

Subjects and Qualifications Careers Information for Enrolment 2020

The following table is a guide to the subjects often required at A level or BTEC equivalent for degree courses or specific careers. The list is not comprehensive or definitive and sometimes there can be a great deal of variation in the qualifications asked for and across university requirements. If in doubt refer questions to the Careers Coordinator and use UCAS and individual University websites to check course requirements. This is a brief summary of a much more complex picture, so anybody with any particular careers/degrees in mind should always make sure they have researched entry requirements before making their final subject choice for A levels/BTECs.

Many higher education institutions have general requirements of at least 5 GCSEs at grades 9-5/A*-C, or equivalent, and many specify that this must include English, Maths and science; sometimes other subjects e.g. Modern foreign language may be required. If in doubt, **check!**

Career/Degree	A Levels	BTEC	GCSE Information
Accountancy/Finance	Maths, Accounting, Business studies, Economics.	Business studies, Applied Law, IT and computing.	English and Maths. Some universities may require 7-9/A-A*.
Actuarial courses	Maths at specific grade.		English and Maths at grade 7-5/A-B.
Agriculture/ Agricultural Science/ Horticulture	1-2 Maths/Science (Biology preferred), Geography. <i>Practical experience may be required.</i>	Must be a relatable BTEC with A Level subject requirements (Applied Science).	English, Maths and Chemistry/Science.
American Studies	English, Modern foreign languages, Humanities and Social science subjects preferred.	<i>Will require at least 1 A Level.</i>	Specific grades in some subjects.
Animal Science	1-2 Science subjects; (Biology & Chemistry preferred)/ Applied Science	<i>Must have 2 A Levels.</i>	Maths and Science.
Anthropology	Biology and Geography preferred for Biological Anthropology courses. Social Anthropology less specific.	Must be a relatable BTEC with A Level subject requirements.	English and Maths, sometimes a foreign language.
Archaeology	History, Geography, English or a Science subject may be preferred.		English, Maths and Science usually required for BSc courses.

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	Archaeological Science courses may require 2 sciences.		
Architecture	Maths and/or Physics required for some courses. Art sometimes required, and many institutions prefer it, and a portfolio of art work (proof of drawing ability) is often requested.		English and Maths required at certain grades; Science may be required. Art also useful.
Art & Design (Includes Fine Art, Graphic Design, and Illustration etc.)	Art and Design based subjects needed. <i>1 year Art Foundation course is often needed after A levels/BTEC. A portfolio of art work is required for entry.</i>		Five subjects at grade 7-4/A-C or equivalent.
Astronomy/ Astrophysics	Maths and Physics.		English, Maths, Science and foreign language. Some institutions will stipulate specific grades.
Biochemistry/ Biological Sciences	Chemistry and usually Biology and/or another Science subject or Maths.	Health and Social Care is acceptable but must be accompanied by another science A Level at grade C.	English, Maths and Science at 9-6/ A-B grades.
Biology	Usually Biology and Chemistry.	Must be a relatable BTEC with A Level subject requirements. Applied Science accepted at some institutions.	English, Maths and Science.
Biotechnology/ Medical Engineering	2 - 3 Maths or Science subjects required.	Applied Science accepted at some institutions.	Maths and Science usually required.
Building & Construction	Physics and/or Maths or a technical subject.	Must be a relatable BTEC with A Level subject requirements	English, Maths and Science usually required.

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Business Studies/ Management Studies	Sometimes Maths. International courses may require a Modern foreign language. Accounting, Business studies, and Economics useful.	Business studies, Applied Law/, IT and computing.	English and Maths often required at 7-5/A-B grade for some institutions.
Chemistry	2 Science or Maths subjects including Chemistry required. Applied Science accepted at some institutions.	Must be a relatable BTEC with A Level subject requirements.	English, Maths and Science usually required at 7-5/A-B grades.
Classical Studies/Classics	English Literature. Check for Latin/Greek requirements.	Must be a relatable BTEC with A Level subject requirements.	English and a Foreign language may be required. 9-5/A*-B
Communication Studies	No specific subjects, although English, Film or Media Studies are relevant.	Creative Digital Media Production.	English and Maths grade 7-4/A-C.
Computer Science	Maths, and a Science.	IT and computing.	Maths 9-5/A*-B.
Dance	No specific subjects required. Dance maybe Practical dance experience essential. Entry usually by audition.	Dance, Performing Arts	English usually required.
Dentistry	Chemistry and Biology and/or another Science/Maths usually required. Very high grades required. <i>Relevant experience important.</i>		English, Maths and Science required. High grades essential. 9-5/A*-C
Dietetics	Biology and/or Chemistry may be required.		English, Maths and Science usually required.
Drama	English, Drama and Theatre Studies may be required. Entry usually by audition.	Performing Arts.	English usually required.
Economics	Business studies, Economics, Maths may be required.	Business studies.	English and Maths and occasionally Modern foreign language required at 9-6/A*-B grades for some institutions.

