



# UNIFEST 2023

## A HIGHER EDUCATION EXPERIENCE

Year 10  
Summer  
School





# WHAT IS UNIFEST?

**UniFest Summer Schools take place at six universities across the West Midlands. UniFest gives you the chance to spend time exploring university life, meeting students and staff, making friends and having an action packed, fun experience.**

## WHO IS UNIFEST FOR?

UniFest is for students in Year 10 at state-funded secondary schools in the West Midlands who are from backgrounds and communities that are less likely to consider university as an option. To apply for a place, you will need the support of your school and the consent of your parents or carers, and you should be able to answer “Yes” to at least one of the following:

- I live in an area where not many young people go to university
- I am a young carer
- I have a disability or learning difficulty
- I am in the care of my local authority
- I receive Free School Meals/ FSM6/Pupil Premium
- My parents or carers did not go to university

## WHAT WILL I DO?

That depends on which UniFest event you choose. Some explore university life and study in general, and others focus on certain career or study options. All UniFest events include lots of hands-on sessions and a fun-packed programme of social activities.



## WHAT'S THE CATCH?

There is no catch. UniFest is funded by universities and schools and is totally free of charge. For residential UniFest events, meals, accommodation and activities are all paid for (although you may want to bring a little pocket money with you). The universities will help you plan how to get to and from events.

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**The team made us feel really comfortable and we got a really good feel as to what Uni could be like.**

## HOW DO I GET INVOLVED?

You will need to complete an online application form telling us about you and your career interests. Your parents or carers will need to complete parts of the form, and your school will need to approve your application. You can access the application form by visiting [www.aimhigherwm.ac.uk/unifest](http://www.aimhigherwm.ac.uk/unifest).



## WHAT HAPPENS IF THERE ARE MORE APPLICANTS THAN PLACES?

UniFest is very popular, and there are often more applicants than places. We ask for information about your family background and advise you to choose several events so that we can offer places as fairly as possible. If you have any questions about eligibility, you can contact Aimhigher:

**[aimhigher@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:aimhigher@contacts.bham.ac.uk)**

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**It helped improve my confidence massively and created lasting friendships. I miss it already.**

A close-up photograph of three teenagers smiling. A boy in the center is looking towards the camera, flanked by two girls who are also smiling. The lighting is warm and natural.

# STEPS TO UNIFEST

## 1. APPLY

**(NOVEMBER 2022 TO MARCH 2023)**

Talk to your parents/carers and show them this Directory. They will need to agree to your application and give us information about their education and work background (see “Who is UniFest for?”).

Think about your interests and future plans. Look at the events in this Directory and the subject areas they cover. If you have a clear idea of the career you want to follow, a specialist event might be right for you. If you don't have specific career in mind yet, a more general event will give you the chance to try different subject areas. Check out the universities' websites and ask your teachers about it. Do they think going to UniFest will help you? Perhaps they know some older students in your school who went to UniFest last year and could tell you more about it? Either way, you will need your school to support your application, so the sooner you ask, the better!

To apply, complete the online application form with your parent or carer and let your teacher know that you are applying. Don't forget to make a note of dates of your selected events and keep them free! Apply by visiting [www.aimhigherwm.ac.uk/unifest](http://www.aimhigherwm.ac.uk/unifest).

We will send you an email confirming that we have received your application. We will contact you if there is any information missing or if you have any additional support needs.

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**It was a really fun experience meeting people.**

## 2. RESULT!

**(APRIL 2023)**

If you are offered a place, you will be contacted in April 2023. We will tell you which of your choices you are going to and give you the contact details of the university staff planning your visit. Make sure you tell your parents/carers and your teacher straight away so that they don't plan anything that clashes with your UniFest experience! If your application is not successful, we will write to you with the reasons and provide our contact details if you would like to request more feedback.

### 3. GET READY

**(APRIL TO JUNE 2023)**

Your host university will be in touch with further information about the event and to ask if you need any special arrangements to look after you during your stay. They will tell you more about travel arrangements and meeting points. You will also be provided with the contact details of people you can talk to if you have any queries in the run up to your UniFest experience.

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**It was a great experience and it has changed my future career aspirations.**

### 4. GO!

**(JULY 2023)**

UniFest begins, with events taking place throughout July.





**STEM**

**RESIDENTIAL**

**LOCATION**

**Aston University  
Aston Triangle  
Birmingham  
B4 7ET**

**DATES**

**Wednesday 12th  
- Friday 14th  
July 2023**

### WHAT WILL I DO?

Explore the exciting study and career opportunities that Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) have to offer! UniFest 2023 at Aston University will give you the chance to visit the campus, participate in STEM subject taster sessions and receive information and advice towards your future career aspirations. Our residential event means that you will stay for two nights in on-campus accommodation, which includes a private bedroom and bathroom. As well as this, our evening social activities will enable you to meet new people, make new friends and develop your confidence.

