



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM



BIRMINGHAM FOUNDATION ACADEMY

An International Foundation Programme

2013 admissions



The Jamaican team training at the University before the London 2012 Olympics

AN INSPIRATIONAL
EXPERIENCE AT A
LEADING GLOBAL
UNIVERSITY.



Chancellor's Court at the heart of campus

Welcome from the Vice-Chancellor

WITH MORE THAN A CENTURY OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE, THE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM IS PLEASED TO INTRODUCE THE BIRMINGHAM FOUNDATION ACADEMY, WHICH IS ANCHORED IN THE **UNIVERSITY'S GLOBAL REPUTATION AND OUR LONG EXPERIENCE OF WELCOMING STUDENTS FROM ACROSS THE WORLD.**



As a student at the Birmingham Foundation Academy, you will be fully immersed in student life at the University and will be a greatly valued member of the Birmingham student community. You will live and study alongside our undergraduate and postgraduate students, free to take advantage of our wide range of academic, sporting and cultural facilities.

Academic standards are high, and you will be taught by the University's own academic staff, many of whom are global experts in their fields. This gives you access to the very latest advances in knowledge within your chosen subject. You will also receive specialist tuition in Academic English and Study Skills to ensure you are well equipped for progression to undergraduate studies after your International Foundation Programme.

All of your teaching will take place on our renowned Edgbaston campus, where historic architecture, a cosmopolitan atmosphere and a leafy green landscape will provide an inspiring backdrop to your studies.

You will be fully supported as you adjust to a new and exciting student lifestyle, and will benefit from a range of specialised services tailored to your individual needs. Unique to the University of Birmingham, our dedicated Residence Life Co-ordinator will live on site to help you with any day-to-day concerns you may have.

The University has one of the largest international student communities in the UK and a wealth of expertise in supporting students from all parts of the world. We are confident that you will feel happy, safe and at home here.

The Birmingham Foundation Academy could be your springboard to an internationally respected degree and a successful and rewarding career. I sincerely hope you will take the opportunity to join us.

Professor David Eastwood
Vice-Chancellor



Vice-Chancellor's Seminar Series

Vice-Chancellor's Seminar Series

The Vice-Chancellor chairs an annual series of open seminars with a select group of outstanding undergraduates from across the University to discuss important issues from a multidisciplinary perspective. The seminars provide an opportunity for undergraduates to lead and engage in rigorous academic debate. Themes have included high culture and elitism, scientific discovery, and medical and moral ethics, enabling students to discuss topical issues using approaches from diverse disciplines.

Contents

About the Birmingham Foundation Academy	5	The Guild of Students	29
Programme overview	5	Supporting your faith	29
Push the boundaries of knowledge	6	Essential information	30
Teaching methods	6	The Birmingham Foundation Academy Package	30
Learning environment	7	Payment methods	30
Seize the opportunities that will shape your future	8	How to apply	30
International opportunities	8	Applying for your student visa	30
Careers and employability	8	Key dates and contacts	31
Your university – get involved	9	Overseas representatives	31
Immerse yourself in the Birmingham experience	10	Visit the University	31
Campus life	10		
The city of Birmingham	11		
Sporting success	11		
Your academic pathways	12		
Arts and Law Pathway	14		
Engineering and Physical Sciences Pathway	15		
Life and Environmental Sciences Pathway	16		
Medical Sciences Pathway	17		
Social Sciences Pathway	18		
Academic English and Study Skills	19		
Core modules	19		
Options for high-level English language speakers	19		
Pre-sessional English language tuition	19		
A–Z of module descriptions	20		
Entry requirements	23		
Your offer	23		
Progression	23		
English language entry requirements	23		
Learning at Birmingham	24		
Learning support	24		
Assessment	24		
Birmingham Foundation Academy – a student's view	25		
Your accommodation	26		
Residence Life Co-ordinator	26		
Your catered package	26		
Your accommodation offer	26		
Accommodation fees	26		
The accommodation guarantee	26		
Student support	28		
Arrival and welcome	28		
Social programme	28		
Immigration advice	28		
Support if you have a disability	28		



Student lounge on campus



Priorsfield, The Foundation Academy Hub and English Language Centre

About the Birmingham Foundation Academy

THE BIRMINGHAM FOUNDATION ACADEMY PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY FOR HIGHLY MOTIVATED INTERNATIONAL LEARNERS WITH AN EXCELLENT ACADEMIC RECORD AND THE WILLINGNESS TO STUDY HARD TO ENTER THE UNIVERSITY ENVIRONMENT ONE YEAR BEFORE THE START OF THE UK UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAMME. THIS **INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION PROGRAMME CAN BE YOUR PATHWAY TO SUCCESSFUL UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES** AT BIRMINGHAM OR OTHER TOP UNIVERSITIES THROUGHOUT THE UK.

Why choose the Birmingham Foundation Academy?

As a Birmingham Foundation Academy student, you will benefit from a distinctive, high quality University of Birmingham experience:

- You will be taught entirely on the University's renowned Edgbaston campus
- You will have the choice of academic modules, taught by respected Birmingham academics
- You will be a fully integrated member of our student community, with access to all University facilities
- You will live in the newest residence on campus
- A Residence Life Co-ordinator will live on site and be your first point of contact for all your welfare concerns

Programme overview

The Foundation Academy programme has five pathways. Upon successful completion of the appropriate pathway, you will be guaranteed progression to an extensive range of our undergraduate programmes in Arts and Law, Engineering and Physical Sciences, Life and Environmental Sciences, Medical Sciences or Social Sciences. Academic and English language progression requirements apply for each programme. For a small number of programmes you will need to pass an interview, workshop or audition stage.

You will study an 80-credit suite of subject-specific modules taught in our colleges by Birmingham academics, together with 40 credits of Academic English and Study Skills modules.

You will be taught in English and will be mixing with students from all over the world. You will be constantly improving your academic, linguistic and cultural skills, and by the end of the programme you will be fully prepared for UK student life.

You will enrol on to a one-year or a four-year programme at the University of Birmingham. Although you are not tied to the University for your undergraduate studies, by the end of the first year, we expect that you will feel so at home in Birmingham that you will want to stay with us for the full duration of your studies in the UK.

Our Birmingham Foundation Academy Package comprises all tuition fees, text books and classroom equipment and full access to all campus facilities. On-campus accommodation is guaranteed. Foundation Academy students live in Mason, the University's newest residence in en suite single study bedrooms, with a shared kitchen and optional catering package.



Push the boundaries of knowledge

AS A BIRMINGHAM FOUNDATION ACADEMY STUDENT, YOU WILL BE INTEGRATED INTO THE UNIVERSITY ENVIRONMENT FROM DAY ONE. YOU WILL BE GUIDED AND SUPPORTED ON YOUR JOURNEY TO BECOMING AN INDEPENDENT AND SELF-MOTIVATED LEARNER.

You will be taught by Birmingham academics from a pioneering, enquiring, international community. Our researchers are constantly advancing the boundaries of knowledge and, as a result, many are global experts within their fields. This gives you a distinct advantage. You will be studying within this stimulating community and your programme will therefore include the very latest emerging theories and ideas.

You will develop new English language and study skills to enable you to advance to undergraduate level. There is a great deal to learn but we will support you all the way to ensure you can progress with confidence to the next stage of your studies.

Teaching methods

At Birmingham you will experience a variety of teaching methods, including lectures, seminars, tutorials, workshops, laboratory work and peer group learning, depending on the pathway you follow. You will be encouraged to think, discuss and engage critically with your subject area. By becoming actively involved in your education, you will develop skills in critical enquiry, debate and self motivation.

Your Academic English and Study Skills modules will ensure that, as a Foundation Academy student, you have all the tools you will need for undergraduate study, whatever subject area you choose.

