

Advice for Y12 Students 2017-2018

From September 2017 Bishop Challoner Catholic College will not be offering AS level qualifications in the 6th form. Instead, students will be expected to select 3 full A levels, or in exceptional circumstances 4 full A levels when they begin Year 12.

The decision not to offer AS level will not disadvantage our students when they make an application to university in Year 13.

The following information is taken from The Russell Group Website:

<http://www.russellgroup.ac.uk/for-students/how-do-russell-group-universities-view-the-as-level/>

It provides a clear overview of what each Russell Group university will be looking for and expecting from applicants to their university from 2017 onwards. It is clear from reading this that students NOT completing AS levels will **not** be disadvantaged when making a university application.

University of Birmingham

We do not expect to see AS levels being offered by all applicants once these become de-coupled from the A level. The University of Birmingham will not disadvantage applicants who have not had the opportunity to take AS levels at their school/college at the point of initial application and our standard policy is to make offers on the basis of 3 A levels.

University of Bristol

We will continue to expect applicants to take three A-levels and eight GCSEs (or equivalent qualifications), and additional qualifications will not confer any advantage. While we value the breadth which comes with studying 4 subjects at AS-level, we do not expect to introduce a requirement for AS-levels to be taken and do not plan to use them as part of the process to select applicants.

University of Cambridge

When assessing our applicants we consider not only the individual A Level/IB Higher Level (or equivalent) subjects being offered but also the combination of these.

For many Cambridge courses qualifications in certain subjects are required and all Colleges expect such subjects to be passed, normally with an A or A* grade at A Level/grade 6 or 7 at Higher Level of the IB (or equivalent).

University of Edinburgh

Our entry requirements are normally expressed with an upper and lower level, for example, AAAA-ABBB for Scottish Highers, or AAA-ABB for A Levels. The upper level shows the typical entry requirement, for example AAAA for Scottish Highers, and the lower level shows the minimum entry requirement, for example ABBB.

Our minimum entry requirements are set at a level that ensures applicants have the skills and knowledge to successfully complete their programme.

University of Exeter

The University of Exeter will continue to make offers based over three A Levels, or equivalent. Whilst the University recognises the benefits for learners in studying for AS levels, we understand that some schools and Colleges will not offer AS Levels. We can confirm that applicants will not be disadvantaged if applying without AS Level results.

Imperial College London

The College is aware that not all secondary education providers will be offering students the opportunity to take AS-levels, so from 2017 none of our programmes will include a specific requirement for AS-levels. In programmes where an AS-level is currently required (MBBS/BSc Medicine and BSc Biomedical Science) it is likely that there will be changes to A-level requirements to accommodate this, so applicants for those subjects should check the 2017 prospectus carefully as soon as this is available.

Kings College London

Currently the College uses AS grade information in a relatively “light touch” manner, therefore the likely reduction in the amount and nature of AS grade information should not prove too problematic for King’s. Currently the state school and college funding model requires all institutions to declare the AS grades on student’s UCAS forms, but this is not the case for other schools. However, as we are provided with the information for some students, but not others, comparing applicants on this basis is ineffective: therefore to ensure that we neither advantage, nor disadvantage students to a significant extent this light touch process is utilised.

University of Leeds

In 2017, the University will continue to make offers based on three A levels or equivalent. We recognise that some A level students will no longer sit AS levels. This group will not be disadvantaged in the decision making process at Leeds.

University of Liverpool

For our non-clinical programmes, we do not formally use the results that applicants have obtained at AS level as part of our decision-making criteria. This is because it is already the case that not all schools are required to certificate AS level achievement and we therefore do not believe it to be fair to use AS level grades when not all applications based on A/AS levels include this information. Our decision is mainly based on predicted grades and other information provided within the UCAS application, such as GCSE achievement, the personal statement and the reference. However, in the interests of making holistic assessments of applications, admissions staff may use any or all of the information provided in the UCAS application to arrive at a judgement about the suitability of a candidate for admission to their programme. As such, AS level achievement forms part of the overall profile of a candidate and may be taken into account alongside other academic and non-academic factors.

