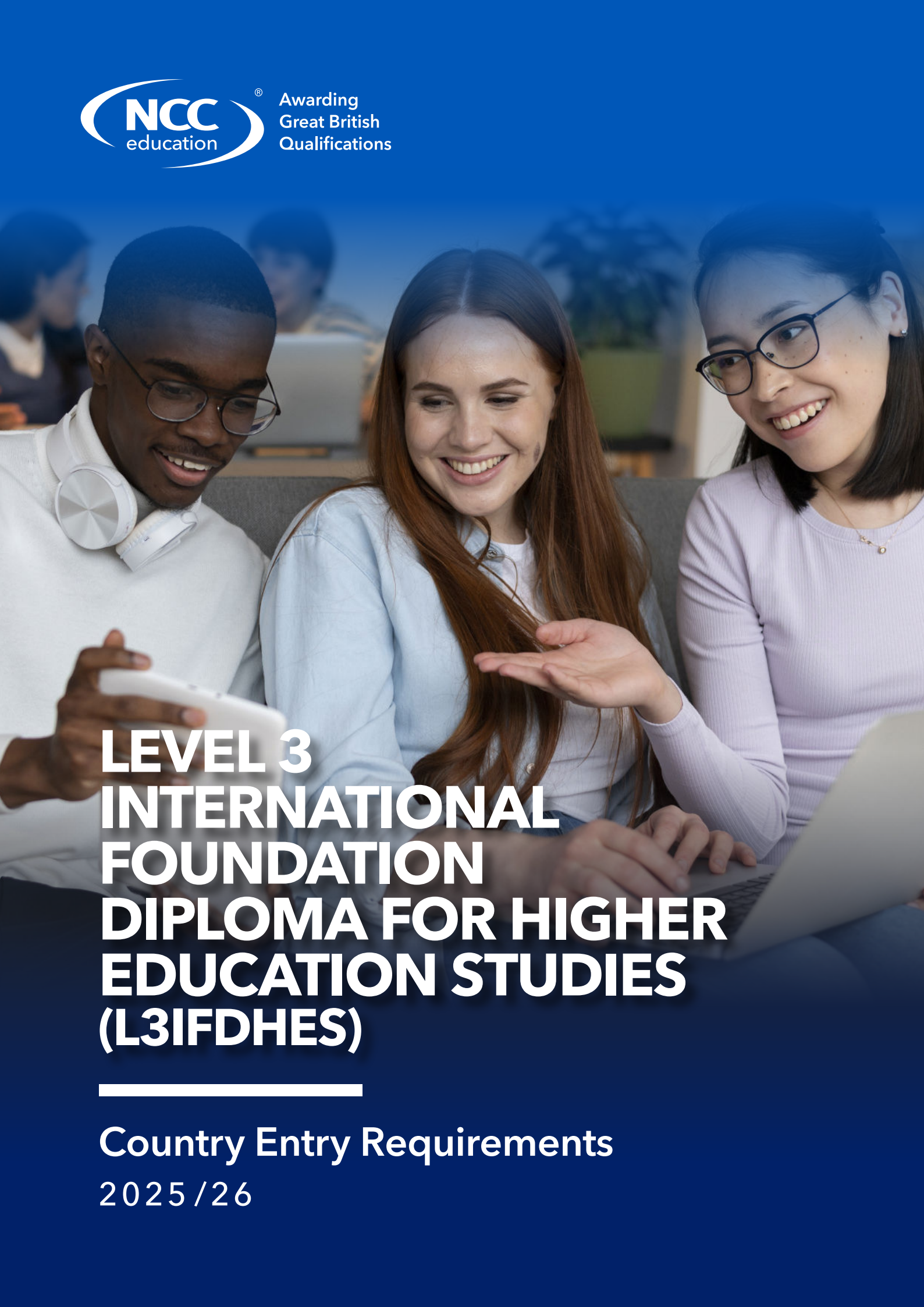




Awarding
Great British
Qualifications

A photograph of three diverse students sitting together, smiling and looking at a smartphone held by the student on the left. The student in the middle is pointing at the screen, and the student on the right is looking at a laptop. The background is a blurred indoor setting, possibly a library or study area.