You will be supported by the Academy Team, based in the Foundation Academy Hub and English Language Centre, where most Academic English and Study Skills modules will be taught. From there you will proceed to the lecture theatres, labs and seminar rooms of the University's five colleges for your academic studies.



Touch table technology, Cultural Heritage and Learning Hub

'The University of Birmingham enjoys a great world-wide reputation. It is one of the most popular British universities and it was an honour to be part of it. The facilities at the University are very comprehensive and help is available for both study and student life. I do not think I could achieve any of this as easily in a Chinese university.'

Hui Li, BCom Commerce and MSc International Marketing, from China



Shakespeare Institute Library



Touch-screen room bookings technology



The Aldebran Nao intelligent robot

To ensure your studies proceed smoothly, you will have a tutor in your college, who will provide help and advice with any study-related issues, and will help you to monitor and reflect on your progress.

Learning environment

With the latest classroom technology, Birmingham offers an excellent learning experience. Most of our teaching rooms are equipped with touch-screen digital whiteboards and all have WiFi.

Our Main Library is one of the UK's largest academic libraries, with access to over 2.7 million books and periodicals. A further eight libraries and resource centres offer specialist materials for every subject studied at Birmingham. To allow you flexible access, the Main Library opens late, up to midnight during term time. The Library also houses a range of flexible learning and meeting spaces, from rooms for group work to quiet corners for individual study.

Wherever you are on campus, you will be able to log on to the student portal. This is your personalised gateway to the digital campus, connecting you to email, news, online communities and the e-library, which alone provides access to over 16,000 periodicals, databases, websites and other resources.

FACT

The University of Birmingham is ranked 13th in the UK, in *The Sunday Times* 2012 league tables.

Seize the opportunities that will shape your future

YOUR BIRMINGHAM EXPERIENCE WILL HELP TO PREPARE YOU FOR LIFE AS AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF A GLOBAL SOCIETY. WE OFFER A WEALTH OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU TO GET INVOLVED IN ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE YOUR ACADEMIC PROGRAMME, WHICH WILL BOOST YOUR PROSPECTS IN A COMPETITIVE EMPLOYMENT MARKET AND **HELP TO EQUIP YOU FOR THE CHANGING ECONOMIC LANDSCAPE OF THE 21ST CENTURY.**

International opportunities

Your education at Birmingham will prepare you for a career that has no geographical boundaries. With almost 5,000 international students from more than 150 countries, we have one of the largest global student communities in the UK. You will live and study alongside students of all nationalities, enabling you to see the world from a different viewpoint. 27% of our academic staff are non-UK nationals, demonstrating that Birmingham attracts the brightest talent to its academic community from around the globe.

We have longstanding links with universities throughout the world, including membership of Universitas 21, the prestigious consortium of global research-led universities in 13 countries. Once you progress to your undergraduate degree, this network of global partnerships will offer you exciting international opportunities, such as work experience placements and annual summer schools that attract the best students from across the world to engage in an exchange of culture, experiences and intellect.



Graduate recruitment fair

Careers and employability

Our Careers Network offers a range of services that will help you identify and work towards your career goals from the day you arrive at Birmingham. This includes a dedicated careers advice and guidance service delivered by experienced and professionally qualified employability consultants and advisors.

Each year our dedicated Employer Liaison Team organises over 120 employer presentations, graduate recruitment fairs and events. We can also develop work experience opportunities for you, greatly enhancing

your employability. Additionally, when you enrol here you will have access to **>>Progress>>**, an online environment to help you manage your study and development of your skills.

Worklink

We provide our students with a recruitment service to connect you to jobs on campus. By quickly registering online, you can find part-time jobs working at the University, from shop assistants to student ambassadors.





In November 2011 the *International Herald Tribune* ranked Birmingham 55th in the world in its Global Employment Rankings, making us 9th in the UK.

'The University of Birmingham has a long history. Its campus is amazing and beautiful. The name of the University is well known around the world.'

Maira Tursunbekova, BSc (Hons) Public Policy, Government and Management, from Kazakhstan




Your university – get involved

Volunteering is becoming an essential element of the student experience, and is a great way to improve your chances of finding a job once you graduate. At Birmingham there are over 300 opportunities for students to get involved, ranging from conserving the local environment to fundraising for national or international charities.

Joining a student group is another good way to get involved in the student community, make friends and develop your personal skills. The Guild of Students hosts around 200 groups and societies, and you are bound to find one to suit you, whether it is an international society bringing together students from your own country, a debating society or a group related to one of your hobbies or interests.



Immerse yourself in the Birmingham experience

LIFE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM OFFERS YOU THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS – A PEACEFUL, SAFE AND WELCOMING CAMPUS COMMUNITY ON THE DOORSTEP OF ONE OF EUROPE'S MOST DYNAMIC AND CULTURALLY DIVERSE CITIES.

Campus life

Studying in the shadow of striking architecture on a 250-acre green and leafy site, you will be inspired to get the most out of your time here.

Our Edgbaston campus offers a safe, friendly environment, with all the amenities of a small town, including shops, cafés, a fresh fruit and vegetable stall, banks, a post office, a travel agent, a regular farmers' market, a recruitment agency, medical and dental surgeries nearby, sports facilities and a train station.

There are few universities with such a wealth of culture on their campus. At Birmingham you can experience some of the finest art in Europe on campus every day of the week by visiting our award-winning Barber Institute of Fine Arts, with its impressive collection of works by some of the world's greatest artists.

The campus combines traditional 'red brick' buildings and state-of-the-art facilities, which are continually being developed and improved. In September 2012 the new Bramall Music Building opened as the latest addition to our campus. This multi-million pound development provides a 450-seat auditorium for music, opera, drama and prestigious lectures, as well as state-of-the-art rehearsal rooms and recording facilities.



The Barber Institute of Fine Arts



Fresh fruit and vegetable market on campus



FACT

At almost 100 metres, the University clock tower, known as 'Old Joe', is the tallest freestanding clock tower in the world.



'I found Birmingham as a city very safe with good access for transportation. I have travelled to so many places in the UK such as London, Bristol and Manchester.'

Wafa Janahi, Law student, from Bahrain



The city of Birmingham

Birmingham is a European centre for retail, commerce and culture, with a proud heritage and modern outlook. The city offers excellent entertainment for all tastes, with a range of leading theatres, museums, art galleries and music venues. It is also home to Bullring, one of Europe's largest city centre shopping malls, with over 160 shops including Selfridges, Abercrombie and Fitch, Apple and Top Shop.

The city is at the centre of England and at the hub of its transport network, making it a great base from which to explore the UK and mainland Europe. London is only one and a half hours away by train. Birmingham Airport is just 25 minutes by taxi from the Edgbaston campus and offers direct flights to the USA, North Africa, Dubai, and European destinations with connections worldwide via Amsterdam, Frankfurt and Istanbul.

Birmingham is a truly diverse city with a rich cultural mix in both its permanent residents and student population. This cosmopolitan character is reflected in its restaurants, shops and cultural activities. You will be able to find the food that suits your tastes in Birmingham's many cafés and restaurants. If you feel like cooking for yourself and for friends, you can visit the large fruit, vegetable, fish and meat markets, or Asian and European supermarkets, where specialist food is readily available.

Birmingham is an exciting destination for young people. It is more than somewhere to study; it is somewhere to build a successful future.



Bullring shopping centre



The Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery



Pamela Relph (far left), University of Birmingham Physics Graduate and Paralympic Gold Medal winner

Sporting success

Birmingham is one of the UK's leading sporting universities and finished second in the 2011 BUCS (British Universities and Colleges Sport) sports league. Our global sporting reputation was confirmed in summer 2012 when the Jamaican Track and Field Team, including Olympic champion sprinters Usain Bolt and Yohan Blake, established their pre-Olympic training camp on our campus.

