



BIRMINGHAM CITY  
University

**THINK HIGHER**

**WHO AM I?... WHAT AM I GOOD AT?... WHERE DO I WANT TO BE IN 10 YEARS?... WHAT SUBJECTS DO I ENJOY?... IS UNIVERSITY FOR ME? ... WHAT MAKES ME HAPPY?... CAN I SEE MYSELF STUDYING TILL I'M 21?... DO I WANT TO STAY AT HOME?... AM I CREATIVE?... WHO DO I WANT TO BE?... WHERE AM I GOING?... WHAT WILL I DO?... WHERE CAN I GET HELP?... WHO SHOULD I TALK TO?... WHERE COULD I USE MY COMPUTER SKILLS?... I'M GOOD AT ART, WHAT ARE MY OPTIONS?... WHO AM I?... HOW COULD I BECOME A TEACHER?... WHERE DO I WANT TO LIVE?... WHAT DO I LIKE DOING THE MOST?... AM I PUSHING MYSELF ENOUGH?... WILL I MAKE FRIENDS?... WHO SHOULD I TALK TO?... COULD I START MY OWN BAND?... HOW CAN I GET MORE INVOLVED IN SPORT?... I AM GOOD WITH NUMBERS, WHERE NOW?... IS THERE A COURSE FOR ME?... WHERE DO I GO?... WHAT SUBJECTS DO I ENJOY?... WHAT AM I GOOD AT?... AM I PUSHING MYSELF ENOUGH?... WILL I MAKE FRIENDS?... WHERE CAN I GET THE BEST ADVICE?... I AM GOOD AT LISTENING, WHERE NOW?... CAN I WORK IN TV AND RADIO?...**



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The specific subject areas explored in this guide are relevant to Birmingham City University; however you should be aware that there are many universities and colleges offering other subjects in addition to those listed.

**IMPORTANT:** All information in this guide, including information on Birmingham City University courses, is there to give you some ideas about your future. If you decide to apply you must ensure that you obtain up-to-date course information for your year of entry.

# STUDYING AFTER SCHOOL



To help you decide whether university is right for you, this guide outlines some of the potential benefits, including a greater choice of careers, improved job flexibility and the opportunity for higher earning potential, as well as some of the main questions you may need to consider.

Whatever your final decision on the course or career that you want, it's essential to plan ahead. This may mean researching what grades you'll need to enter your chosen profession, gaining relevant work experience or simply finding out more about the role that interests you.

Remember, whether or not you choose to go to university, the most important thing in life is to always do your best. When faced with choices about your future, think hard about yourself and try to choose subjects that you are good at and are going to enjoy learning more about.

## WHAT IS FURTHER EDUCATION (FE)?

FE is used to describe the various courses immediately available to you after you finish your GCSEs.

These can be traditional academic qualifications such as A Levels or courses which have a vocational element to them, like BTEC National Diplomas or City and Guilds qualifications. There are a variety of different subjects and specialisms available, and courses normally take between two and three years to complete if studied full-time.

There are several ways you can continue your education/training:

You can **stay on at school** if your school has sixth form facilities, or alternatively go to a **sixth form college** which specialises in A Levels or BTECs. You could also go to a **further education college**, which usually offer a wider range of courses and provide education and training for students aged 19 and over, as well as school leavers.

**Work-based training** is a way to develop your skills while you are in a job. You could be working towards a vocational qualification or gaining work experience.

**Training programmes** available to you when you leave school offer various options - to become an employee, a trainee or an apprentice.

## WHAT IS HIGHER EDUCATION (HE)?

HE is used to describe the level of study beyond FE, usually at the age of 18 or over. Studying takes place in universities, higher education colleges and some further education colleges.

HE refers to degrees; however, it also covers Higher National Certificates/ Diplomas (HNC/HND), Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE), Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE) and Foundation Degree (FdA/FdSc) courses.

These courses can be studied full-time over a period of one to five years depending on the type of course and subject taken.



Unsure about any of our terms? Please see the Jargon Buster on page 46

For example, at Birmingham City University you could study:

- HND Gemmology - Two years
- BA (Hons) English - Three years
- BSc (Hons) Engineering - Four years with 'sandwich' year in workplace

Many courses offer you the opportunity to study full-time or part-time.

**Full-time study** lets you complete a course in a shorter amount of time.

**Part-time study** is normally over a longer period of time and is less intensive in terms of the number of hours and days you study each week. Part-time courses can allow you to work while you study.

At the end of the course, the qualification is the same irrespective of whether you studied full-time or part-time.

### **WHO GOES TO UNIVERSITY?**

**Anyone.** People often think university is only open to those people who get grade As in all of their subjects but in reality there are so many different routes into HE and courses available that more and more people are choosing to continue their education at this level.

You may choose to study a traditional academic subject such as English or physics in greater depth, or you could opt for a vocational course that prepares you for a specific career, such as accountancy or law. For example, at Birmingham City University our law degree is very practical - you would spend time in our mock courtroom practising what you've learned and you may even have the opportunity to undertake a work placement in the USA, to learn more about the legal system there.

Because universities offer such diverse courses, the people attracted to study there are equally varied: a community where people come together to learn and develop their futures.



# 10 BENEFITS OF HE

# 1.

You can study something you enjoy, are interested in and want to learn more about.

# 2.

The level and depth of study will enable you to broaden your mind and gain a greater understanding of a specific area and/or career.

# 3.

You are likely to earn more - on average graduates earn £12,000 more each year than non-graduates, and may enjoy better opportunities for promotion.

# 4.

A wider range of jobs will be available to you. According to figures from the Confederation of British Industry (CBI), one in three jobs now require degree-level skills.

# 5.

You can get involved in university life as much as you like. You could join one of the many clubs and societies; get involved in charity events or volunteer in the community.

# 6.

You will gain freedom and independence, essential for a successful future.

# 7.

You will meet different people from a range of backgrounds and will also get to meet students from other countries.

# 8.

Through HE you will gain freedom over your future as more careers and opportunities become available to you. Some careers, such as teaching, can only be entered with a degree.

# 9.

You can choose how long it takes to gain the qualification by choosing to be a full-time or part-time student.

# 10.

You will gain greater confidence and an increased understanding of yourself and your strengths.



# WHAT'S AT BIRMINGHAM CITY UNIVERSITY?

Choosing which university you want to go to isn't just about reading the course details. You might prefer one because it's near to home, because it has the best reputation for the course you want to study, or even because it's in the middle of a big city.

**Have a look at how  
Birmingham City University  
might appeal to you...**

## **OUR CAMPUSES**

Birmingham City University is a large and modern institution, with top-class teaching, world-leading research and well-established links with employers. Our state-of-the-art campuses are located in several parts of the city; where our students study depends on the subjects they choose.

Most people from Birmingham have seen Millennium Point, but how many of them realise it's part of a university? In fact it's part of our City Centre Campus, home to our engineering, computing and built environment courses, as well as Birmingham School of Acting.

We are constantly investing in new facilities and our £62 million Parkside Building - connected by bridge to Millennium Point - opened in 2013, providing a new home for our design courses and a state-of-the-art Media Centre. It includes four industry-standard TV studios, plus our green screen MILO studio, radio and editing suites, dedicated workshops for print, textiles, woodwork, ceramics and glass, photo studios and darkrooms, and digital print and patternmaking facilities.

Construction is now under way on phase two of our City Centre Campus development. The Curzon Building will house our business, law, social science and English courses from autumn 2015, as well as new library, IT and student support facilities, providing a 'one stop shop' for all student support needs and providing more opportunities for students on different courses to interact.

A third phase of development will provide further teaching space at our City Centre and City South campuses, due to open in 2017.

City North Campus is in Perry Barr, three miles north of the city centre. We expect all teaching to have moved from here to the City Centre or City South campuses by 2017, but the Doug Ellis Sports Centre and halls of residence will remain in place.

Nursing and other health-related courses are based at the £30 million City South Campus in Edgbaston. Our students here learn in the most realistic settings – from a mock operating theatre and hospital wards to a fully-equipped birthing room and virtual radiotherapy suite.

Birmingham Conservatoire is where you'll be lucky enough to study if you're a budding musician. It is purpose-built with practice rooms and performance theatres, including the 520-seat Adrian Boult Hall, which can accommodate a full symphony orchestra. From 2017, our Conservatoire students will move to a state-of-the-art £40 million building at the City Centre Campus.

If you're interested in designing and making your own jewellery, you would study at Vittoria Street which is right in the middle of Birmingham's famous Jewellery Quarter, ensuring that all degrees have a lot of input from the local industry. Fine art students are based in the city centre at Margaret Street, a Grade I listed purpose-built art school with our cutting-edge specialist equipment sitting alongside the original stained glass windows and mosaic floors.

## FANTASTIC FACILITIES

Whatever you are studying, we are always investing to provide the most modern equipment possible. Our libraries provide access to over 62 million resources including books, journal articles, ebook chapters and conference proceedings, while IT access is available at all sites, with learning material accessible online 24 hours a day.

In addition, there are many specialist resources for individual courses, including a mock courtroom, broadcast and recording studios, advanced manufacturing facilities, gallery space, mock classrooms and a simulated operating theatre, ensuring you get the right practical experience to accompany the teaching you receive.

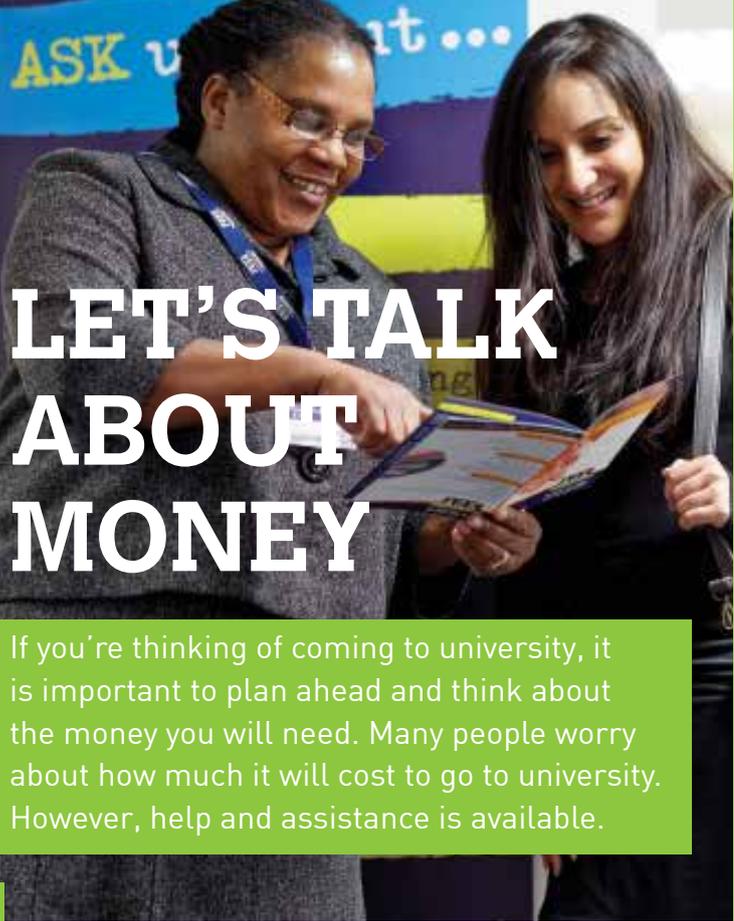
## ACCOMMODATION

Most universities have accommodation which is just for students to live in, called halls of residence. They're a great way to make new friends and you're never far from campus, which is great when you've only just left home! At Birmingham City University we have three 'halls' of our own, together with several private facilities, and all rooms have their own phone and internet lines.