### WHAT WILL I LEARN?

You can hear about first-hand experiences from Aston students and staff, gaining insight into what life at university is like. In developing your knowledge of higher education, you will learn about why people go to university, the variety of courses available and how these can be applied to future careers in the STEM industry.

### HOW WILL I GET THERE?

Based in Birmingham city centre, there are many transport options available for you to make your own way to and from the Aston University Campus. When you arrive in the morning of the first day, there will be student ambassadors located all around campus and ready to show to you to the Main Building reception. Financial support is available for travel costs and details of this will be confirmed as the event date approaches.



**It has helped me realise what life at university would be like and furthered my aspirations.**

# **SCHOOL OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

## **RESIDENTIAL**

## **LOCATION**

**City Centre Campus:**  
**Parkside building**  
**Birmingham City**  
**University**  
**5 Cardigan Street**  
**Birmingham**  
**B4 7BD**

**City Centre Campus**  
**(Halls of Residence):**  
**University Locks**  
**50 Curzon Street**  
**Birmingham**  
**B4 7JX**

## **DATES**

**Wednesday 12th**  
**- Friday 14th**  
**July 2023**

## **WHAT WILL I DO?**

Join us on this summer school programme where you will understand how the built environment can be the solution to many of the challenges a changing climate presents us with. You will learn about energy efficiency, sustainable place-making, active travel and inclusive neighbourhoods and you will have the opportunity to devise your own solutions to the challenges ahead. You'll see what Birmingham City University is like, get to speak with university students and staff and receive careers advice and guidance. For off-campus events on Wednesday and Thursday evening, there will be social activities for attendees to take part in, before staying in our halls of residence (University Locks) for two nights.

## **WHAT WILL I LEARN?**

The programme will involve a series of engaging academic workshops, exploring how the homes we live in and the buildings that we work in add to global greenhouse gas emissions. Academic staff and student ambassadors will teach you more about their university experiences, the content of courses and how these degrees can be applied to relevant careers in the industry.

You will learn more about university and higher education, gaining insight into what life is like as a university student. You will also learn what it could be like to study a property development and planning course.

## **HOW WILL I GET THERE?**

You will be asked to arrive and depart from University Locks student accommodation at our City Centre Campus. Arrival will be in the morning of Wednesday 12 July and departure will be Friday 14 July. University staff and student ambassadors will meet and chaperone attendees at arrival and departure points/times.

Parents and carers will be contacted in advance of the residential visit to confirm if they will be dropping off/collecting you, or if you require alternative transport. Parents and carers will be contacted to share any additional requirements in advance of the visit, therefore any accessibility requirements will be considered in travel arrangements.



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**The team made us feel really comfortable and we got a really good feel as to what university could be like.**





**Newman  
University**  
BIRMINGHAM

## CREATIVE CHANGE

### RESIDENTIAL

### LOCATION

**Newman University  
Genners Lane  
Bartley Green  
Birmingham  
B32 3NT**

### DATES

**Friday 7th -  
Sunday 9th  
July 2023**

### WHAT WILL I DO?

If you're passionate about using your voice and enjoy writing or performance, then Creative Change is the summer school for you! You will spend three days at Newman University with the amazing humanities team. You will have the opportunity to develop your writing and creative skills and explore ways in which using your voice can change perspectives. You'll get to meet a lot of like-minded young people and speak to academics and current students.

Each day we will have fun activities planned in the evening, so you can unwind and socialise with the group. Discover the campus and what Newman has to offer with our campus tours and talks around student life – there will be plenty of food, drinks and giveaways too, maybe even a quiz or two! Challenge yourselves and our staff with your perspectives and questions (which is a big part of university life).

### WHAT WILL I LEARN?

You'll learn what it's like to study a creative degree at university and the careers which they can lead to. You will gain techniques that will improve your skills in writing, performing and production. These skills will help prepare you for HE courses in Applied Writing, Creative Writing, Drama, Media, and Journalism.

### HOW WILL I GET THERE?

If you're travelling independently or via public transport, arrangements can be made for you to meet Newman's student ambassadors at the central point of New Street station. We will then travel directly to campus. We will be on hand to guide and direct you if you will be travelling to campus independently or getting dropped off by parents/carers.



# PRACTICAL UNIVERSITY PATHWAYS

## NON-RESIDENTIAL

### LOCATION

**McIntyre House  
2 Holland Street  
Birmingham B3 1PW**

### DATES

**Wednesday 12th  
- Friday 14th  
July 2023**

### WHAT WILL I DO?

This non-residential summer school will give you real-life experience of what it's like attending a vocational university, with hands-on activities and sessions to get stuck in with. We'll explore a range of different course areas to help you decide what you enjoy and whether learning in a more vocational way is right for you!

