


UNIVERSITY OF THE
WEST of SCOTLAND

UWS



UWS FOUNDATION ACADEMY

2026

[UWS.AC.UK](https://www.uws.ac.uk)



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST OF SCOTLAND (UWS) IS PROUD TO DELIVER THE UWS FOUNDATION ACADEMY PROGRAMME TO SENIOR SCHOOL PUPILS ACROSS THE WEST OF SCOTLAND, GIVING PUPILS THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPERIENCE STUDYING AT UNIVERSITY LEVEL, DEVELOP KEY ACADEMIC AND PERSONAL SKILLS, AND PREPARE A STRONG UNIVERSITY APPLICATION.

Since the pilot of the UWS Foundation Academy in 2022, we have engaged with over over 4000 senior pupils across more than 30 schools in Ayrshire, Renfrewshire, Lanarkshire, Argyll & Bute, Dumfries & Galloway, and Glasgow City. The UWS Foundation Academy continues to expand and is offered to target schools across the West of Scotland.



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Foundation
Academy



UWS WIDENING ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION

UWS is widely recognised as one of Scotland's leading universities in widening participation in higher education and underpinning the UWS Foundation Academy is the principle that Higher Education should be available to all. The innovative programme aims to raise both aspirations and awareness of Higher Education opportunities available to pupils within their local community and at UWS we aim to encourage and support all applicants, regardless of background or circumstance.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

The UWS Foundation Academy programme involves a blended approach, starting with a university campus visit, followed by school-based and online learning, allowing senior pupils to study at university level and gain a qualification certificate worth 20 credits at SCQF level 7.

Pupils are given the chance to experience the university environment first hand, explore different study options, and develop the key academic skills needed to succeed at university.

Pupils are invited to register interest via their school, during their S5 year, with an aim to complete the programme by the December of their S6 year.

WHO CAN TAKE PART?

The UWS Foundation Academy programme is offered to senior pupils who are interested in applying to university from high school and may need some guidance with study pathways, support with the application process, or their qualifications may fall slightly short of the typical entry requirements.

Schools are asked to register pupils who they feel would benefit most from taking part in the programme.

WHY TAKE PART?

The UWS Foundation Academy is a great way for senior pupils to:

- Discover a range of university pathways
- Develop academic skills at university level
- Improve the quality of their university application
- Become familiar with the university environment
- Build on skills and confidence before moving on from school
- Access a range of UWS benefits, including 1 to 1 guidance and support on study options



DEGREE SUBJECTS AVAILABLE AT UWS – 2027 ENTRY

BUSINESS	HEALTH
BAcc (Hons) Accounting	BSc Adult Nursing
BA (Hons) Business	BSc (Hons) Collaborative Health & Social Care
BA (Hons) Business with Finance	BSc Mental Health Nursing
BA (Hons) Business with Human Resource Management	BSc Midwifery**
BA (Hons) Business with Marketing	LIFE SCIENCES
BA (Hons) Events & Tourism Management	BSc (Hons) Animal Care and Zoology
BA (Hons) Law	BSc (Hons) Applied Biomedical Science
LLB (Hons) Scots Law	BSc (Hons) Applied Bioscience
COMPUTING	BSc (Hons) Applied Bioscience & Zoology
BSc (Hons) Computer Animation Arts	BSc (Hons) Applied Bioscience with Forensic Investigation
BSc (Hons) Computer Games Development	BSc (Hons) Biomedical Science
BSc (Hons) Computer Networking	BSc (Hons) Environmental Science and Sustainability
BSc (Hons) Computing Science	BSc Paramedic Science**
BEng/MEng (Hons) Cyber Security	PHYSICAL SCIENCES
BSc (Hons) Music Technology	BSc (Hons) Criminal Justice and Forensic Science
BSc (Hons) Web & Mobile Development	BSc (Hons) Forensic Science
CREATIVE INDUSTRIES	SOCIAL SCIENCES
BA (Hons) Commercial Music^	BA (Hons) Criminology & Criminal Justice
BA (Hons) Filmmaking & Screenwriting	BA (Hons) Criminology & Criminal Justice (Policing)
BA (Hons) Performance^	BA (Hons) Criminology & Psychology
BA (Hons) TV, Radio & Podcast Production	BSc (Hons) Psychology
ENGINEERING	BA (Hons) Social Sciences
BEng/MEng (Hons) Aerospace Engineering	BA (Hons) Social Work**
BEng (Hons) Civil Engineering	SPORT
BEng/MEng (Hons) Mechanical Engineering	BSc (Hons) Sport Coaching
EDUCATION	BSc (Hons) Sport Coaching & Development
BA (Hons) Community Education	BSc (Hons) Sport Development
BA (Hons) Education^+	BSc (Hons) Sport & Exercise Science
BA (Hons) English Language	

