Guide for Mature Students
Studying at degree level later in life can be highly rewarding and our mature students are among some of our most successful. At the University of Liverpool, we are committed to extending opportunities to all adults with the desire and ability to succeed at university.

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www.liverpool.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/applying/mature-students
How to choose a subject

1. The first step is to decide which subject you would like to study. Is there a particular subject you are passionate about? Is there a particular vocation that you would like to train for? Think about which degree programmes might be most useful for your personal and professional ambitions after you graduate. Also, remember that the University of Liverpool offers many flexible pathways of study, so you can even design a degree that’s tailored to suit your specific interests, academic strengths and career aspirations through Honours Select (www.liverpool.ac.uk/honours-select/)

2. Attend Open Days to meet with mature students’ advisers, academic staff and get a feel for student life

3. Contact the relevant admissions tutors, our Careers & Employability Service (www.liverpool.ac.uk/careers/how-can-we-help) and use websites such as Prospects (www.prospects.ac.uk)

4. Browse the range of Continuing Education’s daytime and evening courses at www.liverpool.ac.uk/continuing-education/

5. Once you have chosen your degree programme, visit our website (www.liverpool.ac.uk/study) for further information on the subject, the pattern of study, and our entry requirements.

Entry requirements

The University of Liverpool welcomes applications from everyone with the potential to succeed in higher education.

We know some mature students apply to us with recent and relevant qualifications, but others may have few or none. Whatever your academic history, there are many routes into the University of Liverpool for mature students.

You can find out about our general entry requirements at www.liverpool.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/applying/entry-requirements-and-qualifications. Please be aware that some of our programmes ask for subject-specific requirements at particular grades, there is further advice in this guide and different types of qualification and experience can be taken into consideration when you apply.

If you hold qualifications to A level or equivalent standard and know which degree you want to study, you could be eligible for direct entry to the programme of your choice.

Feel free to send your academic CV to the relevant admissions tutor for comment and advice (make sure you include dates of all exams taken and grades obtained, with details of relevant work experience if appropriate). You can find the contact details for the relevant admissions tutor on the specific programme pages online (www.liverpool.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/courses/).

If you have no formal qualifications or it has been more than three years since you studied to A level standard, you may need to take further study before applying for a degree, and we have a number of options for you to explore (see Programme pathways section, page 04).

There are no entry requirements for Continuing Education courses. All we ask is that you have a genuine interest in studying the subject. With friendly and supportive lecturers CE’s short courses are a great way to get a taste of university study without committing to a full-time degree programme.
Programme pathways

We know that as a mature student you may have been out of formal education for a number of years, or you might be worried that your current qualifications do not meet our entry criteria for full-time degree programmes. We are working hard to help you to realise your academic ambitions, and we have a number of pathways in place for you to investigate.

Foundation degrees
If you do not meet the standard entry requirements for a degree, you may be able to gain entry by completing a foundation element. Your choice of foundation degree will depend on your subject of study.

Sciences
The University offers foundation elements for the following undergraduate programmes, which all fall within our scientific departments:

- Biological Sciences
- Chemical Sciences
- Computer Information Systems
- Computer Science
- Earth Sciences
- Engineering

- Geography
- Health and Veterinary Studies
- Mathematical Sciences
- Physical Sciences
- Psychology

These foundation elements are usually run in conjunction with our partner colleges in the Merseyside region:

- Carmel College in St Helens
  [www.carmel.ac.uk/level/4/ University-of-Liverpool-degrees]
- Birkenhead Sixth Form College, Birkenhead
  [www.bsfc.ac.uk/adult-education/year0]
- Wirral Metropolitan College (for Psychology 2+2)
  [www.wmc.ac.uk/higher-education/]

For more details about our various foundation elements, see [www.liverpool.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/applying/foundation/]

Humanities and Social Sciences
Our Go Higher Access Diploma is the University of Liverpool’s fast-track foundation programme for adults who want to study to degree level but have few or no formal qualifications. It is a one-year, part-time programme, which prepares you for taking a university degree in the arts, humanities or social sciences. Students attend for one full day each week.

Even if you have been away from study for a long time you will gain the confidence and the skills necessary for success on a degree programme. Many of our students have no formal qualifications but the right qualities, life-skills, enthusiasm and commitment to succeed.

- No traditional entry qualifications needed
- One-day a week on campus
- Fast-track entry to degrees across the humanities and social sciences
- Start September and begin your degree next September

For more information visit [www.liverpool.ac.uk/go-higher]
T: +44 (0)808 100 6060 or E: gohigher@liverpool.ac.uk

Other Access to Higher Education Diplomas
If you have already completed an Access to Higher Education Diploma elsewhere, we may seek qualitative information about individual students’ performance, in line with the guidance provided by the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA).

