



ADMISSIONS POLICY

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1. Introduction

This policy applies to all applications for undergraduate, postgraduate taught and postgraduate research programmes at the University of Strathclyde (“**the University**”). The policy is intended to give guidance to staff and prospective students on the University’s procedures for recruiting, selecting and admitting undergraduate, postgraduate and visiting students, to all campus-based and/or blended learning and online programmes.

2. Admissions Aims and Principles

2.1 Aims

The University is committed to providing a high-quality learning environment and an outstanding student experience for all its students. We aim to inspire our students to develop their full potential to succeed and thus to be highly employable, capable of advanced study and research and to be confident in their own abilities. The policy aims to support our aspirations and distinctiveness and, as such, we welcome applications from all talented individuals with the potential to succeed academically.

The University aims to provide a professional, fair and transparent service for all enquirers and applicants. The University aims to select students who:

- i. have the ability and motivation to benefit from the academic opportunities offered;
- ii. will contribute to the research-led environment of the University; and who
- iii. will fully engage with and contribute to university life.

2.2 Key Principles

2.2.1 In implementing this policy and managing the admission of students, the University will administer its admissions processes in a fair, consistent and transparent manner that is in line with our commitment to equality of opportunity and in line with our obligation to consumer law as it applies to higher education providers. In doing so we will:

- i. take appropriate account of relevant policy, guidance and best practice in order to ensure effective streamlining and practice;
- ii. provide clear information on entry requirements including the academic qualifications, experience and skills required for entry;
- iii. provide clear, accurate and timely information for potential and prospective students and their advisers, at all stages of the admissions process, and in a way that ensures accessibility;
- iv. inform prospective students at the earliest opportunity of any significant changes to a programme to which they have applied and to advise promptly of the options available in the circumstances;
- v. assess each application on individual merit, acknowledging academic potential and motivation, considering a range of information within the decision making process;
- vi. admit excellent students with appropriate qualifications and excellent academic potential; and
- vii. make sure that all staff involved in the admissions process are equipped to undertake their duties in a clear, consistent, and appropriate manner through the provision of

appropriate training and support and the sharing of information.

3. Responsibility for Admissions

3.1 The University operates a decentralised admissions procedure. This means that all application academic decisions are made by Faculty Admissions Teams and the decisions are processed through the student information system by the Admissions Team.

3.2 All processes and procedures for the admission of undergraduate and postgraduate students are governed and developed by the Admissions Management Committee, as is implementation of this policy.

4. Entry Requirements

4.1 Each faculty is responsible for setting its academic admissions criteria, with language criteria overseen by the Admissions team and Visa Compliance team within Student Experience, for each programme, whether taught or research. The University welcomes applications from candidates who can demonstrate that they have the potential to succeed on the programme to which they have applied and that they will benefit from and contribute to the learning, research, and social environment at the University.

4.2 Academic entry requirements are published in the annual undergraduate and postgraduate prospectuses and via the Programme Search (www.strath.ac.uk). For undergraduate programmes the academic entry requirements can also be found on the UCAS website (www.ucas.com). Please check the course webpages before applying as these pages have the most up to date entry requirements.

4.3 We will publish our academic entry criteria for each programme whether you are studying Scottish Advanced Higher, Scottish Highers, GCE A Levels or AS Levels, HNC or HND qualifications or the International Baccalaureate.

4.4 Our admissions principles are:

- i. standard entry requirements: offers are made in accordance with specified standard entry requirements although admission to undergraduate programmes is considered on a competitive basis and standard entry requirements stated are normally the minimum level required for entry;
- ii. whilst offers are made primarily based on an applicant meeting or exceeding the stated standard entry criteria, admission to the University is granted based on merit, and the potential to succeed.
- iii. in exceptional cases, where an applicant does not meet the competitive entry standard, evidence may be sought in the personal statement or additional supporting documentation to account for performance which was affected by exceptional circumstances, and which in the view of the judgement of the Faculty Admissions Team would give confidence that the applicant can complete the programme of study successfully.
- iv. required subjects where a particular programme requires a specific grade in a specific subject;
- v. the University does not consider applicants based on [UCAS Tariff Points](#);
- vi. the University considers the applicant's predicted and actual academic achievements, considering the subjects studied and the grades. It will also check for competence in any specific named subject(s) that may be required for particular programmes. Some programmes may have a secondary selection process, for example an interview. The

University will also consider the context in which qualifications have been achieved. The University is under no obligation to make an offer of admission even if the applicant has met the standard entry requirements;

- vii. applications are considered individually and holistically, and meeting minimum or standard entry requirements does not therefore automatically guarantee an offer of admission, especially in relation to programmes that are oversubscribed;
- viii. the University considers a wide range of UK, EU and international qualifications for entry, and applicants can be assured of flexible and individual consideration of their qualifications profile.

