

Access & Widening Participation Programmes



“Widening Participation Programmes” and “Access Schemes” are brilliant opportunities to access information and support as you prepare for your next steps after college! They are offered by universities and educational charities to help level the playing field for those students who may face barriers to progressing into Higher Education (university).

Universities themselves select participants based on eligibility or priority criteria. These criteria vary on different programmes, but often include no parental HE, living in an area with low progression to university and household income below a certain threshold. If you don't meet the criteria, but have personal circumstances which have affected your studies, you may still be able to apply.

Each programme is different and offers different events throughout Year 12 and 13. These often include:

- Mentoring from current university students or professionals
- Guidance sessions and activities to help you make informed choices about your UCAS application
- Study days, seminars and workshops to hone your study and research skills
- Summer schools to improve your subject knowledge and submerge you in the university experience

Taking part in certain university-led programmes can also earn you guaranteed university interviews or offers, lower UCAS grade offers or mean that you are eligible for extra financial support during your time at university.

In this guide you will find information about some of the Widening Participation programmes we partner with. Many other universities and charities also offer similar schemes, so do some additional research or speak to the Realising Aspirations Coordinator at college (rcro@asfc.ac.uk)

Deadlines for applications will vary so be sure to check. Deadlines for programmes currently accepting applications are detailed below. If you need support with your application or want to check your eligibility, speak to the Realising Aspirations Coordinator or your Senior Tutor.



brilliant opportunities to access information



A2S is a programme of activities and resources to support your university application and help develop the skills you need to reach your potential as an undergraduate student. There are three main elements to the programme:

1. Academic Insight

A chance to gain insight into your chosen subject or wider discipline, through resources from academics and students. You can also access online sessions on skills needed for higher education. To consolidate your learning, we may ask you to submit short formative assessments based on the topics covered.

2. E-mentoring

Explore subject-focussed topics; receive advice on finance, the transition to uni and student life.

3. Skills and transition support

Applicants who complete the programme in full will be eligible to receive:

- Additional admissions consideration when you apply to the University
- £1000 scholarship in your first year of study
- Information about other opportunities throughout your degree

Access to Southampton (A2S) – University of Southampton

A1 Only
Apply Year 12

More information:

<https://www.southampton.ac.uk/schools-colleges/access-to-southampton.page>

How to apply:

Applications typically open in the Spring Term.



The APP supports high achieving Year 12 students from low income backgrounds across the UK to access top universities and careers. They offer support through their four pillars:

1. Mentoring by a professional
2. Tailored skills sessions and career workshops
3. University application support and guidance
4. Internships with top employers

There are two strands: APP City and APP Residential

APP City.

The above support is offered to students interested in: Accountancy, Architecture, Banking & Finance, Biology & Chemistry, Business, Digital, Engineering & Physics, Law, Media & Communications, Medicine, Politics, plus a general strand.

APP Residential

APP Residential offers the opportunity to undertake a one or two week, all expenses paid internship with a top employer in London, as well as university application support and a mentor from their placement employer. This programme is available to students interested in: Accountancy, Banking & Finance, Digital, Engineering & Physics, Law, Medicine.

Aspiring Professionals Programme – Social Mobility Foundation



More information:

<https://www.socialmobility.org.uk/programmes/>

You can check your eligibility here:

<https://www.socialmobility.org.uk/criteria-programmes/>

How to apply:

Applications are now open! Deadline: 12noon, 16th December.

Find the application form here:

<https://www.surveymoz.com/s3/5377083/APP2021/>

The Discover programme has been tailor made to give you the experience of what it is like to be a student at the University of Sheffield. The programme is split into five subject and career pathways so that you can apply to the one that sounds the most exciting, most interesting, or if you just want to try something new.

The pathways are:

- Discover Arts & Humanities and Social Sciences
- Discover Dental Professions
- Discover Law
- Discover STEM
- Discover Medicine

Students will attend lectures & workshops, a summer school, and will receive adjusted university offers & support with exam revision.



More information:

Check out the Discover brochure here: [Discover programme brochure](#).

