

French Stream: anglophone university applications – post-results advice - 2019

The importance of your final French Baccalaureate results varies by university destination. For instance, for the UK your final results are crucial because offers are conditional on particular scores. For other countries, it may be slightly different.

General Advice: Come to school on **Tuesday 2nd July (2-5pm)** to collect a certified copy of your “relevé de notes” from Mme Lenud in the orientation office. If your offer is conditional on French Baccalaureate scores, make a PDF copy of the relevé and upload it into the university’s application portal, or email it to the university’s admissions department if there is no portal. If emailing, make sure you include your name and application number or UCAS number in the email subject line. **You must do this yourself – the universities will not receive your results automatically.** Later in November you will receive an official “Diplôme du Baccalauréat”, but this is too late for most universities, so you will use the relevé that you collect on 3rd July.

NB: universities expect you to supply a copy of your own results. If a particular university makes a special request for school to send the results directly (happens very rarely), email Mr. Hammond (or Mrs McCarthy for USA/Canada) with full details of the request.

North America

US offers, though less dependent on specific scores, are usually conditional on maintenance of the academic level throughout the Terminale year. However, if your final French Bac scores are unexpectedly low, universities reserve the right to withdraw their offer. In practice, this happens very rarely. U.S. universities may request a Final Report or Final Transcript of grades (an updated school transcript including the final Terminale report grades) or a copy of your Baccalaureate results from the school. If the university asks you to arrange for this to be sent directly by school, you should contact Mrs. McCarthy with full details (who/where to send it to, application number, email address if it can be sent electronically).

For Canada there may be particular scores required in individual subjects. If you have not made the minimum points asked for, you need to get in touch with the university directly and ask whether they will still accept you.

U.K. and Hong Kong

These offers carry specific conditions you have to meet in terms of French Bac scores (often including specific scores for certain subjects). For the UK see the detailed advice below. For Hong Kong, contact the university concerned (if in HK you can actually go, rather than phone) to confirm your place once you receive your results.

Australia

As the application period begins in August/September, after publication of your results, you will send a copy of your results directly to the universities.

Others

Offers vary in nature. If you are unsure whether your place has been confirmed after results day, find out from the university concerned.

Important: if you are holding offers from more than 1 country, you must inform university/universities that you will **not** go to as soon as possible. Inform them politely that you are withdrawing. Don’t leave it hanging – this makes it difficult for the universities, and they will chase you to find out what’s going on. It can also harm the chances for other students who may be on waiting lists for the same university. If you decide to withdraw from UCAS, you can usually do this quite simply through UCAS Track. If this is not available, you need to write a short email to the universities you have chosen, explaining that you are withdrawing from this year’s cycle.

French International School “Victor Segalen” – Hong Kong

165, Blue Pool Road, Happy Valley, Hong Kong
T: +852 25776217 F: +852 25779658 E: info@ifis.edu.hk
www.fis.edu.hk

UK – in detail

If you replied to your UCAS offers before the deadline UCAS gave you, you will hold one “Firm” offer and an optional “Insurance” offer. When you get your French Bac results in summer, look to see whether you have met all the conditions for your “Firm” offer. If you have, as mentioned above, you should email a scan of your results “relevé” to the admissions department of the university, or upload the scan into the university’s application portal. They may send you a message requesting this (keep checking UCAS Track and your emails). Once the Firm choice has confirmed that you have the required results, you should see your offer status in Track change from “Conditional Firm” to “Unconditional Firm”.

UK: what to do if your results were not as you expected

1. If you narrowly missed the grades for your Firm choice, check whether the university will accept you despite you missing the grades required. Check UCAS Track. Occasionally, the university will still accept you (less likely for highly selective universities).
2. If there is no decision in UCAS Track, you will need to contact the university’s admissions department by phone/Skype/email yourself (you, not your Mum or Dad!). Be aware that UK data protection laws include strict confidentiality rules. The legislation means that staff will not be allowed to intervene in any negotiations you have with an institution. You will need to approach the university or college yourself and come to an arrangement with them.
3. If you are not accepted by your Firm choice, but have the grades for your Insurance choice, email them a scan of your results, as above.
4. If you have missed the grades for your Insurance choice, check directly with that university: they may still accept you (See steps 1+2).
5. Please do not ask teachers or counselling staff to submit “appeal letters” on your behalf. We know through direct consultation with universities that these do not work. For students who miss their offer conditions, universities will make their own decisions on whether to reject or accept based on the grades achieved and the original application, and will not be influenced by extra “begging letters”.
6. If you have missed both offers and are still not accepted after talking to the universities, and you still want to go to the UK....
7. **Enter UK Clearing (if applicable)**

- **Clearing**

UCAS Clearing is a system by which students who have been rejected by their Firm and Insurance choices can apply, one by one, for degrees which still have vacancies.