5. Undergraduate Programmes

- 5.1 Undergraduate applications to the University can be made through the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS). The University is required to comply with the UCAS Application and Recruitment Policy, as well as the other conditions of UCAS membership.
- 5.2 All applications for undergraduate programmes submitted by the published UCAS deadline, which is normally the end of January, are given equal consideration. Applications received after this date are generally still considered but are subject to availability of places on individual degree programmes.
- 5.3 Minimum and standard entry criteria, including qualifications and any experience or skills which are essential or desirable, are published annually for each programme of study, and are made available and accessible through a range of means including the University website and prospectus.
- 5.4 Requirements for entry to each undergraduate programme are specified in terms of the grades required at SQA Higher and/or Advanced Highers, A Levels and AS Levels, HNC/HND, National 5, and may also be specified in terms of named subjects. We also welcome a range of other qualifications such as the International Baccalaureate, Irish Leaving Certificate and BTEC.
- 5.5 The University also operates a direct application process in relation to some programmes of study or applicant groups, and where appropriate, applications from non-UK applicants will also be considered providing the application process meets our internal requirements. Our website will specify the appropriate application route.

6. Postgraduate taught programmes

- 6.1 The University admits students to Postgraduate Taught (PGT) programmes with a range of both academic and professional qualifications. In addition to an appropriate academic qualification (generally an acceptable undergraduate degree, or equivalent qualification), some programmes require relevant professional or work experience. The academic entry criteria for each programme are available on the University's website.

7. Postgraduate research programmes

- 7.1 For MPhil, PhD or other research programmes, candidates will be expected to have a first degree, in a relevant subject, and/or a relevant postgraduate Masters qualification (or equivalent). For admission to an MA or MSc programme by research, candidates should normally possess an honours degree (or equivalent alternative or overseas qualification). Some programmes require a higher academic or an

additional entry requirement so candidates should always refer to the respective individual programme requirement with details available on the University's website.

8.Exceptions (academic waivers) for postgraduate programmes

8.1 Exceptions to academic requirements may be made, for example for candidates applying to take programmes as mid-career continuing professional development or those with extensive relevant work experience.

9.International Equivalencies

9.1 Faculty Admissions Teams assess international qualifications and make decisions on appropriate international equivalencies. These equivalencies are based on market information provided by the European Network of National Information Centres responsible for providing information on academic, vocational, and professional qualifications. Equivalencies are reviewed annually by the Recruitment and International Office in consultation with each Faculty.

9.2 The University will consider applications from International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma students on a case-by-case basis however, given the competitive nature of entry to our programmes, an offer is not always possible.

10.Terms and Conditions

10.1 The University's terms and conditions for applicants and students apply to all applicants and prospective students, both undergraduate and postgraduate.

11.References

11.1 An academic reference is designed to provide the University with an informed and academic assessment of each applicant's suitability for their chosen course, that includes their academic or professional performance, why their chosen course is suited to each applicant, the personal qualities, and their potential to succeed on the programme.

11.2 Faculty Selectors will review the reference(s) as part of the admissions process.

11.3 Applicants to **undergraduate programmes** are normally required to submit one academic reference as part of their application, UCAS and our Direct Application Service (DUAS).

11.4 Applicants to **taught postgraduate programmes** are normally required to submit either two academic references or one academic and one professional reference, as part of their application. Applicants to postgraduate taught programmes who graduated within the previous five years may be asked to provide one academic reference as part of their online application.

11.5 For applicants who graduated more than five years previously, alternative professional references may be considered (e.g. from employers, a senior member of a voluntary organisation or recognised society, etc.).

11.6 Applicants to **postgraduate research** programmes are normally required to submit two academic references as part of their application. Further information on [Postgraduate Research References](#) content and format are available on the University's website.