LEVEL 3 INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION DIPLOMA FOR HIGHER EDUCATION STUDIES (L3IFDHEs)

Country Entry Requirements
2025 / 26

**Welcome to the
NCC Education
Level 3 International
Foundation Diploma
in Higher Education
Studies (L3IFDHES)
Country Specific Entry
Requirement Guide for
prospective students.**

The table below lists the country qualification with requirements students need to enrol in the programme along with the NARIC equivalency.

On **page 9** you will find information on the English Language Requirements to enrol in the L3IFDHES programme as well as the language requirements for progression to further NCC Education qualifications.

Students who have completed the L3IFDHES programme in the past, have progressed to over 100 Universities.

Please Note: For any alternative equivalencies, centres should provide evidence to justify enrolment decisions (both qualification equivalency and grade equivalency are required).



To find out more about progression routes available please check out our website to see our latest **What's Next: University Progression Brochure**

Country	Qualification	NARIC Equivalent	L3IFDHES Entry Requirement
Algeria	Baccalaureat de l'Enseignement Secondaire	AS Level	Successful completion with an overall average of 50% with passes in four or more subjects (including Maths and English).
Armenia	Certificate of Secondary General Education	GCSE A*-C	Successfully passed 5 subjects with a grade of 8 out of 20 or more including Maths and English.
Azerbaijan	Certificate of Complete Secondary Education	GCSE A*-C	Passed 5 subjects, grades of 3 or better in all subjects, including Maths and English. English is studied as a second language and is not considered comparable to English Language.
Bahrain	General Secondary Education Certificate (Shahadat AlThanawaya Al-Aam)	GCSE A* - C	Succesfully achieved with an average of 50% or more in 5 subjects, including Maths and English. English is studied as a second language and is not considered comparable to English Language.
Bangladesh	Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC)	GCSE A*-C	Successful completion with an overall average of 50% with passes in five or more subjects (including Maths and English).
Botswana	Botswana Certificate of Secondary Education	GCSE A*-C	Successful completion of 5 modules with grades of CCCCC (to normally include Maths and English).
Brazil	Certificado de Ensino Medio	Between GCSE and AS Level	Passed 5 subjects, including Maths and English. English is studied as a second language and is not considered comparable to English Language.

Country	Qualification	NARIC Equivalent	L3IFDHES Entry Requirement
Brunei	Brunei Cambridge GCE O Level	GCSE A*-C	Successful completion of O Levels in 5 subjects with C6 or better including Maths and English.
Cameroon	Cameroon General Certificate of Education	GCSE A*-C	Successful completion of 5 modules with grades of CCCC (to normally include Maths and English).
Cambodia	Diploma of Upper Secondary Education	GCSE A*-C	Successful completion with an average of 45% or more (grade D) in 5 subjects (with a grade of 45% or more in Maths, and English if studied).
Canada	High School Diploma/ GED test		Successfully completed Grade 12 and achieved High school diploma/GED test, including Maths and English.
Canada - Alberta	Alberta High School Diploma/ Certificate of High School Achievement (academic subjects)	Diploma - GCE Advanced (A) Level Certificate - GCSE A* - C	Successfully passed 5 subjects at grade 11 or 12, including Maths and English.
Canada - British Columbia	British Columbia Adult Graduation Diploma	GCE Advanced (A) Level	Successfully passed 5 subjects at grade 12, including Maths and English.
	British Columbia Certificate of Graduation	GCE Advanced (A) Level	Successfully passed 5 subjects at grade 11 or 12, including Maths and English.
Canada - Manitoba	Manitoba High School Diploma/ Manitoba Student High School Diploma	GCE Advanced (A) Level	Successfully passed 5 subjects at grade 11 or 12, including Maths and English.
Canada - New Brunswick	New Brunswick High School Diploma	GCE Advanced (A) Level	Successfully passed 5 subjects at grade 11 or 12, including Maths and English. (In the Francophone system, English is studied as a second language and is not comparable to English Language GCSE studied in the UK.)
	Adult High School Diploma	GCE Advanced (A) Level	Successfully passed 5 subjects at grade 12, including Maths and English. (In the Francophone system, English is studied as a second language and is not comparable to English Language GCSE studied in the UK.)
Canada - Newfoundland and Labrador	Newfoundland and Labrador High School Diploma	GCE Advanced (A) Level	Successfully passed 5 subjects at grade 11 or 12, including Maths and English.

