WARWICK YOUNG ACHIEVERS PROGRAMME
UniTracks
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Schools and Teachers Guide 2018/2019
Our 4-year, national outreach programme for highly able students from year 10 upwards aims to:

- Break down any perceived barriers your students may have about accessing Higher Education (HE)
- Encourage your students to apply for, and be successful, in gaining a place at a leading research intensive university
- Inspire your students to access different learning opportunities at leading research intensive universities

Through UniTracks, your students will have fantastic opportunities to develop new skills, gain an insight into university life and receive support for their academic attainment.

By the end of the programme, your students will have made informed choices about their futures and have the necessary qualifications, skills and attributes to achieve the next step in their educational journey. Previous participants have gone on to study at universities such as Birmingham, Cardiff, Exeter, King’s College London, London School of Economics, Southampton, Nottingham, University College London and Warwick.
UniTracks is designed for students who meet the following criteria:

### Academic Criteria
Student is highly or most able, i.e., one or more from the following:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>5%</th>
<th>KS2</th>
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| top five percent of year group | achieved at least an average of 5.2 at KS2 | has the potential to achieve 9/8/7 at GCSE or A*/A at A level or equivalent

### All Students Must Meet at Least Two of the Following

- **1st**: Student is the first in their immediate family (excluding siblings) to go to university.
- **Student is from an area in which there is traditionally low participation in HE**.
  This is defined by home postcode.
- **Student is in receipt of, or has within the last six years been eligible for, Free School Meals**.
- **The student is in receipt of or entitled to Pupil Premium**.
- **Parents/Guardian/Carer in non-professional occupations**.

Where a student is, or has ever been, in the care of the local authority, they need only meet the academic criteria.

### Extenuating Circumstances
If a student does not meet at least two of the additional criteria, but has experienced difficult family or individual circumstances that ought to be taken into consideration, please explain these on the application form. These will be looked at on a case by case basis.

"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
In each academic year, there will be at least one core activity that we would like to encourage everyone to participate in.

Outside of the core element of the programme, participants will be able to apply for additional activities that are taking place at Warwick, such as the residential summer schools. We will also alert the relevant cohorts to events happening at other universities that may be of interest.

As part of the programme, we also want to bring Warwick to you, either via visiting you in school or virtually!

### AUTUMN TERM
- **Y10** ➤ Launch Event on campus - “We Are UniTracks” Project
- **Y11** ➤ Revision Skills Seminar - “Get the Grades You Want”
- **Y12** ➤ Re-Connect to the UniTracks Programme
- **Y13** ➤ Support with your UCAS Application

### SPRING TERM
- **Y10** ➤ Group Projects
- **Y11** ➤ GCSE Revision Bootcamp
- **Y12** ➤ Research Skills Workshop, leading to an Academic Assignment
  - Apply for Summer Schools!
- **Y13** ➤ A Level Revision Bootcamp

### SUMMER TERM
- **Y10** ➤ Summer School opportunities (NB limited number of places)
- **Y11** ➤ Revision Support following the GCSE Revision Bootcamp
- **Y12** ➤ Academic Assignment OR Support for your EPQ
  - Summer Schools
- **Y13** ➤ Revision Support

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**Annissa, Year 12, Bordesley Green Girls’ School, Birmingham**

“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.”
WHAT’S IN IT FOR YOU AND YOUR SCHOOL?

As our in-school contact, we want to work closely with you to ensure your school is able to participate as fully as possible in the UniTracks programme.

You will have the opportunity to shape the programme for the benefit of all!

WE NEED YOU:

- To provide us with a primary and secondary contact in school for the UniTracks programme
- To accurately target students to participate in the programme
- To support attendance at events
  - For Programme Launch events, teacher and parent presence is preferred
- When asked, to provide us with data on the participants at various points throughout the programme, to include:
  - GCSE predictions and results
  - Sixth Form/College destinations and subjects
  - A Level results and destinations
- Where participants and parents are keen to take part in a particular project, to please facilitate this

In-School Time Commitment

- To support the UniTracks manager by following up with participants when necessary
- To encourage participation in the core activities
- Facilitating virtual sessions if required

On-Campus Time Commitment

- Year 10: Maximum of 3-4 days across the year for the programme launch, project launch and project finale
- Year 11: 3-day residential event during the Easter holidays (no teacher presence required)
- Year 12: A lot of the on-campus activity in year 12 is optional; therefore the participants can attend independently
- Year 13: A level revision sessions, no teacher presence required

NB: Saturdays are frequently chosen for programme and project launches as this causes minimum disruption to the participants’ schooling.

“Our invaluable relationship with the University of Warwick through the UniTracks programme has offered our high achievers (from low socio-economic backgrounds) a comprehensive and personalised support package to take them through those demanding 4 years of secondary school and onto pursuing university courses at leading institutions.

The enrichment offered by opportunities such as the residential summer schools, the big deal business competition and writing mini theses with the Brilliant Club has enhanced enormously the skill set that these students need. Strong qualities such as team work, research skills, and entrepreneurial flair are nurtured and encouraged alongside personal statement and interview support for UCAS applications. This variety of experiences which has also included mentoring with the Brightside Trust and membership to IGGY has broadened these students’ horizons, giving them the confidence and motivation to push past those ‘aspirational constraints’ that so many of their counterparts succumb to in this deprived part of East London. This programme has been a life changing experience for Year 10-13 students and I recommend it unreservedly.”

Mr Moloney, Head of Sixth Form, Barking Abbey School

FAQS

HOW MANY STUDENTS CAN I PUT FORWARD?

Each school can nominate up to 5 participants and we ask for the groups to be mixed gender wherever possible, to ensure a good gender balance across the whole cohort.

WHAT ARE THE COSTS INVOLVED TO US TAKING PART?

All UniTracks activities are provided free-of-charge to participating schools. We will reimburse schools for travel costs associated with UniTracks events, or organise travel on your behalf for the participants.

WHAT IS THE TEACHER’S ROLE?

As listed above, we ask that teachers’ support the young people to be able to fully participate in the activities offered through UniTracks.
HOW CAN YOU GET YOUR SCHOOL INVOLVED?

It’s easy – nominate up to five students who are in Year 10 and who meet our eligibility criteria as detailed on page 4.

The students and their parents/carers will need to complete sections A and B on the application form enclosed with this pack.

Once these have been completed, you will need to complete the FINAL section of the form and return all forms to the UniTracks office in the pre-paid envelope provided to:

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

WHEN WILL YOU HEAR FROM US?

We will contact you and your students within a couple of weeks confirm who has been successful.

WHERE WE WORK

By joining the UniTracks Programme, your school will become part of this national network!

We hope that the participants from different schools get to know each other and become a new social network for each other and want to work with you to develop our teachers’ network across the schools.
UniTracks
Student Recruitment
Outreach and Admissions Service
University of Warwick
Coventry CV4 8UW

unitracks@warwick.ac.uk
warwick.ac.uk/unitracks