Contextualised Admissions Policy

(applicants from Scotland)

This document is designed to help understand the University of Aberdeen’s Contextualised Admissions Policy. Full details can be found at www.abdn.ac.uk/widening-access.

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.

Entry Requirements: Standard, Minimum, Adjusted

The University has three sets of entry requirements for the majority of its degree programmes – Standard, Minimum and Adjusted. The Standard entry requirements are what we would expect all applicants, except those who meet one of our widening access criteria, to achieve. The Minimum entry requirements are what we may expect applicants to have at the time they apply or be on course to achieve that year. We may expect applicants to achieve additional qualifications as part of a conditional offer. The Adjusted entry requirements are what we would normally expect applicants who meet one or more of the widening access criteria, to already have achieved at the time they apply. Good performance in additional Highers / Advanced Highers will be required. Applicants who are made an Adjusted offer may be invited to take part in our Summer School for Access.

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.

For a complete list of degrees with all entry requirements, please see www.abdn.ac.uk/undergraduate.

Contextualised Admissions

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

The University is able to verify if an applicant meets some of the criteria using information that is supplied in the UCAS form. Where possible, applicants should include information about any circumstances they would like to highlight in their Personal Statement, or ask their referee to include relevant information in the Reference. If the contextual information cannot be included in the personal statement, applicants can send a separate explanation of these circumstances to our Admissions Service. Any additional information which is supplied 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.

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Where possible, the University also asks that referees mention and verify if an applicant meets one or more of the Widening Participation criteria in their UCAS reference.

**Widening Participation Criteria**

The following are some of the Widening Participation Criteria that the University will consider when making an Adjusted Offer:

- Live in a target postcode area
- Have completed a Scottish wider access programme (SWAP)
- Have experience of being in care
- Have an unpaid caring role
- Are estranged from your family and living without family support
- Have government recognised refugee or asylum status
- Have, as a child or young person, experienced the Children’s Panel process
- Identify as coming from a Gypsy, Roma or Travelling Community
- Are in the first generation of their family to attend University
- Have been in receipt of free school meals
- Have been in receipt of Education Maintenance Allowance
- Have experienced a Mental Health issue that has impacted on their education during the senior phase (S4 – S6)
- Have experienced a Physical Health issue that has impacted on their education during the senior phase (S4 – S6)
- Have a home address that is considered to be in an area that is remote and rural by the Scottish Government
- Have a parent or parents who have a custodial sentence
- Have a parent or parents in British Military Service
- Have been in British Military Service (Veterans / Early Service Leavers)
- Are the spouse or partner of someone serving in British Military Service

**Care Experienced Applicants**

Care Experienced applicants will be made a conditional offer of admission by the University if they meet the relevant entry requirement for non-controlled degree subjects. For degree programmes where more than the standard UCAS application is required (e.g. audition or interview), other requirements must also be met by the applicant (BMus, BMus Education, MBChB and MA Education). The University aims to guarantee 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.

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1 Please note that this list is not exhaustive, and the University may consider other criteria or circumstances under Widening Access. If you have any questions, please email accessaberdeen@abdn.ac.uk.

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