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**QUEEN'S
UNIVERSITY
BELFAST**

www.qub.ac.uk

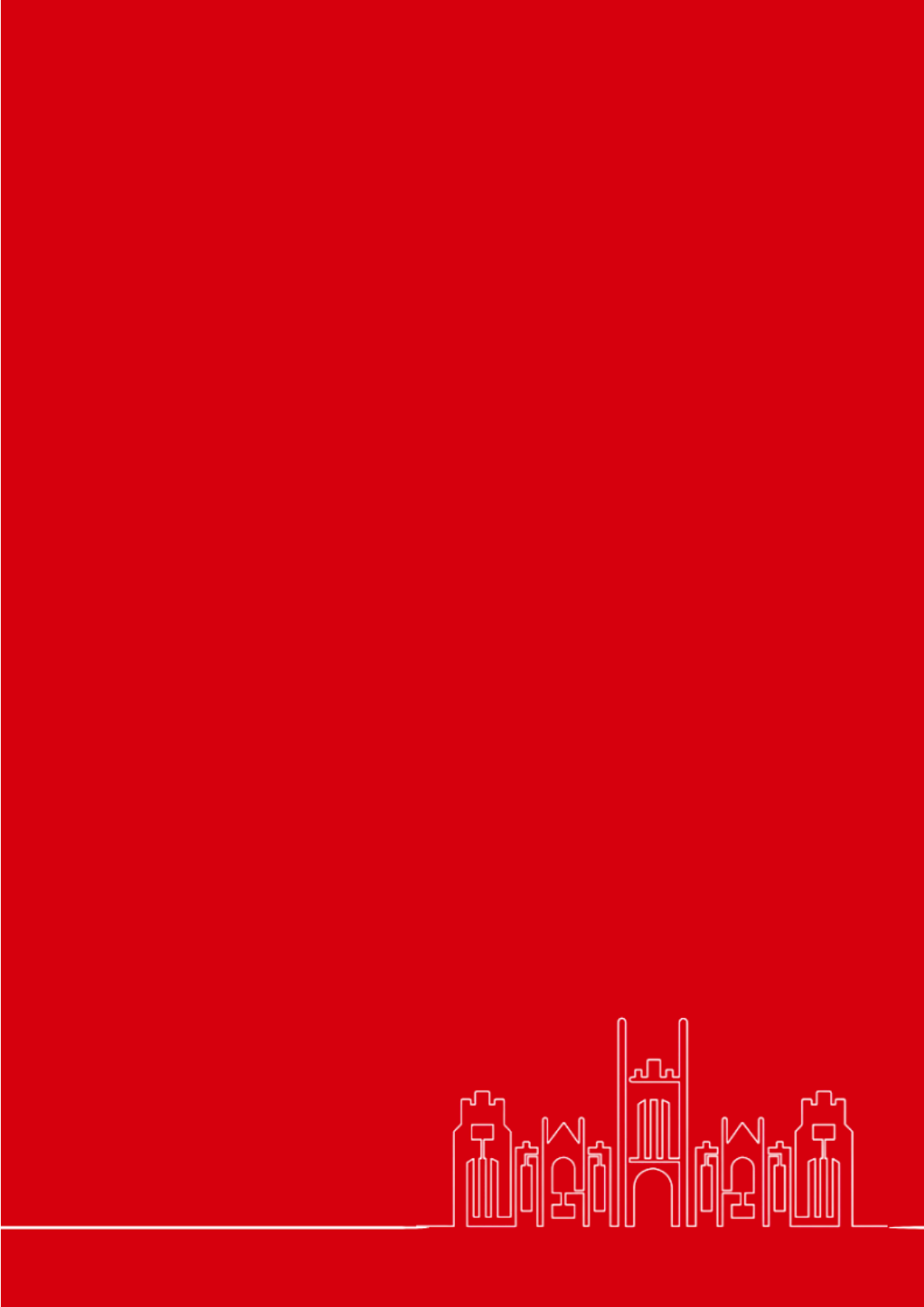


SENIOR ACADEMY

2025



**QUEEN'S
UNIVERSITY
BELFAST**



028 9097 5020



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**READY TO TAKE
THE NEXT STEP?
APPLY TO THE
SENIOR
ACADEMY
PROGRAMME
TODAY!**



At Queen's University Belfast, we are committed to providing students with an educational experience that is on par with the best universities in the world.

We are also committed to ensuring that we encourage and support the brightest and best students to succeed, regardless of background or life circumstance.



WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE ABOUT SENIOR ACADEMY?