12.Contextual Admissions for Undergraduate Programmes

- 12.1 The University has a long-standing commitment to widening access, and the admission of students from the widest range of backgrounds remains a key area of our work and focus. We want to increase opportunities for people from every background. We select our students based on merit, potential and the ability to benefit from the education we offer.
- 12.2 We make an explicit commitment to consider the educational context in which an applicant has studied through our use of contextual data as part of the application consideration process. Information on our approach to this is available online.
- 12.3 At present, our contextual offers only refer to applicants who are ordinarily resident in the UK and who have undertaken, or are undertaking, SQA Highers/Advanced Highers or A-Levels/AS Levels. Candidates who are ordinarily resident in the UK who exhibit the relevant contextual data and who are taking alternative qualifications will be considered by our Faculty Selectors on a case-by-case basis. In such cases, wherever possible our Faculty Admissions Teams will endeavor to make an offer that takes prior educational context into consideration.
- 12.4 When students from anywhere in the world apply, our Faculty Admissions Teams will take a wide range of information into consideration when deciding which, if any, offer to make. This can include qualifications taken to date, qualifications pending, and information provided by applicants in the personal statement, in addition to the academic reference.
- 12.5 The University also supports widening access through strategic and other types of agreements with external agencies such as FOCUS West and the Scottish Wider Access Programme. Where such an agreement exists in relation to admissions, the details of the agreement are implemented within our admission procedures. Further details [Widening access at Strathclyde](#)
- 12.6 The University will use contextual information alongside the UCAS application to assess the applicant, considering their personal and educational circumstances. Applicants from the following categories will be considered for an offer at the minimum entry requirement:
- i. Applicant's home postcode (Scotland only) is within the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation lowest 20% (SIMD0-20).
 - ii. Applicant's home postcode (Scotland only) is within the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation lowest 40% (SIMD 21-40).
 - iii. Applicant's home postcode (RUK only) is within POLAR4 quintile 1.
 - iv. Applicant is in attendance at a [University of Strathclyde target school](#).
 - v. Applicant has [experience of being in care](#).
 - vi. Applicant is an unpaid carer.
 - vii. Applicant has participated in the University of Stirling Access to Degree Studies Programme.
 - viii. Applicant has participated in the Scottish Wider Access Programme (SWAP).
- 12.7 For SQA Higher qualifications, the minimum entry requirement is adjusted by at least two grades. The following table is an illustrative example; the most up to date entry requirements are always published

on each individual course information page on the University's website.

SQA Higher Typical Entry Requirement	SQA Higher Minimum Entry Requirement
AAAB	ABBB
AABB	BBBB

Other qualifications from school and college will be considered as well as combinations of Highers and Advanced Highers.

13. Care Experienced Applicants

13.1 The term care experienced refers to anyone who has been or is currently in care or has been looked-after at any stage in their life, no matter how short the time period, including adopted children who were previously looked-after. This care may have been provided in one of many different settings such as in residential care, foster care, kinship care, or through being looked after at home with a supervision requirement.

13.2 The University is committed to increasing the number of applications from those who are care experienced. If an applicant who is care experienced meets the minimum entry requirements, the University guarantees an offer of a place; however, it may not be possible to confirm a place on the first choice of programme.

13.3 Further information on [Strathclyde cares](#).

14. Young and Adult Carers

14.1 The University welcomes applications from those with unpaid caring commitments. Applicants who look after a family member or friend who is ill, disabled, or suffering from an addiction are strongly advised to notify the University at the point of application.

14.2 Further information on [Student carers](#).

15. Student-Athletes

15.1 The University is committed to supporting talented and ambitious student-athletes who compete at junior or senior international level in their sport, and who display the potential to achieve both academic and sporting success.

15.2 We will use each applicant's sporting achievement to consider making an offer of admission and this information may be reflected in the level of offer made. On a case-by-case basis, faculty admission teams will consider candidates for offers of admission in-line with the published **minimum entry requirements** for the programme to which they have applied.

15.3 Given the substantial time commitment required to compete in sport at international level, the University recognises that high performance athletes may have fewer opportunities to undertake work experience or other extracurricular activities which may have been viewed positively by Faculty Admissions Teams when reviewing their application. However, the University recognises the transferable interpersonal skills that high performance athletes have developed through sport, and the time, commitment and sacrifices required to achieve this level of sporting excellence. Furthermore, the

University values the positive contribution student-athletes make to the international profile and reputation of the University.

15.4 Prospective student-athletes will be considered for an adjusted offer in-line with the published **minimum entry requirements** for the programme to which they have applied. However, in-line with offers made based on contextual data, no offer of admission (conditional or unconditional) will be lower than the minimum entry requirements for the programme and grades in required subjects will not be reduced.

15.5 In cases where alternative qualifications are presented (for example, A-levels or overseas qualifications) Faculty Admission teams will use their discretion to determine an appropriate equivalent reduction in offer.

15.6 Further information on our [Sports Scholars](#)

16. Age on Entry

16.1 The University admits students on individual merit and does not discriminate on the grounds of age. Some programmes of study are bound by external professional or placement requirements concerning age.

16.2 Whilst having full legal capacity at 16, young people aged 16 can be vulnerable in certain situations. Where applicants will be under 18 at the point of registration, the applicant and the applicant's parent or guardian will both be asked to sign a parental consent form, declaring that they understand the conditions under which young students will be accepted to study at the University.

