

Qualifications Policy

Title: The University of Southampton International Baccalaureate Career-Related Programme (IBCP) Statement

From: Nicky Stecker-Doxat (*Educational Policy Development Officer*) **Date:** May 2017

In response to the increase in applicants applying to University with a greater mix of Level 3 qualifications, the University of Southampton is reviewing its admissions policies and selection criteria to ensure that these remain appropriate, and importantly that there is no disadvantage to our applicants. The UoS will continue to demonstrate its ongoing commitment to fair admissions and give equal consideration to all applicants who possess the necessary knowledge and skills. As such a holistic decision will be made, giving careful consideration to an individual's academic achievement and taking in to account the context and circumstances of their pre-university education.

Taking in to account the above, the following principles for the selection of applicants who have undertaken the IBCP will apply:

- Offers will be based on the equivalent of three full A-Levels, irrespective of the total combined size of the qualifications taken.
- Offers will be made on the individual Diploma Course subject(s) and the career-related study qualification. The CP core will not form part of the offer.
- It may be appropriate in some instances to make a dual offer on the Diploma course subject(s) and the career-related study qualification, giving an applicant some flexibility in the grades to achieve (e.g. H6 D*D or H7 DD).
- Where there is a subject pre-requisite(s), applicants will be required to study the subject(s) at Higher Level in the Diploma course subject and/or take a specified unit in the career-related study qualification. Applicants may also be asked to achieve a specific grade in those elements.
- Where the career-related study programme meets the subject pre-requisite(s), and the total combination of the career-related qualification and the Diploma courses exceed the equivalent of three A-Levels, it may be appropriate to study the Diploma course subject(s) at Standard Level.
- It is expected that IBCP applicants would show breadth of study in achievement in their qualifications, and therefore taking a Diploma course subject(s) and a career-related study qualification in the same subject area may not be appropriate (for example, Business Management Higher Level and Pearsons BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Business). Similarly, subjects that contain a high proportion of common material may also not be deemed acceptable as two separate qualifications.

Further information regarding the University's admissions policies, entry requirements and selection criteria can be found in the [University of Southampton Admissions Policy](#) and on the individual [course webpages](#). As with all of our admissions policies, the UoS will continue to monitor and review its selection criteria to ensure that it is fulfilling its aim of attracting the most talented students, irrespective of educational background.