

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY SENIOR ACADEMY

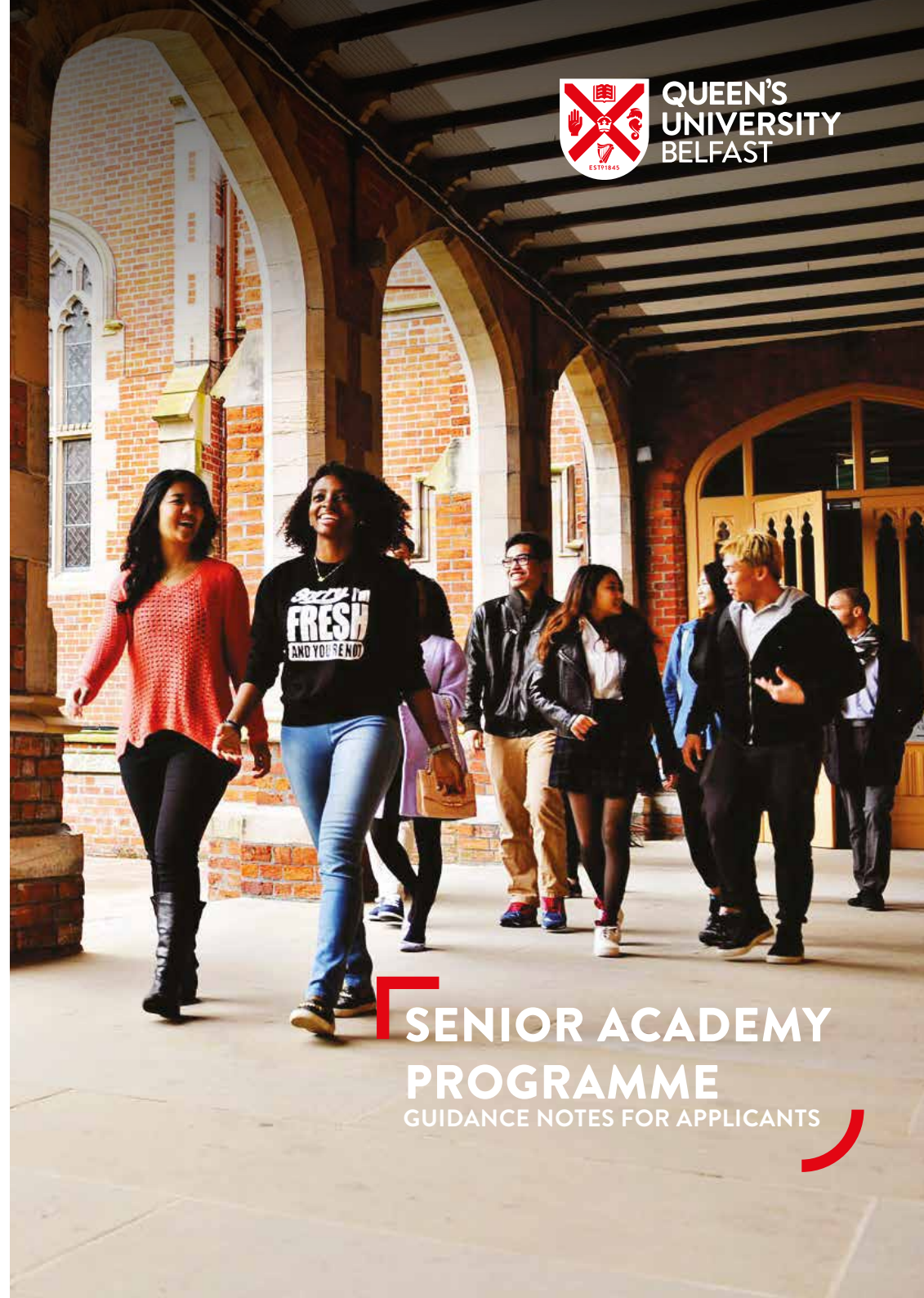
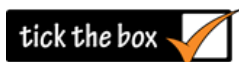


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SENIOR ACADEMY
PROGRAMME
GUIDANCE NOTES FOR APPLICANTS



THE PROGRAMME: COMPULSORY ELEMENTS

The Queen's Senior Academy Programme 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 introducing and preparing them for university life. These include academic skills workshops, lectures, seminars and a three day university residential.

Current undergraduate and postgraduate students are closely involved in the programme, offering both general and academic support throughout. Students are also entitled to up to 30 hours of one-to-one subject-specific tuition.

Participation in the two year Senior Academy Programme increases knowledge and understanding of what it is like to be a student at university, supporting the transition from school or college, to life as an undergraduate student.

ELIGIBILITY

In 2018/2019 we have 50 places available on the Senior Academy Programme at Queen's University.

To be eligible to apply applicants must be:

- In full-time education, currently studying a two year, level 3 qualification e.g. A' Levels or acceptable equivalent (e.g. BTEC/OCR.)
- Attending a Northern Ireland, non-selecting secondary school or College of Further Education.
- Have at least **five A* - C grades at GCSE** (or equivalent e.g. GNVQ, BTEC) including English Language* and Maths*
- Neither parent should have attended university or obtained an undergraduate degree or equivalent in the UK, Ireland or abroad**

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

*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 first degree or has graduated within the last five years, applications will still be considered.