16.3 The University is unable to sponsor (for visa purposes) students under the age of 16 years.

16.4 The University is primarily an adult learning environment. In teaching and learning, we treat all students as independent, mature individuals and students under the age of 18 will be expected to engage with their programme of study on the same basis as all other students. In providing wellbeing support and in any safeguarding activity we will have regard to the age of a student and, where appropriate, may offer enhanced or alternative support and intervention where a student is under the age of 18.

16.5 The university is **not** able to take on the usual rights, responsibilities, and authority that parent(s) have in relation to a child and it will not act *in loco parentis* (in place of a parent) for students or staff members, except in its role as a corporate parent under the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.

16.6 Further information relating the University's Safeguarding Framework is available at: [Safeguarding Child Safeguarding Policy & Child Protection Guidance](#)

17. Decision making

17.1 Offers of entry for successful applicants

- 17.1.1 Successful applicants will receive an offer of admission to the University. The offer of admission will either be conditional based on qualifications or other requirements yet to be completed or met, or unconditional meaning that all necessary requirements for admission have been met.
- 17.1.2 All successful applicants will be issued with a formal offer of admission to the University describing:
- i. details of the programme of study being offered;
 - ii. year of entry;
 - iii. duration of programme;
 - iv. tuition fee status and tuition fees;
 - v. details of how to respond to the offer;
 - vi. details of how to apply for a CAS to support a student visa application, and payment of a deposit (if applicable);
 - vii. the University's terms and conditions for students.
- 17.1.3 Interviewing or requesting additional evidence or activity in support of an application is not standard practice across the University in relation to undergraduate admission. However, it may be deemed appropriate by Faculty Admissions Teams and where this is the case, applicants will be advised of the specific requirements in relation to their application such as the [STEM Summer School 2024](#)
- 17.1.4 For some individual programmes, students may be offered advanced entry to undergraduate study based on an appropriately high level of attainment in a suitable set of subjects at Advanced Higher, A Level, Higher National or equivalent qualifications.
- 17.1.5 The University will consider applicants for advanced entry (e.g. to year 2 or a later year of a programme) on an individual basis. The University may consider applications for advanced entry based on Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) and includes certificated or experiential learning.
- 17.1.6 Where an applicant is unsuccessful in applying for advanced entry to a particular programme, an offer of admission at a lower point of entry may be made.

17.2 Entry from College

- 17.2.1 We welcome applications from prospective students who have, or expect to have, academic credit gained at college through Higher National Certificate (HNC) and Higher National Diploma (HND) qualifications.
- 17.2.2 Many of our degree courses accept HN qualifications for year 1 entry. [View a list of Year 1 entry courses](#)
- 17.2.3 Some of our degree courses also accept HNC qualifications in place of year 1, allowing prospective students to transfer into year 2 and for a limited number of degree courses, it may also be possible to use credit gained in an HND to transfer into year 3. [View a list of Year 2 & 3 entry courses](#).
- 17.2.4 Formal Articulation into Years 2 & 3:
A number of formal college to university agreements are in place between the University and the University's college "partners". These established routes are managed by the relevant Faculty/Department and any students undertaking an articulating programme will be advised by

the relevant Faculty/Department of the appropriate application route for admission to the University. [View our formal articulation routes.](#)

18. Gathered Field

18.1 For undergraduate applications, a “Gathered Field” approach to admissions processing and offer-making may be taken in relation to individual programmes for certain admissions sessions. Therefore, some decisions about individual applications may be taken after the published UCAS deadline, when all applications submitted within the deadline (normally end of January) can be considered as a group. All applicants whose applications are part of a gathered field approach are notified by the University upon receipt of their application to explain the process and the estimated duration of decision-making process.

19. Alternative programme offers

19.1 The University may decide that it is unable to offer admission to the original programme to which an applicant has applied but is able to make an offer for an alternative programme. In this situation, the University will normally contact the applicant to confirm that they wish to be made the offer for the alternative programme.

19.2 In addition, if an international applicant is unsuccessful in their application to the University, the University will assess whether the applicant is eligible for one of the [University of Strathclyde International Study Centre](#) (ISC) programmes that are delivered by The Study Group, a third-party provider.

20. Applications for deferred entry

20.1 Applicants who have been offered a place and who request to defer their offer to the next academic year will be considered by the University on an exceptional basis and where an acceptable reason is provided in relation to the request.

20.2 Deferral requests are considered by the relevant Faculty. If permission is granted to defer admissions, it may only be granted for one academic year. Thereafter, applicants should re-apply.

