



## **AD 06 –INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ADMISSIONS POLICY (UK STUDENT VISA ROUTE)**

**This policy applies to the admission of International students to full time programmes taught in the UK, leading to an Arden University award. Where a programme is validated by a partner university or other awarding body then entrance is based on the requirements of that body.**

### **INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ADMISSIONS POLICY (UK STUDENT VISA ROUTE)**

1. Arden University's international student admissions policy (UK student visa route) is consistent with its mission to be an independent Higher Education Institution (HEI) that delivers flexible and accessible UK university programmes globally, empowering its learners to realise their life goals and make a difference to the world around them. The policy is reviewed regularly to ensure it meets the expectation of the UK Quality Code for Higher Education (the Quality Code) published by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA), [the Data Protection Act 2018](#) and [the General Data Protection Regulation \(EU\) 2016/679](#) and Home Office Immigration Rules relating to student visa route in addition to related guidance documents and any subsequent amendments.
2. In addition to the entrance requirements specific for each programme of study as defined in the relevant programme specification, Arden University aims to attract individuals who:
  - Can demonstrate the ability to succeed on their chosen programme of study.
  - Will derive benefit from study in relation to personal and career development.
  - Have a commitment and enthusiasm to learn.
3. All applications are considered on individual merit in relation to the aims and learning outcomes of the relevant programme of study and ability to successfully apply for visa through the Student route.

### **EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY**

4. Arden University aims to ensure that there is equality of opportunity for all applicants, regardless of nationality, age, gender, ethnicity, disability, sexuality, marital status, political or religious belief or other unjustifiable grounds.
5. Arden University promotes widening participation and encourages access to all individuals consistent with their aspirations, and their ability to meet the academic demands and professional requirements of the programme of study.
6. Applicants with a disability or specific educational need are considered using the same entry requirements as for all other applicants.



7. Such applicants are strongly encouraged to disclose the nature of their disability or special educational needs on their application form or to contact Arden University's admissions team in relation to any concerns or special requirements regarding disability.

8. The specific requirements of students who disclose a disability or specific educational need on their application form or to the admissions team are referred to the Special Educational Needs advisor for an assessment of their specific needs and to enable Arden University to make any reasonable adjustments to enable the applicant to study with Arden University.

## **MONITORING**

9. Academic Board monitors Arden University's Admissions Policy, which is reviewed annually.

10. Statistics relating to student admission, enrolment, progression and retention are compiled annually and used to inform programme teams and the Academic Board through the annual monitoring process.

## **ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**

11. Arden University has sole discretion to determine:

- a. The entry criteria for each programme of study leading to an Arden University award.
- b. The admission of any individual applicant to a particular programme against the entry criteria for that programme of study.

12. All applications are assessed on an individual basis and admission to an Arden University programme of study is based on an assessment of the applicant's relative merits and abilities. The principal academic criterion for determining a candidate's suitability for admission to a programme is that there is a reasonable expectation that he/she will be able to fulfil the learning outcomes of the programme and achieve the standard required for an award. Arden University will look for evidence of academic achievement as well as personal and work/professional experience that provide an indication of ability to meet the academic demands and any professional requirements of the programme.

13. Specific entry criteria are specified in terms of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ), Chapter A1 of the QAA's Quality Code and the prior study requirements for the relevant programme of study. They may include educational qualifications (including minimum grades to be achieved) and the knowledge and skills required for admission. Where applicable, entry criteria may also include criteria defined by a Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body (PSRB).

14. The applicant must be aged 18 or over on the start date of their course.

15. Arden University publishes details of the entry criteria for each programme of study it offers. Applicants for admission to a programme of study must provide evidence that they have satisfied the entry criteria.



16. International qualifications are normally judged against UK NARIC<sup>1</sup> guidelines.

17. Where a programme is validated by a partner university or other awarding body then entrance is based on the requirements of that body.

18. Information contained on application forms is normally treated as confidential within Arden University and will only be used by Arden University for the purpose of making a decision on admission. Arden University reserve the right, however, to inform other relevant parties for the purposes of preventing fraud and impropriety e.g. Police, UKVI.

19. Arden University may, at its discretion, vary its standard offer, taking into account the individual circumstances of applicants.

20. Arden University may, if it has just cause, withdraw any offer to study on one of its programmes.

#### **APPLICANTS WITH A CRIMINAL CONVICTION**

21. In the majority of cases, a prior criminal conviction will not preclude a candidate from being offered a place at Arden University. Such applications will, however, be scrutinised in accordance with QA 49 *Principles and Procedures for the Admission of Students who have a Criminal Conviction* in order to ensure that none of the following will be put at risk:

- Arden University's students, staff or the wider Arden University community.
- The integrity of the programme.
- The integrity of Arden University's processes.
- Reputation.

