

Teacher and Adviser FAQs 2022 Admissions >>

How will 2022 admissions be different?

The 2022 admissions cycle has later application deadlines and universities have longer to make offers. UCAS has changed the 'on-time' application date to 26 January 2022, where it would normally be 15 January. We would normally aim to make almost all on-time offers by the end of March but we have until 19 May to do this in 2022. We have also made some internal changes to our processes to make sure we protect our outstanding student experience, with enough space to accommodate and teach all our eligible entrants. Overall, we will be releasing offers less swiftly than in previous cycles.

Will it be harder for applicants to get an offer from Exeter?

As a result of two years of very high attainment rates, and the Ofqual steer that 2022 attainment will be between 2019 and 2021 levels with an emphasis on 2021, we have had to adjust our planning for numbers management this year. Along with additional deferrals, post-results applicants from previous years, and growing application volume expected due to the demographic uptick in the 18-year old population, this means that we have to be cautious about the volume of offers we make overall. Some of this would have been a feature of the next decade without Covid-19 but the pandemic has certainly had an impact on the pace at which HE admissions for selective universities and courses are becoming more competitive. How your students experience this will very much depend on what subject they apply to. High volume, high demand subjects nationally will notice the change but disciplines which generally attract much smaller numbers may carry on very much as before.

How can our students give themselves the best chance of success?

At Exeter, applications received between September and January will be considered and tiered based on predicted or achieved grades and contextual information. Applicants with predicted grades are placed in tiers according to their three best predicted A levels or equivalent, from Tier 1 (A*A*A*) down to Tier 8 (BBC). Applicants with achieved grades are placed in tiers according to their achieved grades, in line with our typical offer. For example, where our typical offer is AAA-AAB, applicants will be tiered from Tier 1 (A*A*A*) to Tier 5 (AAB).

We read all applications carefully and take note of the contents of personal statements and references but these elements are rarely used actively in the selection process and are unlikely to carry specific weight. It is possible that this year, we may look at personal statements if we have to choose between a small number of equally qualified or predicated candidates but this is not our usual approach. Please do encourage your students to complete their personal statements diligently as they are used differently by other institutions and they are a very good way of focusing on the factors that are most important in reaching an informed choice about HE.

We have changed our processes for extenuating circumstances in a bid to make this more transparent and easier for all to understand. If an applicant has circumstances that are likely to have affected their studies, we ask that they complete and submit our online form, as soon as possible once they have applied. Information on this process and our new approach is available on our dedicated Extenuating Circumstances webpages: [exeter.ac.uk/undergraduate/applying/afteryouapply/extenuatingcircumstances](https://www.exeter.ac.uk/undergraduate/applying/afteryouapply/extenuatingcircumstances). It is important we know this contextual information as soon as possible, otherwise places may have been allocated and we are not in a position to make adjustments.

Are offer levels going up?

In a small number of instances, each cycle we have had to increase our typical entry requirements, this year we did this for our Law programmes. We do this for the start of the admissions cycle and publish these changes via our website in early September. We do not and will not raise entry requirements during the admissions cycle.

If my student has predicted or achieved grades to match the typical offer, are they guaranteed an offer?

Unfortunately this is not the case. There can be instances where we receive such high application volume that we can only make offers to those with the highest predicted grades. This is relatively rare across our whole portfolio and in most cases, having predictions or achieved grades in line with our typical offer will give a good or at least reasonable chance of success. Please note that we will not make an offer **higher** than the published typical offer. A candidate applying for an AAA course, with A*A*A predictions will only receive an AAA offer if we make one.

Are you making fewer offers?

Overall it is likely that we will have to make fewer offers this year for some of our disciplines, because we have a lower number of target places to fill for 2022 entry and both the take-up (C-CF) and attainment rate (CF-UF) has gone up in recent years.

How is Medicine admissions affected?

Last year we had to offer incentives to our medicine applicants to defer to 2022/23 in order to preserve the student experience. Consequently for 2022/23 entry we have fewer places available and are expecting to interview 350 applicants this year, some 200 fewer than last year. The government have advised we should only make offers to the number of places we have available, as opposed to estimating take-up and adjusting offers accordingly. We are therefore going to be issuing fewer offers initially but will have a reserve list and as someone withdraws or declines our offer, we will then make an offer to the highest ranked on the reserve list. We will operate this process until 19 May, and then will keep a reserve list of those interested in a place to use, once results are received on 11 August.

Will the whole process be slower this year?

Both the UCAS application and decisions deadlines, and our own selection processes are likely to mean the 2022 cycle will feel slower-paced than previous years. Many decisions won't be made until all applications are received by the equal consideration date of 26 January. In some instances, we may decide to release a small number of offers sooner and these will be made to the highest tiers in the first instance, or those with other special circumstances. We will then continue to make offers up to 19 May, where we would normally be wrapping this up by March.

What is a gathered field?

As we receive so many applications compared with the places we have available, we always look at applications in batches, grouping them by predicted grade. We release offers to these 'tiers' in line with our numbers management, and this can vary significantly discipline by discipline. For those subjects with very high application volume and, in recent years, very high take-up and attainment rates, the University is going to be operating a full 'gathered field' for 2022 entry. This means that we won't make offers until all the on-time applications are in by the January deadline. We will assess the applications as they are received so that we can hopefully release decisions within a few weeks after the January deadline. However, we will have to take this steadily. We anticipate using this approach for Criminology, Flexible Combined Honours programmes, Law and Psychology.

Does it matter if some offers come through later than others?

It doesn't matter if your student receives an offer later than someone else. An offer is an offer, whatever date it is made. Sometimes, we are able to release an offer sooner for someone who has experienced mitigating circumstances, or is in one of our contextual target groups. The pace of offer will also vary by programme and discipline as well as by which tier the candidate is in. Even if candidates have the same predictions, the date of their offer can vary and is not something to worry about.

Will offers be higher than the level published in the prospectus or on the web?

Please note that we will not make an offer **higher** than the published typical offer on the Exeter or UCAS webpages. A candidate applying for an AAA course, with A*A*A predictions will only receive an AAA offer if we make one. Our Admissions team are always on hand to help determine the equivalencies of different qualifications; we do not want someone to waste their choice on a programme they are not eligible for an offer for. Please check the subject requirements and our equivalencies, and if in doubt please get in touch as our equivalencies are not directly comparable to UCAS tariff.