Country	Qualification	NARIC Equivalent	L3IFDHES Entry Requirement
Canada - Northwest Territories	Northwest Territories High School Diploma	GCE Advanced (A) Level	Successfully passed 5 subjects at grade 11 or 12, including Maths and English.
Canada - Nova Scotia	High School Diploma for Adults/Nova Scotia High School Graduation Diploma	GCE Advanced (A) Level	Successfully passed 5 subjects at grade 11 or 12, including Maths and English.
Canada - Nunavut	Nunavut Secondary School Graduation Diploma	GCE Advanced (A) Level	Successfully passed 5 subjects at grade 11 or 12, including Maths and English.
Canada - Ontario	Ontario Secondary School Diploma	GCE Advanced (A) Level	Successfully passed 5 subjects at grade 11 or 12, including Maths and English.
Canada - Prince Edward Island	Prince Edward Island High School Graduation Diploma	GCE Advanced (A) Level	Successfully passed 5 subjects at grade 11 or 12, including Maths and English.
Canada - Quebec	Secondary School Diploma	GCSE A*-C	Successfully passed 5 subjects (grade of 60% and above), including Maths and English. (In the Francophone schools English is studied as a second language and is not comparable to English Language GCSE studied in the UK. In Anglophone schools English language passed with 60% and above may be considered at least comparable to GCSE graded A*-C.)
Canada - Saskatchewan	Saskatchewan Transcript of Secondary Level Achievement	GCSE A*-C	Successfully passed 5 subjects at grade 11 or 12, including Maths and English.
Canada - Yukon	Yukon Graduation Diploma/Yukon Graduation Certificate	GCSE A*-C	Successfully passed 5 subjects at grade 11 or 12, including Maths and English.
China	Year 11 (Senior High School 2)	GCSE A*-C	Students who have completed 11 years of school education including completion of Year 11 and have achieved an average of 65% in 5 or more subjects.
	Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE)	GCSE A*-C	Minimum 5 subjects passed at Level 2 in relevant subjects. These should include Maths and English.
Eswatini	Swaziland General Certificate of Education	GCSE A*-C	Successful completion of 5 modules with grades of CCCCC (to normally include Maths and English).
Egypt	Certificate of General Secondary Education	GCSE A*-C	Successful completion of 5 subjects with an overall average of 50% or more (to normally include Maths and English).

