



PATHWAY OPPORTUNITY PROGRAMME

2026 programme



Are you interested in studying at Queen's University?

Are you in the first year of your A-Level course or other Level 3 programme?

Would you like to receive tailored support and encouragement to get to Queen's?

Then the Pathway Opportunity Programme could be for you!

STATISTICS SHOW UNDERREPRESENTATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION.....

- Parents did not attend university
- Low-income households
- Certain neighbourhoods
- Carers
- Care Leavers
- Refugees/Asylum Seekers/Newcomers



WHAT IS THE PATHWAY OPPORTUNITY PROGRAMME?



Who?

- For Year 13 pupils/first year student of Level 3 qualification underrepresented in higher education to support progression to Queen's.

When?

- Delivered as a series of in-person and online events between January and November during the school day – plus a one week summer school on Queen's campus.

Why?

- Builds skills, knowledge and confidence to access, study, experience and progress to University, and specifically Queen's.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

- Guaranteed Conditional Offer / Guaranteed Interview
- Up to a 2 grade reduction on A Level entry requirements *
- £1000 Kilwaughter Minerals Bursary
- UCAS advice from Queen's admissions experts
- Learn from university academics, experience university life, make connections to services at Queen's
- Feel more confident and prepared for the transition to life and study in higher education.
- 'Once a Pathway Student Always a Pathway Student'



*** Depending on programme assessment and Pathway**

WHAT PATHWAYS CAN I CHOOSE?

