

Global university calculated grade statements and resources: Updates for international schools

Global universities are understandably hard at work formalising their response to disrupted high school exams and assessment in countries around the world and mitigating the effect COVID-19 on their future student recruitment.

In support, we are liaising regularly with our global university contacts about our progress on calculated grades and support for private candidates, and are now able to share example feedback from some popular destinations for Pearson Edexcel students. Some of this guidance has been provided directly to our Progression and Recognition team or is available on university websites.

These admissions policies show how calculated grades, private candidates who may be unable to supply calculated grades as expected, and evaluations for advanced standing/credit have been factored into the 2020/21 admissions cycle.

International A level recognition

Where universities only reference calculated GCE A levels grades alone, these policies do apply to International A levels. [See our global International A level recognition list](#) for many examples of International A level acceptance for undergraduate study.

UNITED KINGDOM

UCAS

'We are working with universities and colleges to be flexible in offer-making decisions and they are committed to doing all they can to support you in these unprecedented times.'

Watch the detailed UCAS Q&A session with students held with Ofqual, the qualifications regulator and the UK Universities Minister about calculated grades acceptance and UK undergraduate admission in 2020

<https://www.ucas.com/connect/videos/coronavirus/calculated-grades>

Universities UK

Universities UK 'has confirmed institutions will be flexible and do all they can to support students to progress to higher education'

<https://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/news/Pages/Update-from-UCAS-and-Universities-UK-.aspx>

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Statement from Russell Group universities on the 2020 exam grading system

In addition to its [March 20 joint statement with the Million+, Guild HE and University Alliance institutions across the UK](#), the Russell Group has explicitly confirmed calculated grades will be accepted across all 24 of the prestigious universities in its network:

‘The Russell Group of Universities welcomes the clarity provided by exam regulators and awarding bodies across the UK over how they will grade candidates who would have taken exams in A levels, AS levels, GCSEs, (including their International variants), Scottish Nationals, Highers/Advanced Highers and other qualifications such as the International Baccalaureate Diploma.

Students can rest assured that results provided through these processes will be treated exactly the same as in any other year by our members so learners can still progress to the university and course of their choice, subject to achieving the required grades. Applicants should liaise with individual universities for further guidance on their processes.’

University of Oxford

We are aware that the majority of our offer holders will have had their education disrupted since the start of the COVID-19 emergency, with many also unable to take examinations that would have contributed to their final grades. We will therefore be accepting the grades issued this summer by the relevant recognised authority.

<https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/coronavirus-advice/offer-holders-and-applicants?wssl=1>

University of Cambridge

Please rest assured that we will be using this summer's results (as awarded) to confirm places in our normal way – if you meet all of the conditions of your offer with us by the deadline stipulated by UCAS (currently 31 August), you will be accepted to the University.

<https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/coronavirus>

University of Southampton

For A levels and International A levels, BTECs and the EPQ we will accept the grades awarded as normal this year. Our requirements will not change as a result of the different methods of assessment being employed.

<https://www.southampton.ac.uk/news/coronavirus/applicants.page>

Coventry University

We have been told that many exams boards will be issuing transcripts based on 'predicted' or 'presumed' grades. We will look to use official transcripts like this to help you meet your academic offer conditions.

<https://www.coventry.ac.uk/international-students-hub/covid19-frequently-asked-questions/>

University of Warwick

Where grades are officially awarded by exam boards or national governments, we will accept these qualifications as normal. This applies to A levels (including International A levels), GCSEs, IGCSEs, Scottish Highers, BTECs, Cambridge Pre-Us and Cambridge Technicals. Further information:

<https://warwick.ac.uk/insite/coronavirus/future-students/>



UNITED STATES

Brown University

We also recognize that as classes move to virtual learning for many high schools, curricula and grading policies will change. While many students will now submit pass/fail or credit/no credit grades, it is important to note that no student will be penalized [...] due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We review every applicant's file holistically and in context

<https://admission.brown.edu/high-school-juniors-applying-brown>

Brandeis University

For students who had externally administered exams (such as IB or A-level) cancelled due to the current world health situation, the **University will accept the calculated marks/results that are awarded this year** [and] for transfer credit evaluation

<https://www.brandeis.edu/registrar/transfer/placement.html>

Boston University

We understand that GCE A Level cancellations have occurred in many countries around the world and they are determining a new form of assessment. **We are working with the examination board** as they derive their assessment criteria **and BU will accept the results as presented**. Boston University has decided to honor [all current advanced policies](#) for Fall 2020.

