

Supported Progression Eligibility and Selection Criteria 2024

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 and attending a state school or college in the North East, North West, or Yorkshire.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 and have a strong level of achievement for relevant subjects. We know some students experience mitigating circumstances, which can mean their results do not show their true potential. If you feel this applies to you then you can tell us in your application form. The teacher who supports your application can provide further details of any such circumstances through their part of the process too. Therefore, you may wish to speak with them about this before submitting your application.

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.

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 North East and North West refers to the English regions. When considering similarly eligible applicants, priority consideration may be given to students who attend schools or colleges that are part of the University's Schools Membership Scheme.

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](#) We may also refer to the Office for Students new measure of participation, TUNDRA. More information about TUNDRA can be found online <https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/data-and-analysis/young-participation-by-area/about-tundra/>.

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.