EDUCATION MANUAL

D: Learner Support

Chapter:	**D: LEARNER SUPPORT**
Section:	**D4: Admissions**
Classifications:	**Policy and Procedures**
Title:	**D4.1b Contextual Admissions Policy**
Author:	**Registry**
Date:	**June 2023**

2024 entry

Aims:

SRUC is committed to widening access and we are keen to encourage students from the widest possible range of backgrounds to participate in Higher and Further Education. We appreciate that not all students have had the same opportunities to meet our advertised entry requirements. For this reason, we aim to identify applicants who could benefit from additional consideration in the admissions process.

SRUC will use contextual information alongside the UCAS/SRUC application form to assess applicants, taking into consideration their personal, educational circumstances and geographical location.

Where possible applicants should include information about any circumstances they would like to highlight in their personal statement (or ask their referee to include relevant information in the reference). If an applicant cannot include contextual information in their personal statement, they can send a separate document confidentially to the SRUC Admissions Office (admissions@sruc.ac.uk). SRUC would also ask that, where possible, referees mention and verify if an applicant has participated in a Widening Participation programme.

Contextual Indicators

SRUC uses contextual indicators based on the data provided in an applicant's course application. The contextual indicators are as follows:

- Applicant lives in an area of high deprivation (SIMD10, SIMD20 and SIMD40).[1]
- Applicant has experience of being in care.
- Applicant has parenting responsibilities.
- Applicant has an unpaid caring role including young carers aged 16–25.
- Applicant has been in receipt of free school meals.
- Applicant has identified as coming from a Gypsy, Roma or Travelling Community.
- Applicant has identified as coming from a Gaelic speaking area.
- Applicant has Government recognised refugee or asylum status.
- Applicant has been estranged from family and living without family support.
- Applicant has parents in the British Military Service.

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[1] Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD)

- Applicant has been in the British Military Service (Veterans/ Early Service Leavers).

Additional indicators will also be taken into consideration for applicants applying for Higher Education Courses (SCQF Level 7 and above)

- Applicant is part of the Scottish Higher Education Programme (SHEP).[2]
- Applicant is part of the Lothian Equal Access Programme for Schools (LEAPS)[3] and has been identified as LEAPS eligible.
- Applicant has participated in the Scottish Wider Access Programme (SWAP).[4]

In line with our current procedures, we will continue to review applications on an individual basis with reference to academic grades (achieved and predicted), personal statement and references. Applicants are required to demonstrate, via their application, their interest in and commitment to their chosen subject of study. This is particularly important for those areas which involve an interview as part of the admissions process.

SRUC's published entry requirements are set at the minimum level required in order to succeed on the course. Applicants who fall under one or more of the indicators for contextual admissions who do not meet or are not predicted to meet these minimum entry requirements may still be considered, for example through interview or other assessment method. Alternatively, and if appropriate may be offered an alternative access route.

Support for Applicants
Applicants who are unable to make application/attend interview due to financial hardship, please contact the Admissions Team for support.

Applicants admitted on the basis of a contextual admissions decision will have access to the same academic, pastoral and funding support services as all other students through the student support teams in each faculty.

Reviewing and Monitoring
While SRUC is committed to widening access and providing opportunities to students from disadvantaged backgrounds, it is neither in the organisation's nor the applicant's interest to admit students who may struggle to complete their studies. As a result, SRUC will monitor those students admitted on the basis of contextual indicators and monitor the impact of the implementation of the policy. This information will inform any expansion to or revision of the policy in the future.

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[2] Schools for Higher Education Programme
[3] Lothian Equal Access Programme for Schools (LEAPS)
[4] Scottish Wider Access Programme (SWAP)

More Information

For information please contact our Admissions Team – admissions@sruc.ac.uk

Lead Officer:	Admissions Lead
Responsible Department:	Admissions, Academic Registry
Date policy approved:	October 2020
Date policy due for review:	July 2024

Document History

Rev.	Date	Description of Change
01	Oct 2020	New Policy
02	July 2022	Minor changes (dates)
03	May 2023	Minor changes (date)