



UNIVERSITY CENTRE REASEHEATH CONTEXTUAL ADMISSIONS POLICY

1. Scope

This policy relates to admission to higher education programmes at University Centre Reaseheath (UCR) and is supplementary to the UCR Admissions Policy (available [here](#)).

2. Introduction

UCR is committed, as outlined in our Access and Participation Plan, to building a diverse student body from a wide range of backgrounds and with a range of lived experiences. We believe this diversity leads to a rich learning environment, where students from all backgrounds can achieve their potential. It is well documented that a young person's background and personal circumstances can have a detrimental impact on their attainment and success at school and college, often impacting on their ability to progress to higher education. At UCR, we recognise this and promote contextual admissions which takes these challenges into account during our admissions process. In short, this policy enables the university centre to consider a student's application in a holistic manner, rather than merely considering whether they have met the tariff requirements of the course for which they have applied.

Taking this context into account, including any particular circumstances that may have impacted those results, can lead to the university centre adjusting their usual offer to give applicants a fair chance to access their chosen course – this is known as a “contextual offer”.

This policy outlines UCR's approach to contextual admissions, which has been created in line with [Office for Students Contextual Admission](#) guidance. In addition to typical admissions entry requirements, such as exam grades and achievements, UCAS also ask applicants whether they have faced any additional challenges throughout their life, such as being Care Experienced. These additional questions are known as contextual questions and give universities extra information about the context in which applicants have achieved those grades or results. UCAS also populate and provide socio-demographic data to universities based on applicant information such as postcode. Together, these will be the primary source of data used by UCR to make contextualised offers.

3. Criteria

Applicants who meet one or more of the criteria below will be considered for a contextual offer:

- **Free School Meals** – applicant has previously received free school meals,
- **Polar (Quintiles 1 & 2)** - applicant home postcode is in a low participation area,
- **Tundra (Quintiles 1 & 2)** - applicant home postcode is in a low participation area,
- **IMD (Quintiles 1 & 2)** - applicant home postcode is in an area of multiple deprivation,
- **Care experienced** - applicant has declared that they have been in care for a period of time,
- **First in family** – applicant has declared that their parents have not studied at university,
- **Estranged** – applicant is no longer in contact with and subsequently lacks the support of parents,
- **Caring/Parenting Responsibilities** – applicant has caring responsibilities of either children or other family members (parents, spouse, or other),
- **Parent/Guardian Armed Forces** – applicant’s parents or guardian serve in the armed forces.

4. Contextualised Offer

UCR's reduced offer for BSc, BA and Foundation Degree courses is equivalent to a one grade (at A-Level or Level 3 BTEC) reduction from the standard entry UCAS tariff points for each programme, outlined in the table below.

Course Type	Reduced Offer
BSc (Hons) & BA (Hons)*	Reduce by 16 UCAS Points
Foundation Degree	Reduce by 16 UCAS Points
BSc (Hons) with Foundation year*	Reduce by 8 UCAS Points
*Excluding BSc (Hons) Animal Behaviour and Welfare, which is subject to the University of Chester Admissions and Contextual Admissions Policies	

This reduced offer has been standardised as UCAS tariff points, rather than as specific grades, to make it easier for applicants to understand, particularly those with multiple types and combinations of qualification. For reference, example offers for a range of qualifications has been provided in section 5.

5. Example Contextualised Offers

Course Type	A-Levels	Level 3 C&G Advanced Technical Extended Diploma	Access to HE
BSc (Hons) and BA (Hons) – except Veterinary Nursing Reduced by 16 UCAS Points	Standard Entry Requirements: 96 UCAS Points Reduced offer: 80 UCAS Points Example: CCE instead of CCC	Standard Entry Requirements: 96 UCAS Points Reduced offer: 80 UCAS Points Example: MMP instead of MMM	Standard Entry Requirements: 96 UCAS Points Reduced offer: 80 UCAS Points Example: D12, M6, P27 instead of D15, M15, P15
BSc (Hons) Veterinary Nursing Reduced by 16 UCAS Points	Standard Entry Requirements: 112 UCAS Points Reduced offer: 96 UCAS Points Example: CCC instead of BBC	Standard Entry Requirements: 112 UCAS Points Reduced offer: 96 UCAS Points Example: MMM instead of DMM	Standard Entry Requirements: 112 UCAS Points Reduced offer: 96 UCAS Points Example: D15, M15, P15 instead of D27, M6, P12
Foundation Degrees Reduced by 16 UCAS Points	Standard Entry Requirements: 64 UCAS Points Reduced offer: 48 UCAS Points Example: CD instead of CC	Standard Entry Requirements: 64 UCAS Points Reduced offer: 48 UCAS Points Example: PPP instead of MPP	Standard Entry Requirements: 64 UCAS Points Reduced offer: 48 UCAS Points Example: D0, M0, P45 instead of D0, M15, P30

Lead	Assistant Principal and Dean of HE
Approved	Executive 10.06.24 Ratified/approved (if applicable): HE Committee: 21.06.2024