

Contextual Offers October 2025

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 25 in the Guardian University Guide 2025 and 4th 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, or our Open Day at our Colchester Campus on 21 June 2025

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 (or our Open Day at Colchester on 21 June 2025), 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 2025 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.
 - **DISABILITY**
Home fee paying students residing in the UK who have declared one or more disability type on their application.
2. Home fee paying students residing in the UK, progressing directly from a Schools and Colleges Membership school to include:
 - Schools and Colleges Membership Plus
 - Schools and Colleges Membership London
 - Schools and Colleges Membership South East
 - Schools and Colleges 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.

Offer Holder Days take place between February – May. To enable those who receive offers later, who are unable to attend an Offer Holder Day, to benefit from attending an on-campus event and receiving a contextual offer, Home fee paying students residing in the UK who attend our Open Day at the Colchester campus on 21 June 2025 are also eligible for a contextual offer.

Only applicants who have not already been made a contextual offer prior to attending an Offer Holder Day or the Open Day on 21 June 2025 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 and Colleges Membership partner schools

Schools and Colleges Membership Plus:

Attleborough Academy
Basildon Upper Academy
Brentwood County High School
Cecil Jones Academy
Chelmsford College
Clacton Coastal Academy
Colchester County High School For Girls
Colchester Institute
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
Long Road Sixth Form College
New Rickstones 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 and Colleges Membership London:

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 London Academy, Southwark
City of Westminster College
Dagenham Park Church of England School
Haringey Sixth Form College
Highlands School
Kingston College
Leyton VI Form College
New City College: Epping Forest
New City College: Redbridge
Newham College of Further Education
Newham Sixth Form College (NEWVIC)
Oaks Park High School
Sir George Monoux College
Southgate School
St Angela's Ursuline School
St Charles Catholic Sixth Form College
St Francis Xavier Sixth Form College
Thomas Tallis School
Uxbridge College
Westminster Kingsway College

Schools and Colleges Membership South East:

Brighton Hove and Sussex Sixth Form College (BHASVIC)
Havant and South Downs College (HSDC)
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 (Hastings and Lewes)
Esher College
Glyn School
Godalming College
Greater Brighton Metropolitan College
Harris Academy Merton
Hayes School
Langley Park School for Girls
North Kent College (Dartford, Gravesend, and Tonbridge)
Northbrook College
Peter Symonds College
Portsmouth College (all campuses)
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
Woking College
Worthing College

Schools and Colleges Membership Midlands:

Arthur Terry School
Bilborough Sixth Form College
Birmingham Ormiston Academy
Boston College
Cadbury Sixth Form College
Caludon Castle Business & Enterprise
Coventry College
Halesowen College
High Pavement Sixth Form (Nottingham 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 and Newcastle Campus
Northampton College
Northampton School for Boys
Nottingham College
Rawlins Academy
Solihull College & University Centre
Solihull Sixth Form College
Stamford College
Sutton Coldfield College (Birmingham Met College)
The Beauchamp College
The Ferrers School
The Priory Academy LSST
Toot Hill College
Vision West Nottinghamshire College
Wolverhampton Girls' High School
Wyggeston & Queen Elizabeth I College (WQE Leicester)