



Entry Requirements for admission in September 2025

Course offer and Pathways

Please find below our current curriculum offer. Sometimes a course may be withdrawn if it is not viable to run as a result of low application or enrolment numbers. Should there be any changes to our curriculum offer, this will be communicated with prospective students and further advice and guidance will be offered.

A Level / Mixed Study (Students choose to study 3 subjects from the list below)	T Level (Students study one course)
Accounting (A-Level) Applied Science (Vocational - A-Level equivalent) Art & Design – 3D Design & Technology (A-Level) Art & Design – Fine Art (A-Level) Art & Design – Graphic Design (A-Level) Art & Design – Photography (A-Level) Art & Design – Textiles (A-Level) Biology (A-Level) Business (A-Level) Business (Vocational - A-Level equivalent) Chemistry (A-Level) Computer Science (A-Level) Criminology (Vocational - A-Level equivalent) Dance Performance (Vocational A-Level equivalent) Digital Games Production (Vocational - A-Level equivalent) Drama & Theatre (A-Level) Economics (A-Level) English Language (A-Level) English Literature (A-Level) English Language & Literature (A-Level) Film Studies (A-Level) Further Mathematics (A-Level) Geography (A-Level) Geology (A-Level) Health & Social Care (Vocational - A-Level equivalent) History (A-Level) Information Technology (Vocational - A-Level equivalent) Law (A-Level) Law (Vocational - A-Level equivalent) Mathematics (A-Level) Media Studies (A-Level) Music Performance (Vocational - A-Level equivalent) Music Technology – Music Production & DJ (Vocational - A-Level equivalent) Music Technology – Studio & Live Engineering (Vocational - A-Level equivalent) Philosophy, Ethics & Religion (A-Level) Physics (A-Level) Politics (A-Level) Psychology (A-Level) Public Services (Vocational - A-Level equivalent) Sociology (A-Level) Spanish (A-Level) Sport - Sport Science (Vocational - A-Level equivalent) Sport - Sport Studies (Vocational - A-Level equivalent)	Education - Early Years Health Vocational (Students study one course) Level 3 (2 year pathway) Business Forensic Science Health & Social Care Public Services Sport Coaching & Development Sport Coaching & Development (Football) - in partnership with Manchester City FC Level 2 Foundation (3 year pathway leading to progression to a Level 3 Vocational course) Early Years Additional qualifications Core Maths (Certificate equiv to 1 AS Level) This is an extra qualification (equivalent to 1 AS Level) and would be studied alongside you're a-Level/Mixed Study Programme. This qualification would suit students choosing to study Psychology, Sociology, Geography, Biology, Chemistry, Applied Science, Accounting, Economics and Business (or any course with a Maths element except A-level Maths/Further Maths).

General Entry Requirements for September 2024

XL ACADEMY

- A minimum of 7 GCSEs at grade 7 including English Language or Maths (with no lower than a 5 in the other)

A LEVEL

- A minimum of 2 GCSEs at grade 6, 2 x GCSEs at grade 5, 2 GCSEs at grade 4 including English Language **and** Maths
- Additional course requirements must also be met

MIXED STUDY

- A minimum of 2 GCSEs at grade 5 and 3 GCSEs at grade 4 or above including English Language **and** Maths
- Additional course requirements must also be met

T LEVEL

- A minimum of 5 GCSEs at grade 4 or above including English Language **and** Maths
- Additional course requirements must also be met

VOCATIONAL – LEVEL 3

- A minimum of 5 GCSEs* at a grade 4 or above including English Language and a minimum of a grade 3** in GCSE Maths for the following courses:
 - Business
 - Forensic Science
 - Health & Social Care
- A minimum of 4 GCSEs* at a grade 4 or above including English Language and a minimum of a grade 3** Maths for the following courses:
 - Public Services
 - Sports Coaching
 - Sports Coaching (Football with CITC)

VOCATIONAL – LEVEL 2 FOUNDATION

- A minimum of 4 GCSEs* at grade 3 or above including a grade 4 in English Language **or** Maths

****PLEASE NOTE there are some variations to these entry requirements for individual courses. Please see individual course details for specific entry requirements.**

1 GCSE can be replaced with a Level 2 vocational qual. This must be at a Merit/Distinction/Distinction

A student who has not achieved a minimum of a Grade 4 in Maths or English Language (and has satisfied entry reqs for their chosen L3 course) will be enrolled on to an appropriate Maths or English course alongside their Level 3 study programme

A-LEVEL / MIXED STUDY– Additional course requirements

Below you will find A-Level/Mixed study courses which require additional entry criteria. Please note entry requirements can be subject to change but will be communicated with prospective students. Sometimes a course may be withdrawn if it is not viable to run as a result of low application or enrolment numbers.