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# LET'S TALK ABOUT MONEY

If you're thinking of coming to university, it is important to plan ahead and think about the money you will need. Many people worry about how much it will cost to go to university. However, help and assistance is available.

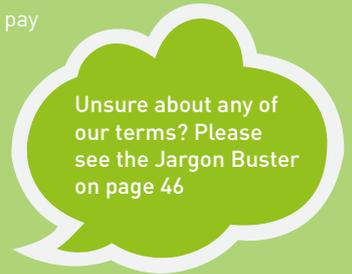
## FACTS ABOUT FEES

There has been a lot of talk about the impact of higher tuition fees, but here are some important points to remember:

- **No-one has to pay fees up front.** You take out a tuition fee loan and only start to pay it back once you are in work and earning over a certain amount (currently per year).
- **No-one else has to pay the loan for you.** If your income drops below the minimum threshold (for example if you lose your job or take a career break), payments will be halted and if your loan has not been repaid after 30 years, any outstanding payments will be written off.
- **Your loan shouldn't prevent other borrowing.** The Council of Mortgage Lenders has advised that a student loan is 'very unlikely' to stop you from getting a mortgage. For other loans, the final decision would rest with the provider, but Student Finance England will not be sharing information with credit reference agencies.
- **The benefit of a university education can far outstrip the cost.** Government figures show that graduates earn an average of £12,000 a year more than non-graduates – and, according to the Confederation of British Industry, one in three jobs in the UK now require degree-level skills.

## TUITION FEES

Tuition fees are the charges you have to pay to study the course. There may be some variation between universities and courses. As long as you're studying for your first degree, you won't have to pay the fees at the beginning of your course - instead, you can take out a tuition fee loan, which you start to pay back once you have completed your course and your income has passed a certain minimum level. If you decide to study on a health-related course such as nursing, the NHS may pay your fees for you.



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## LIVING EXPENSES

You may be able to get a maintenance grant if your family income is low — and a grant does not have to be paid back at all. Many students are eligible for a full or partial grant, and anyone who receives a grant will also be eligible to receive a bursary from their university. The amount will depend on the university and again may vary between courses. You can also take out a student maintenance loan to help pay for your living costs, which does not have to be paid back until you're in employment and earning above the minimum threshold.

## BURSARIES/SCHOLARSHIPS

The government has launched the National Scholarship Programme to help students from disadvantaged backgrounds to enter university. Again, eligibility is likely to depend on household income, and applications should be made through the university you choose to attend. Universities and colleges will also be offering scholarships and bursaries of their own, which may take the form of cash payments or fee reductions. These may be dependent on household income, or could reward particular academic, sporting or artistic ability. Each university should be able to provide details of what it can offer.

## PARENTAL HELP

Your parents don't have to help you but many will want to offer their support at this important time in your life. The more your parents earn, the less you will be able to claim in grants and loans, as the Government assumes they will make up the difference. You may want to have a conversation with your parents about this, to find out how much support they plan to give.

## PART-TIME WORK

Many students these days work part-time. One option is the sort of shop or bar work you may have already done during your time at

school or college — indeed, if you work for one of the big retail chains they may allow you to transfer. However, you may also be able to find a role more closely related to your course or career plans and an increasing number of universities, including Birmingham City University, employ their own students in roles on campus. While working part-time can certainly make a difference to your financial situation and may also provide valuable skills to help you in your future career, it is important that you do not spend too much time working and damage your studies. Think about how many hours a week you will be able to work, and try to stick to it.

# GUIDE TO FINANCIAL SUPPORT

TERM	MEANING	WHERE DO I GET THIS FROM?	DO I HAVE TO PAY THEM BACK?
Maintenance grant	A maintenance grant can help with living costs if your family income is low.	Student Finance England/ Student Finance Northern Ireland/Student Awards Agency for Scotland/ Student Finance Wales (Government)	No
Bursary	Additional help from your university, for those entitled to a full or partial maintenance grant.	University or college (NHS if studying health-related courses)	No
Tuition fee loan	A loan to cover the cost of your tuition fees in full.	Student Finance England/ Student Finance Northern Ireland/Student Awards Agency for Scotland/ Student Finance Wales (Government)	Yes - when you have finished your course and are earning above a set figure
Maintenance loan	A loan to help with accommodation and other living costs. Remember: how much you get will depend on your household income.	As above	Yes - when you have finished your course and are earning above a set figure

To find out more visit [www.gov.uk/student-finance](http://www.gov.uk/student-finance).

**REMEMBER** Student funding arrangements change quite often and it is important to seek advice and check out the facts in the spring time before your course begins.

# YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

## CAN I ONLY STUDY SUBJECTS I HAVE DONE AT SCHOOL?

**No. The courses available at FE and HE level are far broader and more diverse than those available at schools.** This means that you will have the opportunity to study subjects that may not have been available at GCSE.

It is important that you choose something you are interested in and that you don't take a course you don't want to do. You are the person who is going to be studying this course for two, three, four or more years. If you choose a subject that interests you and you want to learn more about it, the chances are you will enjoy your time studying and this will lead to success.

## HOW MANY SUBJECTS DO I WANT TO STUDY?

**Some courses will cover only one subject with some optional modules that allow you to choose specific areas of the subject you are interested in.** In some instances there will be compulsory units of study and it's down to you to check this information and ensure that you are comfortable with this.

Other courses offer joint honours courses where you can study two subjects, either in equal amounts or as a 'major-minor' combination.

**Remember that each HE institution offers its own range and combination of courses and you need to check these out - what is available in one institution may not be offered at another.**

## ARE COURSES WITH THE SAME NAME REALLY ALL THE SAME?

**No. You will need to investigate the course available and compare the content of different courses that have the same title.** No two courses are the same, whether they are at the same college/university or different ones. It is important that you check out exactly what you will be studying and make sure this is of interest to you.

## HOW WILL I BE TAUGHT?

**That depends on the place of study and the course.** Teaching can take the form of lectures where someone talks to you and you listen and take notes; seminars where you can discuss and interact; and workshops where you actively explore the subject.

Some teaching methods suit some students more than others. For example, if you're the sort of person who prefers to work on your own, don't choose a course where you will be expected to do a lot of group work. Think about the lessons you enjoy and learn most in. Are they the ones where you sit and listen, the ones where you discuss ideas, or the ones where you do something more interactive?

## HOW MANY EXAMS WILL I HAVE?

**Many courses will have a combination of examinations and continuous assessment.** If you choose a course with a high degree of practical content, you may be assessed while actually working in your chosen area. For example, if you

study nursing or teaching, you will be assessed while you are on placement.

If you're not the sort of person that copes well with formal exams, it may not be wise to choose a course with a heavy examination load. If you're determined to do a course which has a lot of exams you may need to learn some techniques for improving your performance, such as managing your time on each question and practising similar questions prior to the exams.

Find out when your examinations will be taking place. Do they all happen at one time of year or are they spread throughout the academic year?

## WILL I GET TO STUDY ABROAD/GO ON A WORK PLACEMENT?

**Some courses offer you the opportunity to study abroad, while others offer a year out working in the area you are studying (often referred to as a 'sandwich placement').** A placement will increase the length of your course and this may make it more expensive overall. However a placement can give you the opportunity to look at a particular profession and see if you like it without taking on the commitment of full-time employment.

Many students at Birmingham City University end up working for the

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company where they spent their placement year, giving them a vital head start in the job market. Some courses also have shorter placements of a few weeks.

### DO I HAVE TO STUDY FULL-TIME?

**The variety of courses and institutions means that you can often choose whether to study full-time or part-time.** Part-time study may fit better around work or family commitments, but it will make the course longer. It may be possible to change how you study during your course; this could suit a change in personal circumstances. Don't assume that all courses are offered both full and part-time - they're not!

### WILL I GET HELP ON MY COURSE?

**All institutions offer support to students to help them adjust to the demands of university life.** This may include help with how to take notes in lectures, support settling in to a new environment, and advice on personal or financial issues. If you think you will need specific help during your studies it's worth checking that institutions can provide this before you apply to them. If you have a specific learning or physical disability you should let the college or university know as soon as possible so that they can ensure you get the appropriate support.

### DO I HAVE TO GO TO A CERTAIN UNIVERSITY?

**The choice and variety of universities available is huge, although this will depend on the subjects you're interested in and the grades required for entry.** Different universities may have very different atmospheres and this is often linked to their size, ie the number of students studying there and the type of student that goes there.

You need to make sure that it is the sort of environment you will be happy in. Another consideration is what sort of surroundings it's in. Is it in the middle of a large city or small town, or is it rural? Some universities are split-site, which means they have buildings in and around a city; others are purpose-built on one campus. You will also need to consider the facilities the institution has. Are these likely to make your time studying easier and more enjoyable?

Ideally you should visit the university you're interested in to see if you like the environment and if you think you will be happy there.

### SHOULD I STAY AT HOME OR MOVE AWAY?

**This is a very personal choice and you must choose the option that best suits you.**

For some people this is one of their main concerns and you'll need to answer some basic questions in order to select the best option. Can you afford to live away from home? Would you prefer having your friends and family around you? Do you want to experience life in another town/city? Do you have the skills to look after yourself? Can the college/university provide you with accommodation? Be sure you are making the best choice. Studying and concentrating on your course is made more difficult if you are unhappy with where you are living.

