

COVENANT UNIVERSITY ADMISSION POLICY

Purpose: The aim of this policy is to stipulate principles, guidelines and provisions in respect of admission to undergraduate and postgraduate programmes of Covenant University (CU).

Essence of the policy: This Admissions Policy supports CU's strategic positioning for the 21st century which commits the University to creating and sustaining "an environment of inclusivity, transformation, innovation, diversity, and maintaining excellence with a focus on the future". The Admissions Policy promotes access and success for students from diverse communities. Covenant University (CU) commits itself to an equitable, transparent and reasonable process for admission to undergraduate and postgraduate programmes. The policy is mindful of the multifaceted and complex nature of disadvantage in the Nigerian context. It therefore considers a range of factors in the admission of students in order to enable CU to help eliminate inequalities and unfair discrimination in the higher education system. The ultimate aims of the policy are to admit a diverse student body with the potential to succeed and to maintain and promote academic excellence through diversity.

INTRODUCTION

1.1 This policy gives effect to CU's obligations arising from the constitutional right of access to further education, and the legislative duty to ensure that its admissions policy provides appropriate measures for the redress of past inequalities and may not unfairly discriminate in any way.

1.2 As a private higher education institution, CU is also contributing to the achievement of national objectives for higher education, including the increase of the participation rate in higher education in Nigeria.

1.3 CU commits itself to the pursuit of academic excellence within society.

1.4 CU shall also conduct its teaching and research to contribute to the elimination of inequalities and discrimination in the higher education system, including the long-term effects of past inequalities and discrimination.

1.5 CU is therefore committed to fulfil its responsibility in respect of redress in the country.

1.6 The CU Council determines certain student diversity targets to facilitate redress and to give effect to the vision of CU, namely to be an inclusive, innovative and future-focused university.

1.7 In light of the above, CU requires a nuanced set of indicators against which to consider the admission of a diverse group of newcomer students to the University with the potential for success.

SCOPE OF THE POLICY

3.1 This policy informs admission to undergraduate programmes, while the underlying principles of the policy also apply to admission to postgraduate programmes.

3.2 This policy applies to the admission of international students, although the measures for redress of past inequalities in Nigeria will not apply to them.

4.0 DEFINITIONS: In this policy, the terms below are assigned the following meanings in the context of admission:

4.1 Diversity – In the context of this Admissions Policy, factors such as racial classification, gender, sexuality, disability, socio-economic disadvantage (educational and/or economic disadvantage and first-generation status)

4.2 Equality of rights – Allocating the same rights to people or groups

4.3 Equity and fairness – Equitable, fair or rightful opportunities to enter higher education and achieve success

4.4 First-generation status – Being the status of applicants who have not had the benefit of parents/guardian(s) with a tertiary education

4.5 Inclusivity – Not to exclude on the grounds of race, class, origin, gender, sexuality and disability

4.6 Potential to succeed – Students who, having regard to their context, display potential to succeed as indicated by their school achievements and results, which are still the best indicators of academic success at tertiary level

4.7 Reasonableness – Applying socially acceptable and equitable principles

4.11 Transparency – Openness in intention, communication and actions

4.12 Undergraduate and postgraduate programmes – Accredited academic programmes registered with the NUC

5. POLICY OBJECTIVES: This policy has the following objectives:

5.1 Establishing an equitable, transparent and reasonable process for admission to undergraduate and, where applicable and in accordance with faculty specifications, to postgraduate programmes.

5.2 Contributing to the creation of an inclusive student community, where diversity is regarded as an asset.

5.3 Admitting academically excellent students.

5.4 Admitting prospective students who have the potential to graduate successfully within the prescribed time of the programme and to be well equipped thought leaders for the future.

5.5 Offering equal opportunities to prospective students and facilitating redress where individuals or categories of people were or still are disadvantaged due to past unfair discrimination.

5.6 Providing a framework within which faculties must draft their guidelines and procedures for faculty-specific admissions and selection for undergraduate and, where applicable and in accordance with faculty specifications, for postgraduate programmes.

6. POLICY PRINCIPLES

6.1 This policy is embedded in the University's commitment to eradicating unfair discrimination on all grounds, which impairs persons in their human dignity and capabilities.

6.2 The policy, and the targets set in each year, will be adapted to reflect the progress made at the University and in the wider community, at eradicating the effects of historical racial division and all other forms of discrimination.

6.3 The University follows a learning, teaching and development approach that offers promising students the opportunity to achieve academic success and develop the CU graduate attributes.

