

BHASVIC

WIDENING PARTICIPATION NEWS



Welcome Back to the Latest WP News

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COMING SOON

by Lynne Trower

This Christmas edition of our WP newsletter contains a variety of articles but has a focus on schemes being offered by universities across the country. It is important for students to investigate opportunities at any university they are considering applying for. It is not possible to list them all but we hope by giving some examples here you will be able to get an idea of the support available. It may seem early for students to start thinking about university applications, but as they start their progression topic in tutorial next term, it seems appropriate to mention some of the things they need to consider.

The [Which? University](#) website is excellent at exploring what's on offer at different universities but **PLEASE NOTE THAT, UNFORTUNATELY, THIS WEBSITE WILL NO LONGER BE AVAILABLE AFTER 15th JANUARY 2020.**

Alternative websites to use are [UCAS.com](#) and [Whatuni.com](#).

Take a look also at the London universities taster course programme. These are free to attend and great for personal statements – see page 5 for more details.

Spotlight on New Widening Participation Schemes



Southampton University

Experience Engineering - What is Experience Engineering?

15 - 17 April 2020

Experience Engineering is a free residential course for Year 12 students interested in studying engineering at university. The residential will introduce students to the areas of Ship Science, Mechanical Engineering and Acoustical Engineering.

Over three days, students will design, build and test a Green power car and a fast craft for water. They will also capture, explore and synthesize acoustic environments as part of a team. These projects allow the participants a chance to undertake research whilst developing essential key skills. Staff and students from the Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences will provide talks, workshops and seminars within their subject areas.

What does the course include?

- Experience teaching within engineering subjects
- Explore campus life and university accommodation
- Discover student life
- Learn from engineering academics
- View world class facilities
- Improve skills such as team building, critical thinking
- Aid in the decision making for a University course
- Travel reimbursement up to £80



Eligibility

This is a free course for Year 12 students. To be eligible participants must be under the age of 18 at the time of the summer school, and meet the following academic criteria:

- Have achieved at least five A/ A*s at GCSE
- Are taking relevant subjects in relation to engineering (e.g. Maths, Physics and other Science subjects)

and meet at least two of the following Widening Participation criteria:

- In the first generation of your immediate family to apply to Higher Education
- Current home postcode shows that you live in an area with low levels of progression to Higher Education. (Postcodes within the lowest two (1 & 2) POLAR4 young participation quintile). Postcodes can be checked for eligibility on the [OfS Postcode Checker](#).

- or current home postcode falls within the lowest 20 per cent of the Index of Multiple Deprivation (Check postcode), or a member of a travelling family.
- Attended a school/college whose performance places it into the lowest two quintiles for average QCA points per A level student (or equivalent) (in England, Wales or Northern Ireland) as identified by the Department for Education dataset and provided to the University via UCAS. A list of schools/colleges meeting this criteria can be found under useful downloads in the document 'Eligible schools for applications made in 2018/19'.
- In receipt of a 16-19 bursary or similar grant OR received Free School Meals at any point during your school education
- Living or grew up in Local Authority care
- Are a Young Carer

Visit [Southampton University](#) for more details and information on how to register. The deadline for applications is **Monday 24th February 2020**. If you require any help or have questions that need to be answered, please come to Student Services and speak to Lynne Trower.

Southampton University

Widening Access to Medicine Residential (BM6)

6-8 April 2020

The University of Southampton is running a 3-day Easter residential for thirty Year 12 students, designed to increase the applicant's knowledge of the role of doctors and the training they undergo. The residential will provide opportunities to develop interpersonal skills, increase awareness of the undergraduate medical student experience and support students in their applications to study Medicine. Attendance is free, and includes a contribution towards travel costs. For more information and to check your eligibility, please click [here](#).



University of Bath - Discover Bath Residentials



What is Discover Bath? Discover Bath are on-campus residential summer schools which will give students a taste of first year study at the University of Bath. During the stay on campus students will take part in a series of first-year undergraduate lectures, workshops and projects (including laboratory experiments during our Science and Engineering summer schools).

Discover Bath summer schools run in:

- **Science - Tues 30 June to Fri 3 July**
- **Engineering - Tues 30 June to Fri 3 July**
- **Social Sciences - Mon 6 to Thur 9 July**
- **Management & Business - Mon 6 to Thur 9 July**

Students who meet our widening participation criteria ([click here](#)) will receive a subsidised free-of-charge place on Discover Bath, which will include accommodation, food and travel costs to and from the University.

You should note that online applications are now open. Before attending you will complete some pre-work to help you to prepare for Discover Bath, and this will typically include subject-related reading materials. The deadline for applications is **Sunday 1st March 2020**.

University of York - Next Step York



Next Step York provides talented Year 12 students with the opportunity to participate in a programme of activity that will support their application to a research intensive university like the University of York.

Students on the Next Step York programme will take part in a series of activities throughout Year 12 and 13. The activities have been carefully developed to help participants reach their full academic potential. They will also attend a five-day residential at the University of York campus. To read more and check eligibility, please click [here](#).

Applications from Year 12 students are now open to participate in 2020. **Applications will close on Wednesday 22 January 2020.**



Free Taster Course Programme with Various London Universities (non residential)

The Taster Course Programme provides year 12 sixth form students with a taste of what life at a university in London is like. Through your chosen taster course you will experience the different teaching methods used by university academics and gain an insight into the additional facilities available, whilst meeting students from across the UK.

All our taster courses are free to attend and students can choose a course from a variety of subjects taking place at the numerous participating universities. Courses range from voice and drama, to medicine and nursing, to computing and business.