However, sport is not just for elite athletes at Birmingham. The University swimming pool holds women-only sessions, and students can book tennis or badminton courts and football pitches to play a match with their friends. Our Active Lifestyle programme offers fitness, dance and sports classes to suit all ages, abilities and fitness levels. It is one of the largest programmes of its type in the country and includes everything from boxercise and studio cycling to martial arts, salsa and yoga.



Your academic pathways

'I LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU TO THE BIRMINGHAM FOUNDATION ACADEMY AND SUPPORTING YOU DURING YOUR TIME ON THE PROGRAMME. I AM SURE YOU WILL HAVE AN **INTELLECTUALLY STIMULATING, ENJOYABLE AND REWARDING TIME AT BIRMINGHAM.**'

Dr Steve Minchin, Academic Director, Birmingham Foundation Academy and Senior Lecturer, School of Biosciences, College of Life and Environmental Sciences



When you apply to the Birmingham Foundation Academy, you will be asked to choose the pathway you would like to enter and the undergraduate degree that you intend to progress to. When you receive and accept your offer to study on the programme, you will be advised about your module choices.

You will not be tied to your choice of undergraduate degree; however, it is important that you make the right module choices. This is because some undergraduate programmes will have compulsory modules that you should take in your Foundation Academy programme and you will be required to achieve a specified grade in order to progress to that course. These are listed online at: www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/foundation-academy/pathways/index.aspx

The Birmingham Foundation Academy pathways are described in the following pages so you will be able to decide which pathway is best for you. The modules listed may be shared by the different pathways, so you will be studying alongside students from other disciplines. This will give you the opportunity to share your ideas, increase your knowledge in different areas of study and form academic networks outside your main discipline.

Please note: in certain circumstances it is possible to change your Birmingham Foundation Academy pathway, although you would need to discuss this with your tutor.

Pathway structure

Pathways consist of 120 credits in 10- or 20-credit modules. Your pathway will consist of an 80-credit suite of subject-specific modules, taught in our colleges by Birmingham academics, together with 40 credits of Academic English and Study Skills modules delivered by the University's English for International Students Unit.

The modules you will take will depend upon your intended undergraduate degree and are subject to availability and timetabling.



The Birmingham Foundation Academy has five pathways:



Arts and Law Pathway

Programmes in:

- African Studies
- American and Canadian Studies
- Archaeology and Antiquity
- Drama and Theatre Arts
- English
- History of Art
- History
- Law
- Modern Languages
- Music
- Philosophy, Theology and Religion



Engineering and Physical Sciences Pathway

Programmes in:

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



Life and Environmental Sciences Pathway

Programmes in:

- Applied Golf Management Studies
- Biochemistry
- Biological Sciences
- Environmental Sciences
- Geology
- Geography
- Human Biology
- Medical Science
- Psychology
- Sport and Exercise Sciences



Medical Sciences Pathway

Programmes in:

- Biochemistry
- Biological Sciences
- Biomedical Materials Science
- Human Biology
- Medical Science
- Pharmacy
- Psychology
- Sport and Exercise Sciences



Social Sciences Pathway

Programmes in:

- Business
- Economics
- Education
- International Relations, Politics and Sociology
- Social Policy
- Sport, Physical Education and Coaching Science

Arts and Law Pathway

College of Arts and Law

'WE ARE AN INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY OF STUDENTS AND ACADEMICS THAT COMBINES **HIGH QUALITY LEARNING AND TEACHING WITH WORLD-RENOWNED RESEARCH.**'

Professor Ken Dowden, Pathway Lead, Professor of Classics and Head of School of Philosophy, Theology and Religion, College of Arts and Law



Our excellent facilities include the Barber Institute of Fine Arts and the newly opened Bramall Music Building, which houses five electroacoustic studios, a large rehearsal room and the 450-seat Elgar Concert Hall, and a suite dedicated to the study and performance of music.

The College places great emphasis on the experience it provides to make sure all students get the most out of their time at University. Services available to our students include undergraduate research opportunities and study skills support services, such as academic writing advice and postgraduate teaching assistants, to help you prepare for post-University careers.

Similarly, all our programmes are designed with future careers in mind and aim to develop skills, competence and knowledge that employers look for. You will learn to research, analyse and prioritise large amounts of complex information efficiently, becoming enquiry-based learners with self-management skills. Our graduates progress into careers in human resources, publishing, marketing and business, among others. We can also count among our past students successful novelists, playwrights, journalists and chairs of statutory commissions.

Learn more about the Arts and Law Pathway at: www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/foundation-academy/pathways

Pathway modules	Module code	Credits
The European Heritage	09 24642	20
The Country and the City	09 24625	20
Colonial Encounters	09 24622	20
Digital Humanities	09 24623	20
Politics, Policy and Protest	11 24628	20
Social Policy, Welfare and Society	08 24631	20
How to Learn, Earn and Be Happy: an Introduction to Education	11 24626	20
Business and the Market	11 24627	20
Quantitative Methods for Business and Economics	07 24630	20



FACT

The University owns the Mingana Collection of Middle Eastern Manuscripts; the largest collection of illuminated Middle Eastern manuscripts after the Vatican and the Bibliothèque nationale de France.

Engineering and Physical Sciences Pathway

College of Engineering and Physical Sciences

'WE HAVE A LONG AND PROUD TRADITION OF EDUCATING STUDENTS FROM ACROSS THE GLOBE. SCHOLARS FROM OVER 200 COUNTRIES CONTRIBUTE TO THE STRONG INTERNATIONAL ATMOSPHERE THAT IS A MAJOR FEATURE OF THE COLLEGE.'

Mrs Lynne Long, Pathway Lead and School Liaison Officer for the School of Physics and Astronomy, College of Engineering and Physical Sciences



Pathway modules	Module code	Credits
Introductory Mathematics	06 24636	10
Properties of Matter	03 24643	10
Mechanics and Waves	03 24638	20
Further Mathematics	06 24633	20
Foundation Electronic and Electrical Engineering	04 24632	20
Introductory Chemistry	03 24634	10
The Periodic Table	03 24644	10
Introductory Organic Chemistry	03 24637	10
Organic Spectroscopy	03 24640	10
Physical Chemistry	03 24641	20
Practical Chemistry (Laboratory)	03 24642	10
Introductory Computer Science	06 24635	20

You will study at the leading edge of modern science and engineering. The College covers a broad range of world-leading research, from developing microengines to our particle physics research at CERN.

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) subjects are critically important in the development of our future fuels, materials and machines, and the College plays a significant role in training the next generation of engineers and scientists to solve our future challenges. We have strong links with major UK employers such as Rolls-Royce and Airbus, and our staff and students are at the forefront of research into a wide variety of areas, from working with particle physicists at the Large Hadron Collider in Switzerland to using nanotechnology to develop microengines.

Learn more about the Engineering and Physical Sciences Pathway at: www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/foundation-academy/pathways



FACT

Professor Sir Norman Haworth was awarded the 1937 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for his work in synthesising Vitamin C while he was Mason Professor of Chemistry at the University.

Life and Environmental Sciences Pathway

College of Life and Environmental Sciences

'WE ARE DEDICATED TO EXPLORING AND LEARNING ABOUT THE DIVERSITY AND EVOLUTIONARY CHALLENGES OF LIFE IN ALL ITS FORMS.'

Dr Jeremy Pritchard, Pathway Lead, Senior Lecturer and Head of Education, School of Biosciences, College of Life and Environmental Sciences



The College of Life and Environmental Sciences consists of four schools: Biosciences; Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences; Psychology; and Sport and Exercise Sciences. Each school offers a portfolio of academic learning, fieldwork and excellent facilities to ensure that our students gain valuable skills that provide access to a wide range of careers.

