



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

Studying in the UK

A sponsor's guide

A warm welcome

“With various higher education studying opportunities around the world we understand that having accurate and useful information on education systems and study options is essential to a sponsoring organisation. This one-stop guide has been designed to give you all of the information you need to advise your employees and scholarship students on applying to and studying in the UK.

At the University of Birmingham we have over 5,000 international students from more than 150 countries, forming one of the largest international student communities in the UK. With hundreds of undergraduate and postgraduate programmes to choose from, we offer a wide range of study options to suit your students.

By choosing the University of Birmingham your students will join a leading global university in a lively, multicultural city with our beautiful leafy green estate also acknowledged as one of the UK's greatest university campuses. We offer your students an engaging learning environment within a distinct student experience. Our graduates leave equipped with the skills and experience highly valued by global employers.

We welcome the opportunity to develop our relationships with sponsoring organisations throughout the world and look forward to working with you closely in the future.”

Mr Elijah James, Head of International Recruitment



Contents

Welcome	2	Foundation pathways	12–13
Why study in the UK?	3	Undergraduate entry requirements	
Types of programme in the UK	4	and how to apply	14
University of Birmingham: profile	5	English language tuition	15
Shaping your leaders of tomorrow	6	Our services to sponsors	16–17
Our location and the city of Birmingham	7	Tuition fees and living costs	18–19
Our academic colleges	8–9	Accommodation	20–21
Postgraduate entry requirements		Student support	22
and how to apply	10–11	Contact us	23

Why study in the UK?

When advising students about overseas study destinations, we understand the importance of highlighting the differences in education systems in countries around the world. We have outlined what we think makes higher education in the UK a distinctive student experience.

Benefits of studying in the UK

- The UK is a world leader in providing high-quality higher education that is recognised by employers, universities and governments worldwide and is reflected in high global rankings.
- Your students will receive quality teaching and academic excellence in an innovative and research-rich setting.
- UK universities offer a diverse and multicultural experience representing nationalities and faiths from all over the world.
- Programmes in the UK are shorter and more intensive than many other countries. A Bachelor degree typically takes three years to complete. The shorter duration of study means that total tuition fees and accommodation fees are lower than many other countries.
- The UK offers a rich cultural history in a welcoming, safe and friendly environment that attracts students and visitors from all over the world.
- International students are encouraged to engage with other students to make friends, for example through student societies and activities and to join the National Union of Students (NUS). At Birmingham, we have over 230 active student groups and societies and 53 different sports clubs.
- International students receive dedicated support such as academic guidance and counselling and specialist visa advisors to help them throughout their time in the UK.



Types of universities in the UK

There are a wide variety of universities in the UK which are typically categorised in the following groups:

Ancient – universities that were founded in medieval times. Many have a college-based system, such as Oxford and Cambridge

Redbrick/Civic – universities founded in industrial cities during the Victorian era and include Birmingham, Leeds, Sheffield, Newcastle, Manchester and Nottingham

New/Post-1992 – universities founded more recently and former polytechnics that are now universities, such as Birmingham City University, Oxford Brookes and De Montfort

Specialist institutions – institutions with a particular subject focus, for example, art and design, performing arts, catering, horticulture and agriculture

The Russell Group

The Russell Group is a collection of 24 leading UK research-intensive universities, committed to maintaining the highest quality in research and learning and teaching. The University of Birmingham is proud to be a founding member. Find out more: www.russellgroup.ac.uk

Types of programmes in the UK

Studying in the UK in Birmingham will offer new and exciting challenges where students are part of an academic elite, learning from world-leading experts. There are many academic programmes in the UK available to your students including:

Foundation programmes

Foundation programmes are designed for academically able students from countries whose school or degree qualifications are not recognised in the UK for direct entry to an undergraduate or to a postgraduate degree programme.

Foundation options at the University of Birmingham: upon successful completion of our integrated foundation pathways students can progress on to a wide range of our undergraduate programmes.

Find out more here:
www.birmingham.ac.uk/foundation

Doctoral research programmes

Examples of awards: Doctor of Philosophy (PhD). Doctoral research programmes typically last three to six years. The programmes are delivered through individual study with the support of a research supervisor.

Postgraduate research options at the University of Birmingham: we have a wide range of postgraduate research programmes including pre-PhD options.

Find out more here:
www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/courses

Postgraduate taught programmes

Typical awards: Master of Arts (MA), Master of Science (MSc) and Master of Business Administration (MBA). These programmes are usually taken over a 12-month period which includes the completion of a project or dissertation. Masters degree classifications are Distinction (70+%), Merit (60–69%) and Pass (49–59%).

Postgraduate taught options at the University of Birmingham: we have a wide range of postgraduate programmes including pre-Masters.

Find out more here:
www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/courses



English programmes

Many universities or language centres in the UK offer English language tuition in order to help students improve their English language ability to those required by higher education providers.

English programmes at the University of Birmingham: we offer pre-sessional courses for students who wish to improve their written and spoken English in preparation for academic study at the University of Birmingham. There are also term-time classes in academic English and free individual support to help students develop their ability to write academic essays.

Find out more:
www.birmingham.ac.uk/bia

Undergraduate programmes

Typical awards: Bachelor of Arts (BA), Bachelor of Science (BSc), Bachelor of Education (BEd) and Bachelor of Engineering (BEng). A degree with honours is usually taken over three to five years, depending on the subject. Bachelor degree classifications are: First Class (1st) Excellent; Upper Second Class (2:1) Very good; Lower Second Class (2:2) Good; Third Class (3rd) Satisfactory.

Undergraduate options at the University of Birmingham: we have a wide range of undergraduate programmes.

Find out more here:
www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/courses

University of Birmingham: profile

Birmingham is a traditional redbrick university and a founding member of the Russell Group – the association of 24 major research-led universities.

Birmingham was named University of the Year 2013–14 in *The Times* and *The Sunday Times Good University Guide* in October 2013. Outstanding performance across the league tables and Birmingham's bold and sector-leading initiatives were recognised by this prestigious accolade.

Consistently ranked among the top 20 universities in the UK, the University has a tradition of welcoming international students to our campus for over 100 years and now has one of the largest international student communities in the UK. As a direct result, our alumni are based in over 190 countries, offering advice, mentoring and activities in those countries.

