

***Scottish Universities***

***Entry Requirements - Attainment and Achievement***

***Information for applicants***

**Scottish universities statements on Curriculum for Excellence**

**University of Aberdeen** [**http://www.abdn.ac.uk/study/documents/curriculum\_for\_excellence\_statement.pdf**](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/study/documents/curriculum_for_excellence_statement.pdf)

**University of Abertay**

[**http://www.abertay.ac.uk/applying/ukeu/cfe/**](http://www.abertay.ac.uk/applying/ukeu/cfe/)

**University of Dundee**

[**http://www.dundee.ac.uk/cfe/**](http://www.dundee.ac.uk/cfe/)

**University of Edinburgh**

[**http://www.ed.ac.uk/polopoly\_fs/1.112286!/fileManager/University%20of%20Edinburgh%20CfE%20statement%202013.pdf**](http://www.ed.ac.uk/polopoly_fs/1.112286!/fileManager/University%20of%20Edinburgh%20CfE%20statement%202013.pdf)

**Edinburgh Napier University**

[**http://www.napier.ac.uk/study/university/advisers/Documents/Edinburgh-Napier-CfE-Statement.pdf**](http://www.napier.ac.uk/study/university/advisers/Documents/Edinburgh-Napier-CfE-Statement.pdf)

**University of Glasgow**

[**http://www.gla.ac.uk/media/media\_273068\_en.pdf**](http://www.gla.ac.uk/media/media_273068_en.pdf)

**Glasgow Caledonian University**

[**http://www.gcu.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/howtoapply/curriculumforexcellence/**](http://www.gcu.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/howtoapply/curriculumforexcellence/)

**Heriot-Watt University**

[**http://www.hw.ac.uk/documents/curriculum-for-excellence-response.pdf**](http://www.hw.ac.uk/documents/curriculum-for-excellence-response.pdf)

**Robert Gordon University**

[**http://www.rgu.ac.uk/future-students/parents-teachers-and-advisers/curriculum-for-excellence**](http://www.rgu.ac.uk/future-students/parents-teachers-and-advisers/curriculum-for-excellence)

**University of St Andrews**

[**https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/admissions/ug/undergraduateadmissionspolicy/curriculumforexcellence/**](https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/admissions/ug/undergraduateadmissionspolicy/curriculumforexcellence/)

**University of Strathclyde**

[**http://www.strath.ac.uk/media/students/prospective/CfE\_University\_Admissions\_Statement\_July\_2013\_(1).pdf**](http://www.strath.ac.uk/media/students/prospective/CfE_University_Admissions_Statement_July_2013_(1).pdf)

**University of Stirling**

**http://**[**www.stir.ac.uk/undergraduate-study/entry-requirements/curriculumforexcellence/**](http://www.stir.ac.uk/undergraduate-study/entry-requirements/curriculumforexcellence/)

**Glasgow University**

**National 4 and 5 Qualifications**

“The University of Glasgow has not, in recent years, referred to Standard Grades or Intermediate 2 results, when assessing an applicant’s candidacy for entering a specific course. This will remain the case with the introduction of the National 4 and 5. The only exceptions to this are detailed in the table below, whereby applicants to these courses who do not have Higher grade English

Medicine - MBChB English at National 5 Grades A or B

Nursing – BN English at National 5 Grade C

Vet Medicine – BVMS English at National 5 Grades A or B”

**Highers**

The entry requirements for all our courses specify a level of achievement that must be attained by the end of S5.

Highers may be sat in either S4 or S5 – we do not differentiate between applicants who have sat all their Highers in one sitting (S5), from those who have achieved over two sittings (S4 and S5). Any combination of Highers across the two years is acceptable. Applicants will not be positively or negatively regarded based on the profile of Highers over the two years. The level of attainment by the end of S5 is all that is regarded.

**Advanced Highers**

Depending on the course applied for, the Advanced Higher is used as a qualification of entry in the following ways:

* Where applicants did not achieve the entry requirements by the end of S5,

Advanced Highers may be set as a condition of entry after S6.

