



UNIFEST | 2017

EXPLORE. DISCOVER. ACHIEVE.





WHAT IS UNIFEST?

UniFest Summer Schools take place at 5 universities across the West Midlands.

UniFest gives you the chance to spend time exploring university life, meeting students and staff, making friends and having an action packed, fun experience.

UniFest 2017 will give you a chance to develop your study skills, build your confidence and decide if university is the right option for you.

Who is UniFest for?

UniFest is for students in Year 10 at state-funded secondary schools in the West Midlands.

UniFest aims to help young people from backgrounds and communities that are less likely to be considering university as an option. To apply for a place you will need the support of your school and the consent of your parents or carers, and you should be able to answer "Yes" to at least one of the following*

- My parents or carers did not go to university
- I receive Free School Meals
- I have a disability or learning difficulty
- I am in the care of my local authority
- I am a young carer.

What will I do?

That depends on which UniFest event you choose. Some explore university life and study in general, and others focus on certain career or study options.

"IT WAS A GREAT EXPERIENCE THAT HAS CHANGED MY FUTURE CAREER ASPIRATIONS"

All UniFest events include lots of hands-on sessions, and a packed programme of fun social activities.

You can view photos and links to UniFest universities by visiting our website:

www.aimhigherwm.ac.uk

What's the catch?

There is no catch. UniFest is funded by universities **and is totally free of charge**. Meals, accommodation, activities and travel costs are all paid for (although you may want to bring a little pocket money with you). The universities will help you plan how to get to and from events.



97.5%

OF YOUNG
PEOPLE WERE
SATISFIED OR
VERY SATISFIED
WITH UNIFEST
IN 2016



How do I get involved?

To apply you must have the support of your school, as you will attend during term time. You and your parents or carers will need to complete an application form, giving us information about you, your career interests and your parents' or carers' education and work.

What happens if there are more applicants than places?

UniFest is very popular, and there are often more applicants than places. We ask for information about your family background and advise you to choose

several events so that we can offer places as fairly as possible. If you have any questions about eligibility contact Aimhigher on **0121 415 8176** or email aimhigher@contacts.bham.ac.uk

**“IT WAS AN
AMAZING
EXPERIENCE
AND IT’S SAD
TO LEAVE”**



STEPS TO UNIFEST >



> 1 Apply (January to March 2017)

Talk to your parents / carers, and show them this Directory. They will need to agree to your application, and give us information about their education and work background (see “Who is UniFest for?”).

Think about your interests and future plans. Look at the events in this Directory and the subject areas they cover. If you have a clear idea of the career you want to follow a specialist event might be right for you. If you don't have a specific career in mind yet, a more general event will give you the chance to try different subject areas. Check out the universities' websites and ask your teachers about it. Do they think going to UniFest will help you? Perhaps they will know some older students in your school who went to UniFest last year and could tell you more about it? Either way, you will need your school to support your application, so the sooner you ask the better!

Apply. After you and your parents or carers have filled in your application, pass it to your teacher to complete it and send it off. **Don't forget to make a note of dates of your selected events, and keep them free!**

We will send you a postcard confirming that we have received your application, and contact you if there is any information missing or if you have any additional support needs.



> 2 Result (April 2017)

If you are offered a place you will receive a letter in April. This will tell you which of your choices you are going to, and give you the contact details of the university staff planning your visit. Make sure you tell your parents/carers and your teacher straight away so that they do not plan anything that clashes with your UniFest experience! If your application is not successful we will write to you with the reasons and give you a telephone number you can ring for more feedback.





> 3 Get Ready (April to June 2017)

Your host university will be in touch with further information about the event, and to ask if you need any special arrangements to look after you during your stay. They will tell you more about travel arrangements and meeting points, and give you the contact details of people you can talk to if you have any queries in the run up to your UniFest experience.

**“GAVE A
BRILLIANT
INSIGHT TO
THE SOCIAL
AND ACADEMIC
PART OF
UNIVERSITY
LIFE”**



> 4 Go! (June / July 2017)

UniFest goes live, with events taking place from late June all the way through to late July.



YEAR 10

ASPIRE & ACHIEVE: SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATHS (RESIDENTIAL)

Location

Aston University, Aston Triangle, Birmingham B4 7ET



Dates

Monday 10th to Wednesday 12th July 2017

Website: www.aston.ac.uk/unifest



What will I do?

