

# The UCAS Tariff

## WHAT IS THE UCAS TARIFF?

- It is a points system used to report achievement for entry to higher education (HE) in a numerical format
- It establishes agreed equivalences between different types of qualifications
- It provides comparisons between applicants with different types and volumes of achievement

## HOW DOES THE TARIFF WORK?

- Points can be aggregated from the different qualifications included in the Tariff
- There is no ceiling to the number of points which can be accumulated
- There is no double counting – applicants cannot count the same or similar qualifications twice
- Achievement at a lower level will be subsumed into the higher level, ie, AS points will be subsumed into the A level points for the same subject. The same principle applies to Scottish Highers and Advanced Highers, VCE A levels and Double Awards, Key Skills and Music awards at different levels or grades
- All certificated Key Skills in Application of Number, Communication and IT will attract points whether achieved through proxy or not

## WHAT QUALIFICATIONS ARE COVERED BY THE TARIFF?

- A full list of the qualifications covered by the UCAS Tariff, together with the allocation of points can be found below.

## HAVE ANY NEW QUALIFICATIONS BEEN INCORPORATED IN THE TARIFF?

- The following qualifications have been included in the Tariff for entry to higher education in **2006** onwards:
  - The Irish Leaving Certificate Higher and Ordinary levels
  - Advanced Extension Awards
  - The Diploma in Foundation Studies (Art and Design)
- For **2007** entry, the two qualifications will come into the Tariff:
  - OCR Nationals
  - Wider Key Skills
- New qualifications are regularly being added to the Tariff and it is our aim to include as wide a range of achievement used for entry to HE as possible
- Updates on the Tariff, including details on the incorporation of any new qualifications, are posted here.

## HOW ARE NEW QUALIFICATIONS BROUGHT INTO THE TARIFF?

- Providing a qualification has been accredited into the National Qualifications Framework and is used as an entry route to higher education, it will be considered for inclusion in the UCAS Tariff once we have received a request from the Awarding Body or Bodies offering the qualification
- Qualifications are benchmarked against an existing qualification in the Tariff by an Expert Group using a protocol designed specifically for this purpose by the University of Oxford Department of Educational Studies
- Recommendations are put before the UCAS Board for approval

## WHERE CAN I FIND DETAILS ON NEW QUALIFICATIONS IN THE TARIFF?

- Reports written by the Expert Groups considering qualifications for inclusion in the Tariff, which give details of both the qualification seeking inclusion and the qualification against which it has been benchmarked, the process involved, and the recommendations reached, can be accessed through the title of the qualification appearing in the [points table](#) below:

## ARE POINTS FOR QUALIFICATIONS NEW TO THE TARIFF AVAILABLE FOR USE STRAIGHT AWAY?

- Because of the length of the UCAS applications cycle, any new allocation of Tariff points do not come into immediate effect
- However, UCAS communicates any new developments in the Tariff to universities, colleges and schools as quickly as possible and is aware that points may well be used by both students and universities prior to their official introduction
- Details of when a qualification's points come into operation can be found on the tables below:

## ANY MORE QUESTIONS?

- Contact the UCAS Outreach Department on:

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GCE/VCE Qualifications			BTEC Nationals <sup>1</sup>			OCR Nationals <sup>2</sup>			CACHE Diploma <sup>3</sup>		Diploma in Foundation Studies (Art and Design) <sup>4</sup>	Points	Irish Leaving Cert <sup>5</sup>		Scottish Qualifications			
GCE AS/AS VCE	GCE A level/AVCE	AVCE Double Award	Award	Certificate	Diploma	Certificate	Diploma	Extended Diploma	Theory	Practical			Higher	Ordinary	Advanced Higher	Higher	Int 2	Standard Grade
					DDD			D1				360						
					DDM			D2/M1				320						
											Distinction	285						
					DMM			M2				280						
		AA		DD	MMM		D	M3	A			240						
											Merit	225						
		AB										220						
		BB		DM	MMP		M1	P1	B			200						
		BC										180						
											Pass	165						
		CC		MM	MPP		M2/P1	P2	C			160						
		CD										140						
	A	DD	D	MP	PPP	D	P2	P3	D	A		120		A				
	B	DE								B		100		B				
												90	A1					
	C	EE	M	PP		M	P3		E	C		80		C				
												77	A2					
												72		D	A			
												71	B1					
A	D									D		64	B2					
												60			B			
												58	B3					
												52	C1					
B												50						
												48			C			
												45	C2					
												42			D	A		
C	E		P			P				E		40						
												39	C3	A1				
												38					Band 1	
												35				B		
												33	D1					
D												30						
												28				C	Band 2	
												26	D2	A2				
E												20	D3	B1				
												17						
												14		B2				
												13						
												10						
												7		B3				

<sup>1</sup> The points shown are for the newly specified BTEC National Award, Certificate and Diploma

<sup>2</sup> The points for the OCR Nationals come into effect for entry to higher education in 2007 onwards

<sup>3</sup> Covers the CACHE Diploma in Child Care and Education

<sup>4</sup> The points for the Diploma in Foundation Studies (Art and Design) come into effect for entry to higher education in 2006 onwards

<sup>5</sup> The points shown for the Irish Leaving Certificate Higher and Ordinary levels, come into effect for entry to higher education in 2006 onwards

Welsh Bacc Core <sup>6</sup>	Advanced Extension Awards <sup>7</sup>	Core Skills <sup>8</sup>	Key Skills <sup>9</sup>	Free standing Maths <sup>10</sup>	IFS CeFS <sup>11</sup>	Points	Music Examinations <sup>12</sup>							
							Practical			Theory				
							Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8		
<b>Pass</b>						<b>120</b>								
						<b>75</b>			<b>D</b>					
						<b>70</b>			<b>M</b>					
					<b>A</b>	<b>60</b>		<b>D</b>						
						<b>55</b>		<b>M</b>	<b>P</b>					
					<b>B</b>	<b>50</b>								
						<b>45</b>	<b>D</b>							
	<b>Distinction</b>				<b>C</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>P</b>						
			<b>Level 4</b>		<b>D</b>	<b>30</b>								<b>D</b>
						<b>25</b>	<b>P</b>							<b>M</b>
	<b>Merit</b>	<b>Higher</b>	<b>Level 3</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>20</b>					<b>D</b>			<b>P</b>
				<b>B</b>		<b>17</b>								
						<b>15</b>				<b>D</b>	<b>M</b>			
				<b>C</b>		<b>13</b>								
		<b>Int 2</b>	<b>Level 2</b>	<b>D</b>		<b>10</b>				<b>M</b>	<b>P</b>			
				<b>E</b>		<b>7</b>								
						<b>5</b>				<b>P</b>				

<sup>6</sup> Points for the Core of the Advanced Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification

<sup>7</sup> Points for Advanced Extension Awards are over and above those gained from the A level grade and come into effect for entry to higher education in **2006**

<sup>8</sup> Covers the five Scottish Core Skills – Communication, Information Technology, Numeracy, Problem Solving & Working with Others

<sup>9</sup> Covers the three main three Key Skill subjects – Application of Number, Communication and Information Technology with the three Wider Key Skills coming into the Tariff for **2007** entry

<sup>10</sup> Covers free-standing Mathematics qualifications – Additional Maths, Using and Applying Statistics, Working with Algebraic and Graphical Techniques, Modelling with Calculus

<sup>11</sup> The points shown are for the revised Institute of Financial Services Certificate in Financial Studies (CeFS) taught from September '03

<sup>12</sup> The points shown are for ABRSM, Guildhall, LCMM, Rockschoo and Trinity music examinations, grades 6, 7 and 8.