

# The Institute of Health and Social Care Studies (IHSCS)

## Admission Policy

The terms of this policy set out important information concerning your application to study with The IHSCS and you should take time to read them before applying for a place at The IHSCS.

Please contact The IHSCS for clarification if there is anything in these terms that you do not understand.

The terms below set out the basis upon which The IHSCS will process and handle your application and other relevant information.

The aims of The IHSCS in respect of selecting applicants for admission, and the criteria and process for doing so are as follows:

## IHSCS Commitment

The IHSCS will at all times seek to operate admissions regulations that are fair and are in accordance with the Statutes, Ordinances and Regulations. The IHSCS will ensure that all applicants are made aware of the Admissions Policy when they apply.

## Age of Applicants

The IHSCS admits students on individual merit and does not discriminate on the grounds of age. Some programmes of study are bound by external professional or placement requirements concerning age. The IHSCS is also bound by rules regarding work permit status.

Where the age of an applicant would raise issues of safety, child protection, visa-sponsorship, personal support or issues of care, the IHSCS Lead for Admissions should be notified in order to invoke appropriate measures to investigate and assess the situation prior to an offer being made.

## Applicants with Current UK Qualifications

### 1.1 Undergraduate Programme of Study

Applicants to programmes of study who have achieved current UK qualifications must satisfy the relevant and specific programme requirements in addition to the general Institute requirements outlined below.

Applicants will normally be expected to have passed three subjects of the General Certificate of Education Advanced level (GCE A level) or equivalent in other current UK qualifications.

Candidates will normally be expected to have passed General Certificates of Secondary Education (GCSE) in English and Mathematics at grade 4 or C or above, or equivalent.

The IHSCS Admissions Policies Subcommittee will review periodically guidance on the equivalence of UK qualifications to be used when assessing applications, having regard to the UNESCO Convention.

Applicants must satisfy The IHSCS Lead for Admissions and the appropriate Programme Lead that their academic qualifications are sufficient to enable them to successfully undertake the programme of study.

## 1.2 Higher Degrees

The IHSCS in consultation with the Partner University may declare eligible for admission to a programme leading to a higher degree:

- a. a graduate of an Institute in the United Kingdom or any other appropriate institution of Higher Education offering equivalent qualifications;
- b. a candidate not being a graduate whose qualifications have been specially approved for this purpose by the Partner University.

## 2. Candidates with UK Qualifications that are no longer offered

### 2.1 Applicants with achieved qualifications

Candidates with UK qualifications that are no longer offered must have achieved a qualification previously approved by Ofqual or prior statutory body or have otherwise satisfied the Partner University. Examples are an Ordinary Level Certificate or Higher National Certificate or Diploma awarded before the establishment of BTEC, pre-GCE school-leaving examinations, AO-levels, Advanced Extension Awards (AEA) and Vocational GCE A levels.

### 2.2 Applicants not possessing formal qualifications

Candidates not possessing any of the qualifications outlined above may be admitted to a first degree programme provided they can submit evidence of previous serious study and attainments which indicate the capacity to pursue the proposed programme successfully.

Examples of such evidence include recent study with the Open University or another institution of higher education, successful completion of an approved Access course, or recent relevant work experience. Students wishing to seek recognition for previous learning should refer to the relevant Guideline for the Recognition of Prior Certified and Experiential Learning related to their intended programme of study.

## 3. Applicants with non-UK Qualifications

Candidates with non-UK qualifications will normally be expected to have qualifications of an equivalent standard to those outlined in section one of these regulations, and should also meet the programme specific requirements.

Candidates for undergraduate programmes from countries whose education systems offer fewer than 13 years of formal education, or whose qualifications have not been judged by The IHSCS to be equivalent, may be required to provide evidence of additional study, such as GCE A-levels or a recognised foundation programme.

Candidates for admission must satisfy The IHSCS Lead for Admissions and the appropriate Programme Lead that their academic qualifications are sufficient to enable them to undertake the programme of study.

## 4. English Language Requirements

All programmes at The IHSCS are taught in the medium of English (other than in Modern Languages where instruction will be in both English and the language(s) being taught). Therefore, all applicants must demonstrate that they possess at least a minimum standard of English language proficiency in order to be admitted to a programme of study at The IHSCS.

The IHSCS's general entrance requirements stipulate that all applicants must possess at least a GCSE grade 4 or C (or equivalent) in English. Where a programme stipulates a higher standard, the programme requirement takes precedent.

In the case of applicants with English language qualifications other than GCSE, The IHSCS maintains a list of suitable equivalent examinations or English language tests which it is pleased to accept.

The IHSCS will normally also consider for admission applicants not in possession of a GCSE or equivalent qualification or test in English who have studied recently (typically no more than two years prior to the proposed date of admission) for a degree which was taught and assessed wholly in the medium of English.

## 5. Students Requiring a Work Permit to Study in Guernsey

The IHSCS will comply with its obligations under the relevant immigration legislation which may be updated from time to time. The IHSCS cannot be held liable for any additional costs applicants may incur as a result of legislative changes.

## 6. Changes to programmes or closure of programmes

The IHSCS will only make changes to programmes, or close programmes after the acceptance of an offer, in the limited circumstances. Examples of "changes" include changes to the content or structure of a programme, or to the location or method of teaching or assessment, or to the type of award.

Where changes or programme closures are proposed or have to be made The IHSCS will take all reasonable steps to minimise disruption to students.

The IHSCS may also decide to close a programme before an applicant has accepted an offer from The IHSCS, in which case it will withdraw the offer promptly. Again, such a decision would only be made exceptionally, but The IHSCS might decide to do this for example where there has been insufficient interest in the programme, which will adversely impact the student experience, or where a key member of staff leaves and The IHSCS considers it unlikely to be able to replace that individual in time.