

BA (Hons) Food, Nutrition and Textiles Education

For entry into academic year 2021/22

Frequently Asked Questions

1. How are students selected for places?

Applicants are initially selected on the basis of meeting the current entry qualification requirements and are invited to attend an online selection event. The Selection Event includes collaborative and individual activities. As the Selection Event is collaborative, attendance in person is essential. The University makes offers of places on the programme after each Selection Event.

2. Which qualifications do I need?

You are required to hold three Highers with passes at BBC or above and National 5 Mathematics / National 5 Application of Mathematic pass at C pass or above. Your Higher passes must include English and one science from Physics, Chemistry, Biology, or Health and Food Technology. The details of your qualifications must be clearly stated on your application form under the *Qualifications* section.

3. Must I have Higher English and National 5 Mathematics before I start the programme?

Yes. To meet the entry requirements of the General Teaching Council for Scotland (GTCS) everyone studying on a teacher education programme in Scotland must have these qualifications before they start. There are alternatives to achieving Higher English and National 5 Mathematics. Some colleges, for example Perth College, offer courses like 'Essential skills for teachers' that allow you to complete the required Maths and English courses. Aberdeen University offer an access to teaching course that can be completed online and at your own pace:

<https://on.abdn.ac.uk/access/>

The below options are the alternatives to Higher English and National 5 Mathematics that are accepted by the University.

Accepted UK and Republic of Ireland equivalents for English and Mathematics: English

- Higher English (C or above)
- National Units Communication (Higher level) **plus** Literature 1 (Higher level)
- A level English (D or above); or GCSE English Language (C or above) **plus** GCSE English Literature (C or above); or O Level English Language (C or above) **plus** O Level English Literature (C or above)
- Irish Leaving Certificate, English, Higher Level, Grade B3 (H3 from 2017)
- Online Access Course in English at SCQF Level 6, University of Aberdeen (D3 or above)

Please note that IELTS is not acceptable in place of the above qualifications.

Mathematics

- National 5 Mathematics (C or above)
- National 5 Life skills Mathematics or National 5 Applications of Mathematics (C or above)
- Intermediate level 2 Mathematics (C or above)
- Standard Grade Mathematics (Grade 1 or 2)
- SCE Ordinary Grade Mathematics (C or above)
- GCSE Mathematics (C or above), or O Level Mathematics (C or above)
- Irish Leaving Certificate, Mathematics, Ordinary Level, Grade C/C3 (O4 from 2017)
- Pass in Online Access Course in Mathematics at SCQF Level 5 or 6 (D3 or above), University of Aberdeen

4. Are there any other routes into the programme? (Widening access policy)

Yes. If you hold an HNC Professional Cookery with a B in the graded unit and 15 credits and Higher English (C or above) plus National 5 Mathematics (C or above) then you can apply for direct entry to year 2.

If you are studying an HNC Professional Cookery at Perth College, the college will support you to complete English and Mathematics qualifications during your HNC year.

5. What if I have non-UK qualifications?

If you hold non-UK qualifications, the admissions team will contact you after you have submitted your application on UCAS. They will carry out an equivalency check to find out whether your qualifications are sufficient to meet the entry requirements. Please note that the equivalency check will only be carried out after a course application has been submitted.

If you would like to find out how your qualifications compare against the UK ones prior to making an application, you may wish to contact UK NARIC, the designated national agency for the recognition and comparison of international qualifications (please note that this service may incur a fee): <https://www.naric.org.uk/>

6. Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG) Scheme registration

All successful applicants are required to undergo a PVG check through Disclosure Scotland. You will be required to do this prior to enrolment onto the course.

Applicants who have lived outside the UK for a period of six or more consecutive months in the past five years will be required to provide a criminal record check from all the relevant countries. This requirement is in addition to the PVG Scheme application.

7. Can I arrange my own teaching placements?

Yes, but only for year 1. In years 2, 3 and 4 of the course, teaching placements are arranged through the Student Placement Scheme that is managed by the General Teaching Council for Scotland (GTCS) for Universities and Local Authorities. This is a national placement programme that matches student teachers to school placement offers throughout Scotland.