Are you interested in finding out more about Science, Technology, Engineering or Maths (STEM) related subjects at University? If yes, then this is the Summer School for you!

You will have the opportunity to experience fun and interactive sessions in STEM, taught by real University lecturers. There will be an exciting and inspirational mix of practical sessions, lectures and

team projects for you to get involved in. During your stay you will be working closely with university students that study STEM courses, giving you the opportunity to hear first-hand what it's really like to study at University! You will get to experience what university life is like by staying in our student accommodation on our city-centre campus. You will have a private bedroom, complete with your own bathroom.

There will be plenty of opportunity to meet new people and make new friends. Your evenings will be filled with a programme of fun social activities!

What will I learn?

You will gain an insight into what life is like as a University student. You will experience what it's like to study a STEM related subject at university and learn more about careers in these areas. We hope that this experience will inspire you to consider higher education as an option, and give you a better understanding of what to do after school or college.

How will I get there?

You will need to make your own way to the University. If you are travelling by public transport, our Student Ambassadors will be on hand at Birmingham New Street train station and key locations in the city centre to meet you. You may also choose to travel independently to the University and meet us on campus. All reasonable transport costs will be reimbursed with proof of receipt.

During the summer school all transport arrangements for activities will be organised and paid for by the University.

What about Ramadan?

This event does not coincide with Ramadan.

“ENJOYABLE AND INTERESTING. I LEARNED LOADS AND HAD LOADS OF FUN TOO”

YEAR 10 THE SCIENCE OF LIFE (RESIDENTIAL)



Location

Birmingham City University,
City Centre Campus, Curzon Street,
Birmingham, B4 7XG

Dates

Monday 17th to Wednesday 19th July 2017

Website: www.bcu.ac.uk/about-us/working-with-schools-and-colleges/summer-schools

What will I do?

Do you like Science or STEM? Ever wanted to make use of the medical kit you see in a hospital? Or what about competing against some of the world's greatest athletes? Well, at the BCU Science Summer School you can use some amazing medical kit and discover how your body works! Over the three days, you will get to see inside your own body with an ultrasound machine, take a picture of the inside of your eye with an iPhone, get a copy of your own DNA fingerprint, explore how medical engineering is used to create amazing bits of kit... and race a virtual Usain Bolt in Challenge the Champions. You will also learn how to perform some brilliant science tricks with every day household objects. Focussed on Life Science, Engineering, Sports and Science in general (even with a bit of Criminology thrown in), you are going to have a STEMtastic few days! If you thought you liked Science before, after our Summer School, you will love it!

Recreational activities will be fun and engaging, involving activities both on campus (disco, quiz) and off campus. Oh and not forgetting a fun, practical activity at Think Tank.

What will I learn?

Learners will develop key skills such as teamwork, communication and problem solving in a fun and interactive way. No two sessions will be the same and will not only focus on the reasons as to why these skills are critical, but will provide practical opportunities to put them into practice. Activities will be geared so that learners can actually talk about them and the skills they have developed, in their CVs and sixth form/ university applications.

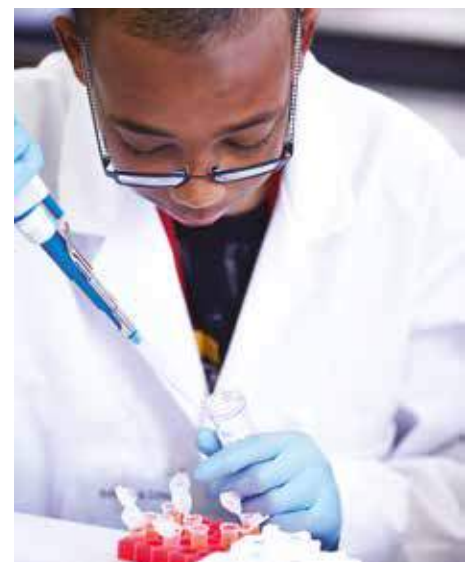
How will I get there?

Learners will be expected to make their own way to Birmingham City Centre. With parental permission, learners can come alone via public transport or be dropped off at Millennium Point, Birmingham by parents/ guardians. The university will happily reimburse travel costs

What about Ramadan?

This event does not coincide with Ramadan.

