

Choose the right pathway



Making choices about what to study can often be difficult when faced with so many options including subjects that may be new to you.

You may want to consider the course content, how it is assessed and which courses combine well. By visiting our website, you will gain more information that may help you decided on a programme.

When planning your programme you should take into account what your GCSE or prior achievement is likely to be, what you are interested in and how studying a subject may prepare or qualify you for what you want to do after leaving college.

We offer different levels of programmes and you will have advice on which suits you best based on your GCSE results. If you enrol onto an Entry Level, Level 1 or Level 2 programme, you will be given advice and guidance to progress internally onto the next level.

Your study programme

The college offers an unrivalled range of courses from Entry Level to Level 3, meaning that we can help find the right programme for you.

The vast majority of student at WQE will enrol onto a Level 3 programme, which may consist of vocational and/or academic courses. It is important to choose a combination of courses that suits your preferred way of study and careers aspirations.

Our programmes of study and individual courses have specific entry criteria; we can give you good advice about the best match for your current abilities, interests and needs.



As a guide, use the table below to identify the level and the programme type that best matches the qualifications with which you expect to enrol at WQE. Within a programme, individual course/subject specific entry requirements apply. These can be checked on our website.

Entering with	Level	Programme	Duration	Leads to...
6 GCSEs grade 9–4 (A* - C) including English Language; at least 2 GCSEs at 5 or above	Level 3	A Levels	2 Years	University Employment Higher/Degree Apprenticeships
5 GCSEs grade 9–4 (A* - C) including English Language	Level 3	Applied General Level 3	2 Years	University Employment Higher/Degree Apprenticeships
5 GCSEs grade 3-4 (D/C) including English Language	Level 2	GCSE Technical Level 2	1 Year	Level 3 courses
5 GCSEs grade 2+ including English Language	Level 1	Employability English Maths	1 Year	Level 2 courses
5 GCSEs Grade 1 (F+) or below	Entry level	English Maths ICT	1 Year	Level 1 courses

A-level courses

We normally expect applicants to have achieved good GCSE passes in at least six subjects, these must:

- demonstrate the suitability for Advanced Level study
- have been achieved at grade 4/C as a minimum
- include two at grade 5/B as a minimum
- include English Language - a minimum of grade 4/C

Mathematics - If not achieved within the scope of above should normally be achieved at a minimum of grade 3 (D). If mathematics is not achieved at grade 4 (C) then it will be a requirement to continue to study at the correct level until a grade 4 is achieved. Subject with a mathematical content will require a higher grade.

Subject entry criteria

Accounting	Grade 4 in GCSE Mathematics and grade 5 in English Language
Art, Fine	Grade 4 or above in GCSE Art and Design or grade 4 or above in GCSE Design and Technology (Graphic Products or Resistant Materials) In order to fully support students who have gained a Grade 4 in GCSE in an Art and Design or Design Technology subject, or those who have not had the opportunity to study these subjects at GCSE, a short drawing task will form part of the enrolment procedure. This is to ensure applicants can successfully meet the rigours of the course. It would be helpful for students to bring examples of their creative work at enrolment.
Art, Craft and Design	Grade 4 or above in a GCSE Art and Design course or Grade 4 in GCSE Design and Technology (Graphic Products or Resistant Materials). See additional information regarding drawing task under Art, Fine
Biology	Grade 5 in GCSE English Language and Mathematics. Grade 66 or above in GCSE Combined Science (Higher Tier) or a minimum of 655 in the separate sciences which should normally include grade 6 in Biology
Business	Grade 4 in GCSE Mathematics and grade 5 in GCSE English Language
Chemistry	Grade 5 in GCSE English Language and grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics. Grade 66 or above in GCSE Combined Science (Higher Tier) or minimum 655 in individual sciences which should normally include grade 6 or above in Chemistry
Computer Science	Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics and Grade 5 in GCSE English language or English Literature
Drama and Theatre Studies	Practical performance experience desirable
Economics	Grade 5 or above in GCSE English Language and Mathematics

