

**STRANMILLIS  
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE**

A College of Queen's University Belfast



**YOUR  
FUTURE  
AWAITS**

**UNDERGRADUATE  
PROSPECTUS | 2027**



# WHY CHOOSE STRANMILLIS?

## Study at a World-Class Institution

As a specialist University College of Queen's University Belfast, a member of the prestigious Russell Group, you'll be studying at a globally recognised institution ranked in the top 1% of universities worldwide.

## Broaden your Horizons

We offer all our students the opportunity to participate in life-changing study abroad experiences, allowing you to broaden your perspectives and enrich your university journey.



## Exceptional Graduate Employability

Stranmillis graduates boast the highest full-time employment rate of any higher education provider in Northern Ireland, ensuring a strong start to your professional career.

## A Supportive Community

At Stranmillis, you're more than just a student number; you're part of a close-knit, supportive community where you are valued and empowered.

## On-Campus Accommodation

Our beautiful EcoCampus offers excellent value for money with high-quality, catered student accommodation, making student living both comfortable and affordable.

## Outstanding Student Support

We prioritise student wellbeing with exceptional student support services that cater to your academic and personal needs.

## High Student Satisfaction

In the National Student Survey, Stranmillis consistently ranks as one of the top performers for excellence in student satisfaction.

## Vibrant Students' Union

Our award-winning Students' Union, named Best Small Students' Union in Ireland for two consecutive years, offers a vibrant, active student community.

## Learn from Recognised Experts

Your teaching and learning is delivered by an academic team of recognised experts, with a passion and dedication to inspire and mentor the next generation of educational leaders.



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## YOUR JOURNEY STARTS HERE



Choosing where to go to university is a big decision, and we're thrilled you're considering Stranmillis. This prospectus will hopefully give you an insight not just into the courses on offer but also what it means to be a Stranmillis student.

For over one hundred years, we have been at the forefront of education, delivering outstanding courses, shaping educational practice and making an impact at home and further afield. Our excellent degree programmes aim to empower our students to make a real-world difference to children, young people and wider society.

As you engage with Stranmillis campus life, you'll discover a wealth of opportunities to build friendships with fellow students, participate in enriching extracurricular activities, and benefit from student services that foster both personal and academic growth. Whether you're connecting with other students through clubs and societies, gaining hands-on experience through placements, or

undertaking some study abroad, your time at Stranmillis will be filled with experiences that prepare you for success in your chosen field and beyond.

That's why our students thrive and are highly sought after and why our graduates have very high levels of full-time employment. It is also why Stranmillis consistently ranks so highly for overall student satisfaction and why so many of our former students hold Stranmillis so dearly.

We hope you'll choose to start your university journey with us. For our students, Stranmillis is more than just an education; it's a transformative experience. We can't wait to welcome you to Stranmillis and to help you make the most of this exciting new chapter in your academic journey.

**Professor Jonathan Heggarty**  
MBE, BSc (Hons), PhD, PGCFHE, MCGL  
Principal and CEO



## STRANMILLIS WHERE YOU BELONG



Welcome to Stranmillis University College — a place where learning inspires, potential flourishes and friendships are for life; a place where you are encouraged to be yourself and your unique talents are nurtured and celebrated.

Our peaceful, tree-lined campus is just minutes from Belfast's city buzz, giving you space to grow, think and belong. Here, you'll find a community that feels like home — supportive, inspiring and full of opportunity.

### CITY ENERGY, CAMPUS VIBE

Our stunning campus in Belfast's Queen's Quarter offers the ideal balance between city and campus life. You'll enjoy access to the culture, entertainment, and opportunities of the city, while benefiting from the safety, tranquillity, and community spirit of our supportive campus environment.



### GET INVOLVED, STAY INSPIRED

At Stranmillis, your creativity and individuality are valued and encouraged. Whether your passion lies in art, music, drama, or sport, you'll have countless opportunities to get involved in college life, showcase your talents, and develop lifelong skills.



### LIVE THE EXPERIENCE

University life is about experiences and connections. From campus events like Stran Does Strictly to the Stran Panto, our vibrant Students' Union ensures that your time at Stranmillis is as enriching outside the classroom as it is within it. Get involved, make friends and make memories that'll last a lifetime.



### SPACE TO BREATHE

Balance is important. Enjoy a coffee at Betty's, relax in our green spaces, or spend time with friends in our beautiful outdoor areas. Stranmillis is a place where you can pause, reflect, and recharge.



# YOUR SU YOUR VOICE YOUR COMMUNITY



University life is about more than lectures and assignments. It's also about experiences, friendships, and fun; about growing, belonging, and discovering your place in the world. The award-winning Stranmillis Students' Union is the beating heart of student life, dedicated to supporting you, representing you, and enriching your experience.



## GET STUCK IN

Whether you're drawn to sport, the arts, or social action, the Students' Union offers a wide range of clubs, societies, and events. From Freshers' Week celebrations to acoustic nights and volunteering projects, there are countless ways to get involved and build connections.

## SUPPORT THAT MATTERS

Need advice, guidance or just a friendly face? The SU has your back. From academic support to wellbeing and mental health help, they're here whenever you need them; on your side, by your side.



## MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Through charity partnerships, volunteering, and fundraising initiatives, the SU community works together to create positive change; using your energy and ideas to make a real impact and support our chosen SU charities and projects.

## EVERYONE WELCOME

Diversity and inclusivity are part of who we are. The Students' Union celebrates every student and makes sure everyone feels seen, supported and valued — because that's what community is all about.



## STRAN HALLS MORE THAN JUST A ROOM



Living in halls is about more than just having a room on campus. It's about putting you in the heart of student life, allowing you to experience university life to the full and being part of a buzzing, friendly community where you'll make lifelong friends and unforgettable memories.

### ALL-INCLUSIVE LIVING

Our accommodation package covers it all — room, meals, Wi-Fi, all utilities and more. Choose from modern single rooms with either shared or ensuite bathrooms, and shared kitchen and lounge areas designed for connection and comfort.



### FEEL AT HOME

Your wellbeing matters. Our Halls Team is here to help you settle in, stay safe, and enjoy uni life to the full. As well as a range of on-campus activities and events, you can enjoy free gym membership.



### EAT WELL, LIVE WELL

Forget the cooking stress — breakfast and dinner are sorted for you (weekdays during term) leaving more time for friends, study, and fun.