21. Feedback for unsuccessful applicants

21.1 The University is committed to providing feedback to applicants who have not been offered a place and so will provide a reason(s) for rejection to unsuccessful applicants, and where requested, additional feedback may also be given. Where an applicant indicates that they may wish to re-apply in a later cycle, guidance can be given as to how it might be possible for the applicant to improve their application.

21.2 Requests for feedback are dealt with in line with data protection legislation and as such are only considered from the applicant themselves or from the authorised contact name.

22. Award Body Appeals

22.1 Applicants who have applied for an appeal of a school or college qualification with an awarding body should notify the University immediately. Whilst we will make every effort to reconsider applicants whose grades are amended as the result of a successful appeal; it may not always be possible to hold an offer open pending the outcome of an appeal. If a re-mark is successful and conditions are met, and the programme applied to is full, an applicant may be offered an alternative programme or entry year.

23. Extenuating Circumstances

23.1 The University will consider extenuating circumstances that occur before or after an offer has been made and where there is evidence of impact on the applicant's ability to study.

24. Re-admissions

24.1 Students who have previously withdrawn from or have been withdrawn by the University can apply for re-admission. The University reserves the right to refuse re-admission including those who have been disciplined and/or expelled under Code of Student Discipline. Re-admission decisions will be taken in consultation with the Faculty Admissions teams.

24.2 University of Strathclyde Undergraduate or Postgraduate students who did not complete the programme for which they were registered must contact the faculty where they wish to undertake study to discuss options around readmission. This must be prior to any application being submitted, readmission is not guaranteed.

25. Applicant Responses

25.1 Where an applicant accepts an offer of a place on a programme of study, by accepting the offer, the applicant will be deemed to have accepted the terms and conditions associated with the offer.

25.1.1 Undergraduate applicants

- i. Undergraduate applicants should respond to their offers via UCAS Hub. Response deadlines will be notified via UCAS Hub. By accepting the offer of a place on a programme as their 'Firm' or 'Insurance' choice, a contract is made between the applicant and the University.
- ii. All applicants are encouraged to make an informed decision and can change their replies within 14 days of accepting the offer and by contacting UCAS. After the 14-day period, it may still be possible to do this if a place is still available on the programme, but the applicant will need to contact UCAS to arrange this.

25.1.2 Postgraduate Offers

- i. Where offer conditions and response deadlines apply, these will be confirmed within the offer email. By accepting the offer of a place on a programme, a contract is made between the applicant and the University. Applicants who accept their offer but change their mind and wish to subsequently decline have the right under consumer protection law to cancel this contract within 14 days without giving any reason.

25.2 Accepting an Offer

25.2.1 By accepting our offer of admission, applicants are also accepting the University's decision in relation to their fee status. This decision is made based on the available evidence at the time. Please note that if the fee status changes based on new information, the offer will have to be reviewed and may even be revoked. Once candidates have registered with the University, decisions will normally only be changed where it can be shown that the University's initial fee assessment (based on the available evidence) was incorrect or in certain cases where a student's circumstances have changed.

26. Deadlines for satisfying offer conditions

26.1 Undergraduate applicants

- 26.1.1 Academic and non-academic conditions (other general entry requirements) of offers must normally be met by the deadline date stated by UCAS in the offer letter. This date applies to all applications including applications for deferred entry.
- 26.1.2 Where results are received after this date, we may be able to confirm places depending on the availability of places; however, this is not always possible. Applicants should ensure that the Faculty Admissions Team has received all the results upon which their offer is based by the UCAS deadline date to ensure that the University is able to process them and, if appropriate, confirm the applicant's place.
- 26.1.3 If a decision is made to reject an applicant who has not met the conditions of an offer based on results received from an applicant or via UCAS which are subsequently changed due to a remark or other change, the University cannot guarantee to reverse the original decision even if the change means that the applicant is now able to meet the conditions of the offer. In such a case, acceptance will be at the University's discretion and, if made, may be for a different entry point or year from the entry point or year specified in the original offer.

26.2 Postgraduate applicants

- 26.2.1 There are normally no fixed deadlines by which conditions of offers must be met for postgraduate applicants. Where a decision deadline does apply this will be clearly communicated. However, all conditions must be met before a postgraduate applicant will be able to enrol as a student of the University. Late registration may be possible in some circumstances but is at the discretion of the University therefore it is recommended that conditions are met in sufficient time to make the necessary arrangements to register for the Semester start date.

27. Changes to Programmes

- 27.1 In the unlikely event that the University requires to (i) discontinue or not provide a programme of study; or (ii) significantly change the content of a programme, method of delivery or method of assessment:
- i. the University will notify any applicants at the earliest possible opportunity;
 - ii. applicants will be offered help and advice in finding an appropriate alternative programme at the University;
 - iii. if an applicant does not wish to accept an offer from the University of a replacement programme, or the University is unable to offer a replacement programme, an applicant will be entitled to withdraw their application by notifying the University in writing; and
 - iv. if an applicant chooses to withdraw, the University may make an appropriate refund of tuition fees and deposits paid.

