



University of Birmingham foundation pathways

Course information: 2026–27

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 pass to qualify for entry to your degree. You can also see further information about the courses, including tuition fees, start dates, entry requirements and module summaries.

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Foundation pathway:

Arts, Business, Social Sciences and Law	06
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Engineering and Physical Sciences	08
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Life and Environmental Sciences	10
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Medicine and Health	12
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University of Birmingham foundation pathways

Undergraduate course information

Choose your undergraduate degree 03

Foundation pathway

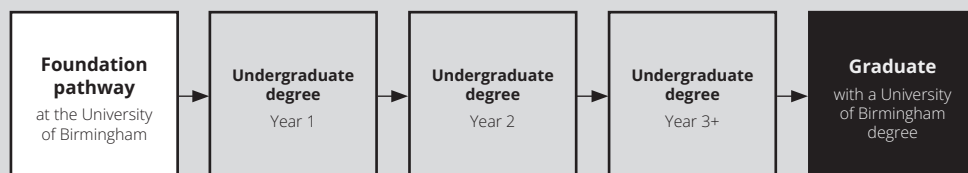
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Engineering and Physical Sciences	08
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Undergraduate module summaries 16

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

Accepted English tests: we accept UKVI IELTS and several alternatives. For full details, see: 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

Foundation pathways:

A: Arts, Business, Social Sciences and Law

E: Engineering and Physical Sciences

L: Life and Environmental Sciences

M: Medicine and Health

S: Social Sciences, Business and Law

Business and Finance

BSc (Hons) Accounting and Finance	A S
BSc (Hons) Accounting and Finance with Business Analytics	A S
BSc (Hons) Business Management	A S
BSc (Hons) Business Management with Business Analytics	A S
BSc (Hons) Business Management with Communications	A S
BSc (Hons) Business Management with Human Resource Management	A S
BSc (Hons) Business Management with Marketing	A S
BSc (Hons) Business Management with Operations and Supply Chain Management	A S
BSc (Hons) Economics	A S
BSc (Hons) Economics and Politics	A S
BSc (Hons) International Business	A S
LLB (Hons) Law with Business Studies	A S
BSc (Hons) Marketing with Business Analytics	A S
BSc (Hons) Mathematical Economics and Statistics	A S
BSc (Hons) Mathematics with Business Management	E
BSc (Hons) Money, Banking and Finance	A S

Computing

BSc (Hons) Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Computer Science	E
BSc (Hons) Computer Engineering	E
BSc (Hons) Computer Science	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

Environment

BSc (Hons) Environmental and Engineering Geoscience	L
BSc (Hons) Environmental Science	L
MSci (Hons) Environmental Science	L
MSci (Hons) Geography	L
BSc (Hons) Geography and Urban and Regional Planning with Year Abroad	L
BSc (Hons) Geology and Physical Geography	L
MSci (Hons) Geology and Physical Geography	L

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

Marketing and Media

BSc (Hons) Business Management with Communications	A S
BA (Hons) Digital Media and Communications	A S
BSc (Hons) Marketing	A S

Mathematics

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

Music and Performing Arts

BA (Hons) Drama and Film	A S
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Science and Health

BSc (Hons) Biochemistry	L
BSc (Hons) Biological Sciences	L
BSc (Hons) Biomedical Science	M
BSc (Hons) Biotechnology	L
BSc (Hons) Chemistry	E
BSc (Hons) Chemistry with Business Management	E
BSc (Hons) Chemistry with Medicinal Chemistry and Drug Discovery	E
BSc (Hons) Chemistry with Sustainability	E
BDS (Hons) Dental Surgery	M
BSc (Hons) Environmental and Engineering Geoscience	L
BSc (Hons) Environmental Science	L
BSc (Hons) Geology	L
MSci (Hons) Geology	L
BSc (Hons) Human Neuroscience	L
BSc (Hons) Human Sciences	L
BSc (Hons) Medical Biochemistry	L
MBChB (Hons) Medicine and Surgery	M
BNurs (Hons) Nursing - Adult	M
BSc (Hons) Palaeontology and Geology	L
MSci (Hons) Palaeontology and Geology	L
MPharm (Hons) Pharmacy	M
BSc (Hons) Physics	E
BSc (Hons) Physics and Astrophysics	E
BSc (Hons) Physics with Particle Physics and Cosmology	E
MSci (Hons) Physiotherapy	M
BSc (Hons) Psychology	L
BSc (Hons) Sport, Exercise and Health Sciences	L
BSc (Hons) Sport, PE and Coaching Science	L

