We support a diverse range of interests and approaches including philosophy, ethics, culture and history.

Ranked within the top 12 for theology and religious studies in the UK


Home to two cutting-edge research centres:
The Centre for Bible, Ethics and Theology and The Centre of Theology and Philosophy

£20,205 was the average starting salary for recent graduates with the highest being £38,000*

Explore the role that religion plays in the development of human civilisation

Join one of the leading theological departments in the UK for research and teaching


Experience religion around the world and gain valuable life skills by studying abroad

93% of undergraduates from the School of Humanities secured work or further study within six months of graduation*

*Known destinations of full-time home undergraduates who were available for work 2015/16. Salaries are calculated based on the median of those in full-time paid employment within the UK.

Stand out to potential employers by developing skills in our Work Placement module
Studying theology and religious studies at Nottingham

Religion is among the most powerful, profound, divisive and enduring aspects of life. The study of theology and religious studies is concerned with the ideas through which religion is communicated: how they are developed, what they mean, whether they are true, and how they may be reformulated.

We provide you with the opportunity to study the subject in its broadest sense. You will do this by combining historical, literary and textual approaches to the Christian and Jewish Scriptures with philosophical, sociological and comparative approaches to religious traditions and Christian theology.

Academic excellence
We offer a challenging and exciting range of subjects and our teaching staff are at the frontier of their specialist subjects. This gives you a real sense of what is going on in current theological research and the importance of theology and religious studies for issues in our contemporary world. We equip you with a broad range of skills ranging from historical, literary and theological analysis of religious scriptures to philosophical, sociological and comparative engagement with religious traditions.

At a glance
- Be part of a lively community of discussion and creativity and contribute towards setting the future agenda for reflection in theology and religious studies
- 96% of our students are satisfied with their experience of studying with us*
- Engage with traditional and foundational aspects of theology alongside the latest research-led teaching on religion in the contemporary world

Theology and religious studies online
The department leads the way in providing theology and religious studies resources on the internet. We produce a range of videos featuring our academic staff, all with student learning in mind. See our videos at nottingham.ac.uk/theology/videos

Student support
As a student in our department, you will have a personal tutor who you can discuss academic and personal matters with. There is a genuinely collaborative atmosphere including an active Learning Community Forum, which meets regularly for student representatives to comment on and contribute to the running of the department. Through our peer mentor scheme, second and third-year students support first-year students in the process of settling in to university study and life.

Theology student life
Studying theology and religion at Nottingham is about more than just your course. There is a wide range of activities and opportunities to get involved with. The thriving student-run Theology Society caters for the needs of all students who study theology, or are interested in the area. They arrange socials, talks, heated debates, sporting events and a host of other activities throughout the year.

Faith in Nottingham
Nottingham has a wide range of faiths and there are numerous opportunities to explore different beliefs and get involved in the religious life of the city. The University chaplaincy service has strong connections to all local faith communities and can offer advice, support and contacts.


nottingham.ac.uk/theology
Modular degrees

Almost all undergraduate degree programmes at the University are modular, which means you undertake modules of study with assessment at the end of each semester. You will normally be required to take modules totalling 60 credits in each semester.

To graduate with a degree from the University of Nottingham you must take 360 credits of modules – 120 in each year of study. Each module is usually worth 10 or 20 credits. Year one is a qualifying year, which means your final degree classification will be determined by the work completed in years two and three.

Single honours degrees

In your three years at Nottingham you will take a combination of core and optional modules, mainly from those offered by the Department of Theology and Religious Studies, but also with a choice of modules from other departments. Alternatively, you might wish to continue studying a language learned at school or college, or begin an entirely new language. A full list of optional modules will be available at registration each year.

Dissertation

In year three, you will write a dissertation on a subject that particularly interests you. Some students carry out further work on a topic introduced in a module they’ve studied previously, while others write on a topic agreed after discussion with tutors. The dissertation provides experience of the self-motivation and discipline required to carry out a relatively large project. If there is something you’ve always wanted to write about, it might end up being your dissertation topic!

Joint honours degrees

A joint honours degree is split between your two subjects, and the theology part of your degree is normally made up of 60 credits each year, although there is some flexibility in the distribution of modules. Each year, your course will consist of core and optional modules in both degree subjects.

This guide contains information on theology and religious studies, and on our department’s contribution to your course. If you are considering applying for a joint honours degree you can find information from the other school or department at nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy
BA Biblical Studies and Theology

This course allows you to explore a variety of historical and contemporary approaches. You will examine the Bible and its impact on individuals and faith communities, as well as on wider philosophical, political and social discussion.

