UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM
SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

EDUCATION BA
EDUCATION AND SOCIOLOGY BA
Welcome to the School of Education

We have a long-standing reputation as an international centre of excellence for teaching and research. You will be taught in a school that is conducting pioneering research in diverse specialisms from character education and race inequities, to innovative technology for children on the autism spectrum. This world-class research environment combined with a high-quality academic programme, will equip you with the skills to succeed in your future career – whether that is in a school or in another setting.

Education doesn’t just take place in schools, but in families, communities and places of work. Across the world, we invest billions of pounds and years of our lives in education.

Since our original Department of Education was founded in 1894, we have developed to become an international community of scholars, educators, staff and students committed to tackling global educational issues through high-quality research and teaching.

Education at the University of Birmingham is ranked fifth in The Complete University Guide 2018 and one hundred per cent of BA Education students would recommend the University of Birmingham as a great place to study (National Student Survey 2017). It’s our belief that excellence in research complements outstanding teaching. So our world-leading researchers will also be your lecturers. They won’t teach from a textbook because they will be encouraging you to be an independent and critical thinker who will make a difference to society. You will have access to a comprehensive support system that will assist and encourage you, including personal tutors and welfare tutors who are based in your school.

The School of Education is one of the best Schools in the UK for research, recognised in the Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2014. The REF measures the quality and impact of research conducted in universities and higher education institutions in the UK against international standards of excellence. More than 82% of research carried out by the School of Education was rated as ‘internationally excellent’ (3*) or ‘world-leading’ (4*).

As an undergraduate student, you will be part of a lively School, which is actively engaged in the education sector. We hold regular events to which you will be invited. Previous speakers have included Michael Gove MP, Liam Byrne MP, Baroness Doreen Lawrence OBE and Baron David Blunkett.

We look forward to welcoming you to study here in the near future.

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'The interdisciplinary BA Education prepared me for life as a teacher as I was able to acquire valuable theoretical and practical knowledge which significantly overlapped with the key issues within the National Curriculum and schools today. It combined research and contemporary issues from a range of different aspects related to education and served as a solid foundation for the Postgraduate Diploma: Primary Education (General Primary) programme.'

THOMAS TAYLOR, GRADUATED 2015
In a rapidly changing society, education is fundamental. It helps us understand new challenges and adapt to meet them. Education takes place in schools and beyond, and our students’ lives are likely to lead them to more than one career, challenging them to work in different contexts and in innovative ways. That is why our Education programme is an interdisciplinary degree that draws upon research from Psychology, Sociology and Philosophy. You will learn to apply academic knowledge to real-life settings and focus practically on career development.

We offer the following undergraduate programmes in Education:

- BA (Hons) Education
- BA (Hons) Education and Sociology

Course details

You will study a combination of core and optional modules to develop key skills within the subject discipline of Education and/or Sociology. Our extensive range of compulsory and optional modules is constantly updated to include new research, meet the needs of the sector and to recognise the UK’s evolving education policy and practices. Our modules explore how people, and especially children, develop and learn in cultures around the world. You will be equipped with both the academic knowledge and the relevant practical skills to build a career working with children and young people in different settings.

There are three years of study, each worth 120 credits, including a compulsory two-week vocational placement for the second year and completion of a dissertation. BA Education (Single Honours) students have the opportunity to study a module outside their main discipline through taking a Widening Horizons module in Year 1. You also have the option to study overseas at one of our partner institutions during Year 2. BA (Hons) Education and Sociology students will study 60 credits from each subject discipline in each year of their studies. Education is the ‘home’ department.

