

**Subject Choice Careers Information**

**Appendix 2**

**General considerations**:

* Most students will study three subjects. However, some students may consider taking four subjects. Please note that the standard offer for the majority of courses is three subjects. However, some specific courses require 4 at AS e.g. Queen’s University Belfast, Medicine. If you are applying for this type of course or competitive universities such as Oxford or Cambridge, you are advised to research the relevant university web sites to check for their specific requirements

The following information outlines some of the ‘A’ Level course requirements for a range of courses in the local universities. This information is essential for students considering application to any of these areas. The information provided is specific to the local universities, where itemised, but the general principles apply to most institutions. Please note that these are requirements have been taken from the university on-line prospectus. The grades stated are typical offers and can be subject to change by the university. Where the UCAS tariff stated, at A2, A\* = 56 A = 48, B = 40, C = 32, D = 24, E = 16. If a student studied four AS subjects the grade obtained by subject dropped at the end of the Lower Sixth attracts points: A = 20, B = 16, C = 12, D = 10, E = 6

**Note: QUB = Queen’s University, Belfast UU = University of Ulster.**

## Medicine (QUB)

**Interview**

All applicants will be ranked on cognitive performance, and a proportion selected for interview. Interviews will take place between January and March in Belfast for home and EU applicants.

**UKCAT**

All applicants are required to sit the UK Clinical Aptitude Test (UKCAT) and the results achieved will be used as part of the selection process prior to interview.

**A level requirements**

AAA at A-level + A in a fourth AS-level subject including A-level Chemistry plus at least one other A-level from Biology, Mathematics or Physics. If not offered at A-level, then Biology grade A as a 4th AS-level or grade B as a 5th AS-level. GCSE Mathematics minimum grade C and either GCSE Physics minimum grade C or GCSE Double Award Science minimum grades CC are required if not offered at AS-level or A-level.

A maximum of either one Applied A-level or one Applied AS-level will be counted. Please also note that only one Mathematics subject will be counted at A-level (the other would be acceptable as the fourth AS-level).

In considering applications, GCSE performance in the best 9 subjects will be scored with 4 points awarded for an A\* (grades 8 and 9 on the new 9-1 grading scale) and 3 for an A (grade 7). UKCAT will be scored and used in conjunction with the GCSE score to rank for interview. AS-level performance, additional GCSE A grades and other factors may also be taken into account in borderline cases.

Evidence of commitment to medicine, motivation, communication skills and initiative are important.

## Dentistry (QUB)

**Interview**

All offers are made on the basis of interviews. All candidates will be ranked and a proportion selected for interview. Offers will be made on the results of the interview. There are 15 international places available on the BDS degree and interviews for these students take place online.

**UKCAT**

All applicants, assigned as NI, GB or EU for fees purposes, are required to sit the UK Clinical Aptitude Test (UKCAT) and the results achieved will be used as part of the selection process prior to interview.

**A level Requirements**

AAA at A-level including Biology and Chemistry. GCSE Mathematics minimum grade C is required if not offered at AS-level or A-level.

For A-level School Leavers a maximum of either one Applied A-level or one Applied AS-level will be counted. Please also note that only one Mathematics subject will be counted at A-level (the other would be acceptable as the fourth AS-level).

For NI, GB and EU applicants, GCSE performance in the best 9 subjects will be scored with 4 points awarded for an A\* (grade 8 and 9 in the new grading scale) and 3 for an A grade (grade 7 in the new grading scale).

For those who have not undertaken GCSE or equivalent level qualifications, then an academic score will be calculated on the basis of school reports.

UKCAT will be scored and used in conjunction with the academic score to rank for interview. AS-level performance and additional GCSE A grades may also be taken into account in borderline cases.

Evidence of commitment to Dentistry, motivation, communication skills and initiative are important.

## Pharmacy (QUB)

AAB including A-level Chemistry and at least one other A-level from Biology, Mathematics or Physics + GCSE Biology grade C or GCSE Double Award Science grades CC + GCSE Mathematics grade C.

