

Widening Participation Criteria

(Effective for those applying from September 2024 to programme codes: D100, D101, D105)

Widening Participation (WP) students, in the context of applications to any of the above subjects at the RVC, are defined as **scoring 2 or more points** from the below criteria:

Table 1.1

WP Criterion	Defined as	Further evidence needed	Points awarded
Level 2 Contextual School	The school at which one completed their (1 st attempt) GCSEs or National 5s falls below the national average for attainment on this measure	-	1
Level 3 Contextual School	The school at which one completed, or is set to complete, their A Levels or Scottish Highers/Advanced Highers falls below the national average for attainment on this measure	-	1
POLAR4 Quintile score of 1	The postcode of your home address is in a POLA4 Quintile 1 area, according to the OfS lookup tool	-	2
POLAR4 Quintile score of 2	The postcode of your home address is in a POLA4 Quintile 2 area, according to the OfS lookup tool	-	1
TUNDRA MSOA score of 1	The postcode of your home address is in a TUNDRA MSOA Quintile 1 area, according to the OfS lookup tool	-	2
TUNDRA MSOA score of 2	The postcode of your home address is in a TUNDRA MSOA Quintile 2 area, according to the OfS lookup tool	-	1
IMD Quintile score of 1	You live in an area with an Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) quintile score of 1. You can find out how to look this up here .	-	2
IMD Quintile score of 2	You live in an area with an Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) quintile score of 2. You can find out how to look this up here .	-	2

Terms & Conditions of Contextual Offers:

- x Contextual offers will only apply to GCE A Levels, these in combination the Advanced Welsh Baccalaureate Challenge Skills Certificate, and Scottish Highers/Advanced Highers for the time being (further details in Table 1.2). Those taking linear A Levels (e.g. in England or, in some cases, Northern Ireland) who qualify for a contextual offer will still be expected to achieve a 'Pass' in their science practical for all natural science subjects.
- x Where there is insufficient evidence to determine that one meets a criterion at the point of application, the applicant will be deemed not to have met it. Where one is in care or a care leaver, applicants will need to provide a letter of proof once they have submitted their application via UCAS, without this the applicant will be deemed not to meet this criterion.
- x Where an applicant states they were in receipt of free school meals, but the RVC cannot verify this, the applicant will be asked to provide evidence. Without this the applicant will be deemed not to meet this criterion.
- x Where qualifications have been taken outside of the standard period (e.g. a student from Wales would be expected to study for their GCSEs in Years 10 and 11) or at more than one school/college, the RVC reserves the right to use its discretion as to whether the candidate would qualify under a Contextual School flag.
- x No other criteria, including mitigating circumstances, can be used in place of the above criteria.