**Arts, Humanities and Social
Sciences (AHSS)**

Biological Sciences

Business

Computer Science

Engineering

Law

**Mathematics, Physics and
Chemistry (MPC)**

**Medicine, Dentistry and
Biomedical Sciences (MDBS)**

**Natural and Built
Environment (NBE)**

Nursing

Pharmacy

Psychology

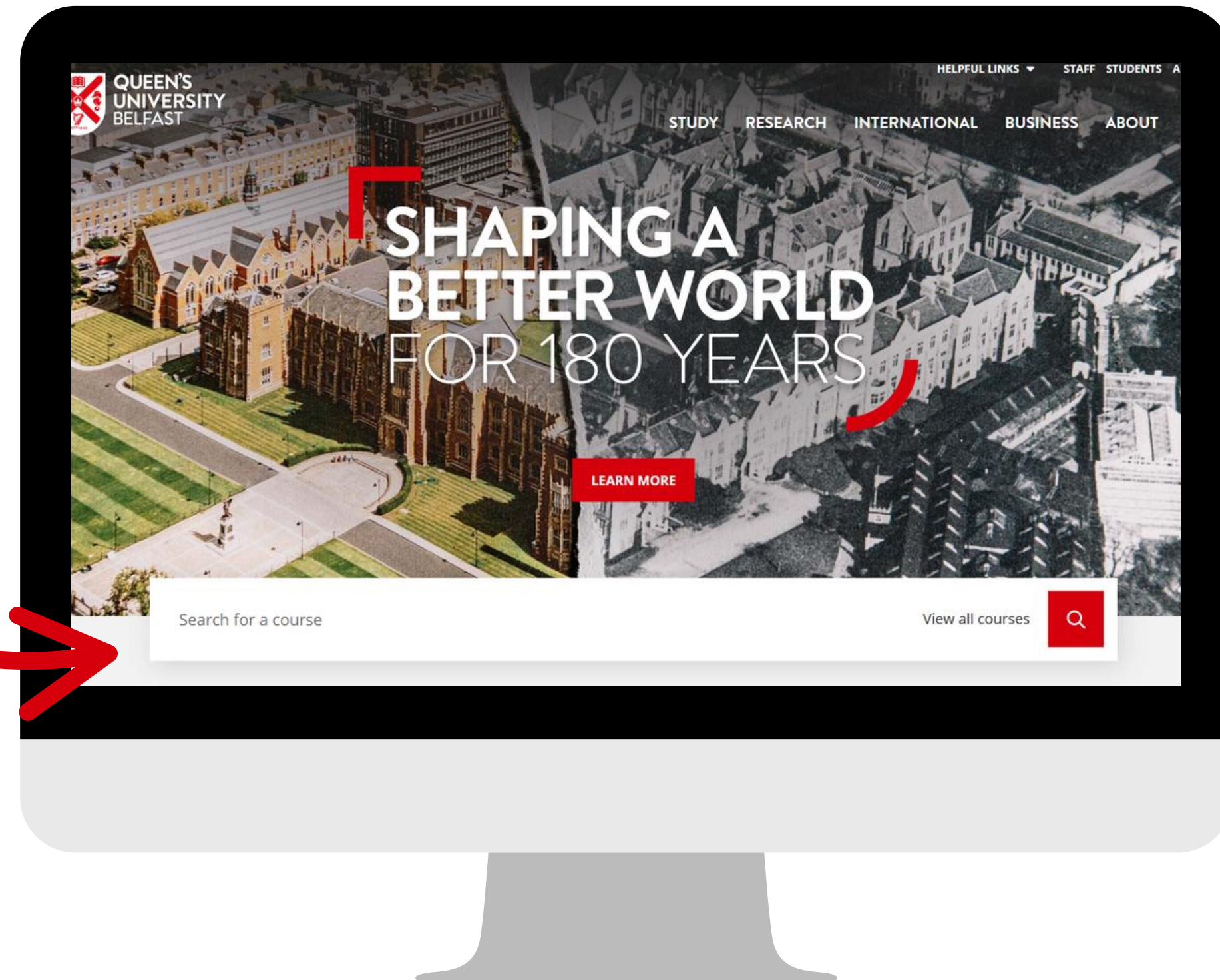
Social Work

THINKING AHEAD...



Every course at Queen's has a different set of entry requirements.

See what courses within your pathway are available for you to study at Queen's by checking their entry requirements online.



WHAT DOES THE YEAR LOOK LIKE?

Apply (29th September - 3rd November 2025)

Welcome & Orientation – January 2026

Subject Skills Session – February 2026 (Online: self-paced)

Academic Skills Session – March 2026

Subject Specific Session – April 2026

University Information Session – June 2026

Summer School – Last week June & first week of July

Next Steps Session – September 2026

Celebration Event – End November 2026

THE PATHWAY SUMMER SCHOOL



QUEEN'S
UNIVERSITY
BELFAST

THE SUMMER SCHOOL RESIDENTIAL

- Last week of June or first week of July (Pathway dependent).
- Monday to Friday.
- Experience studying like an undergraduate by staying in a private en-suite room in Queen's Elms.
- Experience lectures, labs, and hands-on workshops from your subject's top academics.
- Work on group projects, attend team outings and get to know university campus better.
- Complete end of residential assessment.



WHAT IS REQUIRED TO SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE THE PROGRAMME?

- ✓ Attend all events – 6 x 1 Day Events.
- ✓ Complete all Online coursework.
- ✓ Complete the Residential Summer School and final assessment.



ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Section A Criteria

You must meet **all** of the following:

- You must be ordinarily **resident in Northern Ireland** and be in full-time attendance at a **school or college in Northern Ireland**.
- You must currently be in **year 1** of an acceptable (to the University) **two-year Level 3 qualification** such as A-Levels, BTEC etc.
- **Neither of your parents have attended university** nor obtained an undergraduate degree (or equivalent) in the UK, Ireland or abroad.
- You must have at least **6 GCSEs** (or equivalent) at grades A*-C, **including English Language**, of which **5 must be at grade B** or above.