“IT HELPED ME UNDERSTAND MORE ABOUT UNIVERSITY AND MAKE NEW FRIENDS”



UNIVERSITY COLLEGE BIRMINGHAM



YEAR 10

TASTY CAREERS (RESIDENTIAL)

Location

University College Birmingham, Summer Row,
Birmingham, B3 1JB

Dates

Wednesday 5th to Friday 7th July 2017

Website: www.ucb.ac.uk/unifest



What will I do?

Do you have a passion for food? Have you ever thought about how they get bubbles in chocolate or how new foods are tested and developed? UCB's summer school will give you a rare insight into how the food you eat every day is produced and the range of exciting career opportunities in a growing industry that makes over £96 billion a year.

**"I BECAME
MORE
CONFIDENT,
MADE NEW
FRIENDS AND
ENJOYED MY
TASTER OF
UNI LIFE"**

There will be fun and interactive sessions led by chefs, lecturers and industry experts in our state of the art food development and innovation kitchens, sensory room and analysis labs.

You will also get first-hand experience of student life at university by taking part in exciting social activities and staying in our en-suite student accommodation. You'll meet people from other schools and our Student Ambassadors will be on hand throughout UniFest to answer any questions you may have.

What will I learn?

Our food experts will show you how to produce new recipes in a professional kitchen. You will learn how science can be used to explain some of the tricks of the trade as well as testing food for taste, quality and nutritional value in our specialist food laboratories.

Whether you are thinking about becoming a food scientist, chef, nutritionist or a food brand manager you will get a unique flavour of how exciting university life can be!

How will I get there?

Please make your own way to our student accommodation, the Maltings, which is in the city centre. Parking will be available but if you choose to travel by public transport our student ambassadors will be available to meet you at Birmingham New Street station. All reasonable travel costs will be reimbursed as long as you keep a receipt.

What about Ramadan?

This event does not coincide with Ramadan.

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

YEAR 10

YOUR FUTURE – YOUR CHOICE

(RESIDENTIAL)



Location

University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2TT

Dates

Wednesday 19th to Friday 21st July 2017

Website: www.birmingham.ac.uk/summerschools



What will I do?

Are you interested in going to university, but not really sure where to start? Then come along to the University of Birmingham's, Your Future - Your Choice Summer School to find out more!

From staying in student halls of residence to attending university workshops, you will experience life as a university student. Our academic staff will deliver fun, engaging and eye-opening sessions from a wide range of subjects that you can study at the University of Birmingham. As you may know, university life isn't just about studying – it's about having lots of fun too. There will be a fun-filled social programme for the evenings.

While you are with us, you will be looked after by our student ambassadors, who are all current students at the University. They will be on hand to guide you around campus, make sure you settle in and, most importantly, answer any questions you may have about life at university.

What will I learn?

You will gain an insight into student life, including independent learning, and will have your questions answered about all things 'university' – you may even decide on a subject you'd like to study!

As more jobs require higher level qualifications, you will also learn about the transferable skills that employers will be looking for in the future. Summer schools offer a great opportunity for you to grow in confidence, gain independence and make lots of new friends!

How will I get there?

You will need to make your own way to the University. Student ambassadors will be on hand to meet you at the University (Birmingham) train station and at the designated drop-off point for those travelling by car. All reasonable travel costs will be reimbursed with proof of receipt.

What about Ramadan?

This event does not coincide with Ramadan.

“I ENJOYED EVERYTHING AND THE WHOLE EXPERIENCE HAS BOOSTED MY CONFIDENCE”



YEAR 10

LOVE SPORT? WHY NOT TURN IT INTO A CAREER? (NON-RESIDENTIAL)

Location

St John's Campus, Henwick Grove, Worcester, WR2 6AJ

Dates

Monday 3rd to Tuesday 4th July 2017

Website: www.worcester.ac.uk



What will I do?

Do you love sport? Have you ever wondered about what sort of careers could be available for you in sport?

If your answer is yes, then our summer school is for you. The University of Worcester are giving you the chance to take part in a number of hands-on practical sessions led by lecturers and student ambassadors to discover some of the different pathways and opportunities available for a career within sport. We will have a wide range of taster sessions on offer, including Sports Therapy, Performance Analysis, Sports Science and Inclusive Sport.

What will I learn?

Through interactive, practical workshops, our specialist lecturers will give you an insight into different courses and career pathways available within sport.

Throughout the event you will work with current University of Worcester students, providing you with an ideal opportunity to discover more about the student's perspective of university life. You will also learn more about the careers that our graduates have gone onto succeed in within the sports industry.

How will I get there?