6.4 Decisions on admission to CU are aligned with the principles of academic excellence through diversity and inclusivity. These factors must work in tandem, and not in competition. It is thus important for the University to attract the best candidates, regardless of race, and the best candidates with lower socio-economic status.

6.5 The University must be satisfied that any applicant, regardless of race or socio-economic status, has the ability to complete the programme to which he or she is seeking admission successfully.

6.6 Each faculty determines the minimum admission requirements and selection criteria for programmes. Minimum requirements aim at ensuring that every prospective student has the potential to complete a programme successfully, without lowering the standards of teaching and assessment.

6.7 Marks attained at school, particularly in subjects relevant to a chosen programme, are currently the best predictor of successful completion of studies. The minimum requirements are thus principally based on subject choices at school and the marks attained, although some weight may also be attributed to other factors deemed important indicators of possible success by the faculty.

6.8 The University recognises the disparities between its existing student body, compared to the pool of candidates qualifying with university exemption from high schools. Annual student enrolment targets will be set to reduce these disparities.

6.9 The University is committed to affirmative action measures, with the specific aim of overcoming the long-term effects of discrimination and racial division, evidenced by those disparities.

7. POLICY PROVISIONS:

Overview of the admission process.

Admissions to CU occur as follows:

7.1 Admission is determined by the Board of Regents (BOR) annually. It approves targets for the University based on the size (total number of students) and shape (fields of study and diversity profile) of its student body.

7.2 The BOR determines the number of places in each college, and the minimum admission criteria for each programme.

7.3 The CU Admission Office submits data to the Management regarding those applicants that meet the minimum admission requirements ranked according to their academic performance at school level.

7.4 The Management of Covenant University, through the approval of the BOR admits the highest-ranked applicants in accordance with their academic results at school to fill the places assigned for academic achievement without regard to ethnicity.

7.5 The University subscribes to and follows the statutory admission requirements stipulated by the NUC for degree and higher certificate programmes

7.6 The BOR annually determines minimum admission criteria for each programme that must be approved by Senate. These criteria may include both academic performance and other relevant factors

7.7 CU requires prospective first-year students to complete the Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTMEs) and The Covenant University Scholastic Aptitude Screening (CUSAS) Test. These are required as part of the selection guidelines.

7.8 As applications are received, applicants who meet the minimum academic criteria and selection scores are ranked in descending order in accordance with their academic results at school and classified according to ethnicity.

7.9 Top achievers in all categories could receive an early admission offer.

7.10 The Management of Covenant University through the approval of the BOR first admits the highest-ranked applicants to fill the places assigned for academic achievement without regard to ethnicity.

8. Economic Disadvantage:

For the purpose of granting higher education access to learners with strong academic potential but poor socio-economic circumstances, whose low financial status serves as primary impediment to admission.

8.1 CU relies on two factors to indicate economic disadvantage:

8.1.1 Applicant's family or guardian(s) who may receive a social grant; or

8.2.2 Applicant receives a bursary /scholarship at school, based on financial need

9. First-Generation Student Status:

9.1 First-generation applicants are defined as any applicant for whom none of the parents/guardian(s) has a higher education qualification.

9.2 The categories used to determine first-generation student status are as follows:

9.2.1 Highest qualification of parents/guardian(s) is Grade 12 or lower;

9.2.2 Highest qualification of parents/guardian(s) is a certificate or diploma; and

9.2.3 Lowest qualification of parents/guardian(s) is a university degree

10. Sex, Gender and Religious Conviction

10.1 CU acknowledges the principle of gender equality with reference to biological categorization.

10.2 In its admission procedures, CU does not discriminate against applicants of a particular gender. 10.3 In its admission procedures, CU does not discriminate against applicants based on religious convictions.

11. Students with Special Learning Needs (disabilities)

11.1 The University acknowledges the interaction between this Admissions Policy and the Policy regarding Students with Special Learning Needs/Disabilities.

11.2 In terms of the Policy regarding Students with Special Learning Needs/Disabilities, 'disability' is defined as a demonstrable physical, non-visible and/or psychological limitations that negatively affect a person's daily activities in a specific way.

11.3 The University would not want a person's disability to serve as an impediment to admission. Therefore, as far as is feasible, the University supports persons with special learning needs (disabilities) in their application to be admitted, having regard to the set academic programme requirements (including programme outcomes) as well as professional requirements.

11.4 The applicant remains responsible to provide sufficient information on the nature of his or her special learning need and/or disability in the application for admission.

12. International Students

12.1 The admission of international students contributes to the establishment of a diverse student community.

12.2 The admission and selection of international undergraduate applicants are based on academic merit and CU Admission Office considers admitting international applicants according to their own enrolment guidelines and based on academic achievement.