



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

Year 12 Higher Education Insight (HEI) Programme Information for students



Residential: Sunday 20–Wednesday 23 August 2017

E-mentoring throughout Year 13

Closing date for applications: 16 June 2017

This programme is for Year 12 students from **outside** of the West Midlands. Please see the 'Are you eligible to apply?' section for more details.

www.birmingham.ac.uk/HEI

What is Higher Education Insight (HEI)?

Higher Education Insight is a new residential for Year 12 students from England and Wales. It will provide you with the opportunity to live and learn at the University of Birmingham; one of the country's leading universities.

You will experience first-hand what it is like to be a student at a research-led university by staying for four days and three nights in the University halls of residence and you will attend academic sessions in an area you are interested in. In the evenings, you will be able to take part in social activities, just like a real student, and will also have the opportunity to take a tour of the UK's second city, Birmingham.

Throughout the residential, there will be a team of current undergraduate student ambassadors working with you. These ambassadors will be studying subjects within your academic stream. After the residential you will be paired with an ambassador who will be on hand to help and guide you through the higher education process, including advice on UCAS applications and your personal statement.



How much will it cost?

NOTHING!

The costs for this programme will be met by the University of Birmingham. This includes: transport costs to and from the University (subject to a limit of £35 per student) for the summer residential, and the costs of accommodation, food and social activities in the evening.



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. This programme is only open to students from **OUTSIDE** the greater West Midlands region and students from the following areas cannot apply: Birmingham and Solihull, Black Country (Dudley, Sandwell, Wolverhampton and Walsall), Hereford and Worcestershire, Coventry and Warwickshire, Staffordshire, Telford and Wrekin, Gloucestershire, Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Oxfordshire and Northamptonshire. Students from these regions can apply for the Academic Enrichment Programme www.birmingham.ac.uk/aep

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 level (or equivalent) qualifications 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 students currently attend a selective state school/college, the school they did their GCSEs at must not have been selective.
- Have a parental household income below £42,600 per annum.

Desirable criteria:

- Applicants should have a minimum of eight GCSEs (Grade B and above including Maths and English).

Other factors we will consider:

- Students with disabilities or those that 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.

'Being the first in my family with the chance of attending university, I applied for the HEI programme in 2014 to gain a better understanding of how university worked and if it was for me. The programme was much better than I expected it to be, so much so that I decided to apply to the University of Birmingham. The programme provided me with the guidance I needed and more. There was always someone to talk to about any concerns I had and to provide me with guidance to help me make the best possible choices that suited me.'

'Coming from London, the city I had lived in all my life, I was worried whether or not I could seriously live anywhere else. However, through the HEI programme I realised how fantastic the city of Birmingham is and I have no regrets at all choosing to come here. The HEI programme is a great vehicle to support you through Year 13 and with your university choices/personal statements and the undergraduate mentor that you are assigned, will be so beneficial in helping you make your personal statement the best it can be.'

Andrew Antwi, BSc Political Economy, first year (from London)

Which academic streams can you choose?

You will have the option to choose ONE academic stream from the two on offer. These academic streams must be related to your current studies or relevant for the degree programme you wish to study. The academic streams will include the following areas (subject to availability):

- ❑ **Humanities and Social Sciences**
Law, History, English, Philosophy, Theology, Social Policy, Sociology, Politics
- ❑ **Biological and Health Sciences**
Physiotherapy, Medicine, Biosciences, Dentistry, Chemistry, Pharmacy, Nursing