Social Science and Humanities

BA (Hons) Ancient History and Archaeology	A S
BA (Hons) Ancient and Medieval History	A S
BASc (Hons) Arts and Sciences	A S L
BA (Hons) Classical Literature & Civilisation and Philosophy	A S
BA (Hons) Criminology	A S
BSc (Hons) Economics and Politics	A S
BA (Hons) English Language and Linguistics	A S
BA (Hons) English Literature	A S
BA (Hons) English Literature and Creative Writing	A S
BA (Hons) English Literature and Film	A S
BSc (Hons) Environmental Change and Sustainability	L
MSci (Hons) Environmental Change and Sustainability	L
BA (Hons) Film and Creative Writing	A S
BA (Hons) French	A S
BA (Hons) Geography	L
BSc (Hons) Geography	L
BSc (Hons) Geography and Urban and Regional Planning	L
BA (Hons) History	A S
BA (Hons) History and History of Art	A S
BA (Hons) History and Politics	A S
BA (Hons) History of Art	A S
MSci (Hons) Human Sciences	L

BA (Hons) International Development and Politics	A S
LLB (Hons) International Law and Globalisation	A S
BA (Hons) International Relations	A S
BA (Hons) International Relations and Development	A S
BA (Hons) International Relations with Economics	A S
BA (Hons) International Relations with French	A S
BA (Hons) International Relations with Spanish	A S
BA (Hons) Liberal Arts	A S L
BA (Hons) Modern Languages	A S
BA (Hons) Modern Languages and English Literature	A S
BA (Hons) Modern Languages and History	A S
BA (Hons) Modern Languages with Business Management	A S
BMus (Hons) Music	A S
BA (Hons) Philosophy	A S
BA (Hons) Philosophy and Sociology	A S
BA (Hons) Philosophy, Politics and Law	A S
BA (Hons) Philosophy, Religion and Ethics	A S
BA (Hons) Policy, Politics and Economics	A S
BA (Hons) Politics	A S
BA (Hons) Politics and International Relations	A S
BA (Hons) Politics and Philosophy	A S
BA (Hons) Politics and Social Policy	A S
BA (Hons) Politics and Sociology	A S
BA (Hons) Politics, Philosophy and Economics	A S
BA (Hons) Politics, Religion and Philosophy	A S
BSc (Hons) Psychology in Education	A S
BA (Hons) Social Anthropology	A S
BA (Hons) Social Anthropology and African Studies	A S
BA (Hons) Social Policy	A S
BA (Hons) Social Policy and Criminology	A S
BA (Hons) Social Policy and Sociology	A S
BASc (Hons) Social Sciences	A S
BA (Hons) Sociology	A S
BA (Hons) Sociology and Criminology	A S
BA (Hons) Spanish	A S
BA (Hons) Theology and Religion	A S

Notes

Note: Some of the degrees listed are 4-years long or are available with an extra year work placement or study abroad. Please check our online Degree Finder for details: [kaplanpathways.com/birmingham/ug-degrees](https://www.kaplanpathways.com/birmingham/ug-degrees)

Your foundation pathway options for degree entry in September 2027			
Minimum English level: UKVI IELTS score*	Tuition fee	Course start > Course end	Course type
> For students with IELTS 5.5 overall and in all skills (or accepted equivalent) or above			
5.5 overall with no less than 5.5 in any skill†	£24,480	September 2026 > August 2027	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	£24,480	September 2026 > August 2027	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

* UKVI IELTS alternatives: we can accept other tests as proof of English language. Learn more at: 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

Your course modules

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

- A Critical Introduction to Law and Legal Skills
- Business and the Market
- 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