Once UCAS is informed of your rejections, they will send you a Clearing Number in Track, where an ‘Add Clearing Choice’ button will appear. You can then search for vacancies using the UCAS Search tool from 5th July. Clearing runs from July to September. In UCAS Search, there’s an option in the left-hand menu to search only for degrees which still have places for this September. Once you find a degree you like, call the university. Give them your UCAS Clearing number (located on the welcome and choices pages in Track), and your Personal ID number, which will let them see your application online. Get informal offers over the phone – maybe from a variety of universities – then decide which one you want to accept. In Track, click ‘Add Clearing choice’ and fill in the course details by the date the university/college gave you on the phone. This counts as you definitely accepting the offer, so if they confirm it will show as an acceptance on the choices page of Track, and UCAS will send you a confirmation letter. You can only add one choice at a time, but if the university/college doesn't confirm your place, you'll be able to add another using the “Add Clearing Choice” button.

More precise details on sources and dates will be sent to you by UCAS with your ‘Clearing Instructions’, usually by the end of May. If there is any conflict with this advice, please follow the UCAS instructions.

French International School “Victor Segalen” – Hong Kong

165, Blue Pool Road, Happy Valley, Hong Kong
T: +852 25776217 F: +852 25779658 E: info@ifis.edu.hk
www.fis.edu.hk

More details: <https://www.ucas.com/ucas/undergraduate/apply-and-track/results/no-offers-learn-how-clearing-works>

If you are in the U.K. during Clearing, UCAS offers advice on the following helplines:

- +44 (0) 871 468 0468+44 (0) 870 112 2211 (for international students)
- If you are in Hong Kong, the British Council holds an annual Education UK Exhibition to coincide with the 'A' level results: this year, it is on 15-17 August. A large number of universities attend and they can make offers on the spot. You may need to make appointments in advance. There's also an earlier fair on 13-14 July at the Innocentre, Kowloon Tong. Some universities may be able to offer Clearing places at this fair. Check the British Council website: www.britishcouncil.org/hongkong-educationuk for full details.
- Make all decisions yourself! Don't rely on your parents, relatives or friends to handle Clearing while you're on holiday in Thailand. You need to decide what you are going to do for the next three years or more, so be fully accessible during the Clearing period.
- Don't get depressed if you have to go into Clearing. Be positive and regard it as another opportunity to find a course that you'll really enjoy.
- Be positive and confident when you do contact Admissions Officers.
- You may panic and try to get accepted on to a course you're not really keen on. Don't. Make sure that it's something you really want to do, and a city/campus you would be happy with. If you need a day or two to research and decide, tell them.
- Have a look, in advance, at courses on the UCAS website that are still available for application. Click the options "2018-19"..."Only show courses with vacancies".

UK: did much better than expected?

If your final results are well above your Firm conditional offer conditions and your predicted scores, you may be tempted to 'trade up': that is, you may try to gain a place at a course and university you had previously thought too competitive. This is now officially known as Adjustment, and is available from 15th-31st August. See UCAS advice at <https://www.ucas.com/ucas/undergraduate/apply-and-track/results/ucas-adjustment-%E2%80%93-if-you%E2%80%99ve-done-better-expected>

If you decide to do this, you must ensure that:

- Your desired course and university is available (unlikely in many cases). There are no Adjustment vacancy lists.
- You are 100% sure about this choice – the grass often looks greener! Non- academic factors such as geographics, cost and accommodation need to be considered.

Mr. Hammond

French International School "Victor Segalen" – Hong Kong

165, Blue Pool Road, Happy Valley, Hong Kong
T: +852 25776217 F: +852 25779658 E: info@fis.edu.hk
www.fis.edu.hk