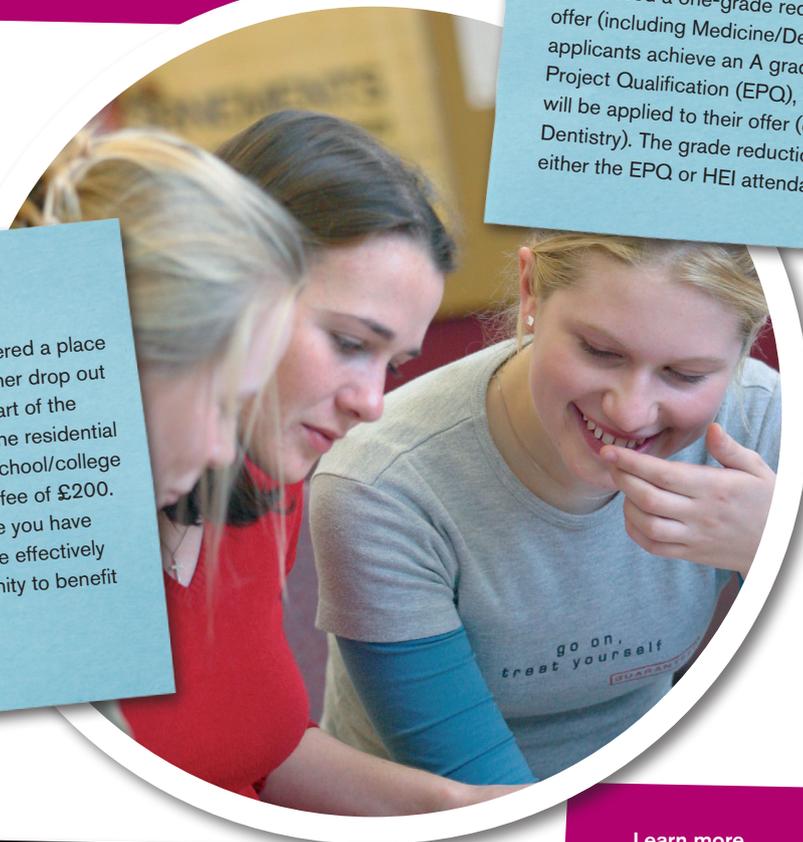


Additional benefits

As a result of a student's commitment to attending the Higher Education Insight Programme, all students that subsequently apply to the University of Birmingham and are made an offer will be guaranteed a one-grade reduction on the standard offer (including Medicine/Dentistry). Alternatively, if applicants achieve an A grade in their Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), a one-grade reduction will be applied to their offer (excluding Medicine/Dentistry). The grade reduction will only apply to either the EPQ or HEI attendance, not both.

Are you committed?

It is important to note that if you are offered 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 residential or fail to complete e-mentoring, your school/college will be liable to pay a non-attendance fee of £200. By not attending or dropping out once you have been made an offer of a place, you are effectively denying another student the opportunity to benefit from the programme.



How to apply

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/college. Once the application form is completed and endorsed, please return the form to the programme co-ordinator at the University of Birmingham (contact details to the right).

Early applications to the programme are strongly advised. Decisions will be made on a first-come, first-served basis. Deadline for applications is 16 June 2017.

Learn more

For further information and an application form, please contact the co-ordinator:
Mohammed Ansar (Outreach Officer)
Email: m.ansar@bham.ac.uk
Tel: +44 (0)121 414 7169

University of Birmingham
Higher Education Insight Programme
Student Recruitment and Outreach Office
Birmingham B15 2TT
www.birmingham.ac.uk/HEI