### CAN I AFFORD IT?

**There is a certain amount of cost associated with everything and HE is no exception.**

It's all about weighing up the pros and cons of staying on in education. The better your qualifications, the better your chances of getting a job that pays well, provides better job satisfaction and will give you more progression and promotion opportunities. While staying on in education

is no guarantee of a job, it does make your chances of getting a well-paid position more likely. It also improves your chances of getting promotion once you're in a job.

The skills and knowledge you gain through education should make you more flexible and more adaptable for a changing world.

It is certainly true that people do leave education with little or no qualifications and still succeed; however, these people are the exception rather than the rule.

HE should enable you to develop skills and knowledge that will make you more flexible and able to cope with a world where jobs and careers may not be so secure. You should see your education as an investment and unlike a new car or a designer wardrobe, your education will grow in value over time. For the most up-to-date information go to [www.gov.uk/student-finance](http://www.gov.uk/student-finance) or [www.bcu.ac.uk](http://www.bcu.ac.uk).





# MAKING YOUR CHOICES



## WHAT DO I WANT TO DO?

Knowing where to start can often be an overwhelming thought. Do you consider a career first and then decide which education options to pursue or do you pick a course that interests you, and then consider where it could take you?

### **There is no right or wrong answer.**

Some people will have a clear idea on a career, others may be undecided. Sometimes you can make pretty good judgements based on your hobbies and interests outside of school.

You are more likely to succeed if you study courses that you enjoy. If you enjoy working with children, you could consider training as a paediatrician, nursery nurse, nanny or teacher. Or your love of computers might make you want to consider a career as a computer programmer, software engineer or games designer.

Because there are so many different jobs available you must do some research; you don't want to miss out on the job of your dreams just because you didn't realise it was out there!

## FUTURE LIFESTYLE

In order to move out of home and get your own place you will need to earn a certain amount of money. Your income will affect how you get around, how often you go out with friends, the types of things you can buy and the quality and number of holidays you can have each year.

Jobs that pay the sort of money allowing you to have all of this are more often available to graduates. The amount you earn will also determine at what age you can afford to retire.

There are non-graduate jobs out there which can earn you a lot of money but often these jobs will require you to work much longer hours each day or perhaps shift work.

Because of the close links our University has with employers, graduates often find that the skills they learn are easily transferable to the working world.



# COURSES

## Subjects and qualifications

There are more than 37,000 courses available at over 370 different colleges and universities in the UK, so you should be able to find something that interests you, and somewhere that will accept you with the qualifications you achieve.

Remember not all universities will offer the course you are looking for, so research the course, the university and the career you want to go into to help you make the right choice about your future.

Please check our website for the latest course information at [www.bcu.ac.uk/courses](http://www.bcu.ac.uk/courses).

## HOW DO I SEARCH AND APPLY?

There are many different ways you can enter higher education.

There is the traditional academic route of A Levels, the vocational option of BTECs and NVQs, or a combination of both. This means that people entering higher education will have a variety of different experiences and qualifications. This may determine what course you will choose and what results you need to be accepted onto the course. You should check with your chosen higher education institution to see what grades you will need.

When you apply for a course at a university you will be asked to achieve certain grades or 'tariff points' in your A Levels or equivalent. For example, most courses at Birmingham City University ask for 280 tariff points, which is equal to two Bs and a C or one A and two Cs at A Level.

You should check with the higher education institutions to see what grades you will need in order to study your chosen subject. Generally, you should aim to achieve five A\*- C grades at GCSE so that you have the opportunity of entering FE/HE.

Birmingham City University offers over 300 courses within the 19 main subject areas listed below. For more information on these courses and their entry requirements, go to the website at [www.bcu.ac.uk/courses](http://www.bcu.ac.uk/courses).

**Accountancy and Business**

**Acting and Theatre**

**Advertising, Marketing and PR**

**Architecture and Landscape Architecture**

**Art, Design and Visual Communication**

**Built Environment**

**Business and Management**

**Computing and Technology**

**Criminal Justice**

**Education and Teacher Training**

**Engineering**

**English**

**Fashion, Textiles, Interior and Three-Dimensional Design**

**Health and Social Care**

**Jewellery and Silversmithing**

**Law**

**Media and Multimedia Technology**

**Music**

**Social Sciences**

For most courses, an online application has to be made through UCAS (Universities and Colleges Admissions Service). UCAS forwards the applications to the universities, overseeing the process to match students with vacancies as efficiently as possible and ensure that no student finds themselves with more than one place. Visit [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com) for course and university information and advice as well as the online application form.

# ACCOUNTANCY AND FINANCE

Are you good with numbers? A degree in accountancy could lead to a satisfying and well-paid career, maybe with one of the big financial firms or in-house for a company or organisation. Our courses don't just develop your professional skills – they also increase your commercial awareness and personal skills. You will be studying at Birmingham City Business School, one of the largest and most respected schools of its kind in the UK, with great links to big-name firms and visiting lecturers from industry who come in to share their knowledge.

## Our courses:

BA (HONS) ACCOUNTANCY

BA (HONS) ACCOUNTANCY AND BUSINESS

BA (HONS) ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE

ASSOCIATION OF CHARTERED CERTIFIED ACCOUNTANTS (ACCA)

Also see Business  
and Management  
(page 23)



## PROFILE

Azim Fazil

BA (Hons) Accountancy



"I chose Birmingham City University because it had a good range of financial courses and strong links to industry, as well as providing all fundamental exemptions for my chartered accountancy qualification. Furthermore, it enabled me to leave not only with a vocational degree, but also the Association of Accounting Technicians (AAT) qualification.

"Teaching at the University was very good in its structure and content – at the time I enjoyed some lectures more than others but I now realise that where I was given an extra push it was for my benefit, so in hindsight it was on the button.

"I took a placement at what was then South Birmingham Primary Care Trust. I thoroughly enjoyed it and would advise anyone to grab a placement opportunity with both hands – the University's contacts with industry made this amazingly easy. After graduating, I was offered a training contract there, where I qualified in 2010 working as a financial accountant. Soon after, I was promoted to finance manager."

# ACTING AND THEATRE

Many of us would love to be rich and famous actors like Brad Pitt or Scarlett Johansson but how many are prepared for the hard work and dedication that it entails? If your burning ambition is to become an actor on the stage or screen then check out our professional acting course. You can also study for a career within community/ dance theatre and all of our courses are taught within modern, purpose-built facilities in the heart of the city.

## Our courses:

FOUNDATION COURSE ACTING

BA (HONS) ACTING

BA (HONS) APPLIED PERFORMANCE (COMMUNITY AND EDUCATION)

BA (HONS) STAGE MANAGEMENT



## PROFILE

**Catherine Tyldesley**  
BA (Hons) Acting  
Eva Price in  
Coronation Street



“I auditioned for a lot of schools and out of all of them, Birmingham School of Acting was the one that impressed me the most. I came down for the audition day and the tutors we met were all great. I learned so much on that day, I thought just imagine what I’d learn in three years!”

“The tuition we received was absolutely outstanding – so many of our tutors had worked in the acting business all their lives and, as I’ve learned since then, as an actor you learn on the job so to have the benefit of their experience was amazing for all of us.

“I was absolutely ecstatic to get the part [of Eva] because I’m from Manchester, I had friends in the show already and most importantly I was a massive fan. I grew up with Coronation Street and to be part of such a legendary show is so amazing that I miss it when I’m not there. When I’m on holiday, I can’t wait to get back and I’m always looking forward to getting the scripts to see what’s happening next.”

# ADVERTISING, MARKETING AND PR

Think about the big-name brands you buy regularly. How do they get to be as popular as they are? A lot of this is down to clever marketing, advertising and public relations strategies that these companies employ. Studying these subjects at degree level will help you to gain the skills you would need to play an effective role in this area of business. All these courses place an emphasis on practical experience, working on realistic briefs for real-life clients.

## Our courses:

BA (HONS) BUSINESS AND MARKETING

BA (HONS) INTERNATIONAL MARKETING (TOP-UP)

BA (HONS) MARKETING

BA (HONS) MARKETING, ADVERTISING AND PUBLIC RELATIONS



## PROFILE

Rumandeep Gill

BA (Hons) Marketing,  
Advertising and Public  
Relations



"I had already studied Business at both GCSE and A Level – it was a subject I enjoyed and that I understood well, but I wanted to challenge myself and do something slightly different at degree level, so I looked for a course which leaned more towards the creative side of things. I visited a few universities, but I spoke to students elsewhere who said they didn't get much opportunity to speak with their lecturers, whereas at Birmingham City University the lecturers seemed very helpful and accessible.

"After my second year, I spent a year on placement in the University's marketing department. It was advertised through the placement office, and I had to fill out an application form and go for an interview, which was good experience for future job applications. In the beginning I was nervous, but after a couple of months I felt really settled and I was so glad I did it.

"Looking back, the year was very useful and I applied what I learned to my studies in my final year. It also led to me securing a job as Press Officer in the University's Marketing Department upon graduating."

# ARCHITECTURE AND LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

As an architect, you get to shape the world around you by designing buildings – from city skyscrapers to new housing developments, and the landscapes that surround them. Our students get to use the latest design software and work on a wide range of briefs for different clients, taking our dynamic home city of Birmingham as a starting point. And since 2013 they have been based in an exciting new home of their own – our Parkside Building in the heart of the city centre.

## Our courses:

BA (HONS) ARCHITECTURE (RIBA PART 1 EXEMPTION)

BA (HONS) LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE



## PROFILE

**Ula Bujauskaite**  
BA (Hons) Landscape  
Architecture



“I was torn between Architecture and Landscape Architecture courses before my interview at Birmingham City University. I chose to do Landscape Architecture after talking to the course director who seemed to be so passionate about the subject, university and the course. The other very important factor was the facilities.

“Before starting my third year, I was keen on getting some work experience as I thought that would help me with my final year of studies and improve my skills. I emailed a few practices, had a few different opportunities and decided to spend six weeks of summer with the company I was most keen to work for. A few months later, the same practice contacted me and offered a position in their company after I graduated.

“The new Parkside Building facilities are amazing for any student studying here; you could not wish for a better place to study. Lecturers and tutors have been incredibly supportive and professional throughout the years; I gained a lot of confidence and felt well prepared to start work as soon as I finished university.”

# ART, DESIGN AND VISUAL COMMUNICATION

This University is one of the foremost centres for art and design in the UK. Some of our students go on to become successful artists, but that is not the only option – you could also, for example, learn about graphic design, animation, designing theatre sets or photography. Our broad range of courses can tap into your interests and lead you towards a choice of careers in the creative industries.