Country	Qualification	NARIC Equivalent	L3IFDHES Entry Requirement
France	Diplome du Baccalaureat General	GCE Advanced A level	5 subjects passed in seconde (2de)/premiere (1ere)/terminale (tle) with a grade of 10 or above, including Maths and English.
Georgia	General Education Diploma	GCSE A*-C	Passed 5 subjects, including Maths and English. English is studied as a second language and is not considered comparable to English Language.
Ghana	West African Senior School Certificate Examination	GCSE A*-C	Successful completion with grades of C6 or better in at least five subjects (to normally include Maths and English).
India	Year 11	GCSE A* - C	Completion of Secondary School Education (CBSE) or Year 11 with pass in 5 subjects. These should include Maths and English. Students wishing to study IFY Science or Engineering must complete Year 11 and have a minimum of 65% in Maths. Note students entering via this route may have limited progression options.
Indonesia	Surat Tanda Tamat Belajar Sekolah Menengah Umum Tingkat Atas - SMA 2	GCSE A* - C	Successful completion with an average grade of 6.5 (with a grade of at least 7.0 in Maths and English).
Iran	High School Diploma	GCSE A* - C	Successful completion with an overall average of 10 or more, including Maths, and English. English is studied as a second language and is not considered comparable to English Language.
Ireland	Leaving Certificate - Ordinary Level	GCSE A* - C	5 subjects passed (grades 1-4) including Maths and English.
Italy	Diploma di Esame di Stato	GCE Advanced (A) Level	Passed 5 subjects including Maths and English.
Ivory Coast	Diplome de Bachelier de l'Enseignement du Second Degre / Baccalaureat de l'Enseignement Secondaire	AS Level	Successful completion with an overall average of 50% with passes in four or more subjects (including Maths and English).
Japan	Kotogakko Year 12	GCSE A* - C	Successful completion of Kotogakko (Year 12) with grade average or 70% or GPA 3.5/5. These should include at least 2 in Maths and English.

Country	Qualification	NARIC Equivalent	L3IFDHES Entry Requirement
Jordan	Certificate of General Secondary Education (Tawjihi)	GCSE A* - C	Successfully passed 5 subjects including Maths and English. English is studied as a second language and is not considered comparable to English Language.
Kazakhstan	Certificate of Completed Secondary Education/Attestat (Year 11)	GCSE A*-C	Successfully achieved grades 3 and above in 5 subjects, including Maths and English. (English is studied as a second language and is not considered comparable to English Language.)
Kyrgyzstan	Certificate of Completed Secondary Education/Certificate of Technical & Professional Education	GCSE A*-C	Successfully achieved grades 3 and above in 5 subjects, including Maths and English. (English is studied as a second language and is not considered comparable to English Language.)
Kenya	Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE)	GCSE A*-C	Successful completion of 5 modules with grades of CCCCC (to normally include Maths and English).
Kuwait	Shahadat Al-Thanawaya AlAama (General Secondary School Leaving Certificate)	GCSE A*-C	Successfully achieved 60% or more in 5 subjects, including Maths, and English. (English is studied as a second language and is not considered comparable to English Language.)
Laos	Upper Secondary School Diploma	GCSE A* - C	Successful completion with an average of 5.0 in 5 subjects (with a grade of at least 5 in Maths, and English if studied).
Libya	Secondary Education Certificate	GCSE A*-C	Successful completion of five modules with grades of C6 or better (to normally include Maths and English).
Madagascar	Baccalaureat de l'Enseignement du Second Degree'	AS Level	Successful completion with an overall average of 50% with passes in four or more subjects (including Maths and English).
Malawi	Malawi School Certificate of Education	GCSE A* - C	Successful completion of 5 modules with grades of CCCCC (to normally include Maths and English).
Malaysia	Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia - Form 5	GCSE A*-C	Successful completion in 5 subjects with minimum Grade C. These should include English and Maths.

