University of Birmingham foundation pathways

Course information

This booklet contains information about foundation pathways at the University of Birmingham. Choose your preferred degree and discover which pathway you need to take to gain entry. You can also see further information about the pathways, including tuition fees, start dates, entry requirements and module summaries. Progression to your chosen degree is guaranteed when you pass your foundation at the required level.

Undergraduate pathways
Choose your undergraduate degree

Foundation pathway:

Arts, Social Sciences, Business and Law
Engineering and Physical Sciences
Medical, Life and Geo Sciences
Medicine and Physiotherapy
Social Sciences, Business and Law

Module summaries

Your path to university
We’re working with the University of Birmingham to make sure all students have a study option to help them start a degree at this time, whether that’s online or in person. This means you can study safely and effectively, even if the pandemic affects global travel.

kaplanpathways.com/awc/uk/
## University of Birmingham foundation pathways

### Undergraduate course information

**Choose your undergraduate degree 03**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Arts, Social Sciences, Business and Law</td>
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<td>Engineering and Physical Sciences</td>
<td>08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical, Life and Geo Sciences</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicine and Physiotherapy</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Sciences, Business and Law</td>
<td>14</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Undergraduate module summaries 16**

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**Pathways:**
- A: Arts, Social Sciences, Business and Law
- E: Engineering and Physical Sciences
- L: Medical, Life and Geo Sciences
- P: Medicine and Physiotherapy
- S: Social Sciences, Business and Law

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### Business and Finance

- BSc (Hons) Accounting and Finance 
- BSc (Hons) Business Management 
- BSc (Hons) Business Management with Communications 
- BSc (Hons) Business Management with Marketing 
- BSc (Hons) Economics 
- BSc (Hons) Economics and Politics 
- BSc (Hons) Money, Banking and Finance

### Computing

- BSc (Hons) Artificial Intelligence and Computer Science
- BSc (Hons) Computer Science

### Education

- BA (Hons) Education
- BA (Hons) Education and Sociology

### Engineering

- BEng (Hons) Aerospace Engineering
- BEng (Hons) Chemical Engineering
- BEng (Hons) Civil and Railway Engineering
- BEng (Hons) Civil Engineering
- BEng (Hons) Electrical and Railway Engineering
- BEng (Hons) Electronic and Electrical Engineering
- BEng (Hons) Engineering
- BEng (Hons) Materials Science and Engineering
- BEng (Hons) Mechanical and Materials Engineering
- BEng (Hons) Mechanical Engineering
- BEng (Hons) Mechanical Engineering (Automotive)
- BEng (Hons) Mechanical, and Vehicle Engineering
- BSc (Hons) Nuclear Science and Materials

### Law

- LLB (Hons) International Law and Globalisation
- LLB (Hons) Law
- LLB (Hons) Law with Business Studies
- LLB (Hons) Law with Criminology
- LLB (Hons) Law with French Law
- LLB (Hons) Law with German Law

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### Mathematics

- BSc (Hons) Mathematical Economics and Statistics
- BSc (Hons) Mathematics
- BSc (Hons) Mathematics and Computer Science
- BSc (Hons) Mathematics with Business Management

### Music and Performing Arts

- BA (Hons) Drama and Theatre Arts
- BMus (Hons) Music

### Science and Health

- BSc (Hons) Biochemistry
- BSc (Hons) Biochemistry (Genetics)
- BSc (Hons) Biological Sciences
- BSc (Hons) Biological Sciences (Genetics)
- BSc (Hons) Biological Sciences (Zoology)
- BSc (Hons) Biomedical Science
- BSc (Hons) Chemistry
- BSc (Hons) Chemistry with Business Management
- BSc (Hons) Environmental Science
- BSc (Hons) Geology
- BSc (Hons) Geology and Physical Geography
- BSc (Hons) Human Biology
- BSc (Hons) Human Neuroscience
- BSc (Hons) Medical Biochemistry
- BSc (Hons) Medicine and Surgery
- BSc (Hons) Nursing
- BSc (Hons) Palaeontology and Geology
- BPharm (Hons) Pharmacy
- BSc (Hons) Physics
- BSc (Hons) Physics and Astrophysics
- BSc (Hons) Physics with Particle Physics and Cosmology
- BSc (Hons) Physiology
- BSc (Hons) Psychology
- BSc (Hons) Sport, Exercise and Health Sciences
- BSc (Hons) Sport, Physical Education and Coaching Science

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Available degree options may change over time, so visit our online Degree Finder for the most up-to-date list:

> kaplanpathways.com/birmingham-foundation/ug-degrees

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Your path to university:

- Foundation pathway at the University of Birmingham
- Undergraduate degree - Year 1
- Undergraduate degree - Year 2
- Undergraduate degree - Year 3+
- Graduate with a University of Birmingham degree

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03
All degrees are 3 years long unless otherwise stated.

