

The ABC's of UK Qualifications: What You Need to Know about Recruiting and Admitting UK Students

Presented by:

Vivian Chen, US-UK Fulbright Commission

Val Sismey, Cambridge International Examinations

Andrej Molchan, International Education Research

Foundation

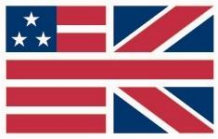
Hannah Lowenthal, University of South Florida

- Vivian Chen, US-UK Fulbright Commission
 - UK student trends
- Val Sismey, Cambridge International Examinations
 - A-levels and I/GCSEs
- Andrej Molchan, International Education Research Foundation
 - BTEC and other qualifications
- Hannah Lowenthal, University of South Florida
 - Practical implications at the university level

Presenters and Topics



US-UK Student Exchange Trends



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Changing Landscape in UK Higher Education

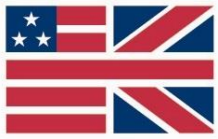


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US universities report sharp rise in UK applicants

Trebling of tuition fees and disillusionment with UK universities cited as reasons for interest in top American institutions

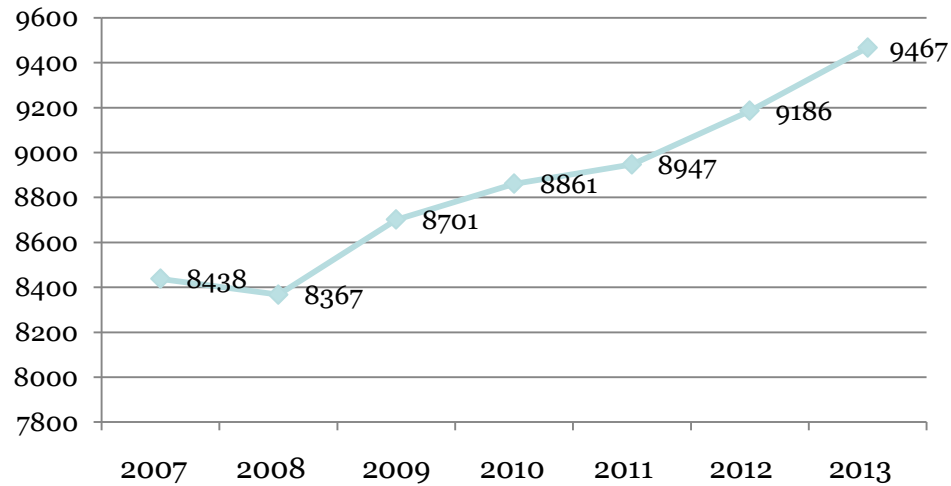


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Open Doors 2013 Data

British Students in the US



General Trends in UK student recruitment

- 86% to experience American campus life and activities
- 81% to learn about a new culture and broaden their horizons
- 69% to enhance their CV
- 60% quality of US universities



*Alexandra Latham, Arizona State
University*

Key Facts UK Student Interest:

- 90% of UK students state that the US is their first choice destination for study abroad
- 2013 saw our largest ever USA College Day fair with over 165 exhibitors & 4,000 attendees
 - More than double the attendees from 2009
 - 50% increase in exhibitors from 2009
 - 42 new universities in 2013
 - Diversity of institutions
- US-UK Fulbright website (<http://www.fulbright.org.uk/>)
 - A 60% increase in new visitors to our website between 2012 and present
 - A 50% increase in unique page views to the US Study between 2012 and present
- The number of students taking US admissions tests in the UK has increased

What do we know about these students?

From USA College Day 2013 attendee data:

- 49% UK independent schools
- 36% UK state school sector (increase of 10% in last two years)
- 6% international and American schools
- 70% UK nationals
- 16% US nationals or dual citizens
- 14% EU citizens or Other
- Over 50% were applying for 2015 and beyond



Distribution of qualifications in the UK

From USA College Day 2011- 2013 attendee data:

- 5% decrease in A-levels
- 8% decrease in IB
- Has been an increase in other types of qualifications (1-4%)
 - BTEC
 - Scottish Highers
 - Pre-U

