What is SP?
Supported Progression is a programme starting in Year 12 offering a range of support and opportunities prior to university. You will experience student life, discover Durham, and prepare for university applications.

What subjects are involved?

- Accounting
- Anthropology
- Archaeology
- Biosciences
- Business (Marketing & Management)
- Classics & Ancient History
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Criminology & Sociology
- Earth Sciences
- Economics & Finance
- Education Studies & Primary Education
- Engineering
- English Literature
- Geography
- History
- Law
- Mathematics
- Modern Languages & Cultures (French, German & Spanish)
- Music
- Philosophy
- Politics
- Physics
- Psychology
- Sport & Exercise Sciences
- Theology and Religion

Before applying, we recommend that you check that you meet the specific requirement for the subject you are interested in applying for here: durham.ac.uk/visit-us/schools/access-engagement/supported-progression/subject-requirements-sp-2023

Occasionally, we are unable to run an academic strand (or may need to combine strands) if there are not enough interested students who successfully gain a place on the programme. If this happens to your chosen academic strand, we may offer you a place for a different subject.

Key Dates in 2023
Please make sure that you’re available for the event dates below before you apply to the programme.

- Welcome Events – Feb 25 or March 4, 2023
- Spring Residential – April 2023
- Online Summer Series – 3x1 hour sessions (May – July 2023)
- Summer Residential – Early summer holidays, 2023 (exact dates TBC)
Why Should I Apply?

The programme will give you an insight into what it is like to study at Durham University and offers key benefits including the following:

- A guaranteed, contextual offer (typically two grades below) for a programme of study at Durham if you complete the programme successfully.
- Experience several academic sessions during the spring residential and then learn from world leading academics and experience university style academic sessions in your chosen subject area during the summer residential.
- Meet like-minded people from different backgrounds, experience student life in a safe and inclusive environment.
- Engage with our current students and understand what student life is like at Durham.
- Receive key information, advice and guidance about the UCAS application process, personal statements and student finance.
- Take part in our summer and autumn online series of webinars to develop transferable skills and support your journey to university.
- Explore Durham City and surrounding areas from a student perspective.

"I enjoyed the academic sessions the most. It was good to talk and spend time with my mentor group who are just as passionate and interested in the subject as much as I am. It helped me become more certain about the course I want to do at university."

SP 2022 Student

How to apply

Apply online by visiting www.durham.ac.uk/visit-us/schools/access-engagement or scan the QR code. The application form will ask you a variety of details including your personal information, educational details, and some questions about the eligibility criteria - see page 4 for more details. It should take no more than 30 minutes or so to complete.

As part of the form you will also need to provide the details of a teacher at your school, who can verify the details you have provided in your application. We recommend picking a teacher who you feel knows you best and informing them that you have chosen them. This way your teacher can keep a close eye on their emails ready to verify your application. Successful SP applications are subject to teacher verification. You will also be asked for a safeguarding contact; someone who we can contact in an emergency during an event.

The deadline for applications is the 22nd of January 2023 and we aim to inform all applicants of the outcome by 10th February 2023.
Who Can Apply?

The Supported Progression programme aims to support students who are typically underrepresented in Higher Education and particularly at Durham. As places are limited and highly sought after, we use our eligibility and selection criteria to help us identify those applicants who we feel will benefit the most from the programme. You can view these criteria in more detail on our webpages. Students 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.
- 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.
- Meet the eligibility criteria for their chosen courses. 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.
- 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.

Additional Criteria

Whilst not essential criteria, we also prioritise students from underrepresented backgrounds; for example, those with experience of being in care; that are estranged from their families; that are the first generation in their family to attend university; that are eligible for free school meals; that attend schools or colleges with low attainment and low progression rates to higher education.

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 students with disabilities. Reasonable adjustments will be made to facilitate access to all Supported Progression events and the University.

Information Events

These are opportunities to find out more before applying.

- Tuesday 8th November 2022, 5pm
- Tuesday 22nd November 2022, 6pm
- Wednesday 7th December 2022, 5pm
- Wednesday 11th January 2023, 6pm

Suitable for students, parents/guardians, teachers and advisors.

Find out more, book online.

[QR Code]

Students independently researching as part of their academic strand (above right and directly above)
Applications

If you are unsure whether or not you meet the eligibility criteria and you would like to discuss this further we would encourage you to speak with a teacher in your school or contact us directly: supported.progression@durham.ac.uk

The application form only takes around 30 minutes to complete, so if you would like to submit a speculative application, even if you do not meet all of the criteria, you are welcome to do so.

Unsuccessful?

If your application to Supported Progression is not successful, this is not necessarily a reflection of your ability to study at Durham University and we would still encourage you to apply to the University through UCAS in Year 13. The Supported Progression application form will ask you if you would like to receive news and updates from us regarding other relevant information and events. If you select yes to this then you will still receive these communications from us even if you are not successful in gaining a place on 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 you take this into consideration when choosing to apply.

If you are interested in applying, please see our Supported Progression webpages: durham.ac.uk/visit-us/schools/access-engagement to find an application form and more information on the scheme or scan the QR code below.

Top Tips For Applying

Make sure the contact details you provide, especially your email address, are correct and up-to-date. These are how we’ll get in touch, both about your application and throughout the programme!

Choose which academic strands you would like to try as taster sessions during the spring residential and then you will be able to confirm which one of the tasters you want to commit to in the summer.

Make a note of the indicative dates for our events - they’re all essential in assessing your success in our programme and you need to commit to them all.

Include any mitigating circumstances and information on your personal background as given in the form.
Other Opportunities

Here are some other opportunities you may be interested in:

**Sutton Trust Summer School** - In partnership with the Sutton Trust we run a free week long summer school for Year 12 students. The summer school features similar benefits to the Supported Progression summer school with less year-round commitment.

**STEP - Space to Explore Potential** (STEP) offers a dedicated space for young black students, who are typically underrepresented at Durham University, to explore not only their own potential, but all that Durham has to offer as a potential university destination.

**Open Days** - find out more about Durham by visiting us on one of our Virtual Open Days.

**Online Resources** - our Engagement Team have created some useful resources and videos to help you find out more about student life here at Durham.

**Levelling Up: Aspire Higher** - A free two year academic and pastoral support programme, for Year 12 students considering applying to study Chemistry, Maths or Physics.