Bitesize Uni Eligibility Criteria

Bitesize Uni (BSU) is open for applications from any UK (United Kingdom) student currently in Year 12 / first-year college (or equivalent in Northern Ireland and Scotland)

We encourage applications from all UK students in Y12 who are interested in studying at university.

If the event is oversubscribed, we may look at our summer school eligibility criteria and subject taster interest/availability to allocate places. The more criteria you meet, the more likely you are to be offered a place on the programme.

Once your application form is submitted, you will receive a confirmation by email that your form has been received. All applicants will be emailed with the outcome of their application as soon as possible after the deadline.

We may ask you for evidence to support your application to the event and confirm your eligibility. We may also request that your teacher/school contact verifies your application.

Applicants must be aged 18 or under on the last day of Bitesize Uni (Friday 22 July 2022).

Find out more about our Summer School Eligibility Criteria

1. Your home postcode

You must live in a neighbourhood that has a low progression rate to higher education or you live in a neighbourhood that has a high level of financial, economic, or social deprivation. To meet this criterion:

English student postcode eligibility is determined as:

- POLAR4 quintiles 1 or 2. and/or
- IMD score of 40 or less. and/or
- One of the classified WP groups through ACORN (groups M, O, P or Q)

Northern Irish student postcode eligibility is determined as:

- POLAR4 quintiles 1 or 2. and/or
- One of the classified WP groups through ACORN (groups M, O, P or Q)

Scottish student postcode eligibility is determined as:

- SIMD4O (the 40% most deprived postcodes). and/or
- One of the classified WP groups through ACORN (groups M, O, P or Q)

Welsh student postcode eligibility is determined as:
- WIMD40 (the 40% most deprived postcodes), and/or:
- One of the classified WP groups through ACORN (groups M, O, P or Q)

As part of the application reviewing process, we will check your postcode once your application has been submitted.

2. The school or college you attend or have attended

School performance data is taken from the Department for Education data (2019). You will meet this criterion if any of the below is true:

- You attended a school in England at age 16 where the GCSE Attainment 8 score is 41 or less
- You attended a school in Northern Ireland at age 16 where the number of students achieving five or more GCSE grades A* to C, including English and Maths, is 35% or less
- You attended or attend a school in Scotland with over 50% of pupils who live in the 20% most deprived data zones in Scotland
- You currently attend a school in England where the average point score per A Level entry is 24 or less
- You currently attend a school in Northern Ireland where the number of students achieving three or more A-Levels grades A* to C is 35% or less
- You attend a school in the UK where over 50% of pupils receive or are eligible for Free School Meals

3. You are from a black or minority ethnic group and attend a state school/college

You will meet this criterion if you are:

- From a black or minority ethnic group, **AND**
- Attend/attended a state school or college in the United Kingdom, when sitting your A levels (or equivalent)

The following ethnic groups are eligible under these criteria:

- Arab
- Asian or Asian British – Indian
- Asian or Asian British – Pakistani
- Asian or Asian British – Bangladeshi
- Black or Black British – Caribbean
- Black or Black British – African
- Chinese
- Mixed White and Black Caribbean
- Mixed White and Black African
- Mixed White and Asian
- Other Black backgrounds
- Other Asian backgrounds
- Other Mixed backgrounds
4. Your entitlement to financial support
You will meet this criterion if you are currently in receipt of, or entitled to, any of the following:

- Free school meals
- Pupil Premium funding (please speak to staff in your school/college if you are unaware if you are entitled to this funding)
- Discretionary school/college payments that are directly linked to financial hardship

5. You have experienced time in care
If you have experienced any time in care during your life, you will meet this criterion. This experience could include any of the following:

- Living with foster carers
- Living in a residential children’s home
- Being looked after at home under a supervision order
- Living with friends or relatives in kinship care – either through a formal arrangement (e.g., a Special Guardianship order) or an informal arrangement without local authority support

6. Your parent/carer’s experience of higher education and their current occupation
You will meet this criterion if both of the following must be true:

1. Neither of your parents/carers have any of the following higher education qualifications you may be eligible for BSU:
   - Higher Degree (e.g., MA, MSc, PhD, PGCE)
   - First Degree (e.g., BA, BSc)
2. The main wage earner in your household is in a non-professional occupation.

