

UCAS

THE UCAS TARIFF

This guide is designed to give you
all the information you need to
understand and use the UCAS Tariff.



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PURPOSE OF TARIFF POINTS

The main purpose of the Tariff is to enable universities to compare the wide range of qualifications they see on applications, thereby assisting more informed admissions decisions.

Some universities and colleges will also use the Tariff as a tool to set their entry requirements and make offers. Students should always check individual course entry requirements to see if Tariff points or grades (or both) are accepted.

Tariff points consider the amount of time spent in guided learning and overall achievement, but they do not consider other factors, such as the skills and knowledge gained through a qualification. Therefore, universities will typically consider other elements of an application alongside Tariff points.



HOW TARIFF POINTS ARE CALCULATED

Size band x Grade band = Tariff points

The Tariff measures the size of a qualification and – where relevant – the competence of the learner in terms of the final grade achieved.

- ▶ For qualifications offered in England, Northern Ireland and Wales, size is measured by the Guided Learning Hours (GLH)
- ▶ For qualifications offered in Scotland, size is measured by SCQF Credits
- ▶ A **size band** is allocated to qualification, based on its size:

Guided learning hours	SCQF Credits	Size band
<120	0 – 11	1
120 – 219	12 – 21	2
220 – 319	22 – 31	3
320 – 499	32 – 49	4
500 – 719	50 – 71	6
720 – 999	72 – 99	8
1000+	100+	12



- Competence cannot be measured on Ungraded qualifications (Pass/Fail). **Level 3 ungraded qualifications receive a standard grade band of '8'**. For SCQF Level 6 ungraded qualifications the standard grade band is '7' as SCQF Level 6 sits across RQF Levels 2 and 3.
- Graded qualifications will receive a range of grade bands, one for each grade that can be awarded.
- Note: Fail grades do not receive a grade band and are not allocated Tariff points.

Grade band	Ungraded	2 grades	3 grades	4 grades	5 grades
14			(Distinction*)		(A*)
13					
12			Distinction	A	A
11					
10		Distinction			B
9				B	
8	Pass		Merit		C
7				C	
6		Pass			D
5					
4			Pass	D	E
3					

- "Star" grades (Distinction*, A* etc.) are not included in the counting of grades but are added afterwards and receive a grade band of 14. This is to ensure that the other grades (i.e. Distinction, Merit and Pass) have consistent grade bands allocated when a star grade is and isn't present.





Size band and grade band are multiplied to get the Tariff points:

Qualification Title	GLH	Size band	Grade	Grade Band	Tariff Points
A Level	360	4	A*	14	56
A Level	360	4	A	12	48
A Level	360	4	B	10	40
A Level	360	4	C	8	32
A Level	360	4	D	6	24
A Level	360	4	E	4	16

WHAT IS, AND ISN'T, INCLUDED IN THE TARIFF TABLES

Qualifications **included** in the UCAS Tariff

All UK Level 3 qualifications – SCQF Level 6 in Scotland – are eligible to receive Tariff points if they are listed with a UK Qualifications Regulator. The regulators are:

- ▶ The Ofqual Register (covers qualifications taught in England and Northern Ireland)
- ▶ Qualifications Wales (Welsh qualifications)
- ▶ SQA and SCQF (Scottish qualifications)

(Note that the IB Diploma is regulated by Ofqual and receives Tariff points.)

Most of these qualifications use the standard Tariff methodology shown in the previous section to calculate their Tariff points.

Other qualifications which are included in the UCAS Tariff are:

- ▶ The Access to HE Diploma (regulated by QAA)
- ▶ The Irish Leaving Certificate
- ▶ Tariff points for partially achieved T Levels
- ▶ Level 3/SCQF Level 6 apprenticeships

Qualifications **not included** in the UCAS Tariff

The following qualifications do not receive Tariff points:

- ▶ UK-regulated qualifications which aren't Level 3 or SCQF Level 6
- ▶ Unregulated UK qualifications: Any Level 3 (SCQF Level 6) qualification not listed with Ofqual, Qualifications Wales, SQA or SCQF
- ▶ International qualifications (exception: the Irish Leaving Certificate)

Learners can still apply to UK universities with non-Level 3, unregulated, or international qualifications but will not receive a Tariff point allocation for these qualifications. Universities will have alternative processes for managing applications containing qualifications which sit outside the UCAS Tariff.





