

Information for ex-students requesting a UCAS reference from WQE for 2027 entry

Please be aware that due to increasing demand over the last few years the procedure outlined below is the **only** way we can provide a reference for ex-students (i.e. those not currently enrolled at WQE).

Please read these instructions carefully before starting the application process. It is important that you do so in order to make sure your reference request is met.

*Please note the college is **only** able to support applications from those who are:*

- currently undertaking an Art Foundation course (or equivalent 1 year course) on completion of their studies at WQE
- currently taking a 'Year Out' (not in full or part time education) and wish to apply for entry in 2027

*The college is **unable** to support applications from ex-students who are:*

- already at university and wish to change course/university
- enrolled at another institution resitting A levels or undertaking other study

For the above, students must seek academic references from their current place of study.

1. If **you have applied through UCAS before**, log in to your account, update the start date to 2027, and fill out a new application but leave the reference section blank. **If you have not applied before**, register on the UCAS Hub first. Once you're signed up, go to **Your Application** and complete it. Again, skip the reference section at this point.
2. **You will be asked at this stage if you want to link your application to the College – please click 'no' (you will do this later on).** It is crucial the form is **complete** before the reference is provided (**this includes making sure you have any entered any resits as 'pending'**)
3. Once the form is complete, go to the reference section and click on the **"Need a reference?"** box on the right hand side. You will be asked if you want to link your application to the College and will need to enter the College buzzword which for 2027 is **Empower27**
4. **PLEASE ONLY USE THE 'NEED A REFERENCE?' BOX IN THE REFERENCE SECTION (and not any of the other options that ask if you want to link to a school or College) ANY OTHER ROUTE WILL BE DECLINED AND WILL DELAY YOUR APPLICATION.**

5. Once you have done this, email exstudentucas@wqe.ac.uk informing us that you are requesting a reference. Please include your:
 - Your full name, WQE student number, current mobile number and the name of your former Personal Progress Mentor
 - The course(s) you are applying for.
 - Details of any resits you are taking
 - Details of what you have been doing since leaving college so that this can be included in your reference. We will use the information you provide for the purpose of completing a reference and will retain this for the period of the relevant application cycle.
6. **IMPORTANT:** Please make sure you complete steps 2, 3 and 4 at the same time. (we **cannot** action the request for a reference and will decline the request if you delay sending either part)
7. **The College has a strict deadline for requesting references of 4pm-Friday 20 November 2026 for WQE to be able to guarantee the UCAS deadline being met. Current students take priority in the completion of references. (If your course has a deadline in October, you must ensure your reference request is sent to us by 4pm – Friday 18 September 2026)**