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.
- **Mature learner** – applicant will be aged 21 or over at the commencement of their programme.
- **Disability or long-term health condition** – applicant has declared a disability, long-term physical or mental health condition, or specific learning difference.
- **Refugee, asylum seeker or forced migrant** – applicant has declared refugee or asylum seeker status. Applicants with humanitarian protection or other forced migration experiences may also be considered following individual declaration..
- **Personal Armed Forces service** – applicant currently serves or has previously served 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

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
Foundation Year	**Standard Entry Requirements:** 48 UCAS Points **Reduced offer:** 40 UCAS Points **Example:** DE instead of DD	**Standard Entry Requirements:** 48 UCAS Points **Reduced offer:** 40 UCAS Points **Example**: For Level 3 C&G Advanced Technical Extended Diploma applicants, the minimum tariff value of the completed qualification is 48 UCAS points. Applicants meeting the contextual admissions criteria may be considered for admission under the reduced 40-point threshold, subject to successful completion of the qualification and any programme-specific requirements.	**Standard Entry Requirements:** 48 UCAS Points **Reduced offer:** 40 UCAS Points **Example:** For Access to HE applicants, the minimum tariff value of the completed qualification is 48 UCAS points. Applicants meeting the contextual admissions criteria may be considered for admission under the reduced 40-point threshold, subject to successful completion of the qualification and any programme-specific requirements

Lead	Assistant Principal and Dean of HE
Approved	Executive 10.06.24 Ratified/approved (if applicable): HE Committee: 05.11.2026