<https://www.bu.edu/admissions/covid-19-faqs/#international>

University of California

How will UC award credit for GCE A levels given the exams have been cancelled?

UC will continue to award credit for designated GCE A-level subjects passed with grades of A, B or C.

<https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/response-covid-19.html>

Cleveland State University

The admissions team confirms CSU will maintain the same admissions requirements for international students as with previous years and is waiving all requirements for standardised testing

<https://www.csuohio.edu/news/csu-simplifies-summer-and-fall-admissions-in-response-challenging-times>

Columbia University

[...] pass/fail marks or alternative grading methods in lieu of letter or numerical grades this spring will be accommodated with no disadvantage when we review applicants' transcripts next year and beyond.

<https://undergrad.admissions.columbia.edu/content/spring-2020-update-prospective-students>

Dartmouth College

<https://admissions.dartmouth.edu/follow/blog/lee-coffin/our-new-normal-new-guidelines>



Emory University

For all enrolling students, we understand that some of you may attend schools that are temporarily closed, preventing you from completing what is considered a "typical last semester" of classes, testing protocols, or graduation. Emory will accept any new grading policies adopted by your school, including pass/fail and satisfactory/unsatisfactory grades.

<https://apply.emory.edu/discover/coronavirus.html>

Fordham University

Results for students scheduled to complete externally evaluated exams which have been cancelled (A Level, etc.) but who will still receive a calculated mark based on other assessments will be accepted for meeting enrollment requirements and credit transfer

https://www.fordham.edu/info/21656/admitted_students/10350/admitted_and_enrolling_student_expectations

Georgia Tech

We will continue to accept alternative grading plans following the cancellation of UK exams in the May/June 2020 series and these grades will continue to be eligible for credit. To review Georgia Tech's credit by exam policy for A-level courses, please visit [here](#).

<https://admission.gatech.edu/updates>

Indiana University

A-Level: For A-level coursework, examination bodies are providing score reports in place of the exams, and we will treat these as equivalent to the exams.

<https://ois.iu.edu/coronavirus/admitted.html>

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)

[...] [consistent with our longstanding practice](#), we will not penalize students for factors outside their control, including changes to grading policies and procedures, cancellations of activities and exams, and more, because of COVID or any other disaster or disruption. We always strive to evaluate applicants fairly in their context, especially in times like these.

<https://mitadmissions.org/blogs/entry/mits-covid-19-precautions-and-its-impact-on-admissions/>

Macalester University

Macalester will fully recognize the calculated results that the Pearson Edexcel will issue in Summer 2020 in lieu of exam results. These results will be awarded credit as in previous years.

<https://www.macalester.edu/admissions/international/faq/>

New York University

I'm a student applying with A-levels and they have been cancelled. What should I do?

Please rest assured that we will accept the final qualifications submitted to us from your A-level exam board as proof of graduation.

<https://www.nyu.edu/admissions/undergraduate-admissions/admitted-students/questions.html>



Princeton University

If you decide to apply to Princeton, we will accept whatever grading format your high school used to end this school year.

<https://admission.princeton.edu/how-apply/standardized-testing/statement-applicants-princetons-class-2025>

Rice University

We will accept whatever grading policy your school has implemented for the remainder of the school year

<https://coronavirus.rice.edu/admissions-and-aid>

Temple University

In light of the recent announcements of exam cancellations and the modified assessment and calculation of results for multiple international qualifications (IBO, A levels, French Bac, AP, etc.) due to the impact of COVID-19, Temple will continue to accept these results [...]. For those of you who were anticipating advanced credit due to completion of IB, A Level, AP or CLEP courses/subjects, our awarding policy will not change and we will recognize successful completion as determined by the examining body.