Acceptable Level 3 Qualifications

A-Level

A-Level

A-Level

BTEC Extended Diploma
(Triple Award)

A-Level

A-Level

BTEC Subsidiary
Diploma
(or other single
award)

BTEC Diploma
(Double Award)

A-Level

BTEC Diploma
(Double Award)

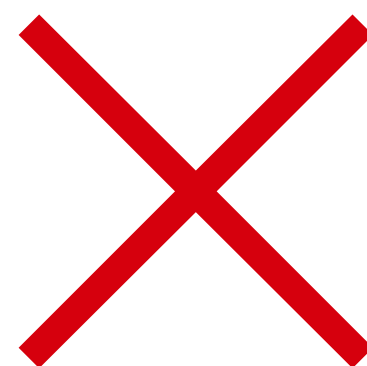
BTEC Subsidiary
Diploma
(or other single
award)

Not acceptable combinations

A-Level

BTEC Subsidiary
Diploma
(or other single award)

BTEC Subsidiary
Diploma
(or other single award)



BTEC Subsidiary
Diploma
(or other single award)

BTEC Subsidiary
Diploma
(or other single award)

BTEC Subsidiary
Diploma
(or other single award)

Section B Criteria

You must meet ONE of the following:

- 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.
- 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, you are automatically offered a place on the programme provided you meet Section A requirements.



On your application form please select **all** Section B criteria that apply to you - points for shortlisting are awarded for **each** criteria you meet.

APPLICATIONS OPEN SEPTEMBER 29th 2025

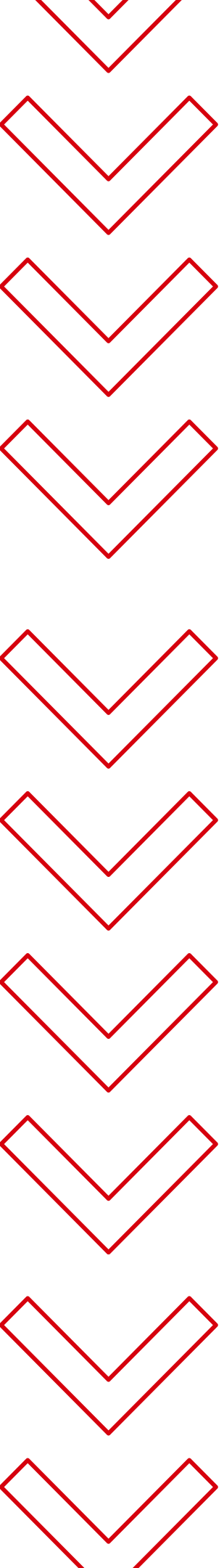
To apply:

- Visit go.QUB.ac.uk/QUBPathway
- Google “QUB POP” and click “Applications for 2026 Programme”.

APPLICATIONS CLOSE NOON NOVEMBER 4TH 2025

APPLICATION INFORMATION

- The Application cannot be saved as you go along - you need to complete it in one sitting and click submit.
- Make sure to choose a First and Second choice Pathway - in case your first choice is oversubscribed
- A teacher in your school is required to complete a 'technical reference' to confirm your GCSE and A-Level information you submit. Take care to put in their correct email address.
- A short Personal Statement is required: 200 words on what motivated you to apply to the programme.



APPLICATION CHECKLIST

- ✓ Review the eligibility requirements (Section A and Section B) for the programme.
- ✓ Check the Postcode Checker on the Pathway website at the 'Media' tab.
- ✓ Research the courses on your preferred Pathway to ensure you meet the entry requirements of one of the courses on that Pathway.
- ✓ Ask a teacher to complete a reference for you.
- ✓ Review the online application form and prepare your information and statements.
- ✓ Complete the online application in one sitting (as it cannot be saved mid-progress) and submit application.



Do you...

- Want to study at Queen's University Belfast?
- Meet the eligibility criteria (Section A and one from Section B)?
- Want to receive a Guaranteed Conditional Offer / Interview to Queen's?
- Want an opportunity to receive up to a 2 grade reduction in your offer?
- Want a £1000 bursary from Kilwaughter Minerals in your first year?
- Experience university life, make new friends, and enjoy some challenges?



QUESTIONS?

Go online:

go.qub.ac.uk/QUBPathway

Telephone: 028 9097 5020

Email: pop@qub.ac.uk