



## The Queen's Experience

Queen's University is one of the UK's leading civic universities priding itself on the quality of the entire student experience – educational, sporting, cultural and social. Our world-class academics inspire students and help them realise their full potential. Queen's graduates are equipped with the skills needed to benefit their future lives and careers through personal development programmes and an innovative qualification to recognise extra-curricular achievement, Degree Plus.

One of three Queen's Colleges founded in 1845, Queen's celebrated its Centenary as a university in its own right last year.

Queen's is a broadly-based, research-driven university offering a world-class portfolio of research and educational opportunities. A member of the Russell Group of the UK's 20 leading research-intensive universities, Queen's is a global player, with much of our recent activity in arts, humanities and social sciences; engineering and physical sciences; and medicine, health and life sciences being recognised as internationally excellent or world-leading in the recent Research Assessment Exercise (RAE).

Our research strengths are reflected in the quality of our teaching. More than 20 courses are cited in *The Times* Top 20 universities by subject area. The University is home to three Centres of Excellence in Teaching and Learning – in Inter-Professional Education, the Creative and Performing Arts, and Active and Interactive Learning.

The University has won four Queen's Anniversary Prizes for Further and Higher Education – for world-class achievement in green chemistry, environmental research, palaeoecology and law.

Commitment to our students has always been at the heart of Queen's ethos. In 2009 the University's new Sir Anthony O'Reilly Library opens in a landmark building. The Library will be one of the most advanced in the Higher Education sector. It is part of a £259 million investment which has seen the development of our sporting infrastructure, a refurbished Students' Union and a new residential Student Village. Queen's has some of the best student facilities in the United Kingdom and Ireland.

From Nobel prizewinners to medical pioneers, and from political leaders to leading figures in the arts, Queen's graduates have made their mark around the world.

They include Nobel Laureates Seamus Heaney and Northern Ireland's former First Minister, Lord Trimble. President of Ireland Mary McAleese was a Pro-Vice-Chancellor when elected to office.

Queen's has a community of dynamic world-class academics and students with the ability and imagination to contribute to society around the world.

In September 2007 *The Sunday Times* said of Queen's: 'It is hard to imagine a more confident university'. The University's confidence has never been higher and there has never been a better time to enjoy the 'Queen's Experience'.





### Applying to Queen's – Undergraduate Admissions

Approximately 18,000 applications to Queen's are received via UCAS and all applications are considered on an individual basis with each applicant's circumstances taken into account when considering the application. We have a centralised admissions service with the majority of decisions made by professional administrators in conjunction with academic staff.

A wide range of qualifications is acceptable in fulfilment of the General Entrance Requirement and competition for places varies considerably between courses.

Admissions Selectors look at:

- Previous academic performance
- Current qualifications/subjects being studied
- Relevant experience
- Evidence of commitment and motivation
- Writing skills
- Aptitude test scores (Dentistry and Medicine)
- Interviews and auditions for some courses
- Academic reference

Comprehensive information about selection criteria is given in the Entry Profiles on the UCAS website and the Admissions and Access Service is happy to answer individual enquiries.

### Conditional Offers

Conditional offers are made in terms of grades rather than UCAS tariff points.

A few courses require three A-levels + one AS level (Medicine, Dentistry and Actuarial Studies). For all other programmes, offers are made in terms of three A-levels (or equivalent) and, to take account of the applicant's breadth of study, an alternative offer is specified in terms of three A-levels + one AS level eg AAB at A-level or ABB at A-level + A in a fourth AS level.

### New Developments

With the substantial changes taking place at national level, admissions is high on the agenda and the University's policy on some of the matters of current interest is as follows:

- With the exception of A-level General Studies and Critical Thinking, all recognised A-level subjects are accepted on an equal basis, unless there are specific course/subject requirements for individual degree programmes.
- For 2010 entry, the new A\* at A-level will not be specified in conditional offers. It may be taken into account in borderline cases in August.

- The Cambridge Pre-U provides a good preparation for university study. The principal subjects will be acceptable as alternatives to A-levels and the Pre-U Diploma satisfies the University's General Entrance Requirements, provided a recognised English Language qualification is offered.
- Applications from those offering the new Diplomas will also be welcomed and each will be considered on an individual basis. Specific additional specified learning may be required. Detailed admissions policy regarding entrance requirements for individual degree programmes is currently under consideration and will be published as soon as possible.
- Queen's has always provided feedback to unsuccessful applicants on request and enquiries from candidates should be addressed to the Admissions and Access Service in the first instance.



### **Tuition Fees**

The tuition fee for full-time undergraduate courses at Queen's is £3,145 a year. The fee for students on sandwich year placements is £627. These fees apply to all UK and EU full-time undergraduate students.

Means-tested support is available for UK-resident students, and the Queen's bursary scheme also gives extra help.

### **Outstanding Performers – Scholarships**

For those working towards top marks in their A-levels there's an added incentive to achieve their very best. Queen's offers a range of undergraduate scholarships for 2009 entry.

### **Queen's Centenary Gold Medal Entrance Scholarships – £7,500**

Three scholarships, each worth £7,500 (£2,500 per year over three years), will be awarded to the student with the highest A-level scores entering each of our three Faculties (Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences; Engineering and Physical Sciences; Medicine, Health and Life Sciences).

