

**Access to Southampton Eligibility Criteria: 2018 entry**

This document is designed to provide further information and guidance on the eligibility criteria for the Access to Southampton (A2S) scheme for 2018 entry. If the following information does not answer your query please contact the A2S Co-ordinator:

Email: [outreach@soton.ac.uk](mailto:outreach@soton.ac.uk) | Tel: 02380 595696

Applicants must meet at least **two** of the eligibility criteria.

***In the first generation of immediate family to go into higher education, excluding brothers or sisters.***

Any applicant whose parents have not previously completed a higher education course is eligible for this criterion.

Applicants with siblings who have completed or who are currently going through a higher education course are still eligible for this criterion. This criterion is also not affected by family members outside of the immediate family such as grandparents, cousins, uncles, aunts etc.

This criterion is not affected by parents of applicants that have started but not completed a higher education course or studied for Open University degrees.

For the purposes of this criterion a higher education course refers a level 6 qualification or above.

Eligibility for this criterion must be confirmed by the member of school staff writing the applicant's A2S application reference.

***In receipt of a 16-19 bursary or similar grant OR received Free School Meals (FSM) at any point during secondary school education.***

An applicant will be eligible under this criterion if they are in receipt of their sixth form or college 16-19 Bursary Fund. If the student was eligible for their institution's bursary support but chose not to accept the bursary, they will still be eligible under this criterion.

An applicant will be eligible under this criterion if they received or were eligible to receive Free School Meals at any time during their secondary school education.

Eligibility for this criterion must be confirmed by the member of school staff writing the applicant's A2S application reference.

***Attended a secondary school which achieved below national average Attainment 8 score in 2016.***

For schools in England: The Department for Education has changed one of the headline measures for Key Stage 4 performance, and will now publish an Attainment 8 point score. For the purposes of eligibility for this criterion, students who have attended a school who scored below the national average point score in the Attainment 8 measure will be eligible.

School performance tables for England can be found on the Department for Education website: <http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/performance/> The A2S scheme will use data from this site to verify eligibility for this criterion.

The provisional result for the England average Attainment 8 score is 48.2 points. The final average result is due to be published in January 2017.

For Wales and Northern Ireland: Schools in these countries are not using the Attainment 8 measure. We will therefore continue to use the percentage of 5 A\*-C (including English and Maths) as the measure for this criterion for schools in Wales and Northern Ireland. If a school achieved a GCSE pass rate of less than the national average of 5 A\*- C passes (including English and Maths) any applicant from that school will be eligible for this criterion.

This criterion refers to when the student sat the majority of their GCSE examinations. Where students may not have taken their GCSEs in 2016 (for example, if they are repeating Year 12) then the average from the year in which they did take their GCSEs can be used.

***Studies affected or disrupted by circumstances in your personal, social or domestic life.***

Applicants meet this criterion if their studies have been disrupted by circumstances beyond their control. Each application is considered on an individual basis and whilst we cannot provide an exhaustive list of situations that meet this criterion, circumstances that could qualify eligibility include: serious or prolonged illness, bereavement or family disruption. It will be necessary for the applicant and the referee to provide information and verification of these circumstances on the application form. Any details provided will be treated in strictest confidence.

***Living or grew up in Local Authority care.***

To qualify for this criterion an applicant as must have spent at least 3 months living in Local Authority care since the age of 14. This includes foster care and sheltered accommodation.

Eligibility for this criterion must be confirmed by the member of school staff writing the applicant's A2S application reference.

***Are a Young or Young Adult Carer***

For the purposes of eligibility under this criterion, the A2S scheme uses the definitions of a Young Carer and a Young Adult Carer set out by the Carer's Trust:

<http://www.carers.org/what-carer>

"A carer is anyone who cares, unpaid, for a friend or family member who due to illness, disability, a mental health problem or an addiction cannot cope without their support.

Young carers often take on practical and/or emotional caring responsibilities that would normally be expected of an adult. The tasks undertaken can vary according to the nature of the illness or disability, the level and frequency of need for care and the structure of the family as a whole".

The person providing a reference for the applicant will need to confirm that, to the best of their knowledge, that the applicant is a Young Carer.

***Current home post code shows that you live in an area with low levels of progression to Higher Education. (Postcodes within the lowest 2 POLAR3 quintiles).***

To be eligible for the criterion, the applicant's home postcode must fall within either quintile 1 or quintile 2 of the POLAR3 measure of young participation in Higher Education.

Postcodes can be checked for eligibility on the HEFCE Postcode Checker:

<http://www.hefce.ac.uk/postcode/> The A2S scheme will use data from this site to verify eligibility for this criterion.

If an applicant resides at two different addresses, for example, in the case of parents' separation, then eligibility should be measured against the postcode of the address at which the applicant resides the majority of the time.