### THE PERFECT LOCATION

Set in our beautiful eco-campus, Stran Halls is just a short walk from Belfast's student quarter and city centre — with excellent transport links ensuring everything you need is within easy reach.

# TEACHING THAT INSPIRES



At Stranmillis, learning is hands-on, engaging, and designed to set you up for success. Our lecturers are passionate experts who'll challenge and inspire you, helping you grow both personally and professionally. Our research and best practice-informed approach ensures that every student benefits from an engaging, challenging, and supportive learning experience.



## LEARN FROM LEADERS

Our teaching staff are passionate experts and active researchers whose work has global impact. They bring cutting-edge knowledge and real-world experience to the classroom, encouraging you to think critically and creatively. Expect to be inspired, to question, and to think in new ways.

## DESIGNED FOR LEARNING

From quiet corners to collaborative group zones, our library and study facilities and resources are designed to support learning your way.



## TECH THAT WORKS FOR YOU

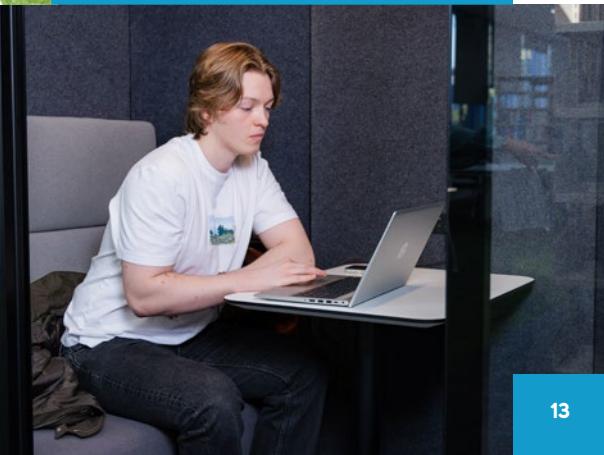
Our interactive virtual learning environment offers seamless access to lecture notes, video lessons, teaching resources, assignments, and communication channels with your tutors, supporting your studies wherever you are.

## LEARNING THROUGH EXPERIENCE

Teaching and learning at Stranmillis goes beyond the classroom. With extensive placements, workshops, and applied learning opportunities built into all our degrees, you'll graduate with the confidence, practical skills and experience to succeed.

## LIBRARY LOVE

Our library is one of the most-loved spaces on campus — packed with resources, journals and expert staff to help with your projects and dissertations.





## SHAPING YOUR FUTURE PREPARED FOR SUCCESS



We're here to help you succeed — in your studies, your career, and beyond. With exceptional graduate employment rates and a focus on professional readiness, a Stranmillis degree opens doors everywhere. Your future starts here.

### REAL-WORLD EXPERIENCE

Professional placements are at the heart of our degree programmes, allowing you to apply your learning in real-world settings. These learning experiences help you build confidence, develop networks, hit the ground running upon graduation.



### CAREERS SUPPORT

Our Careers Team is here for you throughout your degree and for two years after graduation — offering tailored advice, employability workshops, networking events and employer connections - helping you take the next step with confidence.

### STAND OUT FROM THE CROWD

Our Degree Enhancement programme allows you to extend your learning and boost your CV through additional short courses, leadership roles, community engagement, and specialised awards — all designed to help you stand out to employers.



### GO GLOBAL

A Stranmillis degree opens doors across the world. Education is a global force and our graduates are making an impact in classrooms, communities, and organisations worldwide. Wherever your ambitions take you, you'll be ready to lead and inspire.



## A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITY



Adventure awaits! We believe in learning through experience — and that includes discovering the world. Every student has the opportunity to enjoy a transformative study, volunteer or work abroad experience as part of their degree programme; an experience that enriches your studies, expands your worldview, and enhances your employability.

### STUDY THE WORLD

Through the UK Government's Turing Scheme, you can study and gain professional experience at one of our 30 partner universities across Europe and beyond, developing both academically and personally.



### EXPLORE THE WORLD

From Study USA to short placements in the UAE, Thailand and beyond, our International Team can help you find your perfect adventure. These experiences allow you to immerse yourself in new cultures while gaining unique professional perspectives.



### MAKE A DIFFERENCE OVERSEAS

Stranmillis students are encouraged to engage in international volunteering projects through partnerships with charities such as Fields of Life and Saphara. These life-changing experiences make a tangible difference in communities across India and Uganda.



### A GLOBAL CAMPUS

We are proud of our vibrant, multicultural student community. By welcoming students from around the world, we create a rich environment of shared learning, understanding, and global citizenship.



## SUPPORTING YOU STUDENTS AT THE CENTRE



At Stranmillis, your wellbeing and success are our priority. From the moment you arrive, you'll have the support, guidance and encouragement you need to thrive and grow, academically, professionally, personally and socially.

### YOUR WELLBEING FIRST

Our Student Support Team offers counselling, advice, and wellbeing programmes and events designed to help you stay balanced and happy and navigate university life with confidence.



### MENTORS WHO CARE

With a Personal Tutor and Peer Mentor by your side, you'll always have someone to turn to for advice or just a friendly chat. From day-to-day academic support to helping you with the practical skills needed to succeed at university, a familiar and supportive face is always on hand to help.



### FAITH AND COMMUNITY

Our chaplains offer a safe, welcoming space for students of all faiths and beliefs, promoting respect and connection across campus.

### INCLUSIVE FOR ALL

We are committed to inclusivity and equality of opportunity, offering tailored support for students of all abilities and backgrounds, with tailored disability services and widening access initiatives to help everyone succeed.



### PROVEN SATISFACTION

Our consistently high results in the National Student Survey reflect the exceptional quality of teaching and learning, student support and wellbeing, and overall university experience that define Stranmillis.



# STUDENT VOICES

## WHAT OUR STUDENTS HAVE TO SAY?

### **Sarah** BEd Post-Primary

#### **What is the most enjoyable thing about your course?**

The most enjoyable thing is how the lecturers get to know you on a personal level and genuinely want to see you succeed.

#### **Tell us about life in Halls?**

Life in halls is brilliant for making lifelong friends. We have such good fun and it's so handy for getting to class.

#### **Tell us about your work-based placements?**

I've had one placement in a primary school and my other in a post primary school. Throughout my two placements, I have felt very supported and have learnt so much from the teachers I've been with and from the advice my placement tutors have given me.

