



**UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE
BIRMINGHAM**

AWARD-WINNING UNIVERSITY SUPPORT

**DEGREES THAT
GET YOU HIRED**

£6,000*

**FINANCIAL SUPPORT
TO GET YOU THROUGH.**

*For full terms and conditions see ucb.ac.uk

COST OF LIVING ALLOWANCE.

**NOT A LOAN.
NOT MEANS TESTED.
NO REPAYMENT.**



**FIND
OUT
MORE**

**UCB
.AC.UK**



WHATEVER HELP YOU NEED

Whatever help you need, our award-winning support teams are committed to giving you the advice, skills and practical tools to discover your full potential, all while helping to look after your health and wellbeing.

This guide is a snapshot of the tailored support on offer, but there's always more – we are always listening to students and responding to your needs.

CONTENTS

02 ACADEMIC SUPPORT

04 HEALTH AND WELLBEING SUPPORT

06 FINANCIAL SUPPORT

08 EMPLOYABILITY AND CAREERS SUPPORT

10 DISABILITY AND
NEURODIVERSITY SUPPORT

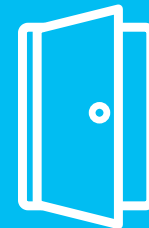
12 GUILD OF STUDENTS

NSS

National Student Survey

90% SATISFACTION
QUALITY OF STUDENT SUPPORT

**WE HAVE AN
OPEN DOOR
POLICY
THROUGHOUT
THE UNIVERSITY**



This means that all staff are available to guide and support you on your journey at University College Birmingham. You are welcome to walk into any department and ask for help – please do take us up on this offer, we are here for you.

HELP DESK

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

YOUR FIRST PRIORITY DURING YOUR TIME WITH US WILL BE YOUR ACADEMIC PROGRESS.

- Dedicated personal tutor as your first point of contact.
- Weekly one-to-one appointments with academic librarians, who can guide you through referencing and research for your assignments.
- A dedicated Centre for Academic Skills and English (CASE) team to support you with developing your academic skills, improving coursework and exam outcomes.
- Weekly one-to-one appointments with academic development tutors, who help you structure assignments and develop your presentation skills.
- Online support including a huge range of resources designed to help you develop your academic, research, referencing and presentation skills.
- Skills for Success sessions, where we get experts to speak to you about how to stand out – from polishing your presentation skills to top careers in your field.
- Regular workshops to help you develop your academic skills e.g. paraphrasing, listening skills, academic reading, referencing and more.
- Free access to Grammarly Premium, which will help you proofread your work.
- A mentoring scheme which helps develop your academic knowledge and skills, as well as aiding your career development and enhancing personal growth.
- Over 30,000 print books available for loan and over 80,000,000 online digital resources such as eBooks, journals, reports, statistics and more.



OUR STUDENT ENGAGEMENT & SUCCESS TEAM ARE HERE TO SUPPORT YOU DURING YOUR UNIVERSITY LIFE

They ensure you have a single point of contact to discuss any issues you may be having while studying. The team work to improve communication between students, academic staff and support services, they can provide you with advice and guidance so you can focus on your studies. All our first year undergraduate students have access to a success coach, who can provide advice and guidance, address your concerns and co-create achievable goals, so that you don't feel overwhelmed when you join us.



“

Attending the Academic Skills Centre to have a one-to-one support session with an Academic Librarian and an Academic Development Tutor has increased my module marks over the course of my degree study. They identify my areas for improvement and help me with my research and referencing skills, as well as improve my academic writing through learning how to be more critical and evaluative.

Waqas

Second year degree student

”

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

We recognise that good health and wellbeing are fundamental for effective study and a positive student experience. That is why we have a free and confidential health and wellbeing service, which is open to everyone and includes:

- A Student Assistance Programme, which provides 24/7 access to trained counsellors, financial or legal advice and much more. It includes an app, which has lots of free help and support, including mindfulness activities, wellbeing trackers and the ability to have text chat or video calls with a counsellor.
- Our mental health and wellbeing advisers support students who are experiencing mental health difficulties or emotional or psychological distress. We can provide practical support, help you develop coping strategies and assist you in accessing external mental health and welfare services.
- We are one of just a few universities with a student health practitioner on site. The best thing is, there is no need to make an appointment! The health practitioner can help with various medical needs, including general health advice, practical health checks, contraception advice, one-off non-prescription analgesics and treatments of cuts, burns, scalds and other minor injuries.
- Our free and confidential counselling service provides you with support to gain a better understanding of your thoughts and feelings, enabling you to make changes. Counselling is non-judgemental and you will be listened to rather than told what to do.
- Our knowledgeable team provide a wealth of resources and can signpost you to local and national services – just ask.



DID YOU KNOW WE HAVE A LANGUAGE CLUB?

This is designed to help our students improve their English in an informal setting. It is also an opportunity for both international and UK students to meet students from all over the world and learn their language, history and culture.

