

## Eligibility and Selection Criteria

Please find the criteria for the 2022 programme, below.

All applicants should be interested in exploring Durham University and finding out about what the University has to offer. As places are limited and highly sought after, we will use the eligibility and selection criteria to help us identify those applicants who we feel will benefit the most from the programme. Successful applicants are not required to choose Durham University through UCAS, however, the aim of the programme is to support students in their pursuit of a place at Durham University and we ask that applicants take this into consideration when choosing to apply.

### Essential criteria – Applicants must:

- be in Year 12 in England or Wales, Year 13 in Northern Ireland, or S5 in Scotland.
- be attending a state school or college within the UK<sup>1</sup>
- be currently living in the UK and have been for a minimum of three years prior to the time of application
- be a UK national or have “settled status”, such as indefinite leave to remain in the UK, except where residence in the UK is wholly or mainly for the purpose of full-time education.
- be taking subjects in relation to the subject stream they are applying for. We advise students to research subject specific entry requirements on our [website](#) prior to application
- come from neighbourhoods with low overall progression rates to higher education or high levels of financial, economic or social deprivation<sup>2</sup>
- have achieved at least eight GCSEs or equivalent at grade 6 or above (or e.g. B, Distinction), including at least three at grade 7 or above (or e.g. A, A\* or Distinction) and a strong level of achievement for relevant subjects. As the circumstances in which these grades were awarded are unprecedented, we will consider additional information from teachers if they believe these grades don't show a student's true potential.

### Additionally, we may prioritise applicants meeting some of the following (please note, this list is in no particular order):

- have experienced significant educational disruption, for example if you have been in local authority care or under a Care Order for at least three months<sup>3</sup> prior to starting Year 12 (i.e. you are a care leaver or care experienced) or are irreconcilably estranged from both parents/carers<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> We hope to recruit up to 150 students to take part in 2022, with the majority of students expected to be from the North East of England. However, we will offer up to 50 places to students from outside the North East on a case-by-case basis. Priority consideration will be given to students who attend schools or colleges that are part of the University's Schools Membership Scheme.

<sup>2</sup> To meet this criteria students will need to be one of 1) Quintile 1 (POLAR4); OR 2) Quintile 2 (POLAR4) AND ACORN category 4 or 5. For further information see [Young participation by area - Office for Students](#) and [Acorn - The smarter consumer classification | CACI](#)

<sup>3</sup> The three months do not need to be consecutive and needn't be the three months immediately prior to Year 12. Applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis and supporting evidence may be requested.

<sup>4</sup> By irreconcilably estranged we mean that you have had no contact at all with any of your parents/carers for at least 12 months prior to starting Year 12 and that this is unlikely to change. Alternatively, you may be able

- are in receipt of, or entitled to, Free School Meals
- will be within the first generation in their family to attend university
- attend schools or colleges with a low overall GCSE and/or A-Level, Higher/Advanced Higher (or equivalent) point score and/or schools or colleges with low progression rates to higher education<sup>5</sup>

These criteria are used to identify students with merit and potential who are currently under-represented in higher education and at Durham University. Additionally, as Black heritage applicants are underrepresented at Durham, we particularly welcome applications to Supported Progression from Black students of African, Caribbean, or dual heritage.

Supported Progression also welcomes applications from disabled students and makes reasonable adjustments to facilitate access to all Supported Progression events and the University.

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to demonstrate your estrangement on other grounds e.g. exceptional circumstances. In either case, a supporting statement from your school or college will be required and applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

<sup>5</sup> Please see <http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/performance/index.html>

The Application Form gives you the opportunity to outline your motivations for wanting to be part of the scheme, and your teacher will have an opportunity to complete a section demonstrating your potential, motivation to succeed and any personal circumstances which may have affected your performance so far.