### **Josh** BEd Post-Primary

#### **What have you enjoyed most about being a Stranmillis student?**

The community and atmosphere.

#### **How would you describe the campus?**

The campus is small enough that travelling about it is easy, but is still packed with everything a student needs.

#### **Tell us about activities you have been involved in?**

I have been involved in panto, Strictly and SU exec. These different activities really highlight the community and teamwork that is foundational within Stran both with students but also staff and lecturers.

### **Rebecca** BEd Primary

#### **What is the most enjoyable thing about your course?**

Seminar classes, they are very hands on and interactive. This is where I learn the most.

#### **Tell us about life in Halls?**

Life in halls is enjoyable. It is a good way to make friends with people from different courses and years.

#### **How supported do you feel?**

I feel very supported. There are lots of people to go to if I need help. Everyone is open to answer any questions that I may have.



### **Felicity** BA Early Childhood Studies (Part-time)

#### **What is the most enjoyable thing about your course?**

I have really enjoyed meeting new people and making new friendships. I have challenged myself, and had a lot of personal growth throughout my time at Stranmillis.

#### **How supported do you feel?**

There is lots of support available from tutors and at the end of every lecture, tutors check in with us to check that we have not been overwhelmed, that we are on track with the work.

#### **How would you describe the course overall?**

It is so interesting and relevant to anybody who is working with young children. There's so much information available on various aspects of child development social and holistic learning.





## STUDENT VOICES WHAT OUR STUDENTS HAVE TO SAY?

**Jessica**  
BSc Physical Education and Sport

**What is the most enjoyable thing about your course?**

The depth that it goes into. The course content is good and it gives us good knowledge for our future careers. The course also creates pathways for those who do not wish to go into teaching.

**What have you enjoyed most about being a Stranmillis student?**

That I've been a student rep twice and the knowledge I have developed to help gain a career.

**Phebe**  
BCs Physical Education and Sport

**What have you enjoyed most about being a Stranmillis student?**

The environment is friendly, staff are supportive and helpful, and student accommodation is great.

**Tell us about life in Halls?**

Comfortable living space, enjoyable social environment, good food.

**What is the most enjoyable thing about your course?**

Range and depth of subjects.

## DESCRIBE STRANMILLIS IN THREE WORDS

**Leah**  
BEd Primary

Homely  
Exciting  
Safe

**Cormac**  
BEd Post-Primary

Community  
Development  
Guidance

**Ryan**  
BA ECS

Enjoyable  
Engaging  
Community

**Rebecca**  
BEd Primary

Fun  
Inclusive  
Rewarding

**Felicity**  
BA ECS

Welcoming  
Encouraging  
Engaging

**Jessica**  
BSc PES

Small  
Specialist  
Green

**Kezia**  
BEd Primary

Busy  
Rewarding  
Nurturing





## RESEARCH THAT MATTERS

At Stranmillis, educational research isn't something that happens behind closed doors. It isn't just theory - it's about real change. It shapes what and how we teach every day. Our academic staff are leading pioneering research and tackling big educational issues such as educational underachievement, early years learning, special educational needs, pupil wellbeing, playful learning and pastoral care.

This means you're learning from people who are changing education — in classrooms, communities, and countries across the world. As a Stranmillis student, you're part of that impact, helping to shape the future of learning for generations to come.

That commitment to research excellence ensures that your degree is not only academically rigorous but also relevant to the challenges of today's world.



## EXPLORING OUR COURSES

Stranmillis University College offers the following full-time and part-time undergraduate and foundation degree courses:

### EARLY CHILDHOOD STUDIES

P30 BA (Hons) Early Childhood Studies (Full-time)  
P31 BA (Hons) Early Childhood Studies (Part-time)  
P32 Foundation Degree Early Childhood Studies

### INITIAL TEACHER EDUCATION

P36 BEd (Hons) Post-primary, Business and Enterprise  
P37 BEd (Hons) Post-primary, Mathematics  
P38 BEd (Hons) Post-primary, Religious Studies  
P39 BEd (Hons) Post-primary, Technology and Design  
P40 BEd (Hons) Post-primary subsidiary subjects  
P42 BEd (Hons) Primary

### PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORT

P46 BSc (Hons) Physical Education and Sport  
P47 Foundation Degree Physical Education and Sport

# UNDERGRADUATE ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS 2027

Programme	UCAS Code	A-Level Requirements	Subject Requirements	GCSE Requirements
BEd (Hons) Primary	X120	AAB	No subject requirement	English, Mathematics and Science grade C
BEd (Hons) Post-primary Business and Enterprise	N1X3	BBC	At least one from Business Studies, Economics or Accounting	English and Mathematics grade C
BEd (Hons) Post-primary Mathematics	XG10	BCC	Mathematics	English and Mathematics grade C
BEd (Hons) Post-primary Religious Studies	XVC6	BBB	Religious Studies	English and Mathematics grade C
BEd (Hons) Post-primary Technology and Design	XW12	BCC	At least one from Technology and Design, Computing or Physics	English and Mathematics grade C
BA (Hons) Early Childhood Studies	X310	BBB	No subject requirement	English and Mathematics grade C
Foundation Degree Early Childhood Studies	LX53	CC	No subject requirement	English and Mathematics grade C
BSc (Hons) Physical Education and Sport	LL34	BBC	At least one from Sports Studies, Physical Education, Biology, Leisure Studies, Home Economics or Health and Social Care	English, Mathematics and Science grade C
Foundation Degree Physical Education and Sport	52L7	CC	At least one from Sports Studies, Physical Education, Biology, Leisure Studies, Home Economics or Health and Social Care	English and Mathematics grade C