Subject	Qual type	Exam board	Assessment	Additional course requirements	Notes
Accounting	A-Level	AQA	100% exam	Grade 5 in GCSE Maths	
Applied Science	Extended Certificate (Vocational A Level equiv)	Pearson	58% exam 42% non-examined assessment	Grade 4 in GCSE Maths plus Grade 44 in GCSE Science	This course cannot be studied alongside A-Level Science subjects
Art and Design 3D Design	A-Level	EDUQAS	100% coursework and practical exam	No additional requirements	GCSE Art & Design is preferred but not essential
Art and Design Fine Art	A-Level	EDUQAS	100% coursework and practical exam	No additional requirements	GCSE Art & Design is preferred but not essential
Art and Design Graphic Design	A-Level	EDUQAS	100% coursework and practical exam	No additional requirements	GCSE Art & Design is preferred but not essential
Art and Design Photography	A-Level	EDUQAS	100% coursework and practical exam	No additional requirements	GCSE Art & Design is preferred but not essential
Art and Design Textiles	A-Level	EDUQAS	100% coursework and practical exam	No additional requirements	GCSE Art & Design is preferred but not essential
Biology	A-Level	AQA	100% exam	Grade 66 in GCSE Combined Science (or from two sciences one of which must be Biology). Grade 5 in GCSE Maths.	Students are advised to study another Science including: Chemistry, Physics, Computer Science, Geology Psychology, Geography, Sport may be appropriate for some students with specific career aims Students also advised to study Core Maths if A Level Maths not chosen

Business	A-Level	Edexcel	100% exam	Grade 5 in an essay based subject	
Business	Extended Certificate (Vocational A Level equiv)	Pearson	58% exam 42% non-examined assessment	No additional requirements	
Chemistry	A-Level	OCR	100% exam	Grade 6 in GCSE Combined Science (or from two sciences one of which must be Chemistry). Grade 5 in GCSE Maths.	Students are advised to study another Science including: Biology, Computer Science, Geology, Physics or Maths at A-Level Students also advised to study Core Maths if A Level Maths not chosen
Computer Science	A-Level	OCR	80% exam 20% non-examined assessment	Grade 6 in GCSE Combined Science/Separate Sciences and Grade 6 in GCSE Maths.	Students also advised to study Core Maths if A Level Maths not chosen
Criminology	Applied Diploma (Vocational A Level equiv)	Eduqas	50% exam 50% controlled assessment	No additional requirements	
Dance (Performance Dance)	Extended Certificate (Vocational A Level equiv)	Pearson		Students will be invited to attend a dance audition and should demonstrate some dance experience/ability	
Digital Games Production	Extended Certificate (Vocational A Level equiv)	Pearson	Mix of internal and external assessment	Grade 4 in Maths is desirable	
Drama & Theatre	A-Level	Pearson	40% exam 30% coursework 30% practical	No additional requirements	
Economics	A-Level	Pearson	100% exam	Grade 6 in GCSE Maths	
English Language	A-Level	EDUQAS	80% exam 20% coursework	Grade 5 in GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature	
English Literature	A-Level	Pearson	80% exam 20% coursework	Grade 5 in GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature	

English Language and Literature	A-Level	Pearson	80% exam 20% coursework	Grade 4 in GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature	
Film Studies	A-Level	EDUQAS	70% exam 30% non-examined assessment	No additional requirements	
Further Maths	A-Level	Pearson	100% exam	Grade 8 in GCSE Maths	
Geography	A-Level	Pearson	80% exam 20% coursework	Grade 5 in an essay based subject	If GCSE Geography has been studied student must achieve a minimum of a grade 4
Geology	A-Level	Eduqas	100% exam	Grade 55 in GCSE Combined Science/Separate Sciences and grade 5 in GCSE Maths	
Health & Social Care	Technical Certificate (Vocational A Level equiv)	NCFE CACHE	Coursework with an externally assessed unit	No additional requirements	
History	A-Level	Pearson	80% exam 20% non-examined assessment	Grade 5 in an essay based subject	
IT	Extended Certificate (Vocational A Level equiv)	Pearson	58% exam 42% non-examined assessment	Grade 4 in GCSE Maths	
Law	A-Level	AQA	100% exam	No additional requirements	
Law	Extended Certificate (Vocational A Level equiv)	Pearson	58% exam 42% non-examined assessment	No additional requirements	
Maths	A-Level	Pearson	100% exam	Grade 7 in GCSE Maths	A student with a grade 6 in GCSE Maths to see Head of Maths
Media Studies	A Level	EDUQAS	70% exam, 30% coursework	No additional requirements	
Music Performance	Extended Certificate (Vocational A Level equiv)	Pearson	Mix of internal and external assessment	Students will be invited to attend a music audition and should demonstrate some music experience/ability	
Music Technology - Music Production	Extended Certificate	Pearson	33% exam 67% non-	No additional requirements	