* Depending on the course being applied for, Advanced Highers may be specified instead of additional ‘crash Highers’, or in addition to specified ‘crash Highers’.
* In setting the S6 conditions for entry, we will regard a B Grade at Advanced Higher as equivalent to an A Grade at Higher, and a C Grade at Advanced Higher as equivalent to a B Grade at Higher. Many, but not all, of our courses allow ‘double counting’ of Advanced Highers and Highers, even where the applicant has achieved an A Grade at Higher level.
* Some of our professional degrees (eg Medicine) now specify that Advanced

Highers must be attained in S6, in addition to having achieved a specified

standard by the end of S5. However even where a student in S6 has received an unconditional offer based on their S5 results, we encourage full and continued participation at Advanced Higher level in subjects relevant to their chosen degree programme.

* Advanced Highers may be used as a basis for applying for ‘Advanced Entry’ to some of our degree programs.

**Edinburgh University**

**National 4 and 5 qualifications**

The University will accept National 5s where we currently accept Standard Grades

and Intermediate 2s.Our entry requirements and selection criteria will not include National 4 qualifications. Where an applicant does not hold a subject that is required at National 5, they must have achieved, or be predicted to achieve an SQA Higher or SQA Advanced Higher

pass in the subject.

**Highers**

Early Highers and one sitting requirements

* The University will express its minimum entry requirements in terms of achievement of SQA Highers by the end of S5. (Not one sitting)
* For Medicine (MBChB) and Veterinary Medicine (BVM&S), applicants must have achieved at least 5 Highers at the required grades by the end of S5. In other subject areas, where the minimum entry requirement has not been met by the end of S5
* Highers in S6 may be used to meet the minimum entry requirement, but the grade requirement will increase, e.g. where the minimum requirement is ABBB by the end of S5, the requirement will increase to AABB or ABBBB by the end of S6.

Whilst the University’s one sitting requirement will be interpreted more flexibly in light of CfE, we will expect students to take a minimum number of exams in at least one year of the senior phase. In at least one year of the senior phase (S4-S6), applicants must achieve, or be predicted to achieve, three or more Highers/Advanced Highers at grade B or better (C or better at Advanced Higher). I.e. an applicant who sits one Higher in S4 and three new Highers in S5 achieving BBB will be eligible to enter the selection process, providing they meet any relevant minimum requirements in terms of grades and subject of study. An applicant who achieves BB at Higher in S4, BB in two new Highers in S5 and BB in a new Higher and an Advanced Higher in S6 will not be considered for entry to any of our degree programmes.

**St Andrews**

* The University will remove the need for a second language at level 5 from the Faculty of Arts entry qualifications, making clear that this is desirable but not a requirement.
* Subjects that are required at level 5 for Faculty entrance, if not taken at level 5, must be taken at level 6 both for applications after S5, and for any unconditional offers based on S5 results.
* Even where Academic School entry grades have been achieved, offers may still be conditional and based on applicants’ S6 course of studies in order for an applicant to meet Faculty entrance requirements. These conditions can be set at National 5 or Higher where appropriate.
* The University will accept 5/4 Highers studied for over 2 years (S4 and S5) and taken in a single diet of exams as meeting entry requirements.
* The University will require evidence of academic rigour, preferably in the form of a suitable diet of exams at the end of S5. The combination of the diet is entirely dependent on the context of the school curriculum: this could be 5/4 Highers or a mixture of Highers and Advanced Highers.
* The University will expect to see academic progression and those applicants achieving a Higher in a subject should progress to Advanced Higher where possible and when appropriate to the subject area to which they have applied.
* Although most decisions are based on results achieved in S5 the University reserves the right to base any offer of a place on examinations taken in the senior phase (S4-S6) and may place conditions on the academic programme taken in S6.
* The University will require certain combinations of subjects that will prepare the student for their academic studies and decline applicants with subject combinations that are unsuitable for our degree programmes.

**Stirling**

**Number of sittings**

The University frames its minimum entrance qualifications in terms of one or two sittings. One sitting applies to Highers taken in S4 and S5 combined. Two sittings are defined as the achievement in S4, S5 and S6 combined.

**National 4**

University entry requirements and selection criteria will not include National 4 qualifications.

