



UNIFEST 2024

YEAR 10 SUMMER SCHOOL

A HIGHER
EDUCATION
EXPERIENCE





WHAT IS UNIFEST?

UniFest Summer School gives you the chance to explore university life, meet current students and staff and make new friends. With six summer school events to choose from at different universities across the West Midlands, you will have 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 events explore university life and study in general, and others focus on specific careers or study options. All UniFest events include lots of hands-on sessions and a fun programme of social activities.



IS UNIFEST FREE?

Yes! UniFest is funded by universities and schools and is **totally free of charge**. For residential UniFest events, your 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. If travel costs will make it difficult for you to attend, please get in touch by emailing aimhigher@contacts.bham.ac.uk.



The activities were engaging and it helped me improve my understanding of university

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.



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 email us: aimhigher@contacts.bham.ac.uk



The student ambassadors made me feel really comfortable and at home. I also learnt about subjects I've never heard of.

STEPS TO UNIFEST



1. APPLY

(NOVEMBER TO MARCH)

Talk to your parents/carers and show them this brochure. 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 brochure 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 a 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 a teacher know that you're 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.

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 informed us of any additional support needs.



I enjoyed working with new peers and experiencing a university environment. It has increased my knowledge about what life would be like going to a university.

2. RESULT!

(APRIL)

If you are offered a place, you will be contacted in April 2024. We will tell you which event you are going to and give you the contact details of the university hosting your visit. Make sure you tell your parents/carers and your teacher straight away so that they don't plan anything that clashes with UniFest! 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)

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 UniFest. They will tell you more about travel arrangements and meeting points, as well providing you with the contact details of people you can talk to if you have any queries in the run up to UniFest.

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It was very fun and made uni seem less scary.

4. GO!

(JULY)

UniFest begins, with events taking place throughout July.

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I had a really good time and made lots of friends.





**BIRMINGHAM CITY
University**

MEDIA PRODUCTION

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 10th
- Friday 12th
July 2024**

WHAT WILL I DO?

If you are interested in the world of Media and want to learn more about the careers available in the industry, then Birmingham City University has the summer school for you! As we explore the world of Media, we will discover more about roles that you may not have considered before, such as social media management. You will also plan, research and film your own news report based on a topic you are passionate about.

You'll see what university is like, as well as the opportunity to speak with university students and staff who will be able to answer your burning questions. We want to give you the full university experience, which includes fun! In the evenings, there will be social activities for you to take part in, before staying overnight in our halls of residence which includes your own bedroom and private bathroom.



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

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

You will learn about university and higher education, gaining insight into what life is like as a university student, including the support available while you study. You will have taster sessions surrounding Media Production, providing you with the knowledge and insight into the varied careers available in Media.

HOW WILL I GET THERE?

You will need to make your own way to and from Birmingham City University at our City Centre Campus (address in 'location' section). There will be university staff and student ambassadors ready to meet you at the key meeting points.

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



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

YOUR FUTURE, YOUR CHOICE

RESIDENTIAL

LOCATION

University of
Birmingham
Edgbaston
Birmingham
B15 2TT

DATES

Wednesday 10th
- Friday 12th
July 2024

WHAT WILL I DO?

Are you interested in going to university, but not sure what that involves or what you'd study? Explore your options at 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. During the day, our academic staff will deliver fun, engaging and eye-opening sessions across a wide range of subject areas.

And of course, university 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 amazing 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?

As more jobs require higher level qualifications, you will learn about the transferable skills you gain from any degree. You will gain an insight into student life, independent learning, and university teaching styles – you may even decide on a subject you'd like to study!

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.



This has been an amazing experience, I've made so many friends. This experience has changed my mind about university.





THE MIND OF A CRIMINAL

NON-RESIDENTIAL

LOCATION

**University
of Worcester
Farrier St
Worcester
WR1 3BZ**

DATES

**Wednesday 3rd
– Friday 5th
July 2024**

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?

