



Contextual Statements / Extenuating Circumstances

Many universities will offer a reduced course grade tariff if a student has endured difficulties or interruptions during their sixth form studies.

NB This is less likely to be the case if the university is asking for a specific grade in a specific subject as you would need to have an appropriate level of knowledge to access the course.

Reasons for a contextual offer can include, but is not limited to:

- a student has been eligible for free school meals
- a student is on Pupil Premium / Sixth Form Bursary
- a student resides in an area where there is a reduced number of people who have / are attending higher education
- a student attends a school where few apply for university
- a student has refugee status
- a student is adopted
- a student is fostered
- a student has been in local authority care
- a student has suffered from an illness, or accident resulting in prolonged interruption to their studies
- there has been an issue with the continuity of teaching during a student's studies
- a student has participated in a local university's widening participation scheme - this will only apply to applications to the specific university.

If you feel that you are eligible for a contextual statement to be added to your teacher's report on your UCAS application you will need to discuss this with either Mr Robinson, Mr Brinsden or Mrs Rose.

Contextual offers are advertised via two different methods by UCAS / universities.

1. When a university asks for a specific grade / tariff, for example AAA - ABB, this can mean one of two things:

i) The lower grade is the university's contextual offer if they do not make a separate contextual statement

ii) However, as these grades are set over a year before the courses start, it can also mean that the university has accepted grades between these two levels in the past but will not know what they will accept, for a specific year, until they see the applications.

2. The university has a specific contextual offer for the course. For example

Standard offer

UCAS Tariff Points: 136 A Level: AAB

Contextual offer

UCAS Tariff Points: 112 A Level: BBC

NB - A university is not obligated to offer a reduction in grade tariff. Each decision is made on an individual basis.

NB - Different universities have different criteria for what constitutes a contextual / extenuating circumstance.

Some universities may require you to complete an additional form.