You will develop your own understanding of central theological questions:

- What is the Bible?
- How was it formed?
- Why does it remain such an influential book?
- What is meant by a ‘literal interpretation’ of the Bible?
- What does it mean to refer to the Bible as the ‘Word of God’?
- What is the relationship between the Bible and theology?
- In what ways are the Bible and theology important in the 21st century?

Year one
Year one will provide you with a grounding in biblical studies and Christian theology through study of the Hebrew Bible, the New Testament, and the thought of key theologians within their historical context. You will be introduced to the Jewish tradition and develop essential skills through core modules taught in small seminar groups. You will also choose 40 credits of modules from a wide range of options. The study of biblical languages is not compulsory, but is encouraged.

Year two
In addition to your core module you will be able to develop your interests in those areas studied in year one. You may also choose to begin a second biblical language or take modules from a wide range of options.

Year three
In year three, you will take the core dissertation module. Beyond this you can choose whether to focus on particular areas within biblical studies and theology, or continue with a broader range of studies.

I chose Nottingham as it is one of the few top universities offering a course with a particular emphasis on biblical studies. At the open day I was impressed not only by the course, but by the passion and approachability of the lecturers and the real sense of community here.

John Nelson, BA Biblical Studies and Theology

nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy/theology

Modules may change, for example due to curriculum developments. The above list is a sample of typical modules that we offer, not a definitive list. The most up to date information can be found on our website at nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy/theology
BA Religion, Culture and Ethics

Religious studies is an essential tool for making sense of today's diverse and complex world.

This unique course will allow you to study the relationship of culture to religion and ethics, and examine the nature and function of art, literature and music in this respect. You will also study the wider influence of religious cultures on their contemporary contexts.

Year one

Core modules in year one will introduce you to a wide range of key issues in religion, culture and ethics. You will study central elements of Christian philosophical and theological thought and their impact, as well as introductory modules in Islam and Judaism. Optional modules will be chosen in religion, culture and ethics and you may also choose to take modules from other departments.

Year two

You will take three core modules in year two. Optional modules in religion, culture and ethics will allow you to develop your interests in those areas studied in year one and you may also choose to take optional modules from other departments.

Year three

In year three you will produce a dissertation on a topic of your choice. Beyond this, you can choose whether to focus on particular areas within religion, culture and ethics or continue with a broader range of studies.

It has been extremely enlightening and completely different than I expected. I have learnt so much about a variety of different faiths and cultures.

Imogen Hoe, BA Theology and Religious Studies

nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy/theology

Typical modules

Year one

| Core | | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Building the Christian Church | Christianity and the Crisis of Modernity | Interpreting Islam | Interpreting Judaism |
| Islam and Gender | Philosophy for Theologians | Reading, Writing, Speaking and Religion | The Bible in Music, Art, and Literature |

Optional

| | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | |
| Atheism | Biblical Greek | Biblical Hebrew | Interpreting the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament |
| Interpreting the New Testament | | | |

Year two

| Core | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | |
| Abraham's Children: Religion, Culture, and Identity | Narrative and Theology | Religion and European Culture |

Optional

| | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | |
| Faith and Identity: Religion in 19th-Century Britain | Faith and Practice: Ethics in the Hebrew Bible | Intermediate Hebrew or Greek |
| Islamic Ethics of War and Peace | Jewish Theology and Philosophy: From Philo to Levinas | Prophets and Prophecy in the Hebrew Bible |
| Religion, Media, and Ethics | The Eucharist: an Historical Approach | Theologies of Jesus Christ |
| The Philosophy of Religion, Atheism and Nihilism | Women and Gender in the New Testament |

Year three

| Core | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | |
| Dissertation | | | |

Optional

| | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | |
| A Good Life and a Good Death | Culture and Change: Religion in 20th-Century Britain | Darwinism: Science, Philosophy, Theology |
| Faith and Practice: New Testament Ethics | Identity, Discipleship and Community in Early Christianity | Intermediate Hebrew or Greek |
| Islamic Theology and Philosophy | Modern Jewish Thought | The Life and Teaching of Jesus |
| Virtue Ethics and Literature | 20th-Century Theology |

Modules may change, for example due to curriculum developments. The above list is a sample of typical modules that we offer, not a definitive list. The most up to date information can be found on our website at nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy/theology
### BA Theology and Religious Studies

Theology and religious studies is a remarkably varied discipline. At Nottingham you will be introduced to a range of subjects. These include the study of texts and the Bible, philosophy, history, different religious traditions, systematic theology, theology and literature, and even psychology and the theory of evolution.

In your three years with us you will take a combination of core and optional modules, mainly from those offered by the Department of Theology and Religious Studies, but also with a choice from other departments.