Programme	Access Course Requirements	Irish Leaving Certificate Requirements
BEd (Hons) Primary	70% Average in Level 3 modules.	H2 H3 H3 H3 H3 H3. Minimum O4 required in Maths, English and a Science.
BEd (Hons) Post-primary Business and Enterprise	65% Average in Level 3 modules, to include 65% in a Business related module.	H3 H3 H3 H3 H4 to include Business, Economics or Accounting. Minimum O4 required in Maths and English.
BEd (Hons) Post-primary Mathematics	65% Average in Level 3 modules in a Mathematics based Access course.	H3 H3 H3 H3 H4 to include Mathematics. Minimum O4 required in English.
BEd (Hons) Post-primary Religious Studies	65% Average in Level 3 modules to include at least one Humanities related module.	H3 H3 H3 H3 H4 H4 to include Religious Studies. Minimum O4 required in Maths and English.
BEd (Hons) Post-primary Technology and Design	65% Average in Level 3 modules in a Technology, Engineering or Computing Access course.	H3 H3 H3 H3 H4 to include either Technology and Design, Computing or Physics. Minimum O4 required in Maths and English.
BA (Hons) Early Childhood Studies	65% Average in Level 3 modules.	H3 H3 H3 H3 H4 H4. Minimum O4 required in Maths and English.
Foundation Degree Early Childhood Studies	55% Average in Level 3 modules.	H5 H5 H5 H5 H5. Minimum O4 required in Maths and English.
BSc (Hons) Physical Education and Sport	65% Average in Level 3 modules in Access course containing Sport/Health/Biology related modules.	H3 H3 H3 H3 H4 to include Biology. Minimum O4 required in Maths and English.
Foundation Degree Physical Education and Sport	55% Average in Level 3 modules in Access course containing Sport/Health/Biology related modules.	H5 H5 H5 H5 H5 to include Biology. Minimum O4 required in Maths and English.

\*Applicants studying National Extended Certificate/OCR Cambridge Technical Introductory Diploma/Extended Certificate Level 3 in lieu of A Levels should note the below equivalents. Please note that the below is stated in terms of an overall grade.

A Level Grade	OCR Cambridge Technical Introductory Diploma/Extended Certificate – Level 3/ BTEC (RQF) National Extended Certificate -Level 3 Equivalent
A	Distinction*
B	Distinction
C	Merit



# EARLY CHILDHOOD STUDIES

At Stranmillis University College, your journey into early childhood education and care begins with curiosity and compassion—and leads to a career that changes lives.

If you're passionate about helping children grow, learn, and thrive, our Early Childhood Studies degree programmes offer the perfect foundation for a rewarding and meaningful career. Rooted in the philosophy of Educare—the seamless blend of education and care—the programmes give you a deep understanding of how young children think, learn, and develop. You'll explore how to nurture their potential in the vital early years of life, gaining the skills, insight, and confidence to make a real difference in their lives.

We believe in a collaborative approach to early childhood education.

You'll learn to work effectively with families, professionals, and communities, building the multi-professional understanding that's essential in today's early childhood sector.

This is more than a degree—it's your opportunity to shape the future of the next generation while building a career that truly matters.

## PATHWAYS AVAILABLE

- BA (Hons) Early Childhood Studies (Full-time)
- BA (Hons) Early Childhood Studies (Part-time)
- Foundation Degree in Early Childhood Studies (Full-time and Part-time)

## TEACHING AND LEARNING

Your learning experience combines engaging lectures, interactive tutorials, and collaborative group projects with extensive, hands-on placements. From your first year, you'll gain real-world experience working directly with children, guided and supported by an expert team of early years professionals.

Every aspect of your study is designed to help you connect theory with practice. To support this, all students are required to obtain AccessNI and/or Trust clearance during their first and third years of study.

## PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

Professional practice sits at the heart of all our Early Childhood Studies programmes. You'll spend time working directly with children aged 0–8, developing your practical skills and understanding of early learning environments.

- **Full-time BA students** complete a combination of weekly day visits and block placements in settings such as Playgroups, Nurseries, Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 classrooms.
- **Part-time students** arrange placements in a structured early childhood setting for at least 7–10 hours per week—through employment or voluntary work.

These placements are your opportunity to apply what you learn, to grow in confidence, and to develop your professional identity.



## STUDY ABROAD

Broaden your horizons with the chance to study abroad at one of our international partner Universities. You'll experience early childhood education in a new cultural context and gain a truly global perspective on your future profession.

## ASSESSMENT

Assessment throughout the course is varied, engaging, and designed to reflect both academic and professional learning. You'll complete essays, group projects, and presentations, alongside a final dissertation. Your progress in professional practice placements is also assessed—ensuring that your practical expertise grows hand in hand with your academic achievement.

## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Developed in partnership with employers and industry experts, our degree programmes prepare you to thrive in a wide range of early years roles. Our graduates work across nurseries, preschools, primary schools, crèches, and family centres—empowered to lead, support, and inspire young learners every day.

Whether you aspire to teach, manage, or advocate for children and families, an Early Childhood Studies degree from Stranmillis opens doors to a fulfilling and impactful career.



## BA (HONS) EARLY CHILDHOOD STUDIES (FULL-TIME)

**A-level Requirements:** BBB

**Duration:** 3 years

**UCAS Code:** X310

The full-time degree is built around three core themes:

- **Understanding the Child**
- **The Child in the Learning Context**
- **The Child in the Family and Community**

Taking account of the latest research, the programme reflects the interdisciplinary, multi-professional nature of contemporary early childhood services, equipping you to meet the challenges and opportunities of early childhood practice.

### WHAT YOU'LL STUDY

Typical modules you will study on the course include:

- Children's Learning Intentions
- Social and Developmental Learning
- Childhood in Society
- Children's Health and Wellbeing
- Partnership with Children and Families
- Children in the Early Years Environment
- Management, Leadership and Professionalism
- Early Years Curriculum (Ages 3-8)
- Curiosity and the Child



## BA (HONS) EARLY CHILDHOOD STUDIES (PART-TIME)

**A-level Requirements:** BBB

**Duration:** 4 years

**UCAS Code:** Apply direct to SUC

If you're already working in early years education and want to advance your qualifications while continuing to work, the part-time BA (Hons) offers the perfect balance. You'll study the same modules as the full-time programme but over four years, blending professional experience with academic learning.

This flexible pathway is available at Stranmillis University College and regional partner colleges, including South West College (Omagh) and, for those holding qualifications at Level V [QCF framework] or higher, Southern Regional College (Newry) and North West Regional College (Derry/Londonderry).

### WHAT YOU'LL STUDY

Typical modules you will study on the course include:

- Children's Learning Intentions
- Social and Developmental Learning
- Childhood in Society
- Children's Health and Wellbeing
- Partnership with Children and Families
- Children in the Early Years Environment
- Management, Leadership, and Professionalism
- Early Years Curriculum (Ages 3-8)
- Curiosity and the Child





## FOUNDATION DEGREE EARLY CHILDHOOD STUDIES

**A-level Requirements:** CC

**Duration:** 2 years (Full-time) or 3 years (Part-time)

**UCAS Code:** LX53

The Foundation Degree provides a strong platform for anyone aspiring to work with children aged 0–8. You'll explore key theories, principles, and practical strategies for supporting children's learning, wellbeing, and development across diverse early years settings.