We'll explore a range of subject areas to give you a taster in the courses we offer and specialise in, such as Computing, Engineering, Food, Sport, Business, Health and more. You'll get to meet lecturers, take part in sessions and have a look around the excellent facilities as well as having the opportunity to speak to student ambassadors who can help guide you with your next steps.

We'll also explore what university is like, exploring commuting, budgeting, student finance and the realities of what student life is actually like.

### WHAT WILL I LEARN?

Through your timetable and group activities, you will understand what it's like studying at a vocational university and whether it is the right fit for your learning style and career aspirations. You'll also learn about the range of subject areas you can study.

You'll gain insight into what it's like to live at home while studying by attending this non-residential summer school, plus you'll find out more about university in general and explore whether it's a future option for you.

### HOW WILL I GET THERE?

You will travel to and from campus each day. You can be dropped off at McIntyre House or arrive by public transport.

We will have staff available to escort you from public transport points including: Birmingham New Street (trains) and Colmore Row (bus). All reasonable travel costs will be reimbursed with proof of receipt.

If you are travelling by car, there is parking available at The Link for drop-off only. Your parents/carers will be able to claim back the mileage for your travel by car.



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**I enjoyed everything  
and the whole  
experience has  
boosted my  
confidence.**



UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM

# YOUR FUTURE, YOUR CHOICE

RESIDENTIAL

LOCATION

University of  
Birmingham  
Edgbaston  
Birmingham  
B15 2TT

DATES

Wednesday 19th  
– Friday 21st  
July 2023

## WHAT WILL I DO?

Are you interested in going to university, but not sure what you want to study? Then come along to the University of Birmingham's, Your Future, Your Choice Summer School to find out what possibilities await you!

From staying in student halls of residence to attending university workshops, you will experience life as a university student. Our academic staff will deliver fun, engaging and eye-opening sessions from a wide range of subjects that you can study at the University of Birmingham.

University life isn't just about studying – it's about having lots of fun too. There will be a fun-filled social programme for the evenings too. Whilst you're with us, you will be looked after by our student ambassadors, who are all current students at the university. They will be on hand to guide you around campus, make sure you settle in and, most importantly, answer any questions you may have on life at university.

## WHAT WILL I LEARN?

You will gain an insight into student life, including independent learning, and will have your questions answered about all things 'university' – you may even decide on a subject you'd like to study!

As more jobs require higher level qualifications, you will also learn about the transferable skills that employers will be looking for in the future. Summer schools offer a great opportunity for you to grow in confidence, gain independence and make lots of new friends!

## HOW WILL I GET THERE?

You will need to make your own way to the university. Student ambassadors will be on hand to meet you at our very own train station, University (Birmingham), and at the designated drop-off point for those travelling by car or bus. All reasonable travel costs will be reimbursed with proof of receipt.



University  
of Worcester

## THE MIND OF A CRIMINAL

**NON-RESIDENTIAL**

### LOCATION

University of  
Worcester  
Farrier St  
Worcester  
WR1 3BZ.

### DATES

Sunday 2nd -  
Tuesday 4th  
July 2023

### WHAT WILL I DO?

This exciting summer school will give you the opportunity to experience what it is like being a student at university by taking part in sessions on Law, Forensic Biology, Criminology and Policing. You will get a taste of the brilliant university facilities available, such as a custom-built courtroom where you will be working on a mock trial. You will learn from academic experts who will share their knowledge on what it's like to speak in court and how to present evidence collected at a crime scene. You'll also see inside the minds of criminals, exploring why crimes are committed. By the end of the summer school, you'll have a greater understanding of which options could help you to pursue a career in criminal justice.

### WHAT WILL I LEARN?

You will develop insights into Psychology, Criminology, Forensic Biology and Law. You will also experience what it is like working towards a degree. Throughout the summer school, you will work with current University of Worcester students. This is an ideal opportunity to discover more about a student's take on university life. We'll also look at the range of careers available in the justice sector.

### HOW WILL I GET THERE?

Your cost of travelling to and from the summer school will be covered, in addition to one accompanying adult if required. We recommend travelling by train; the university will purchase and post your tickets to you ahead of the event. The first day will be delivered virtually, while the second and third days will be in person on campus.

Upon arrival you will be met by our Summer School Ambassadors who will guide you to and from campus.

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**Every day was  
different and  
interesting  
which kept me  
engaged the  
whole way  
through.**



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## PARENTS/ CARERS

### WHY SHOULD MY CHILD ATTEND?

UniFest gives your child a great chance to find out what university is all about so that they can make decisions about their future. The experience is exciting, fun and really motivates young people to do their best at school.

