



## **Qualification Reform**

### **Policy to Form Guidance for Applicants, Parents, Schools, Colleges and Partners**

#### **Introduction**

The University of Hull is proud of its strong tradition in offering a high quality education experience for students from all backgrounds. We operate an inclusive admissions process and a range of programmes that are suitable for students coming from most level 3 educational profiles.

Through 2016-2017 we refreshed our curriculum to ensure its relevance to today's applicants and their future employers as those young people progress into global careers. We also aimed to reflect the changes to their learning experience at level 3 to enable them to make a successful transition into higher education.

We will accept the full range of Level 3 qualifications undergoing reform, from all countries within the UK, as standalone qualifications or in combination. We are aware that some applicants will present a mixture of 'old' and reformed qualifications and this will not be detrimental to the likelihood of an offer from the University of Hull.

The University welcomes a breadth of study but, equally, we are pleased to consider applicants whose choices are more limited due to the curriculum available in their previous school or college or whose personal situation has led to them completing their study over a slightly longer time period, or perhaps through resit opportunities.

#### **Our holistic approach to offer making**

We look at all applications holistically and the personal statement and reference are particularly important. Otherwise predicted grades and the appropriate subject choice in prior study (where there is a previous study expectation) are the most important factors towards making an offer in most cases. We have confidence in schools' and colleges' ability to indicate potential regardless of whether Level 3 externally assessed assessments have been completed, but we also appreciate that schools are adjusting to

the new qualifications and the assessment outcomes for certain grades.

We would encourage schools and colleges to outline their curriculum approach within the reference or an easily accessible web source to provide context.

### **UCAS Tariff and inclusion of additional study**

For entry 2018 and 2019 the University will make offers based on total UCAS Tariff. We will normally require a proportion of the Tariff to come from applicants' main level 3 qualifications (i.e. A levels, BTEC, OCR technical and similar, and combinations of them) but the approach will normally allow applicants to include, towards the total, Tariff points from additional qualifications such as extra AS levels, Welsh Baccalaureate Core, music practical grades 6-8 and EPQ. We will continue to accept all AS and A level subjects including General Studies.

We will normally publish typical offer levels in terms of the total Tariff with essential subject prerequisites stated and a grade requirement indicated when appropriate.

### **Decoupled AS and A levels**

With decoupling of AS and A levels we will not expect applicants to have AS qualifications on application and they will be neither advantaged nor disadvantaged by having them. We know that some students will apply for university entry with a mix of old and new style A/AS levels and we will treat these equally.

### **Science A-level practical grades**

Students taking an A level in a science subject that includes a reported practical outcome are expected to have a practical Pass where the science is directly related to their chosen degree programme (unless they are guided towards foundation level entry within our four year integrated degrees). Otherwise, we will consider only the overall graded outcome.

### **Level 2 study requirements**

In general, we do not require a given number of GCSEs and welcome applications from those with different level 2 pathways. We do not require the 'Ebacc'.

However, a number of our programmes do have level 2 requirements, normally expressed as GCSE grades. These are mainly programmes that lead to professional training where the requirements are informed by professional body accreditation. We will publish details of common acceptable alternatives.

### **Core Maths**

We support the ethos behind Core Maths and such study may be beneficial to students in a wide range of degree programmes. However, we know there may be restrictions on student choice and will not make this a requirement. Core Maths is not

a suitable replacement for those programmes at Hull that require A level maths.

### **Technical qualifications**

We will continue to welcome applications from students taking an appropriate volume of Level 3 Technical qualifications such as Pearson BTEC Nationals and OCR Technicals – or combined with other level 3 study - and will normally use the UCAS Tariff for offers. Where there are only certain subjects accepted for a given degree programme this information will be published. We will not require students who have followed the technical qualifications route to have achieved the Technical Baccalaureate (TechBacc).

### **Welsh Baccalaureate**

We will continue to recognise this qualification and welcome the Welsh Baccalaureate Core/Skills Challenge Certificate as evidence of valuable additional study. In most subjects, Welsh applicants will normally be expected to offer at least two A Levels alongside the Welsh Baccalaureate Core/SCC.

### **Scottish Highers/Advanced Highers**

We will continue to prefer study in two Advanced Highers, but in some cases will accept students who achieve strong grades in their Highers. Where we require Maths A Level, Advanced Higher Maths is necessary.

### **Further Enquiries**

We will continue to understand, and to interpret into our policies and curriculum planning, further developments across the UK, working closely with UCAS and other sector bodies, and will update our guidance and requirements accordingly. We particularly value feedback based on the experience of schools and colleges that will help to inform our policy reviews.

Any enquiries are welcome to the Admissions Service: [admissions@hull.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@hull.ac.uk) or 01482 466100.

This statement is based on information available to the University at the time of writing and should guidance from regulatory and/or awarding bodies be amended, the University will review its statement in the light of those changes and in that context it reserves the right to amend and/or withdraw some or all of this guidance.

The above relates to programmes offered by the University of Hull. The Hull York Medical School publishes its own policy at [www.hyms.ac.uk](http://www.hyms.ac.uk)