As part of the University's commitment to environmental sustainability, we encourage daily travel by train. Train tickets will be sent to you in advance, and we can purchase tickets for parents/guardians where required. A team of Student Ambassadors will meet you at Worcester Foregate Street Station, and guide you to the campus. Worcester is only a 45 minute direct train journey from Birmingham or Hereford.

What about Ramadan?

This event does not coincide with Ramadan.

"I UNDERSTAND SO MUCH MORE ABOUT UNI AND I AM DEFINITELY CONSIDERING IT"



YEAR 10

CRIMINALS, EVIDENCE, AND CONVICTIONS (NON-RESIDENTIAL)

Location

St John's Campus, Henwick Grove, Worcester, WR2 6AJ

Dates

Monday 3rd, Tuesday 4th and Wednesday 5th July 2017

Website: www.worcester.ac.uk



What will I do?

What is happening in the brain when someone decides to commit a crime?

What exactly is forensic science?

How does a 'real' court differ from what we see on TV, and how do they operate?

This summer school will answer the above questions and more. You will have the chance to work with experts from across the justice sector, exploring criminological disciplines like psychology, forensic science, and law. You will investigate what drives people to commit a crime, how forensics can lead to a suspect, and how the courts decide who is innocent and who is guilty. You will have the chance to try your hand at academic study - to find out what studying for a degree is really like, and there will be socials - so you can relax with your course-mates at the end of a busy day.

“SUMMER SCHOOL HAS HELPED MY TEAMBUILDING SKILLS AND CONFIDENCE”

What will I learn?

You will develop insights in to psychology, forensic science, and law. You will also have the chance to learn more about what it is like to study for a degree. Throughout the course you will work with current University of Worcester students, providing you with an ideal opportunity to discover more about the student's-eye-view of university life. We will also take time to look at the range of careers available in the justice sector.

How will I get there?

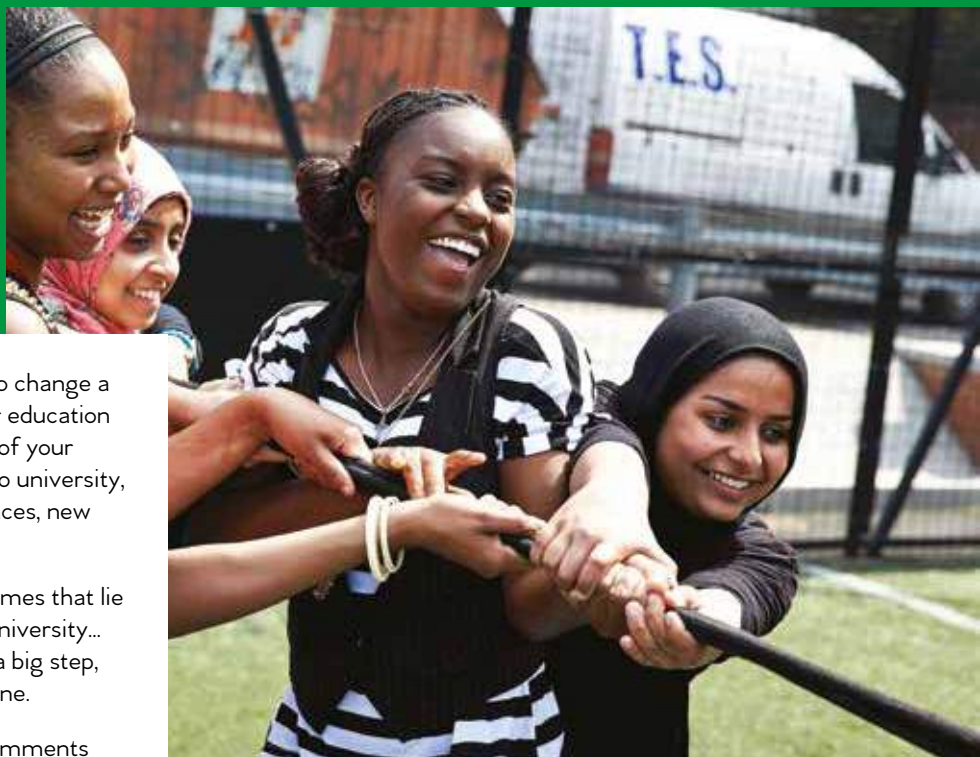
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What about Ramadan?

This event does not coincide with Ramadan.

