



# **Courses and entry requirements for admission in September 2026**

## Course offer and Pathways

Please find below our current curriculum offer. Sometimes a course may be withdrawn if it is not viable to run as a result of low application or enrolment numbers or because of national changes to the curriculum. Should there be any changes to our curriculum offer, this will be communicated with prospective students and further advice and guidance will be offered.

<b>A Levels</b> <i>(students typically study 3 A-Levels or in combination with Extended Certificates)</i>	<b>Extended Certificates</b> <i>(these are each equivalent to 1 A-Level and studied in combination with A-Levels)</i>
Accounting Art & Design – 3D Design & Technology Art & Design – Fine Art Art & Design – Graphic Design Art & Design – Photography Art & Design – Textiles Biology Business Chemistry Computer Science Drama & Theatre Economics English Language English Literature Film Studies Further Mathematics (This counts as 2 A-Levels) Geography Geology History Law Mathematics Media Studies Philosophy, Ethics & Religion Physics Politics Psychology Sociology Spanish	Applied Science Business Criminology Dance Performance Digital Games Production Health & Social Care IT Law Music Performance Music Technology PE (Sport & Exercise Science or Sport Studies) Public Services
	<b>Vocational</b> <i>(equivalent to 3 A-Levels and studied as a standalone qualification)</i>
	<b>T Levels</b> Education - Early Years Health – Adult Nursing  <b>Extended Diplomas</b> Business Public Services Sport Coaching & Development Sport Coaching & Development (Football) - in partnership with Manchester City FC
	<b>Additional qualifications</b>
	Core Maths  <b>This is an extra qualification (equivalent to 1 AS Level) and would be studied alongside an A-Level/Mixed Study Programme in your first year.</b> This qualification would suit students choosing to study Psychology, Sociology, Geography, Biology, Chemistry, Applied Science, Accounting, Economics and Business (or any course with a Maths element except A-level Maths/Further Maths).

## **MINIMUM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR SEPTEMBER 2026**

### **A LEVEL PROGRAMME (3 A-Levels)**

- 2 GCSEs at grade 6 and 4 GCSEs at grade 4.
- Grade 4 required in GCSE English Language and GCSE Maths
- Subject specific entry requirements must also be met

### **MIXED STUDY PROGRAMME**

#### **2 A Levels & 1 Extended Certificate**

- 2 GCSEs at grade 6 and 4 GCSEs at grade 4.
- Grade 4 required in GCSE English Language and GCSE Maths
- Subject specific entry requirements must also be met

#### **1 A Level & 2 Extended Certificates**

- 2 GCSEs at grade 5 and 3 GCSEs at grade 4.
- Grade 4 required in GCSE English Language and GCSE Maths
- Subject specific entry requirements must also be met

### **VOCATIONAL PROGRAMME (equivalent to 3 A-Levels and studied as a standalone qualification)**

#### **T Levels**

- 5 GCSEs at grade 4.
- Grade 4 required in GCSE English Language **and** GCSE Maths
- Subject specific entry requirements must also be met

#### **Extended Diplomas**

- 5 GCSEs\* at grade 4.
- Grade 4 required in GCSE English Language and a minimum of a grade 3\*\* in GCSE Maths for the following course:
  - Business
- 4 GCSEs\* at grade 4.
- Grade 4 required in GCSE English Language and a minimum of a grade 3\*\* in GCSE Maths for the following courses:
  - Public Services
  - Sports Coaching
  - Sports Coaching (Football with CITC)

Key:

\* 1 GCSE can be replaced with a Level 2 BTEC qualification. This must be at a Merit/Distinction/Distinction\*

\*\* There are some courses which have specific entry requirements in GCSE Maths & English

***A student who has not achieved a minimum of a Grade 4 in Maths or English Language (and has satisfied entry reqs for their chosen L3 course) will be enrolled on to an appropriate Maths or English course alongside their Level 3 study programme***

### **XL ACADEMY PROGRAMME**

- Students must achieve a minimum of 7 GCSEs at grade 7 including English Language or Maths (with no lower than a 5 in the other)

