



# Contextualised Admissions Policy

## *(Applicants from England, Northern Ireland and Wales)*

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](http://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: Minimum, Standard and Adjusted**

The University has three sets of entry requirements for the majority of its degree programmes – Minimum, Standard and Adjusted.

- The Minimum entry requirements are what we may expect applicants, except those who meet one of our widening access criteria, to **hold** at the time they apply or be on course to achieve that year.
- The Standard entry requirements are what we would expect all applicants, except those who meet one of our widening access criteria, to **achieve**.
- The Adjusted entry requirements are what we would expect applicants, who meet one or more of the widening access criteria, to already **hold** at the time they apply. Preferably one of the A Levels will be in the subject that is being applied for.
- We may expect applicants 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, or MSci (Computing Science / Biological Sciences / Medical Sciences). However, candidates who perform well during the 1<sup>st</sup> 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](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/undergraduate).

### **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 complete the personal circumstances questions and 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 to 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 postcode identified by the Higher Education Funding Council (England) as POLAR 4 Quintile 1
- Care Experienced
- Caring Responsibilities
- Are estranged from your family
- Identify as coming from a Gypsy, Roma or Travelling Community
- Have been in receipt of Free School Meals
- Have been in receipt of Educational Maintenance Allowance
- Have experienced a physical or mental health issue that has impacted on their education during the senior phase (or throughout the majority of secondary education)
- Have been granted Refugee/Asylum status and meet the eligibility criteria for Rest of UK Fees
- Have a parent or parents who have a custodial sentence
- Applicants who have parents in the Armed Forces or who have themselves served in the Armed Forces
- Any Other Exceptional Circumstances

### **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 controlled subjects - Education, Music Education, Medicine and Graduate Dentistry.

For these programmes, the University cannot independently set 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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<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).