#### Year one

The core modules in year one are designed to provide you with a grounding in theology and religious studies in the central areas of: biblical studies, Christian theology, Islam, Judaism, philosophy of religion and ethics, and religious history. You will also have the opportunity to learn Greek or Hebrew or take other optional modules, either in theology and religious studies or from other departments.

#### Year two

You will study one core module, Abraham’s Children: Religion, Culture, and Identity which is a mixture of textual study and practical skills development. Alongside this, optional modules will allow you to develop your interests in areas studied in year one and you may also choose to take optional modules from other departments.

#### Year three

In addition to the core dissertation module where you will explore a topic in more depth, there is a wide range of choices allowing you to develop your particular interests within theology and religious studies.

### Modules

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year one</th>
<th>Year two</th>
<th>Year three</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Core</strong></td>
<td><strong>Core</strong></td>
<td><strong>Core</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Building the Christian Church</td>
<td>- Abraham’s Children: Religion, Culture, and Identity</td>
<td>- Dissertation</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Christianity and the Crisis of Modernity</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Interpreting Islam</td>
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<td>- Theologies of Jesus Christ</td>
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<td>- The Philosophy of Religion, Atheism and Nihilism</td>
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<td>- The Bible in Music, Art and Literature</td>
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Modules may change, for example due to curriculum developments. The above list is a sample of typical modules that we offer, not a definitive list. The most up to date information can be found on our website at [nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy/theology](http://nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy/theology)

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The theology department is fantastic, friendly and so much fun to be a part of. Everybody, from the three undergraduate years to the postgraduate students and staff, cares for and gets to know one another – we are a family!

Ellena Hill, BA Theology and Religious Studies

[nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy/theology](http://nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy/theology)
**BA Philosophy and Theology**

This course combines analytic philosophy with the main areas of theological thought. You will gain a good grounding in the sources and contemporary context for theological reflection by studying the biblical writings together with key thinkers, ideas, events and movements that shaped the course of religious thought. You will also develop an understanding of the central ideas and movements in analytic philosophy, while acquiring important skills in clear thinking, argument and communication.

**Year one**
In philosophy, you will be introduced to the subject through a series of core modules covering central philosophical problems. You will also be able to choose optional modules. In theology, you will gain a broad foundation in key theological sub-disciplines, studying a range of modules which concern critical study of the Bible, the historical development of Christian thought, modern Christian ideas, Islam and Judaism.

**Year two**
In philosophy, you will choose from a variety of optional modules, allowing you to develop and broaden your philosophical skills and knowledge. Topics typically cover Asian philosophy, ethics, freedom, meaning, social issues, the mind, the nature of reality, and understanding science. In theology, you will take a core module in The Philosophy of Religion, Atheism and Nihilism. In addition, you may choose to study areas such as Church history, literature and religion, Islam, Jesus, Judaism, the biblical texts, media and religion, and science and theology.

**Year three**
Year three philosophy modules reflect the research expertise of our department, including criminal law, ethics, logic, metaphysics and philosophy of science. You may also opt to write a dissertation on a subject of your choice. In theology, there are a wide range of options, and you may concentrate on philosophical approaches to religion, as well as taking options in biblical studies, religion and culture, religious studies, and theological ideas.

**Core modules**
- The Philosophy of Religion, Atheism and Nihilism

**Optional modules**
- Being, Becoming and Reality
- Contemporary Metaethics
- Freedom and Obligation
- Knowledge and Justification
- Mind and Consciousness
- Normative Ethics
- Philosophy of Art
- Philosophy of Science: From Positivism to Postmodernism
- Social Philosophy
- The Nature of Meaning
- Topics in Asian Philosophy
- Work Placement