8. How far will I be asked to travel for education placements?

School placements are allocated within 90 minutes commute of your term-time address in the student placement system. There is potential for school placements to be further afield, with transport and accommodation costs covered by the University.

9. Can I do a placement in the same school that my children attend?

No. This represents a conflict of interest as you are on placement as a teaching professional.

10. Do I have to complete a PGDE year once I have completed the 4-year undergraduate degree?

No. The 4-year programme is an undergraduate teaching degree and includes placements in schools throughout the programme. When you graduate from the programme you will be eligible for an induction year post in school. The Teacher Induction Scheme (TIS) is managed by the GTCS and you apply for it during year 4 of the degree.

11. When do I become a Home Economics teacher?

When you graduate from the programme you meet the standard for Provisional Registration as part of your degree. After you complete an induction year in school then you evidence the Standard for Full Registration and are registered with the GTCS as a Secondary Teacher of Home Economics.

12. Do I need teaching experience in a classroom before I apply for the course?

Not for entry to year 1 of the programme. If you are applying for direct entry to year 2 through the HNC route, school experience would strengthen your application. However, as current access to schools in 2020/21 is very limited, you should look to develop your subject knowledge and become familiar with up-to-date educational policies and demonstrate a strong knowledge of these during the selection process, reflecting on how your skills and experiences relate to becoming a Scottish secondary teacher.

13. What will the timetable/day structure look like?

This is dependent on staffing and room scheduling, which can change yearly. Each year group is timetabled for full days in college: for example, in 2020/21, year 1 students are timetabled in for three days each week and students in years 2 and 3 for two days each week. Due to COVID-19, some of this is currently online learning and some is face-to-face within the college.

14. Are there any other attendance requirements?

Yes. You must have 80% attendance in the university weeks; registers are kept of all classes in college. In the placement modules in the programme, you must attend in order to meet the GTCS requirements for the Standard for Provisional Registration as a teacher.

15. Can I do the course by distance learning?

No, you must attend Perth College UHI (when not operating under COVID-19 restrictions).

16. What resources/equipment will I need?

The department will arrange for the purchase of chef's whites and other equipment required at the start of the course. The cost to each student is around £100 at the start of the programme.

17. When does the programme start?

The programme follows the academic timetable at Perth College UHI. There are 2 academic semesters of 17 weeks. Semester 1 usually begins in the second week of September and ends in the week before Christmas. Semester 2 starts in February and ends at the end of May.

18. Is there student accommodation?

Yes, there is student accommodation on Perth College campus. Information about this can be found here: <https://www.perth.uhi.ac.uk/student-life/accommodation/>

19. What about funding?

When considering your application, we will make an assessment of your fee status, i.e. the level of tuition fees you will be required to pay if successful in gaining a place in the course. This will be based on the information provided in your application. In some cases, we will ask you to provide additional information and complete a fee assessment form. Your fee status will be indicated in your official offer letter.

Financial support (e.g. tuition fees, loan) for eligible applicants ordinarily resident in Scotland or EU is normally available via the Student Awards Agency for Scotland (SAAS). For full eligibility criteria please visit:

http://www.saas.gov.uk/forms_and_guides/index.htm

Applicants ordinarily resident in the rest of the UK and applicants assessed as international-fee payers must ensure that they have funding in place prior to accepting a place on the programme. Please be aware that if you have been living outside of the EEA area in the three years prior to 1 August 2019, your eligibility for funding may be affected. For further information please check SAAS residency criteria. All applicants are therefore strongly advised to check their fee status and apply for funding to SAAS as soon as applications open (usually in April). Applicants can apply to SAAS irrespective of whether they have been offered a place on the programme. For further information on tuition fees and funding, please go to the UHI website.

20. How do I apply?

Applications must be made through UCAS Undergraduate. To apply, please use UHI Institution code H49 and X134. Any application deadlines include submission of references. It is your responsibility to ensure that referees are aware of the deadlines and that your application is submitted fully prior to the priority deadline of 29th January 2021. Depending on recruitment numbers, applications may remain open after this date.

Further queries should be sent to us through the question facility on our website.