

# Choose the right pathway



Making choices about what to study can often be difficult when faced with so many options including subjects that may be new to you.

You may want to consider the course content, how it is assessed and which courses combine well. By visiting our website, you will gain more information that may help you decided on a programme.

When planning your programme you should take into account what your GCSE or prior achievement is likely to be, what you are interested in and how studying a subject may prepare or qualify you for what you want to do after leaving college.

We offer different levels of programmes and you will have advice on which suits you best based on your GCSE results. If you enrol onto an Entry Level, Level 1 or Level 2 programme, you will be given advice and guidance to progress internally onto the next level.

## **Your study programme**

The college offers an unrivalled range of courses from Entry Level to Level 3, meaning that we can help find the right programme for you.

The vast majority of student at WQE will enrol onto a Level 3 programme, which may consist of vocational and/or academic courses. It is important to choose a combination of courses that suits your preferred way of study and careers aspirations.

Our programmes of study and individual courses have specific entry criteria; we can give you good advice about the best match for your current abilities, interests and needs.



As a guide, use the table below to identify the level and the programme type that best matches the qualifications with which you expect to enrol at WQE. Within a programme, individual course/subject specific entry requirements apply. These can be checked on our website.

Entering with	Level	Programme	Duration	Leads to...
<b>6 GCSEs grade 9–4 (A* - C) including English Language; at least 2 GCSEs at 5 or above</b>	Level 3	A Levels	2 Years	University Employment Higher/Degree Apprenticeships
<b>5 GCSEs grade 9–4 (A* - C) including English Language</b>	Level 3	Applied General Level 3	2 Years	University Employment Higher/Degree Apprenticeships
<b>5 GCSEs grade 3-4 (D/C) including English Language</b>	Level 2	GCSE Technical Level 2	1 Year	Level 3 courses
<b>5 GCSEs grade 2+ including English Language</b>	Level 1	Employability English Maths	1 Year	Level 2 courses
<b>5 GCSEs Grade 1 (F+) or below</b>	Entry level	English Maths ICT	1 Year	Level 1 courses

## A-level courses

We normally expect applicants to have achieved good GCSE passes in at least six subjects, these must:

- demonstrate the suitability for Advanced Level study
- have been achieved at grade 4/C as a minimum
- include two at grade 5/B as a minimum
- include English Language - a minimum of grade 4/C

Mathematics - If not achieved within the scope of above should normally be achieved at a minimum of grade 3 (D). If mathematics is not achieved at grade 4 (C) then it will be a requirement to continue to study at the correct level until a grade 4 is achieved. Subject with a mathematical content will require a higher grade.

## Subject entry criteria

<b>Accounting</b>	Grade 4 in GCSE Mathematics and grade 5 in English Language
<b>Art, Fine</b>	Grade 4 or above in GCSE Art and Design or grade 4 or above in GCSE Design and Technology (Graphic Products or Resistant Materials). In order to fully support students who have gained a Grade 4 in GCSE in an Art and Design or Design Technology subject, or those who have not had the opportunity to study these subjects at GCSE, a short drawing task which must be completed here at the college will form part of the enrolment procedure. This is to ensure applicants can successfully meet the rigours of the course. It would be helpful for students to bring examples of their creative work to this session. Applicants can find more information and FAQs here: <a href="https://wqecreativearts.myportfolio.com/work">https://wqecreativearts.myportfolio.com/work</a>
<b>Art, Craft and Design</b>	Grade 4 or above in a GCSE Art and Design course or Grade 4 in GCSE Design and Technology (Graphic Products or Resistant Materials). In order to fully support students who have gained a Grade 4 in GCSE in an Art and Design or Design Technology subject, or those who have not had the opportunity to study these subjects at GCSE, a short drawing task which must be completed here at the college will form part of the enrolment procedure. This is to ensure applicants can successfully meet the rigours of the course. It would be helpful for students to bring examples of their creative work to this session. Applicants can find more information and FAQs here: <a href="https://wqecreativearts.myportfolio.com/work">https://wqecreativearts.myportfolio.com/work</a>
<b>Biology</b>	Grade 5 in GCSE English Language and Mathematics. Grade 66 or above in GCSE Combined Science (Higher Tier) or a minimum of 655 in the separate sciences which should normally include grade 6 in Biology
<b>Business</b>	Grade 4 in GCSE Mathematics and grade 5 in GCSE English Language
<b>Chemistry</b>	Grade 5 in GCSE English Language and grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics. Grade 66 or above in GCSE Combined Science (Higher Tier) or minimum 655 in individual sciences which should normally include grade 6 or above in Chemistry