Find more information on the website:

<https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/schools/programmes/discover>

How to apply:

Contact Rebecca in the Guidance Team (rcro@asfc.ac.uk) who will provide you with a link to the application portal. Deadline: 6th November



Discover Programme – University of Sheffield



If you live or study in Greater Manchester and your parents did not go to university but you would like to, First Generation is a programme that will support you on your journey. The programme gives practical support and application guidance to students in Year 12 and 13 to help you access and then transition to university.

If you progress through the programme onto a full-time undergraduate degree at Manchester Met, you'll get financial, and continued personal and professional support throughout your studies. You'll also qualify for a First Generation bursary of £1,000 and the opportunity to attend a fully-funded workplace residential.



How to apply:

(Year 12)

Currently open to applications from Year 12 students and expecting to remain open for the rest of the academic year. Apply via the website.

(Year 13)

Accepting applications from Year 13 students until 15th December. Apply via the website.

More information:

Find full details and eligibility criteria:

<https://www.mmu.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/how-to-apply/first-in-your-family-to-university#ai-2075-0>

First Generation Scheme – Manchester Metropolitan University

A blue clipboard with a white paper and a brown clip at the top. The text "Open to Year 12 + Year 13" is written on the paper in yellow.

Open to
Year 12
+
Year 13



MAP aims to support entry to Manchester, or another research-intensive university. It offers a programme of activities including skills workshops, subject-specific masterclasses, an academic assignment, and a two-day University Life conference.

For students who successfully complete the programme there are three main benefits:

- A supported admissions process if they want to apply to The University of Manchester, which allows them to receive guidance on their personal statement and an early decision on their application to Manchester.
- Upon successful completion of the Programme MAP students are eligible to receive a reduced offer of up to two A-level grades (or equivalent) below the standard entry offer at the University of Manchester. For example where the standard offer for a course is AAA, a MAP student will typically receive an offer of ABB. This reduction in grades is valid only upon successful completion of MAP and reflects the work students undertake to complete the Programme successfully.
- Students who successfully complete MAP and start an undergraduate course at the University of Manchester will receive the Undergraduate Access Scholarship (currently £1000 in the first year). Students from households where the income is below £25,000 per year will receive the award for each year of study.

Manchester Access Programme (MAP) – University of Manchester

A1 Only
Apply Year 12

More information:

<https://www.manchester.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/contextual-admissions/map/>

How to apply:

Applications will be open online from early November to mid-December.

As a Next Step York participant, you'll be welcomed to join the York community as a pre-entry student. This means you'll have the opportunity to experience what life and learning are really like at York. It all kicks off with the virtual launch event in December. This will prepare you to make the most of our wide range of virtual and face-to-face* opportunities between January and July.

You will have the freedom to design your own Next Step York programme and will have the opportunity to work with a Student Assistant who will offer guidance and insight throughout the programme. Each activity or event is worth credits (20 to 60 each) and you will be encouraged to build a complete programme of activities that totals 100 credits. A complete programme unlocks lots of additional benefits.

Next Step York – University of York



More information:

Find full programme details and eligibility criteria on the website:

<https://www.york.ac.uk/schools-and-colleges/post-16/next-step-york/>

How to apply:

Apply online between the first week of October and the 1st December.

NU Entry is a structured scheme for Year 12 students (or equivalent), attending schools/colleges in England and Northern Ireland, who meet specific academic and background criteria. By participating in the NU Entry Scheme students will be provided with the opportunity to develop skills necessary for successful undergraduate study and have the opportunity to earn 16 NU Entry points, which are the equivalent to UCAS tariff points when applying to Northumbria University.

There are two compulsory parts to the programme:

1. Application Process: Complete the application in full, which includes a reflective piece based on your chosen subject area
2. Attend the Conference: Applicants must attend the NU Entry Conference at Northumbria University. The conference will include tailored NU Entry sessions, an NU Entry Hub to answer all queries and a chance to talk to previous NU Entry students.

NU Entry students will also be invited to take part in further opportunities, such as e-mentoring in Year 13.



More information:

Find full programme details and eligibility criteria on the website:

<https://www.northumbria.ac.uk/study-at-northumbria/information-for-schools-and-colleges/northumbria-university-supported-entry-scheme/>

How to apply:

Applications take place online in the Spring Term, typically between January and May.



NU Entry – Northumbria University



A1 Only
Apply Year 12

OxNet



More information:

Find full programme details and eligibility criteria on the website:

<https://www.oxnet.org/>

How to apply:

Applications are open now and consist of two parts:
an application form and an essay question.

