



University of  
**Strathclyde**  
Glasgow

# Subject Guidance for the Senior Phase



## Introduction

If you are planning to go on to university, choosing the appropriate Highers 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

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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.

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 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

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

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; Architecture; Business; Business Analysis & Technology; Business Enterprise; Economics; Education; English; Finance; French; History; Hospitality & Tourism Management; Human Resource Management; International Business; Journalism, Media & Communications; Law; Management; Marketing; Pharmacy; Politics and International Relations; PPE; Primary Education; Psychology; Social Policy; Social Work; Speech & Language Pathology; Spanish; Sport & Physical Activity; any joint degree with Teaching. Higher English preferred for Chemistry courses.

### HIGHER MATHEMATICS REQUIRED FOR COURSES IN:

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

### SCIENCES

**Higher Chemistry is required for courses in:** Chemical Engineering; Chemistry; Forensic Chemistry; MSci Biomolecular Science courses; Pharmacy.

**Higher Chemistry or Higher Biology is required for courses in:** Biochemistry; Biomolecular Science; Biomedical Science; Immunology; Microbiology; Pharmacology.

**National 5 Chemistry is essential for these courses.**

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

**Higher Physics is required for courses in:** Aero-Mechanical Engineering; Biomedical Engineering; Chemical Engineering; Civil Engineering; Electronic & Electrical Engineering; Engineering Academy; Mechanical Engineering; Naval Architecture, Ocean & Marine Engineering; Physics; Product Design Engineering, Production Engineering. Higher Physics or Higher Biology is required by all Chemistry courses. Engineering Science is an acceptable alternative to Physics for some Engineering courses.

**Higher Biology/Human Biology is required for:** MSci Biomolecular Science courses and Pharmacy. It is useful for entry to Allied Health Professions such as Speech & Language Pathology or Prosthetics & Orthotics. Higher Biology is recommended for Biomedical Engineering. Higher Physics and Higher Biology/Human Biology recommended for Prosthetics and Orthotics.

### 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 and Social Sciences courses require that you take 2 Highers in subjects like these, one of which must be Higher English.

### LANGUAGES

Students applying for languages should offer a Higher in their chosen language. A National 5 in a language other than English is recommended for entry to Speech and Language Pathology. Higher French, Italian or Spanish is required for International Business & Modern Languages and Law with a Modern Language.

### CREATIVE SUBJECTS

**Higher Art & Design, Design & Manufacture or Graphic Communication is recommended for:** Product Design & Innovation, Product Design Engineering, Production Engineering and Sports Engineering.

**Higher Art & Design is required for:** Architecture.

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. Chemical Engineering also recommends **Advanced Higher Chemistry**. Prosthetics & Orthotics recommend **Advanced Higher Maths, Physics or Biology**.

### SCIENCE COURSES

**Advanced Higher Chemistry and/or Biology** are required for entry to Pharmacy alongside a second Advanced Higher.

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

**Advanced Higher Chemistry and Mathematics** are recommended for all Chemistry courses.

## Entry to university with HNC/HND qualifications

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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.

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](http://www.strath.ac.uk).

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

Recruitment and International Office

t: 0141 548 2814

e: [uqenquiries@strath.ac.uk](mailto:uqenquiries@strath.ac.uk)

w: [www.strath.ac.uk](http://www.strath.ac.uk)

## OPEN DAYS 2019

Monday 2 September & Saturday 5 October

For details of our Open Days and other Visiting Opportunities see [www.strath.ac.uk/studywithus/undergraduate/beforeyouapply/visitingopportunities](http://www.strath.ac.uk/studywithus/undergraduate/beforeyouapply/visitingopportunities)

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 2019.



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**[www.strath.ac.uk](http://www.strath.ac.uk)**

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