



University of
Sheffield



UNIVERSITY
OF THE YEAR



APPLYING TO RUSSELL
GROUP UNIVERSITIES AND
COMPETITIVE COURSES

MADE FROM
EVERY
EXPERIENCE

OVERVIEW

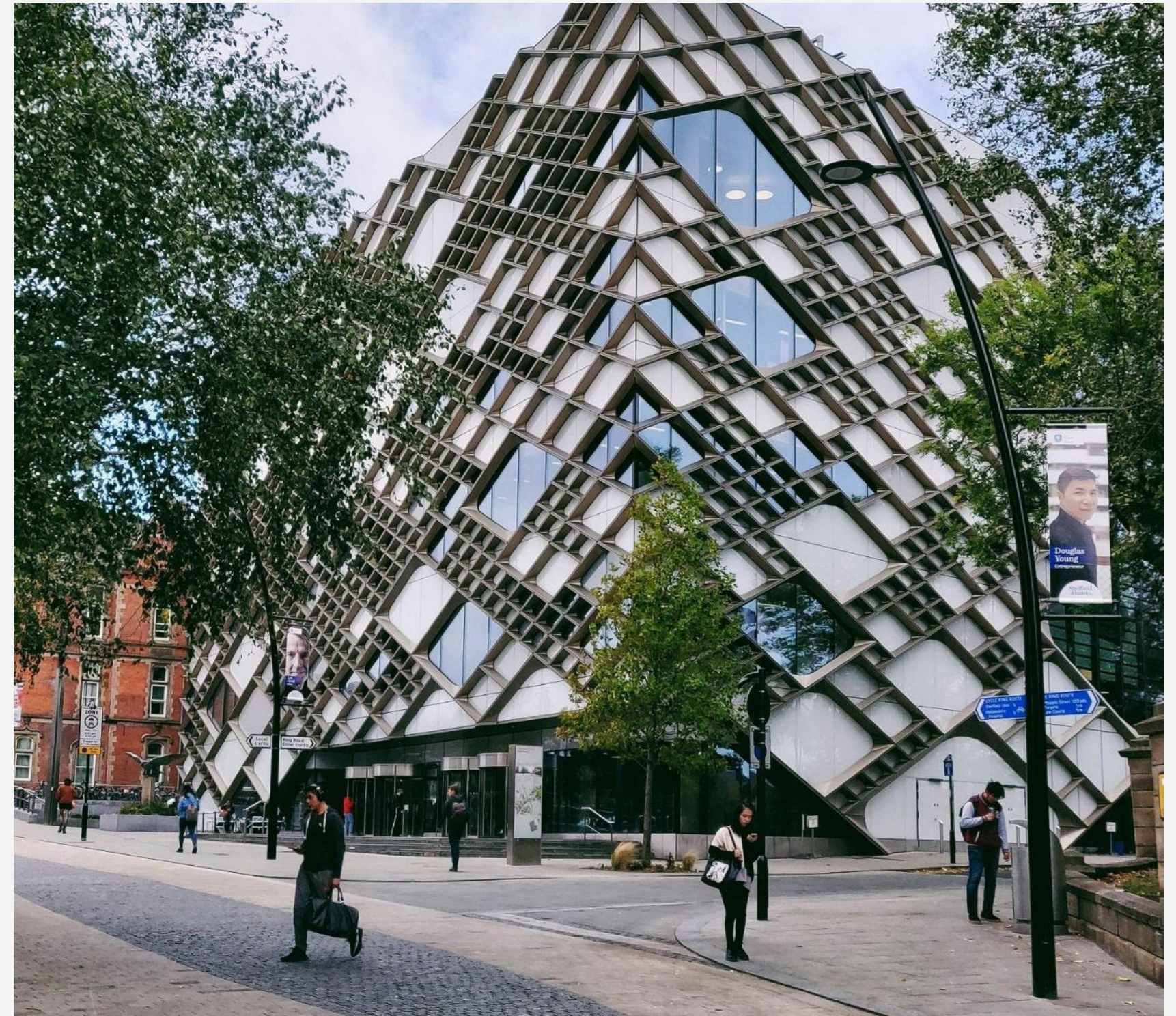
- Competitive courses
- The Russell Group
- How to be a competitive applicant



COMPETITIVE COURSES

WHAT IS A COMPETITIVE COURSE?

Simply put, it is a course for which there are more applications than there are places.



FEATURES OF A COMPETITIVE COURSE

- Early UCAS deadline
- High grade requirements
- Additional entry requirements e.g. portfolio, interview
- Sector experience required





THE RUSSELL GROUP

WHAT IS THE RUSSELL GROUP?