Birmingham has been challenging and developing great minds for more than a century. Characterised by a focus on innovation, research at the University has broken new ground, pushed forward the boundaries of knowledge and made an impact on people's lives.

We continue this tradition today and have ambitions for a future that will embed our work and recognition of the Birmingham name on the international stage.

At Birmingham we innovate and push the frontiers of understanding; we ask new research questions, we turn theory through experiment into practice – because that's what great universities do.

With access to world-leading academics, superb learning resources and our groundbreaking research facilities, students are supported in their studies every step of the way. Birmingham provides an enriching environment for students to develop their academic and personal skills.

Birmingham scores highly in both UK and global rankings including subject specific categories such as Chemical Engineering and Computer Science. Birmingham Business School along with a handful of others from across the world, holds the gold standard of 'triple crown' accreditation.

A brief history

The University grew out of the radical vision of our first Chancellor, Joseph Chamberlain. Established by Royal Charter in 1900, this was England's first 'civic' or 'redbrick' university, where students from all religions and backgrounds were accepted on an equal basis.

Birmingham has continued to be a university unafraid to do things a little differently, and in response to the challenges of the day. It was a founder member of the National Union of Students and the first university in the country to:

- Be built on a campus model
- Establish a faculty of commerce
- Incorporate a medical school
- Offer degrees in dentistry
- Create a women's hall of residence
- Have a purpose-built students' union building



World rankings

60 for post-qualification employability in 2014–15
The New York Times

64 in 2014–15
QS World University Rankings

148 in 2014–15
Times Higher Education (THE)

UK rankings

17 overall in 2015
The Guardian

15 overall in 2015
The Times and The Sunday Times Good University Guide

17 overall in 2015
The Complete University Guide (published in The Independent)

Shaping your leaders of tomorrow

At Birmingham, we pride ourselves on offering the highest quality experience in both academic and student life. We have a proud tradition of producing graduates who go on to achieve greatness in their chosen fields.

Your students will join a leading university community, working alongside academics that are global experts in their fields. We will guide your students towards self-study, encouraging and emphasising the importance of originality and independent thinking.

Employability

Birmingham will prepare your students for life as an active member of a global society by transforming their prospects in a competitive employment market. From the outset we provide opportunities for mentoring support from our outstanding graduates, for career skills and development, for community volunteering and to develop leadership skills. Students graduate from Birmingham prepared for the changing economic landscape of the 21st century.



The University was recognised for its impressive graduate employment in *The Sunday Times Good University Guide 2014*. Over 86% of our students obtained graduate-level work within six months of graduating, higher than both Oxford (80.8%) and Durham (84.5%).

Our research

Research quality is at the heart of the University, as we believe that excellent research enhances teaching quality and is an essential attribute on the global academic stage. Our commitment to excellence is evidenced in our consistently strong research performance over the years. Your students will gain excellent research skills and abilities which will influence and guide them during their careers.



Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2014

The 2014 REF confirmed Birmingham's position among the top research universities. More than 81% of our research is rated as 'world leading' or 'internationally excellent' in terms of its originality, significance and rigour. Birmingham was ranked in the top five for its research in Philosophy, History, Classics, Theology and Religion, West African Studies, Sport, Exercise and Rehabilitation Sciences, and Chemical Engineering.

Eighty-seven per cent of our research activity has a global impact, confirming Birmingham's position among the world's top universities for research.

Alumni

With a global alumni community of almost 200,000 graduates from more than 190 countries our relationship with our students continues long after graduation day. Alumni continue to have access to a wide range of services and facilities that support personal and professional development. Sponsors can be assured that their students will return with the skills and attributes most desired by employers from across the world.

Our global alumni groups provide the ability to stay in touch with fellow alumni locally, share memories and build valuable professional connections.

Our location and the city of Birmingham

The global university at the heart of an ambitious city.

The campus

With the latest classroom technologies, Birmingham offers an excellent learning experience. Outside of lectures the University campus has excellent facilities for students to meet up with classmates to debate, research and learn. We offer a beautiful and welcoming campus with everything students need on one site.

We have excellent transport links including an international airport within easy reach, where flights link us to cities all over the world. We are also the only university in mainland Britain with our own railway station on campus, appropriately named 'University.'

Our stunning campus, combining traditional buildings and state-of-the-art facilities offers an inspiring backdrop to studying – a peaceful, thriving community on the doorstep of one of Europe's most dynamic and culturally diverse cities. The Edgbaston campus offers the amenities of a small town, enabling our students to enjoy a bustling community with many events and activities on offer. Our monthly farmers' market provides fresh produce and artisan products from local businesses and the Guild of Students (our students' union) offers many social groups and events in which to get involved.

Sport, leisure and teaching facilities at Birmingham are among the best at any UK university. The beautiful green and leafy campus located just a few miles from the city centre and covering 250 acres is a great environment in which to live and study. It is also very safe with all buildings equipped with CCTV and a dedicated community police officer and security team based on site.

Across campus, students can enjoy culture, sport and beautiful scenery. The campus is here for every student to enjoy and experience whether their passion is art, music, antiquities or sciences, and all our students have the opportunity to use our unique facilities and collections during their studies.

The campus was recently listed in the top ten most beautiful universities in Britain by *The Telegraph*. It is a campus that is expanding and improving all the time with our most recent investments being in the building of a brand new multi-million pound sports centre, a redeveloped library and a brand new student hub.

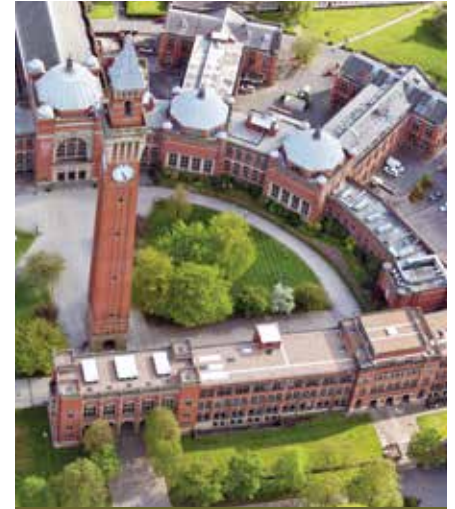
The city of Birmingham

Birmingham city centre, just three miles away from our Edgbaston campus, is an exciting European destination with a long cultural and intellectual heritage. Birmingham provides a warm welcome in one of the most diverse cities in Britain. It is the UK's second largest city, located in the heart of the England.

