



UNIVERSITY OF
BATH

**How does the University of Bath
process UCAS applications?**

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Admissions at Bath

- **We have a centralised Admissions Team (now common at most universities)**
- **Selectors each manage a portfolio of courses**
- **90% of decisions made within the central team, with the remainder considered alongside academic colleagues**
- **Every application is read at least twice**
- **Reference as part of holistic process, and important for context**
- **While criteria vary significantly, the basic approach is the same for all courses**



Admissions Timeline

Now: courses for 2026 available on UCAS

15th Oct 2025: Deadline for medicine, dentistry and veterinary medicine

31st Mar 2026: Bath decisions target

3rd Jun 2026: Deadline for offer holder responses

2nd Sept 2025:
Applications can be submitted to UCAS

**14th Jan 2026:
Deadline for equal consideration**

13th May 2026: All decisions made

June - Aug 2026:
Results days



How We Consider Your Application

- ✓ Previous qualifications
- ✓ Current qualifications
- ✓ Predicted grades

- ✓ Personal statement
- ✓ Teacher's reference
- ✓ Interview (sometimes)

Our decisions are **holistic** so you don't necessarily need to excel in every aspect for most courses

We also carefully consider any **mitigating circumstances**



The process

- Application received and reviewed by a selector
- Applications at the offer level are processed immediately once reviewed by a selector, or may be ranked and held
- We will set internal offer levels which are reviewed regularly during the cycle, based on our holistic review of the application
- First decision made, second checked by another team member – offer or unsuccessful
- Applications from contextual applicants, those with mitigating circumstances and non-standard qualifications reviewed by Progression Team and decisions made



The process – continued

- For competitive courses in particular, we may need to review all or a certain proportion of applications prior to processing decisions
- This is to ensure we give all on-time applications equal consideration and we do not over-recruit due to high application numbers
- Applicants will be informed their application is being considered – we aim to make all decisions by the end of March
- When the application was received, the volume of applications and how competitive the course is will all affect how long it takes to receive a decision



Applying to Competitive Courses

The most competitive courses at Bath are:

- **Architecture**
- **Biosciences**
- **Computer Science**
- **Economics**
- **Management/Business**
- **Mathematical Sciences**
- **Mechanical Engineering**
- **Psychology**

If you're applying for one of these courses, you may have to **wait longer to receive a decision** as we will be carefully considering lots of excellent applications

We don't have enough places on these courses for everyone and so, sometimes, even **very strong applicants are unsuccessful**

When applying to competitive courses like these, consider how best to use your **5 UCAS choices** and focus on the **strength of your entire application**



Our Progression Team

- **Specialist team within UG Admissions responsible for applications from under-represented groups, including:**
 - students from areas of high socio-economic disadvantage
 - students who have been eligible for free school meals
 - Care leavers, young carers and estranged students
 - students who are a refugee, asylum seeker or have been granted humanitarian protection
 - mature students
 - students with an Access to HE Diploma, vocational qualifications or any non-traditional qualifications
- **Team reviews and make decisions on applicants with mitigating circumstances, including links with Student Support**
- **Review applications with non-standard qualifications and support interviews where necessary (e.g. some BTEC qualifications, mature students)**



Contextual Admissions Process

- Our Progression Team manage our contextual admissions process – related but separate from contextual offers
- Applicants meeting our contextual criteria or with mitigating circumstances who are at our offer level will be made an offer via our standard process – their application will be flagged
- Ranked applications from these applicants will be reviewed by our Progression Team
- They will consider their overall profile, and how their circumstances may have affected their studies – mitigating circumstances, school performance etc, as well as contextual criteria such as FSM eligibility and IMD quintile
- A decision will be made whether we can make an offer – assessment of circumstances and likelihood to succeed on the course
- Applicants missing their offer will be assessed again to see if we can prioritise them to be accepted as a near-miss



Contextual Offers

One of the ways we make **holistic** decisions is through **contextual offers**.

Contextual offers are available if you are a Home applicant, studying at least 2 A levels or the IB Diploma, and you meet our published **contextual offer criteria**.

Contextual offers are based on a number of criteria including: **where you live**, if you are eligible for **free school meals**, are **care experienced/a young carer** or are **estranged**.

Contextual offers are usually two grades lower than typical offers.

Typical Offer

AAA

Contextual Offer

ABB

Full details are available on our webpages.



Alternative Offers

Another way we make **holistic** decisions is through **alternative offers**.

If you are not eligible for a contextual offer, you may be eligible for an **alternative offer** with the same grade discount if you are studying a recognised additional qualification (such as an EPQ, Welsh Bacc or Core Maths).

Alternative offers are one grade lower than typical offers and applicants can receive each offer they are eligible for.

Typical Offer

AAA

Alternative Offer

AAA or AAB plus A in the EPQ

Contextual and alternative offers do not stack; you only get a one grade reduction



Any questions?

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