Our excellent reputation for research and teaching is recognised throughout all schools. In particular, the School of Sport and Exercise Sciences achieved a first-equal ranking in the most recent Research Assessment Exercise, and the School of Psychology is ranked in the top three Psychology departments in the UK.

You will have access to purpose-built facilities specifically equipped for work within your chosen field. The Lapworth Museum of Geology is recognised as one of the finest geological museums in the UK.

Our students graduate with a range of transferable skills, which can lead to exciting and varied career opportunities ranging from ecology through to cancer research and forensic psychology. We have strong links with major employers and in recent years graduates have gone on to work for GlaxoSmithKline and the British Heart Foundation, among others.

Learn more about the Life and Environmental Sciences Pathway at: www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/foundation-academy/pathways

Pathway modules	Module code	Credits
Earth and Environmental Sciences	03 24645	20
Biology	03 24646	20
Human Biology	03 24648	20
Advanced Study Skills in the Biological Sciences	02 25335	20
Introductory Mathematics	06 24636	10
Introductory Chemistry	03 24634	10
The Periodic Table	03 24644	10
Introductory Organic Chemistry	03 24637	10
Organic Spectroscopy	03 24640	10
Physical Chemistry	03 24641	20



FACT

Fred Shotton, former Lapworth Professor of Geology, mapped the geology of the beaches of northern France prior to the D-Day landings.



Medical Sciences Pathway

College of Medical and Dental Sciences

'THE MEDICAL SCIENCES PATHWAY FOCUSES ON THE SCIENTIFIC BASIS OF MEDICINE, AND AIMS TO TRAIN THE MEDICAL RESEARCHERS OF TOMORROW.'

Dr Karl Nightingale, Pathway Lead and Senior Lecturer, School of Immunity and Infection, College of Medical and Dental Sciences



Pathway modules	Module code	Credits
Advanced Study Skills in the Biological Sciences	02 25335	20
Introductory Chemistry	03 24634	10
Introductory Organic Chemistry	03 24637	10
Introductory Mathematics	03 24636	10
Organic Spectroscopy	03 24640	10
Physical Chemistry	03 24641	20
Biology	03 24646	20
Human Biology	03 24648	20
The Periodic Table	03 24644	10

This pathway will prepare you for a number of clinically related degrees. This includes Medical Science, which introduces students to the wide range of biological sciences such as molecular and cell biology, physiology and pharmacology that underpin medicine and medical research. A degree in Biomedical Materials Science combines aspects of biological processes and materials science to allow students to understand the development of the artificial materials and devices used in medical or dental practice, for example, artificial hips, heart valves or contact lenses. We also offer progression to Pharmacy the professionally-regulated degree that links the chemical, biological, pharmaceutical and healthcare sciences to ensure the safe and effective use of medicines and promote patient safety.

These degrees provide an excellent foundation for career development, with many of our science graduates going on to use their skills in employment, for example in the pharmaceutical or biotechnology industries. In addition, a large proportion of our students go on to further study, either in medical research by studying at PhD or Masters level, or in the clinical professions.

Please note: this pathway does not lead to the Medicine and Surgery, Dental Surgery or Physiotherapy undergraduate degrees. Special conditions apply to progression to Pharmacy. These are given on the pathway page online. The University of Birmingham is working towards accreditation of its new Pharmacy degree by the General Pharmaceutical Council.

Learn more about the Medical Sciences Pathway at: www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/foundation-academy/pathways



FACT

Sir John Vane, who was awarded the 1982 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for his research around aspirin and prostaglandin biosynthesis, completed his undergraduate studies at the University.

Social Sciences Pathway

College of Social Sciences

'SOCIAL SCIENCE IS THE FIELD OF STUDY CONCERNED WITH THE SOCIAL WORLD. AS SUCH, IT BRINGS TOGETHER A DIVERSE RANGE OF DISCIPLINES.'

Dr Toby Kendall, Pathway Lead and Lecturer in Economics, College of Social Sciences



Generating new knowledge about society and transforming this in ways that improve wellbeing, is central to all work in the College of Social Sciences. It employs over 400 academics (including almost 100 professors) and has over 9,000 students from across the world.

The School of Government and Society is one of the leading UK and international centres for governance, politics, international development, sociology, public management and Russian and European studies.

Birmingham Business School is a dynamic and internationally focused school offering programmes across the full range of business disciplines. The School's academic staff conduct world-class research, in addition to achieving excellence in teaching and enriching students' understanding. We pride ourselves on students graduating with a range of knowledge and skills that gives them a competitive edge.

Birmingham Business School has developed and continues to maintain strong links with professional accountancy firms and organisations such as Deloitte and KPMG. It is accredited by EQUIS and many of the degree programmes have individual professional accreditation (for example AMBA, CIPD, ICASA and CIPS).

Learn more about the Social Sciences Pathway at: www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/foundation-academy/pathways

Pathway modules	Module code	Credits
Politics, Policy and Protest	11 24628	20
Social Policy, Welfare and Society	08 24631	20
How to Learn, Earn and Be Happy: an Introduction to Education	11 24626	20
Business and the Market	11 24627	20
Quantitative Methods for Business and Economics	07 24630	20
The European Heritage	09 24642	20
The Country and the City	09 24625	20
Colonial Encounters	09 24622	20
Digital Humanities	09 24623	20



The Accounting and Finance department has achieved the Gold Standard of recognition as a Centre of Excellence in the provision of finance teaching by the Chartered Institute for Securities and Investments (CISI).



Academic English and Study Skills

'THESE MODULES WILL ENSURE THAT AS A FOUNDATION ACADEMY STUDENT, YOU WILL HAVE ALL THE TOOLS YOU WILL NEED FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDY, WHATEVER SUBJECT AREA YOU CHOOSE.'

Hayley Maxwell, BFA English Language Modules and Skills Co-ordinator and English for Academic Purposes tutor



Academic English and Study Skills modules	Module code	Credits
Academic English and Study Skills 1	09 24651	20
Academic English and Study Skills 2	09 24652	20
Aspects of Britain	09 24650	20
Advanced Academic Skills	09 24649	20

Options for high-level English language speakers

If you are a high-level English language speaker, with an IELTS score of 7 overall (or equivalent) you can replace the Academic English and Study Skills 1 and 2 modules with **Aspects of Britain** and **Advanced Academic Skills**.



Within your programme you will take two 20-credit modules in Academic English and Study Skills. These modules will largely be taught at the Foundation Academy Hub and English Language Centre based in Priorsfield.

Priorsfield is a beautiful historic manor house on the Edgbaston campus. This gives you a dedicated study, social and welfare centre within easy reach of your residence and all the amenities of the Edgbaston campus. You will be learning in a supportive environment in small classes that are focused on individual needs. One-to-one tutorials are also available if you need them.

Core modules

Most students will take Academic English and Study Skills 1 in Term one and Academic English and Study Skills 2 in Term two.

Both these modules will also enable you to improve your fluency and command of the English language.

This is subject to prior agreement. Please contact us if you think this applies to you.

Preessional English language tuition

If you require additional English language tuition, you will be able to apply for a specific Foundation Academy Preessional English programme that takes place before the start of your first term. This programme will be six or ten weeks in duration, depending upon your current English language level. Upon successful completion of the programme, you can transfer to the Foundation Academy without needing to take another English language test.

The Preessional English programme is not part of the Birmingham Foundation Academy Package, and will be at your own cost.

Preessional English course dates

10-week: 15 July–20 September 2013

6-week: 12 August–20 September 2013
(Longer courses are available, if required.)

