UNDERGRADUATE OPEN DAYS
WHAT TO EXPECT

How to make the most of your day

**Friday 26** and **Saturday 27 June, Saturday 12 September** and **Saturday 17 October** 2015
9.00am – 4.00pm

Information line: 0121 414 3374
[www.birmingham.ac.uk/opendays](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/opendays)
Welcome to Birmingham!

Follow us on Twitter and Facebook

For updates on what is happening throughout the day and to share your views of the open day and University, follow us on Twitter @unibirmingham #hellobrum. Alternatively, ‘like’ our Facebook page: ‘University of Birmingham’.

‘Everyone was very polite and helpful. Nothing was too much trouble and the lecturers were really good and kept me interested.’

‘A well organised day with good facilities and a friendly and helpful atmosphere. We got a good feel for the campus, intended subject of study and the accommodation.’

There are eight Nobel Prize winners among our alumni and staff.

If you have any questions contact us:

Information line: 0121 414 3374
Registration queries: marketing@contacts.bham.ac.uk
Email: openday@contacts.bham.ac.uk
Web: www.birmingham.ac.uk/opendays
‘Over 98% of attendees who took our Visitor Feedback Survey rated our most recent open day as good/excellent and some said it was the best they had been to.’

This guide has been produced to provide information about our open days to help you plan and prepare for your visit.

The official programme will be available to download from our website and will tell you everything you need to know about our open day; including subject talks, campus tours and other activities that run on the day.

We run a number of the talks more than once to help you research different subjects and receive as much general information as possible.

‘Having gone through the application process myself, I can appreciate you’ve probably got loads of questions running through your mind about the University and what it’s like to live and study here. Myself and my fellow student ambassadors will be at open day to help you make the most of your day. We’ll be there to welcome and register you, point you in the right direction of your activity, show you around the campus and accommodation and chat to you about why we chose Birmingham and our experiences of student life and study.’

Joe, Student Ambassador

Over 98% of attendees who took our Visitor Feedback Survey rated our most recent open day as good/excellent and some said it was the best they had been to.

Visiting times for open days are between 9.00am and 4.00pm; however you can arrive when you like and will be able to use the open day programme, scheduler and mobile app to plan your visit around the activities that you would like to incorporate into your day.
To help you plan your visit to our open day we will send you further information prior to your arrival. This will include:
- An email to let you know when the programme is available to download
- Final information about the day including travel tips and any updates to the programme
- An email during the week of the open day which will include your QR code to enable you to register on the day

Each year we welcome over 25,000 visitors to our open days; as a result, the adjacent roads and University car parks fill up very quickly. The University has only a limited number of car parking spaces on open days and we strongly recommend, where possible, for visitors to use public transport. This also helps us to reduce our impact on the environment.

**By rail**

Being the only university in mainland UK with its own station, the easiest way to reach the University is by train. Most cross-country services to Birmingham arrive at Birmingham New Street station and up to six trains an hour depart for the University on the cross-city line (final destination Longbridge or Redditch). The journey time usually takes less than ten minutes, while the centre of the main campus is a five-minute walk from University station. Student ambassadors (wearing lime green shirts) will be present at Birmingham New Street station to direct you.

**By bus**

Numbers 61, X62, 63 and X64 travel to the University’s Edgbaston and Selly Oak campuses.

**By coach**

There are frequent express coach services to Birmingham from London, Heathrow and Gatwick airports and many other UK cities. The long-distance coach station is in Digbeth in the city centre.

**Park and ride**

In addition to University parking there is an overspill park and ride car park with some limited parking. As with campus parking the site also fills up very quickly and we cannot guarantee a space for visitors. The park and ride is based at King Edward’s School playing fields, a short distance from the University.

Timings and bus stop information will be provided in the open day programme.

