

## Royal Holloway Undergraduate Academic Excellence Scheme 2019

This scheme is aimed at some of our most academically gifted applicants and is open to those who have taken GCSEs or iGCSEs, or who are taking the International Baccalaureate Diploma.

In order to be considered for this scheme, you will need to demonstrate a record of outstanding academic achievement including high grades for GCSEs or a predicted high grade for the IB Diploma.

If you meet these requirements you will be made a conditional offer on receipt of your UCAS application and then given the opportunity to have this offer changed to unconditional should you make Royal Holloway, University of London, your firm choice. If you are applying for a degree in the Mathematics department, instead of an unconditional offer, you will receive a revised offer requiring grade A in A-level Maths.

We strongly encourage all applicants receiving unconditional offers to continue to work hard to achieve the best result possible in your exams. This is not only to do justice to your commitment to achievement so far, but also because these results can have a significant impact on your future prospects.

Many employers still use A-level or Level 3 qualifications as selection criteria, especially for competitive graduate jobs. Furthermore, every year there are a few applicants who find themselves unable to join the university in September as planned, for a variety of personal reasons. Unconditional offers cannot usually be deferred to the following year at Royal Holloway and there is no requirement for other universities to recognise our unconditional offer should you wish to change to a different university.

It's important to be aware that any missed schooling may also have a negative impact upon your ability to make a successful transition into the start of your university studies and, if you have an unconditional offer and have to withdraw, you are unlikely to be accepted onto another university course at a later stage, or secure suitable employment, if you've only completed GCSE or Level 2 qualifications.

### Frequently asked questions

#### **What exactly is an unconditional offer and what might it mean for me?**

An unconditional offer means that there are no conditions attached to you being admitted onto the course you applied to study at Royal Holloway. In addition, this means that we are confident that, on the evidence that you have provided, that you have the academic ability necessary to have every chance of being successful on your chosen degree course at Royal Holloway.

#### **How do I apply for this scheme?**

You do not apply directly to this scheme. You apply to study at Royal Holloway via UCAS in the normal way. We will review your UCAS application to see whether you meet the relevant criteria.

#### **How do I know whether I might be eligible?**

If you are applying for a degree course at Royal Holloway and have taken GCSEs or iGCSEs and achieved outstanding results, or you are taking the International Baccalaureate Diploma, you will be considered for this scheme.

**Am I eligible for this scheme if I am taking a combination of A-level and BTEC qualifications?**

Yes, provided you have taken GCSEs and achieved outstanding results.

**What if I don't have GCSEs?**

Unless you are taking the International Baccalaureate Diploma, you are not eligible for the scheme.

**I am an overseas student. Is this scheme open to me?**

Yes, provided you have taken GCSEs or iGCSEs or you are taking the International Baccalaureate and provided that you have met the required level of English language.

**How does the scheme work?**

All academic departments, with the exception of Mathematics, are operating the same scheme:

- Applicants are given a conditional offer and are then required to make Royal Holloway their firm choice before their offer becomes unconditional.

Scheme for Mathematics courses:

- Applicants are given a conditional offer and are then required to make Royal Holloway their firm choice before their offer gets changed from three required A-level grades to just one required A-level grade: an A in Maths.

**Are all undergraduate courses included in the scheme?**

Yes.

**How will I know if I have been selected for the scheme?**

If you have been selected for this scheme you will be told in your offer letter that you have the option of receiving an unconditional or revised offer, subject to making Royal Holloway your firm choice.

**Is there a deadline for responding to the offer?**

The only deadline you must respond to is the one set by UCAS. For the majority of applicants this will be 1 May 2019 but the deadline depends on when you receive all your decisions from the universities you applied to.

**What if I have an unconditional offer but don't get my predicted grades?**

Once you have an unconditional offer from us, your place at Royal Holloway is guaranteed whatever grades you achieve. However, we strongly advise you to continue to work hard and to obtain the best grades possible, as your school leaving results, as well as your degree, are likely to influence the future job opportunities open to you.

**What happens if I hold an unconditional offer and fail to complete my schooling?**

Once you have an unconditional offer from us your place at Royal Holloway is guaranteed whatever happens. However, if you fail to complete your schooling it's worth being aware that you could seriously damage your future prospects in terms of both employment and future study. International students will not be eligible to get a visa to study in the UK without providing evidence of their completed qualifications.

**Are applicants able to defer their unconditional offer to 2020 entry?**

The unconditional offer will ordinarily only be valid for 2019 entry. Requests to defer the offer may be considered, on a case by case basis, by the Head of Admissions and Applicant Services if there are extenuating circumstances which would prevent you from starting your studies in 2019.