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**GCSE Subject Choice Careers Information**

**The Subject Choice Process**

It may be hard for you to believe that you are now making important choices about your future. It is important to consider your strengths, interests and future options and it is not too early to be thinking of future A-level choices.

Here are some factors for you to consider when making your choice of GCSEs.

* Career options. Does dropping a subject close some future career choice e.g. Medicine?
* Enjoyment of subject: If you enjoy studying the subjects you choose then potentially this will mean you will achieve a good grade in it.
* Balance / Breadth: When making your choices think about whether they are a good spread that allows you to excel in them.
* Realism concerning subjects / career options: Choosing subjects based on a particular career option may influence which subjects you pick. However, you need to consider whether you can cope with some of the demands of particular choices. For example, many students may consider choosing all three sciences to keep all science-based career options but this might be a very demanding study option for you.

* The importance of good GCSE grades: Choosing subjects that give you the best set of GCSE grades will allow you to have more choices when it comes to post 16 study options.
* Irish Universities: If you may wish to study at an Irish University in the future, you should consider studying a Modern Foreign Language as, depending on the course and the university, a modern language can be a prerequisite to entry. You should check individual Irish university requirements.

The information below lists some courses at our local universities in respect of A-level requirements which may influence your choice of GCSEs.

The following information outlines some of the A-level course requirements for a range of courses in local universities for academic year entry 2021/22. 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 online prospectus. The grades stated are typical offers and can be subject to change by the university.

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

## Medicine (QUB)

A-level requirement

AAA at A-level + A in a 4th 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/4 and either GCSE Physics minimum grade C/4 or GCSE Double Award Science minimum grades CC/44 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 4th 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\* (grade 9 on the new 9-1 grading scale), 3 points for an A (grades 7 and 8), 2 points for a B (grade 6) and 1 point for a C\*/C (grades 4 and 5).

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

Dentistry (QUB)

A-level requirement

AAA at A-level including Biology/Human Biology and Chemistry

GCSE Mathematics minimum grade C/4 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 9 in the new grading scale) and 3 for an A grade (grade 8/7 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.

## Pharmacy (QUB, UU)

(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/4 or GCSE Double Award Science grades CC/44 + GCSE Mathematics grade C/4

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.

## (UU)

A-level requirement

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

AAA + GCSE Mathematics grade C/4

Applicants with a grade C/4 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)

A-level requirement

BBC to include 2 A-levels at minimum grades BB

Applicants may satisfy the requirements for one of the A-level grade B requirements (or equivalent) by substituting a combination of alterative qualification to the same standard as defined by UCAS.

Applicants will be required to submit a portfolio, except where the applicant has GCSE Art or GCSE Art & Design at Grade A or higher. Where the applicant has GCSE Art or GCSE Art & Design at Grade A or higher, a portfolio will not be required.

## Dietetics (UU)

## A-level requirement

Grades BBB (to include 2 subjects from Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, Biology, Nutrition & Food Science of which Chemistry is preferred). Single Award Life & Health Sciences is accepted as a science subject along with a second science from A-level Biology, Chemistry or Physics. Applied Science Double Award and Life & Health Sciences Double Award are acceptable.

BTEC Award profile of D (to include subject requirements) **plus** A-level Grades BB to include 1 core science subject from above.

## Speech and Language Therapy (UU)

The A-level requirement for this course is BBB.

## 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/BTEC 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 (see above) or an equivalent qualification acceptable to the University. Within an Access programme, a pass in NICATS Mathematics and a pass in one Level 3 Biology or Chemistry or Physics module 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 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, CCEA Single Award Life & Health Sciences (first taught September 2016), 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, CCEA Single Award Life & Health Sciences (first taught September 2016), 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 with optional placement year (UU)

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).

### Applied General Qualifications

Overall BTEC Level 3 QCF award profile D\*DD in a sport or science based BTEC

OR

BTEC Level 3 RQF National Extended Diploma with DDD

You may also meet the course entry requirements with combinations of different qualifications to the same standard (provided subject requirements are met). Examples of combinations include:

A-level with BTEC Level 3 QCF Subsidiary Diploma or BTEC RQF National Extended Certificate

A-level with BTEC Level 3 QCF Diploma or BTEC Level 3 RQF National Diploma

For further information on the entry requirements for this course please contact the administrator as listed in Contact Details.

## 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.

### Applied General Qualifications

Overall BTEC Level 3 QCF award profile D\*DD in a sport or science based BTEC

OR

BTEC Level 3 RQF National Extended Diploma with DDD

You may also meet the course entry requirements with combinations of different qualifications to the same standard (provided subject requirements are met). Examples of combinations include:

A-level with BTEC Level 3 QCF Subsidiary Diploma or BTEC RQF National Extended Certificate

A-level with BTEC Level 3 QCF Diploma or BTEC Level 3 RQF National Diploma

For further information on the entry requirements for this course please contact the administrator as listed in Contact Details.

## Business (QUB, UU)

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

## 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.

## BEd Courses at Stranmillis University College

BEd Primary:

A-level requirement

AAB

## BEd Post Primary

## A-level requirement

* Business and Enterprise: BBC Business Studies / Economics / Accounting
* Mathematics and Science: BCC – A-level Mathematics and either an AS in a Science Subject (Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Life and Health Sciences) OR GCSE Double Award Science grade CC
* Religious Studies: ABB Religious Studies
* Technology and Design: BCC to include at least one of the following: Technology and Design, Computing or Physics

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