



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM



ROUTES TO THE PROFESSIONS (R2P):

- MEDICINE
- DENTISTRY
- LAW
- FINANCE
- ENGINEERING

R2P: Programme

The Routes to the Professions programme (R2P) began in 2012 with the aim of widening access to medicine and law by supporting students to develop the non-academic skills required to successfully study and pursue careers in Medicine or Law. Following the success of the programme in supporting students into medicine and law, it has expanded to support students from under-represented groups to access university courses and careers in dentistry, finance and engineering.

The R2P programme is managed by the Outreach team and delivered in partnership with the Schools of Medical and Dental Sciences, Law, Business, Engineering and the University's Careers Network team to offer a comprehensive programme that provides students a unique opportunity to get a real insight into studying medicine, dentistry, law, finance or engineering related courses at the University of Birmingham as well as receiving tailored advice, guidance and support at key points throughout their university application process.

Students join the programme in Year 12 and receive a range of support through to Year 13 including: careers advice, support with UCAS personal statements, interview preparation, work placement opportunities, mentoring by current undergraduate students, and the opportunity to shadow current students during lectures.

'Writing my personal statement feels less daunting now that I had the opportunity to brain storm ideas with my mentor.'

Each R2P programme day features some of the following elements:

- Getting in – support for applications and admissions
- Getting to know – increasing knowledge of the professions
- Developing the skills – activities to help students develop the non-academic skills required to study and pursue a career in their chosen field
- Getting support – interaction with undergraduate student mentors



HOW TO APPLY?

If you meet the eligibility criteria and would like to be considered for a place on the programme, please complete all sections of the Routes to the Professions programme application form. This should be supported by the Head of Sixth Form or a nominated teacher at the school. Once completed, please return the form to the University of Birmingham by the deadline (contact details and deadlines are specified on the application form).

For further information about the programme, please visit www.birmingham.ac.uk/routes



Routes to the Professions: Medicine

Routes to the Professions: Medicine has been developed to address the national concern of a lack of social diversity in the profession. The programme identifies and supports students who aspire to, and have the potential to succeed in a career in medicine.

The programme will provide targeted support to Year 12 and 13 students in the West Midlands and include four workshops at the College of Medical and Dental Sciences and online resources to help students develop the non-academic skills required to be a doctor and to assist them with medical school applications and interviews.

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

This programme is aimed at students who are currently under-represented in medicine courses and the medical profession, but who have the academic potential for medical studies and careers.

Places are limited and priority will be given to students who meet the following personal and academic criteria:

Personal criteria

- Be the first generation in their family to go to university
- Have parents in non-professional occupations
- Have an annual household income of £42,875 or less

We will also prioritise students:

- In receipt of free school meals
- Attending a state school with a high proportion of students eligible for free school meals and with low progression rates to selective universities

Academic criteria

- GCSEs: a minimum of seven GCSEs with a minimum of three at Grade A / 7, including two As / 7s from English, Maths or Science and a minimum grade B / 5 in these three subjects;
- A levels: minimum predicted A level grades BBB including Biology and Chemistry

WHAT WILL THE PROGRAMME INVOLVE?

This is an 18-month programme with a range of opportunities to support students who would like to apply for a course in medicine. Students will join the programme in December of Year 12 and take part in a range of activities in the College of Medical and Dental Sciences to help them make an informed decision about whether to pursue a career in medicine and to support them throughout the application process. Each of the four workshops will feature the following five elements:

Getting in – support for applications and admissions including UCAS, UKCAT and interviews

Getting to know – increasing knowledge of the medical profession and support for securing work experience placements and making the most of these opportunities

Developing the skills – activities to help students develop the non-academic skills (reflection, communication, ethical debate) required for a medical profession

Being a team – working with other R2P participants to develop team working and leadership skills

Getting support – interaction with medical students and clinical mentors

Medical student mentoring

All students will be assigned a mentor who will be a current medical student. The mentor will support students with:

- Understanding more about the demands of studying a clinical course at University
- Seeking and making the most of work experience
- Writing a UCAS personal statement and preparing for UKCAT
- Interview preparation
- University life

Clinical mentoring

Students will also be mentored by a doctor. They will have the opportunity to discuss with their mentor what it is actually like to work in the profession, the challenges involved, the highs and the lows, and the career paths available. This will give students an invaluable insight into the profession and will help them make important decisions about their future.

