

Acceptable GCSE Equivalencies 2026/7

Introduction

The below list is compiled by York St John University's Admissions department, for Home/Home EU Admissions. For International equivalencies please see the [International](#) pages of our website.

This will apply for all courses unless otherwise stated. Specific requirements and amendments for professional courses can be found at the end of this document ([Section 4](#)). The qualifications shown below are not exhaustive and are reviewed regularly. It is the University's decision based on the qualification information from OFQUAL and relevant exam bodies to determine whether candidates meet the minimum acceptable GCSE or equivalent requirements. If you are in any doubt as to whether you meet these criteria, please contact the Admissions team at admissions@yorks.ac.uk and we will be happy to discuss this further.

All qualifications listed must be achieved at grades that are equivalent or comparable to a grade C/level 4 at GCSE level, unless otherwise stated.

Applications where GCSE resits or equivalencies are being undertaken will be considered based on the pending predicted grade.

This list is not exhaustive and is for guidance purposes only. Any queries regarding the contents of this document should be directed to the Head of Admissions, by emailing admissions@yorks.ac.uk

An accepted English Language qualification is mandatory for all undergraduate Degree courses.
Please note we do not accept English which is studied as a second language.

An accepted Maths qualification is mandatory for some of our undergraduate degree and postgraduate courses - please refer to specific course pages on the York St John University website and further information in [Section 4](#) of this document.

Please note that Functional Skills Qualifications are not accepted for entry on to the majority of our courses. Please see the professional course specific section ([Section 4](#)) of this document for exceptions to this.

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Section 1 - English Language GCSE

1.1 English Language Qualifications from English Exam Boards

Qualification Type	Subject title for English	Minimum acceptable grade
GCSE (Must be regulated by OFQUAL, CCEA or Qualification Wales)	Any GCSE with English Language in the title	Level 4 if awarded from 2017 Grade C if awarded before
A level	English Language English language and literature	Grade E if awarded from 1986 Ordinary Grade if awarded before
AS Level	English Language English Language and Literature	Grade E
International GCSE-IGCSE	Any IGCSE with English Language in the title	Grade C or Level 4
International Baccalaureate Diploma	Higher or subsidiary level English Language	Grade 4
BTEC	First, National, Higher National certificate or diploma in English Language	P
Certificate of Secondary Education- CSE	English Language English Studies	Grade 1
O level	English Language	Grade C if achieved from 1975. Pass if achieved before 1975
Access To Higher Education (awarded up to July 2014)	Module titles- English included within a fully completed Access Qualification	Minimum of 12 credits for English at Level 2 passed
European Baccalaureate	English Advanced English	6.00
Equivalency testing	Equivalencytesting.com- Higher Level English A Star Equivalency- English	Grade 4
International English language Testing System- IELTS	English Language	Grade 6 overall with no component less than 5.5*

- Required IELTS results differ for some professional courses, please refer to course pages on the York St John University website and further information in [Section 4](#) of this document.

1.2 English Language Qualifications from other UK Nations

Qualification Type	Subject title for English	Minimum acceptable grade
Irish Leaving Certificate	English Language, Ordinary Level	04
Scottish Advanced Higher (SCQF level 7)	English	C
Scottish Higher (SCQF level 6)	English	C
Scottish National Certificate unit (SCQF level 6)	Communication 4	Pass
Scottish Ordinary Grade (SCQF level 5)	English	C (where achieved between 1962 and 1990)
Scottish National 5 (SCQF level 5)	English	C
Scottish Intermediate 2 (SCQF level 5)	English	C
Scottish standard grade (credit) (SCQF level 5)	English	4

Section 2 - Maths GCSE

2.1 Maths Qualifications from English Exam Boards

Qualification Type	Subject title for English	Minimum acceptable grade
GCSE (Must be regulated by OFQUAL, CCEA or Qualification Wales)	Any GCSE with Mathematics in the title	Level 4 if awarded from 2017 Grade C if awarded before
A level	Any A level with Mathematics in the title	Grade E if awarded from 1986 Ordinary Grade if awarded before
AS Level	Any AS level with Mathematics in the title	Grade E
International GCSE-IGCSE	Any IGCSE with Mathematics in the title	Grade C or Level 4
International Baccalaureate Diploma	Higher or subsidiary level Mathematics	Grade 4
BTEC	First, National, Higher National certificate or diploma in Mathematics	P
Certificate of Secondary Education- CSE	Mathematics Arithmetic	Grade 1
O level	Mathematics	Grade C if achieved from 1975. Pass if achieved before 1975

