

Widening Participation Criteria

(Effective for those applying from September 2021 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
Level 2 Contextual School	The school at which one completed their (1 st attempt) GCSEs or National 5s falls below the national average for attainment on this measure	-	1
Level 3 Contextual School	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 OfS lookup tool	-	2
POLAR4 Quintile score of 2	The postcode of your home address is in a POLA4 Quintile 2 area, according to the OfS lookup tool	-	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 here .	-	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 here .	-	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, these in combination the Advanced Welsh Baccalaureate Challenge Skills Certificate, and Scottish Highers/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 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 Welsh Bacc. Challenge Skills Certificate	Biology and Chemistry	AA+ A in Chal. Skills Certificate	AB (with the A in either science subject) + B in Chal. Skills Certificate
Advanced Highers	Biology and Chemistry	AA	AB (the A can be in either science subject)