



## University of Birmingham foundation pathways

# Course information: 2025-26

This booklet contains details of the UK pathway courses that can lead to a degree at the University of Birmingham. Choose your preferred Birmingham degree, and discover which course you need to qualify for entry to your degree. You can also see further information about the courses, including tuition fees, start dates, entry requirements, internship options and module summaries.

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### **Undergraduate pathways**

Choose your undergraduate degree 03

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### **Foundation pathway:**

Arts, Social Sciences, Business and Law 06

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Engineering and Physical Sciences 08

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Medical, Life and Geo Sciences 10

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Medicine and Physiotherapy 12

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Social Sciences, Business and Law 14

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Module summaries 16

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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

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**Costs of studying abroad:** For details about the cost of studying in Birmingham, in addition to pathway course tuition fees, see: [kaplanpathways.com/birmingham-study-costs](http://kaplanpathways.com/birmingham-study-costs)

**Accepted English tests:** we accept UKVI IELTS and several alternatives. For full details, see: [kaplanpathways.com/uk/ielts/](http://kaplanpathways.com/uk/ielts/)

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

#### Foundation pathways:

**A:** Arts, Social Sciences, Business and Law

**E:** Engineering and Physical Sciences

**M1:** Medical, Life and Geo Sciences

**M2:** Medicine and Physiotherapy

**S:** Social Sciences, Business and Law

#### Business and Finance

BSc (Hons) Accounting and Finance	<b>A S</b>
BSc (Hons) Business Management	<b>A S</b>
BSc (Hons) Business Management with Communications	<b>A S</b>
BSc (Hons) Business Management with Marketing	<b>A S</b>
BSc (Hons) Economics	<b>A S</b>
BSc (Hons) International Business	<b>A S</b>
BSc (Hons) International Business with Communications	<b>A S</b>
BSc (Hons) International Business with Language	<b>A S</b>
BSc (Hons) Law with Business Studies	<b>A S</b>
BSc (Hons) Mathematics with Business Management	<b>A S</b>
BSc (Hons) Money, Banking and Finance	<b>A S</b>

#### Computing

BSc (Hons) Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Computer Science	<b>E</b>
BSc (Hons) Computer Science	<b>E</b>

#### Education

BA (Hons) Education	<b>A S</b>
BA (Hons) Education and Sociology	<b>A S</b>

#### Engineering

BEng (Hons) Aerospace Engineering	<b>E</b>
BEng (Hons) Chemical Engineering	<b>E</b>
BEng (Hons) Civil Engineering	<b>E</b>
BEng (Hons) Electronic and Electrical Engineering	<b>E</b>
BEng (Hons) Engineering	<b>E</b>
BEng (Hons) Materials Science and Engineering	<b>E</b>
BEng (Hons) Mechanical Engineering	<b>E</b>
BEng (Hons) Mechanical Engineering (Automotive)	<b>E</b>
BEng (Hons) Mechatronic and Robotic Engineering	<b>E</b>

#### Environment and Agriculture

MSci (Hons) Environmental Science	<b>M1</b>
MSci (Hons) Geography	<b>A S</b>
BSc (Hons) Geography and Urban and Regional Planning with Year Abroad	<b>A S</b>
BSc (Hons) Geology and Physical Geography	<b>M1</b>
MSci (Hons) Geology and Physical Geography	<b>A</b>

#### Law

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

#### Marketing and Media

BA (Hons) Digital Media and Communications	<b>A S</b>
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#### Mathematics

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

#### Music and Performing Arts

BA (Hons) Drama and Film	<b>S</b>
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**Your foundation pathway options for degree entry in September 2026**

Minimum English level: UKVI IELTS score*	Tuition fee	Course start > Course end	Course type
<b>&gt; For students with IELTS 5.5 in all skills (or accepted equivalent) or above</b>			
<b>5.5 overall</b> with no less than 5.5 in any skill†	£23,660	September 2025 > August 2026	You'll take a 1-year foundation as part of an integrated study plan that also includes your degree, all on a single CAS.
<b>&gt; For other students</b>			
<b>5.5 overall</b> with no less than 5.0 in any skill	£23,660	September 2025 > August 2026	You'll take a separate foundation year leading to a degree, with your initial CAS covering your foundation year only.

