

## A level and BTEC Grading 2020: Information & Guidance for Year 13

OFQUAL are currently working with the DfE and exam boards to finalise arrangements for the collecting of data from schools in order to allocate grades to all students this year.

The most up to date information on exams can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2020/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2020>

### Advice regarding University Applications

In the government document, the advice for students applying to university is as follows:

1. 'The grades awarded to students will have equal validity to the grades awarded in other years and should be treated in this way by universities, colleges and employers. There is no reason for the usual admissions cycle to be disrupted'.
2. The main university representative body, Universities UK, have said that universities will be flexible and do all they can to support students and ensure they can progress to university.
3. Universities have been told by the government to stop changing offers from conditional to unconditional for the next two weeks.
4. Students who already held unconditional offers before the virus hit will have those offers upheld.
5. Students who do not feel their calculated grade reflects their performance, will have the opportunity to sit an exam after the beginning of the academic year. Universities UK has said that the majority of universities will show the utmost flexibility to ensure that such students who take this option are able to begin their course with a delayed start time. If a student is in this circumstance, they should speak to the university from which they have an offer after receiving their calculated grade.
6. As Y13 students and universities are awaiting clarification on how exam grades will be decided, UCAS has advised applicants who have not confirmed their choices to university that the deadline to reply to offers will be extended from the 5 May for a further two weeks.

At this point, we would advise all Year 13 who have not yet made decisions regarding university offers to hold on before making their final 'firm' and 'insurance' choices of universities.

We are aware that several universities amended conditional offers to unconditional, before the government stepped in to stop this. Universities are concerned that their places are filled for autumn 2020.

Our concern is for our students, and that they feel able to make the best decisions for their future without undue pressure or persuasion.

We would also advise university applicants to stay in close contact with their preferred universities and to contact admissions teams for clarification if they have any questions.

We are also very happy to advise students with concerns, where we can  
Ms White and Mr Evason