- Active in cutting-edge global research
- Outstanding learning and teaching experience
- Top links with business and public sector



ACTIVE IN CUTTING-EDGE GLOBAL RESEARCH

- Russell Group Unis make up about 17% of the UK's universities, but produce more than 68% of the world-leading research produced in the country.
- These universities promote world-leading UK research and innovation that changes lives for the better
- 92% of Sheffield's research is internationally recognised, internationally excellent, or world leading
- Professors will be bringing their research expertise into the classroom, discussing their findings with students

EXAMPLES OF RESEARCH AT SHEFFIELD

- Genetics students analysing data of cancer patients to reduce the time frame to be seen by specialists for more urgent cases
- Using dry ice pellets to clear leaves from train lines reducing delays and saving money
- Drought resistant rice – growing rice that requires less water for growth
- Discovering a biomarker for early diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease

- Many other examples - www.sheffield.ac.uk/research/features

OUTSTANDING LEARNING AND TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- The combination of teaching and research excellence in our universities will offer you the chance to learn from some of the world's most respected academics
- You'll have access to some of the best teaching facilities in the UK: from libraries and lecture halls, to labs and online learning tools.
- High levels of student satisfaction & a low non-continuation rate.

TOP LINKS WITH BUSINESS AND PUBLIC SECTOR

- Russell Group universities work extensively with businesses of all sizes and see top graduate employment rates
- More than half of research in our universities was deemed to have had outstanding impact on business, the economy, health, society, culture and the environment
- Russell Group Universities inject nearly £87 billion into the national economy every year.
- Graduates are of the highest calibre and provide businesses of all sizes and sectors with the talented recruits they will need to meet today's challenges and those of the future.
- 80% of graduates in highly skilled employment 15 months after graduating

WHICH UNIVERSITIES ARE IN THE RUSSELL GROUP?