NON-STANDARD TARIFF POINT ALLOCATIONS

This section lists all entries in the UCAS Tariff which do not use the standard Tariff methodology to calculate points.

Level 3/SCQF Level 6 Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships are tarified in a similar way to qualifications. The main difference is that the size band is determined by the expected duration (in months) of the apprenticeship, not guided learning hours. There is also a size band 14 allocated to apprenticeships which have an expected duration of 36 months or longer – qualifications have a maximum size band of 12, which is allocated to a full programme of study (2 years).

Note that Scottish SCQF Level 6 apprenticeships have the size band allocated based on SCQF Credits, which is the same measure of size used for Scottish qualifications in the UCAS Tariff.

Expected duration	SCQF Credits	Size band	Grade	Grade band	Tariff points England	Tariff points Wales	Tariff points Northern Ireland	Tariff points Scotland
36 months +	150+	14	Pass	8	112	112	-	112
24 – 35 months	100 - 149	12	Pass	8	96	96	96	96
18 – 23 months	72 – 99	8	Pass	8	64	64	-	64
12 – 17 months	<71	6	Pass	8	48	48	-	48

Key points

- ▶ Tariff points are aligned across all UK nations
- ▶ For apprenticeships achieved in England, Northern Ireland and Wales, the size band is based on the published expected duration of the apprenticeship (not the amount of time the apprentice took to complete it)
- ▶ For apprenticeships achieved in Scotland, the size band is based on the number of SCQF Credits associated with the apprenticeship. This matches the system used for Scottish qualifications, where size band is also based on the number of SCQF Credits.
- ▶ The model for tariffing apprenticeships only awards points for a Pass grade. Whilst it is possible to achieve a Merit or Distinction in England, the decision was made to omit these from the model to ensure parity across all UK nations. Universities can still take into account a learner's Distinction or Merit grade when considering an application.
- ▶ Grade band 8 is used consistently across all UK Level 3 (SCQF Level 6) apprenticeships.
- ▶ Note: All Northern Irish apprenticeships have a duration of 24 months

Apprenticeships with embedded qualifications – some guidance

- ▶ Level 3 (SCQF Level 6) apprenticeships in Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland contain embedded qualifications. In cases where the embedded qualification also sits at Level 3 (SCQF Level 6) many of the embedded qualifications exist in the Tariff Tables separate to the apprenticeship.
- ▶ It is advisable for an apprentice to check the points they receive for their apprenticeship and the points allocated to the embedded qualification, to determine which has the highest number of points.
- ▶ UCAS's guidance to universities is that, when a learner receives a higher number of Tariff points for the embedded qualification than they do for the apprenticeship, it is the points for the qualification which should be counted.
- ▶ An apprentice cannot claim points for the apprenticeship AND the embedded qualification – only the higher of the two.
- ▶ Analysis shows that approximately 20% of Welsh apprentices will receive more points for their embedded qualification and 80% will receive more points for the apprenticeship.



Apprenticeships: Comparing Tariff points for apprenticeships with Tariff points for common qualifications

Finally, you may find it useful to see how the Tariff point model for apprenticeships compares with some common UK qualifications. Note how passing a two-year apprenticeship aligns with the standard 'pass' grades of A Levels and T Levels (highlighted below).

Tariff points	Apprenticeships	BTEC National Extended Diploma	T Level	A Level x 3	Higher x 5	Tariff points
168		D*D*D*	D*	A*A*A*		168
165					AAAAA	165
160		D*D*D				160
152		D*DD				152
144		DDD	D*	AAA		144
135					BBBBB	135
128		DDM				128
120			M	BBB		120
112	36 months	DMM				112
105					CCCCC	105
96	24 months	MMM	P (A* - C)	CCC		96
80		MMP				80
75					DDDDD	75
72			P (D - E)	DDD		72
64	18 months	MPP				64
48	12 months	PPP		EEE		48





Tariff points for partially achieved T Levels

Fully achieved T Level

Learners who achieve their full T Level are eligible to receive the following points, based on the Overall T Level grade. These points are calculated using the Standard Tariff Methodology:

Overall T Level grade	Tariff points
Distinction*	168
Distinction	144
Merit	120
Pass (A* - C in the Core)	96
Pass (D – E in the Core)	72

Partially achieved T Levels - why do we Tariff a partially complete qualification?