Country	Qualification	NARIC Equivalent	L3IFDHES Entry Requirement
Malta	Secondary Education Certificate	GCSE A*-C	Grades of 1-5 achieved in 5 subjects to include English and Maths.
Mauritania	Diplome du Baccalaureat de l'Enseignement du Secondaire (BEPC)	GCSE A*-C	Successful completion with an overall average of 50% with passes in four or more subjects (including Maths and English).
Mauritius	General Certificate of Education Ordinary Level	GCSE A*-C	Successful completion of five modules with grades of CCCC (to normally include Maths and English).
Mexico	Titulo Academia de Bachiller/Diploma de Bachiller/ Bachillerato General	GCSE A*-C	Passed 5 subjects with a grade of 6 and above (60%), including Maths and English. (English is studied as a second language and is not considered comparable to English Language.)
Mongolia	Certificate of Complete Secondary Education	GCSE A*-C	Achieved a mark of 60% or more in 5 subjects, including Maths and English. (English is studied as a second language and is not considered comparable to English Language.)
Myanmar	Basic Education High School Examination/ Matriculation Exam	GCSE A*-C	Successful completion with Pass grades (over 50%) in all subjects.
Morocco	Diplome du Baccalaureat	AS Level	Successful completion with an average grade of 10/20 or more (with a grade of 10 or more in Maths, and English if studied).
Nepal	Secondary Education Examination (Grade 10)	GCSE A*-C	Successful completion with Grades of A* - C* in 5 subjects, including Maths and English
Nigeria	West African Senior School Certificate	GCSE A*-C	Successful completion of five modules with grades of C6 or better (to normally include Maths and English).
Nigeria	National Examinations Council (NECO)	GCSE A*-C	Successful completion of five modules with grades of C6 or better (to normally include Maths and English).
Oman	General Secondary Education Certificate (Shahadat AlThanawaya Al-Aama)	GCSE A*-C	Passed 5 subjects including Maths and English. (English is studied as a second language and is not considered comparable to English Language.)
Pakistan	Intermediate / Higher Secondary Certificate	GCSE A*-C	Passed 5 subjects including Maths and English. (Although English may be studied as a first language it is not considered comparable to English GCSE studied in the UK.)

Country	Qualification	NARIC Equivalent	L3IFDHES Entry Requirement
Philippines	High School Diploma	GCSE A*-C	Successful completion of the Academic Track Diploma in 5 subjects with an average of 85% or more (with a grade of 85% or more in Maths, and English if studied).
Portugal	Grade 12 School Certificate	Between GCSE and AS Level	Passed 5 subjects including Maths and English.
Qatar	General Secondary Education Certificate (Shahadat AlThanawaya Al-Aama)	GCSE A*-C	Achieve mark of 50% or more in 5 subjects, including Maths and English. (English is studied as a second language and is not considered comparable to English Language.)
Romania	High School Graduation Certificate	GCSE A*-C	Passed 5 subjects with a grade of 5 and above, including Maths and English.
Russia	Certificate of Secondary (Complete) General Education (also called Attestat)	GCSE A*-C	Successful completion with grades of 3 or better in 5 subjects including Maths and English.
Rwanda	Advanced General Certificate of Secondary Education	AS Level	Successful completion three subjects at grade C or better (to normally include Maths and English).
Saint Lucia	Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate	GCSE A*-C	Pass 5 subjects with grades 1-3 at General Proficiency, including Maths and English.
Saudi Arabia	General Secondary Education Certificate	GCSE A*-C	Passed 5 subjects to include English and Maths. (English is studied as a second language and is not considered comparable to English Language.)
Sierra Leone	West African Senior School Certificate	GCSE A*-C	Successful completion of five modules with grades of C6 or better (to normally include Maths and English).
Singapore	Singapore Secondary 4 / Cambridge GCE O level	GCSE A*-C	Successful completion of five modules with Grade C (to normally include Maths and English).
South Africa	National Senior School Certificate (Awarded by State or IEB)	Between GCSE and AS Level	Successful completion with at least five subjects at 40% or better (to normally include Maths and English).

