Statement on A level and GCSE reform in England.

This briefing sheet aims to give an indication to schools, academies and colleges about Aston University’s admissions policy and typical entry requirements.

We encourage all schools and colleges to continue to offer a range of qualifications to their post-16 students.

A levels

- Aston will make offers based on the best three A-Level\s taken (for some courses General Studies will not be acceptable.) We do not expect students to have taken four subjects at AS Level to gain entry onto our courses.

- We recommend that schools/colleges briefly refer to their curriculum model on A levels, vocational qualifications and AS levels in the UCAS reference for entry criteria, to give our Admissions team additional context and help ensure fairness in considering candidates. Schools and Colleges may find the guidance published here useful: [https://www.spa.ac.uk/sites/default/files/Guidance-school-college-references-qualification-reform.pdf](https://www.spa.ac.uk/sites/default/files/Guidance-school-college-references-qualification-reform.pdf)

- Aston University will not discriminate against schools/colleges or students who have not taken or certified stand-alone AS levels in year 12. If a school or college chooses to enter its students for AS levels then this should be stated on the UCAS form and in the UCAS reference. Students are also welcome to take additional AS levels in year 13 (if time and resources allow) to broaden their studies.

- A strong year 12 AS level performance in one or more subjects may motivate students, provide a positive angle to a UCAS application and back up any predicted grades. Schools/colleges who have not entered students for AS exams may wish to refer to internal assessments in the UCAS reference when making predicted grades.

“Old” and “new” A levels

- Aston University will continue to make offers based on grades BBC-AAA at A level, depending on the degree. We appreciate some students may apply to university with a mix of old and new style A levels and we would not discriminate between years/styles. We will try to be flexible on entry grades for firm choice candidates, particularly if students achieve within one or two grades of their offer.
Vocational Qualifications and mixes

- Aston will continue to accept students with relevant BTEC, Cambridge Technical and other vocational qualifications as well as a mix of A levels/BTEC/equivalent courses. For example we will require students to achieve distinction grades at BTEC.

International Baccalaureate (IB)

- Aston University welcomes applications from International Baccalaureate students with typical offers ranging from 32-35 points for 2017 entry.

Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) and similar Qualifications

- At Aston we note that more students are applying to us with an EPQ qualification or similar independent learning opportunities alongside their A levels. We welcome the academic and research experience these can give students and the opportunity to link their A level subjects together. Aston will continue to take additional AS/EPQ qualifications into account at results confirmation and when making offers but they may not be part of the offer itself.

Core Mathematics Qualifications/Studies

- Whilst we would not discriminate against students who do not/are unable to take a core mathematics course, we welcome the ethos behind this development. For example, students in social sciences, business, psychology, sciences and health sciences who are not taking A/AS levels maths, may find the core maths element useful in preparing for university study where a working application of maths or statistics may be required. We welcome core maths as an additional qualification, however for some courses it may not fulfil the entry criteria where specific maths qualifications are required.

GCSE reforms

- Aston University will view the new grade 4 as being equivalent to a C grade and will require students to achieve at least the new grade 5 if the subject is relevant to our degree programme. For example, GCSE maths for degrees in Accounting, Economics or Computing.

The information contained on this website details the typical entry requirements for the most commonly offered qualifications. Applicants with alternative qualifications may wish to enquire with the relevant admissions teams prior to application whether or not their qualifications are deemed acceptable. For less commonly encountered qualifications this will be judged on a case-by-case basis in consultation with the academic admissions tutor.