

Widening Participation Programmes

Widening Participation Programmes help students from disadvantaged backgrounds to progress onto University and Apprenticeships after Sixth Form.

All the programmes listed below are FREE. There are sometimes small costs for travel but in most cases, all expenses are covered. Should any funding issues arise, please speak to your Sixth Form team.

Any of these programmes can be completed alongside your A levels/BTECs without too much impact on your spare time.

Students should check the entry criteria of each programme carefully on the website of the provider before applying. Click on the title of each page to go directly the website for each opportunity.

Some of the programmes might look at your postcode to see how many people attend higher education in your area. This is just one of many possible criteria, but if you are interested in finding out if you meet it, please follow [this link](#) and check this against the requirements of each programme.

This is not a complete list of every opportunity you can access. Keep checking your emails in case more opportunities arise.



Contents

Sutton Trust	Page 2-3
Realising Opportunities	Page 4
Social Mobility Foundation	Page 5
Pathways to Birmingham	Page 6-7
Aston University	Page 8
EY Smart Futures	Page 9



Sutton Trust

A variety of university summer schools and an Apprenticeship engineering route.

- **Pathway to Professions**- 2 year programme with work experience, mentoring and workshops, as well as a summer residential. Focusing on the following professions: Law, Banking & Finance, Medicine, Engineering, Consulting.

Applications open in September and close in October and November.

- **UK Summer Schools**- at various Russell Group Universities nationwide.

Applications open in January and close in March.

- **Access Apprenticeships**- A year of support with work placements, workshops and mentoring. Only offered in engineering for Midlands students.

Applications open in September and close in November.

- **US Programme**- Spend a week in the US getting a taste of American colleges.

Applications usually open in the Autumn Term.

- **Online programme**- 18 months of access to webinars and online events supporting your progression to university.

Applications open in April and close in August.

A teacher reference is required for all programmes.

Entry requirements:

Each programme has its own entry requirements so check individual programmes carefully.

YOU MUST MEET THESE:

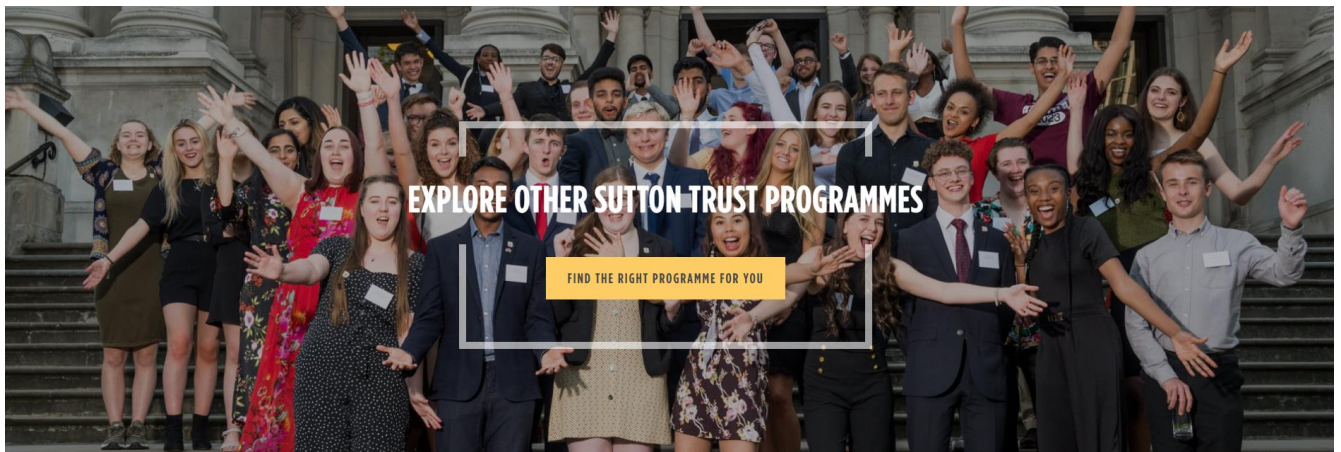
- Attend, and have always attended, a state-funded, non fee-paying school/college
- Be in Year 12

AND MEET SOME OF THESE:

- Have achieved at least five GCSEs at grades 9 – 6 (A*-B), including English and Maths. A minimum of two of these qualifications should be at grades 9 – 7. Or five A or B grades at National 5 including one A
- Would be the first generation in their family to attend university
- Have been in receipt of Free School Meals whilst at secondary school

- Live in a neighbourhood with a low rate of progression to higher education or a high level of socio-economic deprivation
- Have attended schools with a lower than average progression to higher education, or a higher than average proportion of students who qualify for Free School Meals
- Have been looked after or in care

The more criteria you meet, the more likely you are to get a place on the programme. Not meeting all of the additional criteria will not disqualify you.



Realising Opportunities

Realising opportunities gives you experience of university and helps you prepare for your future applications. If you are eligible and complete the course you can receive a reduced offer at ANY of their partner universities (if you make a successful application through UCAS). This can include guaranteed interviews for medicine and law courses if you meet the standard entry for the course (e.g. UCAT/LNAT test scores, GCSE requirements).

Applications open in September and close in November.

A teacher reference is required.

Entry Requirements

- 5x GCSEs at grades 9-6
- Year 12 student
- Home registered students

AND at least ONE of these (the more the better):

- Your parents haven't been to uni
- Your postcode is in an area of low progression to uni
- You have been eligible for FSM
- You receive the 16-19 Bursary
- You have had your education disrupted at some point
- School performed below national average last year at KS5



Social Mobility Foundation

Long term support during and after you have left Sixth Form. With the opportunity for mentoring with a professional, tailored skills sessions and career workshops, university application support and guidance, Internships with top employers and career advice.

