

Widening Participation Criteria

(Effective for those applying from September 2024 to programme codes: C100, C101, C102, C103, C104, C105, C301, C302, C303, C304, D300, D301, D302, D303, D304, D305, D390, D391)

Widening Participation (WP) students, in the context of applications to any of the above subjects at the RVC, are defined as **scoring 2 or more points** from the below criteria:

Table 1.1

WP Criterion	Defined as	Further evidence needed	Points awarded
Level 2 Contextual School	The school at which one completed their(1 st attempt) GCSEs or National 5s falls below the national average for attainment on this measure	-	1
Level 3 Contextual School	The school at which one completed, or is set to complete, their A Levels or Scottish Highers/Advanced Highers falls below the national average for attainment on this measure	-	1
POLAR4 Quintile score of 1	The postcode of your home address is in a POLA4 Quintile 1 area, according to the OfS lookup tool	-	2
POLAR4 Quintile score of 2	The postcode of your home address is in a POLA4 Quintile 2 area, according to the OfS lookup tool	-	1
TUNDRA MSOA score of 1	The postcode of your home address is in a TUNDRA MSOA Quintile 1 area, according to the OfS lookup tool	-	2
TUNDRA MSOA score of 2	The postcode of your home address is in a TUNDRA MSOA Quintile 2 area, according to the OfS lookup tool	-	1
IMD Quintile score of 1	You live in an area with an Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) quintile score of 1. You can find out how to look this up here .	-	2
IMD Quintile score of 2	You live in an area with an Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) quintile score of 2. You can find out how to look this up here .	-	1
Receipt of free school meals (FSM) during your secondary education	You indicate that you have been in receipt of FSM on your UCAS application and the RVC is able to verify this, either via Government data or you can provide evidence of this.	If you live in Scotland or Wales, evidence confirming receipt of FSM. If you live in England or Northern Ireland, we will contact you if we cannot verify the information.	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	1

Terms & Conditions of Contextual Offers:

- Contextual offers will only apply to GCE A Levels (in combination with the Welsh Baccalaureate where applicable) and Scottish 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. 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, without this the applicant will be deemed not to meet this criterion.
- Where an applicant states they were in receipt of free school meals, but the RVC cannot verify this, the applicant will be asked to provide evidence. Without this the applicant will be deemed not to meet this criterion.
- 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 for an unconditional offer 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
+ Welsh Bacc. Advanced Skills Challenge 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
+ Welsh Bacc. Advanced Skills Challenge 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