& DJ - Studio & Live Engineering	(Vocational A Level equiv)		examined assessment		
Physics	A-Level	OCR	100% exam	2 x grade 6's and 1 x 5 as follows - 1 x 6 must be in Physics or Combined Science (6/5) and the other 6 in Maths.	Students must study A level Maths or Core Maths alongside Physics. Students who wish to study A Level Maths must achieve a Grade 7 in GCSE Maths
Politics	A-Level	AQA	100% exam	Grade 5 in an essay based subject	
Philosophy, Ethics & Religion	A-Level	EDUQAS	100% exam	No additional requirements	
Psychology	A-Level	AQA	100% exam	GCSE grade 5 in Maths	
Public Services	Diploma (Vocational A Level equiv)	NCFE	100% internal assessment	No additional requirements	
Sociology	A-Level	AQA	100% exam	Grade 5 in an essay based subject	
Spanish	A-Level	EDUQAS	100% exam	Grade 6 in GCSE Spanish or native speaker	
Sport - Sport Science	Extended Certificate (Vocational A Level equiv)	Pearson	Mix of internal and external assessments	Grade 54 in GCSE Science	
Sport - Sport and Exercise Performance	Extended Certificate (Vocational A Level equiv)	Pearson	Mix of internal and external assessments	No additional requirements	

T LEVEL – Additional course requirements

Course	Course type	Specific entry Criteria
Education - Early Years	T Level	No additional requirements
Health	T Level	Grade 4 in GCSE Science

VOCATIONAL LEVEL 3 – Additional course requirements

Below you will find full time Level 3 vocational courses which require additional entry criteria. Please note entry requirements can be subject to change at any time.

Course	Course type	Exam board	Assessment	Additional course requirements
Business	Extended Diploma	Pearson	42% exam 58% non-examined assessment	A minimum of 5 GCSEs* at a grade 4 or above including English Language and a minimum of a 3 in Maths
Forensic Science	Extended Diploma	Pearson	42% exam 58% non-examined assessment	A minimum of 5 GCSEs* at a grade 4 or above including English Language, Maths and Science/Applied Science
Health & Social Care	Extended Diploma	Pearson	A mix of internal and external assessment	A minimum of 5 GCSEs* at a grade 4 or above including English Language and a minimum of a grade 3 in Maths
Public Services	Extended Diploma	NcFE	100% Internal assessment	A minimum of 4 GCSEs* at a grade 4 or above including English Language and a minimum of a grade 3 Maths
Sports Coaching & Development	Extended Diploma	Pearson	100% Internal assessment	A minimum of 4 GCSEs* at a grade 4 or above including English Language and a minimum of a grade 3 in Maths
Sports Coaching & Development (Football) - in partnership with CITC)	Extended Diploma	Pearson	100% Internal assessment	A minimum of 4 GCSEs* at a grade 4 or above including English Language and a minimum of a grade 3 in Maths <i>Applicants will be invited to attend a taster session to assess their ability to play football at a competitive level</i>

VOCATIONAL LEVEL 2 FOUNDATION – Additional course requirements

Course	Course type	Exam board	Information
Early Years	Level 2 Diploma		

ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

Course	Course type	Exam board	Enrolment information
Core Maths	Level 3 Certificate	AQA	This is an extra qualification (equiv to 1 AS Level) and would be studied alongside your 3 x course choices. This qualification would suit students choosing to study Psychology, Sociology, Geography, Biology, Chemistry, Applied Science, Accounting, Economics and Business (or any course with a Maths element except A-level Maths/F Maths). Students must not have chosen to study A-Level Mathematics or Further Mathematics.
Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)	Level 3 EPQ	AQA	The EPQ is an additional qualification studied in the second year of study, equivalent to 1 AS Level, that allows you to develop your personal interest in a topic or area that interests you.