The international airport has direct links to many European destinations and major cities around the world.

As one of the UK's most diverse cities, over 30% of Birmingham's residents are of minority ethnic origin. It is also Europe's youngest city, with 40% of people under 25 and is a very creative city with 5,800 creative businesses, including 40% of the UK's jewellery production.

Birmingham is the preferred location outside of London for start-up business in the UK and many existing businesses have also relocated here to take advantage of the opportunities the city has to offer.



Birmingham highlights at a glance:

- More than 200 restaurants serving cuisine from all over the world
- The Bullring, one of the largest shopping centres in Europe
- A range of music and theatre venues
- Numerous museums and art galleries
- A thriving independent arts scene
- Nearly 600 parks and public open spaces
- Over 650 places of worship for all faiths
- A range of sports facilities and venues



Our academic colleges

The University of Birmingham is structured into five colleges, each of which is divided into a number of schools and departments. The five colleges are:

College of Arts and Law

Home to outstanding teachers, researchers and professionals who support students during their time at the University of Birmingham and beyond. Students will encounter challenging and inspiring educational experiences that will equip them with the skills they need for their future careers. Programmes are available in the following areas:

- American and Canadian Studies
- Art History
- Drama
- English
- History and Cultures
- Law
- Modern Languages
- Music
- Philosophy
- Theology and Religion



College of Engineering and Physical Sciences

The College of Engineering and Physical Sciences works across the frontiers of science and engineering in education, research and translating knowledge. The College offers access to learning and career development opportunities in the following areas:

- Chemistry
- Chemical Engineering
- Civil Engineering
- Computer Science
- Electronic, Electrical and Systems Engineering
- Mathematics
- Mechanical Engineering
- Metallurgy and Materials
- Physics and Astronomy

College of Life and Environmental Sciences

Dedicated to exploring and learning about the diversity and evolutionary challenges of life in all its forms, the College of Life and Environmental Sciences uses training, fieldwork and excellent facilities to enable students to learn generic and discipline-specific skills while studying exciting topics – ranging from ecology through to cancer research and forensic psychology. Programmes are available in the following areas:

- Biosciences
- Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences
- Psychology
- Sport, Exercise and Rehabilitation Sciences



College of Medical and Dental Sciences

The College of Medical and Dental Sciences is a major international centre for research and education in medicine, medical sciences, dentistry, nursing and pharmacy.

Bringing together healthcare-related research and education, the principal base of the College lies immediately between the main campus of the University and the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust.

The College provides an impressive portfolio of undergraduate and postgraduate taught and research options, delivered by some of

the UK's most respected clinicians and health professionals and providing students with the best possible learning experience. Students are encouraged to broaden their knowledge and experience by working across a wide range of organisations and experience the varied cultures and demographics of the West Midlands.

The College of Medical and Dental Sciences offers programmes in the following areas:

- Cancer Sciences
- Clinical and Experimental Medicine
- Dentistry
- Health and Population Sciences
- Immunity and Infection



To find out more about the University's wide range of programmes, search our online course finder:
www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/courses



College of Social Sciences

Generating new knowledge about society and transforming this in ways that improve wellbeing, is central to all work in this research-led college. It strives to champion new policies and practices, generate considerable investment and maintain relevance to the current world.

The College provides access to high-quality social science research and world-leading academics in all areas of society. Quality research and teaching ensures the next generation of social scientists will continue to transform their knowledge into policies and practices for individuals, organisations and governments alike in the UK and internationally.

Programmes are available in the following areas:

- Business
- Education
- Government and Policy
- Social Policy

Postgraduate entry requirements and how to apply

The University of Birmingham welcomes applications from academically qualified students based all over the world.

To check the entry requirements for all levels of study, please visit your country page for more information: www.birmingham.ac.uk/country. If you would like further assistance on entry requirements please email sponsors@contacts.bham.ac.uk.

In order to be offered a place on a postgraduate programme, students will need to meet the entry requirements for their particular country. Offers are typically made to students who hold the equivalent to a UK 2:1.

Applying for postgraduate taught (Masters) programmes

Students can apply online for all postgraduate programmes at Birmingham. Each programme has a dedicated webpage providing detailed information and an 'Apply to study here' button. Click the button and follow the onscreen instructions to complete the application form and upload supporting documents.

Applying for postgraduate research programmes

Birmingham is a research-rich university with academic staff who are global experts in their fields. We offer a huge diversity of opportunities for research at postgraduate level where your students can pursue their own research alongside internationally ranked academics.

Search and apply for our wide range of research options at Birmingham here: www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate

Find out more about PhDs through the Doctoral ReSEARCHer Enquiry Service which provides advice and guidance on:

- PhD opportunities
- Searching for a potential supervisor
- The PhD application process
- Writing the PhD proposal
- Scholarships, bursaries and funding opportunities
- Lifestyle and accommodation (including for families)

For assistance please call +44 (0)121 414 5005, or email postgraduate@contacts.bham.ac.uk.

Applicants can also search for research opportunities at Birmingham using our Doctoral ReSEARCHer Database: www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/findaphd.aspx



English language requirements

Academic area	IELTS	Pearson Test of English (PTE)
Engineering and Science	6.0 with no less than 5.5 in any band	PTE Academic 51 in all four skills
Arts* Business* Education (taught) Health Sciences Public Policy Social Sciences	6.5 with no less than 6.0 in any band	PTE Academic 59 in all four skills
Dentistry Education (research) Law Medicine	7.0 with no less than 6.5 in any band	PTE Academic 67 in all four skills

Why did you choose the University of Birmingham?

I chose Birmingham because of the reputation of its business school as one of the leading schools in the UK. Another important aspect was the city of Birmingham; it combines the excitement of a big city and is close to campus, making it ideal for a student life.