<b>Computer Science</b>	Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics and Grade 5 in GCSE English language or English Literature
<b>Drama and Theatre Studies</b>	In addition to the standard College entry requirements (see over), it is desirable to have studied Drama, Performing Arts or Dance at GCSE or BTEC level, although in some cases where the subject has not been offered at School, extensive current experience of practical performance work in Theatre or Dance may qualify, students in this circumstance <u>must</u> be referred to the subject advisor for Drama. Applicants can find more information and FAQs here: <a href="https://wqecreativearts.myportfolio.com/work">https://wqecreativearts.myportfolio.com/work</a>
<b>Economics</b>	Grade 5 or above in GCSE English Language and Mathematics
<b>Electronics</b>	Grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics. Minimum grade 55 in GCSE Combined Science with a minimum grade 5 in Physics
<b>English Language</b>	Grade 5 in both GCSE English Language and Literature. One grade 5 will be acceptable for students who did not have the option to sit two English GCSEs
<b>English Language and Literature</b>	Grade 5 in both GCSE English Language and Literature. One grade 5 will be acceptable for students who did not have the option to sit two English GCSEs
<b>English Literature</b>	Grade 5 in both GCSE English Language and Literature. One grade 5 will be acceptable for students who did not have the option to sit two English GCSEs
<b>Fashion and Textiles</b>	Grade 4 or above in GCSE Art and Design or grade 4 or above in GCSE Design and Technology (Graphic Products or Resistant Materials) In order to fully support students who have gained a Grade 4 in GCSE in an Art and Design or Design Technology subject, or those who have not had the opportunity to study these subjects at GCSE, a short drawing task which must be completed here at the college will form part of the enrolment procedure. This is to ensure applicants can successfully meet the rigours of the course. It would be helpful for students to bring examples of their creative work to this session. Applicants can find more information and FAQs here: <a href="https://wqecreativearts.myportfolio.com/work">https://wqecreativearts.myportfolio.com/work</a>
<b>Film Studies</b>	Grade 5 or above in GCSE English Language
<b>French</b>	Grade 5 or above in GCSE English Language and grade 6 or above in GCSE French
<b>Geography</b>	Grade 5 or above in GCSE English Language and Geography. Grade 4 or above in GCSE Mathematics
<b>German</b>	Grade 5 or above in GCSE English Language and grade 6 or above in German