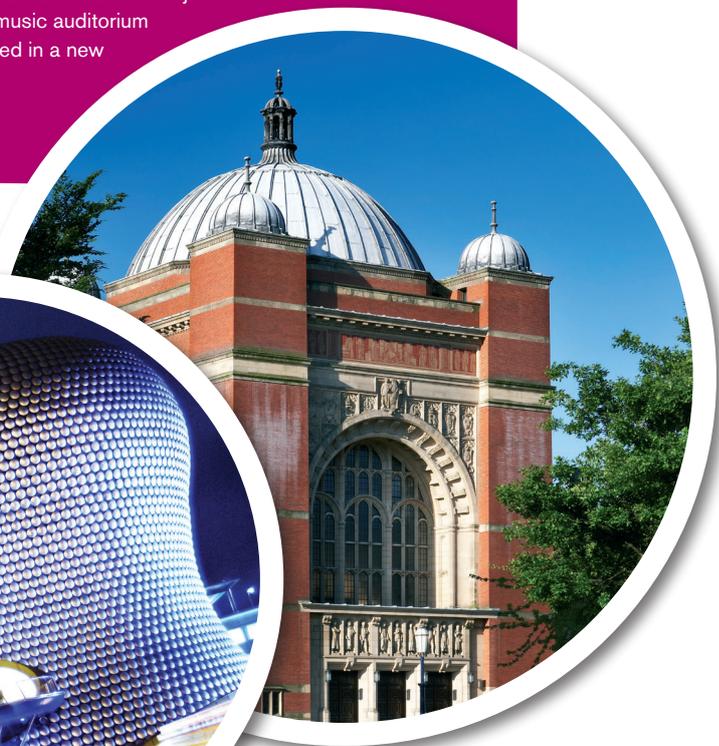
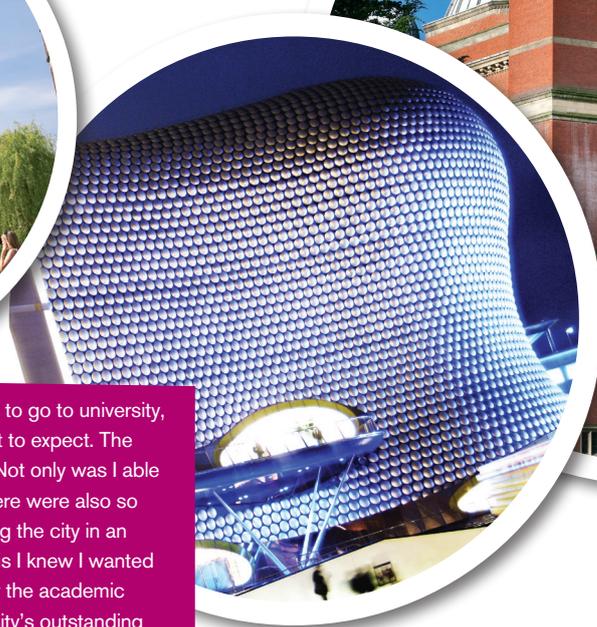
Why Birmingham?

The historic university is part of the Russell Group of universities. It is set in a beautiful 250-acre parkland campus and was voted one of the UK's top ten most beautiful universities by *The Telegraph* (2012). There are over 28,000 students from more than 150 countries across the world studying at the University, which has an international reputation for the quality of its research and excellence of its teaching.

The University has invested over £5 million in its Careers Network to support the undergraduate population. This was recognised by Birmingham being named as *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* University of the Year for Graduate Employment in 2016. The Guild of Students is home to over 200 clubs and societies and hosts the Job Zone, a one-stop shop of employment opportunities within and outside the University.

The University is like a small town. On campus you will find two Spar supermarkets, other food outlets including Subway, Starbucks, and Costa Coffee; Ryman stationers, STA Travel, a bookshop, a hairdressers, a mobile phone shop and banks. We are also the only mainland university that has its own railway station, making us easily accessible from all over the country. The University is less than a ten-minute train journey from Birmingham New Street station.

The University also has a strong tradition of investing in its infrastructure for the benefit of its students. The University invests on average £1 million a week in its facilities. Recent major developments have included a state-of-the-art 450-seat music auditorium costing £17 million. A further £55 million has been invested in a new sports centre and the building of a new library.



'I was the first person in my family who wanted to go to university, meaning I had very little knowledge about what to expect. The experience I gained on HEI was unparalleled! Not only was I able to attend a variety of academic lectures but there were also so many activities, ranging from kayaking to touring the city in an open top bus. Once I stepped onto the campus I knew I wanted to come to Birmingham, this was reinforced by the academic staff's ability to teach students and the University's outstanding reputation. This was followed by a year of online support from current students, where they would help with everything from writing a personal statement to study tips, which was definitely a huge advantage for Year 13!'

Tony Roberts, LLB Law, first year (from Bournemouth)

'Participating in the programme played a major role in the tough decision I had to make when picking between two very different courses (graphic design and biochemistry). During my time at HEI I fell in love with the campus and found the ambassadors very friendly, approachable and the unbiased advice I received on the programme made me feel like Birmingham was the place for me. Everyone at HEI was always very encouraging and supporting throughout the UCAS application process in Year 13 and beyond. Applying to come on the programme will be one of the best decisions you can make as the information, advice and guidance provided, will be invaluable.'

Maja Szramowska, BSc Biochemistry, first year (from Nottingham)



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

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