**Access FAQs and Essential Information**

**What is the Access programme?**
This one-year, part-time course is for people who would like to obtain a degree but who do not have current, up-to-date qualifications. You will gain the skills and knowledge needed to survive at university and earn a qualification that can give entry to a degree instead of Highers, A levels or similar. You enrol on **two appropriate Access subjects** related to one of three programmes, depending on which sort of subject (degree) you would like to pursue.

- Access to Sciences, Engineering & Nursing
- Access to Law, Business & Accountancy
- Access to Arts & Social Sciences

**What Access subjects should I study?**
Your choice of subject should be guided by two questions: what degree do I want to do after Access and what will I enjoy studying?

Some degree courses have very specific requirements. It is **ESSENTIAL** that you check the Access subject requirements as outlined by University of Glasgow Admissions before you enrol on your two subjects to ensure you are choosing the correct subjects for your degree choice and to check for any additional requirements. You can check [here](http://www.sqa.org.uk/pastpapers/findpastpaper.htm).

**Do I need any previous knowledge to apply for Access?**
For most subjects, apart from Chemistry and Mathematics, you do not need any particular knowledge before starting Access although you do have to be ready to start reading and writing in a fairly sophisticated way therefore should have the necessary English language writing skills. If you intend to take Chemistry or Mathematics on Access **it is strongly recommended** that you have previous knowledge of the same subject equivalent to at least Standard Grade Credit level, or Intermediate 2 or National 5 or GCSE etc. If you do not have one of these qualifications, or are not sure what they mean, you can see previous years’ exam papers at [http://www.sqa.org.uk/pastpapers/findpastpaper.htm](http://www.sqa.org.uk/pastpapers/findpastpaper.htm).

**It is strongly recommended that you** have refreshed your knowledge and are prepared and ready to work at this level when Access starts, otherwise you are unlikely to be able to cope with the pace and content of the course.

If you are going to study Chemistry and/or Mathematics, you should be revising as follows:

- For Chemistry, you should concentrate on: elements, compounds, basic bonding, chemical formula, chemical reactions, basic chemical equations and basic chemical calculations. Any of the "National 5 Chemistry" revision books published by Hodder and Gibson or Leckie and Leckie are very useful up to this level. BBC Bitesize for National 5 Chemistry is also very useful for revising up to the required level.

- For Maths, you should concentrate on: numeracy (fractions, percentages, negatives, indices, surds, rounding, standard form), basic algebra (multiplying out brackets,
collecting like terms, factorising, simplifying expressions), solving equations (linear, simultaneous) and graphs (plotting and interpreting). These topics are covered in "Countdown to Mathematics" by L Graham and D Sargent (BOTH vols. 1 and 2.). Second-hand copies are available for just a few pounds from many sources. Additionally, some of our students have found the online videos from Khan Academy (http://khanacademy.org) and the BBC Bitesize material helpful.

**What will I have to do on the Access programme?**
You will prepare for university by studying two subjects in depth. You will have to attend two classes per week, one in each subject. Classes start in September and continue until the end of March (22 weeks teaching and 1 week revision) with final exams during April/May. Most classes last two hours except Science classes (Maths, Physics, Chemistry and Biology) which are three hours, so that there is time for practical work, demonstrations and skills development. Classes take place during the day and/or the evening, dependent on subject (see the timetable).

You will have to complete coursework during the year (essays, short tests in the class, exercises, etc., as appropriate to the particular subject) and sit a 60-minute examination at the end of the year for each subject. See key dates for details.

**What if English is not my first language?**
You must have a high standard of English language skills to be able to cope with the level of English necessary for academic study, such as one of the following for Access.

- **International English Language Testing System (IELTS)** Academic module (not General Training): overall score 6.0, with no single element less than 5.5
- **TOEFL**: 78; no sub-test less than 18
- **CAE** (Cambridge Certificate of Advanced English): Grade C
- **CPE** (Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English): Grade C
- **PTE Academic** (Pearson Test of English, Academic test): 54; no subtest less than 54
- **UK school qualifications in English** e.g. Intermediate 2, National 5 or preferably Higher in Scotland, (or GCSE in Northern Ireland, Wales and England) at B or better.

**Can I apply if I live in a country outside the EU?**
Access is not suitable for people applying from outside the EU.

**What kind of assessment is there?**
You will have to complete coursework during the year (essays, short tests in the class, exercises, lab reports, etc., as appropriate to the particular subject) and sit a 60-minute examination at the end of the year for each subject. The exams are held under the conditions you can expect to find as an undergraduate student.

**Can I change or transfer my subjects?**
Once Access has started it is not normally permissible to change subjects. Often students find it takes time to settle in to their subjects, but this is normal and your tutors will be on hand to discuss any initial worries you may have with the subject.
How much time will I need to set aside for Access?