Access To Higher Education (awarded up to July 2014)	Module titles- Mathematics included within a fully completed Access Qualification	Minimum of 12 credits for Maths at Level 2 passed
European Baccalaureate	Standard Maths Advanced maths	6.00
Equivalency testing	Equivalencytesting.com- Foundation OR Higher Maths A Star Equivalency- English	Grade 4

2.2 Maths Qualifications from other UK Nations

Qualification Type	Subject title for English	Minimum acceptable grade
Irish Leaving Certificate	Mathematics Ordinary Level	04
Scottish Advanced Higher (SCQF level 7)	Mathematics	C
Scottish Higher (SCQF level 6)	Mathematics	C
Scottish Ordinary Grade (SCQF level 5)	Mathematics Arithmetic	C (where achieved between 1962 and 1990)
Scottish National 5 (SCQF level 5)	Mathematics Application of Mathematics	C
Scottish Intermediate 2 (SCQF level 5)	Mathematics	C
Scottish standard grade (credit) (SCQF level 5)	Mathematics	2

Section 3 - Science GCSE

3.1 Science Qualifications from Exam Boards in England

Qualification Type	Subject title for English	Minimum acceptable grade
GCSE (Must be regulated by OFQUAL, CCEA or Qualification Wales)	Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Combined Science Double and Triple award	Level 4 if awarded from 2017 Grade C if awarded before
A level	Biology, Physics, Chemistry	Grade E if awarded from 1986 Ordinary Grade if awarded before
AS Level	Biology, Physics, Chemistry	Grade E
International GCSE-IGCSE	Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Double award Physical Science, Coordinated Sciences	Grade C or Level 4

	Combined Science	
International Baccalaureate Diploma	Science subject	Grade 4
BTEC OCR Cambridge Nationals Science Level 2	First Diploma in Science or Level 2 Diploma Applied Science Level 2 Certificate or Diploma	P
Certificate of Secondary Education- CSE	Any Science Subject	Grade 1
O level	Physics, Chemistry, Human Biology, General Science, Geology, Zoology	Grade C if achieved from 1975. Pass if achieved before 1975
Access To Higher Education (awarded up to July 2014)	Full Access Qualification within a science field Science Modules	Minimum of 12 credits for Science at Level 2 passed
European Baccalaureate	Science	6.00
Equivalency testing	Equivalencytesting.com- Combined Science OR Biology A Star Equivalency-combined Science or Biology	Level 4

3.2 Science Qualifications from other UK Nations

Qualification Type	Subject title for English	Minimum acceptable grade
Irish Leaving Certificate	Science subject Ordinary Level	04
Scottish Advanced Higher (SCQF level 7)	Science subject	C
Scottish Higher (SCQF level 6)	Science subject	C
Scottish Ordinary Grade (SCQF level 5)	Science subject	C (where achieved between 1962 and 1990)
Scottish National 5 (SCQF level 5)	Science subject	C
Scottish Intermediate 2 (SCQF level 5)	Science subject	C
Scottish standard grade (credit) (SCQF level 5)	Science subject	2

Section 4 - Professional Course Specific Requirements

4.1 Teacher Training

4.1.1 All Undergraduate and Postgraduate Routes (Primary Education, PGCE Primary, PGCE Secondary and including School Centred Routes)

To study undergraduate or postgraduate teacher training courses, you must hold GCSE English Language and Maths at a minimum of grade C/Level 4 or equivalent. For Primary Courses you also need a GCSE in a Science subject (single or combined) at a minimum of Grade C/Level 4. Applications will be considered based on a pending predicted grade where applicants are undertaking GCSE resits or equivalencies.

4.1.1.1 English Language GCSE

All qualifications listed on the main list in [Section 1](#) for English Language, will be accepted at the minimum level, **except for** the following:

- Access to Higher Education. We cannot accept the English modules in lieu of a GCSE
- IELTS
- Other University entrance tests for speakers of other languages
- Mode of Instruction

We do not accept qualifications that state 'English as a Second Language'

4.1.1.2 Mathematics GCSE

All qualifications listed on the main list in [Section 2](#) for Mathematics, will be accepted at the minimum level, **except for** the following:

- Access to Higher Education. We cannot accept the Maths modules in lieu of a GCSE

4.1.1.3 Science GCSE

All qualifications listed on the main list in [Section 3](#) for Science, will be accepted at the minimum level **as well as** the following

- GNVQ Science Intermediate
- GCSE in Human Physiology and Health
- GVS Applied Science
- GCSE Additional Science

We do not accept the following:

- QCFBEC (Extended Certificate) for Science
- BTEC Level 2 Certificate in Science
- BTEC First certificate in Science
- OCR Level 2 Award in Science
- Access to Higher Education

4.2 Health Courses

To study undergraduate or postgraduate Health courses, you must hold GCSE English Language, Maths and Science at a minimum of grade C/Level 4 or equivalent. Applications will be considered based on a pending predicted grade where applicants are undertaking GCSE resits or equivalencies.