**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)

\* **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:<sup>§</sup>

- 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
- Understanding 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

<sup>§</sup> For some degrees, the University will require you to take particular modules.

**Your foundation pathway options for degree entry in September 2026**

Minimum English level: UKVI IELTS score*	Tuition fee	Course start > Course end	Course type
<b>&gt; For students with IELTS 5.5 in all skills (or accepted equivalent) or above</b>			
<b>5.5 overall</b> with no less than 5.5 in any skill	£25,520	September 2025 > August 2026	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 2026 > August 2026	
<b>&gt; For other students</b>			
<b>5.5 overall</b> with no less than 5.0 in any skill	£25,520	September 2025 > August 2026	You'll take a separate foundation year leading to a degree, with your initial CAS covering your foundation year only.
		January 2026 > August 2026	

**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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**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 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:**

- Advanced Academic Skills

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

**Your foundation pathway options for degree entry in September 2026**

Minimum English level: UKVI IELTS score*	Tuition fee	Course start > Course end	Course type
<b>&gt; For students with IELTS 5.5 in all skills (or accepted equivalent) or above</b>			
<b>5.5 overall</b> with no less than 5.5 in any skill†	£25,520	September 2025 > August 2026	You'll take a 1-year foundation as part of an integrated study plan that also includes your degree, all on a single CAS.
	£28,820	November 2025 > August 2026	
The required IELTS score depends on your selected progression degree	£25,520	January 2026 > August 2026	You'll take a 1-year foundation as part of an integrated study plan that also includes your degree, all on a single CAS.
<b>&gt; For other students</b>			
<b>5.5 overall</b> with no less than 5.0 in any skill	£25,520	September 2025 > August 2026	You'll take a separate foundation year leading to a degree, with your initial CAS covering your foundation year only.

**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)

\* **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/)

† **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)

**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

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

**Your foundation pathway options for degree entry in September 2026**

Minimum English level: UKVI IELTS score*	Tuition fee	Course start > Course end	Course type
<b>&gt; For students with IELTS 6.0 in all skills (or accepted equivalent) or above</b>			
<b>6.0 overall</b> with no less than 6.0 in any skill	£25,520	September 2025 > August 2026	You'll take a separate foundation year leading to a degree, with your initial CAS covering your foundation year only.

**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)

\* **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 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

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

- Advanced Academic Skills

<sup>§</sup> For some degrees, the University will require you to take particular modules.

**Your foundation pathway options for degree entry in September 2026**

Minimum English level: UKVI IELTS score*	Tuition fee	Course start > Course end	Course type
<b>&gt; For students with IELTS 5.5 in all skills (or accepted equivalent) or above</b>			
<b>5.5 overall</b> with no less than 5.5 in any skill†	£23,660	January 2026 > August 2026	You'll take a 1-year foundation as part of an integrated study plan that also includes your degree, all on a single CAS.
<b>&gt; For other students</b>			
<b>5.5 overall</b> with no less than 5.0 in any skill	£23,660	January 2026 > August 2026	You'll take a separate foundation year leading to a degree, with your initial CAS covering your foundation year only.

**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)

\* **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:** 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)

**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.  
**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



### **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 to 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**

This module will provide students with an introduction to Business, and Management by examining a broad range of UK and international businesses. It explores how companies create value by transforming resources and capabilities into viable products. A variety of key business functions will also be considered, with the main emphasis on how they enable companies to compete effectively in the marketplace. The course will also examine the external macro-economic industry and market factors that impact on the competitive advantage of a company.

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

Students who complete this module successfully will be able to demonstrate the ability to summarise, analyse, interpret and present financial & management accounting information using formal reports and basic financial statements. Students will also be expected to analyse financial information in case studies and form opinions based facts (i.e.

to draw conclusions and make recommendations

### **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**

The module will cover Biology at the level of the cell and above. It will include treatment of animal biology, covering the relationships between form function, from cell and tissue to whole body levels. The module consider animals in the context of their environments, and explore the adaptations that

enable different species to survive.

### **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.

### **Understanding Society**

This module explores a range of contemporary social issues such as identity and subcultures, media and consumption, power and inequality, and society and climate change. Employable and transferable skills are central to this module including, reflexivity, application of concepts, interpreting data, hypothesis setting and testing using a range of methods.

### **Waves**

This module covers the fundamental concepts of wave motion.





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BIRMINGHAM

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

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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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