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Education studies	No subject specified	Health and Social Care, IT and Computing, Sport Studies	Must have English and Maths, Science maybe required.
Engineering – Aeronautical	Maths and Physics, Further Maths, Engineering preferred.		English, Maths and Science required.
Engineering – Chemical	Maths and Chemistry, sometimes Physics. Further Maths preferred.		
Engineering – Civil	Maths and Physics. Further Maths preferred.		
Engineering – Electrical			
Engineering – Mechanical			
English Language/ Linguistics / English Literature	English. English Literature or English Language/Literature	<i>Will require at least 1-2 A Levels</i>	English language, English literature required and Modern foreign language can be useful.
Environmental Studies/ Science	1- 2 sciences depending on the course. Maths may be required. Specific grades may be stipulated.	<i>Will require at least 1-2 A Levels.</i>	English, Maths and Science (Biology and Chemistry).
European Studies	Modern foreign language.	Must be a relatable BTEC with A Level subject requirements	English, Maths and Modern foreign language.
Film, Radio, Video & TV Studies	English may be required for some courses. Film studies and Media Studies are useful.	Creative Digital Media Production, Music Technology.	English.
Finance	Maths, Accounting, Business studies, Economics.	Business studies, Applied Law/, IT and computing.	English and Maths 4/C minimum.
Food Science/ Technology	1-2 Sciences or Maths may be required, sometimes Chemistry stipulated.	<i>Will require at least 1-2 A Levels.</i>	English, Maths and Science.
Genetics	Chemistry and/or Biology usually required.		English, Maths and Science.

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Geography	Geography. BSc courses may require Maths or Sciences.	<i>Will require at least 1-2 A Levels.</i>	Geography usually required. Maths/Sciences required for BSc courses.
Geology/Geological Sciences	1-2 Sciences or Maths may be required. Geography.	<i>Will require at least 1-2 A Levels.</i>	English, Maths and Science.
Health Sciences/ Studies	Maths or Science (Chemistry or Biology) may be required.	Health and Social Care. Applied Science accepted at some institutions	English, Maths and Science.
History	History usually required with specific grade. English, Law and Politics.	Applied Law.	English, Maths and Modern foreign language.
History of Art	History preferred.	Applied Law.	English, Maths and Modern foreign language.
Horticulture	Science subject.	No specified subjects.	Maths.
Hospitality & Hotel Management	No specified subjects.	Business studies.	English & Maths usually required. A foreign language could be useful.
Human Resource Management	No specified subjects.	Business studies, IT and computing	English and Maths.
Information Management/Librarianship	No specified subjects.	No specified subjects.	English, Maths and Modern foreign language.
International Relations	No specified subjects. History and Politics could be useful.	No specified subjects.	English, Maths and Modern foreign language.
Law	Any Arts, humanities, social sciences, science plus languages. Law may be useful but check with university.	Applied Law.	High grades often required.
Leisure & Recreation Management	No specified subjects.	No specified subjects.	English and Maths grades 7-4/A-C
Linguistics	English.	<i>Will require at least 1-2 A Levels.</i>	English, Maths and Modern foreign language.