BA (Hons) Education

In Education, you will learn about education as a process of human, cultural and social development that takes place in schools, colleges and universities, and the family, workplace and communities. You will study theories of human learning, child development, and behaviour, and their application in educational settings; how learners are affected by policies, and economic and political contexts and how this varies internationally; the historical emergence of ideas of what it means to be educated and of education institutions, and the concepts and questions that underpin education debates through major philosophical thinkers. For an updated list of compulsory and optional modules, please visit: www.birmingham.ac.uk/ba-education

BA (Hons) Education and Sociology

In Education and Sociology, you will also be introduced to sociology as a discipline that is both theoretically informed and evidence based. You will learn about key issues facing contemporary societies, including globalisation, the changing nature of work and the family, gender roles and multiculturalism. You will study the nature and appropriate use of research strategies and methods in sociological research and be knowledgeable on cutting-edge debates in contemporary sociology. For an updated list of compulsory and optional modules, please visit: www.birmingham.ac.uk/ba-education-sociology

Learning and teaching

You will experience different teaching, learning and assessment methods including lectures, seminars, individual tuition and individual and small group research projects.

Placement

For your second year, you will complete a work placement working with children, young people or adults. This practical experience, alongside your academic study, will give you an opportunity to put into practice the knowledge, skills and theory learnt from your Education modules.

Dissertation

In your third year, you will specialise in an area of personal interest in Education. Working under the supervision of an academic tutor from the School of Education, you will conduct independent research, undertake analysis and write a final dissertation.
'The reason I chose to study at Birmingham was the range of modules available. Not only do we learn about education in schools, we learn about education in terms of its sociological, psychological, historical and philosophical aspects. This particularly interested me as the wide range of theoretical knowledge is transferable and beneficial in a variety of different avenues from becoming a teacher to being involved in education policy, or entering education in a psychological field. The lecturers convey the concepts really clearly and are always on hand to help with anything that you want them to while ensuring that you feel as comfortable as possible.'

ALLIA MAHMOOD, GRADUATED 2018
Careers and employability

After your degree
Our graduates from the School of Education develop the transferable skills and practical experience to pursue successful careers in:
- Teaching (Primary and Secondary)
- Educational psychology
- Child psychotherapy
- Speech and language therapy
- Special educational needs
- Counselling
- Community education
- Arts and museum education
- Educational journalism
- Human resources
- International development
- Education policy and research
- Community work
- Social work

Graduates can also continue into related postgraduate study both at Masters and doctoral level depending on their pathway, for example:
- Postgraduate Diploma Primary Education (QTS) – Early Years/General Primary
- International Studies in Education MA
- Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) MA
- Social Work MA
- Social and Political Theory MA

Forty per cent of our graduates progress to careers in teaching, often choosing to continue with us for our primary and secondary initial teacher education, rated ‘Outstanding’ by Ofsted.

Careers Network
Our award-winning Careers Network team offers bespoke training and events to support you in pursuing exciting career opportunities both in the UK and overseas.

Careers Network works with a range of partners to ensure that professional and skilled roles are advertised to our students and graduates, with links to the world’s top graduate recruiters. The team hosts over 200 major events each year, which include industry-specific careers fairs and individual employer presentations.

Internships and work experience
Careers Network has developed a range of internships and funded work experience placements that will enhance both your professional and personal skills giving you the practical experience that is required by graduate employers. In addition to funding and support, there are also unique opportunities to help you rise above the competition, with global internships and placements available.

The Personal Skills Award
The Personal Skills Award (PSA) is the University’s unique employability programme for our undergraduate students. Supported by a range of graduate employers, the PSA will enable you to develop, recognise and articulate your skills effectively in preparation for real-world recruitment processes.

Mentoring
Mentoring is a unique opportunity that allows students to receive one-to-one advice from a professional working in an area in which they are interested in. This can be a great way to understand how to succeed in this area and be better prepared for the workplace as well as receive practical advice on employability. For more information, please visit: www.birmingham.ac.uk/careersmentoring
'I chose to study BA Education at the University of Birmingham because the University is renowned for Education and Birmingham is a very convenient city. Critical thinking is constantly highlighted on the programme in both daily classes and also in our assessment criteria; I am happy that I have been inspired to use such thinking patterns. I did my Ed-Xchange study at the University of Kansas which is very famous for Special Education in the US. During my exchange term, I could choose my preferred courses so that I felt very motivated. In particular, I felt my communication skills were developed because I usually shared my experiences in China or in the UK and listened to others’ different opinions. I recommend prospective students looking to study this programme investigate information such as course structure and university location in advance by using websites or social media, so that they are more likely to have a desirable and enjoyable experience.'