We classify occupations using the SOC2020 database in line with governmental guidance:

- SOC2020 Major Groups 1-3 professional
- SOC2020 Major Groups 4-9 non-professional

7. You have a disability/long-term health condition
You will meet this criterion if:

- Have a disability/long-term health condition AND
- Receive the Personal Independence Payment (PIP) at either:
  - the ‘enhanced’ rate in either the ‘daily living’ or ‘mobility’ components
  - the ‘standard’ rate in both components

If you do not have a disability/long-term health condition and are not entitled to the PIP
at the necessary level, you are not eligible for BSU based on these criteria.

8. You are a recognised carer

You will meet this criterion if you have sole or shared responsibility for the care of a relative because they are ill, have a disability, are experiencing mental distress, or are affected by substance abuse.

We may ask you to provide supporting documentary evidence to confirm your status as a recognised carer from one of the following sources (on headed paper):

- Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) Carer’s Allowance statement/letter
- Carer’s support group
- Social Services/Local Authority
- Your relatives NHS or Private Support Worker
- A letter from your GP

If you are not a young carer as outlined above, or are unable to provide the necessary supporting evidence, you are not eligible based on these criteria.

9. You are an estranged young person

You will meet this criterion if you are an estranged person, who no longer has the support of your family due to a breakdown in the relationship which has led to ceased contact. This might mean your biological, step or adoptive parents, or wider family members who have been responsible for supporting you in the past.

We may ask you to provide supporting documentary evidence to confirm your ‘estranged’ status from one of the following sources (on headed paper):

- Estranged student support groups/networks, such as StandAlone or the Unite Foundation
- Social Services/Local Authority
- A letter from your GP
- A statement from your school/college
- A headed letter from a professional body

If you are not an ‘estranged’ student as outlined above, or are unable to provide the necessary supporting evidence, you are not eligible based on these criteria.

10. Your family has served in the military

As a member of the Armed Forces Covenant, Newcastle University is proud to support those who serve in the military and their families.

You will meet this criterion if either of your parents/carers are serving or have served in the armed forces at key educational times (e.g. during study for GCSEs or A levels, or equivalent).

You will also meet this criterion if you have served in the armed forces. We may ask for this to be confirmed by your referee at your school or college.
The British Armed Forces consist of:

- Royal Navy
- Royal Marines
- British Army
- Royal Air Force
- Regular Reserves
- Volunteer Reserves
- Sponsored Reserves

If neither your parents/carers nor you have served in the armed forces, you are not eligible based on these criteria.

11. **You are from a Gypsy, Roma, or Traveller community**

You will meet this criterion if you are from a Gypsy, Roma, or Traveller community. We may ask for this to be confirmed by a referee at a school or college that you are attending or have attended.

12. **You have refugee status**

You will meet this criterion if you have refugee status.

You must have been given ‘leave to remain’ or ‘leave to enter by the UK Government and be able to prove this.

13. **You are an asylum seeker**

You will meet this criterion if you are seeking asylum in the United Kingdom.

Please note asylum seekers do not need to hold ‘right to remain’ status to be eligible for BSU but must be in the process of gaining this status. We may require evidence to confirm that you are seeking ‘right to remain’ status.

14. **You are a parent/carer and responsible for a child under the age of 17**

You will meet this criterion if you are a parent/carer and responsible for the care and wellbeing of a child under the age of 17.

15. **You have experienced extenuating personal circumstances**

You will meet this criterion if you have experienced personal extenuating circumstances (PEC) relating to social, economic, or educational disadvantage at key educational times.

Considerations via the PEC criteria will be assessed on a case-by-case basis; we may also require evidence.

Please note except for extreme circumstances, disruption caused by the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic will not be considered as personal extenuating circumstances.

16. **GCSE Results**

You will only be considered for BSU if you have achieved at least 5 GCSE grades at 9-4.
Preference may be given to students who have achieved at least 5 GCSE grades at 9-6.

The more criteria you meet, the more likely you are to be offered a place on the programme.

Any queries, please email bitesizeuni@newcastleac.uk