APP City- Receive skill sessions, university application support, internships, and match with an employer mentor from your chosen sector.

APP Reach- Students who may not meet our academic criteria, or who are unable to attend in-person workshops may be offered a place on APP Reach. They'll get online resources and video tutorials to develop skills and career knowledge, university application support, and a mentor from their chosen sector.

Applications open in September and close in December.

A teacher reference is required.

Entry Requirements

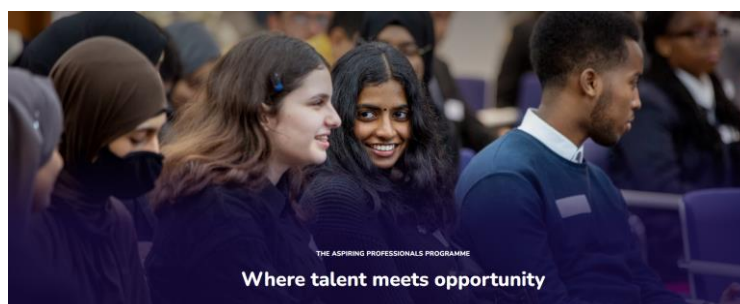
Students must be in Year 12 AND meet at least ONE of the following:

- Eligible for Free School Meals
- Care experienced

OR meet at least TWO of the following:

- You'll be the first generation of your family to attend university. (We still count students being the first generation if their parents/guardians went to university as a mature student, or abroad, and if older siblings went to university).
- Your household income is lower than £45,000
- Your highest-paid parent or guardian does a certain type of job (the form will tell you this) or is unemployed

Academic Requirements: You'll typically need at least four passes at GCSE or equivalent. There may be exceptions or changes based on the information you provide. Grade requirements may be higher if you choose certain sectors.





Pathways to Birmingham

Various programmes available to students in Year 12 and 13.

- **Routes to the Professions**- Tailored support throughout the university application process. It focuses on specific vocational courses and careers in Dentistry, Engineering, Law, Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Physiotherapy, and Social Work. For Year 12 students who meet the criteria below.

Applications usually open in the autumn term.

- **Inspired at Birmingham**- A year of support for anybody who is unsure what degree they want to study. For Year 12 students who meet the criteria below.

Applications usually open in the autumn term.

- **Academic Enrichment Programme**- 4 day residential summer school with application support and taster lectures. For Year 12 students who meet the criteria below.

Applications usually open in January.

- **Access to Birmingham**- For Year 13 pupils who didn't apply to any of the opportunities above. You will need to complete a summer programme (after your exams) to help your transition to university.

Apply at the same time as sending off your UCAS application.

All programmes completed give students, typically, a two grade reduction on any successful university offers to University of Birmingham, and a guaranteed interview for some healthcare courses like medicine and physiotherapy. You can also receive funding support if you enrol on an undergraduate course.

A teacher reference is required for all programmes.

Entry Requirements

Step 1

- You currently attend a Pathways to Birmingham partner school* and have attended a non-selective state-funded school in the UK at Key Stage 4 (GCSE or equivalent).
- You have a Home fee status at the point of entry to university.
- You are in Year 12 or Year 13 (or equivalent), or a mature student.

Step 2

- You will be eligible if you have had experience of public care.

OR meet at least three of the following measures:

- You have been in receipt of Free School Meals in the last 6 years
- You attend or attended a school or college that performs below the national average
- You currently live in a low-progression area
- You are the first generation of your immediate family to attend higher education
- Your household income is below £42,875
- You have a disability and are in receipt of a Personal Independence Payment
- You are estranged from both your parents or guardians
- You provide unpaid care to a friend or a family member (you are a young carer)

Step 3

If you only meet two of the criteria at Step 2, we will also consider your application if you have experienced other significant extenuating circumstances that had, or are having, a significant detrimental impact on academic attainment.

Pathways to
Birmingham



Aston University Pathway to the Professions

An 18 month programme completed alongside your A levels/BTECs to support your transition onto either Medicine, Healthcare or Engineering and Technology pathways. You might get a contextual offer to the university if you complete the programme. You can also receive funding support if you enrol on an undergraduate course.

Applications open in September and close in October.

Entry Requirements

Each programme has its own academic criteria, so check their website carefully.

You will also need to meet at least one of the following widening participation criteria:

- Live in a POLAR 4, Quintile 1 or 2 area (check if your home postcode is eligible)
- Attend a school or college in a POLAR 4, Quintile 1 or 2 area (check if your school/college postcode is eligible)
- Come from a home where neither parent has attended a university in the UK or abroad
- Have a disability or are in receipt of a personal independence payment
- Is a care leaver or has experience of being looked after by a local authority
- Have been in receipt of free school meals at any point over the last three years
- Belong to any of the following groups: Gypsy, Roma, Traveller communities, refugees, children of military families

Pathways to the Professions



EY Smart Futures

Smart Futures is a 12-month programme which includes paid work experience, interactive employability skills training and mentoring for those in Year 12. Other employers support EY in the running of the programme. Pathways to focus on include: Business, Security, Technology, Banking, Public Sector, Charity, STEM, Data, Risk, Government and Real Estate.

Applications open in September.

Entry Requirements

To apply, you must be:

- Eligible for free school meals at any time in the last two years.

OR

- Eligible for a college bursary or Education Maintenance Allowance (where household income is less than £24,421)

PLUS

- In Year 12
- Attending a state school
- Studying any combination of A-level/International Baccalaureate/BTEC Level 3s/National 5/Highers
- Ambitious and motivated to learn about the world of work
- Looking for great paid work experience in the school holidays that will help you secure a job after school, or a place at university