### WHERE YOU CAN STUDY

The Foundation Degree is delivered at partner colleges across Northern Ireland, including:

- Belfast Metropolitan College
- North West Regional College (Derry/Londonderry)
- Northern Regional College (Ballymena and Newtownabbey)
- South Eastern Regional College (Lisburn and Newtownards)
- South West College (Omagh)
- Southern Regional College (Newry)

### WHAT YOU'LL STUDY

- Child Development
- Acquisition of Language and Communication Skills
- Learning through Play
- Safeguarding Children
- Developing Skills and Strategies for Managing Behaviour
- Working with Children with Additional Needs
- Anti-Discriminatory Practice and Inclusion
- Working with Babies (0–3 Years)

### PROGRESSION

Students who achieve the required academic standards on their Foundation Degree can progress directly into the second stage of the BA (Hons) Early Childhood Studies programme at Stranmillis.





# INITIAL TEACHER EDUCATION

Have you the passion and desire to help children learn and grow? Do you want to make a real difference in their lives and help them reach their full potential, both inside and outside the classroom? If you believe education can change lives, you're already halfway to becoming the kind of teacher today's world needs.

At Stranmillis, we don't train teachers; we shape educators who ignite curiosity, build confidence and create brighter futures. Our Initial Teacher Education (ITE) programmes go beyond preparing you to deliver lessons—they equip you with the knowledge, skills, and hands-on experience to become an effective, confident, and compassionate teacher. Whether your passion is teaching primary or post-primary students, our ITE courses prepare you to lead and inspire the next generation.

## GET INTO TEACHING

Stranmillis offers five distinct ITE pathways:

### Primary Education:

**BEd (Hons) Primary Education** – Focus on teaching all areas of the Northern Ireland Curriculum with a specialist area of learning.

### Post-primary Education:

- **BEd (Hons) Post-primary:** Business and Enterprise – Prepare to teach business-related subjects while understanding how enterprises thrive.

- **BEd (Hons) Post-primary:** Mathematics – Develop logical thinking, problem-solving, and in-depth mathematical knowledge to inspire learners.

- **BEd (Hons) Post-primary:** Religious Studies – Explore ethics, philosophy, and faith to teach RE inclusively and insightfully.

- **BEd (Hons) Post-primary:** Technology and Design – Combine creativity and cutting-edge tech to teach design, manufacturing, and systems.

## PROFESSIONAL ACCREDITATION

At Stranmillis, our teaching degrees are accredited by the General Teaching Council (Northern Ireland). On graduation, you'll gain Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) - allowing you to teach in schools across Northern Ireland and recognised in many other regions of the UK and beyond.

## WHAT YOU WILL STUDY

Across all our ITE programmes, you'll explore what it means to teach, how students learn, and how to create inclusive, engaging classrooms that support every learner.

Core study areas include:

- **Education Studies** – explore how children and young people learn through modules such as Child Development and Learning, The Psychology of Education, Inclusion and Diversity, Special Educational Needs, and Education and Society.
- **Professional Practice** – school based work is central to all our ITE programmes. Each year, you'll spend approximately 9 weeks in schools, gaining first-hand experience and developing your classroom presence. In year 3, you will undertake an additional two week placement in a special educational needs setting and, in Year 4, a two week Insight Placement that lets you explore an alternative educational setting.
- **Subject modules** - depending on your chosen pathway, you'll study a range of subject-related modules. Primary students dive into Curriculum Studies and choose an Area of Specialism to explore in depth. Post-primary students focus on their Main Subject and select a Subsidiary Subject to broaden their teaching expertise.

## TEACHING AND LEARNING

Your journey will be hands-on, engaging and supported every step of the way. Your learning experience will combine lectures, tutorials, workshops, and collaborative projects complemented by school-based placements, working alongside experienced teachers who'll mentor and guide you. You'll learn how to connect theory with practice, build confidence in your teaching, and discover your own unique classroom style.

## ASSESSMENT

Assessment is varied, practical, and designed to help you grow as a reflective educator. You'll be evaluated through essays, group projects, presentations, e-portfolios, exams, and classroom practice. In your final year, you'll complete a research dissertation focused on an educational issue that interests you most.

## STUDY ABROAD OPPORTUNITY

In Year 3, you can spend a semester abroad at one of our partner universities across Europe, the USA, or beyond. This is a unique opportunity to gain international teaching experience, discover new cultures, and see how education works in different parts of the world.

## YOUR FUTURE CAREER

Teaching is one of the most rewarding and in-demand careers available, and Stranmillis graduates consistently enjoy some of the highest graduate employment rates in Northern Ireland. Many of our graduates go on to successful teaching careers across the UK and abroad, while others use their skills in areas such as youth work, education policy, curriculum development, and community leadership.



## BEd (HONS) POST-PRIMARY: BUSINESS AND ENTERPRISE

**A-level Requirements:** BBC

**Duration:** 4 years

**UCAS Code:** N1X3

Fascinated by the world of business? Passionate about entrepreneurship? Ready to inspire the next generation of innovators and problem-solvers? The Business and Enterprise pathway equips you to teach business-related subjects at Key Stage 4 and post-16 level. You'll gain a deep understanding of business theory, entrepreneurship, and contemporary industry practices while developing the skills to create engaging lessons that connect classroom learning to real-world contexts.

### WHAT YOU'LL STUDY

The BEd Post-primary degree programmes are built around three core strands — Education Studies, Professional Practice and your Main and Subsidiary subject. Through practical, forward-thinking modules, you'll explore how organisations operate and make strategic decisions in today's dynamic marketplace. You'll also learn innovative teaching approaches that bring key business concepts to life, sparking curiosity, creativity, and ambition in your students.

#### Typical modules include:

- Marketing
- Managing People
- Economics
- Financial Accounting
- Managing Projects
- Operations Management
- Enterprising Teaching
- Business planning and strategy

Alongside your main subject, you will also study a **Subsidiary Subject** to broaden your teaching expertise.



