




The Russell Group of Universities



1 Northumberland Avenue
Trafalgar Square, London, UK
WC2N 5BW
T: +44 (0)20 7872 5802
www.russellgroup.ac.uk

Special entry routes for non-traditional students at Russell Group universities

A foundation course is an additional year at the beginning of a degree which prepares students without the standard required qualifications for their chosen course. They are designed to help these students 'catch-up' with the students who have entered a course through a conventional route. These rigorous programmes ensure that they will have the necessary skills, experience and knowledge to succeed in their degree. They are specifically designed to provide additional support and tuition to students in their transition to higher education.

 <p>UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM</p>	<p>Birmingham offers foundation years in various science & engineering disciplines. Successful completion of the course guarantees students a place on their chosen degree programme. Foundation year courses are suitable for those whose qualifications are not recognised for direct entry to a degree programme, including mature students.</p>
 <p>University of BRISTOL</p>	<p>The University of Bristol offers foundation years in Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science as well as preliminary years of study in Chemistry, Physics and Geology. Successful completion of this year allows progression to the first year of the normal degree programme.</p>
 <p>CARDIFF UNIVERSITY PRIFYSGOL CAERDYDD</p>	<p>Engineering, Medicine & Dentistry Preliminary Years are designed to give students the necessary basic knowledge to enable them to cope on an engineering or dentistry degree at the university. Students who successfully complete the year will then be able to move on to the degree programmes.</p>

	<p>Both the University of Edinburgh and the University of Glasgow participate in SWAP (Scottish Wider Access Partnership), a partnership of further and higher education institutions which creates opportunities for mature students with no qualifications to access university. The SWAP programme prepares students for entry into higher education and guarantees them a place at a college or university if they complete the programme successfully.</p>
	<p>Extended Medical Degree Programme (EMDP) is a six year degree programme launched in 2001 designed for students attending non-selective state schools or further education (FE) colleges in designated boroughs in London and the South East which have high levels of social disadvantage. Places on the programme are offered to talented pupils from inner London boroughs and targeted schools in Kent & Medway that have the potential to succeed in medicine but not the predicted A-level grades required for the standard medical programme. These places are additional to those previously allocated to King's for entry by conventional routes.</p>
	<p>Foundation Years at Leeds provides preliminary years in four subject areas: medicine; physics; science, mathematics and engineering; and social sciences and law. The foundation years enable students without standard entry qualifications to progress to a wide range of degree courses such as medicine, science, mathematics, computing, engineering, healthcare, law, politics and social policy.</p> <p>Widening Participation in Medicine is a partnership programme between the Universities of Leeds and Bradford. Leeds has allocated 40 additional places on the medical training programme reserved for students transferring from a Clinical Sciences course at Bradford. To date, 188 students from this course have transferred to the Leeds Medical School. The key aims of this joint initiative are to widen participation of students entering medicine and healthcare and to reflect the needs of a socially and culturally diverse local community.</p>

 <p>UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL</p>	<p>Liverpool runs various 1+3 and 2+2 foundation courses with local FE colleges as progression opportunities into university degrees. These include degree programmes in medicine and dentistry, science and engineering, computer science and information systems, earth sciences, geography, mathematics and physical sciences.</p>
<p>The University of Manchester</p> 	<p>Manchester is committed to developing and expanding alternative progression programmes for particular subject areas. Some of these are run in partnership with a local FE institution, Xaverian College, and others are delivered in-house by the university. These aim to attract home students from diverse educational backgrounds or with atypical qualifications onto degree courses through completion of a 'Year 0' Foundation Year Programme. Upon successful completion, these facilitate student progression directly onto Year 1 of relevant undergraduate programmes and include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medicine with Foundation Year (with Xaverian College) • Dentistry with Foundation Year (with Xaverian College) • Pharmacy with Foundation Year (with Xaverian College) • Life Sciences with Foundation Year (with Xaverian College) • Engineering with Foundation Year (within our Faculty of Engineering & Physical Sciences) • Science with Foundation Year (within our Faculty of Engineering & Physical Sciences) <p>In 2008 some 273 home students progressed through these pathways, which are 1.5 times more likely to recruit students from Low Participation Neighbourhoods.</p>



Foundation Year provides an introductory year to a number of engineering, science and mathematics degree courses, designed for those who have shown that they have the ability to succeed but lack the necessary qualifications or subject knowledge to enter the degree directly.

Newcastle has established an **Open University science access route**, partnering with Open University and Monkseaton Comprehensive High School, to allow students to complete university-level courses as Open University for guaranteed entry to Newcastle University instead of requiring the standard three A-level subjects. Sixty places have been set aside for students who complete required science modules at Open University. This is due to worries that talented pupils were dropping science and maths in sixth-form but had the potential to succeed on a science course at university.



The Certificate in Health Science, run jointly with the University of Lincoln, provides a full-time one-year grounding in healthcare and science. Students can then progress to Medicine, Pharmacy, Veterinary Medicine and Science and other health-related courses with competitive entry at the University of Nottingham. Winner of the Times Higher Award 'Widening Participation Initiative of the Year' in 2006, the Certificate is for students who have the ability to study such courses, but whose circumstances might make this difficult.

The **Preliminary Year in Veterinary Medicine and Science** aims to attract students with diverse life experience and educational pathways. 72% of the 2008 intake were on low-incomes.

Science & Engineering Foundation Years are designed for students whose school qualifications do not meet the current admissions requirements for entry to undergraduate programmes. The programme provides grounding in the fundamentals of science and mathematics. In addition to classroom and laboratory activities, all foundation students are allocated a personal tutor to provide advice and guidance.

 <p>Queen's University Belfast</p>	<p>The Certificate in Foundation Studies (Access Courses) and Foundation Degrees provide alternative access routes, on a part and full-time basis, for adult returners and work-based learners. The University is currently participating in the Department of Employment and Learning (DEL) Foundation Degree Forward development of Accreditation of Prior and Experiential Learning (APEL) for entry to Foundation Degrees.</p>
 <p>The University Of Sheffield.</p>	<p>Engineering and science foundation years are designed for those who have not studied the courses in school that would prepare them to move directly into the degree programme. The foundation years are aimed at students who, for whatever reason, need additional preparation or knowledge of additional science subjects before going on to an engineering or science degree.</p>
 <p>UNIVERSITY OF Southampton</p>	<p>The foundation year is the first year of a four or five-year programme leading to a degree in Acoustical Engineering, Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Civil Engineering and the Environment, Computer Science, Electronics, Engineering, Geophysics, Physics and Ship Science disciplines. Successful completion of the year guarantees progression to degree programmes.</p> <p>BM6 (Bachelor of Medicine in 6 Years) is a programme developed to widen access into the medical profession for those from disadvantaged backgrounds. It entails studying for an extra year on a specially designed foundation course before joining the students on the conventional 'BM5' programme.</p>
 <p>THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK</p>	<p>The 2+2 Degree Programme provides a path for students to gain a degree through two years of study at a local college and a further two years at the University. The programme is specifically designed for adults who lack formal qualifications and who wish to return to education.</p>