

Supported Progression (SP) 2025



What is SP?

Supported Progression supports students from the North East of England who are typically underrepresented in higher education, particularly at Durham to apply to Durham University.



Key Benefits

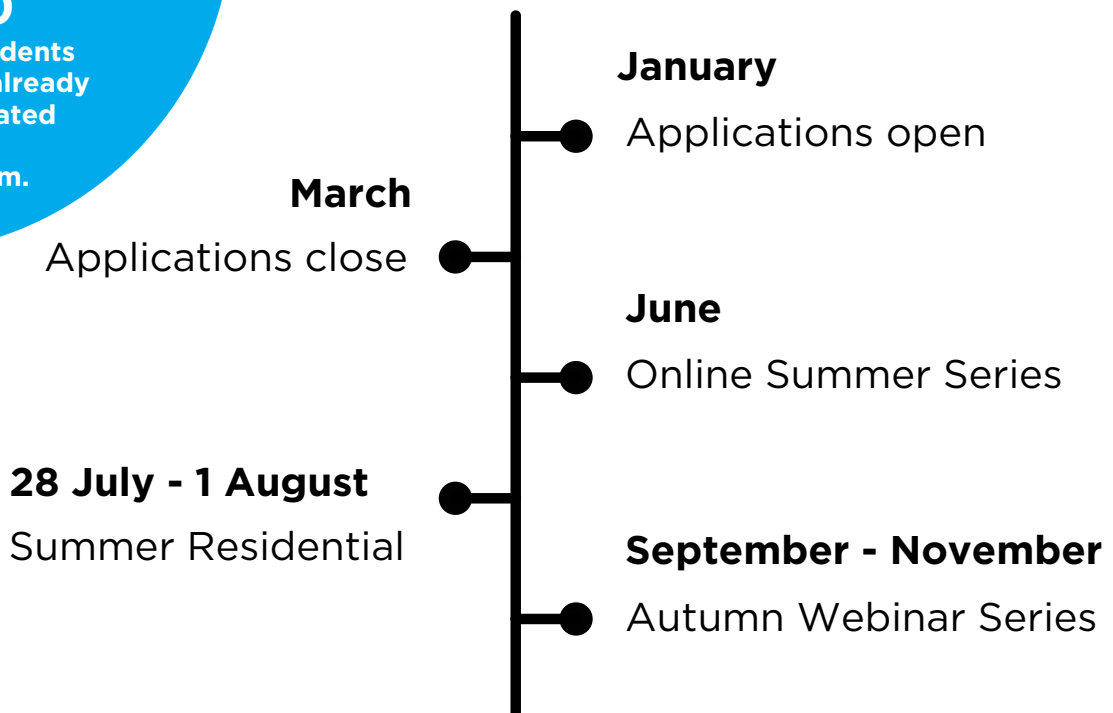
- **A guaranteed, alternative offer** (typically two grades lower) from Durham University if you successfully complete the programme. Subject specific eligibility criteria apply.
- Learn from **world-leading academics** and experience **university style** academic sessions.
- Receive **key** information, advice and guidance about the **UCAS application process**, personal statements and student finance.
- Experience a taste of **student life** in a **safe and inclusive environment** during residential.
- Engage with our **current students** and find out what student life is like at Durham.
- Take part in our summer and autumn **online webinar series** for curated advice and guidance.
- Connect with **like-minded people** from **different backgrounds**.



**Over
540**

SP students
have already
graduated
from
Durham.

Key Dates in 2025



Application window: 21 January 2025 – 20 March 2025

We aim to communicate the outcome of your application by the end of April.

Why Should I Apply?

The programme will give you the opportunity to come to events and activities during Year 12 and 13 and provide an insight into what it is like to study at Durham University.



"The formal evening was the highlight of the entire event and I absolutely loved everyone I met on the residential."

SP 2024 student

What subjects are involved?

In order to fully explore their potential, SP students will have the opportunity to take part in academic taster sessions.

Applicants will be asked to rank the **top three** academic subjects they would like to do on SP. Upon successful completion of the SP programme, students will be eligible for a **guaranteed, alternative offer** from Durham University.

Subjects Offered:

- Accounting
- Anthropology
- Archaeology
- Biosciences
- Business (Marketing & Management)
- Classics & Ancient History
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Criminology & Sociology
- Earth Sciences
- Economics & Finance
- Education Studies & Primary Education
- Engineering
- English Literature
- Geography
- History
- Law
- Mathematics
- Modern Languages & Cultures (French, German & Spanish)
- Music
- Philosophy
- Politics
- Physics
- Psychology
- Politics
- Physics
- Sport & Exercise Sciences
- Theology & Religion



*We recommend that you check the specific requirements for each subject before applying on our website or by scanning the QR code.