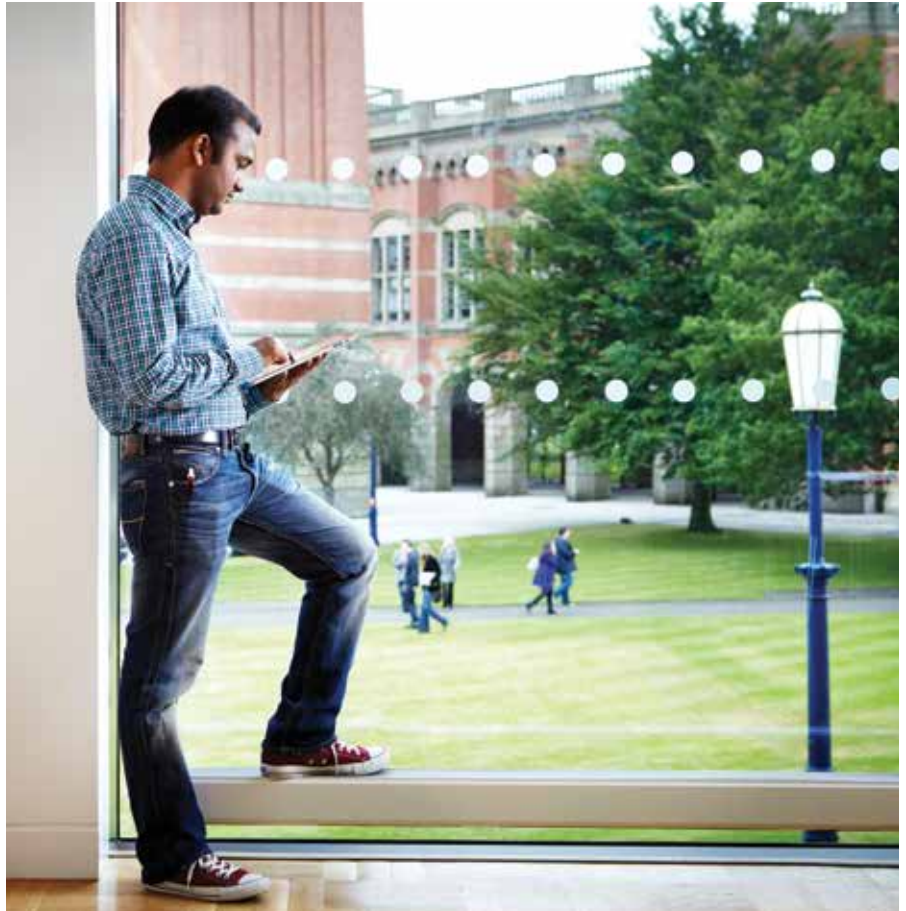
What do you think about the University campus and facilities?

The campus is amazing! It has played a major role in making my experience memorable. You can find everything you need there including; cafes, supermarkets, study areas, shops and the train station as well. All making our lives easier and our experience more enjoyable.

Have you enjoyed your time studying at Birmingham?

Studying at Birmingham has been such a wonderful experience. Everyone is nice and very helpful and I have learned a lot in my studies. The programme was very exciting and challenging, and a great opportunity to work with people from diverse nationalities and cultures. It was a truly new and extremely rewarding experience.

Zeina, MSc Marketing Communications. Said Foundation



Postgraduate pathway routes

International pre-Masters

This programme is suitable for students who require additional subject knowledge or academic writing and skills development to access Masters programmes. The two-year programme consists of the Masters degree you wish to study, with an integrated pre-Masters year. Currently available in the subject areas of Economics, International Relations and Development or Music. Find out more and apply here: www.birmingham.ac.uk/international/pre-masters

Postgraduate Certificate in pre-Doctoral Studies

This programme is designed to prepare students for PhD study at Birmingham. If your students' academic qualifications are suitable for doctoral research but they lack the appropriate academic English language and study skills, the pre-Doctoral programme provides them with an entry route to a PhD. Find out more and apply here: www.birmingham.ac.uk/international/pre-doctoral-cert

Foundation pathways

Our foundation programme combines the highest standards of one of Britain's leading global universities with a fully integrated student experience.

Aimed at students in 12-year education systems, the foundation programme provides an opportunity for highly motivated international learners with a good academic record and willingness to study hard to enter the University environment one year before the start of a UK undergraduate degree programme.

Students are taught in English and will mix with students from across the world. They constantly improve their academic, linguistic and cultural skills, and by the end of the programme will be fully prepared for life as an undergraduate student. The programme offers a range of distinctive benefits:

- Students are taught entirely on the University's stunning Edgbaston campus
- A range of engaging academic modules, taught directly by respected Birmingham academics
- Students are fully integrated members of our student community, with access to all University facilities
- A Customer Service Manager lives on-site to support students in accommodation, especially those under the age of 18
- A Welfare Tutor, the first point of contact for all academic or welfare concerns, works closely with our students, staff and sponsors to support their development
- Our Academic English and Study Skills modules are accredited by the British Council
- More than 85% of our students from the last academic year progressed to their chosen undergraduate degree
- 97% of our students progress successfully into the second year of their undergraduate degree



Study pathways

Students will pursue one of three innovative, broad and academically challenging pathways, offering a robust set of modules to develop subject knowledge and academic writing skills in preparation for their degree:

- Arts, Social Sciences, Business and Law Pathway
- Engineering and Physical Sciences Pathway
- Medical, Life and Geo Sciences Pathway

Students will be asked to indicate their desired degree programme at the time of application. Upon successful completion of the appropriate pathway, they will be guaranteed progression to their chosen undergraduate degree.

Further information about pathways and progression requirements can be found at: www.birmingham.ac.uk/bfa-pathways

Duration of programme

The majority of pathways offer a Bachelors degree with integrated foundation year (four years). However some degree choices are only available as a one-year programme as students will need to meet certain requirements during the foundation year in order to progress to that chosen degree programme. Offer letters will clearly state what route is being offered. Students who do not meet the English language requirements for the four-year programme may be offered a place on our one-year programme instead.

We also offer a condensed January–September programme for students. This programme has compulsory modules and a core English route only, but gives students the flexibility to begin a pre-sessional English programme in September or November and then progress to the foundation programme.