Use the links below to explore the Senior Academy, the Widening Participation Unit and our Social Media.

website



the senior academy website!

applicants



information for student applicants

postcode



check your postcode's eligibility

about wpu



learn more about us!

instagram



check out our socials!



WELCOME



Welcome to the Senior Academy Programme at Queen's University Belfast – a transformative and supportive opportunity designed to inspire and empower participants as they take the next steps in their educational journey.

Through engaging workshops, tailored academic support, and first-hand experiences of university life, this programme provides participants with the confidence, skills, and knowledge to explore options in Higher Education, Further Education, and Higher Level Apprenticeships.

Whether you're here to learn, grow, or discover new possibilities, we are excited to support and guide you every step of the way. Welcome to a programme that's all about unlocking your potential and shaping a bright future!

Whitney

WHITNEY McADAM,
OUTREACH OFFICER

WHY CHOOSE THE SENIOR ACADEMY?

The Senior Academy Programme is tailored to support you in planning the next steps of your educational journey. This programme is designed to provide you with the tools, knowledge, and experiences to ensure your decisions are well informed.

You will receive focused guidance on:

- Exploring Higher Education options, including courses and degrees available at Queen's University.
- Understanding Further Education options, including vocational training and qualifications.
- Learning about Higher Level Apprenticeships, a route that allows you to gain professional qualifications whilst earning a salary and gaining on-the-job experience.

Throughout the programme, you will participate in interactive workshops and personalised activities that will help you explore your interests, identify your strengths, and understand the future options available to you after school.

Whether you aim to pursue a degree at university, develop new skills or step directly into a career through a Higher Level apprenticeship, the programme will guide you in making the best choice for you. Our dedicated staff and mentors will support you to ensure you have a clear vision and practical plan for the path you want to follow.

This is not just about preparing you academically—it is about giving you the confidence to step into the next stage of your life, fully equipped and ready to succeed.

THE PERSONAL STATEMENT

We ask applicants to provide a short personal statement. This is an opportunity for the applicant to express why they want to be part of Senior Academy.

The application must be supported by a member of staff in the participant's school or college. This could include a Careers Teacher, Head of Year, Subject Teacher or another member of staff but they must be able to verify the following applicant information:

- Eligibility criteria for the programme has been met
- Applicant meets the GCSE requirements
- Applicant's address and postcode

Applicants will be contacted by the Senior Academy team to confirm their application has been received. Successful applicants will be informed of the outcome by early February 2025.

SCAN THE QR
CODE TO VIEW
THE WEBSITE
HERE

HOW DO I APPLY?

Applications for the Senior Academy Programme will open in late 2024. The application link will be available on the Queen's University Senior Academy website, and information will also be sent to each Senior Academy participating school and college. We will use the information provided on your application in the selection process for a place on the Queen's Senior Academy Programme.

When shortlisting applicants, we will look for candidates who demonstrate the following:

- Are studying the required level 3 qualifications to facilitate progress into higher education
- Meet the GCSE entry requirements or show evidence that you are working towards this
- Have motivation to learn more about university life and undergraduate study
- Have satisfactory references from your school/college supporting your application



WHAT WILL YOU DO ON SENIOR ACADEMY?



WORKSHOPS

Explore courses, careers and opportunities, and develop confidence and communication skills.



EXPERIENCE LIFE ON CAMPUS

Stay on campus, in student accommodation during a residential experience and take part in workshops and projects in a subject area of your choice.



SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Gain skills in financial management, select to accommodate and learn to balance studies with personal interests.



KEY DATES

All applicants should check the key dates to ensure that they are able to attend all of the Senior Academy Programme. Each event is crucial to the programme, helping students enhance study skills, develop their confidence and connect with university students, academics, and staff.

WHEN?	WHAT?	WHERE?
16 Dec 2024	Applications Open	Online
26 Jan 2025	Applications Close	Online
7 Mar 2025	Welcome Event	On Campus
10 Apr 2025	Subject Taster Session	On Campus
23-25 Jul 2025	Summer Residential	On Campus
24 Oct 2025	Next Steps Session	On Campus
Jan 2026	Study Skills Session	On Campus
Feb - Jun 2026	Tutoring	Online



STUDY SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Develop your skills in financial management, the ideal accommodation, and how to manage your time with your university life.



CAMPUS VISITS

Experience life on a university campus, tour the facilities, interact with staff, and attend lectures.



MENTORSHIP

Partner with current Queen's university students for guidance and support in a variety of subjects.

“Whenever I was in sixth form I didn't know what to do and Senior Academy sounded like it would give me a lot of insight into university before committing to it.