## COURSE SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

### A-LEVELS

Subject	Qual type	Exam board	Assessment	Additional course requirements	Notes
<b>Accounting</b>	A-Level	AQA	100% exam	Grade 5 in GCSE Maths	
<b>Art and Design 3D Design</b>	A-Level	EDUQAS	100% coursework and practical exam	No additional requirements	GCSE Art & Design is preferred but not essential
<b>Art and Design Fine Art</b>	A-Level	EDUQAS	100% coursework and practical exam	No additional requirements	GCSE Art & Design is preferred but not essential
<b>Art and Design Graphic Design</b>	A-Level	EDUQAS	100% coursework and practical exam	No additional requirements	GCSE Art & Design is preferred but not essential
<b>Art and Design Photography</b>	A-Level	EDUQAS	100% coursework and practical exam	No additional requirements	GCSE Art & Design is preferred but not essential
<b>Art and Design Textiles</b>	A-Level	EDUQAS	100% coursework and practical exam	No additional requirements	GCSE Art & Design is preferred but not essential
<b>Biology</b>	A-Level	AQA	100% exam	Grade 66 in GCSE Combined Science (or from two single sciences one of which must be Biology).  Grade 5 in GCSE Maths.	Students are advised to study another Science including: Chemistry, Physics, Computer Science, Geology  Psychology, Geography, Sport may be appropriate for some students with specific career aims  Students also advised to study Core Maths if A Level Maths not chosen
<b>Business</b>	A-Level	Edexcel	100% exam	Grade 5 in an essay based subject	

<b>Chemistry</b>	A-Level	OCR	100% exam	Grade 6 in GCSE Combined Science (or from two single sciences one of which must be Chemistry).  Grade 5 in GCSE Maths.	Students are advised to study another Science including: Biology, Computer Science, Geology, Physics or Maths at A-Level  Students also advised to study Core Maths if A Level Maths not chosen
<b>Computer Science</b>	A-Level	OCR	80% exam 20% non-examined assessment	Grade 6 in GCSE Combined Science/Separate Sciences and Grade 6 in GCSE Maths.	Students also advised to study Core Maths if A Level Maths not chosen
<b>Drama &amp; Theatre</b>	A-Level	Pearson	40% exam 30% coursework 30% practical	No additional requirements	
<b>Economics</b>	A-Level	Pearson	100% exam	Grade 6 in GCSE Maths	
<b>English Language</b>	A-Level	EDUQAS	80% exam 20% coursework	Grade 5 in GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature	
<b>English Literature</b>	A-Level	Pearson	80% exam 20% coursework	Grade 5 in GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature	
<b>Film Studies</b>	A-Level	EDUQAS	70% exam 30% non-examined assessment	No additional requirements	
<b>Further Maths</b>	A-Level	Pearson	100% exam	Grade 8 in GCSE Maths	This course is equivalent to 2 A-Levels
<b>Geography</b>	A-Level	Pearson	80% exam 20% coursework	Grade 5 in an essay based subject	If GCSE Geography has been studied student must achieve a minimum of a grade 4
<b>Geology</b>	A-Level	Eduqas	100% exam	Grade 5 in GCSE Combined Science/Separate Sciences and grade 5 in GCSE Maths	
<b>History</b>	A-Level	Pearson	80% exam 20% non-examined assessment	Grade 5 in an essay based subject	
<b>Law</b>	A-Level	AQA	100% exam	No additional requirements	
<b>Maths</b>	A-Level	Pearson	100% exam	Grade 7 in GCSE Maths	A student with a grade 6 in GCSE Maths to see Head of Maths

<b>Media Studies</b>	A Level	EDUQAS	70% exam, 30% coursework	No additional requirements	
<b>Physics</b>	A-Level	OCR	100% exam	2 x grade 6's in: GCSE Maths <b>and</b> GCSE Science/GCSE Physics	Students <b>must</b> study A level Maths or Core Maths alongside Physics.  Students who wish to study A Level Maths must achieve a Grade 7 in GCSE Maths
<b>Politics</b>	A-Level	AQA	100% exam	Grade 5 in an essay based subject	
<b>Philosophy, Ethics &amp; Religion</b>	A-Level	EDUQAS	100% exam	No additional requirements	
<b>Psychology</b>	A-Level	AQA	100% exam	GCSE grade 4 in Maths	
<b>Sociology</b>	A-Level	AQA	100% exam	Grade 5 in an essay based subject	
<b>Spanish</b>	A-Level	EDUQAS	100% exam	Grade 6 in GCSE Spanish or native speaker	