<https://admissions.temple.edu/apply/international-students>

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

[...] UK exam bodies have announced the cancellation of their May/June 2020 exams. This includes GCSE, IGCSE, O-Level, International AS & A-Level. Students enrolled in one of these programs will still be awarded results and a certificate in the absence of the exams and will have the opportunity to receive credit through our policies

<https://admissions.illinois.edu/Apply/International/coronavirus>

University of Pennsylvania

Have we updated our policies around granting credit for end of year exams (AP, A-Level, IB, etc.)?

Penn will continue to grant credit and placement for these exams. [...] We understand some scores will now be based on online tests, while other scores will be based on year-long academic coursework. Testing agencies are making prudent decisions to prevent large gatherings of people. We are in communication with testing agencies around the world and we support them in the decisions they feel they need to make.

<https://ask.admissions.upenn.edu/hc/en-us/articles/360040924092-COVID-19-Updates-for-Admitted-Students>

University of Southern California

Because A-level exams will not be offered, USC will award credit based on the “calculated grades” awarded by the student’s school.

<https://admission.usc.edu/admitted-students/first-year-admits-faq/>

University of Virginia

If I cannot take my end-of-year exams will my admission be in jeopardy?

No, we will work with you and your school and you will not be penalized for events outside of your control.

<https://www.virginia.edu/coronavirus/faq#admitted>



University of Washington

Although many exams have been canceled, exam boards have indicated that they will still award certificates using other assessment methods. The UW will award credit for final A-level exam certificates, regardless of how the grades/marks are assessed.

<https://admit.washington.edu/covid-19/>

University of Tulane

Tulane will continue to accept A Level scores without any change to our previously established equivalency chart. Scores from shortened exams, and scores determined from previous internal assessment and practice exams (e.g. A Level) will continue to carry the same weight as previous years.

<https://admission.tulane.edu/academics/earning-college-credit/ap-ib-alevel-exams>

Whitworth University

'...students who are unable to complete their final terms or take final examinations, whether A-Levels, or national exams [...], due to COVID-19, can enroll at Whitworth in the fall and will be given the scholarships and aid awarded to them based on their current grades and predicted grades.'

<https://www.whitworth.edu/cms/administration/admissions/international-students/admissions-process/>

Vanderbilt University

<https://www.vanderbilt.edu/coronavirus/audiences/prospective-students/>

Yale University

<https://admissions.yale.edu/covid-19>

CANADA

University of British Columbia (UBC)

If your school or exam provider cancels final exams or adjusts its usual grading practices, we will consider the results reported by your school or exam provider in our review of your UBC offer of admission

<https://you.ubc.ca/applying-ubc/blog/after-you-apply/application-affected-covid19>

University of Toronto

If your school board or testing agency is unable to send us final transcripts or exam results by the document deadline, we will consider the documents submitted to date as final and as meeting our offer conditions.

The faculties that traditionally award transfer credit for final IB, AP, A-Level, CAPE and French Baccalaureate results will continue to award transfer credit to students admitted in 2020.

<https://future.utoronto.ca/apply/covid19/>



University of Alberta

In the event that you are not able to provide final grades by the document deadlines for the Fall 2020 intake due to exam cancellation, the University of Alberta will accept the grades presented at the time of your admission offer as 'final' for admission purposes.

<https://www.ualberta.ca/admissions/international>

University of Calgary

Will I get transfer credit for IB, GCE or AP courses where a final exam is not completed?

Advanced credit will be given for all course received on an official IB/GCE/AP organization transcript

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/future-students/undergraduate/contacts-and-help/admission-covid-19-questions>

Carleton University

Will students still receive transfer credit for completed AP exams, IB Higher Levels, or A Levels?