## **Our courses:**

BA (HONS) ART AND DESIGN

HND FINE ART

BA (HONS) FINE ART

BA (HONS) THEATRE, PERFORMANCE AND EVENT DESIGN

BA (HONS) VISUAL COMMUNICATION

BA (HONS) VISUAL COMMUNICATION (FILM AND ANIMATION)

BA (HONS) VISUAL COMMUNICATION (GRAPHIC COMMUNICATION)

BA (HONS) VISUAL COMMUNICATION (ILLUSTRATION)

BA (HONS) VISUAL COMMUNICATION (PHOTOGRAPHY)



Also see Fashion, Textiles, Interior and Three-Dimensional Design (page 30) and Jewellery and Silversmithing (page 34)



## PROFILE

**Sarah Carter**

BA (Hons) Visual  
Communication

Lead Packaging  
Designer, Harrods



“The teaching we received was so valuable. With our course, it was about putting what was taught into practice, with lots of self-directed projects and study, so it really made you think independently about your learning and projects.

“I had always wanted to make the move to London, so I started applying to the companies I would most love to work for. This was when the job at Harrods came up – as store image designer. I was employed as an all-round designer at first, working on various brochures, campaigns and signage, all under the Harrods brand. Within a year, I was promoted to Lead Packaging Designer where I manage a team of five other designers.

“Inspiration and direction from my tutor really helped shape me as a creative and that belief in me has helped me move forward to where I want to be and believe in myself.”

# BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Think about where you are now – consider the buildings around you, what the land's like, where the windows are, what it's used for, what it's made of. All these things and more had to be considered before the construction could get under way. Our Built Environment courses concern the design, production, delivery and subsequent management of all that constitutes the built environment. And don't just think construction is about muddy sites; these days it's a fresh, modern and well-skilled profession.

## Our courses:

BSC (HONS) ARCHITECTURAL TECHNOLOGY

HNC BUILDING SERVICES ENGINEERING

BSC (HONS) BUILDING SURVEYING

BENG (HONS) CIVIL ENGINEERING\*

MENG CIVIL ENGINEERING\*

HNC CONSTRUCTION

BSC (HONS) CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT

BSC (HONS) PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

BSC (HONS) QUANTITY SURVEYING

BSC (HONS) REAL ESTATE

\*subject to approval



## PROFILE

Neil Edginton

BSc (Hons)  
Environmental Planning

Managing Director,  
EDG Property



"I'd always had an interest in property and the built environment but I thought that a lot of people go into the industry with limited knowledge of spatial planning, and how towns and cities work. I was keen to learn more about that, which I thought would provide a great background to a career in the industry.

"I can genuinely say I really enjoyed my time there – I loved the fact that we weren't just filling our heads with theory; it was balanced with bringing in people from the commercial world to make what we learned more real. I also gained so many life skills around how to mix with different people and work successfully together, which is what you need when you go into the workplace.

"The course gave me a thorough grounding for life in the property world. I refer to it every day – not the content of the textbooks but the experiences we enjoyed and how we learned to solve problems and work with people to find solutions – you draw on that all the time without even realising it."

# BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT

These courses will teach you skills such as how business organisations work, how to manage people, how to create and sell new products and how to look after a firm's money. Birmingham City Business School, one of the largest and most respected schools of its kind in the UK, with great links to big-name firms and visiting lecturers from industry who come in to share their knowledge. If you are interested in running your own business, our Concept Factory is a dedicated 'incubation space' where you can gain expert advice, network and share ideas.

## Our courses:

BA (HONS) BUSINESS

BA (HONS) BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (TOP-UP)

BA (HONS) BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS

BA (HONS) BUSINESS AND FINANCE

BA (HONS) BUSINESS AND HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

HNC BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT

HND BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT

BA (HONS) BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT

BA (HONS) BUSINESS MANAGEMENT (LEVEL 6 TOP-UP ONLINE LEARNING)

BA (HONS) ECONOMICS AND FINANCE

BA (HONS) INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS  
(TOP-UP)

BA (HONS) INTERNATIONAL FINANCE  
(TOP-UP)

BA (HONS) LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT  
PRACTICE (WORK-BASED)



## PROFILE

**Peter Tighe**

BA (Hons) Business  
Studies

Regional General  
Manager, L'Oreal



"I chose this course as I had a clear ambition to be a General Manager – at the time I didn't really understand what it meant; it just sounded and felt right. I particularly valued the course's diversity – from behavioural science to finance and marketing. To be able to spend a year living and working in Paris as part of the sandwich program was a fantastic opportunity and set me on the path to work for a French multi-national.

"I started as a Management Trainee at P&O European Ferries, and then spent a year at Homepride Foods before joining L'Oreal, the biggest cosmetics company in the world, as Project Manager. For the past year I have been Regional General Manager for the Professional Products Division in Association of Southeast Asian Nations and India, based in Singapore.

"I count myself very lucky to be doing something I love so I remain energised and passionate. In every role I have done I have left a legacy of a sustainable, dynamic business with strong individuals, brands and teams."

# COMPUTING AND TECHNOLOGY

Technology is constantly changing and this means that there's always a demand for graduates with the latest computing, design technology and ICT expertise. Perhaps you're interested in learning how to 'write' software or design networks. Or maybe 3D modelling is more for you. Whichever aspect of computing you're keen on, our range of courses means there will probably be something to suit you.

## **Our courses:**

BSC (HONS) BUSINESS INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

BSC (HONS) COMPUTER GAMES TECHNOLOGY

BSC (HONS) COMPUTER NETWORKS

BSC (HONS) COMPUTER NETWORKS AND SECURITY

BSC (HONS) COMPUTER SCIENCE

BENG (HONS) ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING

MENG ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING

BSC (HONS) FORENSIC COMPUTING

BSC (HONS) INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

BSC (HONS) MATHEMATICS\*

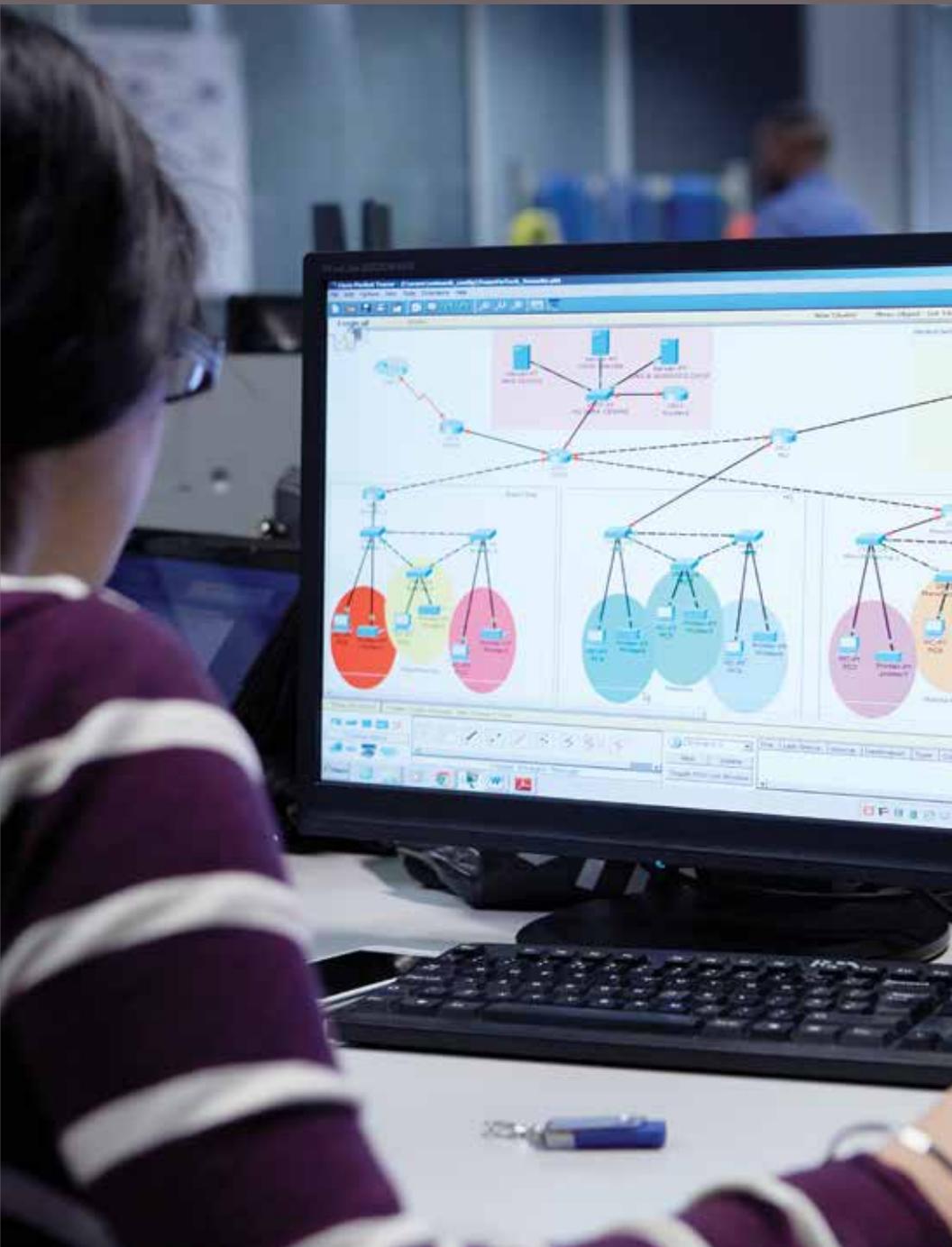
MSCI MATHEMATICS\*

BSC (HONS) MATHEMATICS AND STATISTICS\*

MSCI MATHEMATICS AND STATISTICS\*

BENG (HONS) TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND NETWORKS

\*subject to approval



## PROFILE

**Tammy Yeshua**  
BSc (Hons) Computer  
Science



"I had to go through Clearing once I had received my A Levels, but I received an offer from Birmingham City University, and accepting it was the best decision I have made.

"Throughout my time at Birmingham City University, staff have been extremely helpful. My lecturers have always ensured to help where possible; they do not hesitate to assist students with ones work and make time within their schedules for a one-to-one if needs be. The University always ensured that students were informed of all events and placement opportunities we may be interested in.

"My placement with IBM was an unbelievable experience. I interacted with industry professionals, gained strong relationships with interns and colleagues, and have been able to further improve my skills. As a result of my experience at IBM, I have been head-hunted by three different companies, which has been a huge compliment. Several of my personal skills have improved considerably, such as my confidence and presentation skills, which I am hugely grateful for."

# CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Our criminal justice students look into why people commit crime and what can be done to prevent it. We have great relationships with the police, prisons, young offenders institutions, Victim Support and more, to ensure you always get a real-life perspective on what you learn. We are also home to one of the country's foremost criminologists – Professor David Wilson who presented the series *Killers Behind Bars* for Channel 5.

## Our courses:

BA (HONS) CRIMINOLOGY

BA (HONS) CRIMINOLOGY, POLICING AND INVESTIGATION

BA (HONS) CRIMINOLOGY AND SECURITY STUDIES

Also see Social  
Sciences (page 39)



## PROFILE

Suleman Amad  
BA (Hons) Criminology



"I was attracted to the course by the different selection of modules and the variety of pathways I could go on to. I enjoy the chance to meet other students who are interested in very much the same topics as me and also discussing prison-related issues with tutors; Professor David Wilson brings something extra to the University which no other university has.

"At Birmingham City University, there are many different types of people I get to meet. It is very diverse and people come from all over the world. I love to discuss opinions regarding certain subjects and life experiences. I love the fact that, after a little while, your face gets known and tutors and fellow students remember your name; it's like one family.

"I am currently doing an internship at the Howard League for Penal Reform and it is very beneficial for me. It is a great experience in working at such a huge charity and will look great in the future when I go on to find a job."

# EDUCATION AND TEACHER TRAINING

Teaching is as challenging, unique and inspiring as each child you could eventually get to teach. This career offers lots of variety and daily challenges but also pays well and gives lots of opportunity for progression. You could choose to teach in pre-schools, primary, secondary or even further education. Every teacher trains to teach at least two 'key stages'.

## You could focus on:

EARLY YEARS AND KEY STAGE 1	AGE 3 TO 7
KEY STAGES 1 AND 2	AGE 5 TO 11
KEY STAGES 2 AND 3	AGE 7 TO 14
KEY STAGES 3 AND 4	AGE 11 AND 16
KEY STAGES 4 AND POST-16	AGE 14 TO 19

As you develop your teaching skills you could choose to teach in places away from the mainstream classroom such as specialist training organisations; this would require postgraduate study.

## Our courses:

BA (HONS) CHILDREN AND INTEGRATED PROFESSIONAL CARE

BA (HONS) CONDUCTIVE EDUCATION

BA (HONS) EARLY CHILDHOOD STUDIES

BA (HONS) EARLY CHILDHOOD STUDIES (TOP-UP)

FDA EARLY YEARS

BSC (HONS) MATHEMATICS WITH SECONDARY EDUCATION WITH QUALIFIED TEACHER STATUS

BA (HONS) PRIMARY EDUCATION WITH QUALIFIED TEACHER STATUS

## PROFILE

**Verity Graham**

BA (Hons) Primary  
Education with QTS



"The School of Education is outstanding due to the work of the staff. Their high morale and eagerness to teach and be there for their students make it an enjoyable place to be. The facilities provided around the building are easily accessible and always up to date. The University's resources are widely accessible and the library takes into consideration students' exams and coursework deadlines.

"I have undertaken a placement in a primary school for each academic year. Each placement was at a different school in a different year group so I was able to experience a wide range of teaching. These placements are crucial to the course and I would not have been able to develop my skills and knowledge to such a high standard without that.

"I secured a full-time teaching job in April of my final year, ready to start in September. I hope to gain further experience in primary education in England before moving abroad to either Spain or France."

# ENGINEERING

Are you interested in how things work? Do you want to design the next generation of car or even get involved in our own motor racing team? Engineers need creativity, an eye for design and strong teamworking skills. Some are directly involved in manufacturing/processing and others provide support, but all create, design and innovate to transfer customers' needs into designs and products that work.

## Our courses:

BENG (HONS) AUTOMOTIVE ENGINEERING

MENG AUTOMOTIVE ENGINEERING

BENG (HONS) ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING

MENG ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING

BSC (HONS) ENTERPRISE INFORMATION SYSTEMS

BENG (HONS) MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

MENG MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

BSC (HONS) MOTORSPORTS TECHNOLOGY



## PROFILE

**Michael Carter**

BEng Automotive Engineering  
(sandwich)

Product Development Graduate – Body Engineering at Aston Martin Lagonda Ltd



“I had decided at college that I wanted to follow my passion for cars and motorcycles, and nationally there aren't that many universities that offer Automotive Engineering as a degree. When I saw that Birmingham City University offered a BEng in Automotive Engineering, I was immediately drawn to it.

“I undertook an industrial placement year because in today's job market, it is very difficult to stand out from the crowd. For my placement, I worked for Bentley Motors Ltd at their headquarters in Crewe as an Industrial Placement Trainee – Body Engineering. A placement year allowed me to demonstrate my competence to employers and gave me a vast amount of experience to draw from in interviews.

“I now hope to get involved with as many different aspects of the automotive business as possible and progress into a design engineering role with lots of responsibility on some of the world's finest sports cars.”

# ENGLISH

Have you got a passion for words? Do you love reading and writing? Our English courses give you the opportunity to study a wide range of topics including the history and development of the language and different kinds of literature – from romance to thrillers, tragedy to fantasy. English teaches you to write, think, research, explain, discuss and analyse.

## Our courses:

BA (HONS) CREATIVE WRITING WITH ENGLISH

BA (HONS) ENGLISH

BA (HONS) ENGLISH AND CREATIVE WRITING

BA (HONS) ENGLISH AND DRAMA

BA (HONS) ENGLISH AND MEDIA

BA (HONS) ENGLISH LITERATURE

BA (HONS) ENGLISH LITERATURE AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE STUDIES  
(JOINT HONOURS)

BA (HONS) ENGLISH LITERATURE WITH ENGLISH LANGUAGE STUDIES  
(MAJOR/MINOR)

BA (HONS) ENGLISH LANGUAGE WITH ENGLISH LITERATURE

FOUNDATION CERTIFICATE ENGLISH FOR ACADEMIC PURPOSES



## PROFILE

**Sarah Read**

BA (Hons) English  
Literature

English teacher and  
children's author



“On the English Literature course there was a huge range of modules to choose from. I absolutely loved the modules on Shakespeare, Critical Thinking and Creative Writing. The English Department hugely exceeded expectations as most of the sessions were carried out as seminars rather than lectures which was hugely appealing. I also enjoyed the fact that I was able to have regular one-to-one contact with my lecturers.

“Without my Literature degree I would not have been able to take the next step to become an English teacher! I'm currently working as an English teacher at Rendcomb College - an independent boarding school in Gloucestershire for students aged 11-18.

“I've been writing creatively for about 10 years, and recently had a book published by Austin Macauley Publishers. The book is called *Shadowlands* and it is part of a projected trilogy entitled 'The Descent into Chaos', which is aimed at teenage readers. I feel very lucky to have a book published, and I hope it will encourage some readers to regain their interest in reading.”

# FASHION, TEXTILES, INTERIOR AND THREE-DIMENSIONAL DESIGN

Do you want to be shaping the latest fashions people are wearing or the designs of their homes? These courses allow you to put your creativity into action, with opportunities to impress potential employers by putting your work on show – for example fashion design students get to exhibit at Graduate Fashion Week in London, which resulted in one of our students' dresses being worn by pop superstar Lady Gaga!

## **Our courses:**

BA (HONS) 3D DESIGNER MAKER

BA (HONS) DESIGN MANAGEMENT (TOP-UP)

BA (HONS) FASHION BUSINESS AND PROMOTION

BA (HONS) FASHION DESIGN

BA (HONS) FASHION DESIGN WITH DESIGN FOR PERFORMANCE

BA (HONS) FASHION DESIGN WITH FASHION ACCESSORIES

BA (HONS) FASHION DESIGN WITH FASHION COMMUNICATION

BA (HONS) FASHION DESIGN WITH GARMENT TECHNOLOGY

BA (HONS) FURNITURE AND LIFESTYLE PRODUCTS

BA (HONS) INTERIOR DESIGN

BA (HONS) PRODUCT DESIGN

BA (HONS) TEXTILE DESIGN

BA (HONS) TEXTILE DESIGN (CONSTRUCTED TEXTILES)

BA (HONS) TEXTILE DESIGN (EMBROIDERY)

BA (HONS) TEXTILE DESIGN (PRINTED TEXTILES AND SURFACE DESIGN)

BA (HONS) TEXTILE DESIGN (RETAIL MANAGEMENT)



## PROFILE

**Jordan Brocklehurst**  
BA (Hons) Product  
Design



"I enjoyed the learning process, inspired particularly by the previous experience lecturers had, which made what I was studying real and demonstrated various and exciting directions in which the degree could take me. Knowledgeable and passionate staff were strenuous and thorough in their teaching, resulting in a range of detailed and credible design solutions throughout the course.

"After graduating, I converted my garage into a workshop and began preparing to go freelance on a small scale from home. This was my plan until Matt Ward, my closest friend from the course, called me to join him at Scruffy Dog Productions Ltd, where my professional career really started.

"I'm most proud of a project I worked on for Thorpe Park. I was the lead designer behind the Fright Night maze, a live attraction at the park. Thousands of people have experienced adrenaline and terror inside something I designed, which gives me an enormous sense of pride."

# HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

This subject area doesn't just mean looking after sick people in hospitals. Although some courses are related to hands-on medical care, others deal with things such as caring for people in the local community or helping those with various disabilities cope with difficulties in their lives. While studying, you'll probably spend approximately half of your time on a placement - ensuring you are taught the knowledge and skills required, and gain confidence in your abilities.

