

Frequently Asked Questions

As we find applicants often ask similar questions, we have provided below answers to some of the most frequently asked questions from applicants over the past few. If you cannot find an answer to your question here or are still unsure about your application, please don't hesitate to [contact us](#).

General questions

How many A/AS-levels do I need for entry?

Our normal requirement is for the equivalent of at least three A2-levels.

Are Geography and Mathematics A/AS-levels considered as relevant science A-levels?

For Geology and Oceanography degrees, yes. For Oceanography/Marine Biology degrees, Geography is considered on a case by case basis, as for some pathways you may have insufficient science background if Geography is one of your science A-levels, and you should contact us for advice.

Are there any specific A/AS-levels you do not consider as "science" A-levels?

Yes, there are - we do not accept Psychology, Archaeology or Computing as containing sufficient scientific content to qualify as a 'science'

How can I build my science/Mathematics background?

If you have studied an insufficient number of science/Maths subjects you could consider taking an additional AS-level (or two) in Year 13, or perhaps you might consider deferring for a year, to build up your science background. If you have not studied science subjects to A2 standard, then one of our Foundation Degree Programmes might be appropriate for you.

Do I need Geology A-level or AS-level to apply for a Geology degree?

No. Only about 30% of our annual intake have taken Geology at A/AS-level.

A2/AS-related questions

When I apply through UCAS do I need to declare those AS-levels that have been cashed in, and those that are being continued as a full A2-level?

When looking at the UCAS form, if we see the grades achieved at AS-level for four subjects but only three subjects listed as examinations to be taken, we will assume the subject not listed as one of the three is an AS-level that has been completed and "cashed-in", and the other three are being continued to obtain a full A2-level.

If I am re-taking an AS-level to improve the grade, how should I list it on the UCAS form?

Record the AS-level grade already achieved, but also list the subject again as an AS-level examination still to be taken.

Four-year degrees

What happens if I apply for a four-year MSci degree, but may be rated as marginal in terms of meeting your application criteria on paper?

We would still make an offer, but if you fail to make the higher grades for Master's degree, we would still consider you for the equivalent three-year Honours degree (subject to meeting entry points score).

What happens if I don't make the offer you have asked for to enter the undergraduate Master's degree?

Subject to you achieving the entry points score for the equivalent three-year Honours degree we would automatically offer you a place on that programme.

If I start on a three-year BSc programme can I upgrade to the four-year Master's degree?

Yes. As long as you upgrade within 12 months of initial registration, your Local Authority (in cases where financial/support is given) should be happy to accept the change. Through your Personal Tutor we will be able to advise you of your suitability for the four-year degree. This will be evaluated on the basis of coursework and examination performance.

If I am awarded a place on the four-year Master's degree or the four-year Master's degree with study abroad, are there minimum progression standards required to maintain a place in these degree programmes?

Yes, we assess progress at the end of each of the first and second years of study and students have to attain an certain yearly average to remain on these flagship degree programmes – 70% in the case of the 'with study abroad' programmes.