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Marine/Maritime Studies	Science or Maths may be required	<i>Will require at least 1-2 A Levels.</i>	Maths and Science.
Marketing	No specified subjects.	No specified subjects.	English and Maths.
Mathematics	Maths. Further Maths preferred. Plus STEP exam	Must be a relatable BTEC with A Level subject requirements	English. High grade in Maths
Media Studies	English or Media Studies may be useful.	Creative digital media production.	English and Maths.
Medicine	Chemistry and Biology at high grades. Very specific requirements check individual universities. <i>Relevant work experience essential</i>		Excellent GCSE grades needed.
Modern Languages	1-2 Modern foreign language. Some languages can be taken without previous study of that language.	<i>Will require at least 1-2 A Levels.</i>	English and a Modern foreign language.
Music	Music. Instrumental grades often required.	Music Technology as well as Music A Level.	Modern foreign Language and Maths may be required.
Natural Sciences	Science subjects required		Strong GCSE profile
Nursing and Midwifery	Science subjects sometimes required. <i>Relevant caring experience required.</i>	Health and Social Care and Applied Science.	English, Maths and Science.
Nutrition	Science subjects required. Biology and Chemistry preferred	Applied Science possible at some institutions	Maths and Science
Occupational Therapy	Science or Social Science subjects may be required. Work experience necessary.	Health and Social Care.	English, Maths and Science at 7-4/A-C grade.
Optometry	Science subjects or Maths required.		Excellent English, Maths and Science grades.

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Pharmacology	Chemistry and/or Biology.		Excellent English, Maths and Science grades.
Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Science	Chemistry and one or two other sciences.	Applied science maybe accepted at some institutions	Excellent English, Maths and Science grades.
Philosophy	No specified subjects. Sociology and Religious Studies may be useful.	No specified subjects.	English, Maths and Modern foreign language.
Photography	Art and design, Photography, Graphic Design. <i>Portfolio required. May need to do an Art Foundation course.</i>	<i>Will require at least 1-2 creative A Levels.</i>	Art.
Physical Education	PE. Science may be required especially for Sports Science courses	Sport .	English and Maths and Science.
Physics	Physics and Maths. Further maths preferred.	Must be a relatable BTEC with A Level subject requirements	English and Maths and Science.
Physiology	2 sciences; Chemistry and Biology preferred.		Maths and Science at grade 7/A.
Physiotherapy	1- 2 sciences. Biology often required. P.E. Must have visited a Physiotherapy department.	Must be a relatable BTEC with A Level subject requirements.	English, Maths and Science – 7-6/A-B grades.
Podiatry/Chiropody	Biology usually required	<i>Will require at least 2 A Levels.</i>	Maths and Science.
Politics	No subjects specified. History or Government and Politics useful.	No subjects specified.	English, Maths and Modern foreign language
Psychology	Science subject or Maths required. Psychology very useful.	<i>Will require at least 1-2 A Levels</i>	English and Maths and Science.
Radiography	1- 2 sciences; Maths may be acceptable.		Five subjects including English and Maths and Science.
Religious Studies/ Theology	Religious Studies may be preferred.	<i>Will require at least 1-2 A Levels</i>	English and Maths.

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Retail Management	No subjects specified.	No subjects specified.	English and Maths at grade 5-4/C.
Social Studies/ Science	No subjects specified.	No subjects specified.	English and Maths and Science.
Social Work	No subjects specified. Psychology may be useful. Relevant work experience required.	Health & Social Care.	Five subjects including English and Maths and Science.
Sociology	No subjects specified. Sociology may be useful.	No subjects specified.	English and Maths.
Speech Therapy	1 science - Biology may be stipulated. English Language and Psychology can be useful.		English, Modern foreign language and Dual Science or Biology grade 6-5/B or above.
Sports Studies/Science	PE. Science may be required especially for Sports Science courses	Sport	English and Maths and Science.
Statistics	Maths. Further Maths preferred.	Must be a relatable BTEC with A Level subject requirements	English and Maths.
Teaching	At least one National Curriculum subject desirable. English, Maths and Science (the core subjects), History, Geography, Modern Foreign Languages, Art and Design, Music, PE, RE. <i>Classroom work experience essential.</i>	Health and Social Care, IT and Computing, Sport Studies	Must have English and Maths, Science maybe required.
Tourism & Travel	No subjects specified.	No subjects specified.	English and Maths.
Town & Country Planning	Geography may be specified.	<i>Will require at least 1-2 A Levels</i>	English and Maths.
Veterinary Science	Chemistry and Biology usually required at very high grades. Relevant work experience usually required.		English, Maths and Science 6/B and above.

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Zoology	1- 2 sciences.	Must be a relatable BTEC with A Level subject requirements.	English, Maths and Science.

“Information taken from “University Degree Course Offers – Heap 2020” and UCAS course search.”