Yes, Carleton continues to offer advanced standing (transfer) credit for up to three subjects from these systems as usual. We recognize that much work has already gone into this years' study in these challenging qualifications, and even though many exams have been cancelled or modified, the examination boards have indicated they will still be awarding credentials that reflect the completion of that work. Please see the official websites of your exam boards for more details. Minimum grade requirements still apply. Credit will be granted provisionally upon receipt of official results.

<https://admissions.carleton.ca/undergraduate-admissions-information-on-covid-19/>

AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

Study Options, their official representative in the UK has confirmed:

We've been in discussion with all our university partners in Australia and New Zealand about this for some time. So far, I'm delighted to say that none have any plans to change their existing A-level entry requirements, regardless of how this year's grades are determined. Existing admissions requirements for GCE A level and International A level applicants can be found below:

[Macquarie University](#)

[Australia National University](#)

[University of Sydney](#)

[University of New South Wales \(UNSW\)](#)

[University of Melbourne](#)

[University of Queensland](#)

[The University of Western Australia](#)

[Monash University](#)

[University of Adelaide](#)

[RMIT University](#)


[CQ University](#)

[University of Canberra](#)

[University of Wollongong](#)

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[Curtin University](#)
[Flinders University](#)
[Griffith University](#)

Universities New Zealand

PART A

- A minimum of 120 points on the New Zealand score table at GCE A or AS level or International A or AS from any syllabus groups broadly equivalent to those in the list of approved subjects for NCEA, and
- A D grade or better in syllabuses from at least three different syllabus groups (excluding Thinking Skills).

PART B

Literacy and numeracy must be satisfied as follows:

Literacy

EITHER An 'E' grade or better in any one of AS English Language, Language and Literature in English, Literature in English. A 'D' grade or better will satisfy one of the syllabus requirements of Part A
OR As prescribed for university entrance with NCEA

Numeracy

EITHER (i) 'D' grade or better in International GCSE or GCSE mathematics, or
(ii) Any mathematics passed at AS level. A 'D' grade or better will satisfy one of the syllabus requirements of Part A
OR As prescribed for university entrance with NCEA

GERMANY

Statement from the German international qualification evaluation service

The Kultusministerkonferenz KMK has decided that all educational credentials which are relevant for university entrance in Germany and which are awarded during the Coronavirus pandemic will be evaluated according to the "Bewertungsvorschläge" (evaluation proposals). This is also the case, if exams or part of exams had to be cancelled due to the current situation.

This means that A levels which are awarded in summer 2020 will be evaluated in the same way as in previous years. This has already been communicated to German universities through Anabin's "Behördenversion" (the password-protected version for recognition authorities).

Existing admission requirements for UK applicants

Students seeking admission in German universities with UK qualifications can find the existing requirements via the Anabin [here](#) and DAAD [here](#).

UniAssist is the application portal for over 180 universities in Germany should continue to [follow the application guidance](#) for International A level and GCE A level students.



HONG KONG

University of Hong Kong

The University is prepared to take into consideration, in the event of disruption or cancellation of exams (e.g., IB, GCE A-Levels), results/ grading/ certification (or other relevant arrangements) issued by the relevant examination authorities or schools. In selection for admission, these will be accepted as evidence of their academic potentials [...]

https://www.cpr.cuhk.edu.hk/en/announcements_detail.php?id=69

Chinese University of Hong Kong

Commitment to Flexible Arrangements for Students Affected by COVID-19

The University is now actively reaching out to the different examination bodies for their advice and confirmation on what their final awards will entail. We respect the decisions of examination bodies in their assessment of students' achievements.

<https://aal.hku.hk/admissions/international/flexible-arrangements-consideration-students-affected-novel-corona-virus-outbreak-region>

The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong

We will accept the grades produced through the exceptional process for admission to our bachelor's degree programmes and handle each application on a case-by-case basis.