“I chose University of Birmingham because of the quality foundation courses offered. It gives you a good chance to improve your academic and English skills along with time to adapt and settle down.”

Njoud. Now studying BSc Biochemistry with Biotechnology.

Academic entry requirements

The programme is suitable for students who have completed high school education to a high standard and would normally require a foundation year before being eligible for first-year undergraduate entry in the UK.

We welcome applications from students who will be aged 16 or above by the start of the September term.

Alongside international qualifications, we also consider students with A level, AS level and International Baccalaureate qualifications.

Students will need to meet the entry requirements for their particular country, find out more details at: www.birmingham.ac.uk/foundation/requirements

How to apply

Apply directly for the foundation programme using the online application form at: www.birmingham.ac.uk/foundation/apply

Learn more

For all enquiries about the foundation programmes please call:
+44 (0)121 414 9292 or
email: sponsors@contacts.bham.ac.uk

English language entry requirements

Please see page 15 for details of English language tuition.

Four-year programmes	IELTS	Pearson Test of English (Academic)
Bachelors Degree with Integrated Foundation Year For all pathways and progression routes	5.5 overall with at least 5.5 in each band	A minimum of Listening – 51 Reading – 51 Writing – 51 Speaking – 51
Bachelors Degree with Integrated Foundation Year For students intending to progress to Law or English Literature	6.0 overall with at least 5.5 in each band	A minimum of Listening – 53 Reading – 53 Writing – 53 Speaking – 53

If you don't meet the above requirements or only wish to study a one-year programme:

One-year programmes	IELTS	Pearson Test of English (Academic)
Birmingham Foundation Academy Programme For all pathways and progression routes	5.5 overall with at least 5.0 in each band	A minimum of Listening – 45 Reading – 45 Writing – 45 Speaking – 45
Birmingham Foundation Academy Programme For students intending to progress to Law, English Literature or Physiotherapy	6.0 overall with at least 5.5 in each band	A minimum of Listening – 53 Reading – 53 Writing – 53 Speaking – 53
Birmingham Foundation Academy Programme For students intending to progress to Pharmacy	6.0 overall with at least 6.0 in each band	A minimum of Listening – 55 Reading – 55 Writing – 55 Speaking – 55



Priorsfield, home to our foundation pathways and English Language Centre

Undergraduate entry requirements and how to apply

We have a wide range of subjects in undergraduate studies to offer your students.

Entry requirements

Students will need to meet the entry requirements for their particular country. Find the latest requirements on our website: www.birmingham.ac.uk/country

A levels

Offers typically range from A*AA–ABB.

International Baccalaureate

Offers typically range from 32 points upwards, with certain subjects at Higher Level (HL).

How to apply

For undergraduate programmes in the UK, all applicants should apply through the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) who are responsible for managing applications to higher education courses in the UK.

It is an easy online process that enables students to research courses. Apply online at: www.ucas.com

Students can select a maximum of five courses/universities to apply to. UCAS will forward the application to these universities for consideration and the decision from each university will be sent to the student through UCAS.

Once students have received offers they will need to make a 'firm choice' (first choice or preference). They can also make an 'insurance choice' as a backup option in case they do not achieve the grades required by their firm choice.

Find our full undergraduate programme listing here: www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/courses

UCAS key dates

Applications should be made between **1 September** (prior to the year the student wishes to commence their studies) and **30 June** (in the year they wish to study). Students from the UK/EU need to apply by **15 January**. Students who want to apply for Medicine or Dentistry will need to apply by **15 October***.

From early July each year there are usually opportunities for students to apply through International Clearing for vacancies: www.birmingham.ac.uk/undergraduate/clearing-adjustment

The University of Birmingham's UCAS code number is: **B32**.

English language requirements for students who do not have English as their first language

For entry to undergraduate (Bachelor) degree programmes			
Subjects		IELTS	Pearson Test of English (PTE)
Group A	Biosciences; Biomedical Materials Science; Chemistry; Chemical Engineering; Computer Science; Electronic, Electrical and Systems Engineering; Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences; Mathematics; Mechanical Engineering; Metallurgy and Materials; Physics and Astronomy; Urban and Regional Studies	6.0 overall with no less than 5.5 in any band	PTE 51 in all four skills
Group B	Business, including Economics; Education; English, Drama and American and Canadian Studies; History and Cultures; Language, Cultures, Art History and Music; Medical Science BMedSc; Philosophy; Theology and Religion; Political Science and International Relations; Psychology; Social Policy; Sociology; Sport, Exercise and Rehabilitation Sciences	6.5 overall with no less than 6.0 in any band	PTE 59 in all four skills
Group C	Dental Hygiene and Therapy; Law; Nursing; Physiotherapy	7.0 overall with no less than 6.5 in any band	PTE 67 in all four skills
Group D	Dentistry (BDS); Medicine (MBChB); Pharmacy	7.0 overall with no less than 7.0 in any band	PTE 67 in all four skills

Find our full postgraduate programme listing here: www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/courses

* Please note that we do not have international student places on our Dentistry programme.

English language tuition

The English Language Centre provides dedicated English courses for international students who hold an offer to study at the University of Birmingham. We also offer students English support during their entire time at Birmingham.

Pre-sessional English programmes are available before the start of the academic year for students who do not have the required level of English or who wish to improve their skills before they arrive.

Benefits of pre-sessional programmes

Each programme provides excellent preparation for academic study, which will enable students to:

- Develop English language skills
- Improve academic language and skills in preparation for writing assignments
- Take part in seminars and discussions
- Listen to and understand lectures
- Develop study skills
- Give presentations
- Use the University library resources and IT facilities

The Birmingham International Academy (BIA) is able to tailor courses to suit students' requirements; ensuring students receive support and development in the skills required for study. This includes additional Maths, Science and Information Technology (computer skills) tuition.

Arrival

During the first week of each programme students receive a full orientation to familiarise them with the University's facilities and support services. They also receive a detailed timetable and introduction to the programme as well as a social programme to help them integrate into studying and living in the UK.

