

## Contextual Offers October 2024

We are committed to ensuring that all students with the merit and potential to benefit from an Essex education are supported to do so. We're proud that an Essex education transforms our students lives and equips them with the knowledge and skills to be active, impactful citizens, locally and globally.

Don't just take our word for it. Essex is ranked Top 30 in the Guardian University Guide 2024 and 4<sup>th</sup> in the U.K. for 'value added'. This measures the effectiveness of our teaching and support for students in unlocking the potential of every student: wherever you come from and whatever your background.

### What is a contextual offer?

We make contextual offers because we understand your grades can be influenced by a range of factors. A contextual offer is personalised to you and your potential to succeed as an Essex undergraduate student – as well as what you have achieved so far.

If you are eligible for a contextual offer – it may be an offer that is up to two A-level grades, or equivalent, below our standard conditional offer.

Contextual offers will be made to eligible applicants taking A-levels, a Level 3 BTEC Extended Diploma, a combination of qualifications that hold UCAS tariff points (e.g., A-levels alongside a BTEC) and the International Baccalaureate. Where possible, we will make contextual offers to eligible applicants holding other qualifications. If the standard offer is already at the contextual offer equivalent level based on your individual offer conditions or qualifications (e.g. UAL Level 3 Extended Diploma), we may be unable to make you a contextual offer. For further information about what a contextual offer may look like for your specific qualification profile, please contact our [Admissions team](#).

Factors we will take into account when making contextual offers include:

- Applicants from underrepresented groups
- Applicants progressing from University of Essex Schools Membership schools/colleges
- Applicants who attend a compulsory admissions interview
- Applicants who attend an Offer Holder Day at our Colchester or Southend campus

However, there will be other circumstances – and further eligibility criteria are detailed below.

### How do I get a contextual offer?

You don't need to do anything to be considered and the application process is the same; submit your application and if you're eligible for a contextual offer, you'll receive information about this in your offer letter.

If you are not eligible for a contextual offer at the point of your first offer but can be made a contextual offer following an Offer Holder Day, your offer will be amended within 5 working days following attendance.

Please note your offer may contain specific conditions (for example a specific grade in a specific A-level or GCSE) and unless specifically stated in your contextual offer, these conditions will still be required for your chosen course.

### Does every programme make contextual offers?

Contextual offers are not available for the following courses or subject areas:

- East 15
- Physiotherapy
- Oral Health Science (foundation degree and top-up year)
- Essex Pathways degrees with foundation

- LLB Licence English and French Law
- LLB Law Senior Status
- Edge Hotel School
- Therapeutic Communication & Therapeutic Organisations (BA and FdA)
- Certificate of Higher Education in Health and Social Care
- Apprenticeships

### Who is eligible for a contextual offer?

Applicants who apply in the 2024 cycle may be made a contextual offer based on one of the following criteria:

1. Applicants who apply through UCAS from one of the categories below (the information to identify whether an applicant is eligible for a contextual offer on this basis comes to us via the UCAS application form):
  - **ESTRANGED**  
Home fee paying students residing in the UK who are estranged from their parents.
  - **YOUNG CARER**  
Home fee paying students residing in the UK who helped to look after someone in their family who is ill, disabled, has a mental health condition.
  - **MILITARY FAMILIES**  
Home fee paying students residing in the UK who have a parent or carer serving in the Armed Forces.
  - **REFUGEE/ASYLUM SEEKER**  
Where residing in the UK: home fee paying students with 'refugee status' or 'Humanitarian Protection', and asylum seekers.
  - **FREE SCHOOL MEAL RECIPIENTS**  
Home fee paying students residing in the UK, who are (or have been) eligible or receiving free school meals during their secondary education.
  - **POLAR4 QUINTILE 1 & 2**  
Home fee paying students residing in the UK where there is low progression to Higher Education, defined as Quintiles 1 and 2 from OFS POLAR4 data.
  - **CARE EXPERIENCED**  
Home fee paying students residing in the UK, who have experience of care. This could include students who have spent time living with foster carers under local authority care, in residential care (e.g. a children's home), looked after at home under a supervision order, or in kinship care with relatives or friends, either officially (e.g. a special guardianship order) or informally without local authority support.
2. Home fee paying students residing in the UK, progressing directly from a Schools Membership school or college to include:
  - Schools Membership Plus
  - Schools Membership London
  - Schools Membership South East
  - Schools Membership Midlands

Membership schools are included at Appendix 1.
3. Home fee paying students residing in the UK who attend an Offer Holder Day at either our Colchester or Southend campus. Only applicants who have not already been made a contextual offer prior to attending an Offer Holder Day will be eligible for this category.