**Parking on campus**

Parking on open days is extremely limited and the majority of visitors will be unable to find a space on campus. We therefore recommend that visitors use public transport to reach the University or find alternative parking in and around the city. The University has three main car parks: North East, North and Pritchatts Car Park; however please note that they fill up very quickly and therefore we cannot guarantee a space for visitors.

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For further information about travelling to the University and the onsite train station please visit www.birmingham.ac.uk/opendays/travel

**Maps**

Maps with a more detailed index can be found on the University’s website at www.birmingham.ac.uk/directions

**Useful links**
- Travel information, maps and directions: www.birmingham.ac.uk/directions
- National train information: www.nationalrail.co.uk
What to expect on a Birmingham open day

How to make the most of your day

What’s on offer?
In the Subject Fairs you will find a wide range of subject-specific stands as well as stands relating to sport, welfare, accommodation, finance, careers and other areas. Talks on a range of subjects take place throughout the day and last approximately 30 minutes.

Locations and timings will be included in the open day programme.

General information
Prior to the open days, you can contact the Student Recruitment Team on openday@contacts.bham.ac.uk. On the day, staff at the main reception area will be able to help you with general enquiries, directions and other information. Our student ambassadors will be wearing lime green shirts and will be present across the campus to help you find your way around.

Tours of the Edgbaston campus
Guided walking tours of the main campus take place throughout the day. They last between 45 minutes to an hour.

Accommodation viewing
Throughout the day, visitors can view samples of University accommodation at one of our three Accommodation sites (The Vale student village). Visitors can either use the walking map to reach accommodation (this takes approximately 15 minutes) or there is a specially provided free bus service. We expect the buses to Accommodation to be popular with queues likely, especially between 11.00am and 2.30pm. Buses will run from 9.00am until 3.15pm and you will need to allow between 45 minutes to an hour to travel to and view the Accommodation. To view all available accommodation join us for our annual Accommodation Open Day, which is usually held on the last Saturday of April. This day offers you the opportunity to view all residences and speak to students about their experiences. More information on accommodation can be found at www.birmingham.ac.uk/accommodation along with 360 degree tours of all our accommodation. You can also follow us on twitter @livingatbham and find us on Facebook www.facebook.com/birminghamaccommodation.

We’ll have a detailed brochure about our accommodation available for you on the day, which will help you to find out all your options.

What do I do if I have a disability?
We encourage students with disabilities to visit and study at the University and have made adaptations to ensure our campus is accessible. This includes the installation of lifts, accessible toilets and improved signage, with any new buildings made fully accessible.

Blue badge holders will be directed to the nearest disabled parking spaces. A mobility map is available on the day, which gives an overview of the Edgbaston campus showing the main access routes for wheelchair users.

For more information please visit our website at: www.as.bham.ac.uk/studentlife/disability.

Where can I find refreshments on the day?
There are a number of cafes, restaurants, bars and shops where you will be able to purchase hot and cold food, snacks and beverages throughout the day.

We are consistently in the top three universities for competitive sport (British Universities & Colleges Sport [BUCS] league).

‘I thought the University as a whole was completely beautiful. The Victorian infrastructure was just amazing, and to walk beneath the clock tower, for example, was just brilliant.’
What to expect on a Birmingham open day

Find out about music at Birmingham
Founded by Edward Elgar in 1907, the University of Birmingham Music Society is the oldest and largest music-making body on campus, providing a range of auditioned and un-auditioned ensembles. Currently, we have over 700 members, including students, staff and members of the local community. We have two full-sized orchestras, Wind and Brass Bands, Chamber Choirs, a Saxophone Ensemble, a 200-strong University Chorus, an award-winning Big Band, a newly-formed Jazz Collective, and a whole range of chamber music activities. We work closely with the Department of Music who run additional ensembles open to all students, and are based in the state-of-the-art Bramall Music Building, where you can find us all day today.