**Typical modules**

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<th>Year one</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Core philosophy modules</strong></td>
<td><strong>Core module</strong></td>
<td><strong>Optional philosophy modules</strong></td>
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<tr>
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<td>The Philosophy of Religion, Atheism and Nihilism</td>
<td>Advanced Logic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reasoning, Argument, and Logic</td>
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<td>Advanced Topics in Philosophy of Science</td>
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<td>Building the Christian Church</td>
<td>Being, Becoming and Reality</td>
<td>Communicating Philosophy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christianity and the Crisis of Modernity</td>
<td>Contemporary Metaethics</td>
<td>Dissertation in Philosophy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interpreting Islam</td>
<td>Freedom and Obligation</td>
<td>Free Will and Action</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interpreting Judaism</td>
<td>Knowledge and Justification</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philosophy for Theologians</td>
<td>Mind and Consciousness</td>
<td>Language, Metaphysics, and Metamathematics</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Optional philosophy modules</strong></td>
<td><strong>Optional theology and religious studies modules</strong></td>
<td>Marx</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gender, Justice, and Society</td>
<td>Faith and Identity: Religion in 19th-Century Britain</td>
<td>Philosophy of Criminal Law</td>
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<tr>
<td>History of Philosophy: Ancient to Modern</td>
<td>Faith and Practice: Ethics in the Hebrew Bible</td>
<td>Personal Identity</td>
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<tr>
<td>Issues in Feminist Philosophy</td>
<td>Islamic Ethics of War and Peace</td>
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<tr>
<td>Metaphysics, Science, and Language</td>
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<tr>
<td>Philosophy and the Contemporary World</td>
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<tr>
<td>Philosophy of Religions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Plato</td>
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<td>Culture and Change: Religion in 20th-Century Britain</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Optional theology and religious modules</strong></td>
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<td><strong>nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy/theology</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>20th-Century Theology</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The department is a great learning atmosphere full of friendly professionals. The eclectic research of the department can bring you into contact with literature, history, archaeology, art history and continental philosophy – there really is something for everyone on this course.

Jack Murphy, BA Philosophy and Theology

Modules may change, for example due to curriculum developments. The above list is a sample of typical modules that we offer, not a definitive list. The most up to date information can be found on our website at nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy/theology.
BA Religion, Philosophy and Ethics

Drawing on the combined expertise of our theology and philosophy departments, this course is one of the broadest humanities options and of the utmost relevance to the contemporary world.

The political and social importance of religion in today's society cannot be overestimated. Meanwhile, the world faces profound questions of human identity and ethics, which philosophy and theology tackle in many different ways.

Year one
Core modules in year one will introduce you to a wide range of issues in philosophy, religion and ethics from a variety of philosophical and theological perspectives. Through your selection of optional modules, you may choose to give equal weighting to both. You will also have the option of writing a dissertation, which will allow you to develop your interest in a particular subject through independent research.

For more information on the philosophy element of your course see nottingham.ac.uk/philosophy

Year two
You will take three core modules, as well as options chosen from those on offer in the Department of Philosophy, and the Department of Theology and Religious Studies. This allows you to develop your interests in areas studied in year one or to study something new.

Year three
In year three, you will have the flexibility to focus on either philosophy or theology and religious studies, with a wide range of modules on offer in both departments. Alternatively, you may choose to give equal weighting to both. You will also have the option of writing a dissertation, which will allow you to develop your interest in a particular subject through independent research.

Modules may change, for example due to curriculum developments. The above list is a sample of typical modules that we offer, not a definitive list. The most up-to date information can be found on our website at nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy/theology.
Established over 50 years ago, the Department of Theology and Religious Studies has research expertise across a wide range of areas. We offer a variety of teaching and assessment methods to help you realise your potential and develop transferable skills.

Engaging study, incredible results

Teaching and learning
In year one, you can expect to attend about 12–14 hours of lectures and seminars each week. The aim is to stimulate your curiosity and provide you with essential information, to establish a solid grounding in the core of the subject. In addition, all tutors have drop-in hours when you can talk privately with them about your work. Students opting to write a dissertation will receive one-to-one supervision for this module.

How will I be assessed?
Assessment for your degree is based on a combination of essays, less formal kinds of writing, verbal presentations and formal examinations. The precise assessment varies from one module to another. Where a module lasts for one semester, assessment is undertaken at the end of that semester. Where a module fills two semesters, assessment is at the end of the second semester, although your progress will be measured throughout the year.

Your final degree classification
Year two counts for 33% of your final, overall grade, and year three counts for 67%. Year one is a qualifying year, which means you must pass this year to progress to year two, but your mark will not contribute to your final degree classification.

nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy/theology
Outstanding careers support

A theology and religious studies degree prepares you for a wide range of employment and postgraduate study opportunities, equipping you with a broad set of transferable skills which many employers are looking for.

Transferable skills
As a theology and religious studies graduate you will develop the ability to:
- analyse texts carefully – often including those in foreign languages
- discuss issues in a logical and critically constructive manner
- present ideas clearly
- understand and interact with people from a variety of cultural and religious backgrounds

Recent graduate destinations include:
- banking and finance
- church ministry and teaching in primary, secondary, and higher education
- creative and cultural arts
- journalism, advertising and communications
- law, public policy, strategy and consulting
- psychology and counselling

Amplify your potential
Whether you already have a plan or need some inspiration, your Careers and Employability Service is here to help.

Academic excellence and employability go hand in hand at Nottingham. Your course, and the diverse student experiences we offer, will enable you to develop the skills and professional competencies required to thrive in the job market of the future.

