

# Supported Progression Brochure 2024



**Supported Progression is a programme starting in Year 12 for students from the North East, North West and Yorkshire. SP offers a range of support and opportunities prior to university. You will experience student life, discover Durham, and prepare for university applications.**

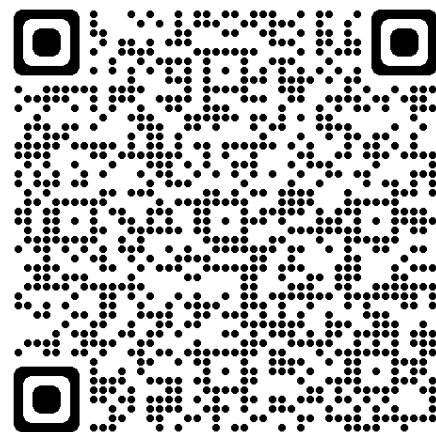
## What subjects are involved?

- 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
- Sport & Exercise Sciences
- Theology and Religion

Before applying, we recommend that you check that you meet the specific requirement for the subject you are interested in applying for by scanning the QR code. Occasionally, we are unable to run an academic strand (or may need to combine strands) if there are not enough interested students who successfully gain a place on the programme. If this happens to your chosen academic strand, we may offer you a place for a different subject.

## Key Dates in 2024

- Applications open: 1st February 2024
- Applications close: 12th April 2024
- Online Summer Series: 3x1 hour sessions: 10th or 11th June, 24th June and 8th July 2024
- Summer Residential: 29th July to 2nd Aug 2024
- Autumn Webinar Series: September-November 2024
- Spring Residential: Spring 2025



SP students on the stage with others doing sound and light adjustments in a Theatre session (above)

QR code for subject specific requirements (below)



## Why Should I Apply?

The programme will give you an insight into what it is like to study at Durham University and offers key benefits including the following:

- A guaranteed, contextual offer (typically two grades below) from Durham University if you complete the programme successfully.
- Learn from world leading academics and experience university style academic sessions in your chosen subject area.
- Meet like-minded people from different backgrounds, experience student life in a safe and inclusive environment.
- Engage with our current students and understand what student life is like at Durham.
- Receive key information, advice and guidance about the UCAS application process, personal statements and student finance.
- Take part in our summer and autumn online series of webinars to develop transferable skills and support your journey to university.
- Explore Durham City and surrounding areas from a student perspective.

**‘Thank you so much to everyone who put their heads together to plan and organise the residential, definitely the best I have ever been to out of all university summer schools and residentials I had. Thank you to my academic and group mentor for your help too. I am grateful, for the support and all the friends I made on the trip too. The worst part was going home :))’**  
**SP 2023 Student**

## How to apply

Apply online by visiting [durham.ac.uk/visit-us/schools/access-engagement/supported-progression/](https://durham.ac.uk/visit-us/schools/access-engagement/supported-progression/) or scan the QR code. The application form will ask you a variety of details including your personal information, educational details, and some questions about the eligibility criteria - see page 5 for more details. It should take no more than 30 minutes or so to complete.

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 are open from 1st February 2024 to 11:59pm on 12th April 2024.**



# Fifteen Years

This cohort will mark the 15th anniversary of Supported Progression at Durham University!



# Over 940

Over 940 students have enrolled at Durham after completing Supported Progression.



# Over 540

Over 540 Supported Progression students have already graduated from Durham.



## Who Can Apply?

The Supported Progression programme aims to support students who are typically underrepresented in Higher Education and particularly at Durham. As places are limited and 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. You can view these criteria in more detail on our webpages. Students must

- Be in Year 12
- Be based in the North East, North West, or Yorkshire.
- Be attending a state school or college.
- Be currently living in the UK and have been for a minimum of three years prior to the time of application.
- Be a UK national or have "settled status", such as indefinite leave to remain in the UK, except where residence in the UK is wholly or mainly for the purpose of full-time education.
- Meet the eligibility criteria for their chosen courses. We advise students to research subject specific entry requirements on our website prior to application.
- Come from neighbourhoods with low overall progression rates to higher education or high levels of financial, economic or social deprivation.
- Have achieved at least eight GCSEs or equivalent at grade 6 or above (or e.g. B, Distinction), including at least three at grade 7 or above (or e.g. A, A\* or Distinction) and a strong level of achievement for relevant subjects.

Though we do not anticipate any major changes, please note the details of the eligibility criteria are based on the 2023 programme and are subject to change.



