

Scope of evidence requested

As a guide for your submission, you could consider the following prompts. We welcome submissions addressing any of the following areas:

1. Current practice

- If your university utilises contextual admissions, how does your institution define and implement contextual admissions? Is this implemented as flagged applications for additional consideration, or an automatic process?
- When considering eligibility for contextual admission, what criteria are considered and why (for example, POLAR4 quintile, IMD quintile, care experience, FSM status)?
- Are contextual admissions practices flagged to applicants in receipt of them, and if so how?
- Do you implement any additional transition support activity for students admitted via contextual routes?

2. Impact and outcomes

- For those working with students applying to university, what is the impact of contextual offers on their propensity to apply to university and their subsequent level 3 attainment?
- What evidence do you have on the effectiveness of contextual admissions in widening access to higher education?
- Have you evaluated the outcomes of students admitted via contextual routes (including continuation and completion rates, and degree outcomes)?

3. Challenges and barriers

- If your university does not utilise contextual admissions, what is your barrier to doing so?
- Are there any specific operational or data-related challenges in implementing contextual admissions?
- How do external performance metrics or regulatory frameworks (including for professional standards) affect your approach to contextual admissions?
- For those working with students applying to university or with experience of doing so themselves, how much do applicants understand about university approaches to contextual admissions? How might this information be better communicated?

4. Good practice

- What have you found works well (or less well) in operating contextual admissions to achieve widening participation and successful student outcomes, including in transition support?