Key

** Programme does not have provision for adjusted entry requirements, however, completion of UWS Foundation Academy may strengthen pupils' overall university application

^ Programme eligible for adjusted entry requirements, however additional criteria may apply (e.g. interview)

+ Programme eligible for adjusted entry criteria, however, applicants must have 4 additional Highers in 4 different subjects to meet GTCS requirements. Foundation Academy can boost overall grade profile.

Important Information:

- Unless otherwise indicated, the degree courses listed above are eligible for adjusted entry for applicants who successfully complete UWS Foundation Academy. The qualification is used as an alternative to 1 Higher at B towards standard entry requirements
- Course Availability and entry requirements subject to change each year – applicants are advised to check our website or contact us for most up to date information prior to submitting an application.
- The Foundation Academy qualification will not replace any course requirement for a named Higher (e.g. Maths or English) and applicants may also need to meet additional criteria for entry (e.g. interview)
- UWS also offers a range of graduate apprenticeships and advanced entry options via college – ask our team for more information
- If you have any questions please contact us at: foundation-academy@uws.ac.uk.

FEEDBACK FROM PUPILS AND TEACHERS

"Foundation Academy gave me an insight into studying at university level: we discussed important topics. It was good to visit the uni' campus and see what it would be like to study there." Foundation Academy Pupil, 2022/23

"I enjoyed getting to see what it is actually like at a university; what the environment is like; and getting to experience different courses. I feel more confident about applying for university." Foundation Academy Pupil, 2024/25

"The UWS Foundation Academy is a fantastic programme which has a profound impact on the aspirations of all pupils who have participated. The inspiration that pupils have taken from the learning and teaching alongside the aid they have had with their personal statements has been invaluable to all pupils in finding a positive destination." Mr Oates, PT Employability & DYW, Queen Margaret Academy

"There are quite a lot of pupils who are perhaps first generation in their family going to university, and it sets them up well to know what to expect, if parents wouldn't be able to give them that insight. Providing pupils with application and personal statement support is also invaluable." Miss Feeney, Project Leader Skills & Pathways, Castlehead High School

"It's been fantastic for the pupils and they're thoroughly enjoying it. I think sometimes they're not confident enough to put an application in, thinking that university is maybe something that is not within their reach; but having this opportunity lets them see that it is something that they can work towards through this partnership with UWS." Mrs Stirling, PT Pastoral Support S5, Garnock Community Campus

CONTACT US

If your school is interested in taking part in the UWS Foundation Academy programme, we would like to hear from you.

For more information, please email Foundation Academy Team at foundation-academy@uws.ac.uk

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For eligible degree programmes at UWS, successful completion of the UWS Foundation Academy will also adjust pupils' offer of entry, used as an alternative to 1 Higher at B on standard entry requirements. A list of all degree programmes and those eligible for adjusted entry requirements can be found inside this leaflet.

No matter the programme or university choices pupils make, studying on the UWS Foundation Academy programme shows a commitment to developing skills and allows pupils to gain a valuable insight into studying at university – which could enhance pupils' overall UCAS application and CV.

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