Note: Biology to at least AS preferred.

Please note that only one Mathematics subject will be counted at A-level.

## Pharmacy (UU)

Grades AAB to include Chemistry and one science subject from Mathematics, Physics or Biology. Biology preferred as second science.

Applied Science Double Award is acceptable only when offered with A level Chemistry at least at Grade B.

## Biology and related courses QUB, UU

Both Biology and Chemistry can be required or strongly supportive. This depends on specific courses. Please refer to individual university prospectuses.

## Engineering (QUB, UU)

Both Mathematics and Physics can be required. However, given the diverse nature of the courses available it is advisable to refer to individual university prospectuses.

## Architecture (QUB, UU)

**(QUB) A-level:** AAB + GCSE Mathematics grade C. Applicants with a grade C in GCSE Art or no Art at GCSE/A-level may be invited for a portfolio interview. Neither Technology and Design nor Craft, Design and Technology are considered an alternative to Art.

(UU) the A Level requirement for this course is BBB to include 2 A Levels at minimum grades BB. Applicants may satisfy the requirement for one of the ‘A’ Level B grades (or equivalent) by substituting a combination of alternative qualifications to the same standard as defined by UCAS.

## Dietetics (UU)

Grades BBB (to include 2 subjects from Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, Biology, Home Economics of which Chemistry is preferred). Applied Science Double Award acceptable.

## Speech and Language Therapy (UU)

## The A Level requirement for this course is BBB to include a grade B in one of the following: English (or modern foreign language), Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Geography, Health and Social Care.

## Nursing (QUB, UU)

QUB Adult: BCC including a relevant Science (Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics or Physics)   
OR  
BBC where a relevant Science subject is not offered.

All applicants must normally have a minimum of 5 GCSEs at grade C to include English Language or an equivalent qualification acceptable to the University, Mathematics and a Science subject (i.e. Biology/ Human Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Double Award Science or Single Award Science). GCSE Applied Science is not acceptable in lieu of GCSE Science.

UU Nursing Adult: The A Level requirement for this course is BBC.

## Physiotherapy (UU)

The A Level requirement for this course is BBB to include a grade B from one of the following: Maths, Physics, Chemistry, Biology or Double Award Applied Science (grade BB).

## Diagnostic Radiography and Imaging, Radiotherapy and Oncology (UU)

The A Level requirement for this course is BBB to include a grade B from one of the following: Maths, Physics, Chemistry, Biology or Double Award Applied Science (grade BB).

## Sport and Exercise Science (UU)

The A Level requirement for this course is AAB to include a grade A from one of the following: Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics, Sport Science & Leisure Industry.

## Sports Studies (UU)

The A Level requirement for this course is AAB to include a grade A from one of the following: History, Geography, Politics, or Sports Science & Leisure Industry.

## Business (QUB, UU)

Normally Business Studies and Economics at AS or A2 level are of equal value. Both QUB and the UU have indicated that either is equally acceptable but are not a requirement.

## Computing and related courses (QUB, UU)

Given the diverse nature of the courses available, specific subjects may be required. It is advisable to refer to individual prospectuses.

## Psychology (QUB, UU)

No specified subjects exist for most universities.

## Actuarial Studies and Risk Management (QUB)

A level requirements

A\*AA including Mathematics OR AAA + A (AS) including A-level Mathematics

**Law**

No specified subjects exist for most universities.

## Social Work

No specific subjects exist for most universities.

## B.Ed. Courses at Stranmillis University College

BEd Primary: AAB At least one subject from:- Art, English, Geography, History, Mathematics, Music, Physical Education, Religious Studies, Science

## BEd Post Primary

* Business and Enterprise: BBC Business Studies
* Mathematics and Science: BCC Mathematics and Physics or Chemistry or Biology
* Religious Studies: ABB Religious Studies
* Technology and Design: BCC Technology and Design / Art / Computing / Physics

Further information on specific subjects can be found on the Internet sites of the appropriate universities or in university prospectuses.