Electronics	Grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics. Minimum grade 5 in GCSE Combined Science with a minimum grade 5 in Physics
English Language	Grade 5 in both GCSE English Language and Literature. One grade 5 will be acceptable for students who did not have the option to sit two English GCSEs
English Language and Literature	Grade 5 in both GCSE English Language and Literature. One grade 5 will be acceptable for students who did not have the option to sit two English GCSEs
English Literature	Grade 5 in both GCSE English Language and Literature. One grade 5 will be acceptable for students who did not have the option to sit two English GCSEs
Fashion and Textiles	Grade 4 or above in GCSE Art and Design or grade 4 or above in GCSE Design and Technology (Graphic Products or Resistant Materials) See additional information regarding drawing task under Art, Fine
Film Studies	Grade 5 or above in GCSE English Language
French	Grade 5 or above in GCSE English Language and grade 6 or above in GCSE French
Geography	Grade 5 or above in GCSE English Language and Geography. Grade 4 or above in GCSE Mathematics and Double Science also required
German	Grade 5 or above in GCSE English Language and grade 6 or above in German
Graphic Communication	Grade 4 or above in a GCSE Art and Design course or Grade 4 in GCSE Design and Technology (Graphic Products or Resistant Materials). See additional information regarding drawing task under Art, Fine
History	Grade 5 in GCSE English Language and a minimum grade 5 or above in History (if taken)
History, Ancient	Grade 5 or above in GCSE English Literature and English Language. A minimum of grade 5 or above in History (if taken)
Law	Grade 5 in GCSE English Language
Mathematics	Grade 6 or above in GCSE Mathematics. Students achieving the minimum grade 6 will be required to take an algebra assessment at enrolment to determine their suitability for the course.
Maths, Further	Grade 8 or 9 in GCSE Mathematics. Grades 8-9 or A/A* in all subjects normally required
Media Studies	Grade 5 or above in GCSE English Language

Music	Grade 5 or above in GCSE Music and at least grade 6 standard on an instrument or voice.
Photography	Grade 4 or above in a GCSE Art and Design course or Grade 4 in GCSE Design and Technology (Graphic Products or Resistant Materials). Previous photographic experience is useful but not essential. We will consider applications from students who don't have Art GCSE but can show they have had experience of photography.
Physical Education	A minimum of: Grade 5 in Combined Science or if separate sciences taken a grade 5 in Biology, Grade 4 in Maths, Grade 6 in GCSE PE (if taken) or Distinction in Level 2 BTEC/Cambridge Technical Sport (if taken) Students intending to take A level Physical Education should have already attained a high standard of performance in one sport.
Physics	Grade 5 in GCSE English Language and grade 6 in Mathematics. Grade 6 or above in Combined Science (Higher Tier) or a minimum of 655 in the separate sciences which should normally include grade 6 or above in Physics
Politics	Grade 5 in GCSE English Language
Product Design	Grade 4 or above in a GCSE Art and Design course or Grade 4 in GCSE Design and Technology (Graphic Products or Resistant Materials). See additional information regarding drawing task under Art, Fine.
Psychology	Grade 5 or above in GCSE English Language, grade 4 or above in GCSE Maths and a minimum of two GCSE Sciences at grade 4 or above.
Religious Studies	Grade 5 in GCSE English Language
Sociology	Standard College entry requirements
Spanish	Grade 5 in GCSE English Language and grade 6 or above in GCSE Spanish

Advanced Level vocational courses

We normally expect applicants to have achieved a minimum of five GCSEs, at grades A*-C/4–9, including English Language, from a mixture of GCSEs and equivalents.

Applicants wishing to study a mixture of A Level and BTEC programme are required to meet the A level standard college requirements.

The A Level 'equivalences' for vocational courses are as follows

Course type	'Equivalence'
BTEC National Extended Certificate	1 A Level
BTEC National Diploma	2 A Levels
BTEC National Extended Diploma	3 A Levels
Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate	1 A Level
Cambridge Technical Diploma	2 A Levels
Cambridge Technical Extended Diploma	3 A Levels

Subject entry criteria

Art and Design Level 3 Cambridge Diploma	Grade 4 or above in a GCSE Art and Design course or Grade 4 in GCSE Design and Technology (Graphic Products or Resistant Materials). See additional information regarding drawing task under Art, Fine
Business Level 3 Cambridge Technical Certificate	Grade 4 in Maths GCSE
Business Level 3 Extended Certificate	Grade 4 in Maths GCSE
Business Level 3 Diploma	Grade 4 in Maths GCSE
Business Level 3 National Extended Diploma	Grade 4 in Maths GCSE
Health and Social Care Level 3 Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate	Grade 3 in Science or Physical Education GCSE
Health and Social Care Level 3 Cambridge Technical Diploma	Grade 3 in Science or Physical Education GCSE
Health and Social Care Level 3 Cambridge Technical Extended Diploma	Grade 3 in Science or Physical Education GCSE
ICT Level 3 National Extended Certificate	Grade 4 or above in GCSE Mathematics
ICT Level 3 National Diploma	Grade 4 or above in GCSE Mathematics
ICT Level 3 National Extended Diploma	Grade 4 or above in GCSE Mathematics
Law Level 3 Extended Certificate	Grade 4 or above in GCSE Mathematics
Media Level 3 Extended Certificate	Standard College entry requirements

