



## University of Birmingham foundation pathways

# Course information: 2023-24

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.

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Arts, Social Sciences, Business and Law	06
Engineering and Physical Sciences	08
Medical, Life and Geo Sciences	10
Medicine and Physiotherapy	12
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# University of Birmingham foundation pathways

## Undergraduate course information

### Choose your undergraduate degree 03

#### Foundation pathway

Arts, Social Sciences, Business and Law	06
Engineering and Physical Sciences	08
Medical, Life and Geo Sciences	10
Medicine and Physiotherapy	12
Social Sciences, Business and Law	14

### Undergraduate module summaries 16

#### Your path to university:



### University of Birmingham foundation pathways

## Choose your undergraduate degree

Available degree options may change over time, so visit our online

Degree Finder for the most up-to-date list: [kaplanpathways.com/birmingham/ug-degrees](https://kaplanpathways.com/birmingham/ug-degrees)

#### Foundation pathways:

**A:** Arts, Social Sciences, Business and Law (September 2023 course start)

**E:** Engineering and Physical Sciences (September 2023 or January 2024 course start)

**M1:** Medical, Life and Geo Sciences (September 2023 course start)

**M2:** Medicine and Physiotherapy (September 2023 course start)

**S:** Social Sciences, Business and Law (January 2024 course start)

#### Business and Finance

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

#### Computing

BSc (Hons) Artificial Intelligence and Computer Science	E
BSc (Hons) Computer Science	E
MEng Computer Science and Software Engineering	E

#### Education

BA (Hons) Education	A S
BA (Hons) Education and Sociology	A S

#### Engineering

BEng (Hons) Aerospace Engineering	E
BEng (Hons) Chemical Engineering	E
BEng (Hons) Civil Engineering	E
BEng (Hons) Electronic and Electrical Engineering	E
BEng (Hons) Engineering	E
BEng (Hons) Materials Science and Engineering	E
BEng (Hons) Mechanical Engineering	E
BEng (Hons) Mechanical Engineering (Automotive)	E
BEng (Hons) Mechatronic and Robotic Engineering	E
BSc (Hons) Nuclear Science and Materials	E

#### Environment and Agriculture

BSc (Hons) Environmental and Engineering Geoscience	L
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#### Law

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

#### Marketing and Media

BA (Hons) Digital Media and Communications	A S
BA (Hons) Film and Creative Writing	A S

#### Mathematics

BSc (Hons) Mathematical Economics and Statistics	A S
BSc (Hons) Mathematics	E
BSc (Hons) Mathematics and Computer Science	E
BA (Hons) Mathematics and Music	E
BA (Hons) Mathematics and Philosophy	E
BSc (Hons) Mathematics with Business Management	E

#### Science and Health

BSc (Hons) Biochemistry	L
BSc (Hons) Biochemistry (Genetics)	L
BSc (Hons) Biological Sciences	L
BSc (Hons) Biological Sciences (Genetics)	L
BSc (Hons) Biological Sciences (Zoology)	L
BSc (Hons) Biomedical Science	L
BSc (Hons) Chemistry	E
BSc (Hons) Chemistry with Business Management	E
BSc (Hons) Chemistry with Medicinal Chemistry and Drug Discovery	E
BSc (Hons) Environmental Science	L
BSc (Hons) Geology	L



Your foundation pathway options for degree entry in September 2024			
Minimum English level: UKVI IELTS score*	Tuition fee	Course start > Course end	Course type
> For students with IELTS 5.5 in all skills (or accepted equivalent) or above			
5.5 overall with no less than 5.5 in any skill†	£21,780	September 2023 > August 2024	You'll take a 1-year foundation as part of an integrated study plan that also includes your degree, all on a single CAS.
> For other students			
5.5 overall with no less than 5.0 in any skill	£21,780	September 2023 > August 2024	You'll take a separate foundation year leading to a degree, with your initial CAS covering your foundation year only.

**Preessional English**

If your IELTS score (or equivalent) is lower than the above, a preessional English course can help you reach the language level needed to start your foundation pathway. You can apply for Preessional English through the University once you receive a foundation pathway study offer from Kaplan. Find out more > [kaplanpathways.com/birmingham-pse](https://kaplanpathways.com/birmingham-pse)

\* UKVI IELTS alternatives: we can accept other tests as proof of English language. Learn more at: [kaplanpathways.com/uk/ielts/](https://kaplanpathways.com/uk/ielts/)

† English requirement exceptions: School of English, Drama and Creative Studies degrees (minus those degrees which sit under the Department of Drama and Theatre Arts): IELTS 6.0 (at least 5.5 in all skills). Law Degrees: IELTS 6.0 (at least 5.5 in all skills)

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/ug-degrees](https://kaplanpathways.com/birmingham/ug-degrees)

**Your course modules**

You will take 4 of these subject modules to fit your degree:§

- Business and the Market
- Critical Introduction to Law and Legal Skills
- Empire, Migration and Diversity
- Introduction to Business and Management
- Introduction to Financial and Management Accounting
- Politics in a Changing World
- Quantitative Methods for Business and Economics
- Social Policy, Welfare and Society

**Personal development activities:** during your course, you'll also have activities to build practical, digital and employability skills.

