

## **National Programme – Widening Participation/ Widening Access to University Education**

At national level, the Scottish Government aims to encourage applications to university from all sectors of the population regardless of background or circumstance.

This programme of widening participation or widening access to university has resulted in universities taking into account all circumstances faced by individual applicants and, in some cases, adjusting entry requirements accordingly.

### **Criteria for Consideration**

While each university has their own approach to this, the main focus relating to such contextualised admissions can include some of the following (please check each university website for details):

- applicants with low income backgrounds and low socioeconomic groups. This is based on the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation which is related to post codes. Consideration usually applies to those in SIMD 1 or 2 but this can vary up to and including SIMD 4. (Search online for SIMD information: applicants who are the first in their generation to consider higher education)
- applicants who attend schools and colleges where performance is below the national average
- applicants who are care experienced
- applicants who are young carers
- applicants who are estranged from their families
- applicants who have refugee status or are an asylum seeker
- applicants from under-represented backgrounds

Much of the information required by universities will be evident from the completed UCAS application form. If however, the completed form does not provide the mechanism for sharing relevant information, please contact the university to seek advice and clarification. Please note, universities may seek additional supporting evidence depending on the criteria to be considered. Please also alert the Principal Teacher of Guidance of any questions.

### **Adjusted entry requirements**

Adjusted entry requirements can include revised offers and completion of pre –entry programmes. Some typical offers:

- minimum requirements
- revised requirements
- subject to completion of Summer School
- subject to completion of Offer Holder day
- subject to completion of Outreach programmes

Remember, each university has their own policy and each faculty sets any adjusted entry requirements - they are not universal. Most university websites have a section on widening access programmes. Please also note, that some universities provide entry courses for medicine & dentistry at the end of S5.

### **Further information is available from:**

- [www.gov.uk/.../widening-participation-in-higher-education](http://www.gov.uk/.../widening-participation-in-higher-education)
- [www.gov.scot/news/scottish-index-of-multiple-deprivation-2020](http://www.gov.scot/news/scottish-index-of-multiple-deprivation-2020)
- <https://simd.scot>