## **Our courses:**

BSC (HONS) DIAGNOSTIC RADIOGRAPHY

CERTHE HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

FDSC HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

BSC (HONS) MIDWIFERY

BSC (HONS) MIDWIFERY SHORTENED PROGRAMME

BSC (HONS) NURSING ADULT

BSC (HONS) NURSING CHILD

BSC (HONS) NURSING LEARNING DISABILITY

BSC (HONS) NURSING MENTAL HEALTH

DIPHE OPERATING DEPARTMENT PRACTICE

BSC (HONS) PARAMEDIC SCIENCE

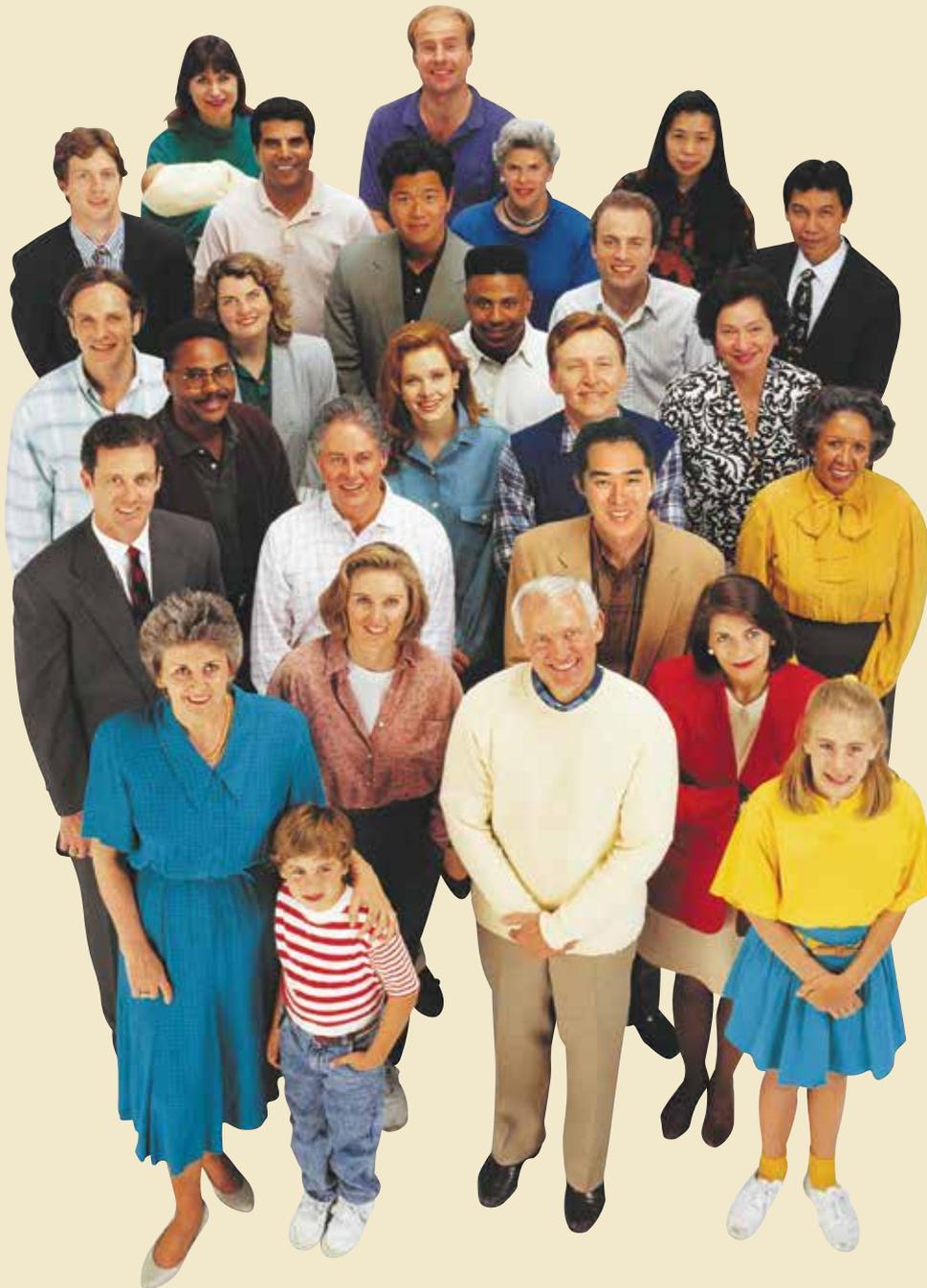
BSC (HONS) PUBLIC HEALTH

BSC (HONS) RADIOTHERAPY

FDSC REHABILITATION WORK (VISUAL IMPAIRMENT)

BSC (HONS) SOCIAL WORK

BSC (HONS) SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPY



## PROFILE

Alwyn Scott  
BSc (Hons) Adult  
Nursing



"I chose a career in adult nursing as I felt that it was something that a person should want to do; there is no more rewarding job than to help others. From my perspective, being dyslexic was a barrier; however the University gave me the confidence and resources to do well.

"I am currently a Junior Charge Nurse, Acute Cardiology at Papworth PPCI Heart Attack Centre. I am also currently studying for my MSc in Medical Education and am about to publish the second of three cardiology books, intended for junior doctors, nurses, paramedics, students and health care professionals.

"My studies at Birmingham City University gave me the inspiration to move past my dyslexia to succeed, but also to allow me to explore the new ideas that I had. The University is at the centre of a very diverse city where all multicultural communities can come together to learn and share experiences."

# JEWELLERY AND SILVERSMITHING

Birmingham is the centre of the UK's jewellery industry, and Birmingham School of Jewellery – part of the University – is based in the heart of the city's famous Jewellery Quarter. We offer courses specialising in jewellery design, gemmology (the study of gemstones) and horology (the study of watches and clocks).

## Our courses:

GEMMOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION CERTIFICATE/GEMMOLOGY DIPLOMA/GEMMOLOGY DIAMOND DIPLOMA

BSC (HONS) GEMMOLOGY AND JEWELLERY STUDIES

BA (HONS) HOROLOGY

CREATIVE SELF DEVELOPMENT JEWELLERY AND SILVERSMITHING

HND JEWELLERY AND SILVERSMITHING

BA (HONS) JEWELLERY AND SILVERSMITHING - DESIGN FOR INDUSTRY (TOP-UP)

BA (HONS) JEWELLERY DESIGN AND RELATED PRODUCTS

SCHOOL OF JEWELLERY SUMMER AND BESPOKE SHORT COURSES

## PROFILE

### Jack Row

BA (Hons) Jewellery and Silversmithing:  
Design for Industry,  
Designer of 'Architect'  
luxury pen collection



"I viewed several institutions but felt Birmingham had by far the best resources and the teaching staff, many of whom were or used to be practising goldsmiths, silversmiths and studio artists, meaning I could learn from tutors who had real world experience.

"I chose the School because I found it very forward-thinking but still connected to the craftsmanship and heritage of the trade, having the latest hi-tech equipment but also traditional tools and machinery. I also loved the listed building in which it is housed.

"As part of the course, we also got to take part in a number of live projects with diverse companies based in the Jewellery Quarter. Being able to visit these companies, interact and see how they operated were key experiences for our professional development."



# LAW

If you want to be a solicitor or barrister or give advice on legal matters, the courses in this section are for you. Can you see yourself standing before a judge and arguing points of law? Or perhaps you'd prefer to help people buy homes or deal with family or business law. Whichever aspect you're interested in, our courses can help you towards your chosen career.

## Our courses:

LLB (HONS) LAW

LLB (HONS) LAW WITH AMERICAN LEGAL STUDIES

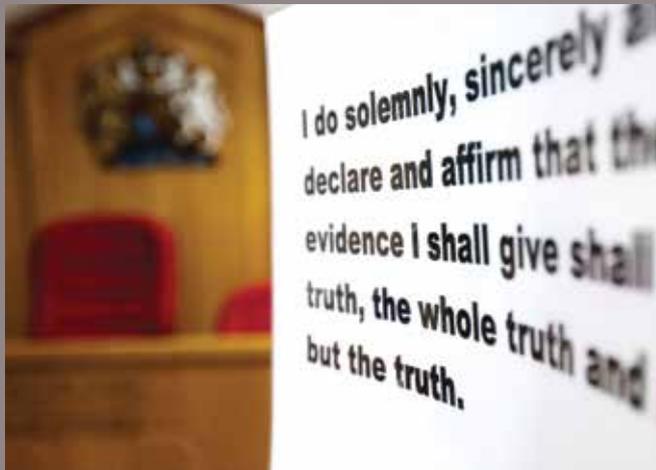
LLB (HONS) LAW WITH BUSINESS LAW

LLB (HONS) LAW WITH CRIMINOLOGY

LLB (HONS) LAW (GRADUATE ENTRY)

LLB (HONS) LAW (RECOGNISED BY THE BAR COUNCIL OF INDIA)

HND LEGAL STUDIES



## PROFILE

Luke Browning

LLB (Hons) Law



“The main factors that attracted me to the LLB Law degree at Birmingham City University were the focus on employability and the recognition from the University that a degree alone is not enough to get a job. The University gives its students the opportunity to undertake legal placement opportunities either in the UK or the USA, which is rare and unique for a degree course.

“The Law School has a range of materials and resources at its disposal. The School uses mock courtrooms which are used for mooting and debating. This enables the students to get a feel of a courtroom and what is expected when advocating in court.

“The work load for the LLB Law degree is challenging, but there is always a tutor on hand to help. There is a real sense of belonging which can be seen throughout the student body. Mentoring schemes are offered from the older and more experienced students on the course and the Mooting Society gives a chance to compete against other universities in national competitions.”

# MEDIA AND MULTIMEDIA TECHNOLOGY

All aspects of the media touch our daily lives - from the radio shows we listen to during breakfast to the websites we use to stay in touch with our friends. As the technology behind the media becomes more sophisticated, so must those who work with it - and this is what makes media such an exciting area to study and work in.

## Our courses:

BSC (HONS) DIGITAL BROADCAST TECHNOLOGY

BSC (HONS) DIGITAL MEDIA TECHNOLOGY

BSC (HONS) FILM PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY

BSC (HONS) FILM TECHNOLOGY AND VISUAL EFFECTS

BA (HONS) INTERACTIVE ENTERTAINMENT (DIGITAL ART)

BSC (HONS) INTERACTIVE ENTERTAINMENT (DIGITAL MARKETING)

BSC (HONS) INTERACTIVE ENTERTAINMENT (GAMES DEVELOPMENT)

HND MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION

BA (HONS) MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION

BA (HONS) MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION (EVENT AND EXHIBITION INDUSTRIES)

BA (HONS) MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION (JOURNALISM)

BA (HONS) MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION (MEDIA PHOTOGRAPHY)

BA (HONS) MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION (MUSIC INDUSTRIES)

BA (HONS) MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION (NEW MEDIA)

BA (HONS) MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION (PUBLIC RELATIONS)

BA (HONS) MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION (RADIO)

BA (HONS) MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION (TELEVISION)

BSC (HONS) MUSIC TECHNOLOGY

BSC (HONS) SOUND ENGINEERING AND PRODUCTION



## PROFILE

**James Gregory**  
BA (Hons) Media and  
Communication  
(Radio)



"I chose Birmingham City University as it had an excellent reputation, being listed as one of the top universities for Media Studies. Studying the Media and Communication course at the University taught me all the technical skills and gave me the credibility needed to 'get in the door' in the radio industry.

