















Access & Widening Participation Programmes



Brilliant opportunities to access information

"Widening Participation Programmes" and "Access Schmes" 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 various 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 suberse 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 Year 12 and Year 13 Widening Participation programmes we partner. Many other universities and charities also offer similar schemes, so do some additional research or speak to the Realising Aspirations Coordinator at college. (alex.noble@asfc.ac.uk)

Make sure to double check deadlines for all applications on the website linked as they each will vary. Deadlines for programmes currently accepting applications are detailed below. If you need support with your application or want to check your eligibility, speak to Alex (Realising Aspirations Coordinator) or your senior tutor.

Ambition 16 - 18 University of Nottingham

Ambition is a free, two-year scheme for all Year 12 students and Year 1 vocational students from anywhere in the UK. The programme takes place online although there may be an opportunity to visit campus at some point during the programme.

The activities support progression and application to a university of your choice.

Examples of past activities:

- · Subject taster sessions with university academics
- · Q&A's with current students
- · Information on how to choose your course and university, student finance and accommodation
- · Advice and guidance on university selection processes

More information + eligibility criteria:

https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/schoolsliaison/services/ambition-16-18.aspx

Deadline: Applications open in September and deadline is TBC.





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

<u>Applicants who complete the programme in full will be eligible to receive:</u>

- Additional admissions consideration when you apply to the University
- £1000 scholarship in your first year of study
- Information about other opportunities throughout your degree **More information + eligibility criteria:**

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

How to apply: Applications typically open in the Spring Term. Details for the programme for 2024 entry will be published in due course.





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Access to Southampton (A2S) - University of Southampton

Aspiring Professionals Programme - Social Mobility Foundation

S_CIAL
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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

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- 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.

More information + eligibility criteria: https://www.socialmobility.org.uk/programmes/
How to apply: Applications will open in autumn for the 2023 programme and deadline dates are TBC



Access to Sheffield University of Sheffield

Access to Sheffield 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:

- ·Arts & Humanities and Social Sciences
- ·Dentistry
- ·Law
- ·STEM
- ·Medicine

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

More information + eligibility criteria:

https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/schools/programmes/years12-13

How to apply: Contact Alex in the Careers & Employability Team (alex.noble@asfc.ac.uk) who will provide you with a link to the application portal. Deadline: (TBC) usually early November.





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.

More information + eligibility criteria:

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

How to apply: Applications will be open online from early November. Deadline: (TBC) usually mid-December.





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Manchester Access Programme (MAP) University of Manchester

Next Step York & Black Access – University of York



Next Step York

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

Black Access

Black Access supports the progression of Black students from their first year of further education into university through tailored events and activities. It's designed by University of York students and the Access and Outreach team. The programme aims to develop skills and knowledge to support your current studies and get tailored support. Attend events and activities created by Black students, designed to give an honest, authentic experience of uni life.

More information + eligibility criteria:

- ·https://www.york.ac.uk/schools-and-colleges/post-16/next-step-york/
- ·https://www.york.ac.uk/schools-and-colleges/post-16/black-access/programme/

How to apply: Applications usually open in October.

Deadline: (TBC) usually end of November.





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 + eligibility criteria:

https://www.northumbria.ac.uk/study-atnorthumbria/information-for-schools-and-

<u>colleges/supported-entry-schemes/northumbria-university-supported-entry-scheme</u>

How to apply: Applications for NU Entry in the 2022/23 academic year usually open September 2023.

Deadline: (TBC) usually January 2024 - make sure to check

website for dates





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. The programme 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 Essay Competition, Summer Schools and Twilight Talks.

For 2022/23, OxNet is offering courses in:

- ·Humanities & Social Sciences
- ·Philosophy & World Religions
- ·Languages
- ·Science
- ·English

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.

More information + eligibility criteria: find out more on the website: https://www.oxnet.org/ or chat to Alex in the Careers & Employability Team (alex.noble@asfc.ac.uk)

How to apply: Applications open in November 2023

Deadline: December 2023 - make sure to check website for dates





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OxNet

Sutton Trust Pathways Programmes



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 include:

- ·Pathways to Law (University of Manchester)
- ·Pathways to Consulting (online)
- ·Pathways to Banking & Finance (online)

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

https://www.suttontrust.com/our-programmes/

How to apply: Applications open in September 2022

Deadline: various dates in October 2023 – make sure to check each individual programme!