YOUR MOVE >

“I’VE MADE REALLY GOOD FRIENDS AND WISH I COULD HAVE STAYED LONGER”



Let’s face it, one way or another your life is going to change a lot over the next few years, as you move on in your education and training. Whether you stay on in the 6th form of your school, go to college, become an apprentice or go to university, you are going to come across new people, new places, new challenges and new opportunities.

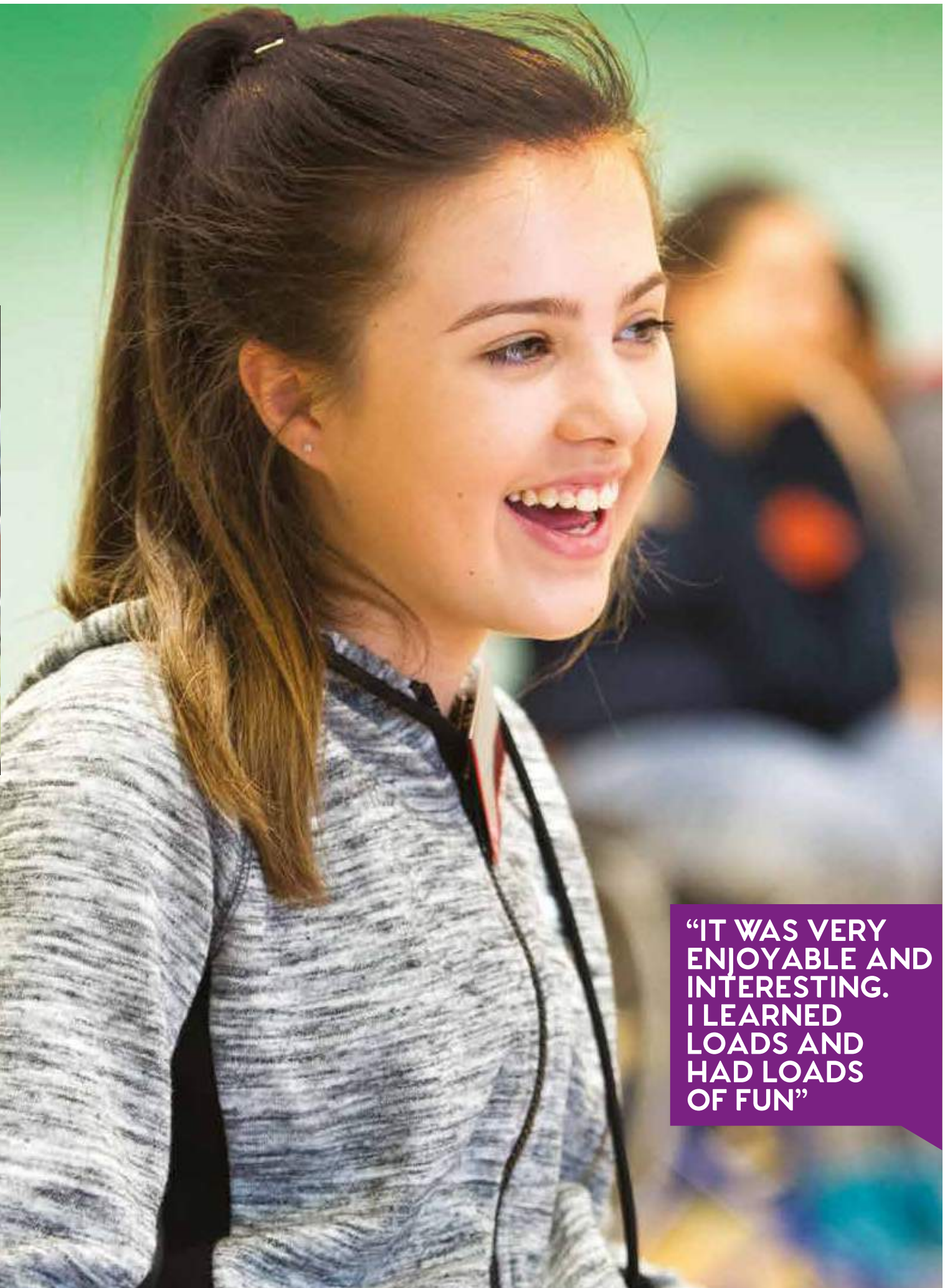
UniFest is a great way to prepare for the exciting times that lie ahead. Spending time away from home... at a big university... with a group of people you’ve never met... Yes, it’s a big step, but it may be one of the best things you’ve ever done.