We will help you explore your options, so you feel confident making choices about what you want to achieve. Our team will support you as you build your CV, search for jobs, prepare applications, practise your interview technique, and much more.

Get the Advantage
The career-enhancing Nottingham Advantage Award recognises and rewards your extracurricular activities. With a choice of over 200 modules, you can hone the key skills employers are looking for. From developing your leadership skills and learning a language to public speaking and volunteering, you will leave university with demonstrable experience that sets you apart from other graduates. For further information, visit nottingham.ac.uk/careers/advantage

Postgraduate study
Following your undergraduate degree, you might consider staying with us for postgraduate study. We have a lively and diverse postgraduate community, comprised of students from Nottingham and other universities. The very best often go on to PhD research. Find out more at nottingham.ac.uk/pgstudy

As a lawyer, I work with texts. Studying theology taught me to pay very close attention to difficult texts, to unpack them, analyse them, and use them in forming arguments. I quite regularly read things at University that radically altered the way I looked at the world which has helped me find solutions to difficult legal problems.

Tim Lees,
BA Theology and Religious Studies,
now working as an Associate at Clifford Chance LLP
How to apply

All applications for undergraduate study at Nottingham, including applications by international students, must be made through UCAS.

You can apply online at ucas.com and will be notified of decisions through UCAS Track.

Your personal statement
This is the section of your UCAS form that tells us about you, and you should make the best use of it. Be as specific and detailed as you can – we would like to see that you are a student who can work hard, be self-motivated and make the best possible use of the opportunities that our courses offer you. We would also like to hear about any skills you have gained through extracurricular activities.

Minimum entry requirements
Unless otherwise stated in individual course profiles, all UK applicants should have GCSE English grade 4 (C) as a minimum.

Alternative qualifications
In this brochure you will find our A level and International Baccalaureate entry requirements but we accept a much broader range of qualifications. For more details, visit nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy/applying

GCSE reform
Following the reform of GCSE grading in England from A*–G to 9–1, we have adopted Ofqual’s recommended equivalence. This means that GCSE grade A*=9, A=7, B=5/6 and C=4. GCSE qualifications taken outside of the UK will still be graded A* to G.

Flexible admissions policy
In recognition of our applicants’ varied experience and educational pathways, we employ a flexible admissions policy. If we judge that your situation has adversely affected your achievement, then we will consider this when assessing your academic potential. Some courses may make a slightly lower offer. For more information about this policy, see nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy/applying

Mature applicants
We encourage applications from mature applicants who have a significant gap in education. You should apply through UCAS. Find out more at nottingham.ac.uk/mature

International applicants
The University provides a range of information and advice for international applicants. If you are unable to attend an open day, we can meet you in your country at one of our overseas events or arrange an individual visit to the University. For further information please visit nottingham.ac.uk/go/international-applicants

Deferred entry
Applicants who wish to defer their entry by a year will not be at a disadvantage. Please tell us something about your plans for your gap year in your UCAS personal statement.

Equal opportunities policy
The University aims to create the conditions whereby students and staff are treated solely on the basis of their merits, abilities and potential, regardless of gender, race, colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin, age, socio-economic background, disability, religious or political beliefs, trade union membership, family circumstances, sexual orientation or other irrelevant distinction.

How do I apply?

Experience it

Around one-third of our UK students receive our means-tested core bursary, worth up to £2,000 a year (2018 entry figure; subject to change). For details, see nottingham.ac.uk/financialsupport

200+
student-led groups, clubs and societies at your Students’ Union su.nottingham.ac.uk

One of the UK’s leading universities for sport* with over 70 student sports clubs
nottingham.ac.uk/sport

* British Universities and Colleges Sports Standings, 2016-17.

Join in with the vibrant musical life on campus and in the city
nottingham.ac.uk/music/performance

Choose from 9 modern languages to study alongside your course
nottingham.ac.uk/language-centre

Live and study abroad as part of many courses
nottingham.ac.uk/studywithus/studyabroad

10 minutes from the vibrant city’s colourful arts scene, shops, food, heritage and culture
nottingham.ac.uk/nottinghamlife

Student Service Centres on all UK campuses for support and advice
nottingham.ac.uk/studentservices

Accommodation to suit every budget and personal choice
nottingham.ac.uk/accommodation

nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy/applying
This brochure has been drafted in advance of the academic year to which it applies. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this brochure is accurate at the time of publishing, but changes (for example to course content) are likely to occur given the interval between publication and commencement of the course. It is therefore very important to check our website for any updates before you apply for the course by following nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy. Where there is a difference between the contents of this brochure and our website, the contents of the website take precedence.