UK exam boards offering I/GCSE & A Levels



GCSE – general changes in England

- ▶ Heavier assessment times
- ▶ Grading likely to be reported on a scale of 1-9 (9 being highest) plus Ungraded
- ▶ Linear assessment
- ▶ More focus on understanding and less on memorisation
- ▶ Reduced internal assessment
- ▶ Tiering will disappear in most cases

The Telegraph

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GCSE reforms: pupils to be graded from one to nine

The traditional A* to G grading structure will be scrapped as part of a shake-up of GCSEs in favour of a new nine-point scoring system based on numbers



Cambridge IGCSE in the UK

- ▶ Until September 2010, all Cambridge IGCSE syllabuses only available to independent sector schools
- ▶ Now **more than 2000 UK schools** are teaching Cambridge IGCSE syllabuses
- ▶ 22 Cambridge IGCSE syllabuses are accredited by Ofqual
- ▶ Syllabuses approved and funded for UK state schools are known as **Cambridge International Level 1 / Level 2 Certificates**

What are the implications for admissions?

- ▶ Need to know what grades will be required using the new 1-9 scale
- ▶ Current consultation is suggesting Grade 4 will be comparable to Grade C
- ▶ Fewer top grades will be awarded

A level reform – general changes in England

- ▶ A level qualifications will
 - ▶ be linear
 - ▶ include more synoptic assessment
 - ▶ have reduced internal assessment
- ▶ AS level qualifications will
 - ▶ Be standalone (decoupled from the A level)
 - ▶ remain at the current standard
 - ▶ not contribute to A level

Outside England

- ▶ Wales likely to continue with modular A Levels
- ▶ Northern Ireland not yet decided



A level reform – exam sittings

- ▶ One exam series in England each year, in May/June, for all A levels, from now onwards
 - ▶ no January examination from 2014 onwards
- ▶ Wales and Northern Ireland governments are still to decide
 - ▶ UK exam boards are providing one exam series a year for students across the whole of the UK.

A level reform – 2015 specifications

- ▶ The following 14 (top entry) subjects are being redeveloped for first teaching in September 2015 with syllabuses ready by September 2014 and first assessment in 2017.

Art & Design

Biology

Business Studies

Chemistry

Computing

Economics

English Language

English Literature

English Lang and Lit

*Geography

History

Physics

Psychology

Sociology

* Geography now delayed by one year to first teaching 2016



What are the implications for admissions?

- ▶ Unlikely to have AS results to use in making decisions
- ▶ Can use GCSE results plus forecast grades for A Levels
- ▶ There is no advantage to teachers or students to pitch forecast grades too high or too low because of the way conditional offers in the UK work.

What does all this mean for Cambridge International Examinations?

- ▶ We will not make any changes in the short term e.g. grading will remain as it currently is, AS will continue
- ▶ We will review the situation on a regular basis
- ▶ IGCSE and AS/A Level will continue to have November and June series (and March for India)
- ▶ Many of the reforms being introduced are already in place with Cambridge credentials e.g.

Are already linear, not modular

Already embed Maths in other subjects e.g. Physics

Already have the depth required

Already ensure practical skills in Science are covered

A-levels

- ▶ Of the 2200 applications received, 1189 (54%) teacher reference letters responded ‘yes’ to the question ‘Does your school limit the number of AS or A-level subjects students can complete?’
- ▶ Some schools limit to 3, some 4, and 5, but the key point is this is something that should be clarified on the transcript if it is not explicitly stated.

*Information from 2014 Sutton Trust cohort



INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION
RESEARCH FOUNDATION®

BTEC Qualifications

Andrej Molchan, IERF

Other Pre-University Qualifications

- BTECs
- Cambridge Pre-University Diploma
- Scottish Standards and Highers
- Welsh Baccalaureate
- Access to Higher Education
- Foundation Year Certificate
- International Baccalaureate and Advanced Placement

A Bit of History:

ONCs, ONDs, HNCs, HNDs → BTECs

- Most known among the vocational and technical qualifications in Britain
- Date back to 1921, under different professional associations
- Finally phased out by BTEC (merger of TEC and BEC) qualifications in 1983
- BTECs awarded by Edexcel from 1996 to 2013, now awarded by Pearson
- Reorganized against the NQF in 2002
- Redeveloped and renamed for the QCF around 2010