It is always difficult to give a reliable answer to this question because it can vary a lot from person to person and will vary depending on the subject and when assignments or assessments are due. The number of credits for a course does give you an idea of the necessary commitment, however. Each credit is equivalent to a 10 hour commitment; this comprises lectures, coursework preparation, writing up lecture notes, reading textbooks, exams and exam preparation for example. A student registered on 2 x 20 credit courses should expect to commit a total of 2 x 200 hours over the entire session on work associated with the course. If you worked only during the teaching semesters this would mean approximately 18 hours per week but you will want to work at other times, too, in particular in the run-up to the final exams. It is usually helpful to make a plan at the start of your Access course to try to manage your time and make sure you can realistically build in study time to your week, especially when you are trying to juggle other commitments such as work and family etc.

Will there be any help with study support?

Your tutors will build essay-writing and study advice into the subject teaching. We also hope to offer dedicated study skills sessions run by the Learning Enhancement & Academic Development Service (LEADS) [https://www.gla.ac.uk/myglasgow/leads/students/](https://www.gla.ac.uk/myglasgow/leads/students/), you will be able to seek advice from them as well as your tutors.

What does the Access programme cost?

The fee for the Access programme is £530

Am I eligible to apply for help with fees?

If you earn £25,000 or less per annum and live in Scotland you may be eligible for the Scottish Awards Agency for Scotland (SAAS) Part-Time Fee Grant (PTFG) which will pay £428 leaving a balance of £102 which you will have to pay yourself. Please see full details on using the SAAS Part-time Fee Grant at [http://www.saas.gov.uk/part_time/ug/](http://www.saas.gov.uk/part_time/ug/). There may be other sources of support specific to your own personal circumstances (e.g. retraining schemes for people leaving the Armed Forces, employer sponsorship etc) and we may be able to accept these. Please contact us for advice.

For 2019-20 only The University of Glasgow has around 10 Access Awards to support students who could face difficulties in taking up and successfully completing their Access course. The award would typically be £500 in two instalments subject to satisfactory progress. This is not a fund for payment of fees. The first instalment is only awarded once students have commenced their studies. [https://www.gla.ac.uk/study/short/accessprogramme/universityofglasgowaccessawards/](https://www.gla.ac.uk/study/short/accessprogramme/universityofglasgowaccessawards/)

Key dates and exams

Teaching takes place during two semesters. Provisional dates for Academic Session 2019-20 are as follows:

Semester 1 teaching 23 September – 6 December 2019
Exam period is between 27 April – 22 May 2020
Welcome and information evening prior to the start of teaching – Friday 13 September. (Details of the Welcome evening and dates for additional optional introductory sessions such as IT, study skills, library talks, etc. to be confirmed.)

There is normally a welcome and information evening prior to the start of teaching and additional optional introductory sessions such as IT, study skills, library talks, etc. Details and dates to be confirmed.

Please note that final exams will normally be during the daytime therefore it is important that you are available to attend during this period. This may mean taking time off work or arranging childcare, but we will let you know in advance the dates and times of exams for your specific subjects. Please note we are only given a few weeks advance notice of these dates. Please inform us if you are also taking any SQA formal exams and relevant dates so we can try to avoid any scheduling clashes.

**How will I apply for university after Access?**
All applications for full-time degree study in British universities are made through the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) www.ucas.ac.uk. Students will be given a buzzword to link their application and students will be provided with support and detailed guidance on the UCAS process. Normally Access students will commence their UCAS application during November and December. Please note some degrees may require additional requirements, interviews such as for Nursing or Teaching, or there may be an additional test such as the LNAT for Law. It is essential you check this as early as possible.

**Can I apply to other universities?**
Yes, it is often possible to apply to other universities from this Access course. There are NO agreements or guarantees, however; therefore we strongly advise that you check with Admissions officers in the institution to which you intend to apply. Tell them that you intend to enrol on Glasgow University’s Access course and ask them if they will accept it for the degree course you are interested in. It would be your responsibility to check on this before you enrol.

**Can I apply for Medicine/ Dentistry/ Vet Medicine?**
Unfortunately, there is no route to these degrees via this Access programme.

**Is there support if I have a disability that may impact on my studies?**
The University has a very supportive Disability Service. After enrolling on Access, all students can discuss any specific additional support needs they may have with Disability Services advisers (http://www.gla.ac.uk/services/disability/)
However, in the first instance potential Access students are very welcome to contact Access Disability Coordinator Irene Vezza to discuss in confidence any concerns or support they may require while studying on Access. You can contact Irene direct on 0141 330 1823(Irene.vezza@glasgow.ac.uk)
Further information and advice

There will be information sessions throughout the enrolment period. These sessions will provide the opportunity to ask questions and obtain further advice.

If you have further questions or wish to discuss further you can contact:
Mrs Irene Vezza (Access and Guidance Manager) Irene.Vezza@glasgow.ac.uk
General enquiries: shortcourses@glasgow.ac.uk