<b>Graphic Communication</b>	<p>Grade 4 or above in a GCSE Art and Design course or Grade 4 in GCSE Design and Technology (Graphic Products or Resistant Materials).</p> <p>In order to fully support students who have gained a Grade 4 in GCSE in an Art and Design or Design Technology subject, or those who have not had the opportunity to study these subjects at GCSE, a short drawing task which must be completed here at the college will form part of the enrolment procedure. This is to ensure applicants can successfully meet the rigours of the course. It would be helpful for students to bring examples of their creative work to this session. Applicants can find more information and FAQs here: <a href="https://wqecreativearts.myportfolio.com/work">https://wqecreativearts.myportfolio.com/work</a></p>
<b>History</b>	Grade 5 in GCSE English Language and a minimum grade 5 or above in History (if taken)
<b>History, Ancient</b>	Grade 5 or above in GCSE English Literature and English Language. A minimum of grade 5 or above in History (if taken)
<b>Law</b>	Grade 5 in GCSE English Language
<b>Mathematics</b>	Grade 6 or above in GCSE Mathematics. Students achieving the minimum grade 6 will be required to take an algebra assessment at enrolment to determine their suitability for the course.
<b>Maths, Further</b>	Grade 8 or 9 in GCSE Mathematics. Grades 8-9 or A/A* in all subjects normally required
<b>Media Studies</b>	Grade 5 or above in GCSE English Language
<b>Music</b>	<p>Grade 5 or above in GCSE Music and at least grade 6 standard on an instrument or voice. Applicants can find more information and FAQs here: <a href="https://wqecreativearts.myportfolio.com/work">https://wqecreativearts.myportfolio.com/work</a></p>
<b>Photography</b>	<p>Grade 4 or above in a GCSE Art and Design course or Grade 4 in GCSE Design and Technology (Graphic Products or Resistant Materials).</p> <p>Previous photographic experience is useful but not essential. We will consider applications from students who don't have Art GCSE but can show they have had experience of photography.</p> <p>Those students who have not had the opportunity to study GCSE in an Art and Design or Design Technology subject, or at GCSE should do the following photography task: Send in 5 of your own photographs taken on your phone or a camera that show good composition, and then please email them to <a href="mailto:Daryl.Tebbutt@wqe.ac.uk">Daryl.Tebbutt@wqe.ac.uk</a>.</p> <p>Please add your name and enrolment number to the email. Applicants can find more information and FAQs here: <a href="https://wqecreativearts.myportfolio.com/work">https://wqecreativearts.myportfolio.com/work</a></p>



<b>Physical Education</b>	<p>A minimum of: Grade 55 in Combined Science or if separate sciences taken a grade 5 in Biology, Grade 4 in Maths, Grade 6 in GCSE PE (if taken) or Distinction in Level 2 BTEC/Cambridge Technical Sport (if taken)</p> <p>Students intending to take A level Physical Education should have already attained a high standard of performance in one sport.</p>
<b>Physics</b>	<p>Grade 5 in GCSE English Language and grade 6 in Mathematics. Grade 66 or above in Combined Science (Higher Tier) or a minimum of 655 in the separate sciences which should normally include grade 6 or above in Physics</p>
<b>Politics</b>	<p>Grade 5 in GCSE English Language</p>
<b>Product Design</b>	<p>Grade 4 or above in a GCSE Art and Design course or Grade 4 in GCSE Design and Technology (Graphic Products or Resistant Materials).</p> <p>In order to fully support students who have gained a Grade 4 in GCSE in an Art and Design or Design Technology subject, or those who have not had the opportunity to study these subjects at GCSE, a short drawing task which must be completed here at the college will form part of the enrolment procedure. This is to ensure applicants can successfully meet the rigours of the course. It would be helpful for students to bring examples of their creative work to this session. Applicants can find more information and FAQs here: <a href="https://wgcreativearts.myportfolio.com/work">https://wgcreativearts.myportfolio.com/work</a></p>
<b>Psychology</b>	<p>Grade 5 or above in GCSE English Language, grade 4 or above in GCSE Maths and a minimum of two GCSE Sciences at grade 4 or above.</p>
<b>Religious Studies</b>	<p>Grade 5 in GCSE English Language</p>
<b>Sociology</b>	<p>Standard College entry requirements</p>
<b>Spanish</b>	<p>Grade 5 in GCSE English Language and grade 6 or above in GCSE Spanish</p>

## Advanced Level vocational courses

We normally expect applicants to have achieved a minimum of five GCSEs, at grades A\*-C/4–9, including English Language, from a mixture of GCSEs and equivalents.