**TALK TO US
ABOUT ANY
PROBLEM,
BIG OR SMALL**

ucb.ac.uk/health-wellbeing



“

I'm someone who just needs to know there's a safety net and with the counselling services, I knew I had enough support. I also had great relationships with supportive lecturers who I could open up to too. My confidence started to grow. If I did have a particularly anxious day, I knew I they were on hand to help me through.

Eleanor

Bakery and Patisserie
Technology BSc (Hons)

”

**University
Mental Health
Charter**

Programme Member



FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The financial support available to you will depend on your circumstances. You may be entitled to help with your living costs, childcare and more – we have staff who advise you.

RECEIVE UP TO £800 EVERY YEAR JUST FOR STUDYING WITH US

All new UK students who start their full-time undergraduate course with us for the first time are eligible for the Kick-Start scheme. Students studying a full-taught year will get £300 of credit at the start of the year. If you are a UK student with a household income of below £25,000, you will be entitled to a further £500 at the start of your second semester. You can use the funds on anything related to your course – some students spend it on their course equipment, others use it on food in our catering outlets – the choice is yours.

For full eligibility information and further details, **please visit our website.**

IT PAYS TO STAY

If you join our university from our college, you will receive a free laptop. If you progress from an undergraduate course to postgraduate studies, you will receive a discount off your fees. This discount is increased if you achieved a first class honours degree in your undergraduate course.

COST OF LIVING SUPPORT

We understand that it's difficult to make ends meet at the moment and we're doing our bit to help you. For example, we offer free breakfast,

fruit and soup for all students. Our Guild of Students has also been campaigning to help students and set up 'leave what you can, take what you need' boxes across campus for students in need. Finally, we know that even with all the support we offer, times are still tough for students right now. While we can't help everybody, we do have funding set aside for students who are in need of emergency funds. Speak to our Student Services team, who will be able to help.



DIGITAL AWARD

Our Digital Award is also available for university students who have joined us directly from our college, sixth form or one of our partner schools and colleges. This award entitles eligible students to **£280** towards the purchase of a laptop or tablet from the Kick-Start website.



“

Kick-Start has been hugely beneficial for me. The money helps take away some of the cost of living stress. I always wake up excited to go into university.

Shanice
Sports Therapy BSc (Hons)

”

DEGREES THAT
GET YOU HIRED
£6,000*
FINANCIAL SUPPORT
TO GET YOU THROUGH.

*For full terms and conditions see ucb.ac.uk

COST OF LIVING ALLOWANCE.

**NOT A LOAN.
NOT MEANS TESTED.
NO REPAYMENT.**



**FIND
OUT
MORE**

HIRED GET AHEAD. GET PAID. GET SKILLED.

UCB HIRED is the one stop shop for all your employability needs. Our careers, employability and placement support is designed to give you a real advantage when you graduate.

From day one, we help you build the skills, confidence and connections you need to stand out and step into paid industry experience. Whether you already have a career path in mind or are still exploring your options, HIRED is here to support you.

PAID PLACEMENTS THAT SET YOU APART

Gain real-world experience while you study and earn while you learn. Did you know that most of our courses offer placements? Many are paid and last up to 48 weeks, giving you a competitive edge before you even graduate. Our students have secured placements with major organisations including: Disney, West Midlands Police, British Airways, NHS Trusts, Hilton Hotels and others. Many have also travelled abroad for an experience of a lifetime!

DIRECT ACCESS TO EMPLOYERS

Connect with employers from local businesses to global brands. Through careers fairs, industry events and networking opportunities, you'll meet the people who are hiring and who value practical experience.

CAREER-READY SUPPORT

From CV writing and interview coaching to LinkedIn and personal branding, we'll help you present yourself with confidence and secure opportunities faster.

EXPERT GUIDANCE, REAL OPPORTUNITIES

Our dedicated employability tutors and impartial careers advisors provide one-to-one to guidance tailored to your goals, helping you:

- identify and apply for placement opportunities that align to your course, ambitions, and interests
- prepare you for the workplace with practical advice, coaching and confidence-building support
- build skills employers are actively looking for.

HIRED CONNECT: SUPPORT AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

Access online tools and resources through HIRED Connect to help you plan, prepare and take action at a time that suits you.

- Create and improve your CV using the online CV creator.
- Practise interviews through interactive interview simulation.
- Complete skills assessments and practise psychometric tests to understand your strengths and development areas.
- Sign up for careers fairs, employer events and workshops.
- Search for jobs, placements and graduate opportunities using online resources.

SUPPORT THAT LASTS

Your career journey continues after graduation and so does our support. As a graduate, you can continue to access HIRED resources, careers advice and guidance for up to five years, helping you take your next step with confidence.



DID YOU KNOW?

Over 100 students secure work on campus every year while they study – building skills, earning money and boosting their employability skills from day one through our internal recruitment agency – Unitemps.



