

Higher Education Student Admissions Policy

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1	MJ	11.9.25	Title	Realign annual review date
1	MJ	11.9.25	3	Included detail that students will be invited to interview

Higher Education Student Admissions Policy

1. Introduction / purpose of policy

This document outlines Craven College's policy and practice for managing the admission of Higher Education students to the College.

Craven College welcomes applications from all individuals with the potential and motivation to succeed. The College is committed to operating a fair, transparent, and consistent Higher Education admissions policy which ensures equality of opportunity for all.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all applicants to higher education courses at Craven College.

3. Role and Responsibilities

The Customer Services/Admissions Manager is responsible for implementing and monitoring necessary procedures to ensure this policy is followed correctly, consistently, and fairly for all applicants.

This policy has been written with reference to the [UK Quality Code, Advice and Guidance: Admissions, Recruitment and Widening Access](#).

- The Customer Services/Admissions Manager has overall responsibility for this policy.
- The Customer Services/Admissions Manager is responsible for ensuring that Customer Services/Admissions Team are compliant with the policy.
- Customer Services/ Admissions Team are responsible for following the policy and practicing fair admissions for all higher education applications received.

4. Policy Statement

4a. Programme of Study Information

Admissions entry criteria are available from the College website www.craven-college.ac.uk, HE prospectus and for undergraduate admission to full-time programmes, the UCAS website www.ucas.com. The information provided is accurate, relevant, and accessible and aims to provide applicants with the details they require, in order to make an informed decision on their choice of programme of study. The College may set minimum entry requirements for levels of attainment at GCSE or equivalent, particularly in English Language and/or mathematics. This information will be clearly stated within entry requirements for specific programmes.

Where an interview, audition, or portfolio forms part of the selection criteria, or where applicants are required to have work experience, we stipulate this in our prospectus, website and, where applicable, on the UCAS website.

Applicants who do not meet the minimum academic criteria, but who have significant and relevant experience in their chosen subject, may be considered for entry providing they can evidence the ability to study at the academic level. The Recognition of Prior Learning Policy HE will be consulted.

4b. Application (UCAS and Direct)

Applications for full-time undergraduate degree programmes are made via the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS). Applications for all other programmes are made directly to the College using the HE application form online.

Deferred entry applications are welcome and are considered alongside all other applications received within the admissions cycle. Students must normally meet the conditions of their offer (where applicable) by 31st August in the year of application.

4c. Selection and Assessment Methods and Clearing Applications

For most programmes, our assessment methods focus on the information contained in the application and assess the applicant's suitability for study in terms of their academic qualifications, relevant work/life experience, and subject interest. When a mature applicant does not possess the academic qualifications required, they will be invited to interview, and they will complete a written task. Where a written task is used to assess an applicant's suitability for study, all applicants are informed of this in advance and the completed task will be assessed by an academic member of staff.

The exceptions to the above are those programmes where assessment methods for suitability for study may include interview and/or audition and/or skills demonstration and/or submission of portfolio.

Where interviews are used to assess an applicant's suitability for study, these are conducted by fully trained staff with experience of interviewing applicants.

Where submission of a portfolio is used to assess applicant suitability for study, all applicants are informed in sufficient time of the specification for the portfolio and assessment methods used.

Where an audition or skills demonstration is used to assess applicant suitability for study, all applicants are provided with full information relating to the audition process, such as what will be required from the performance; how the audition/skills demonstration will be judged and by whom.

Results Day

UCAS “Clearing” enquiries received below 48 UCAS points will be rejected. Applications of 56 UCAS points and above will be accepted if all conditions are met. Clearing applications received of 48-56 UCAS points will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the HE manager. Mature students without the required qualifications will also be considered on a case-by-case basis by the HE Manager.

5. Offers, Responses and Communication

The College aims to process its applications quickly and efficiently. We aim to give applicants confirmation of our decision within ten working days of receipt of the application from the College (Please note there is a delay in applying through UCAS before the decision reaches the College). Where there is insufficient information to allow a decision to be made, we will contact the applicant and request additional details. Where an application requires an interview, portfolio submissions or audition, the decision-making process will take longer.

Craven College continues to accept and process applications following the January UCAS deadline, subject to available places.

Where an offer of admission is to be made, we aim to communicate the terms of the offer in clear and easy to understand language. Offer letters contain details of any action an applicant needs to take to accept the offer and provide information on the anticipated fee levels for the applicant.

Where an application has been unsuccessful, we will inform the applicant via letter or for full-time undergraduate programmes, via UCAS.

Under certain circumstances the College may reserve the right to reject an application. Applications from prospective students who fall into this category will be given full consideration before any such refusal.

The College reserves the right to refuse admission to any applicant who:

- Is unable to meet the entry requirements.
- Has a relevant criminal conviction which is either not spent or can never become spent
- Has previously been excluded from the College.
- Has previously studied on a Higher Education course at the College and has not completed assessments, without good reason.
- Has previously been subject to the College’s disciplinary procedure and has not followed the recommendations following the outcome of any such disciplinary
- Has outstanding debts with the College.
- Provides false or misleading information on an application or enrolment form.

