

Undergraduate Contextual Admissions Website information

Operational owner:	Head of Admissions
Executive owner:	Director of UK Recruitment and Admissions
Effective date:	September 2023
Next review date:	September 2025

Version	Reviewed by	Approved by	Date
1	Laura Wright (Head of Admissions)	ASG	October 2024

1. Introduction- what is contextual Admissions?

The University of Surrey is committed to social mobility and believes, to have a diverse and representative society we must ensure all learners with the potential to succeed at University can do so regardless of their background or personal experience.

As part of this commitment to widening participation, we use contextualised admissions. This is where we use additional information, like socio-economic factors, to understand the context in which applicants have achieved their qualifications, enabling us to identify performance and potential.

You may be eligible for a contextual admissions offer if you are a UK domiciled student and meet one of the below criteria.

2. What contextual data is used?

Applicants are not required to provide any additional information to the University, the data we use comes from UCAS and includes the following:

Data set	Notes	Obtained
POLAR4, Quintile 1	Applicant living in an area of low participation to Higher Education. This dataset is subject to change each year.	Provided by UCAS and available through the public available dataset postcode look-up tool
Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD 1), quintile 1 from the United Kingdom	If you live in a postcode assigned to quintile 1 (decile 1 and 2) according to The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Governments Index of Deprivation. This dataset is subject to change each year.	Provided by UCAS and available through the dataset publicly available: England

Care Experienced	<p>Students who have experience of being in care (ever lived in public care or as a looked-after child) including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -with foster carers under local authority care -in a residential children’s home -being looked after at home under a supervision order -living with friends or relatives in kinship care 	Provided by UCAS where disclosed by applicant.
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2. How do we use this data?

Admissions selectors consider an application on its own merit and on an individual basis as part of a holistic assessment of an application.

Where an applicant has met one of more of the above criteria their application will be considered under a contextual admissions approach. The standard Admissions selection criteria will need to be passed; predicted grades, references, interview/ audition where applicable, and satisfactory personal statement. In most cases, applicants will receive a reduced offer to support their journey to University and to recognise their potential in higher studies.

NB. Subject requirements may not be reduced in the offer. Grades will be reduced by two A-level grade or equivalent.

Where your grades fall slightly short of our published requirements we may make an offer for an alternative course, such as a programme with an integrated Foundation Year.

14. Monitoring and review

The Contextual Admissions Procedure is reviewed annually by the Senior Management Team for UK Recruitment and Admissions. The next review date is October 2024. Datasets are subject to annual changes. Inclusion of additional scope may be included for future cycles and will be listed above.