



What is the PARTNERS Programme?

PARTNERS is a **supported entry route to Newcastle University**. The programme has been running since 2000 and over 9000 students have entered Newcastle University via PARTNERS. In 2025, 2168 students took part in the programme.

Applicants who are eligible for the programme can receive a **lower offer** to study at Newcastle of up to three grades lower than the typical grade requirements. This lower offer also includes the successful completion of a free, **academic summer school**.

Extra help and support are available to these applicants while both applying to and once at the University.

The Lower Offer

Up to three grades lower than the standard offer for a given course, for example:

Biomedical Sciences (B940) 2026 entry:

- Standard offer – AAB at A level or equivalent
- PARTNERS offer – BBC at A level or equivalent, PLUS successful completion of the PARTNERS Academic Summer School (PASS)

For more information on each course and its entry requirements, please see the following page:

<https://www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate/degrees/>

PARTNERS Academic Summer School (PASS)

Since 2021, the academic summer school has run in a blended format where attendees will complete 2.5 days online, and 2.5 on campus in Newcastle.

PASS is designed to give an insight into student life and **aid the transition** between school/college & University.

The summer school is composed of **Academic Sessions** (led by current academics at the University), **Higher Education Skills** and **Careers & Employability Sessions**, as well as **social activities**.

It is completely **free to attend**.

For 2026 entry, PASS will take place on the following dates

- Sunday 28th June – Friday 3rd July

Students are expected to keep these dates free as well as the following week (until Friday 10th July) to allow for the submission of any formative assessments. **100% attendance at the summer school is required** to be eligible for the lower offer.

More information about PASS can be found here:

<https://www.ncl.ac.uk/partners/partners-academic-summer-school/>

Eligibility

To be eligible for PARTNERS, applicants must meet the three essential conditions and grade requirements:

- Live in the UK (excluding Channel Islands)
- Be classified as 'Home' for tuition fees
- Not already hold a higher education qualification (e.g. a degree)

Predicted grades must be no more than one grade lower than the PARTNERS lower offer

For example:

Biomedical Sciences (B940) 2025 entry:

- PARTNERS offer – **BBC**
- Your predicted grades must be at least **BCC**
- If you have already achieved your grades, then you must match the PARTNERS offer

An applicant must then also **meet just one of the eligibility criteria** listed on the following page:

<https://www.ncl.ac.uk/partners/how-to-apply/eligibility/>

The Application Process

Applicants must ensure that they apply via UCAS for their chosen course(s). The deadline to apply to PARTNERS is the week following these deadlines.

Therefore, students applying to Medicine (A100) or Dentistry (A206) need to apply by the **22 October 2025**.

For all other degree programmes, the deadline is the **21 January 2026**.

We are unable to consider late applications.

Students are only able to apply to PARTNERS **after** they have applied via UCAS. Once they have applied via UCAS they will receive a link to the '**Apply to Newcastle Portal**'. This is where they can access the **separate PARTNERS application form**.

Once a student has submitted their application, this will then be processed by the PARTNERS team. To process an application, we must verify that an applicant is eligible for the programme.

We are able to automatically verify some criteria (such as home postcode) which is available on the student's UCAS application. For others, (such as personal extenuating circumstances)

we require a nominated referee to verify this information. This will typically be the same referee as the applicant has indicated on UCAS.

Referee Guidance

All applicants are required to select a referee as part of their application. If we are not able to automatically confirm their eligibility via the information they have provided on UCAS (such as their postcode data), **you will need to verify the information on their application form** in order for them to be considered for the programme.

You will know if you have been selected as a referee as you will receive an email from the PARTNERS team with further details.

In this email you will be provided with a link to the **Apply to Newcastle Portal** where you will be able to see the application you have been asked to verify.

This is a secure page, and **you are not required to create an account or sign in to anything.**

When viewing a student's application, you will be able to see:

- Some personal details to identify the student
- Which criteria they have indicated they meet, including any details of personal extenuating circumstances
- Options to verify or not verify the application

It should appear like the screenshot at the end of this document.

Once you have reviewed the information provided, please use the **'Referee feedback'** list to continue the verification process:

- Verified
- I don't know this student
- Student does not attend this institution
- Student has entered incorrect details
 - o If a student has entered incorrect details, please let us know specifically what these are in the referee notes below
 - o The student cannot amend their application after it has been submitted however the PARTNERS team can do this on their behalf
- Other (please detail specific reasons in referee notes below)

You must then enter the Captcha code at the bottom of the page to finalise and submit the reference.

Please endeavour to **verify a student's application as soon as possible**, as delays to verification may negatively impact their application. This process should only take a few minutes, and you are not required to provide a full reference as you would do for UCAS.

If multiple students have selected you as their referee, **you will need to follow the separate links for each student individually**, you cannot view multiple applications from the same link.

If you are unsure about an application or need further guidance, please contact the PARTNERS team via 0191 208 6094 or partners@ncl.ac.uk and we'll be happy to help.

PARTNERS Referee Feedback

Referee Feedback

Student *

Otchoesm Mhaury

Course Title

—

Address Line 1

63 Roman Street



Address Line 2

Millhouse

Address Line 3

Reading

Postcode/Zip

RG1 7AE

Personal Extenuating Circumstance

—

Additional Financial Support

Are you in receipt of, or entitled to, any of the following?

- Free school meals (including independent school students that would be entitled if at a state school)
- Pupil Premium funding
- Discretionary school/college payments directly linked to financial hardship (eg 16-19 Bursary)

Please speak to staff in your school/college if you are unaware if you are entitled to this funding.

Yes - I am entitled to free school meals and attend a state school

Disability/Long-Term Health Condition

Do you have a disability/long-term health condition **AND** are in receipt of the Personal Independence Payment (PIP) at the '**enhanced**' rate in **either** the 'daily living' or 'mob components, OR the '**standard**' rate in **both** components?

☒ No ☐ Yes

Referee Feedback

Select

Referree Notes



[Generate a new image](#)

[Play the audio code](#)

Enter the code from the image

Submit