**Applicants wishing to study a mixture of A Level and BTEC programme are required to meet the A level standard college requirements.**

The A Level 'equivalences' for vocational courses are as follows

Course type	'Equivalence'
BTEC National Extended Certificate	1 A Level
BTEC National Diploma	2 A Levels
BTEC National Extended Diploma	3 A Levels
Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate	1 A Level
Cambridge Technical Diploma	2 A Levels
Cambridge Technical Extended Diploma	3 A Levels

## Subject entry criteria

<b>Art and Design Level 3 Cambridge Extended Diploma</b>	Grade 5 or above in a GCSE Art and Design course or Grade 5 in GCSE Design and Technology (Graphic Products or Resistant Materials). In order to fully support students who have gained a Grade 5 in GCSE in an Art and Design or Design Technology subject, or those who have not had the opportunity to study these subjects at GCSE, a short drawing task, which must be completed here at the college, will form part of the enrolment procedure. This is to ensure applicants can successfully meet the rigours of the course. It would be helpful for students to bring examples of their creative work to this session. To set this up please use the booking form which is in Teams > Enrolment> General > Files > Assessment (folder) > Choose the day > Visual Arts. If the student is shielding, please book a call and we will arrange to do this remotely with the student. Applicants can find more information and FAQs here: <a href="https://wqcreativearts.myportfolio.com/work">https://wqcreativearts.myportfolio.com/work</a>
<b>Business Level 3 National Extended Certificate</b>	Grade 4 in Maths GCSE
<b>Business Level 3 National Diploma</b>	Grade 4 in Maths GCSE
<b>Business Level 3 National Extended Diploma</b>	Grade 4 in Maths GCSE
<b>Health and Social Care Level 3 Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate</b>	Grade 3 in Science or Physical Education GCSE
<b>Health and Social Care Level 3 Cambridge Technical Diploma</b>	Grade 3 in Science or Physical Education GCSE
<b>Health and Social Care Level 3 Cambridge Technical Extended Diploma</b>	Grade 3 in Science or Physical Education GCSE

<b>ICT Level 3 National Extended Certificate</b>	Grade 4 or above in GCSE Mathematics
<b>ICT Level 3 National Diploma</b>	Grade 4 or above in GCSE Mathematics
<b>ICT Level 3 National Extended Diploma</b>	Grade 4 or above in GCSE Mathematics
<b>Law Level 3 Extended Certificate</b>	Standard College entry requirements
<b>Media Level 3 Extended Certificate</b>	Standard College entry requirements
<b>Performing Arts Level 3 Extended Diploma (Dance or Musical Theatre at Studio 79)</b>	Standard College entry requirements
<b>Performing Arts Level 3 Extended Diploma (Musical Theatre at LCPA)</b>	Standard College entry requirements
<b>Psychology Level 3 National Extended Certificate</b>	GCSE grade 4 or above in Maths, English Language and two Sciences
<b>Science Level 3 National Extended Certificate</b>	Grade 4 or above in GCSE Mathematics and grade 44 or above in GCSE Combined Science, or grade 4 in two of the Separate Sciences, or a minimum of a Pass grade in BTEC Level 2 Certificate in Applied Science
<b>Science Level 3 Diploma</b>	Grade 4 or above in GCSE Mathematics and grade 44 or above in GCSE Combined Science, or grade 4 in two of the Separate Sciences, or a minimum of a Pass grade in BTEC Level 2 Certificate in Applied Science
<b>Sport &amp; Physical Activity Level 3 Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate</b>	Grade 44 or above in GCSE Combined Science and either grade 4 or above in GCSE PE or Merit or above in Level 2 BTEC/Cambridge Technical Sport. Leadership/coaching experience is preferable
<b>Sport &amp; Physical Activity Level 3 Cambridge Technical National Diploma</b>	Grade 44 or above in GCSE Combined Science and either grade 4 or above in GCSE PE or Merit or above in Level 2 BTEC/Cambridge Technical Sport. Leadership/coaching experience is preferable
<b>Sport &amp; Physical Activity Level 3 Cambridge Technical Extended Diploma</b>	Grade 44 or above in GCSE Combined Science and either grade 4 or above in GCSE PE or Merit or above in Level 2 BTEC/Cambridge Technical Sport. Leadership/coaching experience is preferable



## Level Two – GCSE and Vocational courses

We normally expect applicants to have achieved a minimum of five GCSEs, at grades D/3, including English Language, from a mixture of GCSEs and equivalents.