## BEd (HONS) POST-PRIMARY: MATHEMATICS

**A-level Requirements:** BCC

**Duration:** 4 years

**UCAS Code:** XG10

Passionate about numbers, logic, and problem-solving? This pathway prepares you to teach Mathematics in post-primary schools, giving you the tools to ignite a love for the subject in your students while deepening your own understanding. The course will strengthen your understanding of mathematical theory while learning how to make maths engaging, accessible and exciting for every student.

### WHAT YOU'LL STUDY

The BEd Post-primary degree programmes are built around three core strands — Education Studies, Professional Practice and your Main and Subsidiary subject. The Mathematics pathway is designed to equip you with the knowledge, confidence and creativity to turn complex ideas into meaningful, engaging lessons that help students make sense of the world through maths. You'll develop your mathematical expertise, learn how to bring abstract concepts to life, and inspire young people to think critically and logically.

#### Typical modules include:

- Linear Algebra
- Calculus
- Complex Numbers
- Mechanics
- Statistics and Probability Theory
- Theory of Sets
- Theory of Numbers
- Advanced Geometry
- History and Philosophy of Mathematics (Project)

Alongside your main subject, you will also study a **Subsidiary Subject** to broaden your teaching expertise.



## BEd (HONS) POST-PRIMARY: RELIGIOUS STUDIES

**A-level Requirements:** BBB

**Duration:** 4 years

**UCAS Code:** XVC6

Exploring some of life's big questions, the course covers everything from Biblical studies to philosophy and ethics, preparing you to teach Religious Studies at post-primary level. With an emphasis on inclusion, diversity and critical openness, you will develop a deepening personal awareness and understanding of religion and religious issues. Students on the course come from a range of religious backgrounds or of no religion.

### WHAT YOU'LL STUDY

This course will develop your knowledge of religion, philosophy, and ethics while equipping you with the skills to inspire discussion, empathy, and understanding in your students. You'll study how belief systems shape people and societies, and you'll learn to guide young people as they think critically about their own values and the world around them.

#### Typical modules include:

- Biblical Studies
- Early Church History
- Eastern Religions
- Philosophy of Religion
- Ethics
- Theology

You'll also select a **Subsidiary Subject** to complement your teaching practice.



## BEd (HONS) POST-PRIMARY: TECHNOLOGY AND DESIGN

**A-level Requirements:** BCC

**Duration:** 4 years

**UCAS Code:** XW12

If you're creative, curious and love exploring how technology shapes the world, this course is a perfect fit. The Technology and Design pathway prepares you to teach practical, innovative, and technology-focused subjects, inspiring and preparing students to design, make, and think differently.

### WHAT YOU'LL STUDY

The programme blends cutting-edge technological knowledge with professional teaching skills, giving you the confidence to teach subjects such as Product Design, Systems, CAD/CAM, along with emerging technologies such as robotics, 3D printing, and drones.

#### Typical modules include:

- Advanced Manufacturing, Materials and Processes
- Product Analysis, Design and Manufacture
- Computer-Aided Design (CAD) and Manufacture (CAM)
- Systems Design: Mechatronics
- Electronics, Mechanisms and Pneumatics

Alongside your main subject, you'll choose a **Subsidiary Subject** to expand your classroom expertise.



# POST-PRIMARY SUBSIDIARY SUBJECTS

Your BEd (Hons) Post-primary degree gives you the freedom to shape your studies around your interests and strengths. Alongside your main subject, you'll choose one subsidiary subject that you can normally teach to Key Stage 3 or GCSE level.

## AVAILABLE SUBSIDIARY SUBJECTS:

- Computer Science
- English
- KS3 Science
- Mathematics
- Physical Education
- Religious Studies

## COMPUTER SCIENCE

Computing skills are hugely important in today's digital world, with pupils engaging in coding and algorithmic thinking from as early as 8 years old. This early exposure helps foster natural development in problem-solving, creativity, and confidence building thus empowering children to become creators rather than passive users of technology. You'll learn how to teach the theories of computing, develop problem-solving strategies and engage in digital literacy in a way that excites young learners. From coding to exploring how tech shapes the modern world, you'll help students become enthusiastic about their futures while empowering them to examine and develop their own unique contribution to this area of learning.

## ENGLISH

Words have power — and as an English teacher, you'll use them to open minds, spark imagination and help students find their own voice. This subsidiary covers both English Literature, giving you the skills to teach poetry, prose, drama and creative writing and the application of English, focusing on the pedagogy of teaching both English Language and Literature. You'll take part in Fighting Words creative writing workshops and run reading sessions for visiting school pupils, building your confidence and creativity as a communicator. If you love storytelling, discussion and bringing literature to life, English is a perfect complement to your main subject.

## KS3 SCIENCE

Science is all about curiosity — asking questions, making discoveries and understanding how the world works. This subsidiary prepares you to teach Biology, Chemistry and Physics up to Key Stage 3, giving you a solid grounding across all three disciplines. You'll explore practical lab work, experiment design and the latest ideas in science education, all while developing your ability to make complex concepts accessible and engaging. With hands-on sessions, co-teaching and video-supported feedback, you'll gain the skills and confidence to inspire the next generation of scientists.

## MATHEMATICS

Mathematics is at the heart of so many subjects — from business and technology to engineering and science. Choosing maths as your subsidiary lets you build on your existing knowledge and develop new ways to make numbers come alive in the classroom. You'll strengthen your understanding of key mathematical concepts and discover how to teach them in ways that are clear, relevant and rewarding. Schools highly value teachers with the flexibility to teach maths, so this choice can significantly enhance your career prospects.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

If you are passionate about physically educating children and young people, then PE is the subsidiary subject for you. You will explore how a physical education contributes to the development of a person's physical literacy as it provides an opportunity for learners to develop their physical competence as well as their knowledge and understanding of movement, their motivation to be active and their confidence when moving. Choosing to study PE means you will learn how to create inclusive, engaging and child-centred PE lessons across a range of curricular activity areas — from games and athletics to swimming and dance. Alongside theory in areas like child development, motor skill learning and PE philosophy, you will gain plenty of practical experience to teach PE both on campus and during school placements. A genuine enthusiasm for physical activity is essential — but formal qualifications in PE are not required.

