



WARWICK
THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

UniTracks

WARWICK YOUNG ACHIEVERS PROGRAMME

SCHOOLS AND TEACHERS GUIDE 2016/2017



UniTracks

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

At Warwick, we are committed to working with young people and helping them to overcome their perceived barriers or obstacles to accessing higher education (HE).

Young people from families where there is little experience of HE may feel at a disadvantage when applying, or may even think that university is not for them.

UniTracks aims to:

- ▶ inspire individuals from non-traditional backgrounds to access learning opportunities at leading research intensive universities, including Warwick
- ▶ enable students to make informed decisions about their educational pathway
- ▶ encourage participants to apply for and be successful in gaining a place at a leading research intensive university

UniTracks is a unique outreach programme within the HE sector and as a partner school, you will be asked to nominate up to five Year 10 pupils each year who are most able and from non-traditional university backgrounds to join this national cohort.

Students will receive support from the University of Warwick over the crucial four-year period from Year 10 through to Year 13, giving them an insight into university life, and opportunities to attend a series of workshops and events that will build their skills, confidence and academic attainment.

By the end of the programme, our aim is for your students to have made informed choices about their futures and have the necessary qualifications, skills and attributes to achieve the next step in their journey.

WHO IS UNITRACKS FOR?

UniTracks is designed for students who meet the following criteria

Academic Criteria

Student is identified as most able, i.e. one or more from the following:



top five percent of year group



achieved at least an average of 5.2 at KS2



has the potential to achieve 8/9 at GCSE and A/A* at A level

All students must meet at least two of the following



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.



The 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

HOW UNITRACKS WORKS

Each year has a different focus that form a series of stepping stones on the participants' journey to Higher Education.

YEAR 10: **ASPIRATION**

Skills development, such as teamwork and communication skills. Experiencing a subject outside of what the participants are normally familiar with.

YEAR 11: **ATTAINMENT**

Supporting students in getting the best GCSE grades through specific revision sessions and study skills support.

YEAR 12: **INFORMED CHOICES**


Providing participants with opportunities to explore different subject areas, either based here at Warwick or other universities.

Online Mentoring.

Offering advice and guidance over the UCAS application.

YEAR 13: **TRANSITIONS**

Supporting academic attainment through A level revision sessions and study skills support.



"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



THE UNITRACKS PROGRAMME IN DETAIL

In each academic year, there will be at least one core activity that we want 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 residential summer schools. We will also alert the relevant cohorts to events happening at other universities that may be of interest.

Alongside the face-to-face activity, all participants will have access to, and be encouraged to participate in, an online platform. Through this platform, they can interact with other UniTracks participants and current Warwick undergraduates.

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, 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



WHAT WE ASK OF THE UNITRACKS PARTNER SCHOOLS

As our in-school link, 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 are also looking into opportunities to provide our partner schools with CPD and networking opportunities.

We need you

- ▶ to provide us with a primary and secondary contact in school for the UniTracks programme
- ▶ to accurately target pupils 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
 - hosting a virtual session at school in an IT suite if required
 - hosting regional network meetings and/or events
- ▶ 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, teacher presence not required
 - Year 12: Much of the on-campus activity in year 12 is optional; therefore the participants can attend independently
 - Year 13: A level revision sessions, teacher presence not 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



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