



E-ACT Ousedale
School

E-ACT

Year 9 Options 2026



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School

Be Kind | Work Hard | Succeed Together

RIGHT STUDENT ON THE RIGHT COURSE



Key Factors in Decision Making

- **Enjoyment** - do you enjoy the subject?
- **Ability** - are you good at the subject?
- **Future Plans** - do you have career plans or are you keeping your options open?

ENSURE A BALANCE OF SUBJECTS



GCSE Equivalent Courses

- Vocational courses are recognised qualifications in their own right
- They are different to GCSEs but are not worth any less
- Now include an externally assessed unit
- They are graded Distinction(*), Merit , Pass

English Baccalaureate

- Measure from the Government showing a good pass (9-5) in
 - ❖ Maths
 - ❖ English
 - ❖ Science (including Computing)
 - ❖ A Modern Foreign Language
 - ❖ A humanities subject (History or Geography)
- **NOT** a requirement for entry to Ousedale Sixth Form but universities have said they will look favourably on it.

Subjects that can be viewed as “facilitating” subjects are:

- Mathematics and Further Mathematics
- English (Literature)
- Physics
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Geography
- History
- Languages

Pre-16 qualifications and university entry

When applying to a competitive university and especially for a very competitive course at a competitive university, it is important that you consider all the aspects of the entry requirements, including the qualifications typically taken before you are 16.

General entrance requirements

Universities may ask for a specific number of GCSEs (or their equivalent) with specific minimum grades. GCSE requirements may vary by course. For example, a number of medical courses ask for five (sometimes more) grades at the top of the range. Universities often require a minimum of a pass (at least a grade 4 or 5) in GCSE English or another standard level equivalent. A minimum of a pass (at least a 4 or 5) is also often required for Mathematics for some or all courses. Science GCSEs may also be required for certain subjects, such as psychology.

Currently University College London (UCL) is the only Russell Group university to require a pass in a Modern Foreign Language GCSE for all of its programmes. However, if you did not take a Modern Foreign Language GCSE, or if you fall short of the requirement, you can still apply to any UCL degree programme, and it won't negatively affect your application. You will not be rejected just because you don't have it but you will need to complete a short course certificate in a Modern Foreign Language or undertake a half course unit during your studies at UCL.

Please see <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/prospective-students/undergraduate/application> for more details.

Although only UCL has a formal requirement in place, Modern Foreign Language qualifications are valued by admissions tutors across the Russell Group. For example, some admissions tutors look for a GCSE language qualification in applications to their Classics courses. You should check individual university websites for more details.

A number of universities ask that grades and number of subjects are achieved at one sitting. Some do not accept 're-sits' at GCSE or standard level qualifications. If you think this might affect you and a university's published admissions policy is not clear, it is sensible to check with Admissions staff before applying.

Requirements for specific subjects

The GCSE or other standard level entrance requirements for individual degree courses are quite varied. In some cases, a particular subject or grade is required at standard level if it isn't being offered at advanced level. The summary below gives an idea of some of the GCSE requirements that you might come across for certain degree courses. Remember that these are only examples and requirements can differ from one university to another. It's important to check university websites for detailed requirements before applying.

- **Applicants to study Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science are usually required to have very good GCSE results in Maths, Science and English.**
- **Applicants to study Teacher Training are required to have a minimum grade 4 or 5 in GCSE Maths, Science and English. Some universities may ask for a minimum of grade 6.**
- **For a degree in English, universities often look for applicants to have a GCSE in a modern or classical language.**
- **For a Business degree, sometimes a grade 7 or above, or more often at least a grade 5 or 6, in GCSE Maths is required.**
- **A grade 5 or 6 in Maths is often required for a degree in Psychology, and a grade 5 or 6 in Science may sometimes be required.**
- **To study a science subject at university (including Biology, Chemistry or Physics) applicants who are not offering Maths at advanced level will often need to have achieved a minimum of a grade 4 or 5 in Maths at GCSE.**

Curriculum Hours

- English Language/Literature – 4 hours 2 GCSEs
- Maths/Statistics – 4 hours 2 GCSEs
- Science – 6 hours 2 or 3 GCSEs
- Option 1, Option 2, Option 3 – 3 hours each 3 GCSEs
(equivalent)
- Core PE – 2 hours

Science Options

- Triple Science route which leads to three separate GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics
- Trilogy Combined Science route covers all three sciences and leads to two GCSEs
- Decisions on course and tier of entry will be taken at the end of Year 10



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

This is what students would PREFER to do.

NO GUARANTEES.

You could support your application with a letter or examples of work.

24th February – DEADLINE to return forms!