

ENTRY STANDARDS ON UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

Entry Standards: University Regulations

Heriot-Watt University sets identical threshold standards for entry to all undergraduate programmes, irrespective of mode or location of study. The key criterion used in setting threshold standards is: student ability to benefit from higher education at HWU. HWU's minimum entry standards are approved by the University's Senate and are outlined in Regulation 2: Admission.

HWU's Approach to Entry Standards

The University applies the following approach to setting entry standards for its undergraduate programmes:

Threshold Standard for Entry

For all undergraduate programmes, irrespective of mode or location, identical threshold standards are specified for entry. Applicants are admitted only if they have met the University threshold. The University expects, however, that all applicants will exceed the institutional threshold standard.

Fair Access Admissions

Heriot-Watt University is committed to widening participation in higher education globally, and to offering applicants the choice of a wide variety of learning opportunities and experiences.

The University adopts, therefore, a fair access approach to the admission of applicants to its undergraduate programmes (see *Undergraduate Admissions Policy*, also *Fair Access Admissions Policy*).

Consequently, the specified entry requirements may vary by programme, discipline, location of study or mode of delivery, provided that the entry criteria always exceed the threshold standard set out in the University's Regulations.

Relevant factors relating to access thresholds and contextual admissions are set out in the Fair Access Admissions Policy, which recognises that not every student has an equal opportunity to demonstrate their academic potential because of their circumstances and/or background.

Identical Academic Standards

Entry criteria may vary by programme, discipline, location of study or mode of delivery, but the University stipulates that the academic standards must be identical across all versions of a programme. As a consequence, all versions of a programme must have the same: learning outcome; core curriculum; core knowledge, skills and competencies.

References and Further Information

Contact: quality@hw.ac.uk Regulation 2: Admission <http://www.hw.ac.uk/ordinances/regulations.pdf>

Undergraduate Admissions Policy: https://www.hw.ac.uk/documents/Undergraduate_Admissions_Policy.pdf

Fair Access Admissions Policy: <https://www.hw.ac.uk/services/docs/fairaccessadmissionspolicy>

Learning and Teaching Briefing Papers

This briefing paper has been produced by Academic Quality and is one of a series related to Learning and Teaching. The briefing papers aim to provide a concise, informative overview of key policies, and include links to relevant procedures and templates.