

HOW CAN I APPLY FOR THE PATHWAY OPPORTUNITY PROGRAMME?

Applications for the Pathway Opportunity Programme 2024 will open on Monday 2nd October 2023. Students who wish to apply should complete the online application form which can be found at go.qub.ac.uk/QUBPathway. Applications will close at midnight on Monday 30th October 2023.

Students must successfully complete all elements of the programme to be eligible for their Pathway benefits, including the guaranteed conditional offer, guaranteed interview, first preference Nursing choices, any potential grade reduction and the bursary.



Welcome and Orientation Events	Tuesday 30th January 2024: AHSS, BioSci, MDBS, NBE, Nursing & Midwifery, Pharmacy and Social Work Pathways Wednesday 31st January 2024: Business, Computer Science, Engineering, Law, Mathematics & Physical Sciences and Psychology Pathways
Online Subject Skills Session (self-paced)	Tues 30 th January – Friday 23 rd February 2024
Academic Skills Session	Wednesday 28th February 2024: AHSS, BioSci, MDBS, NBE, Nursing & Midwifery, Pharmacy and Social Work Pathways Thursday 29th February 2024: Business, Computer Science, Engineering, Law, Mathematics & Physical Sciences and Psychology Pathways
Subject Specific Session	Tuesday 26 th March 2024
University Information Session	Tuesday 11 th June 2024
Pathway Summer School Residentials	Monday 24th June – Friday 28th June 2024: AHSS, BioSci, MDBS, NBE, Nursing & Midwifery, Pharmacy and Social Work Pathways Monday 22nd July – Friday 26th July 2024: Business, Computer Science, Engineering, Law, Mathematics & Physical Sciences and Psychology Pathways
Next Steps Session	Tuesday 10 th September 2024
MMI Training (MDBS Pathway only)	October 2024
Pathway Celebration Event	A Saturday in late November or early December 2024 – to be confirmed.

PATHWAY OPPORTUNITY PROGRAMME 2024



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WHAT IS THE PATHWAY OPPORTUNITY PROGRAMME?

Are you aged 16-19 and interested in studying at Queen's University Belfast? Are you currently in the first year of your A-Level course or other Level 3 programme? If so, then the Pathway Opportunity Programme may be a great choice for you!

Since the programme began in 2017, it has seen over 1500 students progress through its Pathways, receiving support in study and academic skills, university applications and confidence building activities. The Pathway Opportunity Programme gives you the chance to study a little of your chosen subject at Queen's University Belfast in order to prepare you to adapt to university life.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF COMPLETING THE PROGRAMME?

- Receive a guaranteed conditional offer or a guaranteed interview to Queen's on a course within your Pathway subject.*
- Receive a potential reduction of up to two A-level grades in your offer, which will be dependent on your performance in the programme and the course you apply for.*
- Receive a £1000 Kilwaughter Minerals bursary to start you off on your studies at Queen's University Belfast that is awarded during your first semester.
- Experience university level course-work in your chosen subject area.
- Get to know some of the lecturers and staff that you'll be working with when you arrive at Queen's.
- Meet other students from across Northern Ireland and take part in workshops designed to support you.
- Take part in a Summer School designed to introduce university and student life.
- Develop key skills that will help you adapt and thrive in a university environment.
- Receive ongoing support with university applications and the transition to Higher Education.

* Please note: Pathway Students applying to study Medicine, Dentistry, Social Work or Pharmacy (MPharm) will receive a guaranteed interview and, if successful at interview, will be eligible for up to a one grade reduced offer; Students applying to study a degree in Nursing (all fields) and/or Midwifery will receive a guaranteed interview and, if successful at interview, will receive an offer for their first choice in their chosen field.

AM I ELIGIBLE TO STUDY ON THE PATHWAY PROGRAMME?

If you think that the programme is something you are interested in, it's important to consider the eligibility criteria. You must meet all of the following criteria:

(Section A)

- Be ordinarily resident in Northern Ireland and be in full-time attendance at a school or college in Northern Ireland.
- Currently be in year 1 of an acceptable (to the University) two-year Level 3 qualification such as A-Levels, BTEC etc. This means that the subjects you are currently studying meet the specific requirements for the course(s) in the Pathway you are applying to.
- It is also important to note that for Medicine, Dentistry and Pharmacy Level 3 BTEC, OCR and other non A-Level qualifications are not acceptable.
- Ensure that neither of your parents have attended university nor obtained an undergraduate degree (or equivalent) in the UK, Ireland or abroad. However, if a parent is currently studying for their first degree or has graduated within the last 5 years your application will still be considered for the programme.
- Have at least: 6 GCSEs (or equivalent acceptable to the University, such as BTEC) at grades A*-C, including English Language, of which 5 of your GCSE grades must be at grade B or above. Again, GCSE grades need to satisfy any requirements for the course(s) on your Pathway (for example, a grade B in Maths at GCSE to study Business courses).

In addition to the criteria above, you must also meet at least one of the following criteria:

(Section B)

- Be eligible for or are currently receiving free school meals (FSM) and/or Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA).
- Be the main carer for a family member or dependant.
- Have a permanent residence postcode that is classified as being in a "disadvantaged neighbourhood" by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency. You can check the eligibility of your postcode online using the postcode checker at: go.qub.ac.uk/POPPostcodeChecker2024
- Be a Newcomer, a Refugee or an Asylum Seeker.
- If you are care experienced or currently in the care of a Health and Social Care Trust (eg. Foster Care or Residential Care etc) , you are automatically offered a place on the programme provided you meet the requirements of Section A: Northern Ireland resident, 1st year of a 2 year Level 3 programme and GCSE (or equivalent) grades.

