

SUBJECT GUIDANCE FOR THE SENIOR PHASE

www.strath.ac.uk



University of
Strathclyde
Glasgow

INTRODUCTION

If you are planning to go on to university, choosing the appropriate subjects is important. This leaflet examines some of the issues to consider when choosing your subjects and outlines the specific Highers which may be required for entry.

The focus is on the University of Strathclyde to give you some examples of what you might need. Subject requirements at other universities are generally similar, but you will find some differences, so it is important to check the details with each institution.



PREPARING TO MAKE // YOUR CHOICES

- Check current prospectuses, university websites or the UCAS website to find out what degree courses are on offer
- Identify some courses which interest you and check the entry requirements and which subjects are essential (see overleaf for some examples of required subjects)



CONSIDERING YOUR OPTIONS

Gaining all of the required Highers and grades by the end of S5 may lead to an unconditional offer of a university place when you apply in S6, so getting your choices right, and putting in the hard work to gain the grades is well worth it.

Vocational courses require evidence of appropriate skills and interests too; achieving the right qualifications by the end of S5 allows you to focus on gaining relevant experience in S6. If you don't get the Highers you need by the end of S5, you can generally make up the difference in S6.

SELECTING HIGHERS //////////////

- If possible, you should choose those Highers which are essential for entry
- In addition, you should consider subjects which will develop relevant skills e.g. essay-based subjects for Social Sciences or Business; subjects like Art/Design and Manufacture/Graphic Communication for Product Design
- Base your other choices on subjects you enjoy and are good at, to give you the best chance of gaining the overall grades required for entry

If you have gained the required grades by the end of S5, you should use S6 to:

- Take recommended or favourite subjects to Advanced Higher level
- Take other subjects of interest at Higher for additional breadth
- Gain relevant skills and experience through volunteering in school or the community

If you require additional qualifications, you should use S6 to:

- Meet any specific subject and grade requirements
- Take subjects which will develop and demonstrate relevant skills e.g. essay based subjects for Social Sciences or Business; Art/Design and Manufacture/Graphic Communication for Product Design
- Take subjects you are good at, to help you gain strong grades

When to upgrade Highers:

- If a Higher which you gained at B or C is required at A or B for entry to your chosen course

When to take Advanced Highers:

- If you enjoy a subject, want to continue studying it and are close to the required entry grades for your chosen course by the end of S5
- When the Advanced Higher is required or recommended for your chosen University course

Note that it is important to check the entry requirements in the undergraduate prospectus to find out what credit is given to Advanced Highers for the courses which interest you.

Foundation Apprenticeships will usually be considered equivalent to one SQA Higher for entry to all four faculties (with the exception of law courses). Where specified subjects are required for entry to a degree programme (for example Maths and Physics for entry to Engineering), the Foundation Apprenticeship will not replace that requirement but will count as one of the additional subjects making up the total complement of qualifications.

At Strathclyde we have a general policy of considering any SQA Higher towards entry. However, the range of Highers and possible combinations on offer in schools is considerable and some courses may recommend particular Higher subjects as they are relevant to the course. Please contact the admissions staff named in the prospectus or the Recruitment and International Office (details overleaf) for advice if you have any doubts about a Higher you are considering, or about a mix of Highers.



ENTRY TO THE UNIVERSITY OF STRATHCLYDE

The University of Strathclyde expresses its entry requirements mainly in terms of Highers (see below). All applicants must demonstrate proficiency in English and Maths. For Scottish students this usually means National 5 at a minimum of C.

Normal minimum entry requirements:

- a minimum of 4 Highers, plus:
- National 5 (A-C) in English and Maths

The Faculty of Engineering and the Faculty of Science require National 5 Maths. The Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences and the Strathclyde Business School will also accept National 5 Applications of Maths.

Please find below specific Higher subject requirements for the University of Strathclyde courses which you might want to consider:

Higher English required for courses in:

- Accounting; Architectural Studies; Business; Business Analysis & Technology; Business Enterprise; Economics; Education; English; Finance; French; History; Hospitality & Tourism Management; Human Resource Management; International Business; Journalism, Media & Communication; Law; Marketing; Pharmacy; Politics & International Relations; Primary Education; Psychology; Social Policy; Social Work; Speech & Language Pathology; Spanish; Sport & Physical Activity; any joint degree with Teaching.

Higher Maths required for courses in:

- Aero-Mechanical Engineering; Biomedical Engineering; Chemical Engineering; Chemistry; Civil Engineering; Computer & Information Sciences; Data Analytics; Electronic & Electrical Engineering; Engineering Academy; Mathematics; Mechanical Engineering; Naval Architecture, Ocean & Marine Engineering; Pharmacy; Physics; Product Design Engineering; Manufacturing Engineering with Management; Software Engineering; Sports Design Engineering.
- Maths or Applications of Maths is required for Accounting
- Maths or Physics is required for Architectural Studies
- Maths or Physics or Engineering Science is required for Product Design & Innovation
- Maths or Physics is required for Prosthetics & Orthotics
- Maths or a Science is required for Sport & Physical Activity

SCIENCES

Higher Chemistry is required for courses in:

- Biochemistry; Biomolecular Science; Biomedical Science; Chemical Engineering; Chemistry; Immunology; Microbiology; Pharmacology; Pharmacy.

Higher Biology/Human Biology is required for:

- Biochemistry; Biomolecular Science; Biomedical Science; Immunology; Microbiology; Pharmacology; Pharmacy.

It is useful for entry to Allied Health Professions such as Speech & Language Pathology or Prosthetics & Orthotics.

Higher Biology recommended for BEng Biomedical Engineering and required for MEng Biomedical Engineering.