University of Birmingham

University of Bristol

University of Cambridge

Cardiff University

Durham University

University of Exeter

University of Edinburgh

University of Glasgow

University of Leeds

London School of Economics

University of Liverpool

University of Manchester

Newcastle University

University of Nottingham

University of Oxford

Imperial College London

Queen's University Belfast

University of Sheffield

University of Southampton

University College London

University of Warwick

University of York

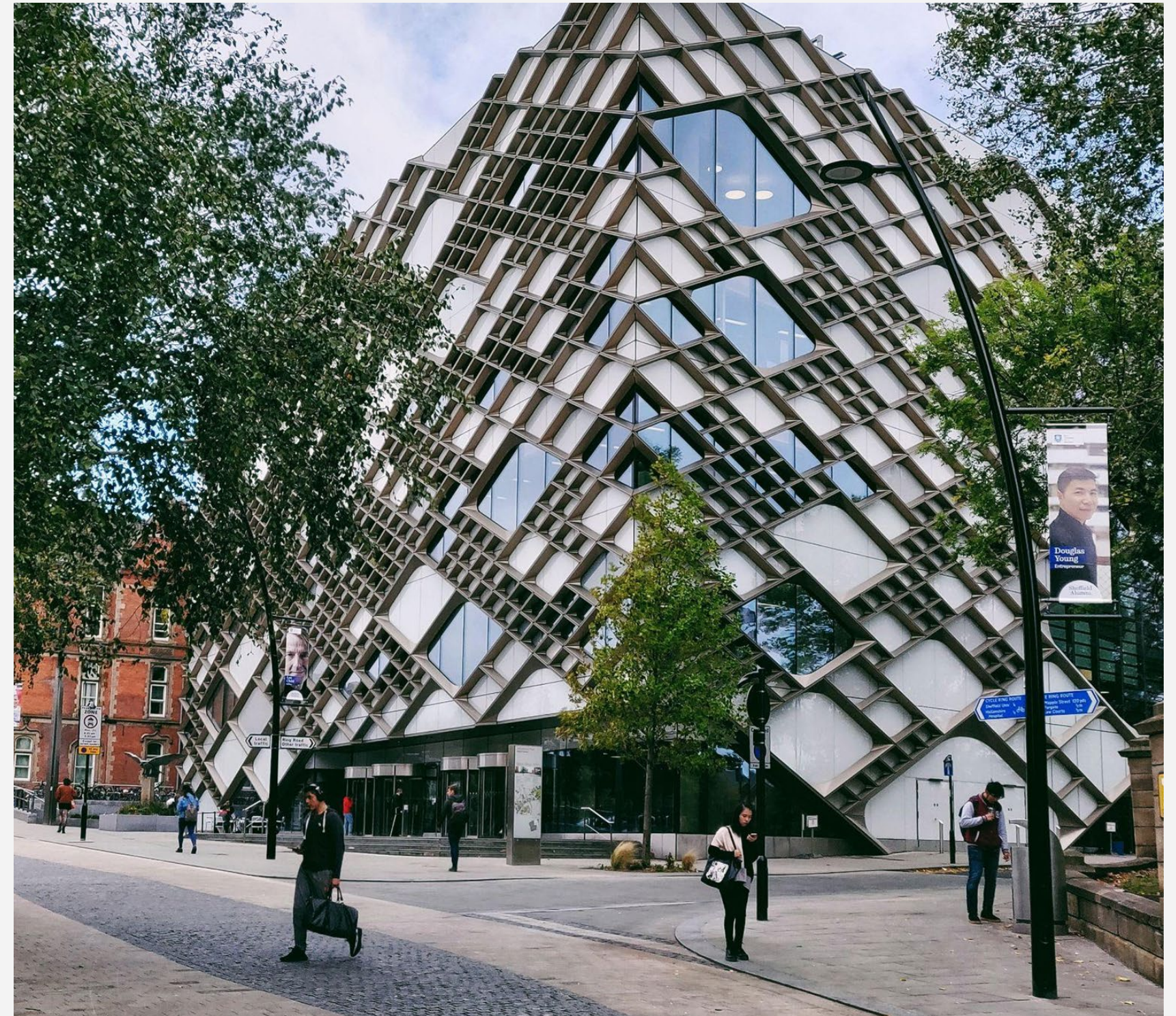
King's College London

Queen Mary University of London

WHICH RUSSELL GROUP IS RIGHT FOR YOU?

Sheffield's culture is:

- Academically excellent
- Community-focused
- Inquisitive
- International
- Friendly





COMPETITIVE APPLICANTS

WHAT DO ADMISSIONS TUTOR LOOK FOR IN AN APPLICANT?

- Shows ambition
- Shows potential
- Stands out from the crowd
- Demonstrates enthusiasm
- Shares relevant experiences
- Demonstrates their knowledge
- Showcases their skills with evidence

CAREER EXPLORATION

Degree-focused:

- What jobs can your ideal degree lead you to?

Job-focused:

- What do you need to study to be eligible for your dream career?