Don’t take our word for it... here are some more comments from the young people who took part in UniFest last year:



“I’VE FELT SO WELCOME BY STAFF AND STUDENTS. I’VE LEARNT NEW THINGS AND MADE NEW FRIENDS”

“I THOUGHT UNIFEST WOULD BE BORING...BUT IT TURNED OUT TO BE FUN!”



“IT WAS VERY ENJOYABLE AND INTERESTING. I LEARNED LOADS AND HAD LOADS OF FUN”

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

PARENTS/CARERS

WHY SHOULD MY CHILD ATTEND?

UniFest gives your child a great chance to find out what university is all about, so that they can make the right decisions about their future. The experience is exciting, fun and really motivates young people to do their best at school.

“SHE WAS OVER THE MOON ABOUT IT, THE BEST THING SHE HAS EVER DONE. SHE IS NOW REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO GOING TO UNIVERSITY, SOMETHING SHE NEVER THOUGHT SHE COULD ACHIEVE”

WILL MY CHILD BE SAFE?

YES - UniFest universities have a duty of care towards young people that starts from the moment they are handed over to us. Your host university will give you details of hand-over points and travel support arrangements at the start and end of each event. It is important you read and understand this information, so that we are working together to keep everyone safe, especially at the start and end of events.

All UniFest activities are risk assessed and supervised by qualified staff and trained students, all of whom are checked by the

Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS...the new name for CRB). Your child will stay in halls of residence with DBS approved staff and students staying overnight to supervise things.

BEHAVIOUR

The universities expect everyone to behave responsibly and follow instructions. All students must sign a Code of Conduct that makes it very clear that if they break the Code of Conduct they may be sent home. If there are problems you will be kept informed throughout.

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?

UniFest is FREE. If you have to pay for travel the university will send you details of how to claim money back.

WHY DO YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT MY EDUCATION AND WORK BACKGROUND?

Young people from families where no one has been to university are much less likely to go into higher education and the professions. We need to find out about your background so we can offer places to young people who need extra support to decide if university is right for them.

HOW WILL YOU PROTECT OUR PERSONAL DATA?

To take part in UniFest we need information about you and your child to share the data with Aimhigher universities so they can run the programme. The application form and further forms you will be sent if you are offered a place are important, and we will not be able to accommodate anyone who does not complete them in full and return them on time. The application form will also ask your permission to use the data you provide to help us see how young people attending UniFest get on in their exams and if they apply for university. Any information we publish will not make reference to you or your child individually. Full details are on the application form.

WHAT IF MY CHILD BECOMES ILL?

We will contact you, using the details you have provided on the application/consent form. It is important that you tell us if these change before the event.

HOW CAN I CONTACT MY CHILD?

You will be given emergency contact details for the university in the run up to the event. Young people can take mobile phones but do so at their own risk.

WHAT WILL MY CHILD NEED TO BRING?

The universities will give you details of the type and amount of clothing and other personal belongings they will need.

YOUNG PEOPLE

WILL I HAVE TO DO REAL WORK?

UniFest is your chance to see what student life and study is all about... so YES you will be expected to take part in all planned sessions, but the universities will make it exciting and interesting.

WILL I BE WITH MY FRIENDS?

Often a few friends from the same school go to the same event, but a big part of UniFest is meeting new people and making new friends... DON'T WORRY! University staff and students will help break the ice, and most people end up with lots of new friends.

“I’VE BEEN MADE SO WELCOME BY STAFF AND STUDENTS. I’VE LEARNT NEW THINGS AND MADE NEW FRIENDS”

WHAT SORT OF CLOTHES SHOULD I WEAR?

Casual clothes are appropriate most of the time. You may want to take sportswear and something a little smarter for evening activities. If you need any special clothing your university will let you know before the event.

WHERE AND WHAT WILL I EAT?

All your meals will be provided, and we will cater for any special dietary needs. Details of the arrangements for Ramadan can be found on the event listings pages.

WILL I NEED TO BRING ANY MONEY?

You can bring a small amount of money for snacks/drinks but you will be responsible for it at all times.

SCHOOL STAFF

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST MY SCHOOL?

UniFest is free of charge.

HOW DOES ATTENDING HELP YOUNG PEOPLE?

The Sutton Trust has evaluated summer schools as a high impact intervention as part of their Pupil Premium toolkit. Attending can raise aspirations, improve attainment and contribute to your duty to provide impartial careers education and guidance.

