

School of Geography Unconditional Offer Scheme

This scheme allows us to target students who demonstrate potential for exceptional academic performance in a challenging university environment. The scheme provides applicants with an unconditional offer to continue their academic career in Geography or Environmental Science at Queen Mary University of London, if they make us their firm choice.

We believe these applicants will make a significant contribution to the School and likewise will themselves benefit enormously from their time at QMUL. Our aim is to demonstrate to these applicants that we are confident that they have the ability to excel in their academic studies with us.

Due to the nature of the scheme, we are only able to make a small number of awards. However, if you are not selected for consideration under this scheme, this does not exclude you from a standard conditional offer to study with us. The majority of our offers are conditional on predicted grades.

FAQs

How does the scheme work?

Applicants showing evidence of outstanding academic potential are identified on the basis of past and predicted academic performance. This usually means GCSE results achieved and predicted grades at A Level. We are able to select applicants who demonstrate the strongest academic potential for consideration for an unconditional offer. We are also keen to increase participation from groups of students who are underrepresented in Higher Education. As a result we are able to select students who meet the overall criteria plus additional criteria for Widening Participation (in particular, students meeting Participation of Local Areas criteria, care leavers, and students with a disability). Applicants selected for consideration for an unconditional offer are invited for interview at one of our Festival of Geography events held in February and March.

Do you consider applicants with alternative qualifications?

Yes, we also consider students taking the International Baccalaureate (IB). Unfortunately we are unable to consider applicants taking Access and Foundation qualifications due to the insufficient availability of predicted grades.

Are there any other eligibility requirements?

We are unable to make awards to applicants who are required to achieve English proficiency (e.g. IELTS) if the qualification is outstanding. These students will instead be considered for a standard conditional offer. We also cannot consider overseas applicants who require a visa to study in the UK.

Why are you making unconditional offers to some applicants?

We look for students with excellent academic potential to join our community within the School of Geography. These students make an invaluable contribution to our School and the University as a whole, and we believe they will benefit enormously from their time with us. The unconditional offer demonstrates our confidence that applicants have the ability to excel on one of our degree programmes, based on their potential as demonstrated by past and predicted academic performance.

Why does the applicant have to choose you as firm?

This is a two-way agreement between the School and the applicant. We are demonstrating to applicants that we believe they have the ability to achieve good grades and will work hard to do so. In return, we expect the applicant to demonstrate their commitment to studying with us by making us their firm choice.

What if the applicant doesn't achieve their predicted grades?

While we accept that grade predictions are not always correct, it is likely that those with the highest predicted grades will achieve them. We also take into consideration the applicant's personal statement and references to help confirm their potential, as well as inviting them for interview. On this basis, we have confidence that our applicants will achieve their full potential. However, an unconditional offer is exactly that – it is not conditional on achieving predicted grades. We will therefore still accept students who do not meet their predicted grades.

What is the advantage of receiving an unconditional offer?

The offer takes away the uncertainty associated with securing a place at University, helping students to focus on achieving their best performance in their academic career. It also contributes to the development of an important and long-lasting relationship between applicants and the School and the University. Interviews are held as part of our Festival of Geography events where you will have the opportunity to meet members of staff, experience taster lectures and gather more information on the School and your selected degree programme. This experience will help to ease the transition to University and equip you with useful information about your degree programme, the School and the University.

How will I know if I have been selected for an award?

All applicants will initially be made a conditional offer. If you have been selected for consideration under the Unconditional Offer Scheme, you will be invited for interview for the opportunity to 'upgrade' your offer to unconditional. The interview is an important part of the process in confirming your motivation and potential for academic excellence, but our rigorous selection process means that we are seeking to make awards to all students we interview. Interviews are held during our Festival of Geography events, which run in February and March. Following the interview we will be able to confirm via email whether you have been made an award. Your award is conditional on you placing us as your firm choice on UCAS.

How do I accept the award?

To accept the award of an unconditional offer, you must place us as your firm choice on UCAS Track. Your offer will then be upgraded to unconditional.

What if I am selected for the scheme but do not want to accept the award, or decide to defer?

If you choose not to place us as your firm choice, you will retain your original conditional offer. The offer is only available to those who take up their place this year.