*Subjects offered are subjected to volume of interest. If the subject of your choice is unavailable this cycle, we may offer you a place for a different subject.

Who Can Apply?

SP aims to support students who are typically underrepresented in higher education and particularly at Durham. As places are highly sought after, we use our eligibility and selection criteria to help us identify those applicants who we feel will benefit the most from the programme.

To qualify applicants must:

- Be in **Year 12**.
- Be based in the **North East**.
- Have achieved at least **eight GCSEs** or equivalent at grade 6 and have a strong level of achievement in relevant subjects.
- Be attending a **state school** or **college**.
- Be currently **living in the UK** for a **minimum of three years** prior to the time of application.
- Be a **UK national** or have “**settled status**”, except those on child student visa and student visa.
- Attended schools or colleges with low attainment and low progression rates to higher education.



We particularly welcome students of Black-heritage including African, Caribbean, dual or mixed heritage to apply to **both** SP and Space to Explore Potential (STEP) programmes.



Over 940

students have enrolled at Durham after completing SP.

Additional Criteria:

We prioritise students from underrepresented backgrounds. For example: estranged students, first-generation scholars, or those eligible for free school meals (FSM).

We also welcome students with disabilities and reasonable adjustments will be made to facilitate access to all events.

*Information and programme details subject to change and are correct at the time of publication.

How to Apply

Apply online by visiting durham.ac.uk/supported-progression or by scanning the QR code.

As part of the form you will also need to provide the details of a teacher at your school, who can verify the details you have provided in your application. We recommend picking a teacher who you feel knows you best and informing them that you have chosen them. This way, your teacher can keep a close eye on their emails ready to verify your application. Successful SP applications are subject to teacher verification.

You will also be asked for a safeguarding contact; someone who we can contact in an emergency during an event.



**Applications open 21
January 2025 and close
20 March 2025.**



Applications

The application form will ask you for your details including your personal information, education details and some questions about the eligibility criteria. It should take no more than 20 minutes or so to complete. If you are unsure whether or not you meet the eligibility criteria and would like to discuss this further, we would encourage you to speak with a teacher in your school or contact us directly at supported.progression@durham.ac.uk.

*We also welcome speculative applications even if you do not meet all of the criteria.

*Guaranteed offer is only applicable for Year 13 UCAS applicants, with an option for a year deferral if needed.

Tips For Applying

- Make sure the **contact details** you provide (especially email address!) are **correct** and **up-to-date**. These are how we will get in touch about your application and throughout the programme.
- Make a note of the indicative dates for our events. **Attendance is compulsory** for all events as they are essential in assessing your success on the programme.
- Include any other **mitigating circumstances or information** on your personal background you would like us to be aware of.

98%

rated as good or excellent.

SP 2024 Student Survey



94%

of students agree or strongly agree, in the post-residential survey with the statement that 'university is for people like me.'

SP 2024 Student Survey

Unsuccessful?

If your application was not successful, this is **not** necessarily a reflection of your ability to study at Durham University and we would still encourage you to apply to the university through UCAS in Year 13. The SP application form will ask you if you would like to receive news and updates from us regarding other relevant information and events. If you select yes to this then you will still receive these communications from us even if you are not successful in gaining a place on the programme.

*Successful applicants are not required to choose Durham University through UCAS. However as the aim of the programme is to support students in their pursuit of a place at Durham University, we ask that you take this into consideration when choosing to apply,

Other Opportunities

Summer Schools



Aside from Supported Progression, we also run other access summer school programmes such as **STEP** and **Sutton Trust**. To find out more information, visit durham.ac.uk/access-engagement.

Online Resources



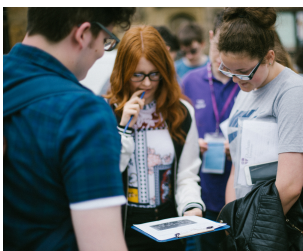
Our team have created some useful resources and videos to help you find out more about **student life** here at Durham.

Futures in STEM



An academic and pastoral support programme, for **Year 12** students considering applying to study **Chemistry, Maths** or **Physics**.

Open Days



Open Days give you a chance to explore our facilities, chat with your potential future lecturers, hear from our current students and even tour our unique student accommodation. Our Open Days are held in **June** and **September** each year.

Contact Us

Schools Outreach & Widening Participation

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