



Essential Guide for Mature Students

Introduction

Returning to education after a break can be an exciting but daunting prospect. Going to university is life-changing, and at the University of Wolverhampton we aim to provide a first-class experience for all our students, whatever their age and background.

The University of Wolverhampton welcomes thousands of mature students each year onto a wide range of undergraduate courses and we would like to encourage you to find out more about the opportunities to study with us.

Over 40% of students studying at the University of Wolverhampton are classified as 'mature' – that is, aged 25 or over at the start of their studies. We recognise that people

have different circumstances, qualifications and requirements when they join us and this is reflected in the range of services and support we offer. More information can be found on pages 10 -14.

We will support you throughout your journey – from considering the right course, during your time studying with us, to help with launching your graduate career or further study at postgraduate level. Our services for students are here to guide you every step of the way.

Our advanced facilities, combined with the guidance of our expert staff, can help turn your raw talent and potential into the specific skills and knowledge needed to succeed in your chosen career.

The Gateway

Information, Advice and Guidance

THE GATEWAY IS NORMALLY OPEN MONDAY TO FRIDAY, 9AM – 5PM. YOU CAN JUST CALL IN FOR A QUICK CHAT OR TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT WITH AN EDUCATION GUIDANCE ADVISER.
EMAIL: GATEWAY@WLV.AC.UK
TEL: 01902 321 032
VISIT: WLV.AC.UK/GATEWAY

Education Guidance Advisers offer appointments at Stafford and Telford Regional Learning Centres (see the Lifelong Learning Section for more details) as well as the Gateway and can also offer virtual appointments for those who cannot travel in to one of the Centres. Please mention on the phone the most convenient site for you and we can try to accommodate this.



The University has a team of Education Guidance Advisers based in the Gateway in the centre of Wolverhampton. They can help you explore in more detail all of the information in this booklet. The team can answer all sorts of questions you may have about coming to University, choosing a course, how the funding works and much, much more. Do contact us by phone or email with any questions or concerns that you have.

Lifelong Learning

In addition to its campuses, the University of Wolverhampton offers Regional Learning Centres. University Centre Telford (UCT) and University of Wolverhampton in Stafford (UWIS) are situated in town centre locations and aim to make access to higher education easier. People can drop in to get advice, attend an event or tap into experience from across the University of Wolverhampton.

The Regional Learning Centres have a wealth of experience and expertise in supporting adult applicants with their progression. These include adult learners in Colleges and also adults who are not currently in education who are seeking to improve their life chances.

For more details on the Centres and directions, visit: **UCT: wlv.ac.uk/uctelford**
UWIS: uwis.co.uk

A more flexible approach

The University of Wolverhampton is a warm and welcoming place that nurtures talent and creates opportunities, helping students from diverse backgrounds to fulfil their potential within a caring and supportive community.

If you bring enthusiasm, commitment and determination we will help you to realise your ambition and goals. We know that the decision to become a mature student is not always an easy one. Some mature students worry that they won't be able to cope if they have been out of education for a long time – but once they have settled into their courses they often wonder why they didn't start sooner! At the University of Wolverhampton there is a great deal of help with important aspects of academic study such as reading and study techniques, note taking, essay writing, using computers and how to succeed in assignments.



Courses that fit your lifestyle

You might be surprised at how conveniently you can fit your studies into your week. Most full-time courses involve no more than 12 to 16 hours each week in class (although courses which involve compulsory placement will demand more of your time, e.g. Nursing, Social Work and Teaching).

You can arrange the study you will need to do outside the class around your own weekly commitments – a lot of our library resources are available online. We have part-time, as well as full-time, courses to suit busy lifestyles – and if you find full-time hours aren't suiting you, we can help you explore part-time alternatives.



Distance Learning

Many courses offer blended learning with a mixture of work done at home and on campus. In addition there are some courses that are offered on a purely distance learning basis which are ideal if your circumstances make attending the University difficult. More information on these courses can be found at: wlv.ac.uk/courses/online-distance-learning.



