

## **GCSE and A-level Qualification Reforms – The RVC’s policy**

The following information provides information and guidance on the RVC’s approach to the admission of applicants to its undergraduate courses in light of the GCSE and A-level reforms. A synopsis of the reforms can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/reform-of-as-and-a-level-qualifications-by-ofqual>

The RVC will be accepting the new A-level and GCSE qualifications, and will determine offer levels on an equivalent basis to the current qualifications. Based on the information currently available (as at May 2015), we do not plan to make major changes to programme entry requirements. However, we may need to make some adjustments to our subject specific requirements in advance of publication of the 2017 undergraduate prospectus.

Specific programme requirements for GCSE achievement will be adjusted to fit the new grading format, using guidance from Ofqual on grade equivalences. A grade C will be aligned to a grade 4 under the new grading system and a grade A will be aligned to a grade 7. The RVC does not require English applicants to offer the English Baccalaureate (EBacc).

We will continue to expect applicants to take three A-levels and our standard offers will continue to be made on this basis. We appreciate that some applicants, during the transition phase, may apply with a mixture of ‘old’ and ‘new’ A-levels and we will not penalise applicants in this situation. No additional value will be placed upon applicants who are taking the new linear qualifications over those who have sat A-levels in previous years. This position will be reviewed, if necessary, after the first round of delivery of the new A-levels.

Whilst we value the breadth which comes with studying 4 subjects at AS-level, supplementary AS-level(s) are not part of our assessment criteria and will confer no advantage over an applicant who has taken three A-levels. Our offer making processes and decisions do not take into account grades achieved at AS-level and therefore applying with AS-levels in any particular subjects that are also being taken at A-level will not offer any advantage.

Given the nature of the degrees offered at the RVC, we view achievement in the practical element of science A-levels as crucial. We will therefore expect students to pass the practical element of any science A-levels taken and offers will be made to reflect this.

The RVC will not require applicants to offer the new Core Maths qualification and applicants who do offer this will not receive any advantage over those who do not.

We are happy to answer any specific questions or concerns any applicants, schools/colleges, parents or advisors may have. Please contact our admissions office email: [admissions@rvc.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@rvc.ac.uk) or telephone: +44 (0)20 7468 5147.

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