#### EXTENDED CERTIFICATES (equivalent to 1 A-Level)

Subject	Qual type	Exam board	Assessment	Additional course requirements	Notes
<b>Applied Science</b>	Level 3 AAQ BTEC National Extended Certificate	Pearson	4 mandatory units, of which 3 are externally assessed.	Grade 4 in GCSE Maths plus Grade 44 in GCSE Science	This course cannot be studied alongside A-Level Science subjects
<b>Business</b>	Level 3 BTEC National Extended Certificate	Pearson	58% exam 42% non-examined assessment	No additional requirements	
<b>Criminology</b>	Applied Diploma	Eduqas	50% exam 50% controlled assessment	No additional requirements	
<b>Dance (Performance Dance)</b>	Level 3 BTEC National Extended Certificate	Pearson	Mix of internal and external assessment	Students will be invited to attend a dance audition and should demonstrate some dance experience/ability	

<b>Digital Games Production</b>	Level 3 BTEC National Extended Certificate	Pearson	Mix of internal and external assessment	Grade 4 in Maths is desirable	
<b>Health &amp; Social Care</b>	Level 3 AAQ BTEC National Extended Certificate	Pearson	There are 4 units on this course 2 mandatory and 2 external	No additional requirements	
<b>Information Technology</b>	Level 3 AAQ BTEC National Extended Certificate	Pearson	There are 4 units of which 2 are mandatory and 2 are external.	Grade 4 in GCSE Maths	
<b>Law</b>	Level 3 BTEC National Extended Certificate	Pearson	58% exam 42% non-examined assessment	No additional requirements	
<b>Music Performance</b>	Level 3 BTEC National Extended Certificate	Pearson	Mix of internal and external assessment	Students will be invited to attend a music audition and should demonstrate some music experience/ability	
<b>Music Technology</b>	Level 3 BTEC National Extended Certificate	Pearson	33% exam 67% non-examined assessment	No additional requirements	
<b>Public Services</b>	Level 3 NCFE CACHE Level 3 Certificate	NCFE	100% internal assessment	No additional requirements	
<b>Sport - Sport &amp; Exercise Science</b>	Level 3 BTEC National Extended Certificate	Pearson	100% Internal assessment	Grade 54 in GCSE Science	
<b>Sport - Sport Studies</b>	Level 3 BTEC National Extended Certificate	Pearson	100% Internal assessment	No additional requirements	

### VOCATIONAL (equivalent to 3 A-Levels and studied as a standalone qualification)

Course	Course type	Exam board	Assessment	Additional course requirements
<b>Business</b>	Extended Diploma	Pearson	42% exam 58% non-examined assessment	5 GCSEs* at grade 4. Grade 4 required in GCSE English Language and a 3 in GCSE Maths

<b>Education (Early Years)</b>	T Level			5 GCSEs* at grade 4. Grade 4 required in GCSE English Language <b>and</b> GCSE Maths
<b>Health (Adult nursing)</b>	T Level			5 GCSEs* at grade 4. Grade 4 required in GCSE English Language, GCSE Maths <b>and</b> GCSE Science
<b>Public Services</b>	Extended Diploma	NcFE	100% Internal assessment	4 GCSEs* at grade 4. Grade 4 required in GCSE English Language and a 3 in GCSE Maths
<b>Sports Coaching &amp; Development</b>	Extended Diploma	Pearson	100% Internal assessment	4 GCSEs* at grade 4. Grade 4 required in GCSE English Language and a 3 in GCSE Maths
<b>Sports Coaching &amp; Development (Football) - in partnership with CITC)</b>	Extended Diploma	Pearson	100% Internal assessment	4 GCSEs* at grade 4. Grade 4 required in GCSE English Language and a 3 in GCSE Maths <i>Applicants will need to discuss this course with the CITC team to check suitability</i>

## ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

Course	Course type	Exam board	Enrolment information
<b>Core Maths</b>	Level 3 Certificate	<b>AQA</b>	<b>This is an extra qualification (equiv to 1 AS Level) and would be studied alongside your 3 x course choices.</b> This qualification would suit students choosing to study Psychology, Sociology, Geography, Biology, Chemistry, Applied Science, Accounting, Economics and Business (or any course with a Maths element except A-level Maths/F Maths). <b>Students must not have chosen to study A-Level Mathematics or Further Mathematics.</b>
<b>Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)</b>	Level 3 EPQ	AQA	The EPQ is an additional qualification studied in the second year of study, equivalent to 1 AS Level, that allows you to develop your personal interest in a topic or area that interests you.