At the University of Nottingham we have a valuable community of mature students and we appreciate their contribution to the wider student population.

Although it may be a tough decision to return to study, the skills motivation and life experience you bring can give you a distinct advantage. This guide outlines the support available to potential mature undergraduate students who are considering making an application to The University of Nottingham.

Why choose The University of Nottingham?
The University of Nottingham is part of the Russell Group of universities, which sets us apart in the East Midlands region for high academic standards and for producing world-class research. We have a wide range of courses from arts-based degrees such as History or Foreign Languages to science-based degrees like Biosciences, Midwifery or Pharmacy. We have a support network in place available to all students, with extra provisions to assist mature students on their learning journey.

Your development, plus our research
We will help you develop the ability to ask the right questions, critically evaluate evidence and reflect on your learning.

You will also benefit from access to our high quality facilities. Our research philosophy underpins our teaching and opens up opportunities for you to learn from, and potentially participate in, world-changing research. The 2014 Research Exercise Framework (REF) ranked us 8th in the UK by research power, according to analysis by Research Fortnight. More than 80% of our research is ranked in the highest categories – ‘world-leading’ or ‘internationally excellent’ – up from 58% the last time the exercise was carried out in 2008. Find out more about our research: www.nottingham.ac.uk/research

Our Teaching excellence, plus your desire to learn
Every aspect of our teaching addresses the intellectual and personal development of our students. Teaching is an ongoing interaction with students through course design, teaching activities, assessment and feedback. In its most recent assessment, the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education awarded us its highest possible judgement for the quality of learning opportunities we provide and our systems for ensuring high academic standards. Find out more: www.nottingham.ac.uk/teachingandlearning

Finding out more
We offer a range of activities and events where you can find more information about studying at The University of Nottingham as a mature student:

May Fest – May
May Fest is the University’s open day for the community. There will be a mature students’ stand in the Portland Building throughout the day as well as many fun activities for people of all ages. www.nottingham.ac.uk/mayfest

Mature Students’ Information Afternoon – June
Admissions staff will be on hand to answer questions which relate specifically to prospective mature students. There will also be a chance to meet current mature students and view our University Park facilities. www.nottingham.ac.uk/mature

Subject-specific taster days – October-December
We run taster days in a number of subject areas. These days are specifically designed to give an insight into the way the course is structured and the level of academic study involved. The days are available for mature students or those studying for alternative qualifications. www.nottingham.ac.uk/mature

Kick Start – September
We run a two-day induction event for mature students who have secured a place at The University of Nottingham and who are ready to begin studying. You will gain further insight into student life, be able to brush up on your study skills and learn about how to access support services. There will also be a chance to meet new and current mature students, and to familiarise yourself with our beautiful campuses. www.nottingham.ac.uk/mature or email kickstart-event@nottingham.ac.uk

University of Nottingham Open Days/Mini Open Days – Various Dates
Throughout the year, the University runs a number of open days at our University Park Campus. There are two large University-Wide Open Days in June and September and then mini open days throughout the year. They provide an opportunity to speak to academic staff and current students about your subject and to get answers to any questions you may have. For more information please go to www.nottingham.ac.uk/opendays or www.nottingham.ac.uk/go/miniopendays

If you have any further questions about these events, please email maturity@nottingham.ac.uk

Hayley explains how she benefitted from the University’s support services at www.nottingham.ac.uk/ugvideos/hayleyhardwick

Hayley Hardwick
BA Ancient History

Hayley is working in the Atrium of the Portland building
We are proud that The University of Nottingham is a popular university, and competition for places is high, especially in certain subjects. Don’t let this put you off applying here; we are keen to recruit students who will contribute to our diverse academic and social community.

We encourage applications from mature students and consider a range of qualifications and work experience when assessing applications from prospective mature students.

The entry requirements for some courses can be quite specific; for example, you may need to take certain modules and achieve a specified grade in these modules. If you are thinking of studying in order to gain entry to university, you should bear this in mind when choosing your course and modules. Contact the Admissions Department listed in the prospectus for each school or department if you have any questions about qualifications and entry requirements.

Most of our academic schools and faculties accept a range of alternative qualifications. Many welcome applicants studying the Access to Higher Education Diploma in a relevant pathway. Specific grades in particular units may be required. Some schools will ask for additional study (usually an A level) and some do not accept Access courses where no suitable preparatory pathway exists.

Our admissions tutors are looking for a combination of enthusiasm for study, commitment to the programme and life experience as well as the specified qualifications. They will almost certainly require recent and relevant academic preparation to show that you are able to cope with the demands of the course and have the necessary study skills.

Our School of Education offers an undergraduate degree in Humanistic Counselling Practice which can be studied full-time or part-time. The part-time route is particularly suitable for mature students who wish to combine studying with work or family commitments or may already be working in the counselling practice area and want to enhance their professional practice with a qualification at this level.

Using research facilities in Hallward library

Mature Undergraduate Students
www.nottingham.ac.uk/mature
And finally…
Don’t just take our word for it; we have a range of videos from undergraduate students explaining how they benefited from the University’s support services:
www.nottingham.ac.uk/ugvideos/nottingham.aspx

The Universities and Colleges Application Service (UCAS) also has a section of their website aimed at Mature Students: https://www.ucas.com/ucas/undergraduate/getting-started/mature-students

Contact us
If you have any questions regarding returning to education or joining us for study at The University of Nottingham, please contact our team. We will be able to guide you to sources of help and advice both in the University and from within other organisations.

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