



WARWICK
THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

UniTracks

WARWICK YOUNG ACHIEVERS PROGRAMME

STUDENTS AND PARENTS GUIDE 2016/2017

UniTracks

The University of Warwick's programme for highly able 14-18 year olds.

You have been given this brochure because your teacher thinks you have great potential and would make a perfect candidate for the UniTracks programme.

At Warwick, our vision is to work with young people and help them overcome their perceived barriers to progressing onto higher education (HE). Through the UniTracks programme, we identify Year 10 pupils who are high achievers and eager to learn and challenge themselves!

By becoming part of our four-year programme, you will learn not just about university life but you will also have the chance:

- ▶ to explore different subjects beyond your current school curriculum
- ▶ to develop the type of skills future employers and universities look for by taking part in group competitions and challenges
- ▶ to improve your academic attainment through residential revision events
- ▶ to try your hand at academic writing

Some of these events and activities will take place on Warwick's campus near Coventry, and we are constantly looking at ways we can bring Warwick out to you in your local area.

The UniTracks programme is here to encourage you to apply for and be successful in gaining a place at a leading research intensive university in the future. The programme will help you to explore your options, enabling you to make a fully informed decision about which pathway you wish to follow after school/college.

By the end of your time with us, we hope you will have grown in confidence in your own abilities; developed key 'transferable' skills; be more knowledgeable about what HE has to offer you, and be well on your way to achieving your true potential!





HOW UNITRACKS WORKS

Each year of UniTracks has a different focus, which form the stepping stones on your journey to higher education.

YEAR 10: ASPIRATION

What can I achieve? What does my future hold? Why should I go to university?

In the first year with us, you will have opportunities to take part in group projects or challenges with the other UniTracks participants from your school. Through these you will be able to develop skills such as teamwork, communication, and improve your confidence. The project may be based in a subject you are not familiar with but the additional skills will be invaluable as you progress through school.

YEAR 11: ATTAINMENT

Getting the grades

Year 11 is an important year for you and we want to support you in getting the best grades possible by running revision sessions and supporting wider study skills.

YEAR 12: INFORMED CHOICES

When you move into sixth form/college, you are still part of UniTracks even if you change schools. Year 12 is a time to explore different subject areas, and we will keep you informed of activities either based here at Warwick or other universities. There will also be opportunities to receive advice and guidance with the UCAS application.

YEAR 13: TRANSITIONS

Your final year with UniTracks will be a busy one at sixth form/college with applications for university and/or other pathways. We want to support you in gaining the best results you can, and there will usually be A Level revision sessions you can attend.







THE UNITRACKS PROGRAMME IN DETAIL

In each academic year, there will be at least one core activity for you to participate in.

There will be additional activities that you can attend – for some of these there may be an additional application process, such as for the summer school events. We will also let you know about events happening at other universities that we think you might be interested in, and support you in getting there with travel costs.

Alongside the face-to-face activity, you will have access to an online platform. We are developing this so that you can interact with other UniTracks participants and current Warwick undergraduates.

Finally, we aim to bring Warwick to your school/college! This might include sessions about going to university and what it is really like to be a student, amongst others.

AUTUMN TERM:

- Y10** ▶ Launch event, first group challenge
- Y11** ▶ Re-Connect
- Y12** ▶ Post-16 events including online mentoring
- Y13** ▶ Virtual support for your UCAS application

SPRING TERM:

- Y10** ▶ Second group challenge (such as 'the Big Deal' business enterprise competition)
- Y11** ▶ GCSE Revision Bootcamp
- Y12** ▶ Uni Taster Day at Warwick, sign up for the E-Scholars Programme with the Brilliant Club, and apply for Summer Schools

SUMMER TERM:

- Y10** ▶ Summer School opportunities (*NB limited number of places*)
- Y11** ▶ Optional one-off trips with a subject focus
- Y12** ▶ Support with UCAS and personal statements / The E Scholar Programme
- Y13** ▶ A Level Revision Bootcamp

"UniTracks provides each student with an invaluable and unique experience, by exposing them to a world of opportunity. Personally, UniTracks has completely changed my perception of university and what I wish to pursue post-education. I owe a lot to the programme and the people behind-the-scenes for offering me that stepping stone I would have missed out on. If you have the chance to apply I would advise you to not think twice and grab the opportunity with both hands."

Annissa, Year 12, Bordesley Green Girls' School, Birmingham

WHAT'S THE PROGRAMME LIKE?

Don't just take our word for it, here's what some of our current and former UniTracks participants think.

"Joining the UniTracks programme was one of the best choices I could have made for my future. At times I was confused about what I wanted to do after I left school and was unsure if university was for me. But through UniTracks, I was given guidance about the important decisions I would make. 5 years on and I can still see the positive influence the programme has had in my life. Not only did it provide me with academic guidance, but the programme gave me the confidence to believe in myself and my potential. I was able to develop skills that have stayed with me and have been influential in my day to day life as I study Biomedical Science at Warwick University. The programme also inspired me to become a Student Ambassador so that I could have the opportunity to encourage others as I was encouraged in the past. I cannot fully express how influential the UniTracks programme was to my life, not only did it boost my confidence but it provided me with the knowledge that I could do anything I set my mind to."

Christiana, 2nd Year undergraduate, Biomedical Science

YOUR AGREEMENT

By joining UniTracks you will get access to four years of support, designed to give you the best possible chance of achieving your ambitions and securing a place at a top university.

To make the most of this, you need to be ambitious, proactive and willing to take advantage of the many opportunities offered to you.