Reach for Excellence - University of Leeds

Reach for Excellence (RfE) is the flagship widening participation scheme at the University of Leeds. RfE provide impartial guidance and wideranging 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

More information + eligibility criteria: Find full programme details, activity timeline and eligibility criteria on the website -

https://contextualoutreach.leeds.ac.uk/rfe/rfeapply/

How to apply: Applications open 15th September 2023

Deadline: 16th November 2023





The Reading Scholars programme aims to give Year 12 students a real taste of life as a university undergraduate, and provides practical support as participants begin their higher education application process. Featuring input from leading academics and current undergraduate mentors, the programme will challenge participants academically and enhance current studies.

- Archaeology and Classics
- Architecture
- Art & Design
- Biology
- Business
- Chemistry, Food Science and Pharmacy
- Education
- English Literature
- Film
- History
- Law
- Mathematics
- Modern Languages (French, German and Spanish)
- Philosophy, Politics, and Economics
- Psychology
- Physical Geography and Environmental Science.

More information + eligibility criteria:

https://www.reading.ac.uk/ready-to-study/visiting-and-open-days/activities-for-schools/reading-scholars

Deadline: TBC.





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Reading Scholars University of Reading

Realising Opportunities

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.

More information + eligibility criteria: Find full programme details and eligibility criteria on the website -

https://www.realisingopportunities.ac.uk/how-to-apply/

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



Target Oxbridge

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.

More information + eligibility criteria: 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. Applications open in September and the deadline typically falling in the October half term - make sure to check website for dates.







STEM SMART (Subject Mastery and Attainment Raising Tuition) is a widening participation initiative from the University of Cambridge in association with Isaac Physics, to provide free, complementary teaching and support to UK (non-fee paying) students who:

·have either experienced educational disadvantage or belong to a group that is statistically less likely to progress to higher education and

·are considering applying to Engineering, Physical Sciences (eg physics, chemistry, earth sciences, materials science) or Biological Sciences (eg plant sciences, pharmacology, physiology, evolution and behaviour, biochemistry) courses at university and are studying A Levels (or equivalent) in maths and science.

This is a free 17-month long programme to support widening-participation students in raising their attainment in their Allevels as well develop the skills required to go on and study physical sciences and engineering at top universities.

More information + eligibility criteria:

https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/stem-smart

How to apply: Applications open now.

Deadline: (TBC) usually October 2023 - make sure to check

website



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SMART

Supported Progression & STEP – Durham University



Supported Progression

Supported Progression (SP) is a programme for Year 12 students. Some students who have the potential to study with us will benefit from extra help and support. Durham aim to give these students the chance to show their potential in a different way. By passing the assessed summer school project, you can work toward a guaranteed, conditional offer from Durham as well as developing your academic skills. As an SP student, you will have the opportunity to come to events and activities during Years 12 and 13.

Space to Explore Potential

STEP offers a dedicated space for young Black-heritage students, to explore not only their own potential but all that Durham has to offer as a potential university destination. We welcome applications from Year 12 Black-heritage students, who attend UK State Schools. STEP consists of a summer residential, along with online information, mentoring and guidance through Year 12/13.

More information + eligibility criteria:

- ·https://www.durham.ac.uk/visit-us/schools/access-engagement/supported-progression/
- ·https://www.durham.ac.uk/visit-us/schools/access-engagement/step/

Deadline: TBC - make sure to check website for dates



WORK EXPERIENCE

In2Science

Promoting Social Mobility and Diversity in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths.

In2scienceUK empowers young people from disadvantaged backgrounds to achieve their potential through life changing opportunities that give them insights into STEM careers and research and boosts their skills and confidence.

The In2science summer programme is a free summer programme for Year 12 (or equivalent) students, consisting of an in-person work experience placement, live online workshops, competitions and events. By taking part in the programme, you will gain hands-on STEM experience and expand your personal and professional skills.

More information + eligibility criteria: https://in2scienceuk.org/
Deadline: TBC.

Nuffield Research Placement

The NRP programme provides engaging, hands-on research projects, where Year 12 students have the opportunity to make a meaningful contribution towards the work of a host organisation through a well-supervised but independent research collaboration relating to an area of science, quantitative social science, computing, technology, engineering or maths (or a combination!).