**National 5**

We do not currently require a specific number of Standard Grades to be achieved and will not do so for National 5 qualifications. However we do require a minimum achievement at National 5 for some subjects.  Where the University currently requires a Standard Grade 2 or above we will now require a B at National 5 or above. If a pupil’s learner journey involves bypassing National qualifications we will require a Higher in that subject.

**Highers**

We require a minimum of four Highers taken over either one or two sittings as an entry requirement. This requirement will not change under the new Senior Phase.

**Advanced Highers**

The University of Stirling values Advanced Highers. We welcome applications into a 3-year honours degree for high achieving students who hold or are predicted to achieve three Advanced Highers. This will not change under the new Senior Phase.

**Aberdeen**

**Standard Grade/Intermediate 2/National 5 Qualifications**

The University of Aberdeen currently does not stipulate a minimum number of Standard Grade

and/or Intermediate 2 qualifications. This will be extended to include National 5 subjects. We do

not use the overall number of Standard Grade/Intermediate 2/National 5 qualifications achieved to

determine suitability. There is a requirement to hold minimum qualifications in particular subjects, such as English and Maths, as detailed below.

* MA and Divinity – English for all degrees; Maths for degrees involving Accountancy, Economics or Finance.
* Law – English
* Science – English and Maths, plus either Chemistry or Physics
* Engineering – English
* Primary Education – Maths - Standard Grade 2 or above, Intermediate 2, Grade C or above. National 5 grade still to be set by Scottish Executive Education Department.
* Medicine – English and Maths

**Medicine for entry in September 2016, incorporating Curriculum for Excellence**

In addition to the UCAS application and the UKCAT Admissions Test, an interview forms part of the

selection process.

**National 5 qualifications**

* English and Maths are required (currently Grade B minimum); Biology and Physics are recommended but not compulsory (Grade B minimum).

**Higher qualifications**

* Chemistry (Grade B minimum).
* Two subjects are required from Biology/Human Biology, Maths, Physics.
* Two further Highers in most other subjects – applicants should check with the
* Medical Admissions office if clarification required. University of Aberdeen Curriculum for Excellence December 2012
* These may be taken across the Senior Phase – S4 to S6
* There is no requirement, and therefore no advantage given, to obtaining the three

sciences required in one sitting.

**Year 5 studies**

* AAAAB from five full academic courses to be taken at one sitting; from Highers and

Advanced Highers. We require five programmes of study

**Year 6 studies**

* The Admissions Committee will not normally consider applications to Medical School
* directly from Year 5.
* Candidates who have achieved the Entrance Requirements, i.e. five full academic
* courses @ AAAAB or better in S5, may choose to continue their studies in S6 and are

free to choose a programme of study which is of particular interest to them, noting:

That we expect candidates to engage fully with a S6 programme of study.

* Higher Biology will prove useful.
* Candidates who have achieved the Entrance Requirements, i.e. five full academic courses @ AAAAB or better in S5, may choose to leave school and undertake paid employment or a Gap Year. Candidates would be expected to continue to develop

their written application further during this time, preferably involving work of a caring nature or healthcare work.

**Additional information for MA/Divinity/Law/Science/Engineering:**

**S4 Highers**

Students who take a Higher or Highers in S4 will not be penalised; we regard Highers achieved in S4

and S5 as being from ONE sitting.

**Resit Highers**

Students choosing to resit a Higher in which they achieved a grade C or below in their first sitting, will

be required to achieve an A grade in their second sitting. If the Higher at C was achieved in S4, the

resit rule does not apply, even if the resit is not until S6.

**Minimum number of Exams in One Sitting**

In at least one of the Senior Phase years – S4 or S5 or S6, there is an expectation that a minimum of

three Highers or Advanced Higher subjects are studied and presented for examinations. This is to

ensure that students are prepared for the academic rigour they will find at University

**Advanced Highers**

At the University of Aberdeen we do not double-count Highers and Advanced Highers in the same

subject. We class a B grade at Advanced Higher as equivalent to an A grade at Higher, so Advanced

Highers can be used to upgrade a Higher.

Other Useful Links

<http://www.universities-scotland.ac.uk/>

<http://www.saas.gov.uk/>

<http://www.ucas.com/>

<http://www.scotland.org/study-in-scotland/universities>