We recommend travelling to the university by train if possible. Upon arrival, you will be met by our Summer School Ambassadors who will guide you to and from campus. If you are offered a place at UniFest and require financial support for travel in order to attend the event, please let us know as soon as possible.

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



STEM

RESIDENTIAL

LOCATION

Aston University
Aston Triangle
Birmingham
B4 7ET

DATES

Wednesday 10th
– Friday 12th
July 2024

WHAT WILL I DO?

Explore the exciting study and career opportunities that Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) have to offer! UniFest 2024 at Aston University will give you the chance to visit our 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 first-hand experiences from Aston students and staff, gaining insight into what life at a 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.

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





**Birmingham
Newman
University**

INSIDE HEALTH CAREERS

NON-RESIDENTIAL

LOCATION

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

DATES

**Wednesday 17th
– Friday 19th
July 2024**

WHAT WILL I DO?

This programme offers you the chance to get hands on experience with various Allied Healthcare professions. Over the course of three days, you'll take part in interactive workshops in subjects like Physiotherapy, Paramedic Science, Adult Nursing, Mental Health Nursing, Occupational Therapy and Health & Social Care.

You'll get to experience what it feels like to work in a hospital using the excellent facilities. You'll even get a chance to work with our realistic dummies, which simulate the experience of working with real patients. In the evenings, there'll be plenty of fun activities to keep you and your new UniFest friends entertained!

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

Through a series of workshops and talks, our friendly Allied Health team will pass on their skills and knowledge so you can decide which health care profession might be for you!

Our academics will talk you through the steps you'll need to take to study an Allied Health subject and secure a position in your chosen field. You'll spend time with current students and learn what life at university is really like. You'll also learn about your options at sixth form and college to help you make the right choice for you.

HOW WILL I GET THERE?

If you're travelling independently or via public transport, arrangements can be made for you to meet our ambassadors at the central point of New Street station each day, to then take a coach to our campus. We will also take you back to New Street station at the end of each day. Our staff will be on hand to guide those of you who will be dropped off to our campus by parents/carers.

*Please note the dates for this event may change or the event may be cancelled depending on staff availability, however in this scenario Aimhigher promises to provide a place at another UniFest event.



**UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE
BIRMINGHAM**

GENERATION U(CB)

NON-RESIDENTIAL

LOCATION

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

DATES

**Wednesday 10th
– Friday 12th
July 2024**

WHAT WILL I DO?

Become the next generation that steps into the shoes of a university student, exploring who and what you want to be next.

This non-residential summer school follows your own university journey, from first year to graduation. Take part in exciting activities that mirror big university events such as a fresher's week and exploring campus, sports and societies fair, lectures and seminars, the dreaded dissertation and then the excitement of graduation!

We'll have a range of fun and engaging workshops to help you meet fellow summer school students and find out more about university life, get stuck into practical sessions and subject specific workshops (like business, tourism, mixology and even robotics) as well as creating your very own university for your dissertation, finishing with your graduation ceremony and celebration.

Explore your university life with us this summer as you become the next generation.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

You'll get involved with a variety of subject specific workshops as individuals and groups to find out what you enjoy in subjects that you might not have experienced before.

Experience living at home while studying (something a lot of students do) by attending this non-residential summer school and preparing you for your next steps as you embark onto college or sixth form next year.

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). If you are travelling by car, there is parking available at The Link for drop-off only.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

PARENTS/ CARERS

WHY SHOULD MY CHILD ATTEND?

UniFest gives your child a great opportunity to find out what university is all about so that they can make informed 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 with 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 residential summer schools.

BEHAVIOUR

The universities expect everyone to behave responsibly and follow

instructions. All students must sign a Code of Conduct which 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!

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

Young people from families where no one has been to university are 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 bring 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 they may want to bring.

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 – we ensure all sessions are 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.

More information can be found on our website: www.aimhigherwm.ac.uk/unifest
You can also email us with any specific questions: aimhigher@contacts.bham.ac.uk

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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 lives 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 or contact Aimhigher at aimhigher@contacts.bham.ac.uk



@AimhigherWM

All information correct at time of printing (November 2023). 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.