

Autism resources

Information and support for students, prospective students, and staff

Thinking of going to University / thinking of coming to study at the University of Bath

Our Discover Bath summer schools for prospective students are supportive to students with a wide range of complex disabilities: <https://www.bath.ac.uk/campaigns/discover-bath-summer-residentials-for-year-12-students/>

The University of Bath Autism Summer School (UBASS) supports autistic students in the transition from school to university. You don't need to apply to do a degree here to be able to come on the summer school. Email autism-summer-school@bath.ac.uk for information about the next summer school.

Our main Open Days (<https://www.bath.ac.uk/campaigns/come-to-an-undergraduate-open-day/>) are inclusive and we have a dedicated Disability Welcome Point. A named member of staff will contact you once you have booked a place on an Open Day to ensure that any support you need is in place before you arrive.

If you don't want to come to an Open Day, there are additional choices for autistic / disabled prospective students:

- Explore with a Virtual Open Day <https://www.bath.ac.uk/campaigns/ways-to-experience-the-university/> and chat online with members of staff and students.
- Arrange an individual visit <https://www.bath.ac.uk/campaigns/visiting-us-if-you-have-a-disability/> with one of our student ambassadors.
- Download a self-guided tour map <https://www.bath.ac.uk/guides/self-guided-tours/> and see the campus when it suits you. Do make arrangements before you come if you would like to speak to the Admissions team or would like to look in any of the laboratories and other special areas.

Admissions

The Admissions Progression team provides support for students applying from Widening Participation backgrounds, which includes disabilities: Since autistic people often experience particular challenges, autism is counted as a disability

<https://www.bath.ac.uk/guides/understanding-contextual-admissions-for-undergraduate-applicants/> tells applicants about our contextualised admissions process. One of the factors considered as part of this is disability status, including autism.

<https://www.bath.ac.uk/guides/understanding-mitigating-circumstances-for-undergraduate-applicants/> tells applicants about our mitigating circumstances process, whereby anyone with circumstances that have had a detrimental impact on their studies can ensure their application is considered thoroughly and in confidence.

Project qualifications can help prepare you for university and may help you get a lower offer to study at Bath <https://www.bath.ac.uk/corporate-information/pre-university-project-qualifications/>

Support while you are a student

Student Services

Student Services is probably your first source of advice to help you get the most out of your University experience <https://www.bath.ac.uk/campaigns/support-to-help-you-succeed/> and can work with you in getting the support you need <https://www.bath.ac.uk/guides/getting-support-if-you-have-a-disability/>

Autistic students may have additional financial outgoings because of their autism. You should consider applying for Disabled Students Allowance <https://www.bath.ac.uk/guides/applying-for-disabled-students-allowances/>

If you have particular needs relating to taking exams, for example, sensory sensitivities that are triggered in a typical examinations setting, you can apply for alternative arrangements for examinations <https://www.bath.ac.uk/guides/making-alternative-exam-arrangements-if-you-have-a-disability/>

Students Union

SU society Enable <https://www.thesubath.com/enable/> is a student-run group focused on disability, impairments and mental health. Enable is not autism-specific. However the group is for students at the University of Bath who care about disability and making the university more accessible. Enable welcomes everyone, whether disabled or not, to meet regularly for campaigns and socials. You could join the Enable Facebook group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/EnableBathSU/>

Peer support can be helpful, and is all about students supporting other students. You can get informal support from a student mentor to help you settle in or prepare from your work placement if you are doing one, or you can join an informal study group led by students who have already completed your unit or programme <https://www.thesubath.com/peer-support/>

Careers

Our Careers Service <https://www.bath.ac.uk/professional-services/careers-service/> offers a range of lifetime support to all students and graduates of the University, including specific support to students with a disability <https://www.bath.ac.uk/guides/equality-diversity-and-your-career/>

The Careers portal MyFuture <https://www.bath.ac.uk/services/myfuture/> has an extensive Resource catalogue that is searchable by keyword, and includes resources that are directly relevant to autistic students.

Centre for Applied Autism Research (CAAR)

The Bath Employment Spring School (BESSA) <https://www.bath.ac.uk/announcements/autism-school-to-improve-employment-chances-for-autistic-graduates/> If you're an autistic student or graduate (with or without a diagnosis), you can apply to attend this free, two-day event where you'll get support and guidance for the transition from university to a range of opportunities like internships, placements and graduate employment.

The event is organised jointly by the [Centre for Applied Autism Research](#) at the University of Bath, and [JP Morgan](#) (JPM).

Working or studying here

The University of Bath: An Autism-Friendly University

Challenges faced by students and staff studying or working at university can be exacerbated for autistic people. In this landmark event, our speakers explored the relationship between the autistic experience

and study or employment, and discussed how to make adjustments that can support autistic people to thrive at study or work.

View a webcast of our conference held on 4th April 2019 <https://vimeo.com/showcase/5920668>

Assistive Technology for students and staff

Our Assistive Technology team can help you get specialist assistive technology equipment that matches your needs <https://www.bath.ac.uk/professional-services/assistive-technology/>

There is also an Assistive Technology work room for the exclusive use of disabled students <https://www.bath.ac.uk/locations/assistive-technology-room/>

Working here

Guidance notes

[Autism Friendly Employee Recruitment](#)

[Top Tips for managing an autistic employee](#)

For staff supporting students

Download our factsheets on supporting students with specific learning difficulties and disabilities <https://www.bath.ac.uk/guides/teaching-students-with-specific-learning-difficulties-and-disabilities/>

Staff can apply for access to the Careers portal MyFuture <https://myfuture.bath.ac.uk/> where there are resources directly relevant to autistic students.

