

Brampton College Admissions Policy

Aims

The aim of this policy is to identify and admit students who will benefit from an academic education and who will contribute to the ethos and activities of our College community. We will only admit a student who has met the academic criteria.

Equal treatment: We welcome students of any ethnicity, religion or background. Human rights and freedoms are respected but must be balanced with the lawful needs and rules of our College community and the rights and freedoms of others. All candidates for admission will be treated equally and in compliance with the Equality Act 2010 which stipulates the following protected characteristics:

- Age (Brampton admits students from age 15 who are chronologically in Year 11 in the UK)
- Gender reassignment
- Being married or in a civil partnership
- Being pregnant or on maternity leave
- Disability
- Race including colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin
- Religion or belief
- Sex
- Sexual orientation

We will also treat students equally irrespective of their or their parents background, previous school, educational background, property ownership, employment history or background, employment status, address or post-code.

Disability and special educational needs: The College will do all that is reasonable to comply with its legal and moral responsibilities under the The Children’s and Families Act: section 69 and the Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2014 to accommodate the needs of applicants who have disabilities for which, with reasonable adjustments, the College can cater adequately. The College complies with the 0-25 Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice. Some of the college’s facilities are accessible to disabled students, for those that are not, we will make reasonable adjustments.

The College needs to be aware of any known disability or special educational need which may affect a child's ability to take full advantage of the education provided at the College. Parents of a child who has any disability or special educational need should provide the College with full written details at the time of application, or subsequently during the interview process.

The College needs this information so that, in the case of any child with particular needs, we can assess those needs and consult with parents about the adjustments which can reasonably be made to cater adequately for the child's needs both during the admission process and if an offer of a place is made.

Similarly, if special educational needs or a disability become apparent after admission, the College will consult with parents about reasonable adjustments that may allow the child to continue at the College.

Procedures

Summary: Our admission procedure has three elements:

- Interviews;
- Academic references;
- Evidence of prior attainment.

Interviews: In all cases there will be a general interview to explore the applicant’s interests, attitude to College, personal qualities, ability to contribute to the College community, support available at home and any relevant connection with the College. This interview will be with either the Principal, one of the Vice Principals or a Senior Tutor. In the case of a GCSE candidate the interview will be with the Head of the GCSE Department.

Character reference: The Head Teacher of the applicant’s current school will be asked to provide a written reference as to the applicant’s academic ability, attitude and behaviour, talents and interest, and any other special circumstances such as special education needs, or a disability. The school will also be asked to provide predictions for any public examinations to be taken prior to admission.

Evidence of prior attainment: At the interview stage, the applicant will be required to bring evidence of prior attainment, for example public exam results slips, copies of end of year assessments taken at school and the latest school report.

Special Educational Needs

Brampton welcomes applications from students with Special Educational Needs (SEND), however we ask parents or applicants to fully disclose any such information in as much detail as possible at interview and/or enrolment. This is to ensure that we are able to provide the student with full access to our curriculum. We will not discriminate against a student with SEND but full disclosure of the details of any need as early as possible in the process allows us to prepare our support for that student and make any reasonable adjustments necessary to support their learning. Such evidence may be in the form of an educational psychologists report, EHCP or evidence of the award of an access arrangement (AA). If no evidence exists, but parents or applicants suspect that an assessment may be appropriate, we also ask for this to be disclosed.

Entry Criteria

General statement: We are looking to recruit hard working, well-motivated students with solid academic foundations. In cases of uncertainty we will set an assessment for the student or work that can be completed and returned at a later date, or ask them to complete work at the college under supervision. We do not have an entry test as such, but may assess any such work completed to determine suitability for a particular programme.

Admission for A level: All prospective A level students receive our Statement of Admission criteria, which states that our main criteria for entry are the ability to demonstrate the motivation and commitment as well as the background skills, knowledge and aptitude necessary to complete the A level courses successfully. Such factors cannot always be defined, therefore our preference is to evaluate these factors on an individual basis through the interview process. In general we would expect at least grade B/6 at GCSE or IGCSE across the range of subjects, particularly those relevant to A level choices. We also expect students to have at least a grade A/7 at GCSE or IGCSE for any subject they wish to take at A level. Two 7s or As in combined science are sufficient for students who wish to take science A levels, although individual GCSE subjects are preferred in the sciences. However, as motivation and commitment are our main criteria, we reserve the right to amend the application of this element of the policy on a case by case basis.

The academic profile of our A level students varies as mentioned during the interview, although the majority have obtained at least some 7/A at GCSE/IGCSE level and we prefer at least 5 at 7/A. Applications from students who have achieved a grade 5/C (or lower) at GCSE or IGCSE level will be considered on an individual basis and may be admitted if they demonstrate particular aptitude in one or more subject areas.

Admission for GCSE: Each year we accept a limited number of GCSE students. They comprise a mixture of students who have already completed Year 10 at school and are transferring to Brampton College for the final year of their GCSE programme, international students wishing to complete their GCSEs in one year and integrate into the UK educational system. Other students may have been home-schooled for the period leading up to Year 11 or may be re-sitting some or all GCSEs. Each student is interviewed by the Head of GCSE to assess their suitability for the course.

Special circumstances: We recognise that an applicant's performance at school may have been affected by particular circumstances, for example:

- If he/she is unwell when taking tests or has had a lengthy absence from school;
- If there are particular family circumstances such as a recent bereavement;
- If there is relevant educational history, for example education outside the British system;
- If the candidate has a disability or specific learning difficulties;
- If English is not the candidate's first language.

In any of these cases, we may request further information such as a medical certificate or an Educational Psychologist's report and any associated correspondence or details from the student's current school (including samples of work) as we consider necessary to make a fair assessment.

Admission in August and September

Some students apply to study at the College in the period after the publication of the A level results (typically in mid-August). At this time each student will have a detailed assessment with the Principal, Vice Principal, SLT member, or another 'Lead Interviewer.' As far as possible they will also be assessed by any relevant subject teachers. In the case of students intending to resit their A levels the interviewers look particularly carefully at what happened during their first sitting so that improvements can be made.

Securing a place

Successful applicants are issued with an offer letter. In order to enrol secure their place they need to complete an enrolment form and pay a non-refundable deposit of £950 (£2,500 in the case of an

international student). Any offer of a place at A level is subject to students meeting the GCSE requirements stipulated in this policy. The offer of a place is for the courses detailed in the offer letter only. If applicants do not meet the criteria for the programme they have applied for, we may offer an alternative programme at the same level or a different level to the one they applied for. Applicants are not obliged to accept this alternative offer and the deposit would be refunded if they chose not to enrol at this point.