We ask that you:

- ▶ Take part in the core activities offered each year
- ▶ Keep your contact details up to date, including changes of school, email address and home address
- ▶ Commit to the full four years of the programme
- ▶ Provide us with information about your exam results and destinations



"When I first got the letter I have to admit, I was pretty scared. But as soon as I got there, everything changed. I was welcomed in with open arms and by the end of the three days, I felt so comfortable around everyone. The revision and work I did there was extremely helpful for me and now I'm back at school, I fly through these topics with ease. The three days definitely changed my perspective and work, but also improved my self-confidence. I wouldn't miss this opportunity, no matter how shy you are, because there will always be one person around that you'll end up being friends with straight away."

Jade, Year 11, RSA Arrow Vale, Redditch on the GCSE Revision Bootcamp

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS/CARERS

Why has my son/daughter been selected?



Your son/daughter has been selected to be a part of the UniTracks Programme because we feel that they will benefit greatly from the opportunities available. All the young people involved have the ability and potential to gain a place at one of the UK's leading universities.

Participants will be encouraged to choose the best university course for their interests and abilities. Former UniTracks participants have gone on to

study at universities such as Birmingham, Bristol, Cambridge, Durham, Leicester, University College London and Warwick!

We recognise, however, that university might not be the right option for your son/daughter. By working with them over four years, we aim to give them the confidence in themselves and all the information they need to make the right decision for their future.

What does this mean for me?



We ask that you support your son/daughter's participation in the various opportunities open to them as a member of UniTracks. This could include attending the initial launch event at the University of Warwick; giving

consent to them taking part in a group challenge or participating in other activities such as a residential event, as well as talking with your son/daughter about decisions for their future.

What does the programme involve and how often will my son/daughter have to go to Warwick?



Please see page 12 for further details on the programme.

We hold our main events on Saturdays or sometimes during school holidays so that participants are not missing out on school. During their first year

on the programme, depending on the activity your son/daughter gets involved in, they can expect to come onto campus three to four times. In subsequent years, they will visit campus once or twice a year.

What are the costs involved with this programme?



There are no costs involved to participate in this programme. We will reimburse parents/guardians/carers for costs relating to bringing your son/daughter to one of our events.

Will they have to wear school uniform when attending events?



Most UniTracks events have a casual dress-code so no uniform necessary!

Is transport to and from the University of Warwick provided? What about other resources and food?



Transport should never be a barrier to a participant attending a UniTracks event. We will offer support either through reimbursing mileage or public transport costs, or by arranging travel with a coach or minibus.

Regarding resources, unless specified otherwise, we will provide this for participants. However, there are no specific resources required to be a participant in UniTracks.

All UniTracks events are catered and we can cater for special dietary requirements if we know in advance.

Who will be supervising my son/daughter at the events?



Events are supervised by staff from the University of Warwick's Outreach team and academic departments, and current undergraduates who work as Student Ambassadors. All staff and students who work with the UniTracks participants in an unsupervised capacity, undergo an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check in line with current regulations.

UNITRACKS PROGRAMME IN MORE DETAIL

Key Stage 4 - Years 10 and 11

These are important years for your son/daughter. The lead up to GCSE exams can be stressful and challenging and the idea of university can seem very far off.

There are key decisions during this Key Stage that can affect future progression to university and employment. Performance in GCSE exams can affect future options for study at university, and through UniTracks we will help your son/daughter develop effective exam revision skills. During this Key Stage your son/daughter will also need to make decisions about what to study post-16.

With the wide range of courses available, UniTracks will help them to consider all options and to make an informed decision.

UniTracks helps give its members clearer information on issues such as:

- ▶ Effective GCSE exam revision
- ▶ Sixth form options
- ▶ A level course choice

We start to familiarise UniTracks members with issues relating to university, such as:

- ▶ what a university is, and how one university differs from another
- ▶ why they might choose to study at university
- ▶ the benefits of receiving a university education
- ▶ what they need to be doing now to consider university as an option





Key Stage 5 - Years 12 and 13

With the transition to sixth form/college, your son/daughter will gain a considerable amount of direct control over their future.

UniTracks recognises this, and switches the support we provide to very practical, hands-on topics, including:

- ▶ choosing the correct course of study
- ▶ the practicalities of the application process through UCAS (University and Colleges Application Service)
- ▶ how to fund university study and how to manage money
- ▶ networking and interviewing skills
- ▶ insights in to university life and how to transition to university effectively

UniTracks participants in Year 12 will also have the chance to write and submit a piece of academic writing, in conjunction with our partners The Brilliant Club.

Participants in years 12 and 13 are treated as adults, with considerable opportunity to develop independence and to take the lead in their learning.



HOW TO APPLY

Students apply by completing the application form enclosed with this pack.

The application has three sections:

- ▶ **Section A:** to be completed by the applicant
- ▶ **Section B:** to be completed by the applicant's parents/carers
- ▶ **Section C:** to be completed by the school

Please return all completed forms to the UniTracks office at the University of Warwick using the pre-paid envelope provided.

UniTracks, Student Recruitment, Outreach and Admissions Service, University of Warwick, Coventry, CV4 8UW

Email: unitracks@warwick.ac.uk

Phone: 024 7652 4773

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

We will contact successful applicants within a month of the closing deadline, to confirm their enrolment on the programme.

At this point you will receive a calendar of events for the UniTracks programme. All new UniTracks participants, their parents/carers and the UniTracks link teachers at their schools will be invited to a launch event at the University of Warwick in the early autumn.



Number of schools involved in UniTracks across current four cohorts:

46



Total number of young people currently on the UniTracks Programme:

420

WHERE WE WORK





UniTracks

Student Recruitment
Outreach and Admissions Service
University of Warwick
Coventry CV4 8UW

✉ unitracks@warwick.ac.uk

🌐 warwick.ac.uk/unitracks