



NEWS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

11 AUGUST 2017

## **Students spend just one hour deciding future in university clearing process**

*\*\*One-third of students decide on university place in less than an hour, two-thirds decide in under two hours\*\**

*\*\*More than half of students felt poorly informed about the clearing process\*\**

*\*\*Students describe clearing process as 'no man's land' and 'upsetting'\*\**

Ahead of A-Level results day (17 August), a new study by London South Bank University (LSBU) has today revealed that more than two-thirds of students (67%) who went through the clearing process found the experience stressful, with 59% claiming they made a snap decision when choosing their university or course.

The survey of 500 students, all of whom have been through clearing in the last four years, showed that more than a third (37%) decide on their university place in under an hour and over two-thirds (69%) in less than two hours. The same proportion of students (69%) suggested that more should be done to make the clearing process easier for young people.

The survey also showed that students from the South West felt the most stressed about the clearing process - which gives applicants who do not hold an offer another chance of finding a university place - closely followed by those in the North East and Wales.

**London South Bank University's Vice Chancellor, Professor David Phoenix, said:** "These results underline just how stressful the clearing process can be for students and the impact it is having on their ability to make informed decisions, which will in turn affect their future career paths or job prospects.

"With fifty-four per cent of students citing that their school did not provide them with enough information about clearing, it is evident that far more needs to be done to educate and reassure pupils in advance of results day."

LSBU is challenging the idea that the clearing process needs to be stressful by leading the way in helping prospective university students calmly plan and prepare so they can tackle A-Level results day head on.

In response to the survey results, which also show that 68% of students would have benefited from informal discussions about clearing ahead of A-Level results day, LSBU is today (Friday 11 August) launching The Clearing; a physical manifestation of students' desired clearing process.

The calming pop-up space on London's South Bank, which will be open between 10.30am-6.30pm, offers students from across the city the chance to find out more about LSBU and get practical advice from student ambassadors and clearing support staff, helping to prepare them effectively for A-Level results day and giving them the confidence they need to make informed decisions.

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**Professor Phoenix continued:** “We’re asking students hoping to start university this autumn to come along to The Clearing today to find out how they can prepare for the possibility of going through the clearing process next Thursday. We’ll be on hand all day to offer handy hints and tips, as well as comprehensive takeaway information on the courses still available at LSBU.”

The oasis of calm, set against the ‘always on’ backdrop of the city, is also open to the general public who can come in and take five from their busy lives in a separate chill-out zone, where the University’s Confucius Institute will be offering head and neck massages between 12.30-1.30pm on a first-come-first-served basis.

LSBU, which is the number one London Modern University for graduate prospects, was the first university to offer a 24-hour clearing helpline in 2016. This year, the helpline will be open for 36 hours straight, from 7am on 17 August until 7pm on 18 August. The survey showed that 81% of students would have found a 24-hour helpline useful during the clearing process.

The University is currently taking clearing applications and making offers to prospective students who wish to begin study in September. To see the full list of clearing courses, please visit:

[www.lsbu.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate/clearing](http://www.lsbu.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate/clearing)

## **ENDS**

### **Notes to editors**

For all media enquiries, interview requests and high res images, please contact the LSBU Press Team on [press@lsbu.ac.uk](mailto:press@lsbu.ac.uk) or 020 7815 6717 or 020 7815 6469

### **About survey**

Survey commissioned by London South Bank University and delivered by Youthsight - <https://www.youthsight.com/>.

Data collected via 501 students in August 2017. All students were required to have experienced the clearing process in the last four years (academic year ‘13/’14 to ‘16/’17) to take part.

### **About London South Bank University**

London South Bank University is one of London's largest and oldest universities. Since 1892, it has been providing vocationally-relevant, accredited and professionally recognised education which transforms lives, businesses and communities. [www.lsbu.ac.uk/](http://www.lsbu.ac.uk/)

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