Duration of programme

We offer programmes from 4 to 42 weeks to enable students to develop their skills accordingly. The duration of the programme



students should attend depends on their present level of English and the level required in their conditional offer letter. For help in determining the right programme please call +44 (0)121 415 8492 or email presessional@contacts.bham.ac.uk.

We offer short-term English language courses in September and January for sponsored students who will then return to their home country in June to apply for a TIER 4 study visa.

Tuition fees and start dates

Programmes run throughout the year and fees include all course materials and weekend daytrips. For a full list of fees and start dates please go to: www.birmingham.ac.uk/bia

English support during academic studies

Students enrolled on academic programmes



at Birmingham can attend free open access English classes. They can also book individual language tutorials, get answers to English language queries and download self-study materials.

Recognition and accreditation

We have an excellent reputation for the quality of our courses and offer a friendly and supportive study environment. We are a member of 'English UK' and are accredited by the British Council. All staff hold high qualifications and extensive teaching experience.

For further information please visit:
www.birmingham.ac.uk/englishprogrammes

Our services to sponsors

At Birmingham we highly value the relationships we have with sponsoring organisations from all over the world and offer them a dedicated single point of contact service.

The International Recruitment team is available to answer queries in relation to applications and programmes of study and to assist with co-ordinating communications within the University.

Contact us at our dedicated single point of contact for sponsors:
sponsors@contacts.bham.ac.uk

Email us at any time and we will be happy to help. We also have a sponsor webpage with details of our service:
www.birmingham.ac.uk/sponsors

Assisting with applications

We can assist you with any enquiries you may have regarding entry requirements and submitting applications for your students. Please email us and a member of the International Recruitment team will be in touch.

Academic progress reporting

We know how important it is for sponsor organisations to receive updates about their students and we are more than happy to provide regular academic student progress reports. The completion of the reports by the relevant academic supervisor is co-ordinated by the International Recruitment team, which means you will not need to find individual academic contacts for each of your students.

We can also provide formal transcripts and progression details at the end of each academic year.

Please email us with requests for reports with your preferred report template attached. If you do not have a template we can issue a University progress report which includes student programme details, supervisor narrative on progression, results and attendance.

Visits

We encourage you to visit our campus to take a look around and see the facilities we offer. We can arrange meetings with the International Recruitment team, academic staff and your registered students. Alternatively, we can visit you at your offices in the UK or overseas as part of our recruitment events. Please email us with your request.

Visas

The University of Birmingham has a Tier 4 Sponsor Licence with UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI).

Students who have met all the conditions of their offer to study at Birmingham will become unconditional and a Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) will be assigned. The student can use the CAS to apply for a visa no earlier than three months in advance of the start of their academic programme. The CAS will provide details of the intended programme of study to be used when applying for a student visa. For guidance on visas please visit our website: www.birmingham.ac.uk/International/students/visas

Students will need to contact the International Students Advisory Service (ISAS) for advice on applying for visas and visa extensions. Please note that the ISAS team can only provide advice and guidance to the student directly. Advice can be obtained online at: www.studenthelp.bham.ac.uk

Biometric Resident Permit (BRP)

International students, and their dependants, who are coming to the UK for more than six months will be issued a Biometric Resident Permit (BRP).

Students studying for more than six months who are applying for an entry clearance visa from outside the UK will be granted a 30-day short-term entry clearance sticker (vignette) in their passport and will be sent a 'decision letter', which will include instructions on collecting their BRP card on arrival in the UK. Students will be expected to collect their BRP card within ten days of arrival and can choose to collect their card from the University of Birmingham or from a designated post office. For more information please visit: www.birmingham.ac.uk/International/students/visas/biometricresidencepermits.aspx

The University of Birmingham strongly advises students to use its unique code (2HE322) on the visa application form and collect their BRP from the University.

Our reputation

We have an excellent reputation for working closely with sponsors from across the world. This is reflected in the hundreds of sponsored students who register at the University of Birmingham each academic year.



Professor Sir David Eastwood, Vice-Chancellor, hosting a visit from the Chevening Secretariat and scholarship students.

“The international office is remarkably supportive to our sponsored students and very responsive to the sponsors’ enquiries and requests.”

Qatar Foundation



Professor Sir David Eastwood, Vice-Chancellor, hosting a visit from His Excellency Diego Gomez-Pickering, Ambassador of Mexico to the UK.

“CONACYT has the honour of counting the University of Birmingham as one of our best partners in the UK and many Mexican students have successfully completed postgraduate studies there. During this time we have enjoyed a great partnership and our students return to Mexico having acquired excellent abilities and knowledge.”

CONACYT, Mexico

“Co-operation with the University of Birmingham means so much to the Center for International Programs as well as our students. The language courses and the academic programmes provided are of great demand and the International Recruitment team is a nice, friendly and well organised team.”

Bolashak Scholarship:
Center for International Programs, Kazakhstan

“Our partnership with the University of Birmingham and the services we experience have brought together reality and our dream of running the PTDF Scholarship Scheme from the comfort of our office in Abuja.”

PTDF, Nigeria

Tuition fees and living costs

How much does it cost to attend university in the UK? Find out more about fees and livings costs for international students:

Tuition fee costs

The University of Birmingham charges an annual tuition fee, which covers the cost of tuition, examination and graduation, and includes membership of the Guild of Students. Fees are payable at the start of each programme and quoted on all student offer letters. For details of the latest fees please visit: www.birmingham.ac.uk/International/students/finance/fees.aspx

Bench fees

Some departments may levy a bench or extra fee in addition to the tuition fee, details of which can be found on student offer letters.

Research programme fees

For research programmes that begin and/or end mid-session, fees are normally charged on a pro rata basis according to the number of months studied in a session.