Full details, including the tuition fees, and how to apply for the Preessional English language programme can be found online at: www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/courses/preessional/index.aspx

'I lacked confidence when I arrived, but thanks to the Preessional course I know how to take part in seminars, take notes in lectures and write academic essays. The teachers have helped me a lot and I'm really glad that I studied in the UK on this course before beginning my programme.'

Xuan-Yu Liu, from China

A–Z of module descriptions



Academic English and Study Skills 1

09 24651

This module will equip you with the English required for academic study at undergraduate level. It will help you to acquire key academic vocabulary and to master key academic grammatical structures. The module will also help you to develop the necessary skills for reading academic texts and writing academic assignments. It will enable you to perform successfully across all modules of the Foundation Academy programme, as well as preparing you for study in your future undergraduate programme.

Academic English and Study Skills 2

09 24652

This module will further develop your ability to cope in an academic environment. It will focus on the academic English used in specific areas of study such as Arts, Social Sciences, Engineering and Sciences. It will also prepare you for the specific academic writing demands of your future undergraduate programme.

Advanced Academic Skills

09 24649

This module will prepare you for the academic demands of your future undergraduate programme, where you will be expected to employ an efficient and effective learning style. It will help you to identify weaknesses in your current learning style and enable you to develop better study and research skills. It will also help you to develop your critical thinking skills. In doing this, you will also improve your fluency and command of the English language.



Advanced Study Skills in the Biological Sciences

02 25335

This module will build upon the initial Academic English and Study Skills module to introduce you to the specialist study skills specific to the biological sciences. The focus of this module will be data analysis, interpretation, critical thinking and presentation skills (verbal and written in various formats). Much of your learning will be via student-selected topics that allow you to explore your own interests within the broad field of biology, working in groups and individually.

Aspects of Britain

09 24650

This module will explore important aspects of British social, cultural and political life, helping you to read British newspapers and listen to the news with understanding. It will also give you enough understanding of British social and political life and culture to enable you to critically discuss various aspects of it, and relate this knowledge to similar aspects of life in your own country. In doing this, you will also improve your fluency and command of the English language.

Biology

03 24646

This module aims to develop your knowledge and skills in the areas of evolution, genetics, organismal and environmental biology. The focus of the module is on animal, plant and microbial biology but, where necessary, it draws comparisons and makes reference to human biology.

Business and the Market

11 24627

This module focuses on the relationship between firms and markets. It looks at how markets work, how they differ and why these differences matter to the firm. It begins by introducing you to some underlying ideas that will help you think about the subject, before moving on to describe the operations of the



market itself. After learning about the laws of supply and demand, you will also study the different types of market and how firms set about maximising their profits under different competitive conditions.

Colonial Encounters

09 24622

Here you will be looking at the overseas expansion of European powers and the legacies of imperialism, with particular emphasis on the British Empire. Initial sessions will establish a chronological and thematic outline, exploring the roles of slavery and anti-slavery in the establishment of empire, governance and violence in the maintenance of empire, and the role of anti-colonial nationalism in ending imperial rule. Later, you will encounter key concepts in the study of colonial encounter and its cultural legacies. You will explore orientalism, post-colonialism and hybridity through sessions on the representation of colonised peoples in metropolitan cultures (exhibitions, literature, ethnography and film), post-colonial challenges to these ways of knowing 'the other' and the place of English as a global language.

Country and the City, The

09 24625

In this module you will be learning about the variety of ways in which the rural and the urban have been conceptualised and imagined throughout history. This will involve the study of cities ranging from ancient Athens to modern New York, and will allow you to engage with such topics as industrialisation, nostalgia for the countryside, and environmental concerns. You will read widely and cover authors such as William Wordsworth, Emile Zola and Eça de Queirós. Working with the Barber Institute of Fine Arts you will also attend guided tours of exhibitions and be encouraged to think about the cities, and the countryside, that you inhabit.



Digital Humanities 09 24623

In this module you study the use of computers and other modern technologies in the production and analysis of texts, music and historical and archaeological reconstructions, as well as the digital impact on wider concepts of 'heritage'. You will learn about current research at Birmingham in this area and discuss theoretical issues and concepts; there are also practical sessions where you will be part of a group working on projects such as producing a virtual gallery or edition. After completion of the module, you will know about the relevance of digital technology for the humanities, will have an idea of the state of cutting-edge research, and will be able to do practical work through an understanding of file formats for text, images and sound, mark-up languages (XML) and basic web technology.

Earth and Environmental Sciences 03 24645

This module will examine the interplay between geology and environments through time to show how they have shaped the world in which we live. You will study a broad range of topics that illustrate the interplay between geological processes such as volcanism, plate tectonics, sedimentation and the environment, including the co-evolution of life and planet Earth.

European Heritage, The 09 24642

In this module you will learn about the history of the classical and Christian traditions that underlie European civilisation, as well as some of the most significant artistic and literary works that these traditions have inspired. You will examine the development of European society, culture and its philosophical and religious underpinnings in the Classical, Renaissance and Modern eras, focusing on key ideas and artefacts as examples.



Foundation Electronic and Electrical Engineering 04 24632

This module aims to develop basic knowledge and skills relevant to electronics, electricity and magnetism. Topics you will study include: electric current and charge, resistors, capacitors, inductors, electric and magnetic fields, simple electrical circuits and magnetic properties and behaviour of materials.

Further Mathematics 06 24633

This module builds on the knowledge and skills developed in the Introductory Mathematics module (Term 1). It will cover topics associated with functions, further calculus and numerical methods.

How to Learn, Earn and Be Happy: an Introduction to Education 08 24631

Learning, and processes of formal and informal education, are widely held to be crucial components of a successful and happy life. This module introduces you to theories of learning, teaching and assessment, explores their impact on life chances in different areas of the world and reviews philosophical and empirical research on the relationship between education and happiness.

Human Biology 03 24648

This module will examine the biological mechanisms that underpin the workings of the human body and mind. You will study a broad range of topics, from fundamental cell biology and biochemistry to the function and regulation of tissues and the biological bases of behaviour.



Introductory Chemistry 03 24634

This module aims to develop a number of fundamental concepts associated with the discipline of Chemistry. The module will introduce fundamental features of atomic structure, before extending towards compounds, introducing concepts of bonding and oxidation states. The module will then proceed to introduce the general background on physical and chemical changes, in particular what factors need to be considered in such processes.

Introductory Computer Science 06 24635

The module introduces issues relating to the representation, storage, exchange and manipulation of information. The module will introduce theoretical and practical aspects of computing. You will be provided with an understanding of core features of computer science and develop a solid understanding of programming and its limitations.

Introductory Mathematics 06 24636

This module is aimed at developing your confidence and knowledge in basic mathematical techniques and skills. Topics you will study include: indices and logarithms; basic algebra; elementary geometry; trigonometry functions; vectors; and an introduction to differentiation and integration.

Introductory Organic Chemistry 03 24637

This module aims to develop knowledge and skills in basic organic chemistry. Topics you will study include: nomenclature, isomerism, arrow-pushing mechanisms, reactivity of sp, sp² and sp³ carbon centres and basic organic reaction schemes.

A–Z of module descriptions

continued



Mechanics and Waves

03 24638

The aim of this module is to develop a basic understanding of the principles of mechanics and the fundamental concepts of wave motion. The topics you will study include: laws of statics, kinematics and dynamics; properties of materials in tension and compression; gravitational fields; simple harmonic motion; wave equations; reflection and refraction; and diffraction and interference.

Organic Spectroscopy

03 24640

This module is linked to the module Introductory Organic Chemistry. It aims to develop further some of the concepts presented in the introductory module, such as isomerism and arrow-pushing schemes. It also covers structure determination using spectroscopic techniques.