Any applicants wishing to study a mixture of GCSE and BTEC programme are required to meet the standard college requirements that should include grade D/3 in English Language.

Any applicants wishing to study a full Applied Level 2 BTEC programme alongside GCSE English and Maths are required to meet the standard college requirements. This should include grade D/3 in English Language.

The GCSE 'equivalences' for vocational courses are as follows

Course type	'Equivalence'
Certificate	1 GCSE
Extended Certificate	2 GCSE
Diploma	4 GCSEs

### Subject entry criteria

<b>Art</b>	Standard College entry requirements
<b>Biology Higher</b>	Standard College entry requirements <b>PLUS</b> Core Science <b>OR</b> Additional Science at grade 3/D
<b>Biology Foundation</b>	Standard College entry requirements <b>PLUS</b> Core Science <b>OR</b> Additional Science at grade 2/E
<b>Chemistry Higher</b>	Standard College entry requirements <b>PLUS</b> Core Science <b>OR</b> Additional Science at grade 3/D
<b>Chemistry Foundation</b>	Standard College entry requirements <b>PLUS</b> Core Science <b>OR</b> Additional Science at grade 2/E
<b>Citizenship</b>	Standard College entry requirements
<b>English Language</b>	Standard College entry requirements
<b>Graphics (Digital)</b>	Standard College entry requirements
<b>Mathematics</b>	Standard College entry requirements
<b>Photography</b>	Standard College entry requirements
<b>Psychology</b>	Standard College entry requirements <b>PLUS</b> Science grade 3/D
<b>Sociology</b>	Standard College entry requirements

<b>Business Level 2 Extended Certificate</b>	Standard College entry requirements
<b>Business Level 2 Diploma</b>	Standard College entry requirements
<b>Business Level 2 Diploma with Work Placement</b>	Standard College entry requirements <b>PLUS</b> Grade 3 or above in Maths GCSE
<b>Health and Social Care Level 2 Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate</b>	Standard College entry requirements

<b>Health and Social Care Level 2 Cambridge Technical Diploma</b>	Standard College entry requirements
<b>ICT Level 2 Extended Certificate</b>	Grade 3 or above in English Language GCSE
<b>ICT Level 2 Diploma</b>	Grade 3 or above in English Language GCSE
<b>Law and Legal Work Level 2 Certificate</b>	Standard College entry requirements
<b>Media Level 2 Extended Certificate</b>	Standard College entry requirements
<b>Performing Arts L2 Diploma (Dance - Studio 79)</b>	Standard College entry requirements
<b>Sport Level 2 Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate</b>	Standard College entry requirements
<b>Sport Level 2 Cambridge Technical Diploma</b>	Standard College entry requirements

## Level One – Vocational courses

We normally expect applicants to have achieved a minimum of five GCSEs, at grades E/2, including English Language, from a mixture of GCSEs and equivalents.

All Level 1 students study a programme, which includes English, Maths and Employability.

### Subject entry criteria

<b>Business Level 1 Certificate in Employability</b>	Standard College entry requirements
<b>Health Level 1 Certificate in Employability</b>	Standard College entry requirements
<b>ICT Level 1 Certificate in Employability</b>	Standard College entry requirements
<b>Science Level 1 Certificate in Employability</b>	Standard College entry requirements

## ESOL Entry Level courses

Students who enrol at the College with no qualifications will study an ESOL programme.

<b>Entry Level 1 / 2 / 3</b>	By assessment
<b>Level 1</b>	By assessment



The full Admissions Policy is available on the College website **[www.wqe.ac.uk](http://www.wqe.ac.uk)**  
For further information regarding applying to WQE please contact our Admissions Team:  
**[admissions@wqe.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@wqe.ac.uk)**

**Please note all information is correct at the time of publication and may be subject to change.**