22. Arden University reserves the right to withdraw an offer of a place, if the outcome of a disclosure indicates that such a risk exists or that the applicant will not be able to successfully complete the programme.

#### **ACCREDITATION OF PRIOR LEARNING (APL) AND PRIOR EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING (APEL)**

23. Applicants to a programme may be eligible for admission with credit through the accreditation of prior learning (APL) or accreditation of prior experiential learning (APEL). Applicants wishing to apply for APL/APEL must contact Arden University's admissions team and complete the appropriate forms for the case to be judged. Applications for APL/APEL will be considered in accordance with Arden University Quality Assurance Document QA6: APL/APEL Procedures.

#### **READMISSION TO A PROGRAMME**

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<sup>1</sup> UK NARIC is the National Agency working on behalf of the Government to provide information, advice and expert opinion on qualifications worldwide



24. A student who has exited a programme with an interim award because s/he has not fulfilled the requirements of a higher award, or who has been withdrawn from the programme on the grounds of academic failure may not be readmitted to the same programme, within a period of 3 years.

25. A student who has been previously withdrawn from a programme of study, for any reason other than expulsion or academic failure, may exceptionally be considered for readmission to the same programme on a case by case basis. In the case of international students this will be subject to;

- a) a written case being made and an interview being conducted by the relevant Admissions Tutor.
- b) full consideration of the student's circumstances in relation to UKVI regulations relating to academic progression and study time limits by Head of Quality, International.

26. Where readmission is sought (as above) with credit, cases will be considered in accordance with the University's normal regulations with regard to the Accreditation of Prior Learning.

27. A student excluded due to Unfair Practice offences or disciplinary matters will not be considered for readmission to any Arden University programme.

#### **ENGLISH LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS**

28. For candidates whose first language is not English, evidence is required of spoken and written ability in English through a UKVI approved Secure English Language Test (SELT). Approved providers are listed at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-applying-for-ukvisa-approved-english-language-tests>. Required levels are as follows;

- For an undergraduate programme an overall IELTS score of 6.0 is required, with a minimum of 5.5 in each component.
- Post graduate programmes require an overall score of 6.5, with a minimum of 6.0 in each component

29. Should it come to the University's attention that a student is unable to engage with their academic studies due to English language capabilities, Arden University reserves the right to re-test the student. If the student is unable to improve their English language skills to the required standard, Arden University reserves the right to refuse enrolment or withdraw the student from their course.

#### **INFORMATION AND ADVICE TO APPLICANTS**

30. Arden University is committed to providing clear, accurate, complete and accessible information on its programmes, relevant entry requirements and associated admissions procedures.

31. Arden University strives to ensure that clear, accessible information is made available with regard to any non-academic requirements for entry to its programmes. Where additional methods of assessment (e.g. interview or portfolio submission) are used to select candidates, this will be



explicitly stated for the benefit of applicants in Arden University's brochures and on Arden University website.

32. Entry criteria are published in the Arden University brochure and on the Arden University website.

33. Changes to any of Arden University's programmes involving significant restructuring or discontinuation will be communicated to applicants affected by such changes at the earliest possible opportunity. The Admissions team is responsible for co-ordinating the process of communicating with applicants affected by changes to programmes and ensuring that appropriate advice is given to applicants.

### **RESPONSIBILITIES**

34. Applications are processed by Arden University's Admissions team. Admissions decisions are made under the scrutiny of a suitably qualified Admissions Tutor.

35. The Head of Admissions is responsible for ensuring that the admissions processes are clear and updated regularly and in accordance with this policy document.

36. The Academic Board is responsible for reviewing this admissions policy annually in the context of feedback and information provided through the annual monitoring review process.

### **TIMEFRAMES**

37. Arden University undertakes to process applications within 2 working days.

### **FEEDBACK TO UNSUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS**

38. Feedback is provided to unsuccessful applicants. Feedback will normally only be provided to the applicants themselves and not to any third party e.g. parents or other family members, teachers, employers.

### **APPEALS AND COMPLAINTS**

39. There is normally no right of appeal for unsuccessful applicants unless an applicant demonstrates that there was an omission of a material nature in their application at the time the decision was made.

40. Where an applicant believes that their application has not been dealt with fairly, or in accordance with Arden University's policies, principles and procedures, they should first put their case in writing, addressed in the first instance, to the Head of Admissions.



41. If the above cannot resolve the matter, then applicants should follow the Arden University Admissions Complaints and Appeals procedure available at: <https://arden.ac.uk/terms-and-conditions>

42. Arden University will normally respond to all matters relating to appeals and complaints about admissions within 28 days.

For more admissions information and advice, please contact [admissions@arden.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@arden.ac.uk).