4. Home fee paying students residing in the UK who have applied for one of the following courses in our School of Health and Social Care and receive an offer following a compulsory interview:
  - BSc Nursing (Mental Health)
  - BSc Nursing (Adult)
  - BA Social Work
  - BSc Occupational Therapy
  - BSc Speech and Language Therapy
  - Integrated Master in Science: Nursing

Specific applicant criteria are outlined above – in addition there are also some applicants who are **not eligible**. These include:

- Second/final year entrants
- Recognised link agreement applicants
- Applicants taking vocational or work-based learning qualifications
- Applicants taking qualifications graded either 'pass' or 'fail'

## Appendices

### Appendix 1 - Schools Membership partner schools

#### Schools Membership Plus:

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| Attleborough Academy                                 |
| Basildon Upper Academy                               |
| Brentwood County High School                         |
| Cecil Jones Academy                                  |
| Chelmsford College                                   |
| Clacton Coastal Academy                              |
| Colchester County High School For Girls              |
| Copleston Sixth Form                                 |
| East Norfolk Sixth Form                              |
| Greensward Academy                                   |
| Harwich and Dovercourt High School                   |
| Havering Sixth Form College                          |
| Hedingham School & Sixth Form                        |
| Hylands School                                       |
| Jo Richardson Community School                       |
| King Edmund School                                   |
| New Rickstone's Academy                              |
| Northgate Sixth Form                                 |
| Notley High School and Braintree Sixth Form          |
| Palmers & Seevic College                             |
| Plume School   |
| Sigma Sixth Colchester                               |
| Sigma Sixth Tendring                                 |
| South Essex College                                  |
| Suffolk New College                                  |
| Suffolk One  |
| Tendring Technology College                          |
| The FitzWimarc School                                |
| The Sandon School                                    |
| The Sixth Form College Colchester                    |
| Thomas Gainsborough School                           |
| Thurstable School Sports College & Sixth Form Centre |

#### Schools Membership London:

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| All Saints Catholic School & Technology College      |
| Barking and Dagenham College                         |
| Barnet and Southgate College                         |
| Beal High School                                     |
| Beths Grammar School                                 |
| BSix Brooke House Sixth Form College                 |
| Christ the King Sixth Form College: Aquinas          |
| Christ The King Sixth Form College: Emmanuel         |
| Christ the King Sixth Form College: St Mary's        |
| City and Islington College, CANDI Sixth Form College |
| City of Westminster College                          |

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| Haringey Sixth Form College               |
| Highlands School                          |
| Kingston College                          |
| Leyton VI Form College                    |
| New City College: Epping Forest           |
| Newham Sixth Form College (NEWVIC)        |
| Oaks Park High School                     |
| Queen Elizabeth's Girls School, Barnet    |
| Sir George Monoux College                 |
| Southgate School                          |
| St Angela's Ursuline School               |
| St Annes Catholic High School for Girls   |
| St Charles Catholic Sixth Form College    |
| St Francis Xavier Sixth Form College      |
| The Chadwell Heath Academy                |
| Uxbridge College                          |
| Westminster Kingsway College              |
| Westminster Kingsway College, Kings Cross |
| Woodhouse College, Finchley               |

**Schools Membership South East:**

|   |
|---|
| (BHASVIC) Brighton Hove and Sussex Sixth Form College |
| (HSDC) Havant and South Downs College                 |
| Andover College                                       |
| Barton Peveril College                                |
| Bexhill College, Bexhill on Sea                       |
| Brockenhurst College                                  |
| Cheam High School                                     |
| Chichester College                                    |
| Collyers VI Form College                              |
| East Sussex College Group, Lewes                      |
| Esher College   |
| Glyn School   |
| Godalming College                                     |
| Greater Brighton Metropolitan College                 |
| Harris Academy Merton                                 |
| Hayes School  |
| Langley Park School for Girls                         |
| Northbrook College, Sussex                            |
| Peter Symonds College                                 |
| Portsmouth College                                    |
| Queen Mary's College                                  |
| Reading College                                       |
| Reigate College                                       |
| Strode's College                                      |
| The Langley Park School for Boys                      |
| The Sixth Form College Farnborough                    |
| Townley Grammar School                                |
| Varndean College                                      |
| West Kent College (Tonbridge)                         |
| Woking College  |

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| Worthing College |
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**Schools Membership Midlands:**

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| Arthur Terry School                                       |
| Bilborough Sixth Form College                             |
| Birmingham Ormiston Academy                               |
| Boston College  |
| Cadbury Sixth Form College                                |
| Caludon Castle Business & Enterprise                      |
| Coventry College  |
| Halesowen College   |
| John Port Spencer Academy                                 |
| Joseph Chamberlain Sixth Form College                     |
| King Edward VI College, Stourbridge                       |
| Leicester College   |
| Loughborough College                                      |
| Moulton College   |
| Newcastle and Stafford Colleges Group - Stafford Campus   |
| Newcastle and Stafford Colleges Group (Newcastle Campus)  |
| Northampton College                                       |
| Northampton School for Boys                               |
| Nottingham College  |
| Rawlins Academy   |
| Shrewsbury Sixth Form College (Shrewsbury Colleges Group) |
| Solihull College & University Centre                      |
| Solihull Sixth Form College                               |
| Stamford College  |
| Sutton Coldfield College (Birmingham Met College)         |
| The Beauchamp College                                     |
| The Ferrers School  |
| Thomas Telford School (City Technology College)           |
| Wolverhampton Girls' High School                          |
| Wyggeston & Queen Elizabeth I College (WQE Leicester)     |