

The University of Aberdeen Widening Access Contextualised Admissions Policy

The University of Aberdeen has a long-standing commitment to widening access to higher education. A key part of this commitment is the University's Contextualised Admissions Policy.

We wish to encourage students from the widest possible range of backgrounds to participate in University studies, and we appreciate that not all students have the same opportunity to meet our advertised entry requirements therefore we take contextualised information into account when making decisions on the applications we receive and the entrance requirements which we require. The information below refers to students sitting Scottish Higher qualifications, for all other qualifications please contact ugadmissions@abdn.ac.uk

1. University of Aberdeen Widening Access Contextualised Criteria

Applicants who come from the following backgrounds would be eligible for consideration under the Widening Access Contextualised Admissions Policy. These criteria are agreed in the University's Outcome Agreement with the Scottish Funding Council. They are also in line with the Scottish Government's national ambitions as detailed in the [Commission for Widening Access Report](#). Please see the University Widening Access webpages for more information: www.abdn.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/widening-access.php

Applicants ordinarily resident in a SIMD 20 Scottish postcode area or are Receiving Free School Meals

Applicants who have achieved BB at Higher, and who meet one of the widening participation criteria above are encouraged to apply and are guaranteed an adjusted conditional offer for MA, BSc, BEng and BMus degrees.

We would expect to issue a conditional offer asking for one additional B grade at Higher. In exceptional circumstances we may need to ask for two additional Highers at BB.

At the point of university entry, an offer holder must have attainment in no less than three separate Higher subjects at B grade.

For BSc Biomedical Science:

Applicants who have achieved BBB at Higher, and who meet one of the widening participation criteria above are encouraged to apply and are guaranteed an adjusted conditional offer for BSc Biomedical Science.

Highers at BB from Chemistry and another Maths/Science subject required (Biology preferred)

We would expect to issue a conditional offer asking for one additional A grade at Higher. In exceptional circumstances we may need to ask for two additional Highers at AA.

At the point of university entry, an offer holder must have attainment in no less than three separate Higher subjects at B grade.

Applicants who have been In Care

Applicants who have achieved BB at Higher, and who meet one of the widening participation criteria are encouraged to apply and are guaranteed an adjusted conditional offer for MA, BSc, BEng and BMus degrees.

We would expect to issue a conditional offer asking for one additional B grade at Higher. In exceptional circumstances we may need to ask for two additional Highers at BB.

At the point of university entry, an offer holder must have attainment in no less than three separate Higher subjects at B grade.

The University guarantee's interviews for Care Experienced applicants where interviews are a required part of the admissions process.

For BSc Biomedical Science:

Applicants who have achieved BBB at Higher, and who meet one of the widening participation criteria above are encouraged to apply and are guaranteed an adjusted conditional offer for BSc Biomedical Science.

Highers at BB from Chemistry and another Maths/Science subject required (Biology preferred)

We would expect to issue a conditional offer asking for one additional A grade at Higher. In exceptional circumstances we may need to ask for two additional Highers at AA.

At the point of university entry, an offer holder must have attainment in no less than three separate Higher subjects at B grade.

Applicants currently studying at a University of Aberdeen Priority School

The University recognises not all schools have the same opportunities and has therefore created a set of priority schools made up from those schools in our local area with the highest numbers of pupils living in SIMD20 backgrounds and/or receiving free school meals alongside low progression rates to university or extreme rural locations. Those schools are:

| | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Lochside Academy | Wick High School | Sgoil Lionacleit |
| St Machar Academy | Alness Academy | The Nicolson Institute |
| Northfield Academy | Inverness High School | Stromness Academy |
| Fraserburgh Academy | Forres Academy | Kirkwall Grammar School |
| Peterhead Academy | Elgin High School | Brae High School |
| | Elgin Academy | Anderson High School |

Any applicants currently studying at one of the priority schools who have achieved BB at Higher are encouraged to apply and are guaranteed an adjusted conditional offer for MA, BSc, BEng and BMus degrees.

We would expect to issue a conditional offer asking for one additional B grade at Higher. In exceptional circumstances we may need to ask for two additional Highers at BB.