Student shadowing

Students will have the opportunity to spend a day with a current medical student; shadowing lectures and spending time in the Medical School, so they can experience what it is really like to be a student at the University of Birmingham.

Mock medical interviews

This session will give students the opportunity to find out more about medical interviews, take part in practice interviews and receive tips on how to prepare and be successful.

Guaranteed interview

Students who satisfactorily engage with and complete the R2P: Medicine programme will be guaranteed an interview on our undergraduate MBChB programme if they meet the following criteria:

- Minimum GCSE threshold and have the required predicted A level grades
- Have a strong personal statement with evidence for motivation for Medicine and involvement in society and,
- Have taken the UKCAT

Routes to the Professions: Dentistry

Routes to the Professions: Dentistry aims to increase social diversity in the profession. The programme will provide targeted support to Year 12 and 13 students in the West Midlands and include four workshops at the College of Medical and Dental Sciences and online resources to help students develop the non-academic skills required to be a dentist and to assist them with dental school applications and interviews

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

This programme is aimed at students who are currently underrepresented in dentistry courses and the dental profession, but who have the academic potential for dental studies and careers.

Places are limited and priority will be given to students who meet the following personal and academic criteria:

Personal criteria

- Be the first generation in their family to go to university
- Have parents in non-professional occupations
- Have an annual household income of £42,875 or less

We will also prioritise students:

- In receipt of free school meals
- Attending a state school with a high proportion of students eligible for free school meals and with low progression rates to selective universities

Academic criteria

- GCSEs: a minimum of seven GCSEs including English Language, Maths, Chemistry and Biology (or Double Award Science) at grades AABB or 7755 in any order;
- A levels: minimum predicted A level grades BBB including Biology and Chemistry

'I found the session on UKCAT very useful as I now feel more confident in taking the test.'

WHAT WILL THE PROGRAMME INVOLVE?

This is an 18-month programme with a range of opportunities to support students who would like to apply for a course in dentistry. Students will join the programme in December of Year 12 and take part in a range of activities in the College of Medical and Dental Sciences to help them make an informed decision about whether to pursue a career in dentistry and to support them throughout the application process. Each of the four workshops will feature the following five elements:

Getting in – support for applications and admissions including UCAS, UKCAT and interviews

Getting to know – increasing knowledge of the dental professions and support for securing work experience placements and making the most of these opportunities

Developing the skills – activities to help students develop the non-academic skills (reflection, communication, ethical debate) required for a medical profession

Being a team – working with other R2P participants to develop team working and leadership skills

Getting support – interaction with dental student and clinical mentors

Dental student mentoring

All students will be assigned a mentor who will be a current dental student. The mentor will support students with:

- Understanding more about the demands of studying a clinical course at University
- Seeking and making the most of work experience
- Writing a UCAS personal statement and preparing for UKCAT
- Interview preparation
- University life

Clinical mentoring

Students will also be mentored by a dentist. They will have the opportunity to discuss with their mentor what it is actually like to work in the profession, the challenges involved, the highs and the lows, and the career paths available. This will give students an invaluable insight into the professions and will help them make important decisions about their future.

Student shadowing

Students will have the opportunity to spend a day with a current dental student; shadowing lectures and spending time in the Dental School, so they can experience what it is really like to be a student at the University of Birmingham.

Mock dental interviews

This session will give students the opportunity to find out more about dental interviews, take part in practice interviews and receive tips on how to prepare and be successful.

Guaranteed interview

Students who satisfactorily engage with and complete the R2P: Dentistry programme will be guaranteed an interview on our undergraduate BDS programme if they meet the following criteria:

- Minimum GCSE threshold and have the required predicted A level grades
- have a strong personal statement with evidence for motivation for Dentistry and involvement in society and,
- Have taken the UKCAT

Routes to the Professions: Law

Routes to the Professions: Law aims to improve the knowledge, understanding and access of under-represented groups into careers in the legal profession.