Entry requirements

There are various ways you can show us that you have the right experience and background to join a University of Wolverhampton course. In our experience, many adults tend to be very modest about their achievements and overlook important work and life experiences which demonstrate their skills and capabilities.

We can discuss what the right path is for you and cover everything you need to know (including financial matters) so that you can make the right choice. The specific entry requirements for each department or course are listed in the course finder on our website: wlv.ac.uk/courses However, for many of our courses, mature students are not required to have the same academic qualifications as school-leaving applicants.

We consider:

- Relevant skills that have been developed during paid work
- Professional qualifications undertaken during paid or voluntary work
- Non-accredited courses
- Voluntary work
- Independent work/study
- Access to HE Diploma and other academic level 3 qualifications.

As part of the application process you will be asked to provide a satisfactory reference and sometimes complete a relevant background check if you plan to work with children.

How to apply:

What you need to know

How to make an application

For full-time undergraduate courses, apply [through UCAS](#).

For part-time undergraduate courses and most postgraduate courses, you will need to [apply directly to us](#).

Our Gateway team can help and support you to complete application forms.

Contact the Gateway on:
01902 321 032 or email: gateway@wlv.ac.uk

When do I apply?

Full-time: as a general guide, applications can be made to UCAS between September and June. Check with UCAS for confirmed dates.

However, as a few courses prefer early application, including midwifery, nursing, social work and teaching, it is recommended to apply in the autumn of the year before you wish to start the course. You can still apply after January for many courses, if spaces are available. If in doubt, please contact The Gateway.

Visit: wlv.ac.uk/prospectus
Call Course Enquiries: **0800 953 3222**
Email: enquiries@wlv.ac.uk

Student finance

Student finance can often be seen as a complex process, especially for mature students with dependants. However, alongside tuition fees, there is a wide range of funding available which students may be eligible to apply for, this includes:

- Maintenance loan
- Disabled Students Allowance
- Parent Learning Allowance
- Childcare grant
- Dependants' Allowance
- Dennis Turner Opportunity (Hardship) Fund

For further information, visit our website at: wlv.ac.uk/moneymatters and the Student Finance England website for full eligibility criteria at: gov.uk/student-finance. Further advice and guidance on all money matters relating to higher education can be accessed through The Gateway.

Visit: wlv.ac.uk/gateway
Email: gateway@wlv.ac.uk
Call: **01902 321 032**

Studying part-time

At the University of Wolverhampton we understand how important it is to allow you to study the way you want to, which is why we offer a range of part-time courses and professional development opportunities.

With part-time study you can:

- Fit your studies around your work and home commitments
- Enhance your employment prospects
- Continue earning while you're learning.

Part-time study is a flexible and cost-effective way to realise your potential. It provides an opportunity to do a degree course that works with your lifestyle. You can build upon existing skills, head in a new direction, or just pursue your interests and passions!

Finance for part-time students

Part-time students can [apply for a tuition fee loan](#). For further information on part-time student funding, please contact our advisors at The Gateway. Students on a degree course can also apply for a means-tested maintenance loan towards living costs. [Further details and eligibility criteria](#).



Student support

Student's union

The University of Wolverhampton Students' Union is here for all students, regardless of course, mode or location of study. We are here to represent you, advise you and make sure you get the most out of your University experience.

As well as providing services such as our societies, volunteering, and course representatives, we also provide a fantastic support service. Our independent Advice and Representation Centre offers free, confidential, and impartial advice in areas such as academic, finance, and housing, and is accredited by the Advice Quality Standard.

Our advisors are based at City and Walsall campuses and you can get in touch with them via [our website](#), or call: **01902 322 038**

There is also Well@Wolves, our health and wellbeing hub full of advice and workshops to help you to feel, study and live well. Take a look at the latest workshops and advice at: wolvesunion.org/wellatwolves

For further details, or to book an appointment, email: info.wolvesunion@wlv.ac.uk visit: wolvesunion.org or pop in to see us on campus.