<https://www.hsu.edu.hk/en/admissions/>

Education University of Hong Kong

Following the cancellation of examinations, I am pleased to inform you that EdUHK has decided to accept the calculated grades issued by the relevant examination bodies.

<https://www.eduhk.hk/acadprog/undergrad.html>

Hong Kong Baptist University

As we take into consideration the results / grading / certification (or other arrangements) issued by relevant examination authorities or schools, we will extend flexibility to cater for the individual circumstances impacted by the COVID-19.

https://admissions.hkbu.edu.hk/uploads/en/news/pdf/Announcement_COVID_19_1.pdf

SPAIN

UNED

The Spanish admission body has confirmed that calculated grades issued by UK exam boards will be accepted for entry to Spanish universities this year



SWITZERLAND

Webster University Geneva

Please note that Webster University Geneva will indeed plan to accept the grades awarded exceptionally this year in 2020, through the standard scale as you mentioned, in consideration for admission to our University. We will assess their 2020 grade assessments as per usual in our admissions process.

<http://www.webster.ch/admissions/join.html>

University of Bern

We will accept these grades for admission to our Bachelor programs.

https://www.unibe.ch/studies/programs/bachelor/application/international/index_eng.html

University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland (FHNW), School of Business

At the School of Business, we will make no distinction between the “regular” and the “Covid-19” UK grades. i.e. we will accept the UK grades of this year as equivalent to regular UK grades

<https://www.fhnw.ch/en/international/degree-programmes>

Bern University of Applied Sciences

We are aware of the critical situation worldwide and we will do our best to deal with the admissions of these students.

<https://www.bfh.ch/hafl/en/studies/bachelors-degree-programmes/>

University of Applied Sciences and Arts Western Switzerland, Haute Ecole Arc Ingénierie in Neuchâtel

We confirm that UK students with a calculated grade will be accepted on file evaluation for entry to our bachelor programmes.

ETH Zurich

We will accept UK calculated grades issued by the regular examination boards

EPFL

We hereby inform you that we will treat these calculated grade/diplomas as we do every year

University of Applied Sciences of the Grisons

We would accept the calculated grade for A-levels under the current circumstances



THE NETHERLANDS

Leiden University

In principle, Leiden University will be accepting all diploma credentials that appear on our diploma equivalencies list regardless of any exam postponements or cancellations. This includes the International Baccalaureate, A-levels and College Board Advanced Placement exams.

<https://www.universiteitleiden.nl/en/education/admission-and-application/faq-international-admissions--corona>

Tilburg University

The A level exams have been cancelled this year and certificates will be awarded based on school performance and course work. Will you accept these for admission purposes?

Yes, as long as your A level (and GCSE) results meet the conditions indicated in your conditional admission letter, we will accept the A level certificates for admission.

<https://www.tilburguniversity.edu/current/news/more-news/corona-virus>

University College Roosevelt

If you have already applied and received conditional admission based on the A-level Diploma you will obtain in 2020: the cancellation of the May/June examinations does not have an impact on your offer. As long as you obtain your diploma and meet the minimum conditions specified in your admission letter, you will be unconditionally admitted

<https://www.ucr.nl/admissions/admissions/faqs/>

Vrije University Amsterdam

We will, in principle, be accepting secondary education diplomas - if accredited by an official accreditation body - as being on an equivalent level as the regular diplomas listed here. This includes IB diplomas and A-levels.

<https://www.vu.nl/en/news-agenda/news/corona-students/index.aspx>

Utrecht University

If you have already applied and received conditional admission based on an IB diploma or British A-levels that you will obtain in 2020: the cancellation of the exam sessions of summer 2020 does not have an impact on your eligibility. As long as you obtain your diploma and meet the conditions specified in your letter of admission, you will be unconditionally admitted and you can enroll in your chosen programme in September. Do note that if you applied for a limited enrolment or selective programme, you will still need to be selected by your programme.

<https://www.uu.nl/en/information-coronavirus/international-students-and-staff/coronavirus-international-admissions#bachelors>