



UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM

# Academic Enrichment Programme



**Residential: 28 August–1 September 2017**

**Follow-up activities: August 2017–April 2018**

**Closing date for applications: 10 March 2017**

This programme is open to students living in the West Midlands and surrounding counties. If you live outside these areas, please visit [www.birmingham.ac.uk/hei](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/hei)

Information for students

**Are you thinking about studying for a degree programme at a research-led university like the University of Birmingham? Do you want to release your full potential by experiencing first-hand what it's like to study, live and learn at university?**

This exciting and progressive programme is aimed at supporting students to secure a place at research-led universities such as the University of Birmingham. The Academic Enrichment Programme (AEP) will provide you with a greater knowledge of teaching and learning methods at research-intensive universities, along with an insight into university life as an undergraduate.

This programme will also instil confidence and raise aspirations and attainment during an important part of the higher education application process among gifted and talented students currently under-represented within higher education.



# Are you eligible to apply?

Places for this competitive programme are limited and priority will be given to students who are academically high-achieving and meet the criteria for the programme.

## Essential criteria – you must:

- Have parents that have not been to university (siblings in higher education are allowed).
- Have parents in non-professional occupations.
- Be taking relevant A levels (or equivalent) for the academic stream you choose to apply for on the programme.
- Attend a non-selective state school with a high proportion of free school meals and/or in inner-city areas. If you currently attend a selective state school/college, the school in which you did your GCSEs must not have been selective.
- Have a parental household income below £42,600 per annum.

## Desirable criteria

- Have a minimum of eight GCSEs (Grade B and above) which must include Maths and English. A minimum of grade B in Science is required for academic streams involving Biological and Health Sciences and Physical Sciences.

## Other factors that will be considered

- Students with disabilities or those who grew up in care are actively encouraged to apply.

**Early applications to the programme are strongly advised. Decisions will be made on a first-come, first-served basis. A pre-residential evening will be organised for those applicants who have applied early and have been made an offer of a place. This session will be during Easter 2017.**

**If you meet these criteria, then don't miss this fantastic opportunity to apply for the AEP. You'll stay in the University of Birmingham halls of residence, where you'll experience student living and learning for the week and have follow-up activities when you are in Year 13, all aimed at ensuring that you achieve your full potential.**



# How does the programme benefit you?

**The Academic Enrichment Programme (AEP) is for students in Year 12 and starts with a summer residential (28 August–1 September 2017) and includes follow-up activities when you are in Year 13. This successful programme has seen over 60% of the students from the last year of the programme apply to courses at the University of Birmingham. Since the start of the programme, over 170 students who have attended the AEP have graduated from the University of Birmingham or are current undergraduates.**

**This programme allows you to build a relationship with academic tutors from the course that you might be interested in applying to and will support your application process.**

The first part of the programme is a week-long residential followed by enrichment sessions in Year 13. Students who are successful in gaining a place on this competitive programme will achieve invaluable support and experiences.

**You'll gain support with raising your academic grades through:**

- Attending a five-day/four-night residential in August. Having selected one of four academic streams, you'll experience first-hand the academic learning you can expect at one of the country's leading research-led institutions. You'll take part in social activities in the evening and stay in our halls of residence.
- Attending two study skills sessions when you are in Year 13.
- Receiving the support of a current undergraduate through regular e-mentoring.
- Help with your decision-making process.
- Having an invitation to attend the celebration event that recognises the hard work of all the participants on the programme.



# What academic subject streams can you choose from?

There will be four broad streams for you to choose from. These academic streams must be related to your current studies or relevant to the degree programme you wish to study. The academic streams will include the following areas (subject to academic availability):

## □ Humanities and Social Sciences

Social Policy, Sociology, Public Policy, Theology, Social Work, Psychology, Geography, Law, History, English, Politics

## □ Business

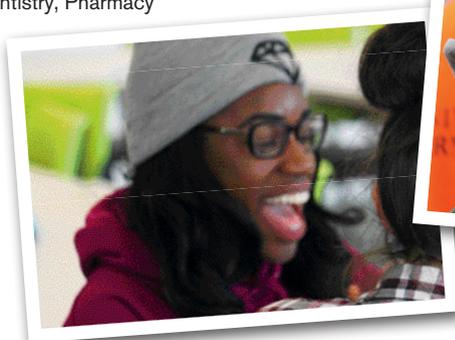
Accounting, Economics, International Studies, Marketing, Business

