



'The A2B scheme is a great way to find out what university life is really like. I would definitely recommend the scheme to anyone who is eligible.'

Laura, BSc Biological Sciences  
[www.birmingham.ac.uk/profiles/laura](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/profiles/laura)



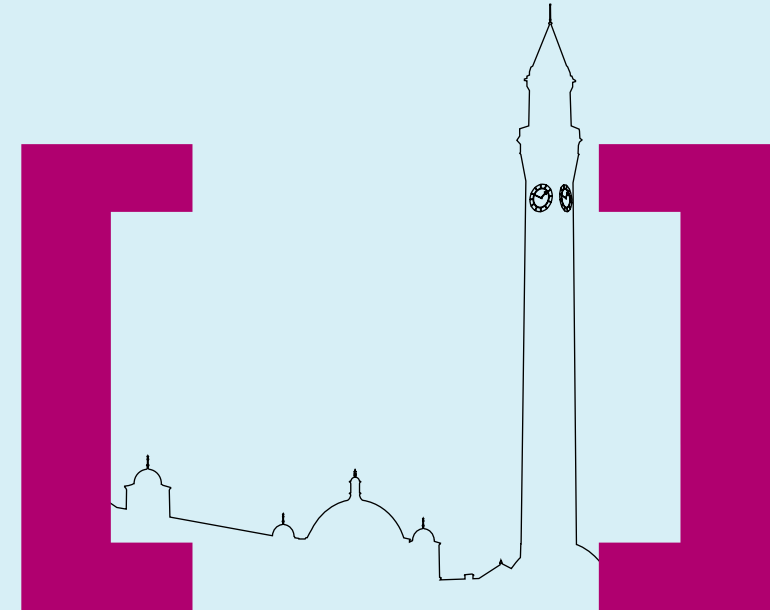
#### Learn more

If you have any questions about the information in this leaflet, please contact the Outreach Office or take a look at our website:  
[www.birmingham.ac.uk/a2b](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/a2b)

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# UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

## Access to Birmingham: The A2B scheme



'If it wasn't for the A2B scheme I couldn't possibly have seen myself enjoying university life as much as I have done.'

*Adnan, BSc Mathematics  
with Business Management*

## Information for students

# Access to Birmingham: (A2B) scheme Information for students



## Am I eligible to apply for the scheme?

To apply for the scheme your sixth form or Year 13 teacher must first recommend that you have the potential to study successfully at the University of Birmingham. You also need to meet the following criteria:

- ❑ Your parents have no experience of higher education in the UK or abroad.
- ❑ The main income earners in your family are not in professional occupations, eg, not teachers, doctors, solicitors or similar.
- ❑ Your annual household income is £42,600 or less.
- ❑ Your home postcode indicates that you live in an area of disadvantage with low rates of progression to higher education.
- ❑ You attend a non-selective state school or college which is a partner in the A2B scheme. If you are in the sixth form at a selective state school (such as a grammar school) the school where you did your GCSEs must have achieved less than 49% A\*-C grades at GCSE.

In exceptional cases, if you don't meet all of these criteria, we will also take into account any factors which may have disrupted your education and prevented you from achieving your full potential, for example if you have been in local authority care for more than three months or if you have a disability or long-term illness.

## How can A2B help me?

If your application is successful, you will get an alternative A2B offer in addition to the standard one. This means that you can get a place on your chosen course with reduced entry grades (eg, BBB rather than AAB at A level) if you successfully complete our Higher Education Learning Module (HELM) and make the University of Birmingham your first choice.



We cannot guarantee a two grade reduction in all subject areas. To get an interview for Medicine you still need to be predicted the standard entry grades at A level but under the A2B scheme the strict GCSE requirements will not be applied when assessing your application for interview. For A2B Medicine and Dentistry we offer advice for interview preparation.

## What is the Higher Education Learning Module (HELM)?

Getting your University place through your A2B offer depends upon you passing our Higher Education Learning Module. This consists of:

- ❑ An online study support module to help you with the transition to university work. You can look at this now at [www.skills4uni.bham.ac.uk](http://www.skills4uni.bham.ac.uk) We will send you a password to take an online test relating to this module.
- ❑ A student shadow or A2B visit day, which will help you find out more about what it's really like here.
- ❑ An assignment specific to the course you are applying for, set and marked by University tutors.

If you don't complete or pass the HELM, you will just be holding your standard offer from the University.

If you have taken part in our Academic Enrichment Programme (which includes a Summer School in year 12), you only need to do the summer assignment in order to pass the HELM.

## Induction

In September before the main Welcome Week we'll invite you to the University in order to receive advice from staff and students



to help you settle in. At this event you will be given advice about how to manage your money at university and have the opportunity to meet the President of our Guild of Students.

## The A2B Scholarship

If you successfully complete the HELM getting at least 75% in the online module test and also get the exam results needed for your standard offer (rather than the alternative A2B offer), you will receive a scholarship worth £1,200 for each successful year of study at the University. This scholarship is awarded in addition to any other grant or bursary you may receive.

## How do I apply for the scheme?

- ❑ Make sure you understand what the scheme is all about by reading the further information on our website [www.birmingham.ac.uk/a2b](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/a2b) Don't miss the video on this webpage where students describe their experiences of A2B!
- ❑ Talk to your head of year about whether or not to apply through A2B. If you're not sure which teacher to talk to in your school or college, ask us using the contact details overleaf.
- ❑ Print off the Supplementary Application Form from the website and complete the first page. There's no need to repeat anything you've already put on your UCAS personal statement; just tell us why you're applying to the A2B scheme. Ask your teacher to fill in the second page for you. Send off the completed form to the address shown on the form before 30 November at the latest.
- ❑ Make sure you type A2B in the Further Details section of your UCAS application.
- ❑ Be realistic about your likely exam performance. A2B offers are not made below BCC at A level or the equivalent in other qualifications.