One scholarship worth £7,500 (£2,500 per year over three years) will be awarded to the student entering Queen's with the best Irish Leaving Certificate results.

### **A-level Entrance Scholarships – £1,000**

Nineteen scholarships are awarded, one for each of Queen's academic Schools (excluding the School of Education), to the student with the highest A-level score across their best three A-levels.

### **Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Awards – £1,000**

Students who attain a minimum of three 'A' grades at A-level (or equivalent) and enrol in a Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics subject, will automatically qualify for a £1,000 scholarship in their first year of study.

### **Travel Scholarships for students from outside Northern Ireland – £600**

Students who achieve three 'A' grades at A-level or equivalent will receive £600 (£200 a year over three years). Students from Great Britain and Europe (including the Republic of Ireland) are eligible.



### Other scholarship opportunities at Queen's

Queen's offers a range of additional scholarships for undergraduate students. Further information on these scholarships can be found on our website: [www.qub.ac.uk](http://www.qub.ac.uk)

### Student Recruitment

The University recruits students from across the UK and our representatives attend GB-based UCAS events and take part in visits to individual Schools and Colleges. GB students are welcome at open days and bespoke visits can also be facilitated.

We are also actively recruiting in the Republic of Ireland with more than 200 prospective students attending the most recent open days.

Queen's recruits quality students from all socio-economic, ethnic and religious backgrounds and we are one of the most socially inclusive universities in the UK.





### International Students

Queen's also attracts international students from some 70 countries worldwide. There is a particular focus on China, India, Malaysia and the USA, with the emphasis on partnerships with key institutions for both taught and research programmes.

Prospective international students receive dedicated advice in advance of their arrival and a comprehensive orientation during their first days at Queen's. This is backed-up with ongoing support during their studies.

The University offers a variable scholarship package to international students with Schools also making merit-based awards to students from target countries.



### Best in Class – RAE Results

Queen's has established itself in the premier league of UK research-intensive universities. The UK-wide Research Assessment Exercise (RAE), announced in December, shows Queen's has 11 subject areas ranked within the top 10 in the UK and 24 in the top 20.

In the words of Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Gregson: "Queen's has strengthened its reputation as a major force in research. The research power index, which measures the quality and quantity of research, places us in the top 20 universities in the UK.

"Northern Ireland has, in Queen's, a world-class university and the RAE results demonstrate that Queen's is a world leader in areas central to our future including: engineering, medicine and the humanities.

"Queen's contribution to the Northern Ireland economy can be seen in its capacity to lever significant inward investment. Over the past seven years the University has received £160 million of government funding and leveraged an additional £261 million of external research funding.

"This money is subject to competition and our RAE performance shows that we can compete effectively with the best universities in the UK."

### Did you know?

#### Ten points you didn't know about Queen's

1. The origins of the University date back to 1845 when Queen's College Belfast was established as one of three colleges of the Queen's University in Ireland. The other two were in Cork and Galway. The new university was only the second in Ireland and one of only 10 in the United Kingdom. The Belfast College became an independent university in 1908.
2. Queen's is one of the largest employers in Northern Ireland, with some 3,500 staff.
3. Queen's is the top university in the United Kingdom in terms of the annual turnover of our spin-out businesses. These companies have created more than 1,000 jobs, mainly for graduates.
4. The world's first digital soundtrack, used to create the soundtrack for the films *Jurassic Park* and *Schindler's List*, was produced through technology developed at Queen's.
5. The man responsible for developing the portable defibrillator – the machine used to jump-start a person's heart once it stops beating – was a graduate of Queen's. Professor Frank Pantridge first conceived the idea in the early 1960s after he discovered more than 60 per cent of male heart attack victims died within the first hour of the incident.
6. Queen's has produced a Pulitzer prizewinner and two Nobel prizewinners. Former BBC producer and poet Paul Muldoon received a Pulitzer Prize for poetry in 2003 for his 2002 collection *Moy Sand and Gravel*. In 1995 renowned Irish poet Seamus Heaney received the Nobel Prize in Literature and in 1998 Northern Ireland's former First Minister David Trimble received the Nobel Peace Prize for his contribution to peace in Northern Ireland.
7. You might not only meet your future partner at Queen's – you can also marry them at the University. Queen's holds a Civil Wedding Licence and marriage ceremonies can take place in a number of locations on campus. The University has long been a popular venue for wedding receptions.
8. Queen's is the most important custodian of listed buildings in Northern Ireland, after the National Trust. The University estate, located within three different conservation areas – Stranmillis, Malone and Queen's – comprises more than 250 buildings, of which almost half are listed as being of special architectural merit.
9. Swashbuckling screen idol Errol Flynn's father, Professor Theodore Thompson Flynn, played a starring role at Queen's during the Second World War. The Professor of Zoology was also chief casualty officer of the Civil Defence organisation in Belfast. He was described in Queen's Annual Record in 1969 as 'a man of considerable presence and enormous charm', qualities which were passed on to his even more famous son.
10. The University owns one of the biggest paintings in Northern Ireland. *Out of the Shadows* is a bold and exciting work of art celebrating the role of women in our history. It is on display in the Council Chamber in the Lanyon Building. The 16 ft by 6 ft painting is the work of award-winning Newry-born artist Michelle Rogers, who won the University's international art competition to celebrate in visual and tangible form the contribution of women – past, present and future – at Queen's.



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CDS N111719