JINGCHAO GAO, CURRENT STUDENT
The BA Education (Single Honours) offers exciting exchange opportunities for both European and international study abroad. The European Educational Exchange Programme allows students to study at selected European institutions and the International Exchange Programme allows students to study at one of a number of worldwide institutions through our International Office. For example, students have opted to study at universities in Canada, China and the United States of America. These exchanges enhance your critical knowledge and understanding by promoting a diverse and international approach to the interdisciplinary social sciences. Modules are taught and assessed in English so you won’t have to worry about language barriers. You will be in regular contact with our departmental Exchange and Study Abroad Tutor as you plan your exchange.

Why study abroad?
Ninety-Nine per cent of students at the University of Birmingham who study abroad say it was the best time of their lives. Participating in an exchange programme enhances your career prospects, developing you as a student and researcher.

The European Ed-Xchange Programme
The Department of Education and Social Justice currently has mutual exchange agreements with the following universities: University of Oslo (Norway), Technical University of Dortmund (Germany), Norwegian University of Science and Technology (Norway) and the University of Groningen (the Netherlands). You are invited to apply to any of these renowned universities.

Who can study abroad and when?
BA Education (Single Honours) students wishing to study abroad should apply during their first year. Students travelling to the USA and Europe will depart in September of their second year to join the first term at their host institution. Students travelling to Australia and New Zealand will depart in July to join the second semester at their host institution. During your study abroad, you will complete and be assessed for 60 UK credits and return to the UK in time for the Christmas holidays. Your second term will start in January at the University of Birmingham and you will complete and be assessed for 60 credits of core modules to conclude your academic year.

How do I fund studying abroad?
UK students undertaking study abroad are entitled to the normal student funding package (Tuition Fee Loan, Maintenance Loan and Maintenance Grants). Your normal tuition fee is payable but you will also receive a higher rate of Maintenance Loan known as the ‘away rate’. You should apply for this funding the same way as in previous years, via Student Finance England or relevant agency. You will be covered by University insurance during your study abroad. Students who are successful in applying to study abroad in an EU country may be eligible for an Erasmus grant awarded by the British Council. The British Council confirms the availability of this bursary in November each year at: www.erasmusplus.org.uk There are also a number of scholarships available for UK students studying abroad outside of the EU which you may be eligible to apply for. There are also eight U21 Year Abroad Scholarships available worth £1,000 each for students travelling to a Universitas 21 institution. Other funding opportunities are also available for our Access to Birmingham (A2B) students. For more information, please visit the International Office’s website: www.birmingham.ac.uk/International/study-abroad/study-abroad-outgoing/funding.aspx

GABY MENDES, GRADUATED 2016

‘I actually chose the BA Education at Birmingham because of the study abroad scheme. I was really enticed by it because I thought it was really interesting and something else to add to your CV and talk about as I really didn’t know what job I wanted to do when I was older. I loved the course because it’s so broad but I also had the option to study abroad. As my father is French I wanted to study somewhere I could improve on the language as well as doing my course. I chose to go to McGill University in Montreal as it’s a French-speaking city but the course was taught in English so it suited me. It’s the top university in Canada, tied with the University of Toronto so it was really tough to get in but I was lucky enough to be accepted.’
When I first applied to Birmingham, one of the things that really drew me to the course was the Erasmus programme, which is called the Ed-Xchange. The programme is specifically a partnership between the University of Birmingham and four other universities across Europe. I could tell from the way that they talked about it that they were really serious about this exchange and that it really meant something for the programme. The other exciting thing is that it was for one semester out of the second year so you weren’t doing an extra year on Erasmus as is the norm. That was really perfect for me because I wanted to travel more and understand more about education in different cultures. I decided to go to Germany, to a place called Dortmund in the north and I chose it because of its emphasis on disability in education and inclusion across the board.

Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), Trondheim, Norway
NTNU is a truly international institution, featuring 300 international exchange programmes with institutions in 58 countries. NTNU organises a special orientation programme and buddy scheme for international students.
For more information, please visit: www.ntnu.edu/

Technical University of Dortmund (TU), Germany
TU Dortmund is located two miles outside the city on two campuses connected by monorail. More than 3,300 international students from over 100 countries contribute to the international character of the university.
For more information, please visit: www.tu-dortmund.de/uni/International/

University of Groningen, the Netherlands
The University of Groningen enjoys an international reputation as one Europe’s oldest and leading research universities. It has an established international exchange programme and considerable experience in welcoming and supporting international students.
For more information, please visit: www.rug.nl/pedok

University of Oslo (UiO), Norway
UiO is Norway’s oldest and largest university, delivering a world-class research and learning experience. UiO boasts exchange agreements with over 500 universities globally and participates in many international exchange programmes.
For more information, please visit: www.uv.uio.no/english
Entry requirements

- General Studies is not accepted.
- Cache Diploma Level 3: Grade A.
- BTEC Extended Diploma, Diploma and Subsidiary Diploma are accepted but subjects are considered on a case-by-case basis – contact us for further guidance.
- A satisfactory Disclosure and Barring Service check is required from accepted candidates before registration for the programme.
- GCSE English and Mathematics at grade C or above are required. GCSE Science at grade C or above is preferred but not essential, unless students wish to pursue a career in Primary or Early Years teaching.

Programmes of study

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<th>UCAS code</th>
<th>Duration</th>
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<td>Single Honours</td>
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How to apply

Apply through UCAS at: [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)

Fees

Standard fees apply. For further information, please visit: [www.birmingham.ac.uk/undergraduate/fees](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/undergraduate/fees)

Funding and scholarships

The University of Birmingham Undergraduate Research Experience scheme offers financial support for undergraduates to undertake work experience or a research placement during the summer break.

The scheme is open to all first- and second-year undergraduate students, in addition to final-year undergraduate students who are applying for a place on a postgraduate course at the University of Birmingham. For more information, please visit: [www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/fees/undergraduate/funding/index.aspx](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/fees/undergraduate/funding/index.aspx)

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Email: education@bham.ac.uk
[www.birmingham.ac.uk/education](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/education)
[esj_bham](https://twitter.com/esj_bham)

Admissions Tutor
Dr Wendy Symes
Email: w.symes@bham.ac.uk

Additional information

Other qualifications are considered. For more information, please visit: [www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/requirements](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/requirements)

International students

Standard English language requirements apply. For more information, please visit: [www.birmingham.ac.uk/international/students/entry-requirements.aspx](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/international/students/entry-requirements.aspx) You can also find out about qualifications from your country or region at: [www.birmingham.ac.uk/international/students/country](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/international/students/country)
‘The BA Education has given me the opportunity to explore wide-ranging and in-depth areas of study. From the historical developments of our schools, to psychological investigations of child behaviour and contemporary debates in social justice, the course has captured my interests throughout. The staff have consistently maintained a strong relationship with us, encouraging us to raise and resolve any concerns we may have about our studies or personal development. If you are looking for an education degree programme that can offer you an array of stimulating and rewarding modules, friendly and professional staff, this course is for you.’

JACOB STUBBS, GRADUATED 2016
Why Birmingham?

One of Europe’s most exciting destinations, Birmingham is brimming with life and culture, making it a wonderful place to live, study and work.

