

Ulster University is dedicated to ensuring that applicants to all our validated programmes have the support and advice they need to make an informed decision about studying with an Ulster validated programme in September 2020 and beyond.

We know that you will have a number of questions in light of government decisions taken to cancel examinations and closure of the college and university campuses due to the impact of COVID-19. We hope that this list of Frequently Asked Questions will go some way to addressing your questions and providing advice.

As new information comes to hand we will be updating Ulster webpages so please check them and the College's website regularly.

### **Is the College still accepting applications to Ulster-validated programmes (eg. FdSc, FdEng, CertHE, Cert, Access Diploma)?**

Yes absolutely. We are delighted to receive applications for those programmes that are still open for September 2020 and January 2021.

Please apply through the College's online application at:  
<https://www.nrc.ac.uk/your-application/how-to-apply>

You will find more information about the range of full and part-time programmes available to you at <https://www.nrc.ac.uk/search/?keywords=>

We are continuing to process applications as normal but please bear with us while we transition to full working-from-home arrangements. If you have an admissions related question, please contact us at [admissions@nrc.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@nrc.ac.uk)

### **I was planning to join an Ulster programme from a Foundation degree in September: what will happen?**

If you have applied through UCAS for entry to an Ulster programme, your application will be being processed as normal and the admissions team are continuing to process applications, but please bear with them while they transition to full working-from-home arrangements. If you have an admissions-related question, please contact them at [admissions@ulster.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@ulster.ac.uk).

### **I want to join an Ulster programme in 2020 but I haven't applied yet: are Ulster still accepting applications?**

Yes, you can still apply for many Ulster programmes. They are delighted to receive applications for those programmes that are still open for September 2020 and January 2021.

Please apply through UCAS at [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com) to apply for one of the full-time undergraduate programmes or for part-time programmes through the online application portal: [https://srssb.ulster.ac.uk/PROD/bwskalog.P\\_DisChoices](https://srssb.ulster.ac.uk/PROD/bwskalog.P_DisChoices)

You will find more information about the wide range of undergraduate and part-time programmes available to you at [www.ulster.ac.uk/study](http://www.ulster.ac.uk/study)

For programmes where applications are still being accepted, Ulster are continuing to process applications as normal but please bear with them while they transition to full working-from-home arrangements. If you have an admissions-related question, please contact us at [admissions@ulster.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@ulster.ac.uk)

### **Will summer bridging programmes for Ulster courses still happen?**

The summer bridging programmes for the **Ulster University Business School** and the Faculty of Computing, Engineering and the Built Environment programmes will be going ahead. If you have applied to a relevant programme in the Faculty, you will be invited to apply for the summer bridging programme and should receive an email from the Ulster Admissions' team detailing the arrangements for summer bridging and details for applying. If you have not received an email, or you have further questions please contact the Faculty Partnership Manager, Carol Reid at [ci.woodside@ulster.ac.uk](mailto:ci.woodside@ulster.ac.uk). For queries relating to **Computing, Engineering and the Built Environment**, please contact Faculty Partnership Manager Maeve Paris, at [m.paris@ulster.ac.uk](mailto:m.paris@ulster.ac.uk)

### **How will Ulster University make offers for the students from Foundation degrees?**

Offers to students from Foundation degree programmes will happen as normal, after the June and August Exam Boards.

### **I had a selection interview for my professional programme. Does it still count?**

Where required as part of the application process for a course, all face-to-face interviews that were held before the university and colleges closed for teaching and social activities will count and will be used to assess your suitability for the programme you applied for.

### **My face-to-face interview was cancelled. What happens now?**

All applicants who had an interview scheduled to take place on campus on or after 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020 will already have received a communication advising that all face-to-face interviews had to be cancelled in light of government advice. Alternative interview arrangements have been in place. Please follow the instructions you received. You can contact [admissions@ulster.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@ulster.ac.uk) if you need more information.

### **How will Ulster University and the Colleges make offers now that level 2 & 3 exams (ie. GCSE and A levels) have been cancelled?**

We appreciate this is an anxious time. We want to reassure you that Ulster University is communicating with the relevant statutory and regulatory bodies to get more clarity on the alternative arrangements being agreed so we can communicate with you. Our applicants are our first priority in the Admissions team and we will do all we can to support you through these uncertain times.

The Department of Education in Northern Ireland has stated that their plan is to use a combination of prior achievements, internal assessed teacher tracking information,

predicted grades, and analysis of modelling of existing data to provide the necessary assurance about the robustness, accuracy and fairness of the grades being awarded. CCEA and other UK awarding bodies are working to provide this information so that grades can be awarded in lieu of examination results. Once these grades are awarded, the College will be able to process applications, in the normal way.

For University places, it is expected that all grades will be released to the Universities by the awarding bodies in July 2020 and they will confirm offers to all applicants who are still holding conditional offers at Ulster University at that time.

### **I already have an unconditional offer. Is it still valid?**

Yes. If your offer is unconditional and you firmly accept that offer, your place is confirmed at Ulster University.

### **What about other Level 3 qualifications such as BTECs?**

We are fully aware that GCSE and A level exams weren't the only qualifications affected. There are many others, including BTECs, Access and Foundation programmes and International Baccalaureate programmes. Ulster are in touch with the relevant awarding bodies and await their official guidance as to how they will award grades in lieu of examinations. They will ensure fairness in the assessment of your qualifications too.

### **What about Irish Leaving Certificate applicants?**

We welcome applications from our applicants from the Republic of Ireland and we will ensure fairness in the assessment of your qualifications too. At the moment scheduled exams for the Irish Leaving Certificate are still due to go ahead. If the normal examination scheduled is able to be followed we will confirm offers during the confirmation period in the summer time as we normally would.

Ulster University will monitor this situation and provide more information as decisions are taken and communicated by the Irish government.

### **I applied for a professional programme at the College or Ulster University. How will this be affected?**

We will ensure that all selection processes for programmes such as Social Work, Nursing, Community Youth Work and Allied Health programmes will continue to be carried out, in accordance with regionally agreed guidelines where necessary, in order to allow us to rank applicants in order of merit. These include all selection tests and planned interviews. Some programmes, such as the BSc Nursing [Adult] and BSc Nursing [Mental Health] have already completed their rescheduled interview, replacing the face-face interview with a video interview. All affected students have been contacted and the process is now complete.

**I need to do a secure English language test to meet my conditions for offer.  
Where can I get more information?**

Covid-19 updates for English Language Tests can be found on the links below:

[IELTS](#)

[PTE](#)

[TOEFL](#)

[Trinity College London](#)

[Cambridge](#)

**Will teaching commence as planned for my programme of study?**

On the basis of current information available, start dates for programmes remain as published but we accept that this may be subject to change. We will continue to update you as new information becomes available and decisions are made.