Contextual Data policy

Contextual Data

The RVC is committed to undertaking a holistic approach to the assessment of our applicants to enable us to identify those with the potential to succeed. Contextual information provides us with information relating to an applicant's educational and socio-economic circumstances, allowing us to take into account challenges they have faced during their education and the potential impact of these on their performance.

The RVC considers contextual data for all UK domiciled home students who are applying for undergraduate programmes. EU and/or international students who trigger any contextual data indicators will be considered on an individual

interviews for the course have already concluded) and vacancies remaining on the course in question.

The following contextual data indicators are currently in use as a part of our assessment process:

- ‹ Contextual School
- ‹ POLAR score
- ‹ IMD score
- ‹ Parental income
- ‹ Care leaver
- ‹ Parental HE attendance
- ‹ RVC Sutton Trust summer school attendee
- ‹ Free school meals eligibility

Whilst the above list represents all indicators currently in use, they may not all be in use for all courses. Information will be published on our website to indicate whether a course is using such indicators and, if so, which indicators are in use.

Applicants to our Veterinary Gateway course will be required to complete a Gateway Supplementary form in addition to their UCAS application form, to enable a full assessment of their application to be undertaken.

Contextual Data Definitions

RVC Contextual Schools

RVC contextual schools at level two will be determined based upon the Attainment 8 score for each school plus data that provides a comparable measure in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Schools will be listed as a contextual school if they score below the national average in this measure.

RVC contextual schools at level 3 will be determined based on the average point score per academic entry, plus equivalent data in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Schools will be listed as a contextual school if they score below the national average in this measure.

RVC contextual schools at both level 2 and level 3 will be compiled utilising the last three years of performance data available for each level to minimise the impact of any fluctuations in data. The 'average' performance will be determined from the average percentage score in the most recent year of available data. Where insufficient data is available to enable a three-year average, the available data will be considered to see if there is sufficient consistency to make a decision. If a decision is not possible, the school will not be considered a contextual school. In such cases our decision may be reconsidered if the school is able to provide further information relating to the anomalies.

A list of contextual schools will be published on the RVC website each year and will be available from the May prior to the application cycle opening (normally September 12 months before the start of the course). This list will be relevant to applicants who are applying in that application cycle having completed their GCSE and A-levels (or equivalent) in the years immediately prior to application. Where an applicant has sat their qualifications in a non-standard duration, they will be considered against the data most appropriate to the year in which they completed their qualifications and should contact the Admissions Office

for further guidance. For the purpose of definition, the RVC expects that GCSE and A-level study (or equivalent) will be two years each in duration. To be considered under the

The applicant has attended the RVC Sutton Trust Summer School.

Parental Higher Education attendance

Applicants whose biological parents and/or step