

# Nottingham Trent University

## GCSE Equivalent Qualifications for Initial Teacher Training (ITT)

The requirements differ between Early Years and Primary, and Secondary and Post-Compulsory Education (PCET). As an Early Years or Primary teacher will be expected to teach all aspects of English, Maths and Science, whereas for Secondary or PCET you will be teaching your subject specialism. We have to ensure the qualifications accepted for Early Years and Primary ITT courses have the breadth and depth needed for an applicant to be able to teach all areas.

This is why we accept certain qualifications for Secondary and Post-Compulsory courses, but not for Primary or Early Years courses.

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### 1. What is not acceptable?

- Access to HE course – Key components and Functional components
- Level 2 Key Skills / Functional Skills in Application of Number (Maths) and Communication (English)
- Certificates at Level 2 in Adult Literacy and Numeracy
- Modules in any Foundation Degree or Degree course
- City and Guilds
- IELTS (Note: this may be an entry requirement as well as the GCSE equivalence)
- A Level / AS-Levels at any grade (although they are a higher level they don't cover the breadth and depth of a GCSE)
- ONC / OND
- BTEC Level 3 - any BTEC Level 3 qualification does not carry the breadth and depth of a GCSE
- University of Cambridge "English for Speakers of other Languages" or "Certificate of English Language Skills" (Higher)
- Any qualifications not listed as acceptable on the "English Language requirements – International" document

## 2. Common GCSE Equivalent Qualifications

Below are the acceptable grades from GCSE, CSE and O Level.

GCSE		CSE Grade	O Level		
Grade Mark	Numeric Mark		1975 Onwards	Pre 1975 (Numeric)	Pre 1975 (alphabetic)
A*	8				
A	7		A	1	A
				2	B
B	5		B	3	C
				4	
C	4	1	C	5	D
				6	E

## 3. International / EU Applicants

We can accept international qualifications which are considered GCSE A\*-C by NARIC. We will require the official and translated certificate from you during your application process but will carry out our own checks directly with NARIC. For qualifications that NARIC assess, if they deem English to be studied as a 'Second Language' then we cannot accept it.

## 4. GCSE English

**Suitable equivalent qualifications for PGCE (Early Years, Primary, Secondary and PCET)/School Direct (Primary and Secondary)/BA Primary/Assessment Only (Early Years, Primary and Secondary).**

### Any UK board:

- GCSE English (Language or Literature), grade A\*-C.
- O Level English, grade A-C or 1-3.
- CSE English, English language or English studies, grade 1.

### Scottish Qualifications Authority:

- National 5, Intermediate 2, Skills for Work National 5.
- Standard Grade – Credit Level (Grades 1-2).

### Irish Republic Awards:

- In or after 1975 - Irish Leaving Certificate with the subject 'English Language' at grade C or above (Ordinary Level) or at grade D or above (Higher Level).

### European Baccalaureate:

- A score of 6/10 or higher in English (we can accept a First or Second Language).

### International Baccalaureate:

- English grade 4 or above at Standard Level.
- English 'passed' at Higher Level.

- IB Middle Years Programme Level 4.

**University of London Examinations and Assessment Council:**

- Certificate of attainment in English at Level 4 or above.

**IGCSE:**

- IGCSE in English Language.
- IGCSE English First Language.

**GCSE English Equivalency Test**

- Please note NTU does not currently offer equivalency tests.
- We accept the GCSE equivalency taken via [equivalencytesting.com](http://equivalencytesting.com)
- We also accept GCSE equivalency tests previously obtained at NTU or another University

**5. GCSE Maths**

**Suitable equivalent qualifications PGCE (Early Years, Primary, Secondary and PCET)/School Direct (Primary and Secondary)/BA Primary/Assessment Only (Early Years, Primary and Secondary).**

**Any recognised UK board:**

- GCSE Mathematics grade A\*-C.
- GCSE Additional Mathematics grade A\*-C.
- GCSE Application of Maths when combined with Methods of Maths A\*-C in both
- GCE O-Level Mathematics (only), grade A-C or 1-3.
- CSE Mathematics grade 1.
- O-Level or AO-Level in Additional Mathematics grade A-C.