Living costs

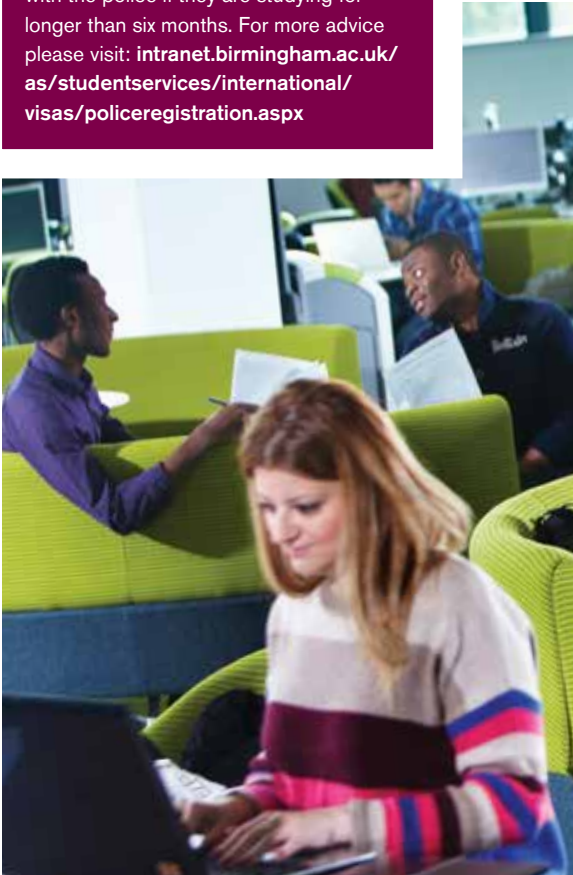
Living costs should also be considered in addition to tuition fees and cover the cost of accommodation, living expenses and books. A guide to typical living costs is provided in the table below:

How living costs might breakdown over a 42-week academic session		
	University accommodation	Privately rented, shared house
Rent	£154 per week	£80 per week
Deposit	None	£7 per week (refundable and usually paid one month in advance)
Gas/Electricity	Included in rent	£8 per week
Water rates	Included in rent	£3 per week
Food/toiletries	£40 per week (may be less on a Meal Plan)	£40 per week
Books, printing, etc	£10 per week	£10 per week
Insurance (indicative)	Included in rent	£2 per week
Clothes	£10 per week	£10 per week
Leisure	£30 per week	£30 per week
Local travel	£10 per week	£10 per week
TV licence	£3 per week	£3 per week
Phone	£5 per week	£5 per week
Internet/Wi-Fi	Included in rent	£4 per week
Total cost per week	£259	£212
Total cost for academic year*	£10,878	£8,904

*These figures do not include expenditure over the summer vacation (approximately ten weeks of a 52-week contract).

During their visa application students will need to pay an Immigration Health Surcharge of £150 per year of Tier 4 leave with an additional £75 for each additional six months of leave. This will grant them access to the UK's National Health Service (NHS) for their healthcare needs for the entire duration of their visa. Find out more: www.birmingham.ac.uk/international/students/visas/student.aspx

Police registration
Some students may be required to register with the police when they arrive in the UK, at a cost of £34. Nationals in these countries are required to register with the police if they are studying for longer than six months. For more advice please visit: intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/as/student services/international/visas/police registration.aspx



Paying tuition fees

In order to invoice a sponsor organisation for the fees of their registered students we must receive a Financial Guarantee Letter. The letter should clearly confirm the details of the sponsor, the student, the programme of study, the fees being paid and duration of sponsorship.

Please forward all Financial Sponsorship Guarantee letters and finance enquiries to our Student Fees team directly on the dedicated email address: sponsorinvoices@contacts.bham.ac.uk. An invoice will then be issued directly to the contact provided.



Payment options

All payments are due in Pounds Sterling and can be made in a variety of methods:

1. Direct bank transfer

Please send your remittance advice either by:

Email: bacspayments@bham.ac.uk

Fax: +44 (0)121 414 4898

Post: Income Section, Finance Office
University of Birmingham
Edgbaston
B15 2TT

Please itemise your remittance advice to reflect the invoice(s) for which payment is being made. A reference number is given on each invoice for you to quote.

Bank: Lloyds Bank
University of Birmingham Branch
142 Edgbaston Park Road
Birmingham
B15 2TY

Account name: University of Birmingham
Receipt Account
Sort Code: 30-19-14
Account number: 00030191
IBAN: GB36 LOYD 3019 1400 0301 91
BIC/SWIFT: LOYDGB21086
VAT registration number: GB 729 8561 87
Company registration number: RC000645

2. Credit/debit/purchasing card

Card payments can be made online using most major credit, debit or purchasing cards. We are also able to accept PayPal payments online. No admin charge is made for card and PayPal transactions processed through our online store. You will be required to enter your invoice and account numbers from the front of your invoice at the time of payment. Further information is available at: www.intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/sponsorinvoicepayment

Accommodation

At Birmingham we offer a fantastic range of undergraduate and postgraduate accommodation all of which provides a safe, secure and sociable start to the university experience.



We have three accommodation villages, each offering a safe and friendly place to live, just a short walk from the main campus. Accommodation ranges from en suite study bedrooms to self-contained apartments, with the option of being self-catered or on our Meal Plan. All of our rooms have wireless internet access and IPTV. A team of staff are on hand to help 24 hours a day ensuring that students feel at home.

View our accommodation options online:
www.birmingham.ac.uk/accommodation

LIVING

LIVING is the University's accommodation service. The team are on hand to answer queries, in person, by phone +44 (0)121 414 8000 or email living@contacts.bham.ac.uk.

Undergraduate and Postgraduate Guarantee Schemes

The University guarantees a room in University or nominated bed space with our partner private providers of accommodation to first-

year undergraduates and to postgraduate international and non-UK EU students provided they have:

- Applied to Birmingham through UCAS (undergraduate only)
- Have accepted our academic offer firmly (not only as insurance for undergraduate)
- Have submitted their accommodation application by 31 May (EU students), or 31 July 2015 (international students)
- Confirmed by 1 September that they are coming to Birmingham
- Applied for accommodation just for themselves (not with family or a partner)
- Applied for accommodation for a full academic year

Birmingham UCAS insurance students should still apply as their application will be held until all guarantee students have been accommodated.

Single-sex accommodation

We have single-sex flats at all accommodation locations. Students can select this option on

the application form and we will try to place students in single-sex accommodation where requested.

Family accommodation

For couples we offer a range of studios and apartments although children are not allowed in University accommodation. For families we recommend finding accommodation in the private sector. To help with this process we recommend that you contact the LIVING team who can assist in finding suitable accommodation.

