



October 2016
Issue 3

Access Bulletin 3

The new UCAS Tariff and Access Diplomas for 2017 HE entrance

For entry to university in the autumn of 2017 (i.e. for the coming academic year), Access diplomas will be within the scope of the UCAS Tariff. You can find out more about the tariff by visiting the UCAS website where you can find the full '[UCAS Tariff Tables](#)'. See page 117 for the Access tables where you can see the tariff points for every combination of Access grade profile that a student could achieve ranging from 144 for an all Distinction profile to 48 for an all Pass profile. A smaller document showing just the Access Tables is available from the LASER Access website on our [news & updates page](#).

UCAS have also developed an online calculator for working out the new tariff point values for all qualifications included in the new scheme. By typing in 'Access to.....' in the qualification box, an option of 'Access to HE Diploma' appears in a drop down menu.

Then to

the right you can enter the number of Distinction, Merit and Pass grades achieved and it automatically generates the tariff value. This should be a very useful tool for students considering universities where the UCAS Tariff is used.

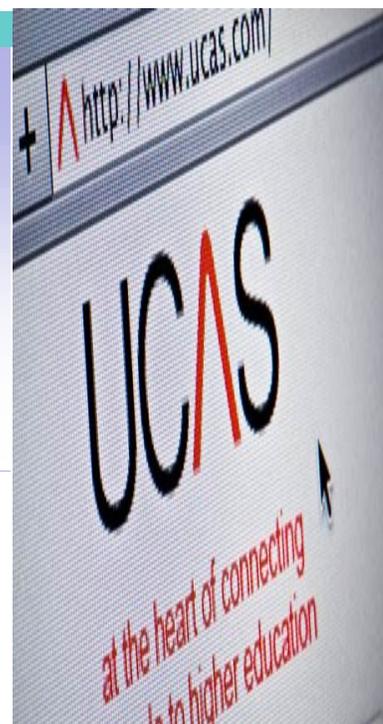
<https://www.ucas.com/ucas/undergraduate/getting-started/entry-requirements/tariff/calculator>

Tariff calculator - 2017 entry

How to use the calculator

Calculate points to use for courses starting from September 2017 onwards:

- 1 Type your qualification into the box and select it from the list that appears
- 2 Enter the subject you're studying (this is optional)
- 3 Select your grade from the dropdown list - the Tariff points for this qualification will automatically be displayed
- 4 Click 'Add' to add another qualification
- 5 Click 'Calculate my points total' to view an indicative Tariff points total



UCAS

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The subject box is optional but in the case of Access Diplomas it doesn't actually pull in any additional information. The total points is displayed and they can be emailed to

Qualification	Subject	Grade	Points	
Access to HE Diploma	<input type="text"/>	D15 M15 P15	96	<input type="button" value="Remove"/>
<input type="text" value="e.g. A level, BTEC, Scottish Higher"/>	<input type="text" value="This is optional"/>	<input type="text"/>	0	<input type="button" value="Add"/>
All qualifications added?				
Indicative total points: 96			<input type="button" value="Calculate my points total"/>	
Email my points to				
<input type="text" value="Astudent@college.ac.uk"/>				<input type="button" value="Send"/>

How useful is this for students who have already received UCAS Points offers?

We have been in contact with UCAS to see if for Access they would be able to develop a calculator that operates in reverse, i.e. if you enter how many UCAS Tariff Points are required for an offer—it would display the combinations of credits needed at Pass, Merit and Distinction to meet the offer. This is because most students are likely to approach UCAS points from this angle having either received a specific offer from a university or having looked at a tariff offer displayed by universities for specific courses on their websites. For now it is probably best to give students (or point them to) the Access Tables and let them take a look for themselves at the permutations, albeit that this might look a bit daunting at first.

Remember, not all universities use UCAS Tariff points and even if they do this will be the first year that Access Diplomas have had points attached to them and we anticipate some variability in the allocation of points for particular courses. If some courses have exceptionally high Tariff Point requirements it is always worth advising students to contact the university directly to see if there is room for manoeuvre. Furthermore in the current climate many universities actually accept less than their advertised tariff.

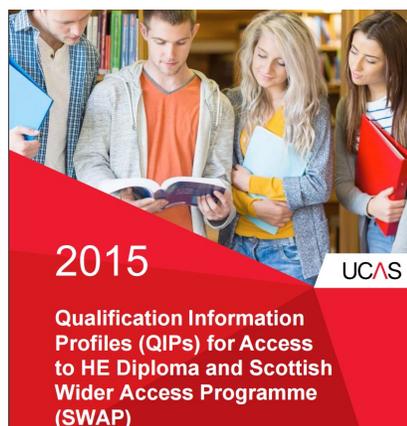
Offers to Access students often have additional requirements such as the achievement of specific units and/or a number of credits at Distinction and/or Merit. It will therefore be interesting to see how Tariff Points are used this year by higher education institutions and LASER is keen to receive feedback from colleges once the admissions process gets underway.



Qualification Information Profiles

UCAS have also developed Qualification Information Profiles (QIPs) as a guide to each qualification that might be used to support progression to higher education. There is a QIP for the Access to HE Diploma which could be a useful point of reference to reassure Access students that they are studying for a suitable qualification or as a guide to any interested third parties such as overseas universities etc.

<https://www.ucas.com/sites/default/files/qips-access-to-he-swap-2015.pdf>



Useful Links and Resources

- Video on the new UCAS Tariff and Access to HE courses, <https://www.ucas.com/advisers/guides-and-resources/tariff-2017>
- UCAS Apply, the starting point for applications to university, <https://www.ucas.com/ucas/undergraduate/register>
- UCAS Mature students guide, web pages just for mature student, <https://www.ucas.com/ucas/undergraduate/getting-started/mature-students>
- Which University key dates <http://university.which.co.uk/advice/ucas-application/ucas-deadlines-key-application-dates>
- Which University homepage <http://university.which.co.uk>
- The Complete University Guide <http://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/universities/applying-to-university-and-ucas-deadlines/>
- The Guardian University Guide, a comprehensive guide to UK universities <http://www.theguardian.com/education/universityguide>
- Mature student GOV.UK homepage, a useful starting point for mature applicants, <https://www.gov.uk/mature-student-university-funding>



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