The Periodic Table

03 24644

This module covers important concepts such as periodicity and molecular shapes. It also expands and develops the basic bonding theories presented in the pre-requisite module (Introductory Chemistry) in more detail.

Physical Chemistry

03 24641

This module aims to develop your knowledge and skills in the broad area of physical chemistry. Topics you will study include: gas laws, thermodynamics, chemical equilibrium and kinetics. It also includes coverage of acids and bases, solubility and electrochemistry. You will also practise some mathematical techniques within a chemical context.



Politics, Policy and Protest

11 24628

This module will introduce you to the main issues and debates in contemporary international and global affairs. The module will comprise of four sections. The first section will focus on conceptual debates surrounding the nature of international and global politics. In the second section the development of the nation-state and its changing role and position in an increasingly globalised world will be considered, and this will be followed in the third and fourth sections by consideration of patterns of regional integration as a response to globalisation and questions surrounding global security governance and co-operation. The key focus will be on how states are changing, and how they influence and are influenced by regional integration and international organisations.

Practical Chemistry (Laboratory)

03 24642

This laboratory-based module is designed to provide you with experience of practical chemistry. The module seeks to develop your fundamental practical skills, as well as skills associated with maintaining a lab diary, report writing and interpretation of data. It also provides you with training in aspects of health and safety.

Properties of Matter

03 24643

In this module you will be introduced to some of the basic structures of matter and how these structures affect material properties and their behaviour and uses in science and engineering. Topics you will study include: elements, compounds, mixtures; chemical and physical changes; basics of bonding; crystalline and amorphous solids; metals, ceramics and polymers; and physical properties such as thermal conductivity, electrical resistivity, magnetism and radioactivity.



Quantitative Methods for Business and Economics

07 24630

While this module has a mathematical foundation, it is not simply about developing your mathematical skills. Rather, the purpose of the module is to show you how you can use these skills to improve your understanding of business problems and to help you make business decisions more effectively.

Social Policy, Welfare and Society

11 24626

This module explores the potential to create the societies in which we would want to live through the development and implementation of policies, which include health, social care, housing and criminal justice. Focusing on the British setting, this highly contemporary and dynamic module analyses current social issues and asks questions about the role and contribution of the individual, the family and the state in constructing societies for the future.

Entry requirements

The Birmingham Foundation Academy (BFA) is suitable for you if you have completed your high school education to a high standard and you would normally require a foundation year before being eligible for first year undergraduate entry to universities in the UK.

The BFA is not suitable for you if you would not normally require a foundation year but have not achieved the grades normally acceptable for direct entry to University of Birmingham undergraduate degree programmes.

You can find a range of academic entry requirements for different qualifications online at: www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/foundation-academy/entry-requirements.aspx English language entry requirements also apply. Please see the table below.

Your offer

Providing you meet the academic entry requirements and depending on your English language competence and the undergraduate degree programme you intend to progress to, you will be made an offer for either:

- Bachelors Degree with Integrated Foundation Year (four-year programme)
- Birmingham Foundation Academy Programme (one-year programme)

Progression

You are guaranteed a place on one of the University's undergraduate programmes, providing you achieve satisfactory grades in the first year on the Foundation Academy programme. Academic and English language progression requirements apply for each programme. You will normally be required to achieve 60–65% overall in your Foundation Academy programme, depending on the

degree programme you intend to progress to. Certain degree programmes will require that you achieve a specific grade in specified BFA modules. For a small number of programmes you will need to pass an interview, workshop or audition stage, as part of the progression process. All undergraduate programmes that you may progress to from each BFA pathway and their progression requirements are listed online at: www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/foundation-academy/pathways/index.aspx

Please note: it is possible to progress to the University's four-year degree programmes, for example the MEng (integrated Masters) or programmes with a year in industry or year abroad. In such cases, Birmingham Foundation Academy students holding an offer for a four-year programme will be able to apply for an extension of their Tier 4 (General) Student visa in their final year.

English language entry requirements

One-year programmes	IELTS	TOEFL iBT	Pearson Test of English (Academic)
Birmingham Foundation Academy Programme (one-year programme) For all pathways and progression routes, except students intending to progress to degrees in Law, English Literature or Pharmacy	5.5 overall with at least 5.0 in each band	68 overall with at least Listening – 15 Reading – 17 Speaking – 19 Writing – 17	A minimum of Listening – 45 Reading – 45 Writing – 45 Speaking – 45
Birmingham Foundation Academy Programme (one-year programme) For students intending to progress to degrees in Law or English Literature	6.0 overall with at least 5.5 in each band	80 overall with at least Listening – 20 Reading – 19 Speaking – 21 Writing – 20	A minimum of Listening – 53 Reading – 53 Writing – 53 Speaking – 53
Birmingham Foundation Academy Programme (one-year programme) For students intending to progress to Pharmacy (four-year pathway not available for Pharmacy)	6.0 overall with at least 6.0 in each band	84 overall with at least Listening – 20 Reading – 21 Speaking – 22 Writing – 21	A minimum of Listening – 55 Reading – 55 Writing – 55 Speaking – 55
Four-year programmes			
Bachelor's Degree with Integrated Foundation Year (four-year programme) For all pathways and progression routes, except students intending to progress to degrees in Law, English Literature or Pharmacy	5.5 overall with at least 5.5 in each band	72 overall with at least Listening – 17 Reading – 18 Speaking – 20 Writing – 17	A minimum of Listening – 51 Reading – 51 Writing – 51 Speaking – 51
Bachelor's Degree with Integrated Foundation Year (four-year programme) For students intending to progress to degrees in Law or English Literature	6.0 overall with at least 5.5 in each band	80 overall with at least Listening – 20 Reading – 19 Speaking – 21 Writing – 20	A minimum of Listening – 53 Reading – 53 Writing – 53 Speaking – 53

Learning at Birmingham

THE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM PRODUCES INDEPENDENT LEARNERS WHO ARE CAPABLE OF FORMULATING THEIR OWN IDEAS AND ENGAGING CRITICALLY WITH THEIR SUBJECT. WE ENCOURAGE OUR STUDENTS TO CHALLENGE AND ENQUIRE. **A KEY BENEFIT OF THIS APPROACH IS THAT YOU GAIN THE SKILLS THAT EMPLOYERS ARE LOOKING FOR, SUCH AS INDEPENDENCE, TEAMWORKING, PROBLEM SOLVING AND TIME MANAGEMENT.**

As a Birmingham Foundation Academy student you will be guided and supported to make the transition to becoming an independent and self-motivated learner. You will experience a variety of teaching methods, depending on the academic pathway you follow. These may include:

□ Lectures

You will listen to and engage with academics who will introduce you to key facts and ideas in your subject. There may be mini-activities and pair work to complete during the session, and follow-up work afterwards. You may wish to take written notes but many lectures are now recorded, so you can access the information afterwards using our virtual learning environment (VLE).

□ Seminars

You will be encouraged to present and discuss your ideas in small groups and to debate with other students.

□ Tutorials

Your tutor will provide continuing academic support and guidance on a one-to-one basis.

□ Workshops

You will engage in problem-solving sessions facilitated by a member of academic staff; these sessions usually involve students working in groups.

□ Laboratory-based work

You will have a chance to get practical experience and apply the knowledge you have learnt in your lectures to a laboratory setting. Through these sessions you will learn to analyse real-life problems, which will equip you with the practical and analytical skills that are valued by employers. This mainly applies to modules in Engineering and Physical Sciences, Life and Environmental Sciences and Medical Sciences pathways.

□ Peer group learning

You may be asked by your tutor to direct a lesson or prepare a presentation with your fellow classmates. By interacting with the lesson material, you will remember the content more effectively.

Learning support

When you enrol at the Foundation Academy, you will be allocated a tutor in the college most appropriate for your pathway, who will provide help and advice with any study-related issues, and will help you to monitor and reflect on your progress.