BTECs

- A-Levels are the predominant entry-level qualification, BTECs are next
- More emphasis is placed on coursework as opposed to on timed exams
- Subject areas are more applied, with strong progression routes in:
 - Computing
 - Engineering
 - Business
 - Healthcare
 - Education
- BTEC learners tend to be at an older age or have had a break in their education
- 62% obtain a degree before age of 27

BTEC Records

edexcel

Edexcel Level 3
BTEC
National Certificate

in MUSIC TECHNOLOGY
WITH THE DOUBLE GRADE DISTINCTION DISTINCTION
is awarded to

[Redacted Name]

who has completed an approved programme at
IMBERHORNE SCHOOL

AWARDED : JULY 2011

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Isabel Sutcliffe
Accountable Officer
Pearson Education

Ofqual

Lywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

CE3
Rewarding Learning



edexcel

Notification of Performance

EDEXCEL LEVEL 3 BTEC NATIONAL CERTIFICATE
in MUSIC TECHNOLOGY

QCA CODE	TITLE	VALUE	LEVEL	GRADE
IMBERHORNE SCHOOL				
D/500/2972	CREATING A MUSIC PRODUCT	6.0	3	DISTINCTION
H/500/2939	PLANNING A MUSIC RECORDING	6.0	3	DISTINCTION
A/500/2915	THE SOUND AND MUSIC INDUSTRY	6.0	3	MERIT
Y/500/2937	MUSIC SEQUENCING	6.0	3	MERIT
H/500/2973	SOUND RECORDING TECHNIQUES	6.0	3	DISTINCTION
A/500/2946	MUSIC AND SOUNDS FOR MULTIMEDIA	6.0	3	DISTINCTION
F/500/2947	MUSIC TECHNOLOGY IN PERFORMANCE	6.0	3	DISTINCTION
L/500/2949	OPERATING LIVE SOUND	6.0	3	PASS
M/500/2930	SPECIAL SUBJECT INVESTIGATION	6.0	3	DISTINCTION
A/500/2932	THE FUNCTIONAL MUSIC KEYBOARD	6.0	3	DISTINCTION
H/500/2925	MUSIC PERFORMANCE TECHNIQUES	6.0	3	DISTINCTION
T/500/2928	POP MUSIC IN PRACTICE	6.0	3	DISTINCTION

THE LEARNER HAS QUALIFIED FOR THE ABOVE AWARD WITH
THE DOUBLE GRADE DISTINCTION DISTINCTION IN JULY 2011


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Welsh Assembly Government

CE3
Rewarding Learning



BTEC Records – Newer Format



Edexcel BTEC
Level 3
Extended Diploma


in PUBLIC SERVICES (UNIFORMED) (QCF)
WITH THE TRIPLE GRADE PASS PASS PASS
is awarded to [REDACTED]

who has completed an approved programme at
CARDIFF AND VALE COLLEGE




AWARDED : JUNE 2013

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LESLEY DAVIES
Responsible Officer
Pearson Education Ltd.

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ALWAYS LEARNING

PM513 01586080 824




Notification of Performance




EDEXCEL BTEC LEVEL 3 EXTENDED DIP. (WAS NATIONAL DIP. 180+)
in PUBLIC SERVICES (UNIFORMED) (QCF)
The learner has been awarded the following credit for achieving the learning outcomes of the unit(s) listed

QCA CODE	TITLE	CREDIT VALUE AT LEVEL	GRADE
CARDIFF AND VALE COLLEGE			
K/600/5979	GOVERNMENT, POLICIES AND THE PUBLIC SERVICES	10.0 3	PASS
J/600/5987	LEADERSHIP AND TEAMWORK IN THE PUBLIC SERVICES	15.0 3	PASS
T/600/5998	CITIZENSHIP, DIVERSITY AND THE PUBLIC SERVICES	15.0 3	PASS
R/600/6009	UNDERSTANDING DISCIPLINE IN THE UNIFORMED PUBLIC SERVICES	10.0 3	PASS
F/600/6023	FITNESS TESTING AND TRAINING FOR THE UNIFORMED PUBLIC SERVICES	10.0 3	PASS
M/600/6017	PHYSICAL PREPARATION, HEALTH AND LIFESTYLE FOR THE PUBLIC SERVICES	10.0 3	PASS
Y/600/6027	INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND HUMAN RIGHTS	5.0 3	PASS
D/600/6028	UNDERSTAND THE IMPACT OF WAR, CONFLICT AND TERRORISM ON PUBLIC SERVICES	5.0 3	PASS
Y/600/6030	CRIME AND ITS EFFECTS ON SOCIETY	10.0 3	PASS
T/600/6035	COMMAND AND CONTROL IN THE UNIFORMED PUBLIC SERVICES	10.0 3	PASS
J/600/6041	RESPONDING TO EMERGENCY SERVICE INCIDENTS	10.0 3	PASS