“

The HIRED team helped me prepare for an interview at Midland Health. Going into the interview, I felt very calm and at ease and was able to answer all the questions asked. I was offered the job as an aesthetic practitioner! I'm super excited to start working at Midland Health and I really appreciate the help from HIRED in securing the role.

Amanda
Aesthetics FdA

”

ANY QUESTIONS?
EMAIL HIRED@UCB.AC.UK

DISABILITY AND NEURODIVERSITY SUPPORT

Support for students who disclose a disability, health condition or mental health condition starts from application.

If you have shared information about your disability, you will be contacted by a member of the Disability and Neurodiversity Support team to discuss your specific needs and additional support requirements. You can also contact us at DNSupport@ucb.ac.uk

We can offer you an orientation or transition visit prior to starting your studies to support you in familiarising yourself with our campuses and finding your way around. Depending on your needs, you may be entitled to:

- support plan meetings and/or discussion of needs for class, exams and assignments
- one-to-one sessions with specialist support tutors (if not receiving support via DSA)
- specialist equipment
- screeners for dyslexia (please note: this does not constitute a formal diagnosis)
- Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans and lift passes
- support with accessing lectures, such as access to lecture materials in advance or handouts in an alternative format
- alternative methods of assessment to ensure equitable access based on specific needs
- digital recorders and assistive technologies to record lectures.

DISABLED STUDENTS' ALLOWANCE

In addition to the support we offer, you may be eligible for the Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA) to help cover the cost of any additional support you may need to access, such as assistive technology, specialist study skills tutor and other disability-related costs associated with studying. When applying for the DSA, you will be required to complete an application form and submit evidence of your additional needs. You don't need to speak to us before applying, but we can help you if you have questions and need assistance.



“

I access support from university because of my ADHD diagnosis. I have accommodations made in class, access to one-to-one support, if I need it, and the disability team assist me when I've asked for help. This is a big part of me and my journey. I have struggled most of my life and never really understood why. Through support from the university, I've achieved what many would have thought impossible.

Holly
Nursing degree apprentice

”



**DID YOU KNOW,
YOU MAY BE
ELIGIBLE FOR
THE DISABLED
STUDENTS'
ALLOWANCE
(DSA)**

GUILD OF STUDENTS

As soon as you enrol at University College Birmingham, you automatically become a member of the Guild. Run by students, for students, the Guild is your students' union and the home of student life at University College Birmingham.

WE'VE GOT YOUR BACK

We would like all students to be able to engage in every aspect of life at University College Birmingham. Bus money, a good night's sleep, food in your stomach – we know that you can't engage in your studies unless your basic needs are met. The Guild can signpost you to services that you need and work with you to create student-centred approaches to tackling issues.

FIND YOUR PEOPLE

We want you to feel part of a real community at University College Birmingham because we know that this is the single best indicator of success for students. The Guild has a huge range of societies and clubs you can join, including our liberation societies like the LGBTQ+, trans, parents and carers and disability networks, or our interest societies including sports, arts, cultural, liberation and course-specific societies. But the Guild goes beyond setting up societies and organising events – they work to ensure that every student has a friend that they made here.

✧ ucbguild.co.uk
f [GuildOfStudentsUCB](https://www.facebook.com/GuildOfStudentsUCB)
📷 [ucbguildofstudents](https://www.instagram.com/ucbguildofstudents)

SHAPE YOUR LIFE

Finally, the Guild works with our students to help shape their lives, the world around them and achieve their personal best. You can improve your confidence and contribute to a better tomorrow by getting involved in campaigns organised by the Guild. If you don't want to get involved, that's fine – you're still likely to benefit from the work that they're doing. For example, the Guild recently ran a 'cost of living' campaign, called for free public transport for students in the region and joined forces with other student unions to demand a ban on gender conversion therapy. The Guild also has dedicated academic, liberation and sustainability reps.



**DID YOU KNOW,
THE GUILD CAN
SIGNPOST YOU
TO SERVICES
THAT YOU NEED
AND WORK WITH
YOU TO CREATE
STUDENT-CENTRED
APPROACHES TO
TACKLING ISSUES**



“

The Guild is always here for you. You can lean on us and pick our brains on all sorts of subjects, and we can also help you find your people.

Kunal Chavan
Equalities and Wellbeing Officer

”



**UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE
BIRMINGHAM**

Summer Row, Birmingham B3 1JB

0121 232 4300 / 0121 604 1000
ucb.ac.uk



**DEGREES THAT
GET YOU HIRED**

£6,000*

**FINANCIAL SUPPORT
TO GET YOU THROUGH.**

*For full terms and conditions see ucb.ac.uk

COST OF LIVING ALLOWANCE.

**NOT A LOAN.
NOT MEANS TESTED.
NO REPAYMENT.**



**FIND
OUT
MORE**