In addition, applicants must also meet at last one or more of the following eligibility criteria:

- Have an annual household income of £19,203 or less.
- Be in receipt of Educational Maintenance Allowance (EMA).
- Have a disability or an additional learning need (please see further information on application form).
- Be the main carer for a family member or dependant.

As part of the University's ongoing commitment to Care Leavers, students currently living in care or who are care-experienced, are automatically eligible for the programme, regardless of meeting any other criteria.

OUR ROLE: SUPPORTING STUDENTS

The aim of the Queen's Senior Academy is to support students who show the motivation and commitment to achieve their academic potential. We endeavour to provide the best environment for students to learn about university life, in addition to developing the academic skills needed for undergraduate study. One of the key aspects of university life is independent study, and Academy students will be given the opportunity to develop skills that will help them take responsibility for their own learning, as well as managing their time effectively in order to meet deadlines. Having an individual subject-specific tutor will further develop knowledge of their subject(s) through the support of one-to-one tuition. (Over 70% of our 2016-17 students maintained or improved their grades with 20+ hours' of tuition).

OUR EXPECTATIONS: PERSONAL COMMITMENT AND RESPONSIBILITY

To ensure that you get all the benefits of being part of the Senior Academy, we do require a high level of commitment from students. There are compulsory elements that students must attend, including the Summer Residential, in order to maintain their place on the programme and access the tutoring provision. Students are entitled to a maximum of 30 hours of subject-specific tuition at a time and venue that suits their own personal circumstances.

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 participant, 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 derive maximum benefit, students must attend all compulsory elements of the programme. These core activities will be held between April and August 2018, in addition to a revision session in preparation for students' exams in 2019.

It is important that students ensure they are available on the compulsory dates 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 continue on the programme or access tutoring and their place will be forfeited. We will always do our best to support students with extenuating circumstances.

HOW TO APPLY

Applications for the Senior Academy Programme will open on **Monday, 22 January 2018**. The application pack will be available on the Queen's University, Senior Academy web page and information will also be sent to each Academy participating school and college. Completed application forms should be submitted by **11.59pm on Friday, 9 February 2018**. We will use the information provided on your application in the selection process for a place on the Queen's Senior Academy Programme.

When shortlisting applicants we will look for candidates who demonstrate the following:

- You are studying the required level 3 qualifications to facilitate progress into higher education
- You meet the GCSE entry requirements, or show evidence that you are working towards this
- Motivation to learn more about university life and undergraduate study
- Satisfactory references from your school/college supporting your application

THE PERSONAL STATEMENT

The personal statement allows you to tell us why you want to be part of the Queen's Senior Academy, how you will contribute and what you are hoping to achieve through the programme. 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
- Comment on your academic suitability for the programme and where available, your predicted grades

Applicants will be contacted by the Senior Academy team to confirm their application has been received. Shortlisted applicants will meet the team between February and March 2018, in their own school/college, to discuss the programme in more detail.

- Successful applicants will be informed of our decision during the week beginning **Monday, 9 April 2018**
- The Senior Academy's first Welcome and Induction event will take place on **Friday, 27 April 2018**

SENIOR ACADEMY: COMPULSORY PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

GUIDANCE NOTES FOR APPLICANTS

	DATE	TIME	DESCRIPTION	KEY POINTS
APPLICATIONS	Monday, 22 January – Friday, 9 February 2018	N/A	Students to complete and return applications.	Please note that applications made after the deadline of Friday, 9 February 2018 will not be considered.
MEETING WITH SHORTLISTED CANDIDATES	February – March 2018	N/A	Our Academy Coordinator will schedule to meet potential students to discuss the programme and answer any queries.	Selected students will be required to demonstrate an understanding and commitment to the Senior Academy programme.
LAUNCH EVENT	Friday, 27 April 2018	11.00am –3.00pm	Senior Academy launch event at Queen’s University Belfast.	Students will receive a programme overview, have the opportunity to meet other students enrolled on the programme and participate in an orientation day around the Queen’s Campus.
SUMMER RESIDENTIAL	Wednesday, 8 August – Friday, 10 August 2018	Three days (Two nights)	Two night residential experience staying at Queen’s Halls of Residence at Elms Village. Academic and social activities will be an integral part of the residential programme.	The residential offers students the opportunity to experience university life, from attending lectures and seminars, to meeting new friends and living in Elms Village. Students will also get the chance to develop their research, academic writing and referencing skills through a structured debate.
TUTORING FOR SUCCESS	Thursday, 30 August 2018	10.00am – 2.30pm	Information and advice session on subject-specific tuition.	Students will have the opportunity to attend discussions with current tutors in addition to hearing from University Faculty Representatives.
STUDY SKILLS SESSION	Friday, 23 November 2018	10.00am –3.00pm	Revision Skills session at Queen’s University.	This session will provide information on time management, stress relief and revision tips for students during Year 14.