What is SP?
Supported Progression is a Year 12 programme offering a range of support and opportunities for you to experience student life both academically and socially, find out more about Durham, and get prepared for making 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-2022/

Occasionally, we are unable to run an academic strand 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

Please make sure that you're available for the event dates below before you apply to the programme.

Induction Event – February 2022
Spring Residential* – April 2022
Summer Series – May to July 2022
Summer Residential* – End of July 2022
*In person or virtual status of events to be confirmed in 2022
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, alternative offer (typically two grades below) for a programme of study at Durham if you complete the programme successfully.
- Opportunity to experience academic sessions and complete and receive feedback on a project (non-assessed) in your chosen subject area.
- Meet other like-minded people from all sorts of different backgrounds, experiencing student life in a safe and inclusive space.
- Speak to and quiz our current Durham University students about what student life is like and their experiences.
- Receive key information, advice and guidance about the UCAS application process, personal statements and student finance.
- Have access to useful materials and resources on a variety of topics through our SP Summer Series.

"The programme very much changed my perspective on Durham. It made it seem more accessible by giving me opportunities to discuss things that interest me with academics, and see how Durham can support me.”

2021 SP Graduate

How to apply

Apply online by visiting our webpages or use the QR code on the page 6. 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 8 for more details. It should take no more than 20 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.

The deadline for applications is the 14 January 2022 and we aim to inform all applicants on the outcome by the start of February 2022.
Twelve Years
This cohort will mark the 12 year anniversary of SP

Over 850
Students have enrolled at Durham after completing SP

Over 540
SP students have already graduated from Durham
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. As an overview, the essential criteria includes:

- 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.
- 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
- 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.

Additional Criteria

Whilst not essential, 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 higher education progression rates.

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.

Information Events

Find out more, book online.

One hour virtual events on 29 November or 2 December. Suitable for students, parents/guardians, teachers and advisors.
Applications Open Now

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. The application form only takes around 20 minutes to complete, so if you would like to submit a speculative application, even if you do not meet many of the criteria, you are welcome to do so. In this instance we would advise you to take this into consideration to manage your expectations and not be disheartened if you are not successful in gaining a place.

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 to find an application form and more information on the scheme, or scan the QR code below.
Making An Application

Interested in applying for Supported Progression? Filling in our application form takes no longer than 20 minutes, so we always recommend applying if you are keen to. To make things easier, detailed below is what you need to complete when it comes to applying for the programme.

- Personal information such as name, date of birth, ethnicity, nationality and home address - some of this information will help us in ensuring we can select students who will most benefit from Supported Progression
- Educational information including current A-Levels you are studying and GCSE grades achieved - you will also be able to detail here any mitigating circumstances surrounding your GCSEs and A-Levels
- Subject strand choice - here is where you will be able to select a first and second choice of subject that you wish to have academic tasters in whilst on the programme. You will also be able to find a detailed list of which subjects must be studied at A-Level to take certain academic strands
- Additional details - here you will be able to note any educational disadvantage or disruption faced as mentioned in the ‘Additional Criteria’ section of this brochure
- Teacher verification - by giving a teacher name and email address, we will be able to verify your application
- Declarations and data usage - ticking these boxes allows us to contact your school whilst protecting your personal data

Hopefully you can see that an application to Supported Progression is not too complex, and that with some information found out beforehand you should be able to complete the form swiftly. If you do have any issues, see the next page for our contact details

"The academics presented amazing content and both had their own personalities which made it really engaging to complete online... my mentor was brilliant and humanised the whole experience. Furthermore this scheme has put in an extensive amount of resources to show, tell and explain different aspects of Durham" - 2021 SP Graduate

"From the summer school, I can see that it [Durham] is very welcoming and a comfortable place to put forward ideas and contribute to conversation" - 2021 SP Graduate

Top Tips for Applying

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

You don’t have to choose two subject strands you’d be interested in, but we advise it - if we can’t give you a space on your first choice strand, we may be able to offer you a place on your second.

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.
Other Opportunities

Here are some other opportunities you may be interested in:

**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.

**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.

durham.ac.uk/supported.progression

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