



## Expanding your horizons

Updates on UK university  
entry requirements for Hong Kong students

The British Council welcomes the decisions by Oxford and other UK universities to admit students completing the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) direct to three-year undergraduate degree programmes and the admission requirements announced.

The universities of **Oxford, Manchester, Warwick, King's College London, Sheffield Hallam** and **Kent** are the first to announce admission requirements for HKDSE students from 2012. This follows a series of briefings with the Education Bureau, Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority and UK universities, organised by the British Council.

The universities have confirmed that they will accept students with academic results ranging from Levels 3 to 5\*, which are grades comparable to GCE A-levels at Grades E to A\* in the UCAS Tariff for the HKDSE. The **University of Oxford** will require three elective subjects at Level 5. For **University of Warwick** the average offer will be three Level 5s, for example. Sheffield Hallam will accept subjects from Level 3 and above.

**University of Cambridge** and **University College London** will also accept the qualification and confirm their requirements this autumn. Other UK universities will be finalising their requirements in the next few months.

Professor Michael Worton, Vice-Provost of **University College London** said: "The Hong Kong diploma marks a significant shift in secondary education. UCL is impressed by the care that has gone into preparing the diploma. We shall be evaluating the diploma carefully over the next couple of months with a view to indicating in detail UCL's requirements for undergraduate admission by September 2010."

Dr Geoff Parks, director of admissions for the University of Cambridge, said: "We welcome the introduction of the Hong Kong Diploma and are now considering the details of our entry requirements in this new system. We aim to publish these in the autumn."

Peter Upton, Director of British Council Hong Kong, said: "This is an important milestone for Hong Kong's education reforms. It is good news that UK universities are ready to accept students who have completed the HKDSE, with admission requirements that compare very fairly with those for GCE A-levels. This will ensure that from 2012 Hong Kong students can continue to have the choice of studying in UK universities immediately after leaving school."

The decisions by academic committees follow the announcement of the UCAS Tariff benchmarking of the HKDSE earlier this year and two rounds of briefings in UK, in March and June, organised by the British Council. In June, Mr Raymond Wong, Permanent Secretary for Education, led a delegation including Dr Catherine KK Chan, Deputy Secretary for Education; Dr Francis Cheung, Secretary General

of the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority (HKEAA), and Mr Eddie Ng, Chairman of the HKEAA. They met senior academics and admissions policy-makers from eight universities, including Oxford and Cambridge, University College London, Warwick, Bristol, King's College London, Imperial College and London School of Economics.

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## **FURTHER INFORMATION ON UK UNIVERSITY ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS FOR HKDSE**

**University of Bristol** will require three elective subjects (including extended Mathematics) ranging from 444 to 555\*, depending on specific programme requirements. In addition, English Language is required at Levels 4-5, or IELTS 6.5-7. Compulsory Mathematics Level 5\* plus Mathematics extended paper Level 5 will be accepted for programmes requiring GCE A-level Maths at Grade A. Level 3 will be required in other core subjects.

**University of Kent** will require for two subjects, at Level 5 and 4.

**King's College London** will require Levels 5 or above for the majority of subjects.

**The University of Manchester's** offers will range between 554 and 5\*55 for Core or Elective subjects, with subject specific grades stated where required for particular disciplines.

**University of Oxford** has published that it will require three Elective subjects at Level 5, while disciplines that require Mathematics will need Level 5\* in the compulsory component and Level 5 in the extended. The requirements are based on the UCAS Tariff for the HKDSE and are comparable to Oxford's standard offer of three As in GCE A-levels. Oxford's requirements can be found at [www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate\\_courses/international\\_students/international\\_qualifications/](http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate_courses/international_students/international_qualifications/).

**Oxford Brookes University** will require Levels 444 to 554 for core and elective subjects, depending on course. Subject requirements may be specified for particular courses. Its international foundation courses will require three subjects at Level 3. Further details can be found at [www.brookes.ac.uk/international/country/about/hongkong](http://www.brookes.ac.uk/international/country/about/hongkong)

**Sheffield Hallam** will base its offers on the UCAS Tariff for the HKDSE. It will require between 200 and 320 UCAS points depending on the subject applied for. Core and Elective subjects, including Liberal Studies, will be accepted at Levels 3 and above. Relevant **Category B Applied Learning** subjects that are "Attained with Distinction" will be accepted instead of 40 UCAS points for each subject gained at that level. English can be counted within the points, with a minimum requirement of Level 4. IELTS at 6-6.5 will be accepted as an alternative. In HKDSE grades, the offer for subjects requiring 200 UCAS points could be met with five subjects at Level 3 or three at Level 3 and one at Level 4, or one Level 5 and one Level 4, for example.

For **University of Warwick**, the average offer will be Level 5s in three Elective subjects. Where Mathematics is required, students will need compulsory and extended components.

**University of Warwick's international Higher Education Foundation Programme** will require an average of five subjects at Level 3, with more specific requirements for science streams such as mathematics and physics.

In the academic decisions to admit students with the Hong Kong diploma, universities have made reference to the UCAS Tariff, which enables them to compare performance in the HKDSE with GCE A-levels and other qualifications using tariff points.

Please refer to [www.hkeaa.edu.hk/en/ir/ircountry\\_hkdse.html](http://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/en/ir/ircountry_hkdse.html) for more details about the general admission requirements for HKDSE from different institutions.

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*(Last updated: 21 Jan 2011)*