The taster courses take place at various times throughout the year but mainly between February and July. The courses run from half-a-day to a week and are non-residential. All courses are free of charge, students are responsible for their own travel and food expenses, however students claiming a bursary at BHASVIC may be eligible to support with travel.

The courses offer an insight into study at university and the opportunity of attending a course that may be of interest to students who are not sure about at this stage. The experience will also enable students to check out the non-teaching facilities provided by the university. There will be a chance to meet with other students on the taster course and undergraduate students studying at the university. These are great experiences to help with decision-making and with completing personal statements.

Participating Universities:

- Birkbeck, University of London
- City University London
- The Courtauld Institute of Art
- Goldsmiths, University of London
- King's College London
- London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)
- Queen Mary, University of London
- Royal Holloway, University of London
- Royal Veterinary College
- St George's, University of London
- SOAS, University of London
- UCL
- University of London Institute in Paris

Visit [here](#) to search and book taster courses



Access UCL Scheme

Access UCL is UCL's alternative offer scheme for students from groups that are underrepresented at UCL.

Eligible students who successfully complete the Access UCL scheme will receive a reduced offer of up to two grades below the standard UCL offer for the programme they have applied for.

In order to be eligible for the scheme students must be attending/have attended a UK state school for A levels/IB Diploma and meet two out of the following criteria (please note that this eligibility criteria is for students applying in 2019/20 for 2020 entry):

- Attend or have attended a low-performing school for either GCSE or A level*.
- Live in an area which has a high level of financial, social or economic deprivation**.
- Live in a neighbourhood which has a low progression rate to higher education***.

If students are eligible for Access UCL there is no need to do anything in addition to the standard UCAS application, the application will be automatically flagged when we receive it.

To check eligibility please visit [here](#).

NOTES

* This means your school falls into the lower 50% of schools in England and Wales for average GCSE achievement and/or average A-level point score

** The Index of Multiple of Deprivation (IMD) data is used to identify levels of financial, social or economic deprivation, as defined by home postcode - click [here](#).

*** POLAR classification is used to look at how likely young people are to participate in HE across the UK, as defined by home postcode - click [here](#).

Modern Languages (French, German, Spanish, Portuguese) with a year abroad BA

With language skills in increasing demand, there has never been a better time for students to study a degree in modern languages. The Modern Languages BA at King's offers the chance to study French, German or Spanish as single or joint honours, with the with additional combinations including Portuguese, English, History, Management or Philosophy.

Don't forget, students on a joint honours language degree can start any of our 4 main languages as a total beginner (known as ab initio).

New for September 2020, students taking a single language or dual-language degree can also study a further language including Arabic, Italian, Mandarin, Russian and more at our Modern Language Centre. All options include a year abroad. For more information click [here](#).



Careers advice and activities you might like to investigate during the holidays...

Youth Membership Scheme

Centre of the Cell's Youth Membership Scheme offers free opportunities for young people to explore science careers and develop their transferable skills. Any young person age 14 – 19 can join our Youth Membership Scheme. In order to join, students must complete a contact and monitoring form and return it by email to youthmembers@centreforthecell.org or by post. Visit [here](#)



Uleague

uLeague focuses its efforts on solving the issues that face the upcoming and existing professionals, between the ages of 18-35. This is a new site with free courses listed – crypto currency, digital marketing, banking etc. The courses are split into levels and include youtube lectures. Visit [here](#).



Get Career Confident

Get Careers Confident offers information, advice and tips on careers pathways, universities, work experience and job applications. They guide and assist teachers, students aged 14 to 19 and their parents and carers. Click [here](#) for a link to their website for further details.

Solent University Southampton - 52 Things To Do

Weekly activities, challenges, and guides to help students get ready for university, from now until freshers' week. Picking a course, paying for uni, registration, applications and moving in.

Guides include:

- choosing a career
- is university right for you?
- 11 ways to get the most out an open day
- there's no place like home
- British science week
- earn while you learn
- mental health awareness week
- volunteers week
- get ready for results day



Visit this [website](#) for full details.



Deadline Reminder

Here's a list of all the upcoming deadlines for current WP events:

- Compact Plus - University of Brighton 'Thinking About University' on Wednesday 29th January 2020 18:00-19:30
- Sutton Trust US Programme - deadline to submit applications Sunday 19th January 2020
- UK Supreme Court Student Writing Competition is open until midday on 31st January 2020.
- Royal Holloway Year 12 Summer University Residentials (FREE). Applications will close on Thursday 27 February 2020.
- BHASVIC Widening participation registration deadline - Friday 6th March 2020.

Coming Soon

2020 Summer Schools

There will be details to follow of upcoming 2020 summer schools. Below is a sample of universities from previous years who have provided summer school placements:

- | | |
|--|--|
| • University UCL Summer School | • Royal Holloway Summer School |
| • University of Sussex Summer School | • Bournemouth University Summer Breaks |
| • University of Brighton Summer School | • University of Nottingham Summer |
| • University of Bath Summer School | School for Modern Languages |
| • University of Surrey Summer School | • Sutton Trust UK Summer School |

Goldsmiths Taster Days

Goldsmiths Taster Days (previously known as Goldclasses) are free-to-attend masterclasses led by Goldsmiths academics. They offer anyone thinking about attending university an opportunity to attend a lecture or workshop, find out more about courses at Goldsmiths, and talk to current students.

Information on our exciting line-up of sessions will be available in the new year, but in the meantime, you can visit the website and register your interest [here](#).



The WP team would like to wish you a merry Christmas and a happy new year.