

Minimum Entry Requirements

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Purpose

The University's minimum entry requirements are intended to:

- Ensure that applicants are appropriately prepared for study in higher education
- Recognise the diversity of qualifications that can prepare applicants for higher education

Course-specific entry requirements will be set based on the needs of the course and any national or professional standards. All entry requirements must also meet the University's General Requirements

1. General Requirements

- 1.1. Applicants must show literacy skills suitable for the course they are applying to and the admissions process will identify if the requirement as been met. For UK applicants, suitable qualifications may include one or more of the following:
 - (i) GCSE English
 - (ii) Functional Skills English Level 2
 - (iii) Equivalent as published
- 1.2. Where a level of numeracy is also required the admissions process will identify if the requirement as been met. For UK applicants, suitable qualifications may include one or more of the following:
 - (i) GCSE Mathematics
 - (ii) Functional skills Maths Level 2
 - (iii) Equivalent as published
- 1.3. Applicants whose first language is not English must demonstrate proficiency in listening, speaking, writing, and reading in English. The following qualifications can serve as a guide to the minimum required level of English language competency:
 - (i) British Council International English Language Testing Service (IELTS) overall band 6;
 - (ii) Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) Internet-based score 79
 - (iii) Equivalent as published (<https://www.shu.ac.uk/study-here/international/english-language-requirements>)
- 1.4. If applicants do not meet the minimum entry requirements as outlined in this document, their employment, caregiving, volunteer work, or private study may be assessed for relevant skills and experience against the requirements of the course..
- 1.5. For all apprentices undertaking a degree apprenticeship, it is a requirement that they should hold or achieve approved Level 2 qualifications in both Maths and English before they can successfully complete the apprenticeship. The Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) funds apprentices to achieve qualifications in English or Maths (or both) if they do not already meet the minimum requirements for certification of the apprenticeship.

2. Minimum Entry Requirements Without Prior Credit

The following are recognised as the normal minimum level of attainment required for admission:

2.1. Doctoral Programmes

2.1.1. An applicant should normally hold:

- (i) An upper second class honours degree or above, from a university or any other institution of higher education in the United Kingdom with degree-awarding powers; or
- (ii) an appropriate Masters' Degree; or
- (iii) a qualification which is regarded by the University as equivalent to such an honours degree.

2.1.2. Non-standard entry qualifications

2.1.2.1. An applicant holding qualifications other than those in paragraph 2.1.1 will be considered on their merits and in relation to the nature and scope of the proposed research programme. In considering an applicant in this category, the University will look for evidence of the applicant's ability and background knowledge in relation to the proposed research.

2.1.2.2. Sources of such evidence may include:

- (i) Professional experience, publications, written reports or other appropriate evidence of accomplishment;
- (ii) If necessary, the University may require an applicant to pass an externally assessed qualifying examination at final year honours degree level before being admitted;
- (iii) Confidential statements attesting to the applicant's academic attainment and fitness for research provided by referees who should not be proposed as supervisors or advisers for the project

2.2. Postgraduate Programmes

2.2.1. An applicant should normally possess:

- (i) An undergraduate degree with honours or professional qualification, recognised as being equivalent to degree standard; or
- (ii) An ordinary degree, foundation degree, higher national diploma, or university diploma, accompanied by sufficient experience in an appropriate field.

2.3. Undergraduate Programmes

2.3.1. **Degree Courses** – An applicant should normally have achieved or are aiming to achieve Level:

- (i) Level 3 qualifications equivalent to at least 2 GCE A levels or a BTEC National Diploma; *or*
- (ii) A QAA accredited Access to Higher Education Diploma; *or*
- (iii) A T level qualification; *or*
- (iv) An International Baccalaureate; *or*
- (v) A Diploma in Foundation Studies (Art and Design) or a qualification from a recognised Foundation Course; *or*
- (vi) Vocational qualifications at level 3 of the Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF).

2.3.2. **Foundation Degree, Higher National Diploma (HND) or Foundation Year Routes for Degree Programmes**– Applicants should normally have achieved or are aiming to achieve Level:

- (i) Level 3 qualifications equivalent to at least 1 GCE A level or a BTEC National Subsidiary Diploma; *or*
- (ii) any of the qualifications listed in the required pre-requisite subjects for entry to degree courses.

2.3.3. **Entry from Foundation Degrees or HTQ to Level 6 programmes (final year or top-up courses)**

Entry into either the final year of a degree at level 6, or a standalone 'top-up' year, will require an applicant to have achieved or be aiming to achieve

- (i) A minimum credit value, usually 240 credits, with 120 from each of level 4 and level 5 *or*
- (ii) An approved progression route from a prior qualification

3. Admissions with Prior Credit

A student may be admitted to any appropriate point in a programme if they can demonstrate equivalent learning outcomes, credits, and levels. They must also be able to complete the remaining requirements to meet the programme's objectives and standards for the award.

3.1. Prior Certificated learning

3.1.1. The University may recognize credits from prior qualifications if the previous study is relevant to the applicant's and programme's aims and objectives, and covers the core content and level up to the entry point. The value and level of these credits will normally be determined by the national credit framework and specific articulations like Foundation Degrees, and will be subject to the University's Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) assessment procedures..

3.2. Prior Experiential learning

3.2.1. The University may recognize prior learning that hasn't been formally assessed if the applicant can show it's at the right level and relevant to the programme's outcomes. The value and level of this learning will be assessed according to the University's RPL procedures.

4. Equivalents

4.1. The Registered Qualifications Framework determines the equivalence of British qualifications.

4.2. The University International Entry Qualifications Group agrees equivalencies for non-UK qualifications with reference to information provided by the UK National Information Centre for the recognition and evaluation of international qualifications and skills (UK ENIC).