1. 4-year degree.
2. 5-year degree.
3. Places are limited for progression to this degree.
Your course modules
You will take four of these subject modules to fit your degree:
> Business and the Market
> Critical Introduction to Law and Legal Skills
> Empire, Migration and Diversity
> Politics in a Changing World
> Quantitative Methods for Business and Economics

Don't quite meet the IELTS requirements? Get in touch, and we'll help you find a suitable study option.

Your foundation pathway options for degree entry in September 2022

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<td>5.5 overall with no less than 5.5 in any skill†</td>
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<td>September 2021</td>
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<td>You’ll take a 1-year foundation as part of an integrated study plan that also includes your degree, all on a single CAS.</td>
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* UKVI IELTS alternatives: we can accept alternative tests as proof of English language. Learn more at: kaplanpathways.com/uk/ielts/ 
† English requirement exceptions: the following progression degrees require a higher English language level for entry to the foundation pathway: English Language, English Literature and Law (UKVI IELTS 6.0 with at least 5.5 in all skills). 
‡ Subject exceptions: English Language, English Literature and Law progression degrees are not available for students on the separate, non-integrated foundation. 
§ For some degrees, the University will require you to take particular modules.

Academic entry requirements:
For all course options above, you need to have completed high school at the required level. For requirements specific to your country, select your preferred degree and pathway course from our online Degree Finder: kaplanpathways.com/birmingham-foundation/ug-degrees

English language and academic skills support
You will also study one of the following modules matched to your English language level.

Students with IELTS 5.5 to 6.0 (or equivalent) will take: 
> Academic English and Study Skills

Students with IELTS 6.5 to 7.0 (or equivalent) will take: 
> Advanced Academic English and Study Skills

Students with IELTS 7.5 or above (or equivalent) will take: 
> Advanced Academic Skills

Learn more about modules: you'll find module summaries later in this booklet.
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Academic entry requirements: for all course options above, you need to have completed high school at the required level. For requirements specific to your country, select your preferred degree and pathway course from our online Degree Finder: Kaplanpathways.com/Birmingham-Foundation/ug-degrees

Your course modules
You will take eight of these subject modules to fit your degree:
- Calculus
- Elementary Computer Programming
- Foundation Electronic and Electrical Engineering
- Group Project
- Individual Project
- Introductory Inorganic Chemistry
- Introductory Organic Chemistry
- Materials
- Mathematics I
- Mathematics II
- Mechanics
- Science and Engineering Laboratories
- Statistics and Data
- Waves

Learn more about modules: you’ll find module summaries later in this booklet.

English language and academic skills support
You will also study one of the following modules matched to your English language level.

Students with IELTS 5.5 to 6.0 (or equivalent) will take:
- Academic English and Study Skills

Students with IELTS 6.5 to 7.0 (or equivalent) will take:
- Advanced Academic English and Study Skills

Students with IELTS 7.5 or above (or equivalent) will take:
- Advanced Academic Skills

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### University of Birmingham foundation pathways

#### Medical, Life and Geo Sciences

#### Foundation Pathway

**UKVI IELTS alternatives:** we can accept alternative tests as proof of English language. Learn more at: kaplanpathways.com/uk/ielts/

**English requirement exceptions:** the following progression degrees require a higher English language level for entry to the foundation pathway:

- **Nursing** (UKVI IELTS 6.0 with at least 5.5 in all skills), and
- **Pharmacy** (UKVI IELTS 6.0 in all skills).

**Subject exceptions:** Nursing and Pharmacy progression degrees are not available for students on the separate, non-integrated foundation.

**Academic entry requirements:** for all course options above, you need to have completed high school at the required level.