4.2.1 NMS- all Undergraduate (Nursing (Adult) and Nursing (Mental Health))

4.2.1.1 English Language GCSE

All qualifications listed on the main list in [Section 1](#) for English Language, will be accepted at the minimum level, **as well as**

- Functional Skills English Language
- Access to Higher Education. We can accept the English modules in lieu of a GCSE

Please note that we require IELTS to be at- 7.0 (with no less than 6.5 in each component)

4.2.1.2 Mathematics GCSE

All qualifications listed on the main list in [Section 2](#) for Mathematics, will be accepted at the minimum level, **as well as** the following:

- Access to Higher Education. We can accept the Maths modules in lieu of a GCSE

4.2.1.3 Science GCSE

All qualifications listed on the main list in [Section 3](#) for Science, will be accepted at the minimum level **as well as** the following

- GNVQ Science Intermediate
- GCSE in Human Physiology and Health
- GVS Applied Science
- GCSE Additional Science
- Access to Higher Education in a science related subject

We **do not** accept the following:

- QCFBEC (Extended Certificate) for Science
- BTEC Level 2 Certificate in Science
- BTEC First certificate in Science
- OCR Level 2 Award in Science

4.2.2 Allied Health- Paramedic Science, Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Operating Department Practice (Undergraduate and Postgraduate)

4.2.2.1 English Language GCSE

All qualifications listed on the main list in [Section 1](#) for English Language, will be accepted at the minimum level, **except for the following:**

- Other University entrance tests for speakers of other languages
- Mode of Instruction
- Access to Higher Education. We cannot accept the English modules in lieu of a GCSE

We do not accept qualifications that state 'English as a Second Language'

Please note that we require IELTSs, to be at 7.0 (with no less than 6.5 in each component)

4.2.2.2 Mathematics GCSE

All qualifications listed on the main list in [Section 2](#) for Mathematics, will be accepted at the minimum level, **except** for the following:

- Access to Higher Education. We cannot accept the Maths modules in lieu of a GCSE

4.2.2.3 Science GCSE

All qualifications listed on the main list in [Section 3](#) for Science, will be accepted at the minimum level **as well** as the following

- GNVQ Science Intermediate
- GCSE in Human Physiology and Health
- GVS Applied Science
- GCSE Additional Science
- Access to Higher Education

We do not accept the following:

- QCFBEC (Extended Certificate) for Science
- BTEC Level 2 Certificate in Science
- BTEC First certificate in Science
- OCR Level 2 Award in Science

4.2.3 Allied Health- Speech and Language Therapy (Postgraduate)

4.2.3.1 English Language GCSE

All qualifications listed on the main list in [Section 1](#) for English Language, will be accepted at the minimum level, **except for the following:**

- Other University entrance tests for speakers of other languages
- Mode of Instruction
- Access to Higher Education. We cannot accept the English modules in lieu of a GCSE

We do not accept qualifications that state 'English as a Second Language'

Please note that we require IELTSs, to be at 8.0 (with no less than 7.5 in each component)

4.2.3.2 Mathematics GCSE

All qualifications listed on the main list in [Section 2](#) for Mathematics, will be accepted at the minimum level, **except for the following:**

- Access to Higher Education. We cannot accept the Maths modules in lieu of a GCSE

4.2.3.3 Science GCSE

All qualifications listed on the main list in [Section 3](#) for Science, will be accepted at the minimum level **as well** as the following

- GNVQ Science Intermediate
- GCSE in Human Physiology and Health
- GVS Applied Science
- GCSE Additional Science
- Access to Higher Education

We do not accept the following:

- QCFBEC (Extended Certificate) for Science
- BTEC Level 2 Certificate in Science
- BTEC First certificate in Science
- OCR Level 2 Award in Science

Section 5 - Degree Apprenticeships

For GCSE equivalencies for English and Maths, please see the following links to the DFE website. **Do not refer to the previous pages of this document.**

Functional and Key Skills qualifications are accepted for all Degree Apprenticeships.

5.1 English Language

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/english-and-maths-requirements-in-apprenticeship-standards-at-level-2-and-above/english-qualifications-for-apprenticeships#english-in-apprenticeships-at-level-3-to-7>

5.2 Maths

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/english-and-maths-requirements-in-apprenticeship-standards-at-level-2-and-above/maths-qualifications-for-apprenticeships#maths-in-apprenticeships-at-level-3-to-7>