The programme will provide opportunities for students to develop non-academic skills and capabilities such as knowledge about different (law and non-law graduate) routes and careers in the legal profession, opportunities to develop professional contacts, team working and communication skills.

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

This programme is aimed at students who are currently underrepresented in the legal profession. Priority will be given to students who meet the following criteria:

Personal criteria

- Be the first generation in their family to go to university
- Have parents in non-professional occupations
- Have an annual household income of £42,875 or less

We will also prioritise students:

- In receipt of free school meals
- Attending a state school with a high proportion of students eligible for free school meals and with low progression rates to selective universities

Academic criteria

- Have a minimum of grade C / 4 in GCSE Maths and English
- Predicted grades:
A level – ABB
BTEC in relevant subject (Law, Business, Science, humanities) – D*DD
Access to Higher Education in relevant subject – 60 credits overall to include 45 credits at Level 3 with 15 at Distinction and 15 at Merit

WHAT WILL THE PROGRAMME INVOLVE?

This is an 18-month programme with a range of opportunities to support students who would like a career in the legal profession. Students will join the programme in Year 12 and take part in a range of activities to help them make an informed decision about whether to pursue a career in the legal profession and to support them throughout the application process. Each R2P programme day will feature some of the following four elements:

Getting in – support for applications and admissions

Getting to know – increasing knowledge of the legal professions

Developing the skills – activities to help students develop the non-academic skills required to study and pursue a career in Law

Getting support – interaction with Law student mentors

Launch event

Students will have the opportunity to:

- Find out more about entry requirements and different routes into law
- Develop skills required to get into the legal profession
- Experience a Law taster lecture
- Find out more about life as a law student
- Meet current undergraduate law students who will support them through the rest of the programme

'During my work experience placement I engaged in excellent tasks which gave a good insight into the role of a solicitor and I learned a great deal about different areas of law.'

Student shadowing

Students will have the opportunity to spend a day with a current law student, shadowing university lectures so they can find out what it is really like to be a law student.

Law Court visits

Students will visit the Birmingham Law Courts where they will have a guided tour by a member of Court staff. The visit will include a talk and the opportunity to see courtrooms, talk to a Judge and observe cases.

Firm placement

Students will have the opportunity to spend between 3-5 days at a leading law firm. During the placement they will get a real insight into a professional firm through observing different functions of the firm, being exposed to the type of work lawyers do, meeting a range of legal professionals and developing transferable skills.

Preparing Your University

Application Workshop

This workshop is designed to help students to prepare for their UCAS applications. Students will receive advice on different routes and careers in the legal profession, support in developing their UCAS personal statements and guidance on admission tests.

Routes to the Professions: Financial Services

Routes to the Professions: Financial Services aims to improve the knowledge, understanding and access of under-represented groups onto courses at elite universities and careers in the financial services industry.

Specifically, the programme aims to:

- Increase students awareness of the range of careers and pathways available in financial services and encourage them to consider these opportunities
- Develop students non-academic skills and capabilities that are critical to accessing careers at elite firms
- Prepare and support students in making successful applications for courses at elite universities
- Increase the progression of under represented groups into careers in financial services

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

The programme targets students who are currently under-represented at elite universities and professions in the financial sector. Priority will be given to students who meet the following criteria:

Personal criteria

- Be the first generation in their family to go to university
- Have parents in non-professional occupations
- Have an annual household income of £42,875 or less

We will also prioritise students:

- In receipt of free school meals
- Attending a state school with a high proportion of students eligible for free school meals and with low progression rates to selective universities

Academic criteria

- A minimum of grade B / 6 in GCSE Maths and grade C / 4 in English
- Predicted grades BBB at A level or equivalent in other qualifications

WHAT WILL THE PROGRAMME INVOLVE?

The programme will be an 18-month programme supporting students in Year 12 to 13 by providing them with opportunities to develop non-academic skills and capabilities that are sought by elite universities and firms.