"I loved the experience opportunities that the course offered, especially being involved with Scratch Radio, the University's student radio station. The most beneficial opportunity for me was the recruitment drive that Heart West Midlands ran during my first few weeks at the University. This enabled me to work within various roles for the company throughout my time at the University as I was able to fit the work experience around my studies.

"Just before Christmas 2011, a job was advertised for the role of Station Multimedia Producer at Heart Cambridgeshire. I applied and was invited to the interview, and was offered the job in early January. I started work the day after my graduation."

# MUSIC

Whether you make it yourself, go to a gig or just walk past a blasting car stereo, music is a part of everyday life. There's more work for professional musicians than ever before and if you're interested in this type of career, studying at our specialist music school, Birmingham Conservatoire, may interest you. We also have other more technical courses in music technology and sound production.

## Our courses:

BMUS (HONS)

BMUS (HONS) JAZZ

BA (HONS) MUSIC BUSINESS

BSC (HONS) MUSIC TECHNOLOGY

BMUS POPULAR MUSIC

HND POPULAR MUSIC PRACTICE

BA (HONS) POPULAR MUSIC (TOP-UP)



## PROFILE

**Laura Mvula**

BMus (Hons)  
Composition

MOBO award-winning  
singer-songwriter



"My A Level music teacher suggested I do the course because he thought I'd excel in writing my own music. I knew a few ex-students who spoke highly of the course and I wanted to be where I felt there was a musical buzz – the Conservatoire seemed to be the best place to surround yourself with music and musicians.

"When I arrived at Birmingham Conservatoire, I was very shy and really unsure of where I wanted to go musically, and what direction I wanted to go in. Being around a lot of excited musicians who were happy to be doing what they're doing was an amazing experience.

"I still compose all of my own tracks in the first instance so whenever I write a new track I'm accessing the skills and processes I learnt whilst studying at the Conservatoire. The course content, structure and even just being in the environment have all affected how I approach writing and making music – something that I hope comes across in my songs."

# SOCIAL SCIENCES

Social sciences are a group of academic subject areas that study human aspects of the world. Psychology looks at human behaviour, and the reasons behind how and why people behave, function or think in a particular way, while sociology deals with how society works – how people live together and how they might conflict.

## Our courses:

BSC (HONS) PSYCHOLOGY

BSC (HONS) PSYCHOLOGY WITH CRIMINOLOGY

BSC (HONS) PSYCHOLOGY WITH SOCIOLOGY

BA (HONS) SOCIOLOGY

BA (HONS) SOCIOLOGY AND CRIMINOLOGY

BA (HONS) PUBLIC SOCIOLOGY



## PROFILE

Lamin Jassey

BA (Hons) Public  
Sociology



“Birmingham City University’s Sociology Department is one of the best in the West Midlands. The strong alumni association, the career advice and availability for graduate employability for both past and present students were key motives for me to choose the University as a place to study.

“The staff and lecturers at the University were fantastic. They were always ready to help students, emails were responded to promptly and I felt very comfortable discussing my problems with staff on a wide range of issues.

“I left the University with a deep understanding of social problems and social policy. I believe that the course transformed my world view. The course improved my research, campaign and advocacy skills. It further expanded my taste for activism and desire to change society for the better.”



Here are some of the new experiences you could enjoy at Birmingham City University:

#### **Students' Union**

The Students' Union is run by a group of student 'executives' who are voted in by the rest of the students. These people help run all the different clubs and societies that you could join from the usual sports to the more adventurous snow and surfing club! Societies represent different faiths, ethnic groups, music, drama and dance interests and community involvement. There are also societies that link directly to the subject you study, such as our Mooting Society for law students, which allows them to practise their debating skills in front of real legal professionals. And if there isn't already a society covering your area of interest, the Union will help you start one!

#### **Student Ambassadors**

Do you like the idea of sharing your experiences of university with the next generation of students? Our Student Ambassadors have a passion for the University that they would like to share with other young people from across the community, and support a wide range of events such as school and college visits, masterclasses, careers fairs and summer schools. Student Ambassadors receive full training from our Education Liaison team.

#### **Mentoring**

Our student mentors work with individual school and college students to aid their progression to higher education. The mentors meet with their 'mentees' on a weekly basis to give help and support either one-to-one or in small groups. They are particularly concerned with giving direction to individuals who may have the potential to go to university but, for whatever reason, may not ordinarily consider it as an option.

#### **Scratch Radio**

Scratch Radio is the only joint student and community radio station in the country, broadcasting 24/7 from new studios at our City Centre Campus. Everyone at Scratch is a volunteer, from the presenters through to the management team, and anyone from the University or the local community who wants to get involved is very welcome to do so – whatever their age or experience. The station has a fully-equipped studio with

## WHAT ELSE CAN I DO?

University isn't just about studying – it will give you the opportunity to get involved in a wide range of new and exciting activities to broaden your horizons, try new experiences and gain the skills employers value.

editing facilities, and office space shared with other media groups.

### **Tiger TV**

Interested in a career in television? Tiger TV is the latest member of the Union's media family. Run by students for students, to inform about all the latest events, activities and 'happenings' in and around Birmingham City University. Our volunteer presenters, directors and cameramen help to produce regular news bulletins, keeping the wider student community in touch.

### **Sport and fitness**

Whether it's for fun, fitness or even top-level competition, you'll find something here you'll love, from basketball to boarding, rugby to rock climbing - all at a really affordable cost. The £8.5 million Doug Ellis Sports Centre houses a sports hall big enough to accommodate eight badminton courts, an 80-station fitness suite, dance and aerobic studios, and an all-weather pitch. The Pavilion is a £4.5 million, 18-hectare facility, with 12 pitches and 18 heated changing rooms. In partnership with Aston University, we also have a multi-gym, swimming pool, and fitness and holistic classes.

### **Work experience**

Work experience is really important because employers are no longer just looking for a good degree - they are also looking for skills such as problem-solving, time management and communication, which can be gained through real-life experience. Spending some time with a prospective employer can also help you build valuable contacts as well as deciding whether that is really the career you want! The University enjoys close relationships with many local employers, and we can help students with finding work placements and internships, as well as paid part-time work. We also have our own in-house student employment agency, which gives you the chance to earn money while you study and gain valuable experience of applying for work.

### **Course/faculty reps**

The Student Representation Scheme ensures that students on every course across the University are able to have their voices heard on the issues that matter to them. Student Representation is a partnership between the Students' Union and the University, and on these pages you can learn more about the support and rewards the Union offers to all our Reps, as well as news and updates for Reps and staff members.





# GAINING THE RIGHT EXPERIENCE

Getting into HE isn't just about getting the right grades or wanting a particular lifestyle. When you apply to HE institutions you must show that you're a person with a wide range of interests and experiences.

It is essential that you start using your spare time to try new things so you can prove that you are the sort of person who will enhance the student body!

Here are some ideas to get you started...

**Get a part-time job.** Try your local restaurants, shops and supermarkets - they're always recruiting and many people have started their careers that way. You pick up loads of valuable skills and get paid for it.

**Show that you are committed to bringing that low grade up** by enrolling at a Saturday school. Try getting more involved at school by helping out at parents' evening or the school fete.

**Pick up a musical instrument.** Joining a band is a great way to meet people, and performing live to an audience will really boost your confidence.

**Be a young leader.** You could help develop activities for the Scouts, Guides, Beavers, Rainbows, Cubs or Brownies. [www.scoutbase.org.uk](http://www.scoutbase.org.uk) or [www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk)

**Be inspired and develop your skills** by getting involved in one of the many volunteering opportunities available in your area. [www.vinspired.com](http://www.vinspired.com)

**Take part in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award.** Get involved in the community and end each stage with a trek and overnight camp. But be warned, you'll have to carry a backpack!

**Be a sport and join a team.** By being part of a sports team, like football, netball, hockey or swimming, you can meet new friends, develop teamwork skills and keep fit. Joining a team at school or asking at your local leisure centre is the perfect way to get involved.

**Get some real life experience** that might even help you choose your career. You could be an army cadet or join St John's Ambulance. [www.armycadets.com](http://www.armycadets.com)  
[www.sja.org.uk](http://www.sja.org.uk)

**Ever thought about spending some time away from home?** America has loads of summer camps to choose from and they love recruiting Brits. You can be a chef, cleaner, gardener, coach, activity leader... the list is endless. [www.acacamps.org](http://www.acacamps.org)



# ACTION PLAN

Here's a general action plan showing the progression from your current studies to your dream job.

## **SELECT OPTIONS FOR GCSES (YEAR 9)**

Ensure that the subjects you select are either ones you will enjoy and be more likely to gain good grades in, or subjects that will help you move towards future courses/careers.

## **GCSE SUCCESS (YEARS 10 AND 11)**

You should aim to achieve five A\*- C grades so that you have the opportunity of entering FE/HE. This will involve a consistent effort over the two years: make sure coursework and exams are thoroughly prepared for. Remember to check the dates of your exams and try to construct a revision timetable to prevent you cramming your revision.

## **SELECT FE COURSES (YEAR 11)**

Research which FE courses are available to you and decide where would be best to study them (this could be in an FE college or a sixth form). Look at the subject and grade requirements needed to get onto the course(s). If you're selecting a different college try and visit it to see if you will be happy there. Remember you may have the opportunity to do courses that were not available at GCSE so research is very important. There may also be work-related courses and apprenticeship schemes available to you.

## **FE COURSES (ONE OR TWO YEARS DEPENDING ON THE COURSE TAKEN)**

Once again you should have a view on where you want the course to lead and have an idea of the grades and experience that will benefit your later choices. Research careers you may wish to pursue and investigate the ways of entering them. This could mean that you will need to go to a university or HE college or it could mean getting a job and working your way up to the position you want.

## **SELECT HE COURSES (MID SEPT - MID JAN, DEPENDING ON THE INSTITUTION AND COURSE)**

Apply to universities/colleges for courses you are interested in and will lead you to the career you want. There may also be work-related courses and apprenticeship schemes available to you.

## **JOB/CAREER SUCCESS**

This will involve job hunting, application forms and interviews. Research is very important here; the more you know about the job, the company and the position you are applying for, the more likely you are to be successful. Practicing interview techniques may also help you to feel more relaxed and appear more confident. Having a tailored CV already prepared will also be invaluable.



# DISABLED STUDENTS

We welcome applications from students who have a disability or a specific learning difficulty, such as dyslexia. We're committed to treating everyone fairly and we'll do our best to provide you with any support you need. We will discuss your needs with you and make sure you get the support that will help you get the best out of your time at university.