Access to Work grants

Access to Work can provide grants to individuals that enable them to start work or to remain in work. The employee must make the application themselves before or at the start of their employment. Your department's [HR Business Partner](#) can provide advice and support to you and the employee. You can write to them, or email or telephone them, for advice even before you start your new role.

[Access to Work fact sheet for employers](#)

Further information

ACAS

Article: Neurodiversity in the Workplace: <http://www.acas.org.uk/index.aspx?articleid=6676>

TUC

Article: Autism in the Workplace: <http://www.tuc.org.uk/sites/default/files/Autism.pdf>

Centre for Applied Autism Research (CAAR): Self-screening tool for autistic-like traits

It has been argued that we are all on the continuum of autistic-like traits and, typically, autistic people have higher levels of autistic-like traits than non-autistic people. This does not mean that everyone with high levels of autistic-like traits is autistic.

Our short survey of autistic-like traits (15 questions, taking about 5 minutes) is designed to raise awareness of autism and will give you an indication of your level of autistic-like traits.

The survey is being conducted by the Centre for Applied Autism Research (CAAR) at the University of Bath. Data will be stored anonymously and confidentially and used for research purposes. You do not have to complete this survey, and can stop at any time by simply leaving the web page.

You must be 16 years or older to take part

https://bathpsychology.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2gZtsiolmTIFcAR

Centre for Applied Autism Research (CAAR): Ambassadors for Autism

Autistic people, parents or family members, and allies of autistic people are invited to give their views on the kinds of adaptations that would improve autistic people's access to education, employment and services. If you would like to sign up for our Ambassadors for Autism project, please follow this link:

[www.Tinyurl.com/AforAinfo](http://www.tinyurl.com/AforAinfo)

Centre for Applied Autism Research (CAAR): Register on our research database

Whether or not you are autistic, we would like to hear from you. If you would like to register on our database to be invited to participate in future research projects, please follow this link:

www.tinyurl.com/caardatabase

Online learning opportunity

MOOC: SMART-ASD: Matching Autistic People with Technology Resources

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/supporting-autism>

This distance learning course has been developed by researchers at the Centre for Applied Autism Research (CAAR) at the University of Bath. It is aimed at all those interested in finding out more about autism and intellectual (or learning) disability in children, and how technology can support them. The course is perfect for parents, carers and practitioners. You do not need any prior experience of this subject.

National Autistic Society

<https://www.autism.org.uk/>

The National Autistic Society is the UK's leading charity for autistic people and their families, providing support, information, and practical advice for autistic adults and children in the UK, and for their family members. The Society also works to improve public understanding of autism and help businesses, local authorities and government to provide more autism-friendly spaces, deliver better services and improve laws.

Mentoring autistic students at University: a Case Study <https://network.autism.org.uk/good-practice/case-studies/mentoring-autistic-students>

The National Autistic Society hosts e-learning courses for autistic people, and for anyone who has contact with autistic people as part of their daily activities: <https://www.autisonlinetraining.com/>

Bristol Autism Spectrum Service (BASS)

BASS Autism Services for Adults provide a service to adults with autism spectrum conditions (ASCs) and professionals and carers who support them.

There are allocated services for four geographical areas: Bristol, Bath and North East Somerset (BaNES), North Somerset, and South Gloucestershire.

<http://www.awp.nhs.uk/services/specialist/autism-spectrum/>

<http://www.awp.nhs.uk/services/specialist/autism-spectrum/support-groups/post-diagnostic-support/>

If you live in Wiltshire and are registered with a Wiltshire GP, Wiltshire Autism Diagnostic Service provides the autism assessment service and some support.

<http://www.awp.nhs.uk/services/specialist/wiltshire-autism-diagnostic-service/>

If you live in Somerset, your GP can refer you to Somerset Autism Spectrum Service for diagnosis:

<http://www.sompar.nhs.uk/what-we-do/mental-health/somerset-autism-spectrum-service/>

NHS

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/autism/>

BBC

Why shouldn't I be autistic and a student? (Hannah Khan at UoB)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-43912447>

Stories from autistic women: It all made sense when we found out we were autistic

https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/resources/idt-sh/women_late_diagnosis_autism

For carers of autistic people

Examples of organisations in our local areas that can provide support or signposting

The National Autistic Society has local branches that provide local hubs where parents, carers and people with autism can get help, access services, support each other and meet other people and families in similar situations <https://www.autism.org.uk/services/local/england/south-west.aspx>

If you live in the Bath and North East Somerset (BaNES) area:

<https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/care-and-support-and-you/autism-spectrum-condition>

If you live in South Gloucestershire:

<https://www.southglos.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/care-for-adults/health-matters-and-disability/autism/>

If you live in Bristol:

<http://www.awp.nhs.uk/services/specialist/autism-spectrum/support-groups/>

<https://www.bristolautismsupport.com/autism-carer-support/>

If you live in Wiltshire:

[http://www.wiltshireparentcarercouncil.co.uk/en/Signposting - Health %26 wellbeing - Specific conditions - The Wiltshire Autism Information Pack](http://www.wiltshireparentcarercouncil.co.uk/en/Signposting_-_Health_%26_wellbeing_-_Specific_conditions_-_The_Wiltshire_Autism_Information_Pack)