Country	Qualification	NARIC Equivalent	L3IFDHES Entry Requirement
South Korea	High School Diploma	GCSE A*-C	Successful completion with an average ranked grade of 1-6 across all subjects.
	High School Graduation Equivalency Examination	GCSE A*-C	Successful completion with an overall average of 60% or more (with 60% or more in Maths, and English if studied).
Spain	Titulo de Graduado en Educacion Secundaria Obligatoria (ESO)	GCSE A*-C	Achieved grade of 5 or 'suficiente' in 5 subjects, including Maths and English.
Sri Lanka	Sri Lankan General Certificate of Education /O Levels	GCSE A*-C	Successful completion of five modules with Grade C. These should include Maths and English.
Taiwan	Senior High School Year 2 (Year 11)	GCSE A*-C	Successful completion with an average mark of 60% or above.
	Senior High School Year 3 (Year 12)	GCSE A* - C	Successful completion with an average mark of 55% or above.
Tanzania	Secondary School Leaving Certificate	GCSE A* - C	Successful completion of five modules with grades of CCCCC (to normally include Maths and English)
Thailand	Certificate of Higher Education /MAW 5	GCSE A* - C	Successful completion with an overall grade of 2.5 in all subjects, including Maths and English.
Trinidad	Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate	GCSE A*-C	5 subjects passed with grades 1-3, including Maths and English.
Turkey	High School Diploma (aka State High School Diploma)	Between GCSE and AS Level	Passed 5 subjects (with a grade of 50-100), including Maths and English. (English is studied as a second language and is not considered comparable to English Language.)
Uganda	Uganda Certificate of Education	GCSE A* - C	Successful completion of five modules with grades of CCCCC (to normally include Maths and English).
Ukraine	Certificate of Complete General Secondary Education	GCE Advanced Subsidiary (AS) level	Passed 5 subjects with a grade of 4-12, including Maths and English.

Country	Qualification	NARIC Equivalent	L3IFDHES Entry Requirement
United Arab Emirates	General Secondary Education Certificate Examination (General/ Religious) (Tawjihiyya)	GCSE A* - C	Passed 5 subjects including Maths and English. (English is studied as a second language and is not considered comparable to English Language.)
United States of America	General Education Development Test (GED)	GCSE A* - C	Successfully passed GED, including Maths and English.
Uzbekistan	Certificate of Completed Secondary Education (O'rta Ma'lumot To'g'risida Shahodatnoma) - Grade 11	GCSE A* - C	Achieved grade of 3 or above in 5 subjects, including Maths and English. (English is studied as a second language and is not considered comparable to English Language.)
	Diploma of Academic Lyceum (Akademik Litsey Diplomi)	GCE Advanced Subsidiary (AS) level	Achieved grade of 3 or above in 5 subjects, including Maths and English. (English is studied as a second language and is not considered comparable to English Language.)
	Diploma of Professional College (Kasb-Hunar Kolleji Diplomi)	BTEC National Certificate	Achieved grade of 3 or above in 5 subjects, including Maths and English. (English is studied as a second language and is not considered comparable to English Language.)
Vietnam	Upper Secondary School Graduation Diploma (Year 12)	GCSE A* - C	Successful completion with an overall average of 5.0 or more (with at least 5.0 in Maths and English) Students entering with an average of 5.0 or 6.0 may have limited progression options. Or Successful completion with an overall average of 7.0 or more (with at least 5.0 in Maths and English). Students entering with an average of 7.0 or more will have the full range of progression options available to them.
Zambia	General Certificate of Education Ordinary Level	GCSE A* - C	Successful completion with Grades of A* - C* in 5 subjects (to normally include Maths and English).
Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe General Certificate of Education	GCSE A* - C	Successful completion with Grades of A* - C* in 5 subjects (to normally include Maths and English).



Prior to studying NCC Education's Level 3 International Diploma For Higher Education Studies (L3IFDHES) I had a long-term academic struggle with traditional classes.

However with L3IFDHES we were encouraged to develop our own thoughts and opinions through group work and class discussions. I got involved as much as possible and enjoyed the encouragement I gained from my studies.

The best thing my L3IFDHES journey has given me is a new academic route to master my future. Completing the L3IFDHES has opened up so many academic opportunities for me.



Hsinghao Wang

After completing the NCC Education Level 3 Diploma for Higher Education Studies, Hsinghao Wang was accepted to study Bachelor of Commerce at The University of Queensland, Australia.



