

## **University of the West of England Statement on Changes to Qualifications in Schools and Colleges in England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland**

The University has carefully considered the information available so far on qualifications reform and on changes to A and AS levels, amongst other qualifications. The University of the West of England is aware that changes to AS and A levels in England, alongside different qualification frameworks in Wales and Northern Ireland, may present challenges for schools, colleges and Higher Education providers over the coming years.

### ***Statement on AS levels:***

**The University currently makes UCAS tariff based offers, and will continue to identify and count AS level grades towards the overall tariff point score achieved.**

We can reassure schools and colleges that we will continue to be able to identify and select academically able students even where AS grades are not available.

Decisions on applications are always based on a wide range of factors, including GCSE or equivalent attainment, predicted grades, the strength of the personal statement and the evidence of achievement and potential provided in the academic reference.

### ***Admissions guidance for all students:***

When considering qualifications, we will take into account the context in which they have been studying and the educational opportunities that have been available to them. We receive some of this information directly from UCAS, but it will help us if schools and colleges can include any additional relevant information in the reference.

### ***Admissions guidance for A level students:***

- **Typical offers will continue to be based on an overall UCAS tariff point score**  
We will continue to be mindful that students apply from a variety of school and college contexts, each offering their students access to a different range and number of subjects at varying levels.
- **Those who do not have interim AS awards will not be at a disadvantage**
- **Those without additional AS levels will not be at a specific disadvantage**  
Additional study in a variety of forms can help students prepare for the demands of university. Students who are able to extend their A levels by undertaking additional study, such as an additional A level, AS level, or Extended Project Qualification, are encouraged to do so.
- **We encourage students to undertake additional qualifications to support their university application**  
The offer we may provide to a student could include more than one condition. The University requires students to have obtained at least grade 4 (or the equivalent grade from the different awarding bodies) in GCSE English Language, as well as a minimum level of UCAS tariff points

obtained from Level 3 or equivalent qualifications. Other requirements may include GCSE Mathematics and GCSE Science at grade 4 or above (or the equivalent grades from the different awarding bodies).

The University, as a rule, does not generally accept Key Skills/Functional Skills Level 2 in Communication/Application of Number as alternatives to GCSE English Language/Mathematics at grade 4 or above.

***Admissions guidance for students with other qualifications:***

- **We welcome applications from BTEC students**  
For some courses, BTEC entry requirements will state additional requirements, e.g. Merit obtained in Further Maths for Technicians; Further Maths for Construction and the Built Environment for Mechanical Engineering.
- **The Extended Project qualification is considered by the University**  
Students should mention this in their personal statements and we will take it into account when deciding whether we are able to make an offer.
- **We welcome applications from International Baccalaureate students**  
Many courses require specific subjects and grades at Higher level.
- **We welcome the Welsh Baccalaureate Core at Grade C or above (awarded until 2016) or Advanced Welsh Baccalaureate – Skills Challenge Certificate (awarded from 2017)**
- **We also welcome applications from students with Scottish qualifications**  
Typically we accept:
  - three subjects at grade C or above in Higher Grade of the Scottish Certificate of Education, supported by two subjects at Standard Grade 3 or above or Intermediate 2
  - or four subjects at grade C or above at Higher Grade.
- **We welcome applications from students with Access to HE Diplomas**  
We are aware that there have been significant changes to the structure of these qualifications and, where necessary, our entry requirements have been updated to reflect this. It is particularly important that these students note the GCSE requirements of our courses and contact us to discuss these if they have any queries.

***Further advice***

We welcome enquiries about how any mix of qualifications may meet our more typical entry requirements if not already published on our website.

Please contact the Applicant Experience Team for further information:

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