If you are considering entry via an alternative Access to Higher Education Diploma route, first check on the Access to Higher Education website ([www.accesstohe.ac.uk](http://www.accesstohe.ac.uk)) to see which subjects are suitable for your chosen degree. Access teaching varies slightly from college to college. Our admissions tutors are familiar with provision in the Merseyside region, but may be less so with Access courses nationally.

If you are intending to study towards an Access qualification in another part of the UK and have a clear idea of your degree destination, it is a good idea to obtain a breakdown of the course content as soon as possible and forward this to the relevant admissions tutor.

This will enable the tutor to gain a full understanding of your chosen route and address any questions or concerns. More information should be available at your local library or College of Further Education.

Open University and vocational qualifications
If you wish to apply for one of our degrees and have been studying with the Open University, or hold vocational qualifications, you may first need to discuss your current level of attainment with the appropriate admissions staff.

Apart from the number or level of credits you have achieved, factors such as appropriateness of subject and practical life experiences are likely to be taken into consideration. Ensure you include a full breakdown of your study route when completing your UCAS application form.

If your academic involvement has been largely uncertified, such as union work, personal research or learning relating to your job, or if your qualifications are not listed in the prospectus or online, you can ask our Virtual Adviser for further advice ([http://ask.liv.ac.uk/](http://ask.liv.ac.uk/)).

Continuing Education
Continuing Education credit can sometimes be used to progress onto a degree programme at Liverpool or elsewhere – although credit transfer is always subject to the special conditions of each particular university or academic department.
Study options

Most full-time undergraduate degrees take three years to complete, however those which incorporate a year in industry or abroad, or lead to a master’s qualification, take four years. Specialist degrees like Architecture, Dentistry, Medicine and Veterinary Science take five years or more.

Opportunities are available for daytime part-time study for some of our undergraduate degrees. To find out more visit www.liverpool.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/applying/part-time/ or contact us with details of the programme you are interested in.

Tuition fees for part-time students will be charged on a pro-rata basis. Depending on your household income, you may be eligible for a grant towards your tuition fees.

Continuing Education’s short courses are paid for on a course by course basis – visit CE’s website for further information. www.liverpool.ac.uk/continuing-education/

Fees and funding

Mature Student Bursary
The Mature Student Bursary is for students entering the University aged 25 or above prior to the first day of the academic year (01 September), who are embarking on their first degree of study and are not in receipt of any other University financial award. The bursary is worth £1,000 and is payable for one year only. Students can receive the bursary as a cash award or as a partial fee waiver. The bursary is for UK undergraduate students.

Full-time students
Full-time undergraduate students starting a first degree will be eligible to apply for a non-means tested tuition fee loan and means-tested financial support to cover their living costs. In some cases supplementary grants may be available. For further information please visit www.gov.uk/student-finance

Part-time students
Part-time undergraduate students starting a first degree will be eligible to apply for a non-means tested tuition fee loan and means-tested financial support to cover their living costs. For further information please visit www.gov.uk/student-finance

Full or part-time students who already hold an honours degree or have undertaken any previous higher education study should contact Money Advice and Guidance for advice on how their funding maybe affected E: money@liverpool.ac.uk

Go Higher
The Go Higher Diploma and Continuing Education programmes are funded separately and are not part of the undergraduate loans system. Please contact each department directly to discover the relevant tuition fee structure which are designed to be affordable to the widest range of people.

Money Advice and Guidance
Money Advice and Guidance can advise on all aspects of student funding. The team administers the University Hardship Fund which can offer financial support if you are experiencing hardship and can also advise on welfare benefits, debts and budgeting. During Open Day the team will be available in the Alsop Building on University Square, if you would like advice please go along and talk to them or contact them at: E: money@liverpool.ac.uk

To find out more about the costs you can expect as a Home/EU student at the University of Liverpool and the sources of funding that are available please visit www.liverpool.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/finance/
Continuing Education at the University of Liverpool has been offering courses to the local community in the city and wider region for over 100 years. Although it is based in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Continuing Education offers an exciting and diverse range of courses, lectures and events both on-and-off campus across all university subjects. Drawing on the experience and expertise of the University’s academic community, its purpose is to build a stimulating and enjoyable learning environment for all, whether you are studying for credit or for the sheer pleasure of learning.

Continuing Education is open to all; no entrance qualifications are required. Our programme is taught by friendly and expert staff who will guide you through your studies.

Not only do our courses offer exciting learning opportunities, most of them are credit-bearing. This means that they have been put through a rigorous process which approves their content and teaching methods, as well as the level and volume of learning. While Continuing Education courses cannot be used as a guaranteed pathway onto a university degree programme they are a great way to ease yourself back into academic life, especially if you are considering joining us for a degree programme in the future.

Mature Students’ Society

The University of Liverpool’s Mature Students’ Society is a network for students aged over 21. The Society aims to support, inform, and involve mature students in University life. Through this social hub, you can connect with other mature students in the University, form study groups, and take part in a range of social events. www.liverpoolguild.org/groups/