Assessment

Assessment at the Foundation Academy is by a combination of exams, laboratory work, coursework exercises, project work and written assignments, depending on the subject.

Assessment of your English language progress will be made by the University's English for International Students Unit. If you have made satisfactory progress at the end of your first year at the Foundation Academy, and are progressing to an undergraduate degree programme at the University of Birmingham, you will not normally be required to take another English language test.



Birmingham Foundation Academy –

a student's view

Tresna Heryandi, Social Sciences Pathway



Tresna is from Bogor, West Java, Indonesia



Tresna with a friend outside Mason accommodation on campus

If you had to describe yourself in just three words, what would they be?

Sociable, easy-going and talkative.

Why did you choose the University of Birmingham?

I chose the University of Birmingham because it is a suitable place for me to join with a local and international community. In fact, the University of Birmingham provides a great opportunity for all students to join a new community and society. Also, the University has good facilities such as its library and sports centre.

How would you describe your experience of the Preessional English Programme?

It was an incredible experience because I learnt so much such as improving my speaking, listening, reading and writing skills. There were also some day trips and it was very exciting for me to get to know the UK. I found it important to be taught how to perform presentations. They prepared us very well to be ready when we go to the University. When I studied in my Preessional course, I improved my English skills in a short time. They taught me English language very clearly and intensively.

Have you been challenged in your studies so far in the UK in a different way than you were used to?

Studying in the UK is slightly different than in my own country. For example, sometimes the teacher asks us to work as a team in a group and to do an exercise where we can share opinions or ideas with other people of various backgrounds from different countries, religions, age groups or even experience.

What are you looking forward to most in this Foundation Academy year?

To prepare for my degree and learning the English language more deeply in an academic context.

Please tell us about your accommodation.

I live in University accommodation. Everything is great! Great environment, great view and it gives me a great opportunity to meet new people and build a new community. I do like the view in my accommodation and walking around or sitting by the lake while talking with my friends. All students on the Foundation Academy are very friendly. I have found that having a dinner party is a good way to get to know each other.

What do you like about the city of Birmingham?

In Birmingham I can find many international restaurants offering different food and tastes – for example, there are Indian and Chinese restaurants in Birmingham. I like trying foods of different countries and you can get nice food in Birmingham.

What advice would you give to students thinking of studying in the UK?

Studying in the UK will give you a great opportunity to make international and local friendships. It is also a good chance for you to see the world around Europe if you wish to take a holiday during long weekends. Moreover, you can get the best education to finish your degree and get a better future career.

Your accommodation

AS A FOUNDATION ACADEMY STUDENT YOUR ACCOMMODATION IS GUARANTEED. **FOUNDATION ACADEMY STUDENTS LIVE IN MASON, THE UNIVERSITY'S NEWEST RESIDENCE.** PART OF THE POPULAR VALE VILLAGE, MASON IS A SHORT WALK FROM THE FOUNDATION ACADEMY HUB AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE CENTRE, AND YOUR ACADEMIC DEPARTMENTS ARE JUST A SHORT WALK FROM THERE.

In this smart accommodation you will have your own study bedroom, with an en suite bathroom. Your apartment will have a shared kitchen/lounge and dining area. Your bedroom will be fully furnished and cabled to provide free internet, which also enables you to watch television over the network. Mason apartments also include a free wireless internet connection.

Other benefits of your accommodation include:

- Staff available 24 hours a day throughout the year
- A 'Residence Life Co-ordinator' who lives on site in Mason and provides social and personal support
- A bedding pack that includes duvet, duvet cover, pillow, pillowcase and sheet (*please note towels are not provided*)
- Cooking utensils, crockery, cutlery, a kettle and a toaster
- Fully heated accommodation inclusive of all heating, hot water and electricity bills
- Basic contents insurance

A fully catered package is available. Adapted rooms are also available for wheelchair users and for students with hearing and sight impairment (please contact us if you require specially adapted accommodation).

Further information about Mason and the Vale Village, including virtual tours of bedrooms and kitchens, can be found at www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/accommodation/halls/vale.aspx

Residence Life Co-ordinator

The University offers a special level of support for you as a Foundation Academy student. This is made possible by housing Academy students together in Mason, in the same block of accommodation as the Residence Life Co-ordinator.

Unique to the Birmingham Foundation Academy, the Residence Life Co-ordinator lives on site and their office is based on the Vale Village, which means there is always someone there for you if you need support. The Residence Life Co-ordinator will provide advice and guidance, help you to familiarise yourself with campus buildings, facilities and services, shopping areas, places of interest and local transport networks, and will arrange social gatherings.

Your catered package

You may choose to have a catered package with your accommodation. Under the catered package, food is provided during term times (30 September–13 December 2013, 13 January–28 March 2014 and 28 April–20 June 2014). You can take your meals and snacks at any of the catering outlets, including Fusion, Rio's and Pizza Shack at the Hub on the Vale Village, as well as 17 other cafés and snack bars across the campus. Most dietary requirements can be catered for.

Your accommodation offer

Once you have received an offer of a place to study here, you will need to apply for your accommodation online at www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/accommodation/apply.aspx

LIVING, the University's Accommodation Service, will then send you an offer of accommodation once you have met all of the conditions of your academic offer. The offer of accommodation will contain instructions on how to accept your accommodation and how to set up payments.

- The contract length is 42 weeks. It officially starts on 23 September 2013 and ends on 11 July 2014.
- You should arrive on arrivals weekend from 21–22 September 2013.

- You will be allowed to check into your accommodation on arrivals weekend.
- If you will be under the age of 18 at the start of the course, accommodation in Mason is compulsory. If you would prefer to live with a local relative or designated guardian, this is possible, by prior agreement.
- If you will be over the age of 18 at the start of the course, accommodation in Mason is highly recommended. If however, you wish to live in another residence on campus or off site, this is possible, by prior agreement.

Accommodation fees

The indicative fee for accommodation in Mason (42 weeks) is £5,880 for self-catering and £7,295 with a Meal Plan. This is based on 2012–13 prices and may increase for 2013–14. The cost of accommodation in other residences on campus varies.

The accommodation guarantee

To benefit from the accommodation guarantee, you must have applied for your accommodation by 31 July 2013 and have confirmed you are coming to Birmingham by 1 September 2013. You will also need to pay a deposit of £550 when you accept your offer of accommodation.

Please note: accommodation fees are not part of the Birmingham Foundation Academy Package, and will be at your own cost.

To find out more about the Foundation Academy accommodation in Mason go to: www.birmingham.ac.uk/foundation-academy/accommodation

To find out more about the other residences on campus go to: www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/accommodation/halls/index.aspx



'One of the best things about being a student at the University of Birmingham is the access you have to a diverse and vibrant social life.'

Olivia Vicol, BA Media, Culture and Society student from Romania and member of the Vale Festival organising committee.



Student's study bedroom in Mason



Accommodation on campus in Mason



Rio's coffee lounge



Supermarket on campus



Catering facilities on campus

Student support

THERE IS A WIDE RANGE OF SUPPORT SERVICES AVAILABLE FOR YOU TO ENSURE YOUR STUDENT LIFE RUNS SMOOTHLY AND **NOTHING STOPS YOU FROM MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR TIME HERE** AND REACHING YOUR FULL POTENTIAL.

Arrival and welcome

As a Birmingham Foundation Academy student, you will be invited to attend the University's 'Welcome International' and Registration, which is held just before the start of term.

You will be guided through the process of settling in to ensure that you have the smoothest possible transition into University life. A Welcome Team of senior students will be on hand to answer any questions you may have and offer the benefit of their experiences. Welcome activities include a free airport collection service, suitable social activities, assistance with administrative formalities such as opening a bank account, registering with the University and registering with the police (where necessary).