6. Applicants with Disabilities

The College welcomes applications from students with disabilities and seeks to ensure appropriate support arrangements and reasonable adjustments are made prior to students commencing studies. Applicants are therefore strongly advised to declare any disability on their application. This information is used only to identify support needs and is not part of the academic decision to make an offer of admission.

The academic decision to offer a place of study is made first. Following this decision, where an offer of admission is to be made, the application may be referred to the SEND Team, to assess any additional support which should be in place prior to the student commencing studies.

Disabled Students' Allowances (DSAs) provide extra financial help for disabled students. Students may receive DSAs if they have a disability, ongoing health condition, mental-health condition, or a specific learning difficulty. Students can get help with the costs of:

- specialist equipment
- non-medical helpers
- extra travel because of a disability
- other disability-related costs of studying

Applicants should refer to <https://www.gov.uk/disabled-students-allowances-dsas/> for further details. The College will make every effort to ensure required support arrangements are in place. However, this is dependent on the student applying in sufficient time, identifying their disability clearly at the point of application and providing a detailed assessment in line with the Disabled Students' Allowance.

7. Fraudulent Applications

All applicants have a responsibility to ensure the information submitted on their application is accurate and up to date. The decision to offer a place is based on the information contained in the application and where it is discovered that an applicant has submitted incorrect or inaccurate information as part of their application; the College will investigate further and reserves the right to withdraw the offer of admission. The College also reserves the right to refer cases for further investigation (where applicable), for example for UCAS applications to the UCAS Verification Unit.

Information relating to qualifications held by the applicant and listed in the application form is subject to verification.

8. Feedback, Complaints & Appeals

When requested, the College will provide feedback to unsuccessful applicants. Feedback must be requested in writing to Customer Services and will normally be provided within ten working days of receipt of the request. Requests for feedback must be made by the applicant.

Where an applicant wishes to appeal against a decision regarding their application, they must normally do so in writing within four weeks of the date of the original decision. The Appeal must be addressed to the Customer Service Manager.

Where an applicant wishes to submit a complaint regarding the handling of their application, the applicant should discuss the problem with the Customer Services Manager at a mutually convenient time, and appropriate action should be agreed. A response will be made within ten working days, but the College will endeavor to ensure the matter is resolved as quickly as possible. If there is no satisfactory outcome or agreed action, the applicant is entitled to submit a formal complaint following the guidance which may be found in the College's [Complaints and Compliments Policy](#).

9. Data Protection

Craven College takes privacy seriously and will only use the personal information provided for the purposes of administration. All data will be processed lawfully and in accordance with Article 6 of the GDPR.

10. Disclaimer

The College reserves the right to make variations to programme contents, entry requirements and methods of delivery, and to discontinue, merge or combine programmes, both before and after a student's admission to the College, if such action is reasonably considered necessary. If, prior to the student commencing the first term of study, the College discontinues the programme, the student may either:

1. Withdraw from the College without any liability for fees, or
2. Transfer to another programme (if any) as may be offered by the College, which the student is qualified subject to approval.

If in these circumstances the student wishes to withdraw from the College and to enrol on a course at a different college / university, the College shall use its reasonable endeavours to assist the student. Further information can be found in the Terms and Conditions for Higher Education Students

11. Legislation and Regulatory Compliance

The College is compliant with the professional, statutory, and academic requirements of the agencies with which it works, and with national legislation and gives due regard to Statutory Guidance and the law, for example Equality Act 2010, Human Rights Act 1998 and GDPR compliancy.

An enhanced DBS (Disclosure and Barring Scheme) check, or Disclosure Scotland Certificate may be required for applicants applying to certain programmes e.g., Young Children's Learning & Development, Teacher Training or courses based at the College's Aviation Academy. This information is clearly stated as a requirement for entry to the course and applicants will be informed of this with their offer.

NB: Where the College needs to request a DBS disclosure or Disclosure Scotland Certificate, a charge will be levied, which will be payable by the applicant.

12. Monitoring and Review

The Customer Services/Admissions Manager has responsibility to monitor the implementation of the policy.

The Customer Services/Admissions Manager and the Higher Education Manager are responsible for the annual review of the policy

13. Related Policies and Documents

[Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance Policy](#)

[Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Policy](#)

[Fee & Refund Policy](#)

[Fitness to Study Policy](#)

[SEND Policy](#)

[Safeguarding Children & Vulnerable Adults Policy](#)

[General Data Protection Regulation \(GDPR\) Policy](#)

[Recognition of Prior Learning Policy](#)

[Disclosure, Barring Service \(DBS\) and Verification Checks of Staff and Students](#)

[Higher Education Terms and Conditions- Admissions](#)

14. Equality Impact Assessment

This policy has been assessed for equality to ensure it does not discriminate against any protected characteristics. And that there are no unintended consequences for staff /students/stakeholders with protected characteristics.

Appendix 1 - Application Process

