

Statement on Qualification Reform

The University of Lincoln recognises the significant reform that qualifications are currently undergoing and appreciates the challenges that schools and colleges will face. In the next few years we will be expecting a large number of students to apply to university with new qualifications and potentially different combinations of qualifications.

When considering the various reforms we do not currently plan to make any major changes to our course entry requirements however, we will continue to review new qualifications on a course by course basis to ensure our offer making reflects the changes and that applicants are not disadvantaged.

Further details regarding our current entry requirements are available in our prospectus and on our website. In addition, our Admissions team are happy to answer individual queries from applicants, parents, schools and colleges wherever that may be helpful.

The statements below outlines how we plan to accommodate qualification reform and is aimed at supporting applicants, schools and colleges when making decisions.

As and A Level Reform in England

Reformed A Levels will be taught in a number of subjects in England from 2015 onwards. These A Levels will be two-year linear qualifications with examinations at the end of the course.

In addition, the AS qualification will be decoupled from the reformed A Level, which means the AS Level will no longer count towards the final mark of the full A Level.

Applicants will still be able to sit an AS qualification as part of their overall A level programme if it is offered by their school or college, but the AS result will be separately awarded and certificated.

From 2017, the University will make offers based on three A Levels or the equivalent. Applicants who do not have the opportunity to sit AS Levels will not be disadvantaged.

Science A Levels

The assessment of practical skills in the reformed Physics, Chemistry and Biology A Levels will be separate from the grading of written examinations. The A Level will continue to be graded A* to E, but the practical element will be awarded a separate pass or fail grade.

We anticipate requiring a pass in the practical element of the reformed science A levels for those applicants applying for science and engineering degrees.

GCSE Reform in England

GCSEs in England will begin to change from 2015, with new specifications being taught in English Language, English Literature and Mathematics from September 2016.

In addition, the new GCSEs will be graded 9-1, with 9 being the highest grade. The new grading introduces different grade structures and no comparison can be made between the current alphabetical grading scale and the revised numerical one.

However, from 2017 onwards, we will consider the new grade 4 as being equivalent to the current grade C. Individual GCSE programme entry requirements vary and applicants are advised to visit the individual programme pages on our website.

Core Maths

Core Maths is a new qualification that will be first taught from 2014.

This qualification offers learners not studying an AS or A Level in Mathematics an opportunity to study a Level 3 Mathematics course alongside their main programme of study.

The University will recognise the Core Maths qualification and will consider it as part of an offer where applicable.

Where a programme requires a GCSE grade C or 4 in Mathematics or an AS Level in Mathematics we may consider the level 3 Core Maths qualification as meeting this requirement.