## RELIGIOUS STUDIES

This subsidiary subject invites students to think deeply about life, belief and values - exploring big questions like "What does it mean to be human?", "Why is there pain and suffering?" and "How do we decide what's right and wrong?" - and prepares students to teach Religious Studies up to GCSE level. You'll study topics such as biblical studies, world religions, philosophy and ethics, deepening your understanding of religious thought and moral reasoning, developing the insight and empathy to lead meaningful discussions in the classroom. Religious Studies is about understanding people, cultures and perspectives — skills that are not only essential in education but invaluable in the wider world.



## BEd (HONS) PRIMARY EDUCATION

**A-level Requirements:** AAB

**Duration:** 4 years

**UCAS Code:** X120

If you're passionate about working with children, shaping young minds, and inspiring a love of learning, the BEd (Hons) Primary Education degree is for you. You'll learn how to create stimulating, inclusive classrooms where every child feels valued and motivated to reach their full potential. Your studies will combine theory, research and professional experience to help you grow into a confident, reflective, and innovative teacher.

### WHAT YOU'LL STUDY

The BEd Primary degree is built around three core strands — Education Studies, Curriculum Studies, and Professional Practice — along with an Area of Specialism that allows you to explore one subject in greater depth.

#### Curriculum Studies

Curriculum Studies gives you the essential knowledge and understanding of the Northern Ireland Curriculum. You'll develop creative and practical ways to teach across all curriculum areas, including:

- Language and Literacy
- Mathematics and Numeracy
- The Arts (Art, Music, Drama)
- STEM Education (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics)
- Religious Education
- Physical Education
- Personal Development and Mutual Understanding (PDMU)
- The World Around Us

#### Area of Specialism

In Years 1–3, you'll choose one Area of Specialism to study in more depth, allowing you to develop expertise and confidence in a subject that inspires you.





# PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORT

From playgrounds to pitches and podiums, physical activity can transform and enrich lives. If you are passionate about helping others enjoy more active and healthy lives, then a Physical Education (PE) and Sport programme will provide a gateway to careers that will enable you to realise your aspiration to do so. You will explore how PE and Sport can contribute to the development of a person's physical literacy as it provides an opportunity for learners to develop their physical competence as well as their knowledge and understanding of movement, their motivation to be active and their confidence when moving. Choosing to study PE and Sport means you will learn, via practical and theoretical

learning experiences, how to create and deliver inclusive, engaging and child-centred PE lessons and Sport sessions across a diverse range of physical activity areas including games, athletics, gymnastics, cycling, yoga, swimming and dance.

## CHOOSE YOUR PATHWAY

You can study Physical Education and Sport in two ways:

1. **BSc (Hons) Physical Education and Sport**
2. **Foundation Degree Physical Education and Sport**

## HOW YOU'LL LEARN

Learning experiences are practical, theoretical, interactive and participatory. They all have strong links to the graduate-level employment opportunities in the PE and Sport sectors to ensure you are career-ready for when you graduate. Content is delivered through lectures, seminars, tutorials, workshops and practical sessions in various learning environments including on-campus lecture theatres, seminar rooms, sports hall, 3G pitch, Multi-Use Games Areas (MUGA), outdoor classroom and other natural spaces as we are an eco campus. We also promote off-campus learning through group site visits to partner organisations, e.g., to schools and leisure centres, as well as individual site visits to work placement hosts, e.g., a national governing body (NGB) of sport.

## ASSESSMENT

Your progress is assessed through creative, varied assessments that mirror the challenges of the professional world. You will complete essays, group projects, presentations, exams, placements, and digital media assignments (like podcasts, e-newsletters, websites and webinars), finishing with a final dissertation. These experiences will refine your interpersonal and intrapersonal skills, e.g., communication, teamwork, leadership, and problem-solving skills, to prepare you for graduate level employment in the PE and Sport sectors.



## CAREER PROSPECTS

This degree opens doors to a wide range of rewarding, high-impact careers, including:

- Primary or secondary teaching with a specialism in PE (via a Post-Graduate Certificate in Education)
- Sport coaching
- Sport development
- Health and wellbeing
- Physical activity-related research (masters and/or doctoral level)

Whether your passion lies in teaching PE, coaching sport, developing sport, promoting public health and/or generating physical activity-related research, this course equips you to turn that passion into a profession that could help transform and enrich lives.



## BSC (HONS) PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORT

**A-level Requirements:** BBC

**Duration:** 3 years

**UCAS Code:** LL34

The **BSc (Hons)** pathway is an exciting, multidisciplinary degree designed to develop your expertise within PE and Sport. It entails learning how to motivate, teach and empower others to live active lives. You will explore key topics such as practical studies in PE and Sport, exercise physiology, sport psychology, sport nutrition, and sport development — giving you the knowledge and confidence to lead in a range of PE and Sport careers.

### Typical modules include:

- Practical Studies in PE and Sport
- Active Schools
- Sport Development
- Exercise Science
- Sociology of Health and Sport
- Sports Nutrition
- Sport and Exercise Psychology

### PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

You'll gain hands-on experience through placements that connect your learning to real-world professional environments — from schools and sports clubs to community health projects.

### STUDY ABROAD

In your second year, you can broaden your horizons by studying and completing a professional placement at one of our international partner universities, gaining invaluable global experience and insights into Physical Education and Sport in another country.



## FOUNDATION DEGREE PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORT

**Typical modules include:**

- Practical Studies
- Physical Activity, Lifestyle and Wellbeing
- Physical Activity and Sport for Specific Groups
- Fitness Testing and Training
- Event Management
- Anatomy and Physiology for Sport and Health
- Sport and Exercise Psychology

### PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

Work placements are an integral part of the course, helping you build professional experience and networks in the sector.

### PROGRESSION

Graduates who achieve the required academic standard can progress directly into Year 2 of the BSc (Hons) Physical Education and Sport at Stranmillis University College.



## FEES AND FINANCE

Student tuition fees payable are dependent on the 'residency' status of each student and are normally subject to an annual inflationary increase.