**Scottish Qualifications Authority:**

- National 5, Intermediate 2, Skills for Work National 5.
- Standard Grade – Credit Level (Grades 1-2).

**Irish Republic Awards:**

- In or after 1975 - Irish Leaving Certificate with the subject 'Mathematics' at grade C or above (Ordinary Level) or at grade D or above (Higher Level).

**European Baccalaureate:**

- A score of 6/10 or higher is acceptable in place of GCSE grade C

**International Baccalaureate:**

- Maths grade 4 or above at Standard Level.
- Maths 'passed' at Higher Level.
- IB Middle Years Programme Level 4.

**BTEC/TEC/BEC suitable for Secondary and PCET only:**

- Higher National Certificate or Diploma Award in Mathematics.
- Any National Certificate or National Diploma Award that incorporates a pass with Merit or Distinction in Mathematics at Level 2 or higher.

**IGCSE:**

- IGCSE in Mathematics.

**GCSE Mathematics Equivalency Test**

- Please note NTU does not currently offer equivalency tests.
- We accept the GCSE equivalency taken via [equivalencytesting.com](http://equivalencytesting.com)
- We also accept GCSE equivalency tests previously obtained at NTU or another University

## 6. GCSE Science

**Suitable equivalent qualifications for PGCE (Early Years and Primary)/School Direct (Primary)/BA Primary/Assessment Only QTS (Primary and Early Years Initial Teacher Training).**

### **Any UK board:**

The following GCSEs in Science are accepted with grades A\*-C

- GCSE Additional Science
- GCSE Additional Applied Science
- GCSE Biology
- GCSE Chemistry
- GCSE Electronics
- GCSE Environmental Science
- GCSE Further Additional Applied Science
- GCSE Human Health and Physiology
- GCSE Physics
- GCSE Human Biology
- O Level in Science, Physics, Chemistry, Biology at grade A-C or 1-3.
- CSE in Science, Physics, Chemistry, Biology at grade 1.

### **BTEC:**

- BTEC Level 2 Certificate in Science / Applied Science = 1 GCSE
- BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate in Science / Applied Science = 2 GCSE
- BTEC Level 2 Diploma Science / Applied Science = 4 GCSE
- BTEC First Certificate in Science / Applied Science = 2 GCSE
- BTEC First Diploma in Science / Applied Science = 4 GCSE
- BTEC First Award Application of Science = 1 GCSE
- BTEC First Award Principles of Applied Science = 1 GCSE

### **Cambridge Nationals**

- Cambridge National Certificate Level 2 Science = Pass (Note the certificate must be requested to determine whether qualification is level 1 or 2.

### **European Baccalaureate:**

- A score of 6/10 or higher is acceptable in place of GCSE grade C.

### **GCSE Science Equivalency Test:**

- Please note NTU does not currently offer equivalency tests.
- We accept the GCSE equivalency taken via [equivalencytesting.com](http://equivalencytesting.com)
- We also accept GCSE equivalency tests previously obtained at NTU or another University

### **GNVQ:**

- GNVQ Part One Intermediate Pass = 2 GCSE
- GNVQ Intermediate Pass = 4 GCSE

### **IGCSE:**

- IGCSE in Science.
- IGCSE in Biology, Chemistry or Physics.
- IGCSE in Physical Science, Coordinated Sciences or Combined Science.

### **International Baccalaureate:**

- Science grade 4 or above at Standard Level.
- Science 'passed' at Higher Level.

- IB Middle Years Programme Level 4.

**Irish Republic awards:**

- In or after 1975 - Irish Leaving Certificate with the subject 'Science', including Agricultural Science and single Sciences, at grade C or above (Ordinary Level) or at grade D or above (Higher Level).

**OCR:**

- OCR National Award in Science = 2 GCSE
- OCR National Certificate in Science = 4 GCSE

**Scottish Qualifications Authority:**

- National 5, Intermediate 2, Skills for Work National 5.
- Standard Grade – Credit Level (Grades 1-2)

## **7. Advice for applicants who do not have a GCSE**

Applicants who do not have a GCSE or other suitable qualification must be advised to take a GCSE as a private candidate. For full information, refer them to AQA:

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/student-support/private-candidates/finding-a-school-or-college>