## □ Physical Sciences

Engineering, Physics, Computer Science, Maths, Chemistry

## □ Biological and Health Sciences

Physiotherapy, Nursing, Medicine, Biology, Dentistry, Pharmacy



# How much will it cost?

The cost for this programme will be met by the University of Birmingham, including transport costs to and from the University. The cost of accommodation, all food, and social activities in the evening will also be met.



# Are you committed?

It is important to note that if you accept a place on this competitive programme and either drop out less than **FOUR WEEKS** before the start of the residential, fail to arrive at the start of the week residential or fail to complete all elements of the programme, your school/college will be liable to pay a non-attendance fee of £200.

By not attending or dropping out once you have accepted an offer of a place, you are taking away the opportunity for another student to benefit from the programme. You need to show commitment to all elements of the programme, not just the summer residential.



# Testimonials

'I attended the AEP programme to see how I felt about university. I was the first in my family to think about going to university, and I certainly did not think that someone with my background was capable of attending a Russell Group university. I absolutely loved my time on the programme and made some fantastic friends who are at Birmingham with me now. The activities confirmed that Birmingham was the place for me and made me fall in love with the course I am currently studying – the session on social work made me realise that was what I wanted to do and helped clarify my future career pathway. You get a huge amount of support on the programme. My mentor went above and beyond to help me with my UCAS application and personal statement – it's a huge advantage to have. It's a once in a lifetime chance to be supported with your higher education aspirations and an opportunity you should not miss.'

*Sharn Loughlin, BA Social Work, first year*

'The AEP was a life-changing experience for myself, as was my first opportunity to see first-hand what university is really like. Before AEP I had little knowledge of higher education, since I was the first person in my family to think about entering university; but after doing this programme it helped me broaden my knowledge and enhanced my key skills, such as the chance to make new friends and also the opportunity to take part in various activities.'

The AEP team were incredibly supportive, professional and encouraging. Overall if it was not for AEP, I don't think I would have aspired to go to higher education – the programme not only allowed me to have the confidence to aspire attending university, but was also one of the key factors on why I chose to make Birmingham my firm choice.'

*Abdiweli Omar, BSc Accounting and Finance, first year*

'The AEP not only prepared me for university but made me into the student I am today. The programme gave me a great amount of confidence to go onto to tackle my A levels as well as my UCAS application. I was given support from a brilliant undergraduate student who was studying the course I wanted to apply for. The entire programme offers an amazing network of support from staff and student ambassadors, many of whom have been through the programme themselves when they were in Year 12. My aspirations were raised and by the end of it I wanted to be just like them. My biggest concern before applying for the programme was not knowing other people,

but this was soon overcome with the help of some fun icebreakers and social activities! The week consisted of seeing how courses are run, learning more about what is on offer and helping to enrich the knowledge you already have and it was the perfect balance between learning and having fun. The AEP gave me the skills to confidently enter a university environment and take on many opportunities. If you have dreams and aspirations of going to a Russell Group university, then this programme is ideal in helping you to achieve those goals in your life.'

*Henna Elahi, LLB Law, first year*

# Applying and timelines

The application form has been designed so that completing it is as simple as possible and we hope that this should make the application process easy for you. All applications must be endorsed by your Head of Sixth Form or a nominated teacher at your school. Once the application form is completed and endorsed, please return the form to the programme co-ordinator at the University of Birmingham (contact details listed below).

Summer 2017	Summer Residential 28 August– 1 September 2017		
Autumn Term 2017	E-mentoring	Study Support Session 1	
Spring Term 2018	E-mentoring	Study Support Session 2	Celebration Event



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## Learn more

For further information and an application form, please contact:

Mohammed Ansar (Outreach Officer)

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Tel: +44 (0)121 414 7169

Alternative contact:

Kathy Buckley

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University of Birmingham

Academic Enrichment Programme

Student Recruitment and Outreach Office

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