Full details of the Welcome International and Registration will be sent to you before the start of your Foundation Academy programme.

Social programmes

At Birmingham we recognise that the experience of studying in the UK is enhanced and enriched by the cultural experience of living in a new country and culture. We offer countless ways for you to pursue your hobbies and interests or become involved in a completely new social, sporting or cultural activity. Not only will you have the opportunity to gain new skills, you will improve your fluency in English and make friends with people from Birmingham, across the UK and around the world.

You will have full access to the social opportunities offered by the Guild of Students. In addition, the Residence Life Co-ordinator will arrange suitable social events and you will have the opportunity to take day trips to places of interest throughout the UK, including Warwick Castle, London, Cambridge and Oxford.

Immigration advice

Once you have been accepted on to the Foundation Academy programme and have been issued with your Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS), the International Students Advisory Service (ISAS) will contact you to offer support with the visa application process (see page 30, Applying for your student visa).

ISAS advisors can offer guidance on the following general matters:

- Applying for Entry Clearance as a Student Visitor, Tier 4 Student or Student Dependant
- Applying for an extension of Leave to Remain as a Student or Student Dependant
- Applying to switch your visa from your previous sponsor to the University of Birmingham sponsorship
- Submitting applications for extension of Leave to Remain as a Student or Student Dependant
- Immigration implications of taking a leave of absence from your studies or changing course or mode of study
- Changing your immigration status
- Working during your studies and schemes for work after study
- Applying for Entry Clearance as a General Visitor for friends/relatives to visit or attend graduation ceremonies or visit you during your studies
- If you have a complicated, out of time (expired) or visa refusal in student categories (you should let us know immediately if you are having problems with your Entry Clearance application or it is refused)

You can go to the visa information pages on the ISAS website for further information and contact details for the ISAS advisors: www.birmingham.ac.uk/international/students/visas/index.aspx



Students under the age of 18

The University meets its statutory obligations for students under UK legislation and has a Safeguarding Children and Young People Within the University policy. For full details please see www.birmingham.ac.uk/Documents/university/legal/children-policy.pdf

The University offers a special level of support for students under the age of 18. This is made possible by housing them together, in the same block of accommodation as the Residence Life Co-ordinator. Therefore, for all students who are under the age of 18 at the start of the course, accommodation in Mason is compulsory (See page 26).

Support if you have a disability

We welcome applicants and students with disabilities and specific learning difficulties. Our Disability and Learning Support Service will liaise with the Foundation Academy and can arrange individual student consultations, advice and guidance on assistive technology, specialist tuition, equipment loans and much more. Find out more at: www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/support/disability/index.aspx



The Guild of Students

The Guild of Students is central to student life at Birmingham. The Guild exists to make sure that you get the best from your time here – this includes representing you on issues that matter, involving you in University life and offering support and opportunities for fun. As a Birmingham Foundation Academy student you will automatically be a member of the Guild.

The Guild is a great place to meet your friends, with open access study lounges and a café bar. It also contains shops, including a travel agent, computer repair shop, a University souvenir shop and a grocery store. Other services offered by the Guild include:

□ The Advice and Representation Centre (the ARC)

The ARC offers impartial advice on housing, immigration, finance and welfare

□ Groups and societies

Joining a student group is a great way to make friends and enjoy your life outside your study – the Guild hosts over 200 groups and societies for you to choose from

□ Volunteering

The Guild offers a wide range of volunteering opportunities that can enable you to meet new people and improve your employability skills

Learn more about the Guild of Students:
www.guildofstudents.com

Please note: students must provide evidence that they are 18 years or over to access the Guild of Students bar and nightclub.

Supporting your faith

St Francis Hall, the University chaplaincy, is a place where students of all faiths can meet for worship, seek advice or counselling from a chaplain, or obtain information on places of worship in the local area. Chaplains, who are ministers or religious representatives, are available every weekday during term time. There are over 20 chaplains from different faiths at the University. The chaplaincy is also home to a wide range of student-led faith-based groups and societies which organise their own events and social activities.



International students welcome team



Outside the Guild of Students

Essential information

The Birmingham Foundation Academy Package

The cost of the Birmingham Foundation Academy Package for 2013–2014 is £13,300.

This package includes tuition fees, books and all classroom equipment for one year.

Please note: accommodation fees are not part of the Birmingham Foundation Academy Package.

Payment methods

The University offers the flexibility of paying your tuition or accommodation fees in full at the start of the year or in instalments. You can see details of the payment options online at: www.birmingham.ac.uk/student-fees

Please note: if you are in arrears with the payment of fees the University reserves its rights to take enforcement action for non-payment.

How to apply

You can apply directly to Birmingham Foundation Academy at: www.birmingham.ac.uk/foundation-academy/apply In addition to listing your academic grades or qualifications so far or predicted grades, you will need to write a short personal statement explaining your motivations for applying to the Birmingham Foundation Academy. The online application form contains a box for you to enter your statement. Providing you meet the entry requirements, we expect to be able to make you an offer within three working days of receiving your completed application (working days are normally Monday to Friday). The last date for application is 19 August 2013.



Applying for your student visa

Once you have satisfied any conditions of your offer, the University will issue you with an unconditional offer. Once you have accepted this, the University will issue a Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) for either a one-year or a four-year programme.

The CAS proves that you have been accepted on to a full-time course, and will be required when you apply for your Tier 4 (general) Student Visa to study in the UK. You can use your CAS number to apply for your student visa in the three months before the start of the programme.

If you hold a conditional offer for the Foundation Academy because you need to improve your English language level and you apply for a Pre-sessional English programme, the University will issue a CAS for the duration of the Pre-sessional English programme. Once you have successfully completed that programme, you will be issued a new CAS for the one-year or four-year programme and you will be able to apply to extend your student visa.

The following programmes require additional conditions to be met during the foundation year:

- BA Education
- BSc Sport, Physical Education and Coaching Science
- MPharm Pharmacy

If you have listed your intended degree programme as any of the above and you meet the conditions set out in your foundation programme offer letter you will be issued with a one year CAS only. Further information will be provided in your offer letter.

Once you have been issued with your CAS, the University's International Students Advisory Service (ISAS) will contact you to offer support with the visa application process.

You can also check the requirements for entry to the UK with the British Council offices, British Embassy or British High Commission in your country or you can go to the UK Border Agency website www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk

Key dates and contacts

Key dates	
19 August 2013	Last date for applications for the Birmingham Foundation Academy
15 July 2013 to 20 September 2013	10-week Preessional English programme
12 August 2013 to 20 September 2013	6-week Preessional English programme
21 to 22 September 2013	Arrivals weekend and airport collection
From 23 September 2013	Welcome International and Registration
30 September to 13 December 2013	Autumn term dates
13 January to 28 March 2014	Spring term dates
28 April to 20 June 2014	Summer term dates



Contact us

If you have any questions, please contact us at:
foundation-academy@contacts.bham.ac.uk
 Tel: +44 (0)121 414 9292

Join our Facebook group



www.facebook.com/groups/birminghamfoundationacademy

Overseas representatives

The University has a network of overseas representatives who can provide further information on studying at the Birmingham Foundation Academy. Many offer a visa counselling service. You can find contact details of your nearest representative at www.birmingham.ac.uk/international/students/country

Visit the University

Come and find out what Birmingham has to offer at one of our **University open days** or **applicant visit days**
www.birmingham.ac.uk/foundation-academy/visit-us.aspx



Find out more

Please visit www.birmingham.ac.uk/foundation-academy

UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

Birmingham Foundation Academy
Edgbaston, Birmingham,
B15 2TT, United Kingdom
www.birmingham.ac.uk