At the point of university entry, an offer holder must have attainment in no less than three separate Higher subjects at B grade.

For BSc Biomedical Science:

Applicants who have achieved BBB at Higher, and who meet one of the widening participation criteria above are encouraged to apply and are guaranteed an adjusted conditional offer for BSc Biomedical Science.

Highers at BB from Chemistry and another Maths/Science subject required (Biology preferred)

We would expect to issue a conditional offer asking for one additional A grade at Higher. In exceptional circumstances we may need to ask for two additional Highers at AA.

At the point of university entry, an offer holder must have attainment in no less than three separate Higher subjects at B grade.

Applicants who are:

- **Estranged From Parents**
- **Have Caring Responsibilities**

- **In receipt of Educational Maintenance Allowance**
- **Experienced a physical and/or mental health issue that has impacted on secondary education**
- **Ordinarily resident in a POLAR 4 Quintile 1 (Rest of UK) postcode area**
- **Gypsy, Roma or Travelling Community**
- **Refugee/Asylum Seeker Status**
- **Home address is in an area considered to remote and rural (5-8 on the Scottish Government 8-fold Urban Rural Classification)**
- **Parent Or Carer In Armed Forces**
- **Served In Armed Forces**
- **Have been through the Children's Panel process**
- **Parents(s) have had a custodial sentence**

Applicants who have achieved BB at Higher, and who meet one of the widening participation criteria are encouraged to apply and are guaranteed an adjusted conditional for MA, BSc, BEng and BMus degrees.

We would expect to issue a conditional offer requesting an additional BB at Higher however the detail of the of the bespoke conditional offer will be linked to the academic profile being undertaken in the current year.

At the point of University entry, an offer holder must have attainment in no less than four separate Higher subjects at B grade.

For BSc Biomedical Science:

Applicants who have achieved BBB at Higher, and who meet one of the widening participation criteria above are encouraged to apply and are guaranteed an adjusted conditional offer for BSc Biomedical Science.

Highers at BB from Chemistry and another Maths/Science subject required (Biology preferred)

We would expect to issue a conditional offer asking for one additional A grade at Higher. In exceptional circumstances we may need to ask for two additional Highers at AA.

At the point of university entry, an offer holder must have attainment in no less than three separate Higher subjects at B grade.

Please note that this list is not exhaustive, and the University may consider other criteria where detriment to education can be evidenced.

2. Exemptions to Adjusted Offer Making

Please note there is a separate statement available for LLB.

Adjusted offers are not given for MEng, MChem, MSci Computing Science and MSci (Medical Sciences) programmes. Candidates who perform well during the 1st year of their studies may be able to apply to move onto the related advanced course.

The University offers a range of subjects which are considered to be "controlled subject's" (Education, Music Education, Medicine and Graduate Dentistry), were the University cannot independently set all of the entry requirements due to the input of external bodies (e.g. General Teaching Council for Scotland) who set standards at a national level. The University may still be able to give an adjusted offer of admission for these programmes (for more information please see the degree/School web pages) where this is appropriate and we guarantee an interview for these courses for care experienced applicants, providing they meet or predicted to meet the academic entry requirements.

3. Informing the University of your Contextualised Criteria

The University can check if an applicant meets some of the criteria listed above using the information that is supplied in the UCAS application. Please ensure you select the appropriate boxes on UCAS to inform us of any widening access factors. For those factors without a field on UCAS, please include this information in

your personal statement and we would expect referees to verify this information. Applicants will be required to discuss how their education has been disrupted due to the criteria selected in their personal statement or it may be mentioned in the reference, alternatively please submit this information by email to ugadmissions@abdn.ac.uk. Any additional information, which is supplied to the University in a clear and timely manner, will be considered alongside the main application. (Applicants must include their full name and UCAS ID number in all correspondence with the University)

The University would also ask that referees verify if an applicant meets one or more of the contextualised criteria in their UCAS reference and the impact this has had on their education.

4. Policy Documents

Information relating to all the University's Admissions Policies can be found at the following webpage: www.abdn.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/admissions-policy

5. More information

For more information about Widening Access at the University of Aberdeen, please contact the [Access and Articulation Team](#).

October 2023