More information + eligibility criteria:

<u>https://www.nuffieldresearchplacements.org/apply-student-placement</u>

Deadline: TBC - make sure to check website for dates



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.

More information + eligibility criteria:

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

How to apply: Currently open to applications from Year 12 students and expecting to remain open for the rest of the academic year.

Deadline: (TBC) usually end of December - make sure to check website for dates

Manchester Metropolitan University



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First Generation Manchester Metropolitan University

Access to Leeds (A2L) – University of Leeds

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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.

UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

The programme offers the opportunity to receive an offer up to 2 A-Level grades (or equivalent) lower that 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.

More information + eligibility criteria: https://www.leeds.ac.uk/access-to-leeds How to apply: Currently open to applications from Year 12 students and expecting to remain open for the rest of the academic year. Deadline:

- For applicants to Medicine (A100) and Dental Surgery (A200) applications must be received by very early November 2023 make sure to check website for dates.
- For applicants to all other courses, applications must be received by end of January 2024.

Access to UCL Scheme - University College of London

UCL seek to recruit and retain the brightest students who will thrive in the rigorous teaching and learning environment at UCL.

Applicants that are eligible for the Access UCL Scheme based on postcode data will automatically be identified through their UCAS application. If you are a care experienced applicant, a young adult carer or estranged from your family, please see the website included below.

Access UCL eligible applicants that are successful in getting an offer, will receive an offer that is lower than the standard entry requirements for the programme. Please note that Access UCL is not a guaranteed offer scheme.

More information + eligibility criteria:
https://www.ucl.ac.uk/prospectivestudents/undergraduate/access-ucl-scheme

Deadline: TBC - make sure to check website for dates

UCL Study Prep

This course is free and open to all students in Year 13 regardless of where you go to school/college or which universities you have applied to study at. It is recommended that you take 4–5 hours to complete UCL Study Prep but this does not have to be done all at once.

Find out more here: https://www.ucl.ac.uk/wideningparticipation/learners/year-12-and-13/ucl-study-prep





Headstart Huddersfield is a scheme that offers <u>eligible</u> <u>students</u>, interested in applying to the University of Huddersfield, the opportunity to gain an extra 8 UCAS points. The scheme has been designed with the intention of providing fairer access for those groups currently facing barriers and therefore underrepresented in Higher Education.

There are many benefits to the programme for students.

- · Assist students with research, decision making and applications to university.
- · Develop HE-relevant skills including research, self-reflection and writing skills.
- · Formal recognition for students' work (8 UCAS points recognised by the University of Huddersfield).
- · Guaranteed interviews, auditions or offers to all Headstart Huddersfield students who have successfully completed the programme and who meet the published academic and non-academic entry requirements.

More information + eligibility criteria:

https://www.hud.ac.uk/undergraduate/schools-and-

colleges-liaison-service/headstart/

Deadline: TBC - make sure to check website for dates

University of HUDDERSFIELD
Inspiring global professionals



Year 13
Access
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HEADSTART – University of Huddersfield

Lancaster Access Programme – Lancaster University

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Lancaster Access Programme offers a range of activities and experiences you can get involved in and allows you to develop your key skills for your academic studies and progressing to Lancaster University in the future. The activities available vary depending on your year of study allowing you the flexibility to select those that most interest you and to have the opportunity to engage with Lancaster throughout your time on the programme.

The programme is a general entry programme, if you are interested in studying medicine please explore the dedicated <u>Access to Medicine scheme instead</u>.

More information + eligibility criteria: https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/schools-and-colleges/lap/

How to apply: https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/schools-and-colleges/lap/who-can-take-part/

Deadline: TBC - make sure to check website for dates



PARTNERS Programme - Newcastle University

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 + eligibility criteria:

https://www.ncl.ac.uk/partners/

How to apply: https://www.ncl.ac.uk/partners/how-to-

apply/#submityourapplication

Deadline: Medicine & Dentistry - mid October 2023; all other

subjects - early January 2024.





SHU Progress provides support for applicants whose personal circumstances might mean that there are barriers to going to university.

The scheme provides additional support in the year of application and throughout the application process, including your transition to becoming a university student.

More information + eligibility criteria:

https://www.shu.ac.uk/study-here/apply/shu-

<u>progress</u>

Deadline: TBC - make sure to check website for dates

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SHU Progress
- Sheffield
- Hallam
- University

























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