28. Admissions Appeals and Complaints

- 28.1 An appeal is defined as a formal request for an admissions decision to be reviewed. An appeal will only be considered there are adequate grounds, as detailed below:

- i. Where there is substantial new information which, for good reason, was not made available either on the original application or during the selection procedure, and where that new information is significant and directly relevant to the original decision. Please note that the new information must relate directly to the original application and cannot include activities or achievements which have taken place or been ratified subsequently.
- ii. Where there is evidence that the University's published Admissions Policy has not been followed.

28.2 Appeals put forward on any other grounds will not be considered.

28.3 If an applicant wishes to appeal a decision, an appeal can be submitted within 14 days following receipt of the original decision by email to admissions@strath.ac.uk and the uploading of any additional evidence to support their appeal.

28.4 Appeal requests are reviewed by the Admissions Managers in discussion with the Senior Admissions Manager or delegated Head of Service.

28.5 If it is judged that there may be grounds for an appeal, the Admissions team will contact the relevant Faculty Admissions team with the supporting documentation. The appeal decision may take up to 28 days. The appeal decision and reasons for this, will be communicated to the applicant via email.

28.6 In the event of an applicant being dissatisfied with their fee status assessment they may submit a complaint via the University's complaints handling procedure which is available from the following webpage: <https://www.strath.ac.uk/contactus/complaintsprocedure/>.

29. Withdrawal of Offers

29.1 The University will check qualifications, personal statements, written work, and research proposals provided as part of an application for potential fraud, plagiarism, collusion, or other indications that the application submitted is not wholly the work of the applicant. The University will also want to ensure that candidates have provided complete information (e.g. concerning details of previous periods of study or employment) and may seek additional information to resolve any uncertainties in the application.

29.2 The University reserves the right to withdraw an application and any subsequent applications based on lack of integrity in an application or supporting documents, and to withdraw any offer made based on an application that has been found to contain fraudulent or plagiarised information, or where it believes information may have been withheld. If an applicant is unable to evidence their achievement to the satisfaction of the University, the University reserves the right to withdraw the application at any point even if an offer of admission has been made.

29.3 The University may terminate a student's registration if they are found at a later stage to have submitted a fraudulent or plagiarised application to the University.

29.4 In the case of any applications received via UCAS, the University abides by UCAS rules and procedures concerning fraudulent applications. Any application received through UCAS and suspected by the University to contain fraudulent information will be referred to UCAS.

29.5 The University retains the right to withdraw an offer or refuse admission in a situation where an applicant has demonstrated, through interactions with the University and its staff during the admissions process, conduct that does not meet the requirements of admitted students of the University, as

specified within the Student Discipline Policy and Procedure, or that is not in line with the Dignity and Respect Policy.

30.Criminal Conviction Declarations

- 30.1 All students (new and existing) will be asked every year, during the registration process, whether they currently have any unspent or pending convictions for serious offences. If requested by the University, you must tell us about any unspent criminal convictions which you have received prior to your application or which you receive after your application has been submitted.
- 30.2 The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 allows most convictions to be considered spent after a certain period. This period – known as the rehabilitation period – is determined by the sentence or disposal given, rather than the type of offence. If the rehabilitation period has not expired, then the conviction is considered unspent.
- 30.3 The University is committed to ensuring that all applicants declaring a criminal conviction or pending charge(s) are treated fairly and transparently regarding their admission to the University. Except for applications to some professional and vocational programmes, applicants are not required to declare a criminal conviction at the point of application.
- 30.4 Applicants to professional and vocational programmes need to satisfy both academic and professional suitability criteria to gain admission.
- 30.5 Some UK applicants will be required to register with the Protection of Vulnerable Groups (PVG Scheme) if, as part of your studies, you will be undertaking a placement or research which involves working with children and/or vulnerable adults and will therefore undergo a background check on any previous criminal convictions.
- 30.6 Where this is the case, the University will advise applicants of this requirement and of the process involved in registering with the PVG Scheme.
- 30.7 EU and international applicants who are applying to a programme for which a criminal record check is necessary, as part of the University's admissions process, will be required to undergo criminal records check in their own country and provide the University with a Certificate of Good Conduct.
- 30.8 The University needs to ensure that the University's campus (including both on-site and online) is a safe environment for all applicants, staff, students and visitors. Therefore, the University reserves the right, upon disclosure of such convictions or these otherwise becoming known to it, to cancel/withdraw the offer, withhold admission and terminate any contract with you (where it reasonably deems that risks cannot be appropriately managed). Alternatively, to designate restrictions upon you (as it reasonably sees fit to assist with managing any risks) whilst you are at the University.
- 30.9 Students who receive a conviction, reprimand, or caution between an offer of admission being made and the start of studies are required to inform the University. This should be done by writing to the Head of Admissions and Student Lifecycle Services who will investigate this in accordance with the University's [Procedure for Managing Students with Criminal Proceedings or Unspent Criminal Convictions](#).
- 30.10 Information provided in your PVG certificate will be investigated in accordance with the University's [Procedure for Managing Students with Criminal Proceedings or Unspent Criminal Convictions](#). If your PVG check reveals information which may make you unsuitable for the programme you have applied to, the University reserves the right to withdraw the offer of admission. Further information on [Criminal Conviction declarations](#).
- 30.11 If you later receive a criminal conviction before you register or during your studies, you are required to declare this providing full details. Failure to do so may constitute a disciplinary offence and give the

