



Cardiff
Metropolitan
University

Prifysgol
Metropolitan
Caerdydd

Contextualised Admissions Policy

Cardiff Met is keen to encourage students from a wide range of backgrounds to participate in higher education.

Contextualised admissions is where information provided on the UCAS application and additional information collected as part of the admissions process, allows the recognition of an applicant's achievements and identifies the potential to succeed in the context of background and experience.

The aim of using this information is to help us to build a more rounded view of an applicant's achievement and potential. It allows us to use a range of applicant information in addition to prior attainment and judge applications fairly on merit.

Contextualised Information Used

For applications received for NHS programmes from September 2021, the following contextual indicators will be used:

- Spent Time In Care (identified through information on the UCAS application)
- Having parents/guardians who have not attended University (identified through information on the UCAS application)
- Live in an area with low progression to Higher Education (identified from Participation of Local Areas POLAR score) The score ranges from 1 to 5 with 1 being low and 5 being high participation with the university considering those applicants from POLAR 4 being quintiles 1 and 2.
- Welsh, English, Scottish and Northern Irish Indexes of multiple deprivation
- Attendance at a school with lower than average participation to Higher Education or those that have a higher number of students from low participation neighbourhoods.
- Completed an accredited Widening Participation programme at Cardiff Met.

How does it work?

The information you provide as part of your UCAS application is used so you usually do not have to do anything. It is important that you indicate on your application if you have care experience and if members of your family have not participated in Higher Education.

If you are identified as meeting the specified criteria and are offered a place after interview, you will receive an adjusted conditional offer. Typically, this will be one grade (or the equivalent in points) below the published standard entry requirements. Course specific conditions will still need to be met, e.g. if the course requires a minimum grade within a specific subject.

An alternative programme of study, or foundation year may also be offered if a place cannot be offered on an applicant's original choice.

The University can only use data supplied at the time of application. Where no data is provided, the contextualised admissions policy will not be applied.

Review and Monitoring

The University is committed to widening access and providing opportunities to students from disadvantaged backgrounds, however it is not in the interests of the University or the applicant to admit students who do not have the full potential to succeed. We will therefore monitor students who have been admitted on this basis and monitor the impact of the implementation of the policy.

The University also recognises that we are relying on readily available data to make contextual admissions decisions and we will evaluate the reliability of this data regularly.

Support for Applicants

Applicants admitted on a contextual confirmation decision will have access to the same support services as all other students. Applicants for NHS programmes whose permanent address is in one of the 10% most deprived areas of Wales, as defined by the [Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation](#) 2019 (WIMD), may receive additional study support. Please refer to our NHS Study Support Bursary.