Duration of accommodation

Our accommodation is offered on a 42-week contract basis (or 50 weeks for postgraduates). Applications for fewer weeks will be considered, however students applying for full-year accommodation will take priority.

Apply online

As soon as your students have an offer to study at Birmingham they can apply online for accommodation at: www.birmingham.ac.uk/applyaccommodation

Students will need their University of Birmingham student ID number to apply, which can be found at the top of their offer letter.

Your students can choose up to six accommodation preferences. Our automated allocation process will try to meet these preferences; however we cannot guarantee first choice of accommodation.

A payment of £550 is required in order to secure a room. This amount is only requested once we have made an offer of accommodation.



Living off campus

Students may choose to live off campus in privately rented accommodation.

There is a range of private accommodation available for students on Student Pad, a dedicated website where they can search for properties 24 hours a day:

www.birminghamstudentpad.co.uk

The University also has a partner lettings agency, Guild Lettings, which is operated by our Guild of Students. They can assist with finding accommodation off campus and can be contacted at: www.guildlettingsbirmingham.co.uk The LIVING team can also help find appropriate accommodation.



Student support

Every international student receives a warm welcome when they arrive at the University of Birmingham. Throughout their time with us, we make sure they get all the support they need in order to make the most of their experience and to reach the very best of their potential.

Welcome to campus

Every September, our 'International Student Welcome' starts one week before lectures begin and includes a special induction programme to guide students through their initial tasks, like applying for a bank account or registering with a doctor and the police.

We also offer a variety of social activities to help them settle in and meet new friends.



International Students Advisory Service (ISAS)

ISAS provides a free, confidential advice and information service that is specially tailored to the needs of international students and their families. The service includes advice on visas and immigration matters, working in the UK during and after studies, bringing family to the UK, possible sources of funding, signposting and referral for academic and personal matters, and advice and guidance on the practicalities of living in the UK. ISAS arranges activities and events to learn about life in the UK and at Birmingham. Details of support workshops are available online.

During Arrivals Weekend in September the ISAS team also arranges airport meet and greet services at Birmingham and Heathrow airports. Further information can be found at: www.birmingham.ac.uk/welcome

ISAS sends a number of emails to international students leading up to the Welcome programme to ensure that they are prepared to leave home and come to the UK (eg, help with visa applications, advice on luggage, airport collection options) and provide information on what to expect during their first few weeks in the UK.

Telephone: +44 (0)121 414 8464

Online queries: www.studenthelp.bham.ac.uk or visit www.as.bham.ac.uk/studentlife/international

Wellbeing services

Students are supported by a personal tutor and a welfare tutor at all levels of study. The Wellbeing Centre aims to enable students to get the most out of their time at University. We have a dedicated team of professional counsellors providing individual, group or online support.

The Advice and Representation Centre (ARC) at the Guild of Students offers free, confidential and impartial advice to all students on a range of issues including academic, finance, employment, immigration and housing.

Disability

Birmingham has a range of services available to support students with disabilities and learning difficulties throughout their studies. We recommend students tell us about their needs as soon as possible so that the Disability and Learning Support Service can implement any support required.

Respecting your faith

St Francis Hall, the University multi-faith chaplaincy on campus, is a place where students of all faiths or those interested in world religions, can meet for worship, an informal chat in the Oasis Lounge or see a chaplain for spiritual or religious advice and pastoral counselling. We have Christian, Muslim, Jewish, Hindu and Buddhist chaplains. The Guild of Students has a variety of faith-based groups and the city of Birmingham has places of worship for many faiths and religions.



Careers Network

With a wide range of services, including a dedicated International Careers Advisor Consultant, students are supported in developing skills to ensure that they are fully prepared for work or further academic study.

Nursery facilities

Our two nurseries on campus offer a high standard of care and education. Due to the popularity of the nurseries, places should be booked as soon as possible.

Contact us

We welcome the opportunity to work with sponsors throughout the world and encourage you to get in touch with us:

International sponsor enquiries

Tel: +44 (0)121 414 2894

Email: sponsors@contacts.bham.ac.uk

Join our mailing list

If you would like to receive our sponsor newsletters please email us.

Overseas representatives

Birmingham has a network of overseas representatives who can provide information on studying at the University, as well as guidance on applications. For more information visit your country page: www.birmingham.ac.uk/international/students/country

Guangzhou Centre

University of Birmingham
Guangzhou Centre
Yinglong Plaza
Room 714, No.76, Fuli Yinglong
Huangpu Avenue West
Tianhe District
Guangzhou, China
510623
Tel: +86 20 3888 0707



Shanghai

Mingya Zong
China Project Manager
Tel: +86 21 31007900 ext 211
Email: china@contacts.bham.ac.uk



India Office

Aprajita Kalra, Country Officer
University of Birmingham
India Office
1007 Mercantile House
15 Kasturba Gandhi Marg
New Delhi 110001, India
Tel: +91 11 2370 6237/38
Fax: +91 11 2370 6243
Email: indiaoffice@contacts.bham.ac.uk



Nigeria

John Ojeogwu, Country Officer
UKEAS Nigeria
76 Opebi Road
Ikeja, Lagos
Mobile: 234 815 8868617
Email: birmingham@ukeas.com.ng



VIRTUAL TOUR

Our beautiful 250-acre campus is one of many reasons our students love studying here. See more: www.virtualtour.bham.ac.uk



Websites:

University of Birmingham sponsor page:
www.birmingham.ac.uk/sponsors

University of Birmingham country entry requirements:
www.birmingham.ac.uk/country

British Council: www.britishcouncil.org

UCAS: www.ucas.com

UK Council for International Student Affairs: www.ukcisa.org.uk

UK Visas and Immigration:
www.gov.uk/uk-visas-and-immigration

Download a prospectus:

Undergraduate or international programmes: www.birmingham.ac.uk/undergraduate/prospectus

Foundation programme:
www.birmingham.ac.uk/International/foundation-academy/BFA-download-prospectus.aspx

Postgraduate programmes:
www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/prospectus

UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

International Recruitment
Edgbaston, Birmingham,
B15 2TT, United Kingdom
www.birmingham.ac.uk