University the right to terminate our contract with you. Further information on [Criminal Conviction declarations](#).

31. Applicants with Disabilities

- 31.1 In line with our commitment to equality of opportunity, the University is committed to promoting equal opportunities and actively encourages applications from disabled students.
- 31.2 The University, in accordance with its duties under the Equality Act 2010, does not discriminate against disabled applicants during the admissions process. On this basis, and in all cases excluding those described under exceptional circumstances below, the University does not include an applicant's disclosure of a disability within the consideration of their potential to successfully undertake the programme of study.
- 31.3 Although there is no obligation for an applicant to disclose a disability, the University encourages applicants to disclose at an early stage in order that discussion around support that may be required, and reasonable adjustments that may be determined, can take place in a timely manner.
- 31.4 Faculty Admissions Teams do not include the applicant's disability within the consideration of their potential to successfully undertake the programme of study, and the University makes every reasonable effort to accommodate an individual's support needs. In exceptional circumstances, if a Selector has strong concerns about the applicant's ability to undertake the programme due to the potential impact of disability (i.e. where it may be impossible to make the required adjustments to the academic programme to meet an applicant's needs) or on the basis of Health and Safety Legislation, further discussion with the applicant and the Disability & Wellbeing Service may be required prior to an offer being made. The Faculty Selector will ensure that advice is sought from the Disability & Wellbeing team in all such instances.
- 31.5 Applicants who disclose a disability are assured that the information provided is treated sensitively and in accordance with the University's [Data Protection Policy](#).

32. Equal Opportunities

- 32.1 All applications are assessed in accordance with the University's equality and diversity commitments and obligations as set out in its Equality and Diversity Policy and in line with the latest professional guidance. Further information: [Access, Equality & Inclusion Service](#)

33. Additional requirements and responsibilities for immigration purposes

33.1 English Language Requirements

33.1.1 The University teaches and assesses in English. If English is not an applicant's first language, the University will require evidence of their English language proficiency as part of the admissions process. The University adheres to guidance on English language issued by UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) to sponsor students to enter the UK. This guidance is subject to revision.

33.1.2 The University accepts a wide range of English language tests and evidence. The standard level of English required for most programmes of study at degree level is either IELTS minimum overall score of 6.5 or IELTS 6.0, with a minimum score of 5.5 in each of the four component areas (reading, writing, listening, and speaking). We accept alternative qualifications to IELTS.

33.1.3 If an applicant's English language qualifications do not demonstrate the necessary level of proficiency for admission, successful completion of one of our pre-sessional English programmes

may be accepted as evidence of the required level, as an alternative to taking an additional qualification.

33.2 Further information on [English Language Requirements](#)

34. Previous Study in the UK

- 34.1 Applicants who require a Student Visa and have previously studied in the UK on a Student Visa, in most cases will have to demonstrate academic progression by confirming successful course completion of the previous course of study and that the intended course of study is at a higher level (SCQF or RQF).
- 34.2 There are circumstances when academic progression will be met without successful course completion, or a student is exempt from showing successful course completion or that further study does not require to be at a higher level. Therefore, genuine academic progression can be met in several ways and in all instances will require to be met as set out in Appendix 'Student of the Immigration Rules'.
- 34.3 If study is at the same level, applicants must either demonstrate that the new programme is related to the previous programme or that these programmes meet their genuine career aspirations. The Admissions and Compliance Teams will liaise with faculties regarding the statements provided. If an applicant is currently studying in the UK, they must successfully complete the programme of study that their previous CAS was issued for, if they intend to extend their visa in the UK. Applicants who have returned to their home country and will be making a new visa application are exempt from demonstrating academic progression.

