

## **GCSE and equivalent qualifications for entry to initial teacher training courses at the Faculty of Education**

The following list outlines the GCSE entry requirements for initial teacher training courses at the Faculty of Education and lists the qualifications that the Faculty regards as equivalent.

The list is modelled on advice from the Department for Education and Skills (DfES), the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) and the Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA).

The qualifications shown are not exhaustive and are reviewed regularly. It is the Faculty's decision, based upon the advice from the appropriate bodies, that determines whether candidates meet the minimum GCSE requirements. If you are in any doubt as to whether you have reached the required level, please contact the Faculty and we will be happy to discuss this with you.

The TDA publication *Qualifying to teach: professional standards for qualified teacher status and requirements for initial teacher training* states that all entrants to ITT courses must have achieved a standard equivalent to a grade C in the GCSE examination in English and Mathematics before they join an ITT course. In addition, from 1 October 2006 all applicants that wish to enter a primary, foundation or key stages 2/3 course (PGCE Primary, Early, BA QTS), will need to demonstrate an equivalent standard to GCSE grade C in Science. This ruling is irrespective of the applicant's date of birth.

The following UK qualifications are accepted as meeting the GCSE requirements at the Faculty of Education. Please note that the GCE O-, AO- and OA-level qualifications must be pass grades (normally these are A, B or C). CSE must be at grade 1 and CEE at grades I, II or III. This list is a guide only and is not exhaustive.

### **English**

#### **Any UK board:**

- CSE in English, English language or English studies
- CEE in English
- A2/AS-level in English language or English literature (but not an O-level pass achieved at A-level sitting)

#### **AEB (now AQA):**

- OA-level in English language (professional and business use)
- A-level in English language and literature

#### **JMB/NEAB (now AQA):**

- OA-level in additional English
- University entrance test in English for speakers of other languages
- O-level in humanities

**SEB:**

- Until 1985, C or above on the ordinary grade of the Scottish certificate of education
- In or after 1986, grade 3 or above on the standard grade of the Scottish certificate of education
- Higher grade English
- Grade C or above in the certificate of sixth-year studies in English

**Irish Republic awards:**

- In or after 1975, leaving certificate in English language at grade C or above (ordinary) or at grade D or above (honours)

**European baccalaureate:**

- Pass in English as a mother tongue or English as a foreign language

**International baccalaureate:**

- Higher or subsidiary level in English language at grade 4 or above

**BTEC:**

- Any first, national or higher national certificate or diploma in English

**Open University:**

- A pass in any undergraduate course prefixed with the letter 'A' or 'D'

**University of London Examinations and Assessment Council:**

- Certificate of attainment in English at level 4 or above

**RSA:**

- Stage III (advanced) in English

**University of Cambridge English for speakers of other languages:**

- Business English certificate (higher)
- Certificate of English language skills (higher)
- International English language testing system (IELTS) (band score 6 or above)

**Edexcel:**

- IGCSE in English language or English literature

**CIE:**

- IGCSE in English language or English literature

**Access to Higher Education / Teacher Training:**

- Inclusion of English GCSE equivalent within Access qualification

**Mathematics****Any UK board:**

- GCE O-level in mathematics (including 'O' in SCE)
- CSE in mathematics
- CEE in mathematics
- O-level or AO-level in additional mathematics
- A2/AS-level (or O-level achieved at A-level sitting) in mathematics or in any A-level subject with mathematics in its title

- A2-level in statistics (but not an O-level pass achieved at A-level sitting)
- AO in statistics, additional statistics or pure mathematics with statistics

**AEB (now AQA):**

- O-level in commercial mathematics, general mathematics, modern mathematics, technical mathematics, or technical (building) mathematics

**London:**

- AO-level in applicable mathematics, mathematics and theoretical mechanics, pure mathematics and probability

**SEG:**

- GSCE in mathematical studies

**O & C:**

- O-level in general mathematics
- AO-level in mathematics for biology

**JMB/NEAB (now AQA):**

- O-level in commercial mathematics
- AO-level in mathematical studies

**SUB:**

- O-level in commercial mathematics and statistics

**SEB:**

- Until 1985, C or above on the ordinary grade of the Scottish certificate of education
- In or after 1986, grade 3 or above on the standard grade of the Scottish certificate of education
- Higher grade mathematics
- Grade C or above in the certificate of sixth-year studies in mathematics

**Irish Republic awards:**

- In or after 1975, leaving certificate in mathematics at grade C or above (ordinary) or at grade D or above (honours)

**European baccalaureate:**

- Mathematics

**International baccalaureate:**

- Higher or subsidiary level in mathematics at grade 4 or above

**ONC/D:**

- Science, mathematics or technology are acceptable in principle, but the pattern should be scrutinised to ascertain equivalence

**BTEC/TEC/BEC:**

- Higher national certificate or diploma award in mathematics
- Any national certificate or national diploma award that incorporates a pass with merit or distinction in mathematics at level 1 or higher

- A technician studies certificate that incorporates a pass with merit or distinction in mathematics at level 1 (The actual content and combination of the modules studied may also determine whether a qualification is considered to be equivalent.)
- Higher national certificate or diploma award in mathematics, statistics and computing; or in computing

**Open University:**

- A pass in any undergraduate course prefixed with the letter 'M' or 'T'

**Edexcel:**

- IGCSE in mathematics

**CIE:**

- IGCSE in mathematics

**Access to Higher Education / Teacher Training:**

- Inclusion of maths GCSE equivalent within Access qualification

## Science

From 1 October 2006 all applicants that wish to enter a primary, foundation or key stages 2/3 course (PGCE Primary, Early Years, BA QTS), will need to demonstrate an equivalent standard to GCSE grade C in science. This ruling is irrespective of the applicant's date of birth.

**Any UK board:**

- GCE O-level or A2/AS-level (including O in SCE) in any science subject (physics, chemistry, biology, human biology, general science, geology)
- CSE in any science subject
- Zoology A2-level

**BTEC:**

- First diploma in science: pass with merit or distinction
- Science modules from the national diploma: pass with merit or distinction (The actual content or combination of modules studied may also determine whether a qualification is considered to be equivalent.)

**Open University:**

- A pass in any undergraduate course prefixed with the letter 'S'

**Edexcel:**

- IGCSE in science (double award)
- IGCSE in biology, chemistry or physics

**CIE:**

- IGCSE in biology, chemistry or physics
- IGCSE in physical science, coordinated sciences or combined science

**Access to Higher Education / Teacher Training:**

- Inclusion of science GCSE equivalent within Access qualification

## Other UK Qualifications

Please note that Level 2 key skills in application of number and communication, and certificates in adult literacy and adult numeracy, are not sufficient to meet the Faculty's GCSE equivalent requirement. Although these qualifications are at the same level of the national qualifications framework (NQF) as GCSE A-C grades, they do not cover the full breadth of knowledge demanded by GCSEs.

Candidates who hold an Open College Network qualification in English, mathematics or science may be considered to meet the Faculty's GCSE equivalent requirement depending on the number and level of common core modules achieved and the Faculty's assessment of the syllabus that the candidate studied.

In order for the Faculty to assess the candidate's OCN syllabus the candidate must first ensure that they meet one of the criteria noted in the table below.

<b>Date of Award</b>	<b>Number/level of credits required in each subject before Faculty will assess syllabus</b>
Up to August 1996	4 credits at level 3
Between September 1996 and August 2004	4 credits at level 2
From September 2004 onwards	12 credits at level 2

## Equivalent overseas qualifications

If you are unsure about the equivalence of a qualification gained overseas, please contact the Faculty's Admissions Office.