

Supported Progression Eligibility and Selection Criteria

Please find the criteria for the 2023 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.¹
- 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 streams 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.²
- 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. We know sometimes, students experience mitigating circumstances which means their results do not show their true potential. As such, the application form will provide you and your teacher the opportunity to provide details of any such circumstances, which we will consider in our decision making.

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 (i.e. you are a care leaver or care experienced) or are irreconcilably estranged from both parents/carers.³
- 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.⁴

These criteria are used to identify students with merit and potential who are currently underrepresented 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.

¹ When considering similarly eligible applicants, priority consideration will be given to students who attend schools or colleges that are part of the University's Schools Membership Scheme. Although SP is a national scheme, we would expect at least 50% of students on the programme to be from the North East of England.

² To meet this criterion, 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](#)

³ We will consider personal circumstances of care experience or estrangement on a case-by-case basis. A supporting statement from your school or college will be required as part of the application. 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 to demonstrate your estrangement on other grounds e.g. exceptional circumstances.

⁴ Please see [Search for schools, colleges and multi-academy trusts - Find school and college performance data in England - GOV.UK \(find-school-performance-data.service.gov.uk\)](#)