### WILL MY CHILD BE SAFE?

Yes. UniFest universities have a duty of care towards young people that starts from the moment they are handed over to us. Your host university will give you details of hand-over points and travel support arrangements at the start and end of each event. It is important you read and understand this information so that we can keep everyone safe, especially at the start and end of events.

All UniFest activities are risk assessed and supervised by staff and students who are checked by the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). DBS approved staff and students stay overnight to supervise the summer schools.

### BEHAVIOUR

The universities expect everyone to behave responsibly and follow instructions. All students must

sign a Code of Conduct that makes it clear that they may be sent home if they do not behave as expected. If there are problems, you will be kept informed throughout.

### HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?

UniFest is FREE! If you have to pay for travel, the university will send you details of how to claim money back.

### WHY DO YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT MY EDUCATION AND WORK BACKGROUND?

Young people from families where no one has been to university are much less likely to go into higher education and the professions. We need to find out about your background so we can offer places to young people who need extra support to decide if university is right for them.

### HOW WILL YOU PROTECT OUR PERSONAL DATA?

To take part in UniFest, we need to share information about you and your child with Aimhigher universities so they can run the programme. The forms you will be sent if your child is offered a

place are important, and we will not be able to accommodate anyone who does not complete them in full and return them on time. The application form also asks your permission to use data to help us see if young people attending UniFest go on to apply for university. Any information we publish will not refer to you or your child individually. Full details are on the application form.

### WHAT IF MY CHILD BECOMES ILL?

We will contact you if your child becomes ill using the details you have provided on the application/consent form. It is important that you tell us if these details change before the event.

### HOW CAN I CONTACT MY CHILD?

You will be given emergency contact details for the university in the run up to the event. Young people can take mobile phones but do so at their own risk.

### WHAT WILL MY CHILD NEED TO BRING?

The universities will give you details of the type and amount of clothing they will need, as well as any other personal belongings.

## YOUNG PEOPLE

### WILL I HAVE TO DO REAL WORK?

UniFest is your chance to see what being a student is all about. So yes, you will be expected to take part in all planned sessions, but the universities will make it exciting and interesting.

### WILL I BE WITH MY FRIENDS?

Sometimes friends from the same school go to the same event, but a big part of UniFest is meeting new people and making new friends.

### WHAT SORT OF CLOTHES SHOULD I WEAR?

Casual clothes are appropriate most of the time. You may want to take sportswear and something a little smarter for evening activities. If you need any special clothing, we will let you know before the event.

### WHERE AND WHAT WILL I EAT?

All your meals will be provided and we will cater for any dietary requirements.

### WILL I NEED TO BRING ANY MONEY?

You can bring a small amount of money for snacks or drinks, but you will be responsible for it at all times.

## SCHOOL STAFF

### HOW MUCH WILL IT COST MY SCHOOL?

UniFest is free of charge.

### HOW DOES ATTENDING HELP YOUNG PEOPLE?

The Sutton Trust has evaluated summer schools as a high impact intervention as part of their Pupil premium toolkit. Attending can raise aspirations, improve attainment and contribute to your duty to provide impartial careers education and guidance.

### WHICH LEARNERS SHOULD APPLY?

Young people with disabilities and/or learning difficulties and those in or leaving the care system will be given priority. Applications from young people receiving Free-School Meals during the last 6 years will be looked upon favourably. We also welcome applications from young carers and those whose parents/carers do not have graduate-level qualifications.

### WILL WE NEED TO ATTEND EVENTS TO SUPERVISE OUR STUDENTS?

You do not need to supervise young people on UniFest events. Full details of the safeguarding arrangements for UniFest are on our website.

### I'M INTERESTED BUT NEED TO KNOW MORE.

Our "UniFest Additional Information" outlines things in more detail. Visit [aimhigherwm.ac.uk/unifest](http://aimhigherwm.ac.uk/unifest) or email [aimhigher@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:aimhigher@contacts.bham.ac.uk) for more information.

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It's shown me that higher education is for people like me.





Aimhigher West Midlands is a partnership of universities, schools and colleges who work together to help young people to:

- Become motivated and confident about their learning and career progression.
- Explore the world of higher education and what it might mean for them.
- Make informed decisions about their future.

Higher education changes the life chances of students, strengthens our economy and enriches our society. We want to ensure that everyone with the potential to benefit from higher education has the opportunity to do so.

If you require more information go to  
[www.aimhigherwm.ac.uk/unifest](http://www.aimhigherwm.ac.uk/unifest)  
or contact Aimhigher at  
[aimhigher@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:aimhigher@contacts.bham.ac.uk)



**@AimhigherWM**

All information correct at time of printing (November 2022). UniFest events require a minimum number of applicants in order to run. Aimhigher will make every effort to inform applicants, their families and schools of any changes to the programme as published