Apply via the website by the deadline: 9am on 9th November.

A1 Only
Apply Year 12



OxNet is an Access initiative run collaboratively between participating colleges at the University of Oxford, led by Pembroke College, other HE institutions across the United Kingdom, and secondary schools acting as "hubs" in London, the North West and the North East of England. OxNet takes 'widening participation' criteria into account when admitting students to the programme. OxNet is unapologetically academic in its focus and aims to support students to submit strong applications to competitive universities. OxNet runs intensive courses, involving a mixture of Study Days, Seminar Series, Easter Conferences, Summer Schools and Twilight Talks. For 2020/21, OxNet is offering courses in:

- Humanities & Social Sciences
- Languages
- Philosophy & World Religions
- STEM
- The Ordered Universe

This is a fantastic opportunity to interact with leading academics, experience life as an undergraduate at a leading UK university and expand your academic interests.

There are two compulsory parts to the programme:

1. Application Process: Complete the application in full, which includes a reflective piece based on your chosen subject area

2. Attend the Conference: Applicants must attend the NU Entry Conference at Northumbria University. The conference will include tailored NU Entry sessions, an NU Entry Hub to answer all queries and a chance to talk to previous NU Entry students.

NU Entry students will also be invited to take part in further opportunities, such as e-mentoring in Year 13.

The Pathways to Law programme at The University of Manchester is run in partnership with The Sutton Trust. The aim of this programme is to increase the educational opportunities for young people from certain under-represented backgrounds who are interested in a career in law. Pathways to Law offers an 18-month package of advice and opportunities, including work placements and networking opportunities, to young people, starting at the beginning of Year 12. It is designed to provide students with the resources and information to understand what it means both to study and practice law, and it has been very successful in attracting students to pursue a career in law.

Pathways to Law



More information:

Please see the Sutton Trust Website for full programme details and eligibility criteria:

<https://www.suttontrust.com/our-programmes/pathways-to-law/>

How to apply:

Apply now via the Sutton Trust website. ASFC students are eligible to apply for the programme in partnership with the University of Manchester. Deadline: Friday 9th October.

Reach for Excellence (RfE) is the flagship widening participation scheme at the University of Leeds. RfE provide impartial guidance and wide-ranging support for participants alongside their studies in Year 12 and Year 13, which can boost attainment at this level in addition to preparing them for independent study at university. Students who engage with the programme are invited to participate in a wide range of activities, including:

- Focused academic taster sessions across all university faculties
- University lecture “drop-ins” with tailored pre- and post-lecture support
- Opportunity to apply for vocational RfE strands tailored to Medicine, Dentistry, & Healthcare
- Access to a bespoke academic study and research skills programme
- Access to an online reflective learning tool to support individual development
- “Get Set for Uni” – practical sessions covering all aspects of preparing for university
- Finance and scholarships advice and guidance
- UCAS application support and guidance
- Individual UCAS personal statement surgeries
- Career information “Enrichment” activities designed to combine areas of academic interest, career exploration, and cultural experiences
- Flagship RfE Summer School – an intensive, 5-day residential experience

Reach for Excellence – University of Leeds



More information:

Find full programme details, activity timeline and eligibility criteria on the website:

<https://studenttalentspotting.leeds.ac.uk/rfeapply/>

How to apply:

Apply now via the website, where you can find extensive guidance on applying. Deadline: Thursday 19th November.

Realising Opportunities is a collaboration of 16 leading research intensive universities working together to promote fair access and social mobility of students from groups underrepresented in higher education.

The team works with allocated partner schools to recruit eligible students - recruitment takes place in the Autumn term, from September to early November. The programme starts for students in year 12 and runs through to the end of Y13. RO recruits 1500 students across all partner universities per year, around 70 at each institution.

The University of Leeds is the partner institution for Ashton Sixth Form College. The team organises events for students and administers a contextual offer for RO eligible UCAS applicants to the University. Students are eligible to receive reduced RO offers at all partner universities across the majority of courses.



Realising Opportunities



More information:
Find full programme details and eligibility criteria on the website:
<http://www.realisingopportunities.ac.uk/>

How to apply:
Applications will take place via the website from October to mid-November.