Given the amount of time and work that goes into completing a T Level, it was felt that learners who successfully complete their Core Component and Industry Placement, or their Occupational Specialism and Industry Placement, but who don't achieve a Full T Level should still get Tariff points for their achievement.

Tariff points for partially achieved T Levels do not use the Standard Tariff Methodology (no size band or grade band is allocated). Instead, points are based on a percentage of the points awarded to a Full T Level, by looking at the weighting of the component parts of the technical qualification.

There are currently three different proportional splits:

Core component and Occupational Specialism are worth 50% each.

The Core component makes up 40% of the weighting and the Occupational Specialism makes up 60%.

The Core component makes up 30% of the weighting and the Occupational Specialism makes up 70%.

As a reminder, partially achieved T Level Tariff points are awarded in the following scenarios:

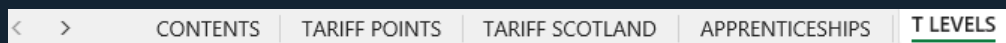
1. Learner has achieved their Core component **AND** Industry Placement (IP), not achieved the Occupational Specialism.
2. Learner has achieved their Occupational Specialism **AND** Industry Placement, not achieved the Core Component.

Tariff points for partially achieved T Levels for each proportional split:

Core 50% + Industry Placement	Specialism 50% + Industry Placement	Core 40% + Industry Placement	Specialism 60% + Industry Placement	Core 30% + Industry Placement	Specialism 70% + Industry Placement
A* = 84	D = 84	A* = 67	D = 101	A* = 50	D = 118
A = 72	M = 60	A = 58	M = 72	A = 43	M = 84
B = 60	P = 38	B = 48	P = 58	B = 36	P = 67
C = 48		C = 38		C = 29	
D = 36		D = 29		D = 22	
E = 24		E = 19		E = 14	

You do not need to know the weighting of a T Level to work out the correct points because UCAS has listed all T Levels separately in the Tariff Tables. This means you just need to search for the T Level by subject, or by its QAN, to locate the correct points.

1. Download a copy of the Tariff Tables from here:
ucas.com/advisers/guides-and-resources/information-new-ucas-tariff-advisers
2. Locate the “**T LEVEL**” tab at the bottom of the document:



3. You can search for the T Level by subject or QAN. The weighting is also provided for your information.



Graded music performance/theory, dance, speech and drama qualifications

Grades 6 to 8 music performance, speech and drama qualifications are equivalent to Level 3, and are listed as such in UK-regulator databases.

To achieve a spread of Tariff points across the different grades, non-standard size bands and grade bands have been used. These can be seen in the tables below:

Music Performance, Speech and Drama (Grades 6 to 8)

Qualification title	GLH	Size band	Grade	Grade band	Tariff points
Grade 8	140	3	D	10	30
Grade 8	140	3	M	9	27
Grade 8	140	3	P	8	24
Grade 7	180	2	D	8	16
Grade 7	180	2	M	7	14
Grade 7	180	2	P	6	12
Grade 6	240	2	D	6	12
Grade 6	240	2	M	5	10
Grade 6	240	2	P	4	8

Music Theory (Grades 6 to 8)

Qualification title	GLH	Size band	Grade	Grade band	Tariff points
Grade 8	85	1	D	10	10
Grade 8	85	1	M	9	9
Grade 8	85	1	P	8	8
Grade 7	65	1	D	8	8
Grade 7	65	1	M	7	7
Grade 7	65	1	P	6	6
Grade 6	45	1	D	6	6
Grade 6	45	1	M	5	5
Grade 6	45	1	P	4	4

Graded dance qualifications

Dance qualifications have a wider range of grades which sits within Level 3:

- ▶ Grades 6, 7 and 8
- ▶ Intermediate
- ▶ Advanced Foundation.

