Why study at the College of Arts and Law?

The College of Arts and Law is home to outstanding teachers, researchers and professionals who will support you on your journey to, through and beyond University to provide challenging education and support successful careers.

Professor Michael Whitby, Head of College
You’ll receive a warm welcome

In addition to the events which your school or department will arrange during Welcome, the College also arranges events and takes part in University-wide initiatives to help you settle in, meet people and find out more about the opportunities that await you.

- **VC Welcome Address** – an opportunity to hear from the University’s Vice-Chancellor in the historic Great Hall as he welcomes you to the College and the University.
- **Staying Local event** – an informal social event for students to meet others who are from Birmingham and the surrounding area.
- **Mature Students event** – an informal social event for mature students to meet.
- **International Day events** – help us celebrate the international, multi-cultural community that makes our campus and Birmingham such a vibrant and interesting place.
- **College stand in the Welcome marquee** – meet our friendly student ambassadors who have a wealth of knowledge (and leaflets!) so you’ll know what’s happening in the College.

You’ll be given access to all kinds of opportunities, activities, services and support

There is always something going on in the College of Arts and Law:
- Careers Network: guidance, support, employer events, fairs, work experience and internships, bursaries and alumni mentoring
- Research scholarships
- Writing competitions
- Mentoring schemes
- Festivals and campaigns
- Talks and events
- Poster conferences
- Day trips and residencies
- Conferences
- Collaborative events with societies
- Year abroad
- Alumni: our alumni community regularly return to campus to give talks, deliver lectures and master classes and give careers advice. They also act as mentors and provide work experience opportunities as well as support student projects financially.

You’ll get access to dedicated academic resources and academic support

**The Bank of Assessed Work**
This is a collection of anonymous essays and exam answers written by College of Arts and Law students with feedback from academics. The Bank has been created to help you understand how we grade your work which will help you improve your approach to assessments and your writing. With examples from all schools within the College and across a range of marks, this resource is very popular with students and new modules are being added all the time.

**The Academic Writing Advisory Service**
This service is here to support you as you develop as an academic writer throughout your university career.

**Languages for all**
Enjoy the challenge of learning a new language with our Languages for All classes. We offer every student a free language course in either Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese or Spanish. Which will you choose?

‘The College of Arts and Law hosts a range of events throughout the year. These events are open to everyone and provide an interesting and eclectic mix of speakers and subjects. Our events range from talks here on campus, across the City, and further afield to places like the Hay Festival of Literature and the Arts. Annual events such as the Cadbury Lectures welcome the greatest minds in their field to share their stories, experiences, and wealth of global research with you. Keep checking www.birmingham.ac.uk/artslawevents for details.’

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You’ll get to meet our wonderful Student Engagement Facilitators

The Student Engagement Facilitators are a visible and friendly presence for students in each school and work with our academic and support staff on a wide variety of projects to deliver an exciting programme of unique events and initiatives which will enrich your time here with us.
You’ll be joining a college which has access to outstanding facilities

Be part of culture on campus by:

- Visiting the Barber Institute of Fine Arts
- Going to concerts at the new Bramall Music Building
- Exploring the collections that individual departments possess, such as the volumes, archives and manuscripts at the Shakespeare Institute and the Special Collections at the Cadbury Research Library
- Visiting our BookCrossing zone in the Mason Lounge in the Arts building
- Taking a trip to Winterbourne House and Garden – a restored Edwardian house with beautiful botanic gardens

You’ll be joining one of five dynamic and vibrant schools

School of Languages, Cultures, Art History and Music

The School of Languages, Cultures, Art History and Music is a vibrant mix of arts and cultures. There are a number of active student societies for you to join including the University Music Society, the Barber Association, the Linguist Magazine and societies for a number of languages and cultures.

We offer a wide range of activities and events – for example a Meet and Greet event for 2nd year students who are preparing for their exciting year abroad. During this event students pick up hints and tips from 4th year students who share their real life experiences for those about to tread in their footsteps. Our alumni go on to a variety of exciting and successful careers and we run a series of alumni talks where they share their experiences and talk to students about how they can use their skills after graduation.

School of History and Cultures

The School of History and Cultures offers a wide variety of activities to enhance your studies. The School has four student societies: History Soc, War Soc, Afropology and Birmingham Ancient History, Classics and Archaeology Society (BACAS). The societies run a range of events which this year included a staff versus student charity football match and a summer ball.

