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**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 may require 4 at AS. If you are applying for competitive courses at 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 (Multi-mini interview). Interviews will take place between January and March in Belfast for home and EU applicants. Staff from the Medical School visit South East Asia in late January/February to interview and international applicants from other countries are encouraged to travel to Belfast for interview, as they will benefit from a tour of the Medical School and the University.

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. Further information on UKCAT is available at:

http://www.ukcat.ac.uk

A level requirement

AAA at A-level + A in a fourth AS-level subject including A-level Chemistry plus at least one other A-level from Biology/Human Biology, Mathematics or Physics. If not offered at A-level, then Biology/Human Biology grade A as a 4th AS-level or grade B as a 5th AS-level. Grade A in the EPQ or Advanced Welsh Baccalaureate or a grade B in a 4th A-level will be acceptable in lieu of the 4th AS-level.

OR

A\*AA at A-level including Chemistry and Biology/Human Biology.

OR

A\*AA at A-level including Chemistry and either Mathematics or Physics + AS-level Biology grade B.

ALL APPLICANTS

GCSE Mathematics minimum grade C and either GCSE Physics minimum grade C or GCSE Double Award Science minimum grades CC are required if these subjects are 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). A-level Critical Thinking and both AS-level and A-level General Studies are not acceptable.

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), 3 points for an A (grade 7), 2 points for a B (grade 6) and 1 point for a C (grades 4 and 5). From 2021 entry, in view of the re-alignment of the A\* with a Grade 9, scoring will change to 4 points for a Grade 9 and 3 points for Grades 7 and 8.

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 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. Further information on UKCAT is available at:

http://www.ukcat.ac.uk

AAA at A-level including Biology/Human 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 one Applied A-level will be counted. Please also note that only one Mathematics subject will be counted at A-level. A-level Critical Thinking and both A-level and AS-level General Studies are not acceptable.

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). Points are not awarded for B and C grades (grades 6, 5 and 4 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)

A level requirement

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. A-level Critical Thinking and General Studies are not acceptable.

## Pharmacy (UU)

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

Applied Science or Life and Health Sciences 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 requirement

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. Guidance for applicants preparing an art portfolio can be found at http://go.qub.ac.uk/k100portfolio. 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)

A level requirement

Grades BBB (to include 2 subjects from Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, Biology, Nutrition & Food Science (of which Chemistry is preferred). Applied Science and Life & Health Sciences Double Awards acceptable.

## Speech and Language Therapy (UU)

A level requirement

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, psychology, geography, life and health sciences, applied science or health and social care.

## Nursing (QUB, UU)

QUB Adult

All applicants

This information is prepared in advance of the academic year to which it relates and the grades stated should be treated as a guide only and entrance requirements are reviewed annually.

Overall academic background will be taken into account when considering applications and additional academic criteria may have to be applied at shortlisting, depending on the volume of applications.

All applicants (except Access/Foundation 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.

Applicants offering Access/Foundation courses must also have a grade C in GCSE Mathematics and a Science subject or an equivalent qualification acceptable to the University. Within an Access programme, a pass in NICATS Mathematics and in a Level 2/3 Biology or Chemistry or Physics module (minimum of 15% of the programme) would fulfil the GCSE Mathematics and Science requirements.

In addition to the GCSE requirements, or equivalent, applicants must offer one of the following qualifications:

A level requirement

BCC including a relevant Science (Biology/Human Biology, Chemistry, Life & Health Sciences, Mathematics or Physics) OR BBC where a relevant Science subject is not offered.

UU Nursing Adult

The A Level requirement for this course is BBC.

You may satisfy the requirement for the A-level C grade by substituting a combination of alternative qualifications recognised by the University.

## 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, Double Award Life & Health Sciences (grade BB) or Double Award Applied Science (grade BB).

## Diagnostic Radiography and Imaging (UU)

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

**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. Double Award Life & Health Sciences (BB) or Double Award Applied Science (grade BB).

## Sport and Exercise Science (UU)

A level requirement

The A Level requirement for this course is AAB to include a grade A from one of the following: Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, PE, Physics, Sports Studies, Sport Science & Leisure Industry, Double Award Life & Health Sciences (AB) or Double Award Applied Science (grade AB).

## Sports Studies (UU)

The A Level requirement for this course is AAB to include a grade A from one of the following: History, Geography, Psychology, PE, Politics, Sociology, Sport Studies 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 requirement

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 / Economics / Accounting
* Mathematics and Science: BCC Mathematics and Physics or Chemistry or Biology
* Religious Studies: ABB Religious Studies
* Technology and Design: BCC T&D / Art / Computing / Physics

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