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BUPT5 01788706 753

BTECs

Grading Scheme

	<u>BTEC</u>		<u>United States</u>		
Distinction*	(D*)		A+	=	4.00
Distinction	(D)		A	=	4.00
Merit	(M)		B	=	3.00
Pass	(P)		C	=	2.00
Ungraded	(U)		F	=	0.00

BTEC Qualifications Table: Entry Level through Level 2

LEVEL	NQF NAME	QCF NAME as of September 2010	CREDIT	GUIDED LEARNING HRS	APPROXIMATION
E (Foundation Learning)	BTEC Entry Level Certificates (Certificate in Life Skills / Certificate in Skills for Working Life)	BTEC Entry Level Qualifications (E3) <i>Award/Certificate/Diploma</i>	Variable		
	BTEC Entry Level Qualifications	BTEC Entry Level Specialist Qualifications	Variable		
1 (Foundation Learning)	Level 1 BTEC Introductory Certificate	BTEC Level 1 Certificate	Variable	180	GCSE (D-G)
	Level 1 BTEC Introductory Diploma	BTEC Level 1 Diploma	Variable	360	GCSE (D-G)
	Level 1 BTEC Qualifications	BTEC Level 1 Specialist Qualifications	Variable		
2 (Firsts)		BTEC Level 2 Certificate	15	90	1 GCSE (A*-C)
	Level 2 BTEC First Certificate	BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate	30	180	2 GCSEs (A*-C)
	Level 2 BTEC First Diploma	BTEC Level 2 Diploma	60	360	4 GCSEs (A*-C)
	Level 2 BTEC Qualifications	BTEC Level 2 Specialist Qualifications	Variable		

BTEC Qualifications Table: Level 3

LEVEL	NQF NAME	QCF NAME as of September 2010	CREDIT	GUIDED LEARNING HRS	APPROXIMATION
3 (Nationals)		BTEC Level 3 Certificate	30	180	1 AS-Level
	Level 3 BTEC National Award	BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma	60	360	1 A-Level
		BTEC Level 3 90-Credit Diploma	90	540	1.5 A-Levels
	Level 3 BTEC National Certificate	BTEC Level 3 Diploma	120	720	2 A-Levels
		BTEC Level 3 Foundation Diploma in Art and Design	150	600	2 A-Levels
	Level 3 BTEC National Diploma	BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma	180	1080	3 A-Levels
	Level 3 BTEC Qualifications	BTEC Level 3 Specialist Qualifications	Variable		

UCAS Tariff Points

Examination	UCAS Tariff Points
BTEC Level 3 Certificate (grades D* - P)	70-20
BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma (grades D* - P)	140-40
BTEC Level 3 90-Credit Diploma (grades D*D* - PP)	210-60
BTEC Level 3 Diploma (grades D*D* - PP)	280-80
BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma (grades D*D*D* - PPP)	420-120

BTEC Grading

edexcel

Edexcel Level 3 BTEC National Certificate

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GCE
Rewarding Learning



edexcel

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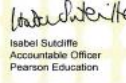
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GCE
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BTEC Grading



