

**The University of Aberdeen Widening Access Contextualised Admissions Policy  
 Entry in Academic Year 2025/2026**

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](mailto: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](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/widening-access.php)

- Applicants ordinarily resident in a SIMD 20 Scottish postcode area
- Applicants who are Receiving Free School Meals
- Applicants who have been In Care
- Applicants currently studying at a University of Aberdeen Priority School

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

- Estranged From Parents
- Have Caring Responsibilities
- Applicants ordinarily resident in a SIMD 40 Scottish postcode area
- 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

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

## 2. University of Aberdeen Adjusted Offer Making

For MA, BSc, and BEng degrees:

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

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 and BEng degrees.

We would expect to issue a conditional offer asking for one additional C grade at Higher.

**Some degrees require Highers in specific subjects, if a specific subject is required then that subject should be presented at a B.**

For BSc Biomedical Science:

Applicants who have achieved ABBB at Higher and meet one of the widening participation criteria above are encouraged to apply and are guaranteed an unconditional offer 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.

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.

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

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

For LLB Law:

Applicants who have achieved ABBB/BBBBB at Higher and meet one of the widening participation criteria above are encouraged to apply and are guaranteed a conditional offer for LLB degrees.

Applicants who have achieved BBB at Higher after S5, and who meet one of the widening participation criteria are encouraged to apply and will be considered for an adjusted offer for LLB degrees.

We would expect to issue a conditional offer asking for one additional A grade at Higher or alternatively two additional Highers at B grades.

**Higher English is highly desirable.** Higher ESOL is also recognised in lieu of Higher English where the mother tongue is not English.

Care Experienced applicants:

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

## 3. Exemptions to Adjusted Offer Making

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.

Entry to the programme of BMus will be assessed on the strength of the candidate's academic record and personal statement. Graded qualifications on instrument or voice are welcome but are not essential. The

University may still be able to give an adjusted offer of admission for these programmes, where this is appropriate, and we guarantee an interview for these courses for care experienced applicants, providing they meet or are predicted to meet the academic entry requirements.

The University offers a range of subjects which are considered to be “controlled subject’s” (Education, Music Education, Medicine and Graduate Dentistry), where 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 are predicted to meet the academic entry requirements.

#### **4. Informing the University of your Contextualised Criteria**

The University can check if an applicant meets some of the criteria listed above using the information 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. 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](mailto: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](http://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](#).

**March 2024**