35. Academic Technology Approval Scheme (ATAS)

- 35.1 Applicants from outside the UK, EEA or Switzerland who wish to study certain subjects may be required to apply for an Academic Technology Approval Scheme (ATAS) Certificate before applying for a Visa, Entry Clearance, or Extension of Stay. Further information on [ATAS](#).
- 35.2 The University will advise applicants whether they are required to apply for this certification. If ATAS certification is denied and an applicant is in receipt of a conditional offer, then the University will reject the applicant on failure to meet a condition of offer. Any applicant who has ATAS certification rejected will not be admitted by the University to an alternative programme of study.

36. Student Immigration

- 36.1 If you are from outside the UK you may need to apply for a visa to study in the UK. Students requiring a visa must comply with the UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) Points-based Immigration System. As part of the UKVI immigration system the University acts as your sponsor. If you require a student visa to study in the UK, you will need a Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) issued by the University.
- 36.2 The Admissions team normally issue a CAS up to 4 weeks before the programme start date to provide sufficient time to apply for your visa and to arrive in the UK. It is important to note that the UKVI are responsible for issuing student visas, and as such the University is not able to control or influence the process through which individual visas are assessed and issued by the UKVI. The University aims to issue CAS to allow sufficient time for the visa application process to take place in accordance with normal UKVI timeframes, but applicants should be aware that it is possible that a visa may not be issued before your programme starts.
- 36.3 The University is committed to meeting our requirements as a sponsor of candidates requiring a student visa. In the event of changes to immigration legislation, or if information becomes available that

might impact our ability to sponsor a student, the University reserves the right to amend or withdraw an offer of admission.

36.4 Further information relating to UKVI processes is available at: [Apply for a student visa](#). Additional information is also available from our [International Student Support Team](#)

37. Tuition Fee Information

37.1 The University charges different tuition fee levels depending on whether you are classed as a Home (Scottish) student; a RUK/ROI (Rest of the UK and Republic of Ireland) student; or an International (Full-Fees) student.

37.2 As part of your admissions offer letter you will be assigned a tuition fee status, and notified of the tuition fee costs for your first year of study. Further information on fees and tuition fees for future years is available within our [University Fees Policy](#).

38. Assessment of tuition fee status

38.1 The offer of admission will confirm the tuition fees to be charged based on the programme of study and the applicant's fee status. An applicant's fee status decision is based on the information provided within the application form regarding nationality and residence, and in the case of undergraduate applicants, the residential category selected via UCAS.

38.2 The University determines fee status according to nationality and where you are ordinarily resident based on information provided in the application. Additional information may be requested to make an assessment. The University makes offers based on fee status and may withdraw the offer if the fee status changes. The University is guided by information issued by the UK Council for International Student Affairs (UKCISA) in relation to fee assessment issues. Further information about UKCISA guidance is available at: [UKCISA](#).

38.3 A change in fee status post registration is not guaranteed and will be considered by the Head of Admissions and Student Lifecycle Services (or their nominee). Where applicants consider that our decision is incorrect, they should make every effort to query this prior to registration. If you disagree with the fee status confirmed on your offer, you may appeal the decision by emailing fees.admissions@strath.ac.uk as soon as possible.

39. Tuition Fee Deposits

39.1 International applicants who need a student visa will be required to pay a tuition fee deposit in advance of receiving the Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS). Further information on [Tuition fees](#).

40. Tuition Fee refund deposit

40.1 The University Tuition Fee Refund Policy provides clarity on the circumstances where refunds will and will not be reimbursed. [International Deposit Refund Policy.pdf](#)

41. Governance and Monitoring

- 41.1 The implementation of this policy is overseen by the Admissions Management Committee.
- 41.2 The processes and procedures for the admission of undergraduate and postgraduate students are also overseen and developed by the Admissions Management Committee.

42. Data Management

- 42.1 Information provided by applicants during the admissions process will be used for the purpose of assessing suitability to undertake a programme of study at the University and returning a decision to an applicant, and for 'Statistical Purposes' as defined according to UK GDPR requirements.
- 42.2 If the applicant is successful a portion of this data will be used to create the initial student record, which will be checked and supplemented when the student completes registration. Student Records are retained in line with the University's [Retention Policy](#).
- 42.3 Information provided by applicants that do not complete the application process, are ultimately unsuccessful or that do not take up their place will be retained in the admissions system for the prescribed period, set out in the University's [Retention Policy](#).
- 42.4 Further information is available in the [University Privacy Policy for Students and Applicants](#), [the Data Protection Policy](#) and on the relevant pages of the University website regarding [records retention](#).