## PLEASE CONTACT:

Disability Services Team, Student Services,  
First Floor Baker Building, Birmingham City  
University, City North Campus, Perry Barr,  
Birmingham B42 2SU

E: [disability@bcu.ac.uk](mailto:disability@bcu.ac.uk)  
T: 0121 331 5588  
F: 0121 331 6569  
Minicom: 0121 331 5128

We embrace diversity and value our students as our greatest assets.

The support for disabled students is comprised of the Disability Support Team and Mental Health Advisers. We offer:

- A confidential appointment and drop-in service
- Screening, full assessment and support for students with specific learning difficulties (like dyslexia)
- Advice and guidance to your faculty about the adjustments you will need for exams, assessments, teaching sessions and course materials and information
- Advice on and support with applications for Disabled Students' Allowances (DSAs) or other funds
- Advice for unfunded disabled students (such as international students) on funding disability support
- Study support workers, eg note-takers, mentors or study skills support via our Personal Assistance Scheme (PAS)
- Advice about enabling equipment and software
- Information about campus accessibility, car parking and many more individual support requirements
- Advice, information and support if you have concerns about your own or someone else's mental health and wellbeing
- Suggestions about referral resources, eg counselling services, informal support network.

If you would like to find out more about studying here we will be happy to answer your questions and arrange a visit. For more information, visit our website at [www.bcu.ac.uk/student-services/disability](http://www.bcu.ac.uk/student-services/disability).

# JARGON BUSTER

Here are some words and abbreviations that you may not have come across before. You may see them used in this guide.

TERM	MEANING	EXAMPLE OR MORE INFORMATION
<b>A Level</b>	Advanced Level	General Certificate of Education usually taken during FE and after GCSEs, normally taken over two years. Consists of six units of work.
<b>AS Level</b>	Advanced Subsidiary Level	The first half of an A Level, normally taking one year. Consists of three units of work.
<b>Academic</b>	Study not aimed at a specific job or career	Subjects like English and chemistry are usually referred to as academic.
<b>Academic staff</b>		Teachers and lecturers within a university.
<b>Admission officer/tutor</b>		The person or persons responsible for admitting students on to a course.
<b>BA</b>	Bachelor of Arts	A degree in a subject like English, art or advertising.
<b>Bachelor's degree</b>		The formal award a student receives when they successfully complete their first university degree programme. The Master's comes after this level.
<b>BEd</b>	Bachelor of Education	This is a degree leading to a teaching qualification (not to be confused with a PGCE). Not all teaching qualifications are BEd.
<b>BEng</b>	Bachelor of Engineering	An engineering degree.
<b>BSc</b>	Bachelor of Science	A degree in a subject like chemistry, computing or quantity surveying.
<b>BTEC</b>	Business and Technology Education Council	Post-16 qualification.
<b>Cache Diploma</b>		This course is designed for those who wish to enter the child care or education sectors. It is recognised as being equivalent to three A Levels.
<b>CertHE</b>	Certificate of Higher Education	A HE qualification.
<b>DipHE</b>	Diploma of Higher Education	A HE qualification (higher than CertHE).
<b>Faculty</b>		A group of related departments and/of courses in a university.
<b>FdA</b>	Foundation Degree (Arts)	This is a two-year course.
<b>FdSc</b>	Foundation Degree (Science)	This is a two-year course.
<b>FT</b>	Full-time	This refers to the way a course can be studied.
<b>FE</b>	Further Education	Education after the age of 16.
<b>GNVQ</b>	General National Vocational Qualification	This is an old term, now renamed vocational A Level.
<b>Graduate</b>		A term referring to someone who has achieved a degree.
<b>Halls</b>	Halls of Residence	The term used to describe student accommodation at university.

<b>TERM</b>	<b>MEANING</b>	<b>EXAMPLE OR MORE INFORMATION</b>
<b>HE</b>	Higher Education	Education usually after the age of 18. This tends to refer more to the type of qualification that will be gained, eg a degree.
<b>Hons</b>	Honours	The (Hons) after your BA, BSc, etc. stands for degree with Honours.
<b>HNC</b>	Higher National Certificate	A HE qualification.
<b>HND</b>	Higher National Diploma	A HE qualification (higher than HNC).
<b>LLB</b>	Legum Baccalaureus (Latin)	This refers to a Bachelor of Law degree (although you can have a BA Law degree).
<b>MA</b>	Master of Arts	A further degree in an arts subject such as English, art or advertising. This is the next level after a BA degree.
<b>Modular</b>		A programme of study made up of a mixture of related or unrelated subjects.
<b>MSc</b>	Master of Science	A further degree in a science subject such as chemistry, computing or quantity surveying.
<b>ND</b>	National Diploma	A HE qualification.
<b>Postgraduate</b>		A term referring to someone studying for a further degree after gaining an initial degree qualification.
<b>PGCE</b>	Postgraduate Certificate in Education	A further HE course that leads to Qualified Teacher Status (QTS).
<b>PT</b>	Part-time	This refers to the way a course can be studied.
<b>QTS</b>	Qualified Teacher Status	The BEd, BA (with QTS) and PGCE courses lead towards this, which means a graduate will be recognised as a teacher.
<b>RN</b>	Registered Nurse	
<b>Sandwich course</b>		A term referring to a course that includes a placement year within the workplace. Usually consists of four years in total.
<b>Student body</b>		The name given to a group of students who study at University.
<b>UCAS</b>	University and College Admission Service	The organisation that centrally administers the HE application process.
<b>Undergraduate</b>		A HE student who has not yet completed a Bachelor's degree, or a student studying towards a Bachelor's degree.
<b>VCE</b>	Vocational Certificate of Education	Equivalent to A Level. Courses can be three-unit (equivalent to an AS Level), six-unit (a single A Level) or 12-unit (two A Levels).
<b>Vocational</b>	Leading to a job or skills relevant to a career	A photography course can be considered to be a vocational course. Some universities offer vocational courses in a variety of subjects.



# FIND OUT MORE

There are a huge number of sources of information about higher education, including:

- Careers advisers
- Friends
- Local universities
- Teachers
- Parents
- Local further education colleges.

## OPEN DAYS

To really get a feel for life at the University, there is nothing better than visiting in person – and Open Days allow you to do just that.

At Birmingham City University, we have Open Days\* in June, October and November, and one in August aimed at those applying through Clearing. You can check out the latest dates on our website at [www.bcu.ac.uk/opendays](http://www.bcu.ac.uk/opendays). Some of our faculties also have their own Open Days, details of which can also be found online.

You can chat to our staff and students in person, listen to a talk from our Vice-Chancellor, view our fantastic facilities, learn more about the Students' Union or take a tour of our accommodation.

\*Please note that Birmingham Conservatoire is not open during the main University Open Days. More information about our specialist Conservatoire Open Days is available on the website.

Remember everyone will have his/her own opinions on FE/HE and what is best for you. The main thing is to speak to a variety of people and then make up your own mind.

## VISIT DAYS

If you have already applied to study with us, attending an Applicant Visit Day will give you the perfect opportunity to meet staff and students and view our excellent facilities, while gaining a better appreciation of what it's like to be a student here. Even if you have already attended an Open Day, attending an Applicant Visit Day will give you a more in-depth picture of the course and how to make the most of it.



## You may also find the following websites useful:

### **Student finance:**

[www.gov.uk/student-finance](http://www.gov.uk/student-finance) - information on student finance.

### **Apprenticeships:**

[www.apprenticeships.org.uk](http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk) - information on a variety of apprenticeship options.

### **Courses and Careers UK:**

[www.courses-careers.com](http://www.courses-careers.com) - advice on everything from choosing a course or university to paying for and affording it.

### **NUS Online:**

[www.nus.org.uk](http://www.nus.org.uk) - the National Union of Students provides advice and guidance for education, finance and careers.

### **Conservatoires UK Admissions Service (CUKAS):**

[www.cukas.ac.uk](http://www.cukas.ac.uk) - information, advice and applications.

### **Universities and College Admission Service (UCAS):**

[www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com) - applications, course and university information and advice.

### **Birmingham City University:**

[www.bcu.ac.uk](http://www.bcu.ac.uk) - information on the University, its courses and entry requirements.

### **gov.uk:**

[www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) - Government advice on FE and HE courses.

### **Law Careers Advice Network:**

[www.juniorlawyers.lawsociety.org.uk](http://www.juniorlawyers.lawsociety.org.uk) and/or [www.law.ac.uk](http://www.law.ac.uk) - information and guidance for those wishing to pursue a career in law.

## NEXT STEP

As you move on and look at professions and the qualifications you need to enter them, you will need to check out the main University prospectus. This will give more detail about your chosen course, the grades you will need to get onto it and the modules you will study. Often the courses can seem the same but the content may vary dramatically. Make sure the course covers the material you want and that is of interest to you.



**Disability:** Birmingham City University's Disability Support Team aims to enable disabled students and students with specific learning difficulties (such as dyslexia) to make the most of their time at university. We regard disclosure of a disability as a positive thing and think it is important that students feel they can tell us about any disability they may have so we can support them. For more information on the disability support available at Birmingham City University please call **0121 331 5588**, or email **disability@bcu.ac.uk**.

**Equal Opportunities:** Birmingham City University promotes equality of opportunity in respect of every aspect of its provision. University policy and practice will seek to provide an environment that is free from discrimination against students, staff and others. The University and its staff will ensure that all prospective students are treated solely on the basis of their merits, abilities and potential.

The University will seek to prevent discrimination on the grounds of race, colour, ethnic origin, nationality, religious belief, gender, sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family circumstances, citizenship, social and economic status, or any other irrelevant individual differences. For full details of the University's Equal Opportunities Policy please visit **[www.bcu.ac.uk/about-us/corporate-information/equality-and-diversity](http://www.bcu.ac.uk/about-us/corporate-information/equality-and-diversity)**.

**Legal Disclaimer:** This information is intended as a general guide to Birmingham City University courses and forms no part of any contract between you and the University. Terms and conditions apply; for full details please see our prospectus or visit **[www.bcu.ac.uk/disclaimers](http://www.bcu.ac.uk/disclaimers)**.

**Employability:** Birmingham City University is committed to preparing students for successful employability and professional careers. We have an innovative approach to employability that will help you obtain an interesting and well-paid graduate job. Read our Employability Statement to find out more: **[www.bcu.ac.uk/courses/employability-statement](http://www.bcu.ac.uk/courses/employability-statement)**.





**0121 331 5595**  
**[www.bcu.ac.uk](http://www.bcu.ac.uk)**

Published March 2015