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

Your foundation pathway options for degree entry in September 2027			
Minimum English level: UKVI IELTS score*	Tuition fee	Course start > Course end	Course type
> For students with IELTS 5.5 overall and in all skills (or accepted equivalent) or above			
5.5 overall with no less than 5.5 in any skill	£26,400	September 2026 > August 2027	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 2027 > August 2027	
> For other students			
5.5 overall with no less than 5.0 in any skill	£26,400	September 2026 > August 2027	You'll take a separate foundation year leading to a degree, with your initial CAS covering your foundation year only.
		January 2027 > August 2027	

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

Your course modules

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

- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Experimental and Investigative Skills
- Mathematics 1
- Mathematics 2
- Physical Sciences

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 2027			
Minimum English level: UKVI IELTS score*	Tuition fee	Course start > Course end	Course type
> For students with IELTS 5.5 overall and in all skills (or accepted equivalent) or above			
5.5 overall with no less than 5.5 in any skill†	£26,400	September 2026 > August 2027	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	£26,400	September 2026 > August 2027	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

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
- Chemistry
- Earth and Environmental Sciences
- Human Biology
- Introduction to Psychology 1
- Living Organisms

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 2027			
Minimum English level: UKVI IELTS score*	Tuition fee	Course start > Course end	Course type
> For students with IELTS 6.0 with at least 5.5 in all skills (or accepted equivalent) or above			
6.0 overall with no less than 5.5 in any skill	£26,400	January 2027 > August 2027	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 students with IELTS 5.5 with at least 5.5 in all skills (or accepted equivalent) or above			
5.5 overall with at least 5.5 in each skill	£26,400	September 2026 > August 2027	You'll have the option to take a separate foundation year, with your CAS covering your foundation year only or to take your foundation year as part of an integrated study plan that also includes your degree on a single CAS.
5.5 overall with no less than 5.5 in any skill	£29,820	November 2026 > August 2027	You'll take a 1-year foundation as part of an integrated study plan that also includes your degree, all on a single CAS.

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.

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Note: IELTS requirements for courses leading to BNurs (Hons) Nursing - Adult and MPharm (Hons) Pharmacy degrees may differ from standard entry. Please check the Degree Finder for full details: kaplanpathways.com/birmingham/ug-degrees

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

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
- Chemistry
- Human Biology
- Introduction to Health and Social Care
- Introduction to Psychology 1
- Living Organisms

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

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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

Your course modules

You will take the 4 subject modules below:

- A Critical Introduction to Law and Legal Skills
- Business and the Market
- 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

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

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.

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?

Chemistry

Students should be able to identify and accurately represent the bonding and structure of both organic and inorganic compounds, demonstrating an understanding of how atoms are arranged and interact. They should also be capable of calculating reacting quantities using balanced chemical equations, applying stoichiometric principles to determine amounts of reactants and products. In addition, students are expected to predict basic

organic reactions and illustrate arrow-pushing mechanisms for molecules containing common functional groups, showing how electrons move during reactions. Furthermore, they should be able to identify and predict reactions involving inorganic compounds and coordination complexes, reflecting a broad understanding of reactivity across different areas of chemistry.

Computer Science

This module offers a broad introduction to computer science and computational thinking. Students will learn key concepts from computer science in the areas of data representation, algorithms, and computer architecture. Alongside these theoretical components, they will also learn to write simple programmes in Python.

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.

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.

Experimental and Investigative Skills

The aim of this module is to develop students experimental, analytical, and report skills. The module introduces them to how scientists and engineers conduct research and share their findings within scientific communities. The students will conduct a broad range of experimental investigations across a range of disciplines. They will learn how to collect, manipulate, and represent data using digital tools, effective presentation techniques as well as health and safety considerations.

Human Biology

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

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.

Introduction to Psychology 1

The module will introduce students to the fundamental concepts associated with a range of core areas in Psychology - namely Cognitive, Biological and Developmental Psychology.

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.

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.

Physical Sciences

This module will provide students with an in-depth introduction to major physics topics required for successful undergraduate study in a range of destination degrees including Engineering, Aerospace, Chemical Engineering and Physics.

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.

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.



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM



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University's
courses
webpage

Contact us at:

kaplanpathways.com/birmingham-contact

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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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