

# Widening Participation Criteria

(Effective for those applying from September 2026 to programme codes: D100, D101, D105)

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 (for final consideration for 2026 entry)	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 (for final consideration for 2026 entry)	The postcode of your home address is in a POLA4 Quintile 2 area, according to the <a href="#">OfS lookup tool</a>	-	1
TUNDRA MSOA score of 1	The postcode of your home address is in a TUNDRA MSOA Quintile 1 area, according to the <a href="#">OfS lookup tool</a>	-	2
TUNDRA MSOA score of 2	The postcode of your home address is in a TUNDRA MSOA 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
Receipt of free school meals (FSM) during your secondary education	You indicate that you have been in receipt of FSM on your UCAS application and the RVC is able to verify this, either via Government data or you can provide evidence of this.	If you live in Scotland or Wales, evidence confirming receipt of FSM. If you live in England or Northern Ireland, we will contact you if we cannot verify the information.	2
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 are not open to those attending (or who have attended since the age of 14) an academically selective, independent or fee-paying school.
- Contextual offers will only apply to GCE A Levels, these in combination the Advanced Skills Baccalaureate Wales, Scottish Highers/Advanced Highers and the International Baccalaureate 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. 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, without this the applicant will be deemed not to meet this criterion.
- Where an applicant states they were in receipt of free school meals, but the RVC cannot verify this, the applicant will be asked to provide evidence. Without this the applicant will be deemed not to meet this criterion.
- 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.
- 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 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)	Biology, Chemistry + third subject	AAA with 'Pass' in all science practicals	ABB with A in Biology or Chemistry, and 'Pass' in all science practicals
GCE A Levels (modular)	Biology, Chemistry + third subject	AAA	ABB with A in Biology or Chemistry
+ Advanced Skills Baccalaureate Wales	Biology and Chemistry	AA+ A in Advanced Skills Baccalaureate Wales	AB (with the A in either science subject) + B Advanced Skills Baccalaureate Wales
Advanced Highers	Biology and Chemistry	AA	AB (the A can be in either science subject)
International Baccalaureate	Biology, Chemistry + third subject at Higher Level	666 at Higher Level	655 with 6 in Biology or Chemistry at Higher Level