

# Contextualised Admissions Policy

## *(Applicants from Scotland)*

The University of Aberdeen has a long-standing commitment to widening access to higher education. We are keen 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. This document is designed to help understand the University of Aberdeen's Contextualised Admissions Policy ([www.abdn.ac.uk/widening-access](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/widening-access)).

### **Entry Requirements: Minimum, Standard and Adjusted**

The University has three sets of entry requirements for the majority of its degree programmes: Minimum, Standard and Adjusted ([www.abdn.ac.uk/undergraduate](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/undergraduate)). The Minimum entry requirements are the minimum qualifications we expect applicants to **hold** at the time they apply. The Standard entry requirements are what we would expect all applicants, except those who meet one of our widening access criteria, to **achieve** by the end of school. The Adjusted entry requirements are what we would normally expect applicants who meet one or more of the widening access criteria to **hold** at the time they apply. We may expect applicants, who hold the entry qualifications, to achieve additional qualifications as part of a conditional offer.

Please note that the following degree programmes do not have an Adjusted entry level: MEng, BSc Biomedical Sciences, MChem, MGeol, MPhys, MSci (Computing Science), MSci (Biological Sciences) and MSci (Medical Sciences). However, candidates who perform well during the 1st year of their university studies may be able to apply to move onto one of the advanced courses listed above, with approval from those offering the degree programme.

### **Widening Access Criteria**

As part of our contextualised admissions policy for applicants, the University aims to identify the applicant's full talent and potential, and look beyond grades in their application.

In order to achieve this the university utilises the information supplied by an applicant on the UCAS form, where possible, applicants should include information about any circumstances they would like to highlight in their Personal Statement, and/or ask their referee to include relevant information in the Reference. If the contextual information cannot be included in the personal statement, applicants or referees can send a separate explanation of these circumstances to our Admissions Service ([ugadmissions@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:ugadmissions@abdn.ac.uk)). Any additional information which is supplied in a clear and timely manner will be considered alongside the main application. Applicants should remember include their full name and UCAS ID number in all correspondence.

Where possible, the University also asks that applicants and referees mention if an applicant meets one or more of the Widening Access criteria in their UCAS reference. The following are some<sup>1</sup> of the Widening Access Criteria that the University will consider when making an Adjusted Offer:

- Live in a SIMD 20 or 40 postcode area (Quintile's 1 and 2)
- Have experience of being in Care

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<sup>1</sup> Please note that this list is not exhaustive, and the University may consider other circumstances for a contextualised offer. If you have any questions, please email [accessaberdeen@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:accessaberdeen@abdn.ac.uk).

- Have completed a Scottish wider access programme (SWAP)
- Have an unpaid caring role
- Have, as a child or young person, experienced the Children's Panel process
- Are estranged from your family and living without family support
- Identify as coming from a Gypsy, Roma or Travelling Community
- Have been in receipt of Free School Meals
- Have been in receipt of Education Maintenance Allowance
- Have experienced a mental health issue that impacted on their education during the senior phase (S4-6)
- Have experienced a physical health issue that impacted on their education during the senior phase (S4-6)
- Have a home address that is considered to be a Remote Small Town, Very Remote Small Town, Remote Rural or Very Remote Rural by the Scottish Government
- Have been granted Refugee/Asylum status and meet the eligibility criteria for Home Fees
- Have a parent or parents who have a custodial sentence
- Have a parent or parents in the British Military Service
- Have been in the British Military Service (Veterans/Early Service Leavers)

### **Care Experienced Applicants**

Care Experienced applicants will be made a conditional offer of admission by the University if they meet the adjusted entry requirement. For controlled degree programmes (e.g. MBChB, BMus, BMus Education, MBChB and MA Education) where more than the standard UCAS application is required (e.g. audition or interview), these requirements must also be met by the applicant. The University guarantees interviews for Care Experienced applicants to degree programmes where they are required as part of the application process.

### **Contextualised Admissions and Controlled Subjects**

The University offers a range of subjects which are considered to be controlled subjects - Education, Music, Medicine and Graduate Dentistry.

For these programmes, the University cannot independently set all of the entry requirements as external regulatory bodies have input into standards at a national level. However, the University may still be able to make an adjusted offer of admission for these programmes where it is appropriate.

### **Schools for Higher Programme (SHEP)**

If an applicant has participated in, one of the four Schools for Higher Education programmes (ASPIRE-North, LEAPS, LIFT OFF and FOCUS West), then they should detail how they meet the criteria for these programmes either in their UCAS personal statement or in an additional document/submission (please see the section above re how to submit additional documentation). If the criteria met by an applicant for one of these programmes, is listed above, then we will consider this information when evaluating their application.

### **Entry to University via College**

We understand that entry to University straight from school is not always the right pathway for all so welcome applications via College. We have a separate guide (<https://www.abdn.ac.uk/study/documents/2021%20Articulation%20Pathways%20brochure%20web.pdf>) to help advise on the possible pathways and welcome questions to [accessaberdeen@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:accessaberdeen@abdn.ac.uk)