

Will the University of Liverpool make an unconditional offer before Level 3 examination results are available?

Applicants may be aware that some universities have decided to make unconditional offers to undergraduate applicants in advance of them having taken their A-levels, or other level 3 qualifications, or to make a conditional offer that will become unconditional if the applicant accepts the offer as their firm choice.

At the University of Liverpool, we have decided that we will not adopt this practice; unless applicants already have their level 3 examination results, we will make offers that are conditional upon achieving the specific grades (and any other additional or non-academic criteria) that we articulate in our offer via UCAS.

We have made this decision after careful thought and discussion across the University. Our reasons for deciding not to make unconditional offers in advance of examination results being available are as follows:

- We believe that students value the offer of a place at a Russell Group university, and want to be assured that are confident that they are a good 'fit' for the course that we are offering. At Liverpool each application is carefully considered before an offer is made; we believe the offers we make are appropriate to the individual and can provide a stimulus for success.
- Making the initial offer unconditional relies on the accuracy of predicted grades, and we were concerned as to how we could use this information fairly. Applicants may perform better or less well than expected for a number of reasons; making a conditional offer and taking individual circumstances into account when the results are available allows us to be flexible and responsive to individual needs. We were also concerned that equally-deserving applicants with less-usual combinations of qualifications might be unfairly excluded.
- We value the relationships we have built with schools and believe that we can best support them and their students by maintaining a consistent approach to decision-making across the whole range of qualifications
- We are increasingly considering the context in which applicants have achieved their qualifications as well as the grades they achieve; making unconditional offers could damage the work we are doing to increase the diversity of our student body

More general information about our approach to the selection of students and how we process applications may be found in our Undergraduate Admissions Policy at:

<http://www.liv.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/applying/admissions-policy/>

Any queries about Liverpool's approach to decision-making may be directed to:

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