**For requirements specific to your country, select your preferred degree and pathway course from our online Degree Finder:** kaplanpathways.com/birmingham-foundation/ug-degrees

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### Your course modules

You will take four of these subject modules to fit your degree:§

- Advanced Study Skills in the Biological Sciences
- Earth and Environmental Sciences
- Introductory Inorganic Chemistry
- Introductory Organic Chemistry
- Introduction to Health and Social Care
- Living Organisms
- Materials
- Mathematics I
- Molecular and Cellular Biology

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### English language and academic skills support

You will also study one of the following modules matched to your English language level.

**Students with IELTS 5.5 to 6.0 (or equivalent) will take:**

- Academic English and Study Skills

**Students with IELTS 6.5 to 7.0 (or equivalent) will take:**

- Advanced Academic English and Study Skills

**Students with IELTS 7.5 or above (or equivalent) will take:**

- Advanced Academic Skills

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§ For some degrees, the University will require you to take particular modules.

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Learn more about modules: you’ll find module summaries later in this booklet.
University of Birmingham foundation pathways

Medicine and Physiotherapy
Foundation Pathway

Your course modules
You will take five of these subject modules to fit your degree:
- Advanced Study Skills in the Biological Sciences
- Introduction to Health and Social Care
- Introductory Inorganic Chemistry
- Introductory Organic Chemistry
- Living Organisms
- Materials
- Mathematics I
- Molecular and Cellular Biology

English language and academic skills support
You will also study one of the following modules matched to your English language level:

- **Students with IELTS 6.0 (or equivalent) will take:**
  - Academic English and Study Skills

- **Students with IELTS 6.5 to 7.0 (or equivalent) will take:**
  - Advanced Academic English and Study Skills

- **Students with IELTS 7.5 or above (or equivalent) will take:**
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† English requirement exceptions: the following progression degrees require a higher English language level for entry to the foundation pathway:
- Medicine (UKVI IELTS 6.0 in all skills)

§ Academic entry requirements: for all course options above, you need to have completed high school at the required level.
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Your course modules
You will take the four subject modules below:
- Business and the Market
- Critical Introduction to Law and Legal Skills
- Politics in a Changing World
- Quantitative Methods for Business and Economics

Learn more about modules: you’ll find module summaries later in this booklet.

English language and academic skills support
You will also study one of the following modules matched to your English language level.

- Students with IELTS 5.5 to 6.0 (or equivalent) will take: Academic English and Study Skills
- Students with IELTS 6.5 to 7.0 (or equivalent) will take: Advanced Academic English and Study Skills
- Students with IELTS 7.5 or above (or equivalent) will take: Advanced Academic Skills
Advanced Study Skills in the Biological Sciences
This module focuses on introducing students to the academic skills that are needed in the biological sciences (e.g. writing laboratory reports, presentation skills, group work), as well as the underpinning elements of experimental design and data analysis.

Business and the Market
This module focuses on the relationship between markets and companies under different competitive conditions. How do markets work and differ, and why do these differences matter?

Calculus
This module further develops mathematical methods around calculus.

Critical Introduction to Law and Legal Skills
This module will enable students to develop a sound foundational understanding of the structure and practice of key domestic and international law fields. As part of this overall aim, students will be introduced to core legal skills such as the analysis of statutes, treaties and case-law, critical thinking and problem solving.

Earth and Environmental Sciences
This module will examine the evolution of Earth and its environments; from the formation and composition of the Earth, to modern environmental change. We will explore plate tectonics, earthquakes and volcanoes, the formation of the oceans and atmosphere, and the co-evolution of life and Earth’s environments. The course will comprise both lectures and practical classes, and will introduce rock and mineral identification, and ancient and modern environmental data.

Elementary Computer Programming
This module introduces basic concepts of computer programming in a procedural language. You will gain practical experience in programming, use some of the basic structures of concepts of procedural programming and have an insight into some of the capabilities and limitations of programming.

Empire, Migration and Diversity
This module is designed to provide students with an introductory taste of key themes in modern history, literature and theology, with a particular focus on empire, migration and diversity. The whole module has been designed as a showcase with which to introduce students to the Humanities in a way that will speak to current issues, including those that will resonate with the students themselves, all while taking a decolonised approach.

