

EKC GROUP ENTRY REQUIREMENTS 2025-26

Please find below EKC Group's approach to entry criteria. We aim to offer an inclusive yet ambitious curriculum that meets the needs of all learners, no matter their background, individual circumstances, or starting point. Our entry criteria are designed to support this goal while ensuring that students at every level can enjoy their studies, thrive, and succeed at each appropriate stage of their lifelong learning journey.

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Are you exempt from studying English and maths?

The conditions of funding state that a student needs a grade 4+ to be exempt from studying English or maths. EKC Group will be in line with these conditions and, therefore, all new and progressing students who achieve a grade 4 will not need to continue with studying GCSE English/maths unless they would like to achieve a higher grade.

English and maths levels based on entry grades.

Grade on entry	Working towards
4+	Exempt from further study (unless required for a Specific Entry Requirements per course, listed in section '4' below).
3	GCSE.
2	Level 2.
1	Level 1.

General entry requirements

Level	Entry requirements
Entry Level 3	No formal entry requirement.
1-Year Level 1	<p>This course is your first step into college education, helping you get a job or start a traineeship. As part of this course, you'll get extra help with your English and maths, making you more ready for work and allowing you to move on to a Level 2 course if you choose to.</p> <p>To join this programme, you will need to show that you can reach Level 1 in English and maths by the end of the course. This will be checked through an assessment during your interview.</p>
2-Year Level 2	<p>This pathway gives you time to develop skills in your chosen area and improve your English and maths to a grade 4 or equivalent. Reaching this level will help you have more opportunities in the future, like getting a skilled job, an apprenticeship, or moving on to a Level 3 course.</p> <p>To join this programme, you'll need the equivalent of 4 GCSEs at grades 2 to 1, including English and maths at Level 1 or higher.</p>
1-Year Level 2 <i>(the intent is to commit to the full Level 3 programme)</i>	<p>This programme is designed to help you move toward a Level 3 qualification, which can lead to advanced jobs or apprenticeships.</p> <p>You can finish with a Level 2 qualification and get a skilled job at the end of the course but progressing to Level 3 will give you more career choices and improve your future earning potential. It also opens doors to further studies, like Higher Education and Higher or Degree Apprenticeships. These can lead you from advanced technician or supervisor roles at Level 3 to management or professional status as you continue studying.</p> <p>To join this programme, you'll need the equivalent of 4 GCSEs at grade 3, ideally including English and maths.</p>
Level 3	<p>This study programme is designed to help you move quickly toward advanced jobs, higher education, or apprenticeship opportunities if you know what you want to do next and meet the entry requirements needed for success.</p> <p>Achieving a Level 3 qualification will improve your future earning potential and career choices. It also allows you to progress to Higher Education, Higher Apprenticeships, and</p>

	<p>Degree Apprenticeships. These can lead to roles like advanced technician or skilled supervisor at Level 3, and eventually to management or professional status as you continue your studies.</p> <p>To study at Level 3, including all T Level and A Level programmes, you will need an average entry score of 5.0 from your best 6 GCSE subjects, ideally including English and Maths.</p> <p>Please note. To ensure your enjoyment and success, some of our Level 3 courses will have specific GCSE grade requirements. Please check individual course information for specific subject requirements.</p>
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Students with no qualifications on entry

UK Students with no qualifications on entry as a result of not being entered for public examinations, such as those 'Home Educated,' or a 'Child Missing in Education' (CME) will receive a diagnostic to help determine the level of study most appropriate for them to succeed and progress.

Specific entry requirements per course

If a course is not listed in the Specific Entry requirements section below, please refer to the General Entry Requirements above. **For T Level or A Level courses, please refer to the most recent published prospectus for any individual entry requirements.**

Course	Specific entry requirements
Engineering Level 3	Equivalent of 4 grade 4s including English and maths at 4 (or pass at level 2 where you will have developed a context of maths in the same/related subject).
Electrical Level 3	Equivalent of 4 grade 4s including English and maths at 4 (or pass at level 2 where you will have developed a context of maths in the same/related subject).
Plumbing Level 3	Equivalent of 4 grade 4s including English and maths at 4 (or pass at level 2 where you will have developed a context of maths in the same/related subject).

AAT Level 2 option	Equivalent of 4 grade 3s including English at 3 and maths at 4.
AAT Level 3	Equivalent of 4 grade 4s including English at 3 and maths at 5.
Health & Science Level 3	Equivalent of 4 grade 4s including English and maths at 4 (or pass at level 2 where you will have developed a context of maths in the same/related subject). For T level Health it is required to have gained a grade 4 in GCSE Science.
Creative Subjects at all levels	Level then determined by audition or portfolio. With little or no portfolio and/or performance experience you will be advised to study on the most appropriate route to build your distinctive portfolio and gain skills and knowledge to ensure success at higher levels of study.

ESOL

It is understood that many ESOL students, especially unaccompanied asylum seekers, may not have GCSE certificates. Therefore, the focus will be on their English and maths skills, which will be assessed during their interview.

If an ESOL student applies directly to a vocational course without evidence of the required qualifications, they will need to take an ESOL and maths assessment. They must achieve the required levels to join the course. If they do not meet the minimum level, they will be referred to a dedicated ESOL programme to ensure they have the best chance to progress

Level	Entry Requirements
Entry Level 3	ESOL Speaking and Listening Entry Level 3. ESOL Reading Entry Level 2. ESOL Writing Entry Level 2. FS Maths Entry Level 2.
1-Year Level 1	ESOL Speaking and Listening Level 1. ESOL Reading Entry Level 3. ESOL Writing Entry Level 3. FS Maths Entry Level 3.
2-Year Level 2	ESOL Speaking and Listening Level 1.

	<p>ESOL Reading Level 1.</p> <p>ESOL Writing Level 1.</p> <p>FS Maths Level 1.</p> <p>or English FS Level 1.</p>
<p>3-Year Level 3</p> <p>(Option to exit after 1 year with a Level 2 qualification)</p>	<p>GCSE English grade 3.</p> <p>GCSE Maths grade 3.</p> <p><u>or</u></p> <p>FS English Level 1.</p> <p>FS Maths Level 1.</p> <p>And a full level 2 vocational qualification.</p>
<p>2-Year Level 3</p>	<p>GCSE English grade 4.</p> <p>GCSE Maths grade 4.</p> <p><u>or</u></p> <p>FS English Level 2.</p> <p>FS Maths Level 2.</p> <p>And a full level 2 vocational qualification.</p>

International Students

International students will be required to obtain an ENIC report, the UK National Information Centre for the recognition and evaluation of international qualifications and skills, to support their application.

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