The Dennis Turner Opportunity Fund

The Dennis Turner Opportunity Fund is the University of Wolverhampton hardship fund – demonstrating the University's continuing commitment to supporting students who find themselves in genuine financial hardship that might impact on their ability to continue on a course at University.

If you have spent time in care or are under 25 and have no communicative relationship with your parents we can offer additional support. Visit: wlv.ac.uk/care for more information.

Contact the Funding Support Team on:
Email: money@wlv.ac.uk
Call: **01902 321 070**
visit: wlv.ac.uk/fund



Support and Wellbeing

The University is committed to providing an inclusive and supportive environment for all students, including students with a disability or specific learning difficulties.

Depending on your individual needs, you may be eligible for additional support at university. The Student Support and Wellbeing team are here to provide you with confidential, personalised advice and information about the wide range of support options to which you may be entitled.

If you have a disability – for example, a long-term health condition or mental health condition or a specific learning difficulty like dyslexia – you may be able to apply to be considered for the Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA). [Information about applying for DSA and your eligibility.](#)

If you have any questions or would like more information, visit the [Student Support and Wellbeing page](#) or contact the team via email: ssw@wlv.ac.uk

Mental Health and Wellbeing

We're committed to ensuring our students achieve and thrive at the University of Wolverhampton and recognise that there can be times of anxiety and stress associated with university life. We are also committed to supporting students with a range of mental health and general wellbeing services.

Support is available to help you improve your wellbeing and achieve academic success. We offer:

- Face-to-face appointments at City Campus (and Walsall Campus during term-time)
- Online and email appointments
- Drop-in service (during term time)
- Workshops

For more information go to: wlv.ac.uk/ssw To make an appointment, please contact our administrator on tel: **01902 322 572** or email: MHWenquiries@wlv.ac.uk

Chaplaincy Team

Whether you are a person of faith, someone who is searching, someone with questions and doubts, or of no faith, you are welcome to receive the support of the Chaplaincy. We are a team of Chaplains from various faiths and between us cover all of the University sites.

[Find out more.](#)



Academic Skills

As a University of Wolverhampton student, you can access free one-to-one advice to help you develop and improve your academic and study skills. There are also study guides and workshops to support your studies.

The Skills Team can offer guidance on various aspects such as planning and writing your academic assignments, exam revision, tips on delivering effective presentations, how to use your time efficiently and how to organise your academic study.

We understand that many students are often on a tight schedule, so we also offer our workshops online via Canvas. Just get in touch by email at: skills@wlv.ac.uk if you'd like to arrange this. [Find out more here.](#)

Careers and Employability

Our team of professional careers advisers and consultants are here to help you explore your career aspirations through 1:1 appointments and support you in identifying the skills and attributes you need to make these plans happen. You can access the careers service from the first day you start your academic journey right the way through to the end of your degree, while alumni can benefit for up to 3 years after graduation, including lifetime access to our mentoring programme at the University of Wolverhampton. We are here to empower and support all stages of your applications and career journey.

Contact our Careers, Enterprise and The Workplace teams for help with volunteering, CV-building, placements, starting your own business, and much more! [Visit our careers page.](#)

University Shuttle Bus

Need to get from one campus to another? We offer a FREE inter-campus shuttle bus for students during term time – simply show your student ID and hop on board. [Find out more here.](#)

University Open Days

We hold Open Days throughout the year, which are a great way to find out more about our facilities, courses and staff. When you visit us at an Open Day you can take your time to look around the University and explore the facilities. You can speak to academics and support staff and ask as many questions as you wish. It's your chance to find out about the course and how the finance works as well as other aspects of studying at the University.

Visit: wlv.ac.uk/opendays for more information, forthcoming dates and to pre-register your place.

If you are unable to visit the University then there are regular virtual events that give you the opportunity to find out more.

There are also other subject-specific events and opportunities to visit the University so, if you can't make one of the main Open Days, email: enquiries@wlv.ac.uk to see if there is a suitable alternative opportunity to visit.





Contact

Email: gateway@wlv.ac.uk

Tel: **01902 321 032**

Visit: wlv.ac.uk/gateway