“I’VE MADE REALLY GOOD FRIENDS AND WISH I COULD HAVE STAYED LONGER”

WHICH LEARNERS SHOULD APPLY?

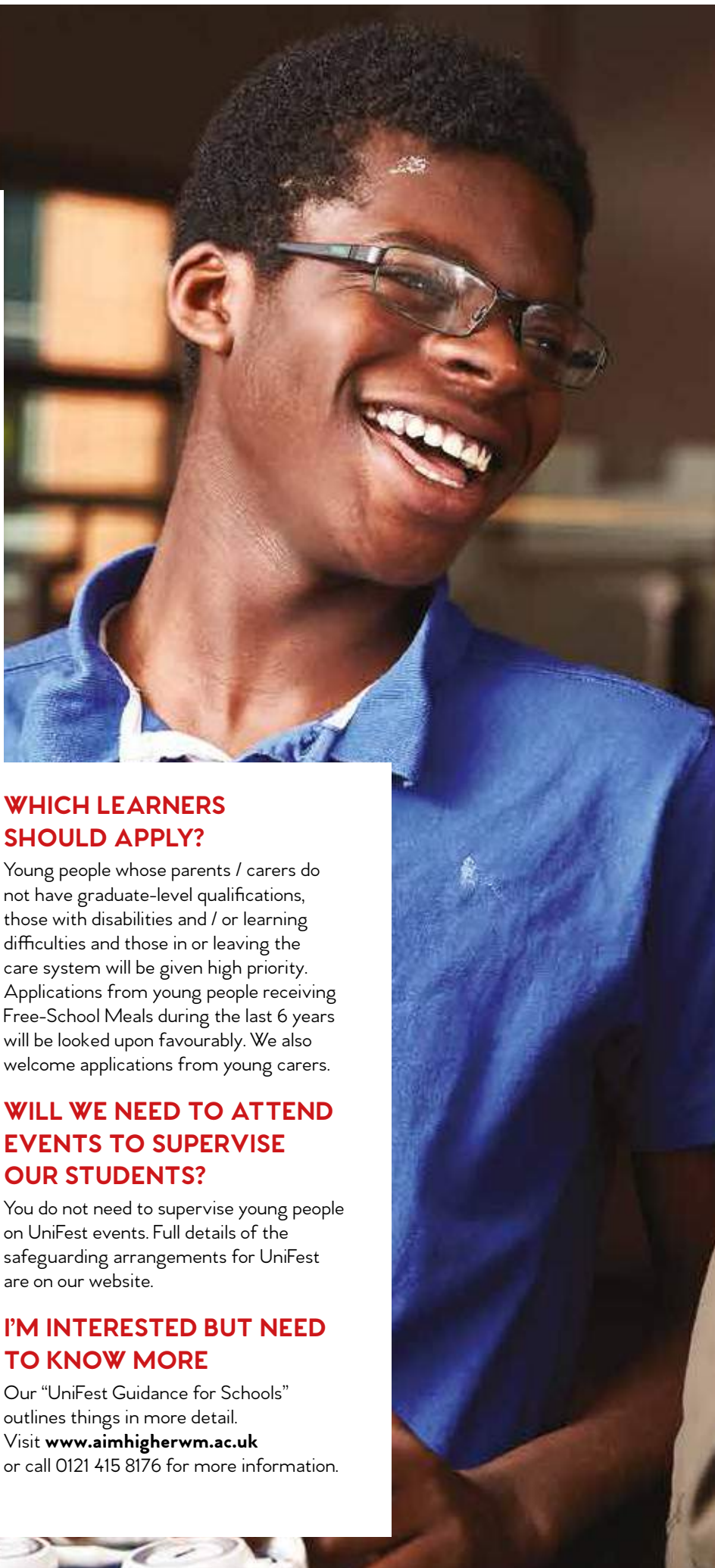
Young people whose parents / carers do not have graduate-level qualifications, those with disabilities and / or learning difficulties and those in or leaving the care system will be given high priority. Applications from young people receiving Free-School Meals during the last 6 years will be looked upon favourably. We also welcome applications from young carers.

WILL WE NEED TO ATTEND EVENTS TO SUPERVISE OUR STUDENTS?

You do not need to supervise young people on UniFest events. Full details of the safeguarding arrangements for UniFest are on our website.

