

CURRICULUM FOR EXCELLENCE & SCOTTISH UNIVERSITIES ADMISSIONS POLICIES

Universities and CfE

- Universities are positive about CfE
- Similarities between many CfE aims and universities' aims
- Universities want to admit Scottish school leavers, so they will adapt
- Publishing policies to be clear & transparent

University statements on CfE

- Vary depending on the institution
- Vary depending on subject
- Very important to check individual university websites and / or prospectuses for their CfE policy and their wider policy.

Common themes: National 5s

- Total number of National 5s will not generally be a condition for entry
- *Some* universities seek *minimum* level of knowledge in e.g. English, Maths or another subject at National 5, and will require a Higher if there is no National 5

Common themes: Highers

- *Majority* of institutions (**not** all) will consider Highers taken over S4 & S5 as equivalent to Highers taken only in S5 (may be some exceptions for some courses)
- *Some* universities require a minimum number of Highers / Advanced Highers to be taken in at least one year of the Senior Phase.

Common themes: Advanced Highers (AHs) & Scottish Baccalaureates (SBs)

- Universities recognise the value of Advanced Highers (AH) and Scottish Baccalaureates (SB)
- Good preparation for university level study
- Where students are doing AHs and / or SB, encourage them to complete the course even if they are not part of a conditional offer
- Entrance requirements mainly expressed in terms of Highers (some exceptions)
- AH / SB might be used to meet entry requirements where not met by end of S5
- AH / SB might be used for direct entry to second year

Common themes: Wider achievement

- Academic qualifications are normally the primary requirement.
- Universities will take into account wider achievement in the personal statement and reference in making decisions.
- *Most* universities will take account of contextual factors recognising an applicant's circumstances.

Conclusion: Two key messages

1. Universities are responding to CfE changes in terms of admissions and they want Scottish entrants!
2. Read individual universities CfE statements, admissions policies and prospectuses – and look at subject detail – because they all vary (as is the case at the moment).