

Edinburgh Napier University

Curriculum for Excellence Statement

1.0 Background

Edinburgh Napier University acknowledges the importance of Curriculum for Excellence and recognises the critical role this will play in enabling learners to progress at a pace which best suits their needs. We believe the opportunity for young people to have regular discussions and reviews of their learning needs will allow them to make more informed choices about their future paths.

We support the commitment to try to ensure young people remain in learning after the age of 16 and we will continue to promote and develop links with Scotland's Colleges, to ensure learners have a variety of progression routes open to them post-16.

The increased emphasis of Curriculum for Excellence on developing skills such as critical thinking, essay writing and independent study skills, in addition to fostering creativity and innovation in learners, should result in learners who are better prepared for progression to further or higher education.

1.1 Implementation Phase

We recognise that implementation of the Curriculum for Excellence is a significant challenge for the education sector as a whole in Scotland and one which may take some time to bed down. In particular we understand that any major change of this significance can be a worrying period for students, parents and advisors. This statement aims to address some of these questions and concerns and to provide information about how Edinburgh Napier will view students presenting with the new Nationals, Highers and Advanced Highers qualifications.

Given this period of change, we will operate some flexibility during 2013-15 and will accept both Intermediate and National 5 qualifications (and combinations of these) for entry purposes.

2.0 Our entry requirements

2.1 Standard Grades/National 5 Qualifications

With the exception of our professional Nursing programmes, Edinburgh Napier University does not require a specific number of Standard Grade or Intermediate 2 subjects for entry purposes. We do not use the number of Standard Grades or Intermediate 2 subjects obtained as part of our selection process. This will remain unchanged with the implementation of Curriculum for Excellence.

However, many of our degree programmes do require students to have achieved a specified subject at Standard Grade 3 or above. The qualifications we will accept are outlined in the table below. Applicants should note that we will not accept National 4 qualifications in lieu of Standard Grades.

Standard Grades	Intermediates	New Nationals
SG Credit - Grade 1	Intermediate 2 - Grade A	National 5 - Grade A
SG Credit - Grade 2	Intermediate 2 - Grade B or C	National 5 - Grade B
SG General - Grade 3	Intermediate 1 - Grade A	National 5 - Grade C

Applicants are strongly advised to check our website for the most up-to-date information about entry requirements www.napier.ac.uk/courses prior to submitting their UCAS application.

2.1.1 Nursing, Midwifery and Veterinary Nursing Programmes

Our BA Nursing (all fields), BA Midwifery and BA Veterinary Nursing programmes will continue to require applicants to have achieved 5 Standard Grades or National 5s at Grade 3/C for entry, in addition to the Higher requirements.

Admission to these programmes involves a selection interview. Applicants are expected to demonstrate, via their UCAS personal statements, a strong interest in and knowledge of their chosen subject area.

2.2 Higher Qualifications

The University acknowledges the implementation of the new curriculum will lead to applicants applying to university with a greater variety of qualifications, which have been undertaken at different stages of learning.

We currently operate a flexible approach to students who take Highers over more than one academic year and/or who achieve their qualifications in more than one sitting. We anticipate this flexible approach will continue with the implementation of Curriculum for Excellence.

Our entry criteria and offers are expressed in grades; we do not use the UCAS tariff in offer-making. For the majority of our degree programmes we require applicants to achieve four SQA Highers at specific grades (dependent upon the degree programme applied for).

Applicants are expected to achieve the required grades in all four subjects at Higher. For example, where our entry criteria are BBBB at SQA Highers, students must achieve at least Grade B in a minimum of four subjects – we would not normally

accept ABBC in lieu of BBBB. However, we do not require a specific number of Highers to have been taken in one exam sitting and we do not distinguish between those who may have studied a Higher over more than one academic year. We would accept students presenting with both of the above scenarios, as long as overall (at the end of their studies) they have achieved four SQA Highers at the required grades and/or subjects.

We accept resit Highers and would view these in the same way as a first-sitting Higher. Applications would be welcome from students who choose to sit an early Higher in S4 and this would count as one of the four Highers required for entry purposes.

2.3 Advanced Higher Qualifications

We will continue to value the Advanced Higher qualification as an excellent preparation for University study; however we do not 'double-count' subjects taken both at Advanced Higher and Higher. In these cases we would count the highest grade achieved only. We equate an Advanced Higher Grades A-C as equivalent to Grade A at Higher and an Advanced Higher at Grade D as equivalent to Grade B at Higher. We do not accept anything below a Grade D at Advanced Higher.

2.4 Assessment of Applications

Our published entry criteria are the minimum criteria accepted for entry. For competitive subject areas, where we receive more applications than we have places available, attainment of the minimum criteria does not guarantee an offer of admission.

We will continue to consider all applications on an individual basis with reference to academic grades achieved and predicted, in addition to the UCAS personal statement and academic reference.

Some of our courses will involve selection via an interview, audition or review of a portfolio and for these courses the personal statement is particularly important in determining whether the applicant will be invited to attend an interview or audition.

Where a student has experienced serious disruption to studies due to personal circumstances, and their qualifications fall below our minimum criteria, they should contact ugadmissions@napier.ac.uk. Such cases will be reviewed on an individual basis with reference to relevant supporting documentation.

2.5 Advanced Entry

We anticipate as Curriculum for Excellence becomes embedded that we may see an increase in well-qualified learners wishing to enter directly into Year 2 of our undergraduate degree programmes. The majority of our programmes at Edinburgh Napier University will continue to accept advanced entry applications, normally on

the basis of achieving three Advanced Highers at BBC or above (dependent on programme) along with any subject specific requirements.

2.6 College Pathways

The University remains committed to ensuring a variety of progression routes are available to post-16 learners. We will continue to work with College partners to review provision of HN programmes and identify new entry routes; ensuring students entering via an HN route have the skills, knowledge and attributes to succeed on our degree programmes.

2.7 Other Routes

We will continue to work to ensure our programmes are accessible to students from a wide range of backgrounds, not just those directly progressing from Schools and Colleges. We believe the different skills and experience these students bring to the University serve to enrich the learning experience for all our students. We will we will continue to consider such applications on an individual basis.

2.8 Further Information

Applicants and advisors who have any questions not covered in this statement should contact ugadmissions@napier.ac.uk for further guidance.