



University
of Exeter

An insight into our offer making process

At the University of Exeter, we believe a diverse and inclusive community is essential to our core values. Diversity amongst our students enriches learning, teaching, and research. We strongly encourage applicants with the potential to succeed to apply. Typically, we make offers to a high proportion of our applicants.

Contextual offers for September 2026 entry

It is highly likely that a proportion of your students will qualify for a contextual offer. This is an offer below the standard range; for example, A Level grades of BBB instead of AAB or BTEC grades of DDM instead of DDD. You can find information on both our standard and contextual offers under each subject on our course webpages. We also have an eligibility checker tool on our website.

Applicants who meet one of the following eligibility criteria will qualify for a lower offer if an offer is made:

- All applicants who live in an area with low participation rates in higher education (POLAR 4 / TUNDRA MSOA Quintile 1 or 2) and who attend a state school or college.
- All applicants who live in areas of deprivation (IMD Quintile 1 or 2) and attend a state school or college.
- Applicants have been in receipt of Free School Meals and attend a state school. Applicants in this category who receive an offer will receive a two-grade adjustment.
- Applicants who have attended a school or college on the list on our website. These are non-selective state schools or colleges in the South West and Wales which have high concentrations of students who are under-represented in higher education.
- Applicants are applying from the SEREN partnership in Wales or from an Elephant Group school, from IntoUniversity South Centre Bristol, or Bridges to HE.
- Applicants we define as a Care Leaver; anyone who has been looked after by the local authority for more than 13 weeks since they were 14, including some time at age 16 or 17.
- Applicants we define as Care Experienced; anyone who has been or is currently in care or from a looked-after background at any stage of their life.
- Carers, estranged students and those with parental responsibility.
- Applicants engaged on specific progression programmes run or managed by the University of Exeter. You can check details of these on the University of Exeter contextual offers webpage.
- Applicants seeking asylum, who have limited leave to remain (excluding under the EU settlement Scheme), are under 'humanitarian protection' or have refugee status **and** who attend a state school or college.

Further information including how to confirm eligibility may be found on our webpages: exeter.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/entryrequirements/contextual



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The UCAS application form includes a number of questions which give us details about the context in which applicants have achieved their academic qualifications. We consider all this information as part of our holistic assessment of each candidate.

Being eligible for a contextual offer determines the level of offer your student receives, but we do not guarantee that your students will automatically be made an offer (unless you are an Educational Partner school or college – further information is sent to participating schools/colleges separately). Demand for places in certain subjects (e.g. Economics, Medicine or Psychology) is so high that we may not be able to make offers to all the excellent candidates who apply, whether they are eligible for standard or contextual offers.

Please be aware that regardless of an applicant's contextual offer status, they must still meet minimum subject requirements for the course – e.g. GCSE Maths and English Language grades, and certain subject and grade requirements at A Level or equivalent (e.g. Grade B in A Level Maths for Economics) – in order to be eligible to apply. Details of these requirements can be found alongside our standard and contextual entry requirements on our course webpages.

We appreciate any information on extenuating circumstances that is provided via the UCAS reference but to be sure that we have a full picture, especially where the circumstances are significant such as major illness or bereavement, please use our online form. It is not always possible to vary our entry requirements and this very much depends on numbers management year to year and discipline by discipline. We can consider extenuating circumstances alongside contextual factors and it's important that these are sent to us via our online form at exeter.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/applying/afteryouapply/extenuatingcircumstances

Admissions criteria and selection

Offers for the 2026 cycle will be conveyed via the UCAS Hub and we aim to ensure all key information is available to view by advisors. We send applicants an offer email which contains any additional details pertinent to the offer which we cannot fit in the offer text for UCAS. Applicants taking an EPQ or Core Maths qualification may receive an alternate offer in recognition of the additional preparedness this provides. Applicants with or planning to complete EPQ or Core Maths who achieve a grade A or higher will be accepted one grade below their standard

offer (excluding any subject requirements). Our applicant webpages: (exeter.ac.uk/study/applicants) have lots of useful detail about our offer, events and registration that we hope are helpful.

We do not give extra consideration or priority to those taking four rather than three A Levels or equivalent. Offers are made on the basis of three, always specifying any subject specific requirement. We consider the Welsh Baccalaureate as the equivalent of one A Level for these purposes.

We can consider candidates with achieved results (e.g. post-A Level) or with predicted grades (e.g. an estimate of IB Diploma points). Achieved results do not provide an advantage over predicted grades, with the exception of our Medicine programme where this is an element in our scoring system – see separate policy. We are happy to consider applicants who intend to take a year out between school/college and university. Applicants applying for deferred entry will be considered in the same way as applicants applying for entry without a gap year. We do not make 'conditional unconditional offers' – a phrase applied to those who have not completed their qualifications but may be given an unconditional offer anyway. The only unconditional offers we make are to those with achieved results which meet our requirements and do not exceed any numbers caps or management we have in place.

When will students receive their offers?

We release offers from the early autumn, but how quickly your students hear back from us will depend on what subject they have applied for, overall demand for places and our numbers management strategy. We may operate a 'gathered field' procedure in a small number of very high demand subjects (e.g. Psychology) whereby applications received between September and January will be considered, but a decision may not be conveyed until all applications are received by the equal consideration deadline in January have been assessed. We endeavour to convey a decision to these applicants no later than the end of March, though in practice it tends to be a lot sooner than this for most programmes.

On occasion it is not possible for us to make all decisions by this date, and it may take a little longer in cases of applications (received by the equal consideration deadline) where further information is required to make a decision, interviews are taking place, or application numbers have increased.