Foundation Electronic and Electrical Engineering
This module aims to develop basic knowledge and skills relevant to electricity and magnetism.

Group Project
In this module you will work in a multidisciplinary team to design and build a device achieve an objective e.g. map part of the green heart, 3D scan an object.

Individual Project
The Individual Project is a subject specific research project linked to your intended discipline that you intend to progress to at the end of the foundation year. It will enable you to develop and demonstrate a deeper technical knowledge and understanding of a specific topic.

Introductory Inorganic Chemistry
This module aims to develop a number of fundamental concepts associated with the discipline of Chemistry. This module introduces fundamental features of bonding, before extending towards compounds, including concepts of geometry and oxidation states.

Introductory Organic Chemistry
This module aims to develop knowledge and skills in basic organic chemistry. Topics you will study include: nomenclature, isomerism, arrow-pushing mechanisms, reactivity of sp, sp2 and sp3 carbon centres and basic organic reaction schemes.

Introduction to Health and Social Care
This module introduces students to fundamental aspects of health and social care practice, within a UK context. Students will be introduced to themes, such as law, ethics, research, numeracy, professional regulation, health and social care structures within the UK and principles and prevention of cross infection.

Living Organisms
In this module students will learn the basis of what organisms are, how they behave and how they are adapted to their environment. Teaching includes lectures, group work, laboratory practicals and a zoo trip that forms the basis of a mini project that includes data collection, analysis and interpretation of results. Assessment is based on exams, in–course assessment and practical write-ups including extended essays.

Materials
In this module you will be introduced to some of the basic structures of matter and how these structures affect material properties and their behaviour. The module introduces fundamental concepts of wave motion.

Mathematics II
This module builds on the knowledge and skills developed in the Mathematics I module. It will cover topics associated with functions and numerical methods.

Mechanics
The aim of this module is to develop a basic understanding of the principles of mechanics.

Molecular and Cellular Biology
This module introduces key concepts in cell and molecular biology, including cell structure and function, and the basic concepts in genetics and biochemistry.

Politics in a Changing World
This module will introduce you to the main issues and debates in contemporary international and global affairs and the changing role and position of nation-states in an increasingly globalised world.

Quantitative Methods for Business and Economics
While this module has a mathematical foundation, it is not simply about developing your mathematical skills. Rather, the purpose of the module is to show you how you can use these skills to improve your understanding of business problems and to help you make business decisions more effectively.

Science and Engineering Laboratories
This module introduces you to work within laboratories and explores a series of scientific experiments, developing an understanding of the experimental method and the impact of scientific discoveries.

Statistics and Data
In this module you will cover statistical analysis of information and data, how to present different data sets, along with how to obtain and test results from a STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) context.

Waves
This module covers the fundamental concepts of wave motion.
University of Birmingham foundation pathways

Academic English and Study Skills modules

IELTS 5.5-6.0

Academic English and Study Skills
This module will equip you with the English required for academic study at undergraduate level. It will help you to acquire key academic vocabulary and to master key academic grammatical structures. The module will also help you to develop the skills for reading academic texts and writing academic assignments. It will enable you to perform successfully across all modules of your foundation pathway, as well as preparing you for study in your future undergraduate programme.

IELTS 6.5-7.0

Advanced Academic English and Study Skills
This will prepare you for the academic demands of your future undergraduate programme, where you will be expected to employ an efficient and effective learning style. It will enable you to deepen your understanding of how texts are constructed and it will also help you to develop your critical thinking skills. Through class discussions, debates and individual presentations, you will also improve your fluency and command of the English language.

IELTS 7.5+

Advanced Academic Skills
You will develop advanced academic skills for undergraduate study in a range of disciplines. The emphasis will be on advanced literacy incorporating critical thinking and analytical skills such as the development and evaluation of academic argument and the synthesis of various sources of information. You will have the opportunity to develop excellent communication skills for higher-level studies and complete a research project.
This publication has been drafted in advance of the academic year to which it applies. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information is accurate at the time of publishing, but changes (for example to course content) are likely to occur given the interval between publishing and commencement of the course. It is therefore very important to check the website or contact us for any updates before you apply. Once you have applied, any change which impacts the terms and conditions of your offer or a significant part of your programme will be communicated to you.

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