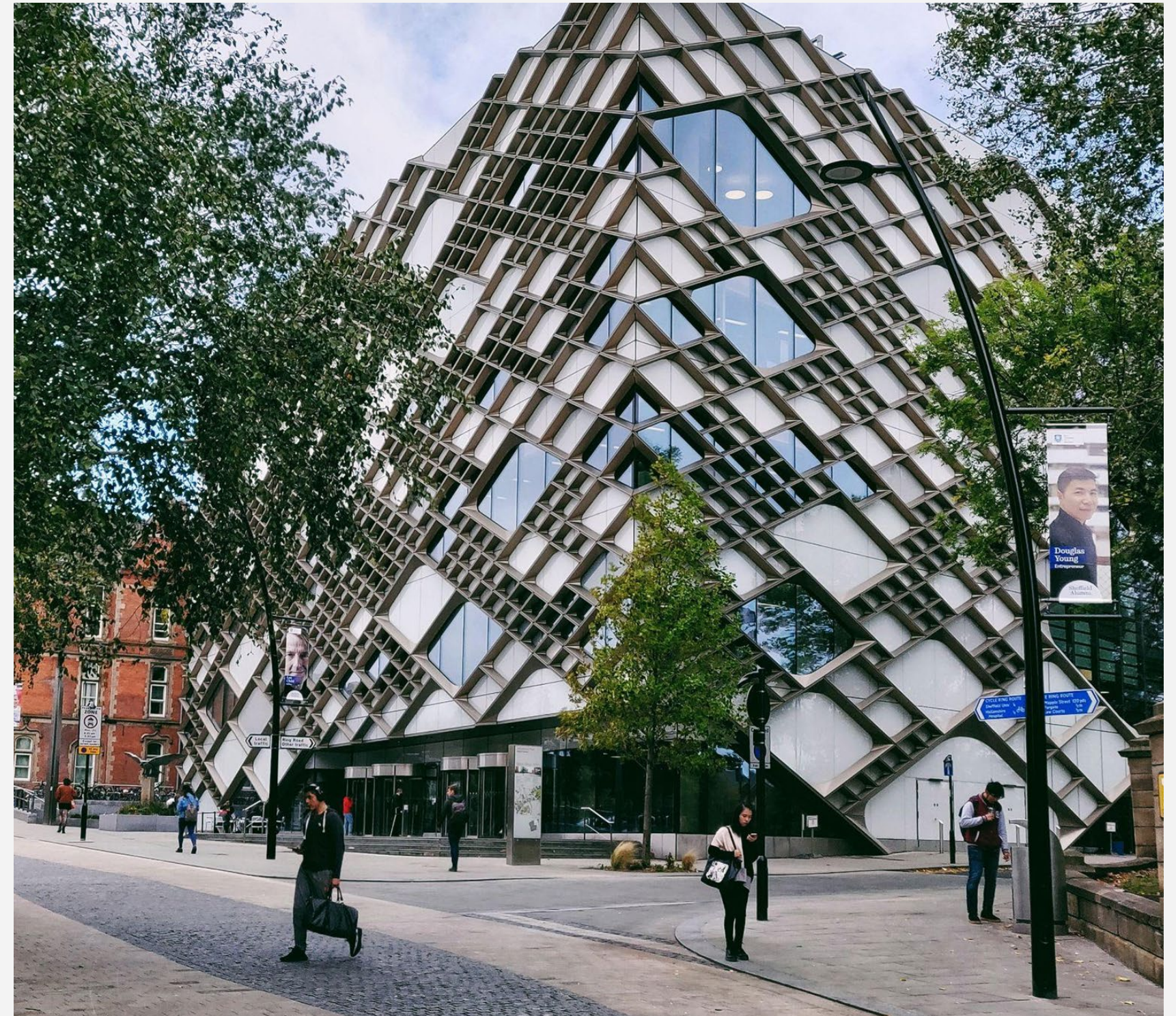
PROJECTS AND TASTERS

EPQ

- In-depth subject exploration
- Develops academic skills
- Mimics university learning

MOOCs

- Learn new skills
- Pursue your interests
- Demonstrate commitment



WORK EXPERIENCE

- See your industry in action
- Learn new skills
- See the day-to-day workplace
- Talk to professionals
- Explore career prospects
- Enhance your application



UNIVERSITY OPPORTUNITIES

- Public lectures
- Taster days
- Summer schools
- Sustained engagement
- Competitions
- Open Days



SUPER-CURRICULAR WORK

- Education podcasts
- TED talks
- Documentaries
- Additional reading
 - Trade/industry press
 - Journals and e-journals
 - Current affairs
 - University reading lists



YOUR OWN THING

- Travel
- Music
- Sport
- Writing
- Part time work
- Anything that develops your skills and qualities



OF THE ACTIVITIES LISTED...

Which have you done in the past?

Which are you working on now?

Which do you need to do in the future?

ACCESS+

As an **Access+** student, you'll have access to support such as:

- a contextual offer up to two grades below the standard A Level entry requirements for your course.
- our [Access+ Travel Bursary](#)
- a dedicated team on hand to answer your questions
- expert online help and guidance sessions to support you in your journey to higher education

You'll need to have made Sheffield your firm choice with UCAS for the opportunity to apply for:

- an [Access+ Transition Mentor](#)
- our [Access+ IT & Equipment Bursary](#)

If you miss the conditions of your offer we'll still give your application additional consideration on Results Day.

If you have any **questions**, please contact us at: access@sheffield.ac.uk

For **details** go to: <https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/access-sheffield/plus>

ACCESS+

You may be eligible for additional support through Access+ if:

- You live in an area of disadvantage (2026 entry and beyond)
- You were entitled to free school meals

Your personal circumstances mean that:

- You're care experienced
- You're a care leaver
- You're a carer
- You're estranged from family
- You have parenting responsibilities
- You're a forced migrant

To check eligibility criteria visit:

<https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/access-sheffield/plus>



FOR MORE INFORMATION



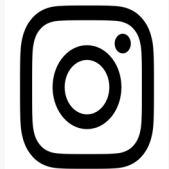
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SHEFFIELD LIVE

[sheffield.ac.uk/study/
online-events](https://sheffield.ac.uk/study/online-events)

TASTER SESSIONS

[Sheffield.ac.uk/
undergraduate/visit/
subject-tasters](https://sheffield.ac.uk/undergraduate/visit/subject-tasters)

CHAT TO CURRENT STUDENTS

[Sheffield.ac.uk/study/
chat](https://sheffield.ac.uk/study/chat)

DON'T FORGET TO...

Ask questions
Do your research
Find what's right for
YOU

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QR CODE



University of Sheffield

ANY QUESTIONS?

MADE FROM EVERY EXPERIENCE