Performing Arts Level 3 Extended Diploma (Dance or Musical Theatre at Studio 79)	Standard College entry requirements
Performing Arts Level 3 Extended Diploma (Musical Theatre at LCPA)	Standard College entry requirements
Psychology Level 3 National Extended Certificate	GCSE grade 4 or above in Maths, English Language and two Sciences
Science Level 3 National Extended Certificate	Grade 44 or above in GCSE Combined Science, or grade 4 in two of the Separate Sciences, or a minimum of a Pass grade in BTEC Level 2 Certificate in Applied Science
Science Level 3 Diploma	Grade 44 or above in GCSE Combined Science, or grade 4 in two of the Separate Sciences, or a minimum of a Pass grade in BTEC Level 2 Certificate in Applied Science
Sport & Physical Activity Level 3 Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate	Grade 44 or above in GCSE Combined Science and either grade 4 or above in GCSE PE or Merit or above in Level 2 BTEC/Cambridge Technical Sport. Leadership/coaching experience is preferable.
Sport & Physical Activity Level 3 Cambridge Technical National Diploma	Grade 44 or above in GCSE Combined Science and either grade 4 or above in GCSE PE or Merit or above in Level 2 BTEC/Cambridge Technical Sport. Leadership/coaching experience is preferable.
Sport & Physical Activity Level 3 Cambridge Technical Extended Diploma	Grade 44 or above in GCSE Combined Science and either grade 4 or above in GCSE PE or Merit or above in Level 2 BTEC/Cambridge Technical Sport. Leadership/coaching experience is preferable.

Level Two – GCSE and Vocational courses

We normally expect applicants to have achieved a minimum of five GCSEs, at grades D/3, including English Language, from a mixture of GCSEs and equivalents.

Any applicants wishing to study a mixture of GCSE and BTEC programme are required to meet the standard college requirements that should include grade D/3 in English Language.

Any applicants wishing to study a full Applied Level 2 BTEC programme alongside GCSE English and Maths are required to meet the standard college requirements. This should include grade D/3 in English Language.

The GCSE 'equivalences' for vocational courses are as follows

Course type	'Equivalence'
Certificate	1 GCSE
Extended Certificate	2 GCSE
Diploma	4 GCSEs

Subject entry criteria

Art	Standard College entry requirements
Biology Higher	Standard College entry requirements PLUS Core Science OR Additional Science at grade 3/D
Biology Foundation	Standard College entry requirements PLUS Core Science OR Additional Science at grade 2/E
Chemistry Higher	Standard College entry requirements PLUS Core Science OR Additional Science at grade 3/D
Chemistry Foundation	Standard College entry requirements PLUS Core Science OR Additional Science at grade 2/E
Citizenship	Standard College entry requirements
English Language	Standard College entry requirements
Graphics (Digital)	Standard College entry requirements
Mathematics	Standard College entry requirements
Photography	Standard College entry requirements
Psychology	Standard College entry requirements PLUS Science grade 3/D
Sociology	Standard College entry requirements

Business Level 2 Extended Certificate	Standard College entry requirements
Business Level 2 Diploma	Standard College entry requirements
Business Level 2 Diploma with Work Placement	Grade 3 or above in Maths GCSE
Health and Social Care Level 2 Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate	Standard College entry requirements
Health and Social Care Level 2 Cambridge Technical Diploma	Standard College entry requirements
ICT Level 2 Extended Certificate	Grade 3 or above in English Language GCSE
ICT Level 2 Diploma	Grade 3 or above in English Language GCSE
Law and Legal Work Level 2 Certificate	Standard College entry requirements
Media Level 2 Extended Certificate	Standard College entry requirements
Performing Arts L2 Diploma (Dance - Studio 79)	Standard College entry requirements
Sport Level 2 Cambridge Technical Certificate	Standard College entry requirements
Sport Level 2 Cambridge Technical Diploma	Standard College entry requirements

Level One – Vocational courses

We normally expect applicants to have achieved a minimum of five GCSEs, at grades E/2, including English Language, from a mixture of GCSEs and equivalents.

All Level 1 students study a programme, which includes English, Maths and Employability.

Subject entry criteria

Business Level 1 Certificate in Employability	Standard College entry requirements
Health Level 1 Certificate in Employability	Standard College entry requirements
ICT Level 1 Certificate in Employability	Standard College entry requirements
Science Level 1 Certificate in Employability	Standard College entry requirements

ESOL Entry Level courses

Students who enrol at the College with no qualifications will study an ESOL programme.

Entry Level 1 / 2 / 3	By assessment
Level 1	By assessment



The full Admissions Policy is available on the College website www.wqe.ac.uk

For further information regarding applying to WQE please contact our Admissions Team:

admissions@wqe.ac.uk

Please note all information is correct at the time of publication and may be subject to change.