I’M INTERESTED BUT NEED TO KNOW MORE

Our “UniFest Guidance for Schools” outlines things in more detail. Visit www.aimhigherwm.ac.uk or call 0121 415 8176 for more information.





Aston University

Aston University is set in the heart of Birmingham – Britain's second city – close to first-class social, shopping and cultural attractions. We are a compact campus-based university; our friendly and safe 40 acre campus houses all the University's academic, social and accommodation facilities for our 10,000 students.

Aston University is ranked in the top 30 of UK Universities in The Complete University Guide 2017.

Aston University was founded in 1895 and received its Royal Charter in 1966. We are consistently placed in the UK's top 20 for Graduate Prospects and our students rated us with a score of 89% for student satisfaction in this year's National Student Survey.

Around 70% of our students take sandwich courses involving a year's experience in business, industry and the public sector in the UK and abroad. Aston University is famous for courses including Sciences, Engineering, Health and Medical Sciences, Business, Law, Psychology, Computing and IT, Languages and Social Sciences.



Birmingham City University

Birmingham City University has an enviable reputation for providing quality, student-focused education in a professional and friendly environment. Our superb courses, state-of-the-art facilities, first-rate staff and focus on practical and relevant skills produces some of the country's most employable graduates, with 94 per cent of our graduates in work or further study within six months (DLHE survey 2014/15).

We are investing £260 million in our facilities, including a major expansion of our City Centre Campus in Birmingham's fast-developing Eastside area. We enjoy almost 40 professional accreditations and have a well-established reputation for delivering in-company training and development programmes, working with some of the country's leading employers.

Our teaching staff come from and maintain their links with industry, ensuring students are given an insight into the latest thinking in the sectors they hope to work in.

We even give our students the chance to gain work experience in real roles around the University through our in-house employment agency, OpportUNity – Student Jobs on Campus.



University College Birmingham

University College Birmingham is located in the heart of Birmingham's city centre, just minutes from Birmingham New Street station, the Bullring shopping centre and hundreds of bars, cafés and restaurants.

UCB is an internationally renowned specialist institution, with apprenticeships, college courses and university degrees focusing on a range of vocational courses. We are proud of our reputation as Europe's leading specialist in management courses for culinary arts, hospitality and tourism. Placements and industry links are a key part of our courses. We have excellent relationships with local, national and international businesses to ensure that our students have the professional skills and attributes to build a successful career. UCB welcomes students from all over the world; yet with only 7,500 students it has a strong community feel, our compact campus is spread over three sites within a few minutes' walk of each other. The facilities are some of the best in the UK, including the new £2m Food Science and Innovation Suite, two award-winning restaurants, bakeries, hair and media make-up studios, training salons and spa, sports therapy clinics and a human performance laboratory.



University of Birmingham

The University of Birmingham was named University of the Year for Graduate Employment in The Times and The Sunday Times Good University Guide 2015-16. Along with this, the University was ranked 8th in the UK for graduate prospects by The Times and Sunday Times in 2016. We are an international community of around 34,000 students from over 150 countries. Our 250 acre campus includes a botanic garden, galleries, museums, a multi-faith chaplaincy, cafes, bars, shops and our own train station, all just 3 miles from the city centre! In 2016, the University of Birmingham's new library opened, housing around 2.6 million books and we are about to open a brand new, £55 million sports centre. For over 100 years the University of Birmingham has led the way, and our staff and students have made ground-breaking discoveries in cancer vaccines and space research. We offer a wide range of courses and lots of student support including finance, welfare and counselling, careers advice, and support for students with disabilities.



University of Worcester

The University of Worcester sits amidst an idyllic parkland campus in the beautiful historic Cathedral city of Worcester. A rapidly developing modern institution with a warm, friendly atmosphere recently ranked as the most improved university in the country for research. The University of Worcester has recently completed development of a range of new facilities including: new eco-halls – environmentally friendly student accommodation and a new innovative City Centre Campus development putting the University at the heart of the local community. The university also has an award winning brand new library facility right in the city centre and a state of the art sports and events facility – the Worcester Arena.

If you require further information or advice go to www.aimhigherwm.ac.uk

or contact Aimhigher on **0121 415 8176** Follow us on Twitter: @aimhigherwm

All information correct at time of printing (December 2016). UniFest events require a minimum number of applicants in order to run. Aimhigher will make every effort to inform applicants, their families and schools of any changes to the programme as published.