Our campus
The University campus offers a peaceful and tranquil haven right on the doorstep of a bustling city. Striking architecture and 250 acres of parkland make for a stunning setting for our campus, which boasts a huge range of facilities. You’ll find bars, shops, travel agents, banks as well an art gallery, museum and concert hall all on site.

We are continually expanding and improving all the time with a brand new 50-metre swimming pool, which opened in 2017. In 2016, we also opened a new state-of-the-art library and a brand new hall of residence, Chamberlain, in the Vale Village.

The Green Heart
The Green Heart will be a vast landscaped park at the heart of our historic campus, with spaces for a range of activities including ceremonial occasions, public performances, local markets and an outdoor cinema. Due for completion in 2019, it will feature and showcase some of Birmingham’s extensive range of cultural collections and be a place for meeting and relaxing all year round.

Over £2 million is being invested in the School of Education to develop its facilities. A new student study space for socialising opened in 2017, which features a student support centre and a café.

Teaching and Learning Building
Due for completion in early 2020, the Teaching and Learning Building will underline the University’s commitment to providing the best buildings and facilities for its students, staff and researchers. The building will be situated at the heart of campus. A hub for education, the facility will provide a state-of-the-art teaching and social study space to support the modern learning experience at Birmingham. Adjacent to the new library, the building will be IT and audio visual-rich, with excellent access for students with a diverse range of needs and preferences. It will consist of a 500-seater lecture theatre, a 250-seater interactive lecture theatre, learning spaces for up to 1,000 students, which will include areas for individual study, collaborative group work and creative break-out sessions, and a café.

Student life
There are plenty of opportunities for fun and socialising on campus. The University and the Guild of Students hosts fantastic events and there are over 150 groups and clubs that students can join. We are one of the UK’s leading sporting universities and offer great opportunities for all to get involved, whether you are an absolute beginner or a world-class athlete.

Our city
Famous for its historic, industrial past, Birmingham is now a centre of arts and culture, commerce and entertainment, with a vibrant and diverse community. When you study here you’ll find it’s not just a place to study, it’s also the perfect place to begin your career and set down the foundations for a successful future.

Birmingham offers retail therapy, from the Bullring and Grand Central to Digbeth’s vintage shops; and sports teams such as Aston Villa FC, Birmingham City FC and Moseley Rugby Club. We are also home to the world-famous Edgbaston Cricket Ground.

Music fans can enjoy the latest bands at the O2 Institute and first-class performances at Symphony Hall. Foodies will find street food at Digbeth Dining Club, fine dining in Michelin-starred restaurants, as well as curvy in the legendary Balti Triangle, a massive array of independent cafes and restaurants, and karaoke bars in Chinatown. All of this is just a seven-minute train journey from our very own University station!
I chose the BA Education for a number of reasons; one important factor was the wide array of modules available on the course. The modules were interesting and I learnt so much about education and a range of related fields. The lecturers were knowledgeable, approachable and supportive, and their passion about their subjects was infectious. The course ignited my own passion in child rights and global issues in education. I am now doing the Masters programme in International Studies in Education (Education and Development) at Birmingham and I feel that the BA Education course not only prepared me very well for postgraduate study but also helped me to find my career path.

MILLA-LOTTA HUHTALA, GRADUATED 2015
‘Studying at Birmingham has unequivocally been one of the best experiences of my academic life. As a mature student, I really appreciated the genuine support I received from all members of staff. Additionally, we have in the School of Education some of the world’s best and I have learned an incredible amount from the lecturers and professors during my time here. I particularly enjoyed the interdisciplinary element of the degree because not only did I have an excellent range of areas to study, it also aided my understanding of contemporary issues associated with education, policy and practice. I have developed a keen interest in educational research as a result and have aspirations to impact education and social policy in the future.’

CORRINE MOSQUITO, GRADUATED 2016
This leaflet 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 courses are offered every year. Also, because our research is constantly exploring new areas and directions of study some courses may be discontinued and new ones offered in their place.