I was first in my family and the only person who had wanted to go to university so it was a great chance to find out more because I didn't have anyone I could ask those practical questions to.”

Chloe McCann

PARTICIPANT,
SENIOR ACADEMY



WHAT DO I LOOK LIKE?

What is your
Queen's
if to explore
options!
clubs, societies

January 2026 Study Skills Session

This is a chance for you to prepare to get the most out of your tutoring opportunity and see what is next in the process on your education journey. This will also be a chance to provide added support and ask any questions you might have.

Study Session

This session
support and a
questions on
choices, and
your

February-June 2026 Tutoring

Tutoring gives you access to a subject-specific tutor in one of your chosen subjects to support you during your studies and in the lead up to coursework deadlines and exams.

WHAT DOES THE PROGRAMME

March 2025 Welcome Session

This event is the start of your Senior Academy journey. At this event, you will meet your peers, discover all about the campus and facilities, and listen to talks about the programme, university, and student life!

April 2025 Subject Taster Session

The Taster Session is an on-campus event where you will get a chance to meet current Queen's students, academics, and staff to learn more about what subjects can be studied at Queen's University, as well as the wealth of options available to applicants alongside the careers that they can lead to!

July 2025 Summer School

The Summer School Resident provides an opportunity to engage with current students, academics, and staff to explore university subjects and career options. You will get to experience club and society life and Queen's facilities.

October 2025 Next Steps

With UCAS on the horizon, the Next Steps event provides you with added support and a chance to ask and answer questions about your applications, university/course choices, and important decisions surrounding your future.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF THE PROGRAMME?

The Senior Academy Programme provides a range of opportunities and benefits to participants including:

- Up to 10 hours of tutoring in a subject area of the participant's choice to enhance academic skills and subject knowledge.
- A £1,000 bursary for participants who begin studying at Queen's University having completed the Senior Academy Programme.**
- Workshops and events aimed at developing study skills, improving confidence, and preparing participants for the next stage of their education.
- The opportunity to experience life at Queen's University through an on-campus residential stay, giving participants first-hand exposure to student accommodation and university facilities.
- The chance to meet and interact with current Queen's students studying a variety of subjects, providing valuable insights into university life and academic options.
- Tailored guidance on Higher Education, Further Education, and Higher Level Apprenticeships, helping students to explore and prepare for a variety of post-18 options.

***Subject to funding. Bursary will be paid during the first year of study.*

AM I ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR THE SENIOR ACADEMY PROGRAMME?

If you think that that Senior Academy is something you are interested in, it is important to consider the eligibility criteria. In 2024/25, we have up to 50 places available on the Senior Academy Programme at Queen's University. Applicants must meet all criteria of Section A:

(Section A)

To be eligible to apply for the programme, applicants must be:

- In full time education, currently studying a two-year, Level 3 qualification eg. A-Levels or acceptable equivalent (eg. BTEC/OCR).
- Attending a Northern Ireland, non-selecting secondary school, or Further Education College.
- Have at least five A*-C grades at GCSE (or equivalent eg. GNVQ, BTEC,) including English Language* and Maths*

- Neither parent should have attended university or obtained an undergraduate degree or equivalent in the UK, Ireland or abroad. Please note that applicants with brothers/sisters who have completed a higher education course or who are presently in higher education are still eligible, as are applicants who have family members outside of the immediate family (eg. grandparents, cousins, aunts, uncles) in higher education.**

**Applicants can be retaking one or both subjects and still be part of the programme.*

***If a parent is currently studying for their first degree or has graduated within the last five years, applications will also be considered.*

In addition, applicants must also meet at least **one or more** of the Section B eligibility criteria:

(Section B)

- Have an annual household income of £19,203 or less.
- Are in receipt of Educational Maintenance Allowance (EMA)
- Eligible to receive Free School Meals (FSM).
- Have a disability or an additional learning need (please see further information on application form).
- Are the main carer for a family member or dependent.
- Are a newcomer, a refugee, or an asylum seeker.
- Are care experienced or currently in the care of a Health and Social Care Trust (eg. Foster Care,

Residential Care, etc). If you meet this aspect of the criteria, you are automatically eligible for the programme, regardless of any additional criteria provided you meet Section A requirements.

- Have a permanent residence postcode that is classified as being in a "disadvantaged neighbourhood" by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency. You can check the eligibility of your postcode via the postcode document on the website.

The residential was the highlight of the programme as it allowed everyone to get a true representation of what it is really like to be a student living in Queen's accommodation. The Shadow a Student Day helped give an insight into the course. I enjoyed getting to experience...the course I wanted."

Participant, Senior Academy

