

Widening Participation Criteria

(Programme codes: C100, C101, C102, C103, C300, 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 meeting two or more of the below criteria:

Table 1.1

| WP Criterion | Defined as | Further evidence needed |
|---------------------------|---|--|
| Level 2 Contextual School | The school at which one completed their (1 st attempt) GCSEs or National 5s is contextually flagged. Full definitions can be found in our Admissions policy. | - |
| Level 3 Contextual School | The school at which one completed, or is set to complete, their A Levels or Advanced Highers is contextually flagged. Full definitions can be found in our Admissions policy. | - |
| Low POLAR4 score | Score of 1 or 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 |

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) | 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 |
| + Advanced Welsh Bacc. Challenge Skills 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 |
| + Advanced Welsh Bacc. Challenge Skills 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