Higher Biology/Human Biology are recommended for Prosthetics & Orthotics.

Higher Computing Science is recommended for Computer Science and Software Engineering.

ENTRY TO THE UNIVERSITY OF STRATHCLYDE CONTINUED

Higher Physics is required for courses in:

- Aero-Mechanical Engineering; Biomedical Engineering; Electronic & Electrical Engineering; Engineering Academy; Manufacturing Engineering with Management; Mechanical Engineering; Naval Architecture, Ocean & Marine Engineering; Physics; Product Design Engineering; Sports Design Engineering.

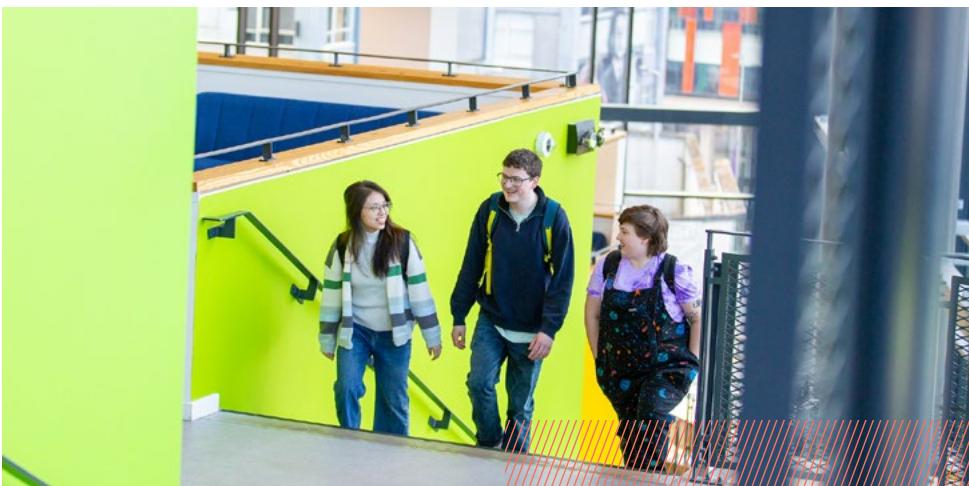
Higher Engineering Science is an acceptable alternative to Physics for some Engineering courses.

SOCIAL SUBJECTS

Higher Geography, History, Modern Studies, Religious Moral & Philosophical Studies (or other subjects which develop your skills in essay writing and critical thinking) are very favourably regarded by the Strathclyde Business School. Humanities & Social Sciences courses require that you take 2 Highers in subjects like these, one of which must be Higher English.

LANGUAGES

Higher French or Spanish is required for International Business with a Modern Language. A National 5 in a language other than English is recommended for entry to Speech & Language Pathology.



CREATIVE SUBJECTS

Higher Art & Design, Design & Manufacture or Graphic Communication is required for:

- Architectural Studies.

Higher Art & Design, Design & Manufacture or Graphic Communication is recommended for:

- Product Design & Innovation, Product Design Engineering, Manufacturing Engineering with Management and Sports Design Engineering.

We will generally count any Higher towards entry so long as you also meet the specific course requirements and most of your subjects reflect your course interests. Subjects you are good at and enjoy can form the basis for the rest of your choices, giving you the best chance of gaining good grades.

ADVANCED HIGHERS

Gaining Advanced Highers is helpful to give you grounding for first year study at university, and in some cases, can qualify for first year course and exam exemptions. The qualifications are treated differently from department to department and you should check online or in the current prospectus for relevant information.

ENGINEERING COURSES

Most of our Engineering courses will recommend **Advanced Higher Maths** and **Advanced Higher Physics** for entry.

Prosthetics & Orthotics recommend **Advanced Higher Maths, Physics or Biology**.

SCIENCE COURSES

Advanced Higher Chemistry plus one other Advanced Higher Science are required for entry to Pharmacy.

Advanced Higher Maths is recommended for all mathematical courses including Data Analytics.

Advanced Higher Chemistry and Maths are recommended for all Chemistry courses.

ENTRY TO UNIVERSITY WITH HNC/HND QUALIFICATIONS

If you are considering progressing to further education before applying to university, it is important that you contact the admissions staff for your intended degree course, to check that your Higher National Certificate (HNC) or Higher National Diploma (HND) will be considered for entry.

ADDITIONAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Be aware that some courses may require additional things over and above your grades such as a portfolio, work experience or an interview. Be sure to do your research so you are prepared.

WIDENING ACCESS

In order to support the University's commitment to widening access and encouraging students from diverse backgrounds to study with us, specific items of contextual data are taken into account when we consider applications.

For more information on the use of this data in admissions search "widening access" at www.strath.ac.uk



#STRATHLIFE



If you have any questions regarding entry requirements or our courses please contact:

Recruitment and International Office

t: 0141 548 2814

e: ugenquiries@strath.ac.uk

w: www.strath.ac.uk

Scan QR for details of our Open Days and other Visiting Opportunities.



Please note that this leaflet is for guidance purposes only.

The final decision on entry to your chosen course rests with the Academic Selector.

Information as at January 2026.



University of
Strathclyde
Glasgow

THE QUEEN'S
ANNIVERSARY PRIZES
1996, 2019, 2021 & 2023

For Higher and Further Education

UNIVERSITY
OF THE YEAR
2012 & 2019

Times Higher Education

UNIVERSITY
OF THE YEAR
2024 RUNNER-UP

Daily Mail University of the Year Awards

SCOTTISH UNIVERSITY
OF THE YEAR
2024

Daily Mail University of the Year Awards

EUROPEAN ENTREPRENEURIAL
UNIVERSITY OF THE YEAR
2023

Triple E Awards