The programme will focus on a wide range of professions in the financial services sector including:

- Banking and Finance
- Accountancy
- Actuary
- Insurance
- Hedge funds, asset management and private equity firms

Each R2P programme day will feature some of the following four elements:

Getting in – support for applications and admissions

Getting to know – increasing knowledge of the professions in financial services

Developing the skills – activities to help students develop the non-academic skills required to study and pursue a career in the financial sector

Getting support – interaction with student mentors studying finance related courses

Launch Event

- Find out about the different courses, careers and routes available into financial services
- Find out about academic and non-academic requirements important for courses and careers in financial services professions
- Experience a taster lecture
- Meet current undergraduate students from the Business School who will support students for the duration of the programme

E-mentoring

All students on the programme will be assigned a mentor studying at the Business School who will support students with:

- Understanding university life
- UCAS application and personal statement
- Work experience
- Exam results

Student shadowing

Students will spend a day shadowing their mentors during lectures so they can experience what it is like to be a business student at university.

Financial firm placement

Students will have the opportunity to apply for work experience placements at local financial firms where they will observe and get an insight into the different functions of the firm, meet and engage with a range of professionals and develop contacts.

Preparing Tour University Application Workshop

This workshop will support students to prepare for their UCAS applications. Students will receive advice on different routes into professions in the financial sector, support with reflecting on work experience and with developing their UCAS personal statements.

'The professional communications workshop was very useful as it highlighted the importance of good communication and how to communicate in a professional environment.'

Routes to the Professions: Engineering

Routes to the Professions: Engineering aims to improve the knowledge, understanding and access of underrepresented groups onto courses at elite universities and careers in the engineering industry.

Specifically, the programme aims to:

- Increase students awareness of the range of careers and pathways available in engineering and encourage them to consider these opportunities
- Develop students non-academic skills and capabilities that are critical to accessing careers in engineering at elite firms
- Prepare and support students in making successful applications for courses at elite universities
- Increase the progression of under represented groups into careers in engineering

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

The programme targets students who are currently underrepresented at elite universities and professions in the engineering sector. Priority will be given to students who meet the following criteria:

Personal criteria

- Be the first generation in their family to go to university
- Have parents in non-professional occupations
- Have an annual household income of £42,875 or less

We will also prioritise students:

- In receipt of free school meals
- Attending a state school with a high proportion of students eligible for free school meals and with low progression rates to selective universities

Academic criteria

- A minimum of seven GCSEs at grade A* / 9-C / 4 including English, Maths and Physics / Double Science
- Predicted grades BBB at A level including Maths or DDD at BTEC Extended Diploma with sufficient Maths content / BTEC Diploma with A level Maths

WHAT WILL THE PROGRAMME INVOLVE?

The programme will be an 18-month programme supporting students in Year 12 to 13 by providing them with opportunities to develop non-academic skills and capabilities that are sought by elite universities and firms.

The programme will focus on a wide range of professions including:

- Engineering
- Materials Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering
- Nuclear Engineering
- Chemical Engineering
- Civil Engineering
- Electronic and Electrical Engineering

Each R2P programme day will feature some of the following four elements:

Getting in – support for applications and admissions

Getting to know – increasing knowledge of engineering courses and careers

Developing the skills – development of non-academic skills required to study and pursue an engineering career

Getting support – interaction with student mentors studying engineering

Launch Event

- Find out about the different courses, careers and routes available into engineering
- Develop skills that are important to succeed in a career in engineering
- Meet current undergraduate students from the School of Engineering who will support students for the duration of the programme

E-mentoring

All students on the programme will be assigned a mentor studying at the School of Engineering who will support students with:

- Understanding university life
- UCAS application and personal statement
- Work experience
- Exam results

Student shadowing

Students will spend half a day shadowing their mentors during lectures so they can experience what it is like to be an engineering student at university.

Engineering experience

Students will have the opportunity to visit industrial partners throughout one week during the summer holidays. Each day will cover a major discipline of engineering: chemical, civil, mechanical, materials and electronic engineering.

Preparing Your University Application Workshop

This workshop will support students to prepare for their UCAS applications. Students will receive advice on different routes into professions in the engineering sector, support with reflecting on work experience and with developing their UCAS personal statements.

'I found the UCAS personal statement sessions most useful as they were the sections of the application process I was struggling most with.'



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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 all 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.