SP student enjoying table tennis (above)  
Durham Student Ambassador smiling at the camera (right)

## Additional Criteria

Whilst not essential criteria, we also prioritise students from underrepresented backgrounds; for example, those with experience of being in care; that are estranged from their families; that are the first generation in their family to attend university; that are eligible for free school meals; that attend schools or colleges with low attainment and low progression rates to higher education.

Additionally, as Black-heritage applicants are underrepresented at Durham, we particularly welcome applications to Supported Progression from Black students of African, Caribbean, or dual heritage.

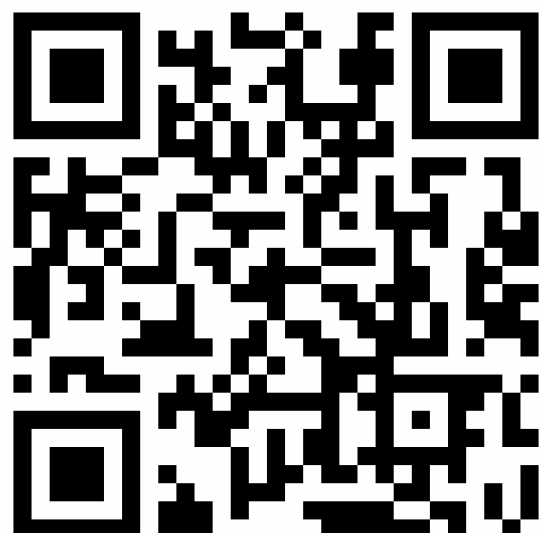
Supported Progression also welcomes applications from students with disabilities. Reasonable adjustments will be made to facilitate access to all Supported Progression events and the University.



## Information Events

These online webinars are opportunities to find out more before applying. Our information events are suitable for students, parents/guardians, teachers and advisors.

To find out more and book online, visit our website by scanning the QR code below.



## Applications

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If you are unsure whether or not you meet the eligibility criteria and you would like to discuss this further we would encourage you to speak with a teacher in your school or contact us directly:

[\*\*supported.progression@durham.ac.uk\*\*](mailto:supported.progression@durham.ac.uk)

The application form only takes around 30 minutes to complete, so if you would like to submit a speculative application, even if you do not meet all of the criteria, you are welcome to do so.

### Unsuccessful?

If your application to Supported Progression is 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 Supported Progression 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, the aim of the programme is to support students in their pursuit of a place at Durham University and we ask that you take this into consideration when choosing to apply.

If you are interested in applying, please see our Supported Progression webpages:

[\*\*durham.ac.uk/supported.progression\*\*](http://durham.ac.uk/supported.progression) to find an application form and more information on the scheme or scan the QR code below.

#### Top Tips For Applying

Make sure the contact details you provide, especially your email address, are correct and up-to-date. These are how we'll get in touch, both about your application and throughout the programme!

Make a note of the indicative dates for our events - they're all essential in assessing your success in our programme and you need to commit to them all.

Include any other mitigating circumstances/ information on your personal background you would like us to be aware of.





'I've thoroughly enjoyed my experience at Supported Progression! I've had the opportunity to meet students from similar backgrounds with similar aspirations, many of which I am still regularly in contact with. It has been an amazing chance to learn more about what Durham has to offer, both academically and socially.'

**(SP 2023 Student)**



'I really enjoyed gaining an insight from the ambassadors as to what university has been like for them and their experiences.'

**(SP 2023 Student)**



'THANK YOU. Best part of my summer.'

**(SP 2023 Student)**

## Contact

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Widening Access & Participation  
Durham University  
The Palatine Centre  
Stockton Road  
Durham DH1 3LE  
UK

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Please email us with enquiries:  
[supported.progression@durham.ac.uk](mailto:supported.progression@durham.ac.uk)

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## Other Opportunities

Here are some other opportunities you may be interested in:

**Sutton Trust Summer School** - In partnership with the Sutton Trust we run a free week long summer school for Year 12 students. The summer school features similar benefits to the Supported Progression summer school with less year-round commitment.

**STEP** - Space to Explore Potential (STEP) offers a dedicated space for young black students, who are typically underrepresented at Durham University, to explore not only their own potential, but all that Durham has to offer as a potential university destination.

**Open Days** - find out more about Durham by visiting us on one of our Open Days.

**Online Resources** - our Engagement 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.

[durham.ac.uk/supported.progression](https://durham.ac.uk/supported.progression)

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