### FULL TIME TUITION FEES

Residency	2026-27
NI and ROI	£4,985
GB	£9,535 (To be confirmed)
EU (excluding ROI)	International fees apply

### PART TIME TUITION FEES

For up-to date part-time undergraduate tuition fees refer to:  
[www.stran.ac.uk/courses/fees-and-finance](http://www.stran.ac.uk/courses/fees-and-finance)

### PAYMENT OPTIONS

- Tuition Fee Loan via Student Loans Company (Contact your local Student Finance Authority for further Information)
- Pay in full
- Direct Debit instalment plan
- Sponsor

### BURSARIES AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The University College offers a range of bursaries and financial support to assist students who meet certain eligibility criteria:

- Financial Bursary
- Halls Accommodation Bursary
- Care Experience Student - Study Support Bursary
- Student Support Fund

### OTHER SOURCES OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Student Finance NI (or GB equivalent) can assist with a range of further financial support dependent on the applicant's personal circumstances including:

- Maintenance Loans / Grants
- Fee / Course Grants (Part Time Study only)

**NORTHERN IRELAND HAS THE LOWEST STUDENT LIVING COSTS IN THE UK.**

(NATIONAL STUDENT MONEY SURVEY)



We encourage all students to contact Student Finance NI (or GB equivalent) as early in the application process as possible.

Visit [www.studentfinanceni.co.uk](http://www.studentfinanceni.co.uk) for further information.

We're here to answer your questions:

E: [studentfinance@stran.ac.uk](mailto:studentfinance@stran.ac.uk)

T: 028 9038 4266

All the above information is correct at the time of publishing.  
Please visit [www.stran.ac.uk/courses/fees-and-finance](http://www.stran.ac.uk/courses/fees-and-finance) for the most up to date information.



# APPLICATIONS AND ADMISSIONS

## HOW TO APPLY

Applications for full-time undergraduate courses are made via UCAS, while applications for the Part-time BA Early Childhood Studies and the PGCE Early Years are made directly to Stranmillis University College.

- Institution code name: **SUCB**
- Institution code: **S79**

## APPLICATION DEADLINES

- UCAS applications for 2027 entry open in September 2026 and close mid-January 2027.
- Part-time BA Early Childhood Studies applications – please refer to the College website.
- PGCE Early Years applications - please refer to the College website.

## GENERAL ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must satisfy the general entrance requirements of Queen's University Belfast.

Specific A-level requirements are listed on individual course pages.

## ENHANCED ACCESSNI CHECK

All undergraduate and PGCE applicants are required to complete an Enhanced AccessNI check, administered by Stranmillis University College.

## DEFERRED ENTRY

Please note that deferred entry is not accepted at Stranmillis University College.

## MATURE STUDENTS

We warmly welcome mature applicants who may have been out of formal education. Qualifications such as Access courses, A-levels, Diplomas, Foundation Degrees, or Open University credits are accepted.

## DISABILITY, MEDICAL CONDITION OR SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

Stranmillis University College encourages applications from students with disabilities. We offer tailored support to ensure individual needs are met. Disclosure of disabilities will be treated confidentially and will not affect your application.

## MEDICAL FITNESS

All candidates must complete a health declaration before starting their course. Based on this, our medical officer may classify a student as fit or request further information.

## ACCURACY AND CHANGES TO PROGRAMMES

The University College regularly evaluates and updates its courses. Changes may be necessary to meet accreditation or research requirements, or due to circumstances beyond the University College's control. You will be notified of any changes after accepting your offer, with alternatives provided to minimise disruption. All entry requirements are correct at the time of publishing but are subject to change.

## TERMS AND CONDITIONS

By accepting an offer of admission, you enter into a contract with the University College. You will have a 14-day cooling-off period after accepting the offer. Please ensure you read and understand the full terms and conditions before acceptance.

## ADMISSIONS PROCESS

### BEd AND BA (FULL-TIME) PROGRAMMES

Applications are reviewed based on academic qualifications, personal statements, and references. All applicants must have a minimum grade C in GCSE English and Mathematics.

### PERSONAL STATEMENT REVIEW

Applicants must demonstrate a clear motivation for teaching (BEd) or working with young children (BA) in their personal statement. Experience working with children in a structured environment is essential.

### INTERVIEW AND PRESENTATION

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to an interview and presentation. Interview dates will be communicated in advance, and applicants will be assessed on both their presentation and interview responses.

### OFFERS

Offers are made based on interview scores and verification of qualifications. Final decisions will be communicated through UCAS.



### BA (HONS) EARLY CHILDHOOD STUDIES (PART-TIME)

For part-time applicants, the interview process includes a group discussion. Applicants must also secure a work placement involving children aged 0-8.

### BSc (HONS) PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORT

No interview is required for this programme. Conditional offers are made based on academic profile, including GCSE and AS-level performance.

### CONFIRMATION AND CLEARING

Following results in August, applicants who meet or exceed their offer conditions will be accepted. Those who slightly miss their offer conditions may still be considered, depending on interview scores and academic profiles.

# APPLYING TO STRANMILLIS?

## 1 Explore Your Options

Identify what matters most to you - location, areas of interest, career goals, requirements - and explore and compare different degrees and universities that match your criteria.

## 2 Visit our Open Day

Join us to explore the campus, meet current students and staff, and find out more about the courses that interest you, including what the admissions team is looking for in your application.

## 3 Apply through UCAS

Submit your application through UCAS. You can apply for up to five courses and can apply for multiple courses at Stranmillis. The UCAS application deadline is typically mid-January.

## 4 Interview and Presentation

If you have applied for a Teaching or Early Childhood Studies programme and have been shortlisted, you will be invited for an interview and presentation, usually held in early February.

## Apply for Accommodation

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Student accommodation is in high demand, so early application is advised. Stran Halls applications open in January 2026. Contact the Halls Office at [halls@stran.ac.uk](mailto:halls@stran.ac.uk) for more information.

## Offer Holder Event

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If you receive an offer, you will be invited to an offer holder information evening. This event will help you make informed decisions about your firm and insurance choices.

## Offers

5

Because of the interview stage, offers from Stranmillis are usually issued much later than other university courses.

## 8 Make your Firm and Insurance Choices

When you have received all your offers, you must accept a firm and insurance choice. The deadline for making your final decision is typically late May.

## 9 Results day

A pivotal day! Best of luck, and if you achieve the required results, we look forward to welcoming you soon.

## 10 Welcome to Stranmillis

To ease your transition into university life, we offer a complimentary Induction Residential for new students. This is an excellent opportunity to meet your peers, register, and settle in to university life.



**“Build your Path to Success”**



YOUR **FUTURE** AWAITS

**STRANMILLIS**  
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

A College of Queen's University Belfast



YOUR  
**FUTURE**  
AWAITS

**STRANMILLIS UNIVERSITY COLLEGE**

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