on some of the programmes, which cover a variety of subjects including painting and decorating, care, public services, landscape design, equestrian studies, construction, countryside management and sport. BCA has a wide range qualifications available, from First Diplomas to HND and BA (Hons), including the National Diploma which is an ideal hands-on alternative to A-levels. The college is just outside Maidenhead, with ample free parking and college-run transport services running from most local towns and mainline railway stations, including Reading, Twyford, Bracknell and Maidenhead. Call free on 0800 0711 666 to discuss your options, or check out [www.bca.ac.uk](http://www.bca.ac.uk) for more information.

There is an open evening on Thursday, August 24, from 4.30pm-7.30pm and open days on Friday, August 25, from 11am-2pm and Saturday, September 2, from 10am-1pm.

**UCAS HELPLINE**  
For any queries about your application phone the UCAS helpline on **0870 1122211**

  
READING THEATRE COLLEGE  
**FOUNDATION DIPLOMA FOR ACTORS, SINGERS AND DANCERS.**  
**1 YEAR FULL TIME ACCREDITED COURSE**  
Call 0870 205 2395 for a prospectus  
or email: [rgtheatrecollege@aol.com](mailto:rgtheatrecollege@aol.com)  
[www.readingtheatrecollege.co.uk](http://www.readingtheatrecollege.co.uk)

  
university college for the creative arts  
at canterbury, epsom, farnham, maidstone and rochester

**CLEARING**  
Art • Design • Architecture • Media • Communications

T - 08000 680088  
[www.ucreative.ac.uk/clearing](http://www.ucreative.ac.uk/clearing)

**Just got your results? Wondering what to do next?**

Take a look at Berkshire's countryside college.

Come along to one of our **student advisory days**

Thurs. 24 August 4.30pm - 7.30pm  
Fri. 25 August 11am - 2pm  
Sat. 2 September 10am - 1pm

To find out more, visit [www.bca.ac.uk](http://www.bca.ac.uk) email [enquiries@bca.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@bca.ac.uk) call **0800 0711 666** or **TEXT us FREE** on **07624 805666** quoting ref **REP178**. Hall Place, Burchetts Green SL6 6QR.

**Courses include:**

- Animal Management
- Construction
- Early Years
- Equestrian Studies
- Countryside Management
- Floristry
- Health Studies & Care
- Horticulture
- Landscape Design
- Veterinary Nursing
- Public Services
- Sport **plus many more!**

HND & BA(Hons) programmes in Animal Care, Horticulture, Sport, Early Years and Equestrian.

   College transport provided from your area, during term time

**Quality Training for Leisure & Landbased Industries**