London School of Economics and Political Science

LSE understands that there will be some schools and colleges that are unable to teach AS Levels alongside the new linear A Levels and has no intention of disadvantaging students who submit an application without AS Level grades as a result. In these circumstances we will use the information presented on the application form to make our decision (possibly in conjunction with some form of additional assessment).

University of Manchester

AS-level results are not considered as part of the standard admissions process at The University of Manchester. The exceptions to this are in our Dentistry courses (where a grade B at AS-level is required alongside three A-levels) and our Medicine courses (where four AS subjects are required excluding General Studies); please see course entry

requirements for further information. These AS-level requirements will continue to apply for applicants holding newly reformed qualifications in England.

We are aware that some colleges and schools may no longer enter candidates for AS-level qualifications. Dentistry and Medicine applicants who are unable to present a fourth AS level will not be disadvantaged in the selection process. If this applies to you, please contact the academic School directly; you may be asked for written confirmation of your college or school's policy and such applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis. We also advise that teachers of students who have followed a non-standard curriculum should highlight this within their reference.

Newcastle University

We will continue to make offers on the basis of the information available in an application. This includes predicted grades and the suitability of subjects offered. GCSE performance is also likely to be considered in cases where there is no grade information available for AS levels or internal assessment at the end of Year 12.

University of Nottingham

We are aware that providers are considering different approaches to the year 12 curriculum and, in particular, whether they are able or wish to offer students the opportunity to study a fourth subject at AS level in year 12, ahead of sitting three of the new A levels in year 13. Again, it is for providers to determine whether their students will benefit more from greater breadth in year 12, or from the opportunity to focus exclusively on the subjects they wish to take to A level. The University of Nottingham will continue to make offers based on three A levels or equivalent.

University of Oxford

It does not rely on the consideration of AS-level grades, partly because a third of our applicants are not taking AS and A-levels. Our admissions process considers each application on its individual merits, taking in to account each student's academic record, personal statement, academic reference – including any predicted grades – and any written work or written test that may be required for the chosen degree. Where students are shortlisted, their performance in any interviews will also be taken in to account.

Queen Mary University of London

Currently only applicants to our School of Medicine and Dentistry are required to achieve a minimum B grade in an AS-level in addition to three A-levels. From 2017 entry we expect to require three A-level passes with a minimum A grade including either Biology or Chemistry and a further Science A-level from Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Mathematics. We will not require an additional pass in an AS Level.

Queen's University Belfast

Depending on your chosen programme, professional qualifications or experience may also be taken into account, and in some cases form an integral part of the entrance requirements. For some programmes, an interview, admissions test or the submission of written work may form part of the selection process.

University of Sheffield

The decision whether a student should sit an AS Level even if he or she intends to take the full A Level must rest with the school or college and the student, and the University of Sheffield will not discriminate for or against students according to which choice they make.

University of Southampton

Where entry criteria stipulate that applicants must achieve a minimum of a GCSE grade B in one or more subjects, we will expect applicants offering the new GCSE available in England to achieve a grade 6. In Northern Ireland and Wales the requirement will remain as a B.

University College London

Depending on the degree programme, UCL makes offers in the range A*A*A-ABB. AS levels are no longer required. The requirements for individual programmes can be found on the relevant degree page.

University of Warwick

Applicants are required to offer a minimum of three A-levels. Please refer to typical entry requirements for each course for full details. Students may still wish to take AS exams as they can be helpful for measuring progress so far in their studies and we do not discourage this, but where students are taking subjects to A level they will not be disadvantaged if they do not take the corresponding AS exam.

University of York

To get evidence of your ability to sustain concentrated and progressive study, we normally ask for completion of three subjects to be taken to A level. If you have completed an AS qualification before application we will normally wish to see a good level of achievement in it as evidence of your general ability and – where it is relevant to your application – of your subject competence.