

RAU – Qualifications reform and 2017 entry

In view of the planned qualifications reform in England and Wales from 2015 onwards, the Royal Agricultural University has prepared the following information aimed at prospective applicants for entry in 2017 and beyond.

This information clarifies the RAU's entry criteria covering the majority of qualification types that will be accepted for entry from 2017 onwards.

Enquiries about other qualifications may be directed to admissions@rau.ac.uk

General

The University will make both graded offers and use the new UCAS tariff where required. This is so that the offers made to applicants are as clear as possible.

GCSE level

Applicants are usually expected to have achieved a min of 5 GCSE passes (A*-C or 9-4) to include Maths and English. From 2017 onwards, applicants coming with the new GCSE qualifications will be required to have grade 4 or higher. This will be equivalent to the pre-2017 grading system where grade C or higher was required.

Welsh applicants who hold GCSE Maths or GCSE Maths Numeracy will be required to achieve grade C or higher. Either of these 2 GCSEs will be considered for entry to our undergraduate programmes. If both GCSE Maths and Maths-Numeracy are required this will be stated clearly on the entry criteria of the particular programme.

AS levels

The RAU mainly considers AS level grades to help us form an opinion as to what the applicant's likely achievement at A-level will be. AS level subjects will continue to be included in the offer making for certain programmes.

Taking interim AS-level awards is not a requirement for any of the RAU programmes.

A-levels

The RAU will usually make offers based on grades between CCC-BCC depending on the programme one has applied for. Applicants with a combination of old and reformed A-levels will not be at a disadvantage and Admissions will exercise a certain degree of flexibility on entry grades for Firm choice applicants.

Please note that some of our courses may not accept General Studies and Critical Thinking as one of the A-level subjects considered for entry.

Where a Science A-level subject is required the University will not necessarily require the applicant to have been successfully assessed in any practical skills.

Extended Project

The RAU considers the Extended Project as a qualification that offers good preparation for study at a higher education level. In some of our programmes the EP is considered as a subject of additional

study whilst in others it may form part of the offer making. We would expect the applicant to discuss the extended project content in their personal statement.

Vocational Qualifications

The University will continue considering applicants who hold relevant BTEC, City & Guilds(Land based) and other vocational qualifications as well as those applicants who come with a combination of A-level and vocational qualifications. Offers may be graded (MMM-DMM) or combined with the new UCAS tariff points where required to ensure clarity of entry criteria.

As further reforms are planned for these qualifications the RAU will continue to follow them and will review its position if required once they are finalised.

Welsh Baccaulaureate

The Welsh Baccaulaureate core within the Advanced level Diploma will be considered as equivalent to one A-level where a grade C or higher is achieved.

Scottish Highers & Advanced Highers

The University will make graded offers (BCCCC-CCCC) to applicants with Scottish Higher qualifications. Scottish applicants will also be expected to have GCSE English and Maths at grade C or above or the equivalent at National 5. If the applicants have bypassed the National 5 then they will be expected to have English and Maths studied at Higher level.

If you hold Scottish qualifications and you wish to discuss further you can contact admissions@rau.ac.uk to discuss further.

International Baccaulaureate

All our courses accept applicants who hold the IB Diploma. Certain programmes may require a specific subject at Higher level. Typical offers will be at 26 IB points or above for honours degree programmes and 24 IB points or above for Foundation degree programmes.

Access to HE Diploma

Most of our courses consider applicants who hold the (QAA recognised) Access to HE Diploma. Some programmes may ask for specific subjects. Grade profile can be found on the entry criteria of the particular course.

Applicants will also be expected to have GCSE English and Maths (min. grade C/4 or above or equivalent level 2 subjects)

The New UCAS Tariff

The new UCAS Tariff will be introduced for courses starting in September 2017. The RAU will make offers using the new UCAS tariff where required in combination with graded offers for clarity of entry criteria.

This information is provided for guidance purposes and may be subject to changes following government policy developments and curriculum reforms as well as changes in the UCAS system between 2015-2019.