These qualifications can also be graded in two different ways:

- ▶ Distinction/Merit/Pass
- ▶ High Distinction/Distinction/High Merit/Merit/Pass

Regardless of the grading scale a dance qualification has, the Distinction, Merit and Pass grades of a given level always receive the same Tariff points.

Distinction/Merit/Pass

Qualification title	GLH	Size band	Grade	Grade band	Tariff points
Advanced Foundation	150	3	D	13	39
Advanced Foundation	150	3	M	11	33
Advanced Foundation	150	3	P	10	30
Intermediate	150	3	D	11	33
Intermediate	150	3	M	9	27
Intermediate	150	3	P	8	24
Grade 8	90	2	D	11	22
Grade 8	90	2	M	9	18
Grade 8	90	2	P	8	16
Grade 7	70	2	D	9	18
Grade 7	70	2	M	7	14
Grade 7	70	2	P	6	12
Grade 6	70	2	D	7	14
Grade 6	70	2	M	5	10
Grade 6	70	2	P	4	8

High Distinction/Distinction/High Merit/Merit/Pass

Qualification title	GLH	Size band	Grade	Grade band	Tariff points
Advanced Foundation	150	3	HD	14	42
Advanced Foundation	150	3	D	13	39
Advanced Foundation	150	3	HM	12	36
Advanced Foundation	150	3	M	11	33
Advanced Foundation	150	3	P	10	30
Intermediate	150	3	HD	12	36
Intermediate	150	3	D	11	33
Intermediate	150	3	HM	10	30
Intermediate	150	3	M	9	27
Intermediate	150	3	P	8	24
Grade 8	90	2	HD	12	24
Grade 8	90	2	D	11	22
Grade 8	90	2	HM	10	20
Grade 8	90	2	M	9	18
Grade 8	90	2	P	8	16
Grade 7	70	2	HD	10	20
Grade 7	70	2	D	9	18
Grade 7	70	2	HM	8	16
Grade 7	70	2	M	7	14
Grade 7	70	2	P	6	12
Grade 6	70	2	HD	8	16
Grade 6	70	2	D	7	14
Grade 6	70	2	HM	6	12
Grade 6	70	2	M	5	10
Grade 6	70	2	P	4	8



International Baccalaureate Qualifications

The IB Diploma and IB Career-Related Programme are composite qualifications. Therefore, Tariff points are allocated to each composite part rather than to the overall qualification.

Learners who hold these qualifications will need to locate the Tariff points for each composite part and then add these together to get their final Tariff score for the qualification.

The IB Diploma has the following composite parts:

Qualification Title	GLH	Size band	Grade	Grade Band	Tariff Points
IBO Certificate in Extended Essay	50	1	A	12	12
IBO Certificate in Extended Essay	50	1	B	10	10
IBO Certificate in Extended Essay	50	1	C	8	8
IBO Certificate in Extended Essay	50	1	D	6	6
IBO Certificate in Extended Essay	50	1	E	4	4
IBO Certificate in Higher Level	360	4	H7	14	56
IBO Certificate in Higher Level	360	4	H6	12	48
IBO Certificate in Higher Level	360	4	H5	8	40
IBO Certificate in Higher Level	360	4	H4	6	32
IBO Certificate in Higher Level	360	4	H3	3	24
IBO Certificate in Higher Level	360	4	H2	0	16
IBO Certificate in Higher Level	360	4	H1	0	12
IBO Certificate in Standard Level	150-225	2	S7	14	28
IBO Certificate in Standard Level	150-225	2	S6	12	24
IBO Certificate in Standard Level	150-225	2	S5	8	20

