

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN
 QUALITY ASSURANCE COMMITTEE
UNDERGRADUATE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

1. PURPOSE OF THE PAPER

This paper provides an overview of proposed minor changes to domestic undergraduate entry requirements.

2. PREVIOUS CONSIDERATION BY /FURTHER APPROVAL REQUIRED

	Board/Committee	Date
Previous consideration/ approval required by	Student Recruitment Committee	14 November 2024
Further consideration/ approval required by	Quality Assurance Committee	tba

3. RECOMMENDED ACTION

This paper is provided for discussion and approval.

We are proposing minor changes in the published domestic undergraduate entry requirements for some specific degrees to address some noticeable inconsistencies following the previous change made to standard requirements.

4. DISCUSSION

4.1 This paper outlines proposed changes to published domestic undergraduate entry requirements to take effect for the 2025 entry point and displayed in the 2026/7 prospectus.

4.2 The UG printed prospectus, used heavily across the Scottish and RUK market, will be printed in December 2024 for the 2026 cycle. The deadline for content changes is 2 December 2024.

4.3 The approach to offer making being taken in admissions to maximise entry from home fees applicants to undergraduate degrees in 2025 is outlined below. Although September 2024 saw a significant increase in home fees undergraduates (1597 students were recruited to non-controlled subjects compared to 1359 in 2023/24), it is recognised that we still face significant challenges in meeting home fees targets. Entry requirements are an opportunity for us to widen the net and maximise recruitment.

4.4 This committee agreed broad changes to the majority of entry requirements in early 2024. The 2025 entry published entry requirements for MA, Divinity, BSc and Engineering degrees are now:

Highers: Standard applicants - BBBB
 Widening Access- BBC

A levels: Standard applicants – BBC
 Widening Access- CCC

4.5 To ensure consistency with other qualification types, we have attempted to determine new entrance requirements for non-Higher/A level qualifications that we publish in the prospectus, using UCAS tariff points to ensure parity.

Qualification	Current Standard Entry Requirement	Current UCAS Tarriff Points	Future Standard Entry Requirement	Future UCAS Tarriff Points
Higher	BBBB	108	BBBB	108
A Level	BBC	112	BBC	112
BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma	DDM	128	DMM	112
Irish Leaving Certificate	3xH2 2xH3	138	5xH3	120
International Baccalaureate	32 points (HL 5, 5, 5)	Approx ABC@ A Level	32 points (HL 5,5,5)	See 4.6

4.6 The International Baccalaureate is hard to allocate UCAS Tarriff points to as varies depending on the modules taken. If we look at competitor data, we can see in the below table that published IB scores required range from 27-39. Context is important here and from discussions in the recruitment team and with guidance teachers who send us IB students, an IB score less than 32 would harm our image with the prestige and rankings driven private international school applicant. We therefore suggest keeping the published IB requirement for standard degrees at 32. Flexibility will be taken at confirmation stage to maximise the intake from this group.

University	Published IB Requirements MA/BA degrees	Published IB Requirements Bsc Degrees
University of Dundee	30 points, including 5, 5, 5 at higher level	30 points, including 5, 5, 5 at higher level
University of Edinburgh	39 points with 666 at HL - 37 points with 666 at HL.	34 points with 666 at HL - 32 points with 655 at HL
University of Glasgow	34 (6,5,5)	34 (6,5,5)
University of St Andrews	38 (HL 6,6,6)	36 (HL 6,6,5)
University of Stirling	28	28
University of Strathclyde	32-30	30
Robert Gordon University	27 points	28 points, 5,5 @HL

4.7 This paper also seeks to address the increased gap between the MA/BSc/BEng/BTh (regular) degree programme entry requirements and the BSc Biomedical Science, LLB Law MEng, MSci, MChem and MBus degrees, our flagship programmes. These suggestions were arrived at through discussion with academic colleagues in the schools, taking into account the previous ratio of MA/BSc:Flagship Programme Tarriff points. The other qualifications were then calculated as per 4.5. Competitor data is available in Appendix 1.

