

## **Qualification Reform Statement**

### **Background**

Qualifications in the UK are currently undergoing significant reform. Cardiff University recognises that such wide-ranging changes will present challenges to schools and colleges and to applicants. We hope that the following statement will provide reassurance for all parties that Cardiff University is committed to its aim to recruit and admit students who are most able to benefit from the University's learning, teaching and research environment, regardless of background and that applicants will not be disadvantaged as a result of the qualification reforms.

The first results for the new AS qualifications will be in 2016, with the first revised A-levels being awarded in 2017. The first results of the reformed GCSE's will be awarded in 2017.

Further details of the changes can be found on the UCAS website at [www.ucas.com/advisers/guides-and-resources/qualification-reform](http://www.ucas.com/advisers/guides-and-resources/qualification-reform)

### **Note for all applicants, schools and colleges**

We would encourage schools and colleges to include additional information in the UCAS application reference, explaining the qualification provision available to their students.

### **A Level**

Our offers will typically be based on grades achieved from 3 A-levels.

### **Welsh Baccalaureate (level 3)**

We accept the Welsh Baccalaureate (WBQ) Advanced Diploma Qualification for admission to all of our undergraduate degree programmes. The WBQ Diploma core (and from 2015 the Skills Challenge Certificate) will be accepted as equivalent to an A-level. For applicants offering graded versions of the core we will accept an A\* grade as equivalent to an A\* at A-level, A as equivalent to an A at A-level, B as equivalent to a B at A-level and a C grade as equivalent to a C at A-level. The WBQ core cannot replace a required specified subject or subjects.

### **AS-level/Extended Project Qualifications**

Whilst we recognise evidence that applicants have completed other qualifications, such as an additional AS-level subject or the Extended Project, applicants not offering additional qualifications will not be disadvantaged in the offer making process. We would note however, that evidence of additional qualifications can be beneficial at Confirmation for applicants who have narrowly missed the grades required in their offer.

### **Practical element in science A-levels**

Revised science A-levels in England (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) will include a separate result for the practical element of the qualification. Where an offer includes successful completion of one or more science A-levels, a pass in the practical assessment will also be required. In some cases, discretion may be applied when making decisions at confirmation for applicants who have not passed the practical assessment.

**GCSEs**

Significant changes are being made to the school curriculum in England and Wales. From 2017, GCSEs in England will be graded numerically on a scale of 1-9 with 9 being the highest level of achievement. In Wales, state schools will retain GCSEs with a graded structure (A\*-G) but all students will study a new curriculum that will include two GCSEs in Mathematics, English (or Welsh) Language, Double Award Science and the National Welsh Baccalaureate (level 2). Students studying in Wales are also likely to study fewer subjects than their English counterparts and are likely to have fewer option subjects.

Cardiff University will ensure no group of students will be disadvantaged and therefore the GCSE requirements will recognise the different curriculums and grading structures. Up to date information will be posted on our webpages [www.cardiff.ac.uk/applyingtocardiff](http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/applyingtocardiff).