Edexcel BTEC
Level 3
Extended Diploma





in PUBLIC SERVICES (UNIFORMED) (QCF)
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M/600/6017	PHYSICAL PREPARATION, HEALTH AND LIFESTYLE FOR THE PUBLIC SERVICES	10.0 3	PASS
Y/600/6027	INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND HUMAN RIGHTS	5.0 3	PASS
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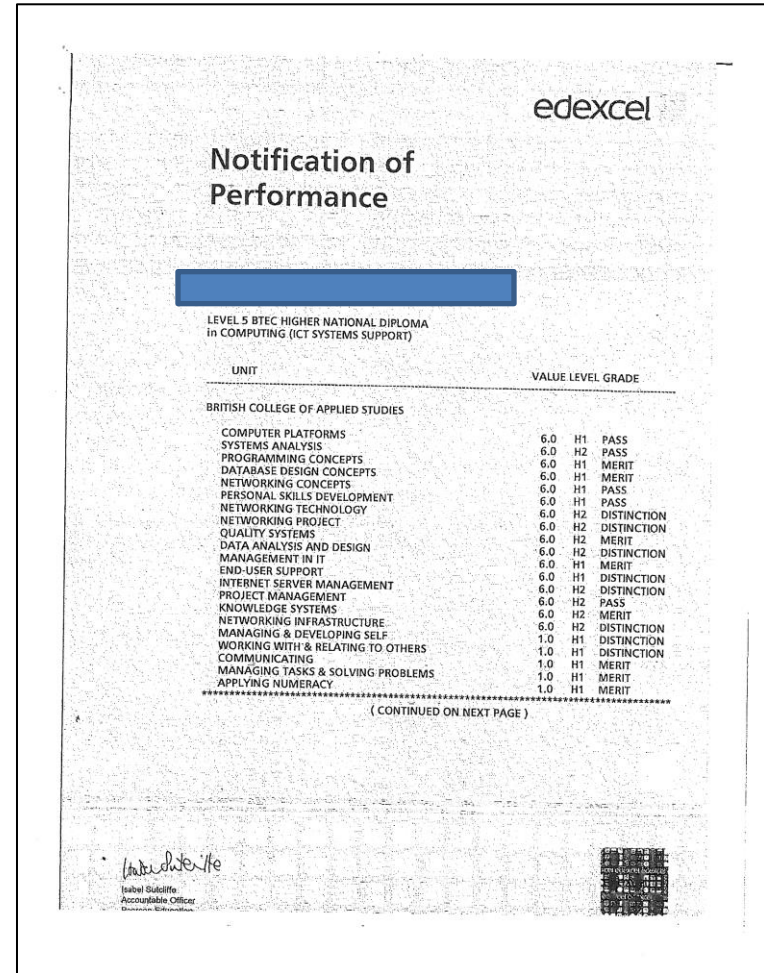
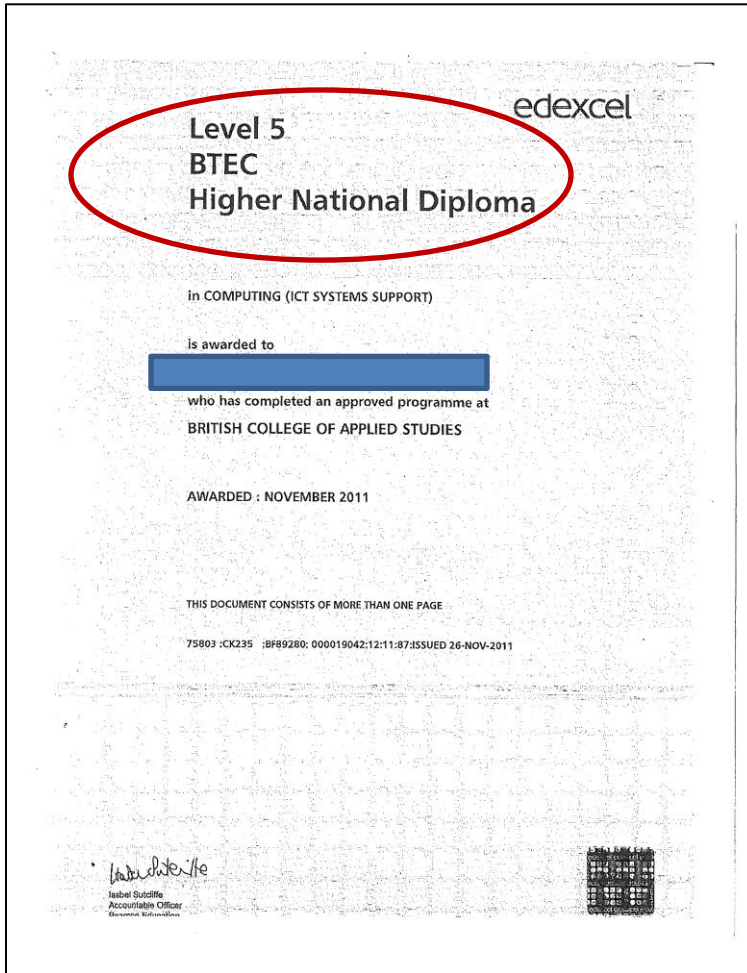
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BUPT3 01788706 753