To find out more about what we do, find us online www.uobmusicsociety.org.uk, on Twitter @UoBMS or on Facebook www.facebook.com/UoBMS

Find out about sport at Birmingham
As a top three sporting university there are plenty of sporting opportunities available here. Whether you want to get fit and healthy in the gym, enjoy group fitness classes or play for a University team there really is something for everyone – from elite performance to more recreational sport and general fitness. You will never have a better opportunity to get involved, have fun and make new friends.

Find out more by visiting the Munrow Sports Centre (R25 on the map) – chat to current students, club members and coaches. You may also like to take a tour of our indoor and outdoor sport facilities. Looking to find out about sport scholarships, sport clubs, volunteering opportunities, membership and other sporting activities at Birmingham? Come along to our Sport at Birmingham talk.

Visit the Guild of Students
We’re here to make sure you get the best from Birmingham! As a charity and the students’ union for more than 30,000 students, we represent you to the University and other organisations about your academic and university experience. We’re your voice on the issues that matter most to you.

At your students’ union, you can also:
- Find part-time work or volunteering opportunities to help you develop the skills outside of study that will increase your employability
- Meet new people and follow new interests by joining a student group (from Bhangra and Tea Appreciation to Skydiving)
- Have fun at our legendary weekly club night Fab N Fresh, or various other events throughout the year
- Access a wealth of advice and support all to make sure your time at Birmingham is special!

Find us online at www.guildofstudents.com and follow us on Twitter @GuildofStudents.

The University is ranked 4th best in the UK for graduate prospects in The Times and The Sunday Times Good University Guide 2015.

We are in the midst of an exciting estates redevelopment scheme spending over £400m on projects on and off-campus. 2016 will see the opening of the brand new sports centre which includes Birmingham’s first 50m swimming pool and the new library which will provide an inspirational place to study.

‘I was blown away by the organisation and the facilities that you offered at Birmingham. As a result I will definitely apply and hope to one day become part of that community.’

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Birmingham is busy, thriving and exciting. In the last 20 years the ‘city of a thousand trades’ has invested heavily in transforming itself into a major 21st-century European city – vibrant, cosmopolitan and culturally diverse. Our students quickly adopt ‘Brum’, as it is affectionately known, and make it their second home.

Birmingham is a city of young professionals and is one of Europe’s most exciting destinations. It is more than somewhere to study; it is somewhere to build a successful future. It is now home to some of the largest financial services, legal and creative sectors outside London. The thriving business community offers you a wealth of opportunities when you join the job market.

Birmingham provides a wide range of arts and cultural experiences. The city has a number of top venues for big name bands and local talent, including the O2 Academy and the National Indoor Arena. Birmingham is also home to one of Europe’s finest concert halls, Symphony Hall, where the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra is based. Birmingham Hippodrome is home to Birmingham Royal Ballet, and the city centre has three other theatres and a major museum and art gallery. Birmingham is also home to Premier League football and was the first city to be awarded National City of Sport status. In recent years it has staged more sporting championships than any other UK city.

Birmingham is one of Europe’s biggest shopping cities. The Bullring has been redesigned to be the largest inner-city retail development in Europe, and has a remarkable blend of modern architecture and historic buildings, with the acclaimed Selfridges building as its signature structure.

Birmingham…
- Is a city of 1 million people with 6 million living within 50 miles
- Is the UK’s most culturally diverse city
- Has 6 million trees and more parks than any other UK city
- Is home to the world famous Edgbaston cricket ground
- Is home to Cadbury’s Chocolate
- Has an international airport and is ideally situated at the heart of the UK’s transport network
- Has one of the lowest crime rates among major UK cities

The city of Birmingham offers visitors a wealth of attractions from cultural activities to shopping and sporting events. It has some first-class entertainment and eating places, and you may want to consider arriving the night before to get the most out of your visit.

Birmingham was in the Top 10 cities to visit this year by the Lonely Planet and 40% of Birmingham graduates choose to make their home here.

How about ending your day with a visit to the modern and fascinating city of Birmingham, now a centre of arts and culture, commerce and entertainment.

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