Qualification	Future Standard Entry Requirements Regular Programmes	Future UCAS Tarriff Points Regular Programmes	Current Standard Entry Requirement Flagship Programmes (Approx)	Current UCAS Tarriff Points Flagship Programmes	Future Standard Entry Requirements Flagship Programmes	Future UCAS Tarriff Points Flagship Programmes
Higher	BBBB (current) AABB (previous)	108 (current) 120 (previous)	AAAB	126	ABBB	114
A Level	BBC (current) BBB (previous)	112 (current) 120 (previous)	AAB	136	BBB	120
BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma	DMM	112	DDM (only MEng)	128	DDM (only MEng)	128
Irish Leaving Certificate	5xH3	120	4 x H2 & 1 x H3	144	2 x H2 & 3 x H3	132
International Baccalaureate	32 points; 5,5,5 @HL	See 4.6	A minimum of 34 points.@HL 6.6	See 4.6	34 points; 6,6 @HL	See 4.6

4.8 This paper also seeks to address the gap in requirements between 1st and 2nd year entry in all degree programmes. We have taken the same approach as above with this and have two grouping of degrees; the standard and the flagship programmes.

4.9

Degree	AH	A Level	IB
Standard	AB	ABB	32
Flagship	ABB	AAB	34

4.10 It is widely accepted across the sector, given the challenges in the PGT International Markets, that Universities across the UK will begin to protect and focus growing their market share from the domestic marketplace.

4.11 The University will need to refocus its efforts to gain more applications from the local and regional marketplace. This will mean from an entry tariff point of view, we need to become more attractive to a wider and broader set of potential applicants in Aberdeenshire, and the Central belt, directly competing for students that would traditionally consider themselves for universities such as RGU. If this paper is approved, a robust local marketing campaign will be required to maximise benefits of this change in position in an attempt to take market share from RGU who are well established in the local region as the University of choice.

4.12 The approval process to change entry requirements is as follows. If approved at SRC, we propose seeking approval from QAC by circulation to meet imminent prospectus print deadlines.



5. FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information is available from Sally Middleton, Access and Articulation Manager, sally.middleton@abdn.ac.uk and Megan McFarlane, Deputy Director of Student Recruitment megan.mcfarlane@abdn.ac.uk

07.11.24

Freedom of Information/Confidentiality Status: Closed

APPENDIX 1

BREAKDOWN OF COMPETITOR DATA

Institution	MSci		MEng		BSc Biomed		MChem		MBus	
	Publishe d SQA Requirem ents	Publishe d A-level Requirem ents	Publishe d SQA Requirem ents	Publishe d A-level Requirem ents	Publishe d SQA Requirem ents	Publishe d A-level Requirem ents	Publishe d SQA Requirem ents	Publishe d A-level Requirem ents	Publishe d SQA Requirem ents	Publishe d A-level Requirem ents
University of Dundee	ABBB	BBB	ABBB	BBB	BBBB	BBB				
University of Edinburgh			AAAA	AAA-ABB	AABB* / AAAB**	AAB	AAAB* / AAAA**	AAA-ABB		
University of Glasgow	AAAAA**	AAB-BBB	AAAAA***	AAA						
University of St Andrews	AAAAB	AAA					AAAAB	AAA		
University of Strathclyde	AAAB / AABCC	BBB	AAAAB	AAB-BBB			ABBB/AA BC	BBB	AAAB/AA BBB* / AAABBB* *	ABB-BBB
RGU	BBBB	BCC	BBBC	BCC	BBBB	BCC				
Heriot-Watt University			AAAB	BBB-AAB			AABB	BBC-ABB		
Edinburgh Napier University			ABBB	BCC	BBBB	BCC				
Abertay University			BBBC	CCC						

*by end of S5

**by end of S6