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

**English Language and Academic Skills modules**

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

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

Your foundation pathway options for degree entry in September 2024			
Minimum English level: UKVI IELTS score*	Tuition fee	Course start > Course end	Course type
> For students with IELTS 5.5 in all skills (or accepted equivalent) or above			
5.5 overall with no less than 5.5 in any skill	£23,460	September 2023 > August 2024	You'll take a 1-year foundation as part of an integrated study plan that also includes your degree, all on a single CAS.
		January 2024 > August 2024	
> For other students			
5.5 overall with no less than 5.0 in any skill	£23,460	September 2023 > August 2024	You'll take a separate foundation year leading to a degree, with your initial CAS covering your foundation year only.
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**Pre-sessional English**

If your IELTS score (or equivalent) is lower than the above, a pre-sessional English course can help you reach the language level needed to start your foundation pathway. You can apply for Pre-sessional English through the University once you receive a foundation pathway study offer from Kaplan. Find out more > [kaplanpathways.com/birmingham-pse](https://kaplanpathways.com/birmingham-pse)

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**Your course modules**

You will take 8 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
- Waves

**Personal development activities:** during your course, you'll also have activities to build practical, digital and employability skills.

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

**English Language and Academic Skills modules**

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:**

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Your foundation pathway options for degree entry in September 2024			
Minimum English level: UKVI IELTS score*	Tuition fee	Course start > Course end	Course type
> For students with IELTS 5.5 in all skills (or accepted equivalent) or above			
5.5 overall with no less than 5.5 in any skill†	£23,460	September 2023 > August 2024	You'll take a 1-year foundation as part of an integrated study plan that also includes your degree, all on a single CAS.
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**Preessional English**

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† IELTS exceptions:  
BNurs (Hons) Nursing: IELTS 6.0 (at least 5.5 in all skills)  
MPharm Pharmacy: IELTS 6.0 (at least 6.0 in all skills)

\* UKVI IELTS alternatives: we can accept other tests as proof of English language. Learn more at: [kaplanpathways.com/uk/ielts/](https://kaplanpathways.com/uk/ielts/)

**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/ug-degrees](https://kaplanpathways.com/birmingham/ug-degrees)

**Your course length:** this is influenced by your English language score that you submit as part of the admissions process. Soon after your course starts, we'll check your English and academic level again to make sure you're on the most suitable study plan, with modules that best fit your skills and goals.

**Your course modules**

You will take 4 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

**Personal development activities:** during your course, you'll also have activities to build practical, digital and employability skills.

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

**English Language and Academic Skills modules**

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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Your foundation pathway options for degree entry in September 2024			
Minimum English level: UKVI IELTS score*	Tuition fee	Course start > Course end	Course type
> For students with IELTS 6.0 in all skills (or accepted equivalent) or above			
6.0 overall with no less than 6.0 in any skill	£23,460	September 2023 > August 2024	You'll take a separate foundation year leading to a degree, with your initial CAS covering your foundation year only.

**Pre-sessional English**

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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/ug-degrees](https://kaplanpathways.com/birmingham/ug-degrees)

**Your course length:** this is influenced by your English language score that you submit as part of the admissions process. Soon after your course starts, we'll check your English and academic level again to make sure you're on the most suitable study plan, with modules that best fit your skills and goals.

**Your course modules**

You will take 5 of these subject modules to fit your degree:<sup>§</sup>

- 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

**Personal development activities:** during your course, you'll also have activities to build practical, digital and employability skills.

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

**English Language and Academic Skills modules**

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

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- Your course modules**
- You will take the 4 subject modules below:
- Business and the Market
  - Critical Introduction to Law and Legal Skills
  - Introduction to Business and Management
  - Politics in a Changing World
  - Quantitative Methods for Business and Economics

**Personal development activities:** during your course, you'll also have activities to build practical, digital and employability skills.

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† **English requirement exceptions:** the following progression degrees require a higher English language level for entry to the foundation pathway: School of English, Drama and Creative Studies degrees (minus those degrees which sit under the Department of Drama and Theatre Arts): IELTS 6.0 (at least 5.5 in all skills) Law Degrees: IELTS 6.0 (at least 5.5 in all skills)

**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/ug-degrees](https://kaplanpathways.com/birmingham/ug-degrees)



### **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.

### **Introduction to Business and Management**

*Module summary pending*

### **Introduction to Financial and Management Accounting**

*Module summary pending*

### **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.

### **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, sp<sup>2</sup> and sp<sup>3</sup> carbon centres and basic organic reaction schemes.

### **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 and uses in science and engineering.

### **Mathematics I**

This module is aimed at developing your confidence and knowledge in basic mathematical techniques and skills. Topics you will study include: indices and logarithms; basic algebra; elementary geometry; trigonometry functions; vectors; and an introduction to differentiation and integration.

### **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.

### **Social Policy, Welfare and Society**

*Module summary pending*

### **Waves**

This module covers the fundamental concepts of wave motion.





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*[kaplanpathways.com/birmingham](https://kaplanpathways.com/birmingham)*

**f** **t** **y** **i** **l** **s** Search '@unibirmingham'

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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