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## Northumbria University offers support to thousands of students going through Clearing

Northumbria University, Newcastle, is inviting students receiving their A Level results today (Thursday 17 August) to call its Clearing hotline as it offers support to the thousands hoping to gain a place at a university and course of their choice.

A 160-strong team of Northumbria experts are on hand to reassure, answer questions and guide students through the process of Clearing, Adjustment and Confirmation. Meanwhile, an independent national survey carried out on

behalf of Northumbria University showed around half of students aren't fully aware of the options available to them.

Within hours of phone lines opening at 7am today, the University had already seen huge demand for its courses with thousands of calls from prospective students.

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Northumbria University is also bucking the national trend with an overall increase of 37% in the number of students from the EU applying to study at the university, despite a 5% drop nationally.

The University has a limited number of places available through Clearing for high quality students. The Northumbria team is encouraging students who either didn't get the grades they were hoping for, or who have done better than expected, to get in touch to discuss the options open to them.

The advice comes as recent survey findings show almost half (47%) of current students still don't understand the Clearing process. A similar amount (44%) admitted they didn't understand the role of Adjustment – the process by which students can change course or university if they get better results than predicated.

Helen Bower, Assistant Marketing Director (Undergraduate) at Northumbria University, said: "Once again we've seen huge demand for our courses and we've got a bigger team than ever before on the ground in our Clearing hub

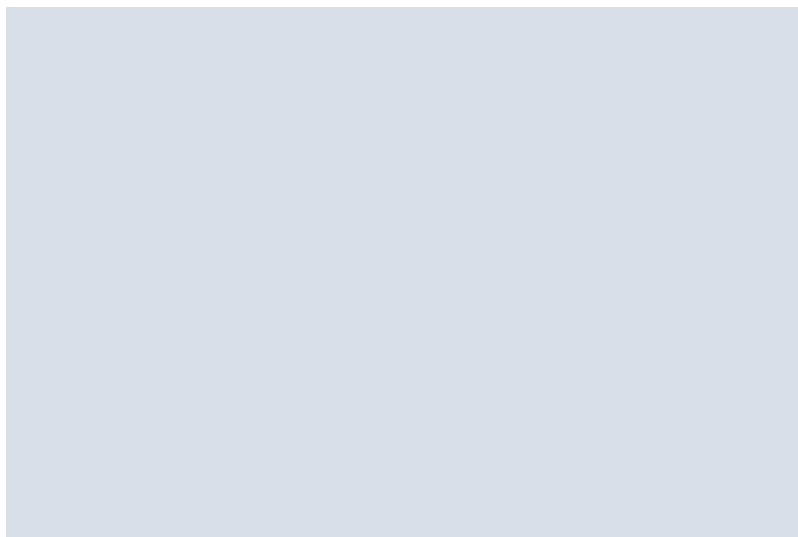
manning the phones and helping thousands of students picking up their results today.

“The Clearing process has changed significantly in recent years and the option to ‘trade up’ using Adjustment now gives students the opportunity to reconsider their original choice if they have done better than expected in their exams.

“We recognise there is a lot for students to take in during their final year at school or college and that A Level results day can be very stressful. The key is not to panic. It’s important that whatever they decide, it’s the right option for them.

“Many students have deliberated long and hard about which university they feel is the right one for them. However, the Clearing process gives young people more flexibility and potentially opens new doors.

“We welcome any students who want to talk to us to get in touch and one of our dedicated team of experts will be able to guide them through the options available to them based on their individual situation.”



Psychologist Dr Mark Moss has some reassuring words for students picking up their A Level results today. He said: “For those students who haven’t got the grades they need, catastrophising is a normal response – they may feel it is the end of the world and think about worse case scenarios. However, it is really important to keep things in perspective.

“Not getting the grades you want is not the end of the process, it is just an opportunity to rethink things and move in a different direction, and this usually ends up with the student still going on to study at university, often getting a place through Clearing.

“Every year around 60,000 students have very positive experience of the Clearing process. It’s important to try and stay positive and focused and be around people who make you feel calm and keep a clear head. Things are never cut and dry and there are always great alternatives out there. It may even end up being the best thing that ever happened.”

Northumbria has a global reputation for academic excellence and places a strong emphasis on overall student experience, ranking in the top 10 in the UK for student facilities in the Times Higher Education Student Experience Survey 2016-17. Accommodation Manager Alastair Reekie, commented: “We know leaving home for the first time can be a daunting prospect. And that’s why at Northumbria we make it as easy as possible for students and support them throughout the process. Having a great new place to live can make a world of difference and we guarantee quality accommodation for all our first year students, including those who obtain a place through Clearing. Once a student accepts a Clearing offer from us through UCAS you can book accommodation within 24 hours, and often even quicker.”

Business Management BSc student, Imogen Smith Evans, secured her place at Northumbria University using Adjustment after receiving her A Level results.

The 22-year-old said: “I didn’t have the predicted grades required to get on to the Business Management course I wanted at Northumbria when I initially applied. But I got my head down, worked really hard and when I received my A Level results I discovered I’d achieved the two B’s and a C that I needed.

“I contacted Northumbria’s Clearing and confirmation hotline immediately to discuss Business course availability and was given a brief interview and invited to attend the university to meet with the module leader. I accepted her invite and on visiting Newcastle Business School at Northumbria was offered a place on the Business Management course.

“Adjustment was a really easy process and because I had been told about it



by my teachers before I received my results, I was able to prepare. That meant I felt confident on the day that, should I achieve the grades required, I still stood a good chance of getting into Northumbria.”

Helen Bower added: “When choosing a university, students are looking for an overall great experience. They want to know the course they choose offers quality teaching, career opportunities, the chance to study abroad and get real life work experience. But the life experience you gain from going to university, enjoying new opportunities, meeting new people, gaining independence, is equally as important.”

**Northumbria University, Newcastle, has a limited number of places available for high quality students through Clearing this summer. For more information, visit [www.northumbria.ac.uk/Clearing](http://www.northumbria.ac.uk/Clearing) or call the Clearing Hotline on 0800 085 1085.**

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Northumbria is a research-rich, business-focused, professional university with a global reputation for academic excellence. To find out more about our courses go to [www.northumbria.ac.uk](http://www.northumbria.ac.uk)

If you have a media enquiry please contact our Media and Communications team at [media.communications@northumbria.ac.uk](mailto:media.communications@northumbria.ac.uk) or call 0191 227 4606.

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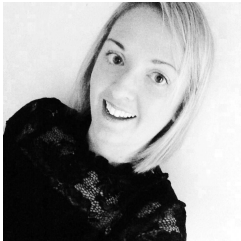
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