Qualification Title	GLH	Size band	Grade	Grade Band	Tariff Points
IBO Certificate in Standard Level	150-225	2	S4	6	16
IBO Certificate in Standard Level	150-225	2	S3	3	12
IBO Certificate in Standard Level	150-225	2	S2	0	8
IBO Certificate in Standard Level	150-225	2	S1	0	6
IBO Certificate in Theory of Knowledge	100	1	A	12	12
IBO Certificate in Theory of Knowledge	100	1	B	10	10
IBO Certificate in Theory of Knowledge	100	1	C	8	8
IBO Certificate in Theory of Knowledge	100	1	D	6	6
IBO Certificate in Theory of Knowledge	100	1	E	4	4
IBO Reflective Project	80	1	A	12	12
IBO Reflective Project	80	1	B	10	10
IBO Reflective Project	80	1	C	8	8
IBO Reflective Project	80	1	D	6	6
IBO Reflective Project	80	1	E	4	4

The composite parts of the Career-related Programme can also be found above, except for the Career-related Study. This is typically a BTEC or other vocational qualification which will be included in the Tariff Tables under its own heading. Learners should search for their vocational qualification within the Tariff separately, using the title or QAN found on their certificate.

Access to HE Diploma

Because the Access to HE Diploma is made up of Level 2 and Level 3 Credits, Tariff points are only assigned to the 45 Level 3 Credits, which are graded at either Pass, Merit or Distinction.

Learners need to count the number of Level 3 Credits they have at Pass, at Merit, and at Distinction to work out their Tariff score.

For example, a learner holding 45 Credits at Distinction, 0 at Merit and 0 at Pass would get 144 Tariff points (the highest amount available). Below are a few other example combinations of Credits and their Tariff point value:

Title	Grade	Grade Credit Profile - number of units at Distinction	Grade Credit Profile - number of units at Merit	Grade Credit Profile - number of units at Pass	Tariff points
Access to HE Diploma	D30M12P3	30	12	3	125
Access to HE Diploma	D27M9P9	27	9	9	115
Access to HE Diploma	D9M30P6	9	30	6	99
Access to HE Diploma	D3M39P3	3	39	3	96
Access to HE Diploma	D0M6P39	0	6	39	54

For a full list of possible combinations, download a copy of the Tariff Tables and go to the “ACCESS TO HE” tab:

ucas.com/advisers/guides-and-resources/information-new-ucas-tariff-advisers



Irish Leaving Certificate

The Irish leaving Certificate does use the Standard Tariff Methodology to calculate its points. It is highlighted here because it is the sole non-UK qualification to be included in the UCAS Tariff. Despite counting as an 'international qualification' UK universities advised UCAS there was value in tariffing this qualification, due to the number of Irish learners applying to UK universities and because of the close relationship between Ireland and the UK.

Qualification Title	Awarding Body	GLH	Size band	Grade	Grade Band	Tariff Points
Leaving Certificate - Higher Level (Ireland) (first awarded in 2017)	SEC	240	3	H1	12	36
Leaving Certificate - Higher Level (Ireland) (first awarded in 2017)	SEC	240	3	H2	10	30
Leaving Certificate - Higher Level (Ireland) (first awarded in 2017)	SEC	240	3	H3	8	24
Leaving Certificate - Higher Level (Ireland) (first awarded in 2017)	SEC	240	3	H4	6	18
Leaving Certificate - Higher Level (Ireland) (first awarded in 2017)	SEC	240	3	H5	4	12
Leaving Certificate - Higher Level (Ireland) (first awarded in 2017)	SEC	240	3	H6	3	9
Leaving Certificate - Ordinary Level (Ireland) (first awarded in 2017)	SEC	180	2	O1	6	12
Leaving Certificate - Ordinary Level (Ireland) (first awarded in 2017)	SEC	180	2	O2	5	10
Leaving Certificate - Ordinary Level (Ireland) (first awarded in 2017)	SEC	180	2	O3	4	8
Leaving Certificate - Ordinary Level (Ireland) (first awarded in 2017)	SEC	180	2	O4	3	6

USEFUL LINKS/ CONTACT

If you have any questions which have not been covered in this guide, or if you would like to provide feedback about the UCAS Tariff, please contact qualsinfo@ucas.ac.uk.

More information on the Tariff can be found here:

- ▶ [Tariff advice for students](#)
- ▶ [Tariff advice for advisers/schools](#)
- ▶ [Tariff advice for higher education providers](#)
- ▶ [Tariff Calculator](#)

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