



Queen's University
Belfast

SENIOR ACADEMY
AT QUEEN'S
2016/17

GUIDANCE NOTES FOR APPLICANTS

CONTACT US

For more information on the Senior Academy,
please contact the Widening Participation Unit.

Email: wpu@qub.ac.uk

Telephone: 028 9097 5020

Website: www.qub.ac.uk/wpu

Twitter: @qubwpu



GUIDANCE NOTES FOR APPLICANTS





SENIOR ACADEMY: PROGRAMME

The Queen's Senior Academy supports students who have the potential to secure a place at University regardless of economic or social background. The two year programme offers young people from non selecting secondary schools and further education colleges the chance to take part in a range of activities aimed at preparing them for university life including academic skills workshops, lectures and seminars. In addition, students will take part in a university residential. Current undergraduate and post graduate students are closely involved in the programme, offering both general and academic support throughout. Students are also entitled to up thirty hours of one to one subject specific tuition.

Being part of the two year Academy programme increases knowledge and understanding of what it's like to be a student at university, supporting your transition to becoming an undergraduate.

GUIDANCE NOTES FOR APPLICANTS

CRITERIA

In 2017/18 we have 50 places available and in order to be eligible to apply to the Academy applicants must be:

- in full time education, currently studying a two year, level 3 qualification eg A' Levels or acceptable equivalent BTEC/OCR
- attending a Northern Ireland non selecting School or College of Further Education
- have at least 5 A* C grades at GCSE (or equivalent eg GNVQ, BTEC) including English Language and Maths*
- from a family with little or no experience of higher education. For example **neither parent has attended university and obtained an undergraduate degree or equivalent in the UK or abroad*.**

Applicants with brothers/sisters who have completed a higher education course or who are presently going through higher education are still eligible as are applicants who have family members outside of the immediate family (eg grandparents, cousins, aunts, uncles).

**Students can be retaking one or both of these subjects and still be part of the programme.*

**If a parent is currently studying for their degree or graduated in the last five years, applications will still be considered.*

In addition, applicants **must** also meet at least **two** of the following eligibility criteria:

- have an annual household income of less than £19,203
- be in receipt of Educational Maintenance Allowance (EMA)
- currently living in care or are care experienced
- have a disability or additional learning need (please see further information on application form)
- is the main carer for a family member or dependant.

SENIOR ACADEMY
AT QUEEN'S
2016/17

OUR ROLE: SUPPORTING STUDENTS

Queen's Senior Academy's aim is to support students who show the motivation and commitment to achieve their academic potential. We aim to provide the best environment for students to learn about university life, as well as developing the academic skills needed for undergraduate study. One of the major aspects of university life is independent study. Academy students will be given the opportunity to develop skills that will help them take responsibility for their own learning as well as manage time to meet deadlines. Having an individual tutor will further develop knowledge of their subject(s) by means of regular one to one tuition (**Over 70% of our 2015-16 students maintained or improved their grades with 20 plus hours tuition**).

OUR EXPECTATIONS: PERSONAL COMMITMENT AND RESPONSIBILITY

To ensure that you get all the benefit of being part of the Academy we do require a high level of commitment from students. There are some compulsory activities that students must attend. Students are also entitled to a maximum of thirty hours of subject specific tuition at a time and venue that suits their own personal circumstances. Students can also take advantage of a subject mentor, a Queen's undergraduate who can provide first hand knowledge and experience of what it's like to study at the university. Whereas the tutoring and mentoring are not a compulsory element of the programme it is strongly advised that this opportunity is utilised by each academy member as competition for university places is extremely high and making use of these resources helps with both exam preparation and performance.

PROGRAMME: COMPULSORY AND OPT IN

In order to successfully complete the programme students must attend all elements of our compulsory programme. These activities will be held between April and August 2017 as well as a revision session preparing you for exams in 2018. It is important that all students ensure that they are available on the compulsory dates we have highlighted before submitting an application. If a student is offered a place on the programme and later informs us of a family holiday, sporting event or extracurricular school/college activity which clashes with any of our compulsory dates, they will not be able to complete the programme and their place will be forfeited. We will always do our best to support students and extenuating circumstances will of course be taken into account.

GUIDANCE NOTES FOR APPLICANTS

HOW TO APPLY

Applications for Senior Academy 2017/18

Applications to the Senior Academy will open on **Monday 23 January 2017**. The application form will be available from our Senior Academy web page. An application pack will also be sent to each participating school and college. These forms can be copied. Completed application forms will need to be submitted by **5pm on Friday 10 February 2017**. We will use the information you provide on this form in the selection process for a place on Queen's Senior Academy.

When shortlisting applications we will be looking for the following:

- that you are studying the necessary level three qualifications which allow progress into higher education
- that you meet the GCSE entry requirements, or showing evidence that you are working towards this
- motivation to learn more about what university life is like
- satisfactory references supporting your application from your school/college referee.

THE PERSONAL STATEMENT

The personal statement allows you to tell us why you want to be part of the Queen's Senior Academy, what you are planning to achieve by being part of it and how you will contribute to it. This is your chance to tell us all about you.

The application form must be supported by a member of staff in your 6th form or college. This could be a head of year, subject teacher or another member of staff but they must be able to provide the following information:

- which of the eligibility criteria you meet.
- comments on your academic suitability for the programme and if possible, your predicted grades.

Applicants will be contacted by the Senior Academy team to confirm their application has been received. We will shortlist all applications. Applicants will meet the team between February and March in their school/college to discuss the programme in more detail.

- Successful applicants will be informed the week beginning **10 April 2017**
- The Senior Academy will meet altogether for induction on **28 April 2017**

**SENIOR ACADEMY
AT QUEEN'S
2016/17**

SENIOR ACADEMY: COMPULSORY PROGRAMME

ACTIVITY	WHEN	DURATION	DESCRIPTION	KEY POINTS
APPLICATION DEADLINE	10 February 2017		students return completed applications	return application form by 10 February 2017
MEETINGS WITH POTENTIAL ACADEMY STUDENTS	February – March 2017		Academy coordinator meets with potential students to discuss programme and answer any queries	programme overview – demonstrating understanding of programme and commitment to it
QUEEN'S ACADEMY LAUNCH EVENT	28 April 2017	11.00 am – 15.00 pm	launch event	programme overview – recap – code of conduct – orientation
RESIDENTIAL	2 – 4 August 2017	two nights three days	two night residential experience staying at Queen's Hall of Residence, the Elms	– lectures – seminars – research skills – academic writing – referencing – university life
'STUDY SKILLS' SESSION PREPARATION FOR EXAM SUCCESS	24 November 2017	10.00am – 15.00pm	revision skills session	– time management – stress relief – food for the brain (health and nutrition)



**SENIOR ACADEMY
AT QUEEN'S
2016/17**