English Language Requirements

Below are the English Language entry requirements for NCC Education qualifications. NCC Education accepts a variety of qualifications for progression onto its qualifications. You can use the table below to determine if the equivalency of IELTS scores meet the minimum entry criteria.

NCC Entry Requirement	NCC	IELTS	TOEFL	Password	PTE Academic	Skills for English	CEFR	Duolingo
		9.0	118 - 120		86+	C2 Pass	C2	155 - 160
		8.5	115 - 117		83 - 85	C2 Pass	C2	145 - 150
		8.0	110 - 114		79 - 82	C1 Pass	C1	135 - 140
		7.5	102 - 109	Password Plus	73 - 78	C1 Pass	C1	125 - 130
		7.0	94 - 101	7.0	65 - 72	C1 Pass	C1	115 - 120
		6.5	79 - 93	6.5	58 - 64	B2 Pass	B2	105 - 110
		6.0	60 - 78	6.0	50 - 57	B2 Pass	B2	95 - 100
L3DC/L4DC/ L5DC	HEPT 40%	5.5	46 - 59	5.5	42 - 49	B2 Pass	B2	85 - 90
		5.0	35 - 45	5.0	36 - 41	B1 Pass	B1	75 - 80
L3IFDHES	SEPT 40%	4.5	32 - 34	4.5	30 - 35	B1 Pass	B1	65 - 70

For learners who do not hold a valid IELTS certificate or any of the above equivalent grades, students can take NCC Education's free English placements tests and must achieve the following...



the NCC Education Standard English Placement Test (SEPT) and achieve 40% or above - IELTS 4.5 equivalent



the NCC Education Higher English Placement Test (HEPT) and achieve 40% or above - IELTS 5.5 equivalent

Entry Criteria Summary:

Qualification	Minimum Entry qualification or equivalent*	IELTS Score or equivalent*	NCC English Placement test if not valid IELTS score
Level 3 International Foundation Diploma for Higher Education Studies (L3IFDHES)	Completed their GCSE/IGCSE 'O' Levels or an equivalent* qualification in their own country and passed 5 subjects with minimum grades of 'C', '4' or equivalent* in each. These should include Mathematics and English.	4.5	SEPT 40%
Level 3 Diploma in Computing (L3DC)	Completed their GCSE/IGCSE 'O' Levels or an equivalent* qualification in their own country and passed 4 subjects with minimum grades of 'C', '4' or equivalent* in each. English and Mathematics should be included in these minimum grades. In instances where a student achieves a lower score in Mathematics, they will be required to pass a Mathematics pre-assessment test set by the centre and achieve the minimum mark. This is to be agreed with NCC Education and evidence provided for each learner.	5.5	HEPT 40%
Level 4 Diploma in Computing (L4DC) Level 4 Diploma in Computing with (Business Management) (L4DC BM)	NCC Education Level 3 International Foundation Diploma for Higher Education Studies NCC Education Level 3 Diploma in Computing 1 GCE 'A' Level completed and passed or equivalent approved by NCC Education	5.5	HEPT 40%
Level 5 Diploma in Computing (L5DC) Level 5 Diploma in Computing with (Business Management) (L5DC BM) Level 5 Diploma in Computing with (Cyber Security) (L5DC CS) Level 5 Diploma in Computing with (Data Science) (L5DC DS)	NCC Education Level 4 Diploma in Computing (L4DC) OR A local or international qualification which is deemed to be of a similar level to the NCC Education L4DC qualification. This must be agreed with NCC Education in advance.	5.5	HEPT 40%

* Centres need to provide evidence to justify any equivalency decision (both qualification equivalency and grade equivalency) they make pertaining to any enrolments via non-GCSE or non-standard routes. Please use the English Language Requirement reference table for IELTS equivalency.

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Please note that the information in this brochure is subject to change.

L3IFDHES_COUNTRY_ENTRY_V1.10- March 2026