

Edge Hill University 2015 Admissions Policy: Teacher Briefing

Statement on Unconditional Offers and AS Levels

Briefing for teachers and advisors supporting students who may be considering applying to Edge Hill University

Preamble

Edge Hill University is the Times Higher University of the Year. Applications to study with us have increased five-fold in the last decade and continue to grow. We admitted a record intake in 2014 and whilst we are keen to recognise potential as well as prior achievement, our average entry grades are now in excess of 320pts. We remain in the top 10% for Graduate Employment in England and our focus on providing an unrivalled student experience has seen the University retain its position as the top regional performer for Student Satisfaction in the 2013/14 National Student Survey¹.

As we invest in the student experience, our Ormskirk campus continues to thrive with additional on-campus accommodation and enhanced sports facilities scheduled for completion in 2015. Our investment also includes a seven-figure commitment to bursaries and scholarships to support student success.

Admissions

Partnership is key to our approach and we see our role as supporting you, your students, and your institution in realising aspiration and ambition. We want students to choose Edge Hill because they can succeed here, develop personally and achieve their ambitions by partnering with us in their learning and living experience.

Our entry requirements are clear and, rightly, stretching. We want to encourage all students to work hard at their studies and achieve the very best in their level three qualifications. We have some concerns that Unconditional Offers may have an adverse effect on student effort and be divisive amongst cohorts. Therefore, the University will only make Unconditional Offers to applicants who have already achieved the necessary entry requirements. Our standard entry requirements can be found at www.edgehill.ac.uk

As you will know, employers look at level three attainment as well as degree outcomes, so we want to work with you to encourage the highest level of achievement.

Points for Consideration

Our Admissions approach is to carefully consider the full range of application information in deciding whether to make applicants an offer. We read and take note of personal

¹ NSS 2014 (average scores across all 23 indicators)

statements, references (which are crucial to our decision making), predicted grades and past academic achievement.

Whilst recognising that the admission of an individual remains at the discretion of the University, you may wish to consider the following points when advising applicants:

- Edge Hill also welcomes candidates with a mix of 'A' Level and BTEC/vocational qualifications; we are supportive of those applicants and will continue to be so.
- We do not have an agreed list of preferred 'A' Level subjects and recognise the value of General Studies etc. as indicators of academic ability. Our prospectus and website lists specific requirements.
- We encourage grade predictions to be realistic, but positive – especially if they contribute to encouraging student success. We may monitor any gap between 'predicted' and 'actual' grade from time to time.
- We will continue to make offers to candidates who are predicted close to our published entry requirements and will exercise flexibility at Confirmation if a student is within range of their offer. (NB: non-academic requirements such as DBS and Skills Tests are not covered by this statement)
- We are impressed by a commitment to our Institution. Where students make a firm choice to study at Edge Hill, but grades slip below expectation, we will commit to confirming a place should our threshold standards be met and places are available.
- We value advice from Schools/Colleges and trust our partners to advise us appropriately in the event of missed grades.
- References are a significant element in our decision-making; you may wish to note any improvement in performance during the year and reference any internal assessments which may be relevant. References may also note any issues relating to GCSE performance that we should take account of.
- The University remains supportive of AS Levels, believing them to be a sound indicator of potential achievement and so will continue to consider those grades in offer making. Students who have additional UCAS Tariff qualifications (EPQ, General Studies etc.) should ensure these are noted on the UCAS forms.

This is a Statement on Admissions for 2015. We will write to you again later this year to update you on our position for 2016 Entry.

Teachers and Advisors are most welcome to contact the Education Liaison Team if they have further questions or comments and we are always happy to host visits to the University for Schools and Colleges. Please contact educationliaison@edgehill.ac.uk / 01695 584388 for further information.