BTEC Qualifications Table: Levels 4 - 8

LEVEL	NQF NAME	QCF NAME as of September 2010	CREDIT	GUIDED LEARNING HOURS	APPROXIMATION
4 (Higher Nationals)		BTEC Level 4 Higher National Certificate	120		
		BTEC Level 4 Foundation Diploma in Art & Design	120		
	Level 4 BTEC Professional Qualifications	BTEC Level 4 Professional Qualifications	Variable		Certificate of Higher Education
5 (Higher Nationals)	Level 5 BTEC Higher National Certificate	BTEC Level 5 Higher National Certificate	150	600	Foundation Degrees, Diploma of Higher Education
	Level 5 BTEC Higher National Diploma	BTEC Level 5 Higher National Diploma	240	960	Foundation Degrees, Diploma of Higher Education
	Level 5 BTEC Professional Qualifications	BTEC Level 5 Professional Qualifications	Variable		Diploma of Higher Education
6	Level 6 BTEC Professional Qualifications	BTEC Level 6 Professional Qualifications	Variable		Undergraduate Degree
7	Level 7 BTEC Advanced Professional Qualifications	BTEC Level 7 Professional Qualifications	Variable		Graduate Level
8					Doctorate Degree

BTEC Level 5 Record



University of South Florida Practical Applications

Hannah Lowenthal

Legitimate Qualifications

- International Mail Process
- Protocols – Qualification Database
- Accredited qualification Awarding Body
- International Credential Evaluation- Samples
- Next steps
- Goals



General Certificate of Education

This is to certify that the candidate named below was awarded the following grade(s) in the subject(s) shown:

JUNE 2008

Date of Birth:

ADVANCED GCE	
PHYSICS A	D(d)
100/0456/7	
ADVANCED SUBSIDIARY GCE	
ELECTRONICS	C(c)
100/0083/5	



Greg Watson
Greg Watson
Chief Executive, OCR

Jean Marshall
Jean Marshall
Accountable Officer, OCR

Oxford Cambridge and RSA Examinations is recognised by the regulators of external qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland to offer accredited qualifications.

Candidate Number: 261758092 (Explanatory notes are provided overleaf) Date of issue: 10/11/2008
UCI: 772960044180X Certificate Number: 0023379631

Practical Applications 1

- Making admissions decisions based on predicted results
 - GPA Re-calculation
- Policies and Procedures
- Understanding the impact of the examination results for
 - Admission

Practical Applications 2

- Advanced Standing
- University challenges
 - Foreign educational system
 - Staff evaluation skills
 - Lack of policy
 - Mixed credentials

A levels policy

- Different factors associated with accepting/denying A levels
 - State issues
 - Institutional issues
 - Departmental issues

- NAFSA Online Guide to Great Britain

<http://www.nafsa.org/ /File/ /ges/Great%20Britain.pdf>

- IQAS International Education Guide to the United Kingdom

<http://iae.alberta.ca/documents/WIA/WIA-IM iqas uk profile.pdf>

- NUFFIC Country Module on the United Kingdom

<http://www.nuffic.nl/en/library/country-module-united-kingdom.pdf>

Free Online Resources

- The Educational System of the United Kingdom (2006) by AACRAO
- British Qualifications (2013) by Kogan Publishers
- PIER Workshop Report: The Educational System of the United Kingdom (1991)
- World Education Series: United Kingdom (1976)

Resources in Print