Students have the chance to visit various places around the country to broaden their understanding of modules. Trips this year included the Liverpool Slavery Museum, the Vikings: Life and Legend exhibition at the British Museum and the V&A. Other events run by the School include History and Cultures Speed Networking where students get the chance to meet the School’s alumni and talk about career paths. There are opportunities to build transferable skills and gain valuable experience in the school, for example by volunteering in a departmental library. There are also a variety of academic seminars to get involved with such as the ‘Africa Talks’ series and ‘Local and Regional History’ seminars.

School of Philosophy, Theology and Religion

The School of Philosophy, Theology and Religion provides students with a diverse range of opportunities to enrich and enhance their time at university through student engagement activities. From participation in our student mentoring scheme, to careers networking with alumni, from informal social events such as our monthly departmental coffee mornings and end of term celebrations, to academic workshops and conferences, there is always something going on.

Over the past few years, the School has been able to offer students the chance to present academic work and philosophise with members of the public at the University Community Day, participate as audience members in recordings of the BBC’s Big Questions programme, attend talks by high profile speakers in the Cadbury Lecture series and get involved with the annual Arts and Sciences Festival. The presence of a dynamic and vibrant research community means that there are regular talks by outside speakers and our own academics, and UG students are encouraged to attend. Our extensive use of social media means that, even when you are off campus, you can still stay in touch and be involved.

‘My year abroad was the most incredible part of my course. I spent six months in Granada, Spain and six months in Padova, Italy and it was the most amazing year of my life. I met people from all over the world, learnt all about new cultures, lived in two fantastic cities and travelled around. Plus the food was just great!’

Modern Languages student

‘My new employers were impressed by not only my degree but also my work experience with Careers Network, my committee experience and an internship I completed in the summer of my second year.’

Theology student
School of English, Drama and American and Canadian Studies
Each year, the Department of English Literature and Creative Writing organises a three-day study residential at the Shakespeare Institute in Stratford-upon-Avon. This is an exciting opportunity for intensive study of English prose, poetry and drama in a setting that only Birmingham can offer!

We also offer a wide range of opportunities and activities for our students during their time here; whether that be getting involved with the Book to the Future literature festival, seeing exclusive performances on campus from prestigious theatre groups, networking with our alumni and professionals within fields such as publishing and the theatre, or joining in with our active society balls and inter-university poetry slams!

School of Law
Students studying at Birmingham Law School have the opportunity to become members of the Holdsworth Club, the biggest society for law students in England. The club is run by our students and there are plenty of opportunities to take part in social and careers events, including an annual Law Ball attended by staff and students and an overseas Christmas trip!

The Holdsworth Club competes at many sports including netball, football and hockey. Each year we have competitions with our sponsor law firms. This gives students a chance to get friendly with practising lawyers and impress prospective employers with their sporting prowess! There is also a Holdsworth Drama Society in which you can get involved. Previous productions include ‘The Importance of Being Ernest’, ‘A Midsummer Night’s Dream’ and ‘Romeo and Juliet’.

A recent initiative of Birmingham Law School is the Centre for Professional Legal Education and Research (CEPLER). CEPLER offers vocational training opportunities to our law students, making you distinctive from other law students! There are numerous opportunities to enhance your CV through extracurricular activities. We offer mooting and debating competitions, have four centres of pro bono expertise, including a free legal advice clinic for the local community in which our students can develop practical legal skills (run in association with Mills and Reeve and No 5 Chambers) and a series of Law specific careers and alumni events that are run throughout the academic year.

‘Over the years, the Law School has educated an impressive number of high-profile alumni, who play significant roles in the legal world and beyond. The vast network of connections that Birmingham Law students build is an excellent resource for post-graduate employment.’

Final year Law student

Praise for the Stratford Residential

‘I thought after exams were over that I’d never want to read another book or learn another thing about literature, but now all I want to do is learn.’

‘The Stratford Residential was so much fun! I met new people and learnt so much; it was a great way to end the term!’

Final year students, June 2014

Want to know more?
www.birmingham.ac.uk/artslaw
www.birmingham.ac.uk/studentexperience

This brochure was written several months in advance of the start of the academic year. It is intended to provide prospective students with a general picture of the programmes and courses offered by the School. Please note that not all programmes or all courses are offered every year. Also, because our research is constantly exploring new areas and directions of study some courses may be dropped and new ones offered in their place.