Target Oxbridge is a free programme that aims to help black African and Caribbean students and students of mixed race with black African and Caribbean heritage increase their chances of getting into the Universities of Oxford or Cambridge (known collectively as Oxbridge). Since launching in 2012, Target Oxbridge has helped over 200 students to secure Oxbridge offers.

The programme is open to UK-based students in Year 12. The students accepted onto the programme will be high attainers and priority will be given to applicants from state schools. The various strands of the programme focus on intellectual, cultural and social development irrespective of personal or economic barriers.

These strands include:

- Regular contact with a black or minority ethnic Oxbridge graduate to pinpoint your strengths, discuss your aspirations and identify areas for development.

- A tailored series of critical theory discussions, seminars, Oxbridge-style tutorials, visits to both universities and guest speaker events.

- Advice on making the right degree subject, university and college selection.

- Personalised advice on your personal statement, UCAS form, SAQ statement and other submitted materials including essays, statements of purpose and portfolios.

- Structured Oxbridge interview practice, test preparation sessions with trained markers/assessors and revision workshops.

- One-on-one mentoring.



Target Oxbridge



More information:

Find full programme details and eligibility criteria on the website:

<https://targetoxbridge.co.uk/>

How to apply:

You will be assessed through an online application form, (in some cases, both a telephone interview) and a face-to-face interview, which will involve a short written exercise.

Submit your application form via the website by 1st November.

The Widening Access to Medicine (WAM) programme is a series of 5 free events over years 12 and 13 designed primarily to support local students from state schools who have the ability and personal attributes to be successful in their application for a place in medical school. The WAM programme supports application to both the Foundation Year for Medicine and the undergraduate medical programme (MBChB) at Edge Hill University.

Students on the WAM programme will benefit from sessions delivered by academic staff and clinicians on all aspects of applying to medicine from UCAT, to UCAS and are encouraged to develop a personal portfolio to assist with their application. They will receive regular correspondence from our WAM team which will include additional learning resources and alerts relating to current healthcare issues.



More information:

Find full programme details, activity timeline and eligibility criteria on the website:

<https://www.edgehill.ac.uk/medicalschooll/widening-participation/widening-access-to-medicine/>

How to apply:

Apply now via the website. Deadline: 9pm on 31st October

Widening Access to Medicine (WAM) – Edge Hill University Medical School





Access to Leeds (A2L) is the University of Leeds' widening access scheme, run in parallel to the university's standard admissions process, which guarantees special consideration for applicants whose personal circumstances have affected their ability to demonstrate their talent and potential through grades alone.

The programme offers the opportunity to receive an offer up to 2 A-Level grades (or equivalent) lower than the standard university offer for that course. The scheme has registered over 6000 students since its inception in 2003, around 900 in the last cycle.

During September to February, students submit their A2L application via our online portal alongside an active UCAS application to the University. The team assesses applications for eligibility based on the scheme's eligibility criteria. If eligible and in receipt of a standard offer for their course, students will also receive a reduced A2L offer. During March – July, students complete the Access to Leeds module to prepare for HE study.

Access to Leeds (A2L) – University of Leeds



More information:

http://www.leeds.ac.uk/info/130588/access_to_leeds

How to apply:

Application forms will be available from late September.

Deadline for Medicine (A100) and Dental Surgery (A200) courses:
4th November 2020

Deadline for all other courses: 24th February 2021

Newcastle University's PARTNERS Programme Supported Entry Route has been running since the year 2000 and is one of the most well-established supported entry routes to Higher Education of its kind. Over 5000 students have studied at Newcastle University via the PARTNERS Programme. It offers a range of support and opportunities to help you make a successful application to Newcastle University.

Through the PARTNERS Programme you could:

- Receive a lower conditional offer of up to 3 grades lower than the standard offer.
- Take part in the PARTNERS Academic Summer School
- Develop skills necessary to be a successful student
- Meet other students and increase your confidence
- Receive support through the application process, on results day and after entering the University



More information:

To find out more and check your eligibility, visit the website:

www.ncl.ac.uk/partners

How to apply:

Apply via the website. Deadline: Friday 15th January 2021



PARTNERS Programme — Newcastle University

A blue clipboard icon with a brown clip at the top, containing the text "A2 Only Apply Year 13" in yellow.

A2 Only
Apply Year 13