

# Widening Participation Criteria

(Effective for those applying from September 2021 to programme codes: C100, C101, C102, C103, C301, C302, D300, D301, D302, D303, D390)

Widening Participation (WP) students, in the context of applications to any of the above subjects at the RVC, are defined as **scoring 2 or more points** from the below criteria:

**Table 1.1**

WP Criterion	Defined as	Further evidence needed	Points awarded
<a href="#">Level 2 Contextual School</a>	The school at which one completed their(1 <sup>st</sup> attempt) GCSEs or National 5s falls below the national average for attainment on this measure	-	1
<a href="#">Level 3 Contextual School</a>	The school at which one completed, or is set to complete, their A Levels or Scottish Highers/Advanced Highers falls below the national average for attainment on this measure	-	1
POLAR4 Quintile score of 1	The postcode of your home address is in a POLA4 Quintile 1 area, according to the <a href="#">OfS lookup tool</a>	-	2
POLAR4 Quintile score of 2	The postcode of your home address is in a POLA4 Quintile 2 area, according to the <a href="#">OfS lookup tool</a>	-	1
IMD Quintile score of 1	You live in an area with an Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) quintile score of 1. You can find out how to look this up <a href="#">here</a> .	-	2
IMD Quintile score of 2	You live in an area with an Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) quintile score of 2. You can find out how to look this up <a href="#">here</a> .	-	1
Care Leaver	A person who has been looked after for at least 13 weeks since the age of 14	Letter from relevant local authority in the UK	1

### **Terms & Conditions of Contextual Offers:**

- Contextual offers will only apply to GCE A Levels (in combination with the Welsh Baccalaureate where applicable) and Scottish Advanced Highers for the time being (further details in Table 1.2). Those taking linear A Levels (e.g. in England or, in some cases, Northern Ireland) who qualify for a contextual offer will still be expected to achieve a 'Pass' in their science practical for all natural science subjects.
- Where there is insufficient evidence to determine that one meets a criterion at the point of application, the applicant will be deemed not to have met it. The exception is where one is in care or a care leaver, applicants will need to provide a letter of proof once they have submitted their application via UCAS.
- Where qualifications have been taken outside of the standard period (e.g. a student from Wales would be expected to study for their GCSEs in Years 10 and 11) or at more than one school/college, the RVC reserves the right to use its discretion as to whether the candidate would qualify under a Contextual School flag.
- No other criteria, including mitigating circumstances, can be used in place of the above criteria.
- Contextual offers are not open to those attending (or who have attended since the age of 14) an independent or fee-paying school.
- By definition, applicants from outside of the UK will not be eligible for a contextual offer.
- Applicants applying with their results already confirmed will not receive a contextual offer – as their qualifications will be complete – but may be considered for an unconditional offer with grades matching the contextual offer grade profile, depending on their application.

**Table 1.2**

Qualification	Subjects	Standard Offer	Contextual Offer
GCE A Levels (linear)	Two qualifying sciences*	BBB with 'Pass' in all science practicals	CCC with 'Pass' in all science practicals
GCE A Levels (linear)	One qualifying science	ABB with Pass in the science practical	BCC with Pass in the science practical
GCE A Levels (modular)	Two qualifying sciences	BBB	CCC
+ Welsh Bacc. Advanced Skills Challenge Certificate	Two qualifying sciences	BB + B in Chal. Skills Certificate	CC + C in Chal. Skills Certificate
GCE A Levels (modular)	One qualifying science	ABB	BCC
+ Welsh Bacc. Advanced Skills Challenge Certificate	One qualifying science	AB + B in Chal. Skills Certificate	BC + C in Chal. Skills Certificate
Advanced Highers	Two qualifying sciences	BB	CC
Advanced Highers	One qualifying science	AB	BC

\*Qualifying sciences:

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Mathematics