

WIDENING PARTICIPATION NEWSLETTER

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INTRODUCTION

The BHASVIC Widening Participation (WP) team would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to the widening participation scheme & provide you with details of some of the exciting opportunities available to students in our WP cohort.

It has been a busy start to another unusual year; students have been settling in to a new environment & becoming familiar with their courses. We hope that they have had a positive start to the college experience with the transition period taking some adjustment for all.

This newsletter is intended to summarise the main activities currently being offered by our local universities whilst also informing you of other opportunities that may be appropriate from further afield. Most events are free of charge, but where there is a cost implication, it will be highlighted. It is important to check eligibility criteria for each activity as this will vary from scheme to scheme.



WHAT IS WIDENING PARTICIPATION?

The aim of Widening Participation (WP) is to offer additional information and support to students from groups who are currently under-represented in higher education in the UK (eg. first in the immediate family to consider university, specific postcodes and a variety of other factors).

We work closely with our local partners – the Universities of Brighton and Sussex and Into University with each university's WP scheme having their own criteria, enabling us to offer a programme that is designed to help WP students explore their future options, make informed choices and develop their full potential. We also provide details of upcoming opportunities from external providers and organisations offering taster days as well as careers information and suggestions.

I am a Careers Advisor and BHASVIC's Widening Participation Coordinator and can advise on the support available to students who are eligible for activities. I have knowledge of WP offers being made by other universities and am happy to signpost students to these.

Being part of our WP cohort and registering for any scheme does not place any obligation on a student to go onto university or indeed apply to any specific university.

The programme is simply intended to support students to make informed choices about their options when they leave BHASVIC, including investigating the possibility of moving on to university level study.

We have already identified eligible students via the survey that has been completed and this has also given us the ability to signpost students to various support services. We will be sharing their information with the Universities of Brighton and Sussex, but only if the student has already agreed to this.

If a student is eligible for Into University programme, then they will be sent a link to complete. This scheme has a smaller cohort than the universities and eligible students will be given the opportunity to register. This is offered on a first come, first served basis.

[MORE INFORMATION ON THE BHASVIC WEBSITE](#)



OUR PARTNER UNIVERSITIES

Outreach Brighton - Events



University of Brighton

The University of Brighton offers a range of events and talks for college and sixth form students, parents and carers. These activities aim to provide impartial information, advice and guidance to students making decisions about higher education. Please see the link below to the online events portal where students can book online to participate in events run by the university including academic tasters and Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG).

Book onto the **online open day** [here](#)

Click on 'More Information' below for general advice about university includes applying, interview support and personal statement presentation. Subject tasters can be booked below.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

[EVENTS](#)



OUR PARTNER UNIVERSITIES- CONTINUED

University of Sussex



We are delighted to announce that the University of Sussex Access Programme is now open for applications! This free programme offers students in Year 12 and above the support, guidance, and experiences you may need to help navigate your higher education options, through a series of free events and activities.

What's involved?

Our Access Programme offers you the support and guidance to navigate your post-16 education options. It aims to help you make more informed choices about your future and the steps you need to take to get there. The programme is completely free, and offers you all the tools you might need to shape your own journey.

The programme includes a variety of on-campus university visits and online content to help you make informed decisions.

The programme is aimed at all students who are currently in Year 12 or 13, or those students considering returning to education as a mature student. Any student from across the UK can apply.

For students who meet our Access Plus criteria there will be opportunities to find out more from our academic teaching staff about studying a range of subjects at university level, visit our campus and apply to take part in our residential summer school. We also offer transition support to aid you in your next steps.

Applications remain open throughout the year, however to get the most from our events we recommend you sign up as soon as possible.

[**MORE INFORMATION**](#)

[**CLICK HERE TO APPLY**](#)

CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES



ASPIRING PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMME

The Aspiring Professionals Programme (APP) is carefully designed to open up professions for those with the ability to join them in the future, but without the means or networks to get there.

We aim to give young people a real insight into top professions and to provide them with the skills needed to achieve their aspirations. We offer support through our four pillars:

- Mentoring by a professional via email
- Tailored skills sessions and career workshops
- University application support and guidance
- Internships with top employers

Students complete one application to the APP but the strand they are on and therefore how they receive our four pillars of support depends on where they live.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

Closing date for applications is 12 noon Friday 16th December 2022.

This is a fantastic opportunity so please visit the website to check your eligibility.

CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES CONTINUED

Newcastle University- Partners Programme



The PARTNERS programme 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 8,000 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 contextual offer to Newcastle University.
- Attend 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](#)

UCL



The UCL's Access and Widening Participation team offers an exciting range of visits, events and programmes for students in years 5-13 and adult learners who are under-represented in higher education. There are also activities run for parents and carers.

All of the events and activities are designed to give students a greater insight into UCL's degree programmes and student life. UCL also seek to raise the aspirations of students from groups who are under-represented at university.

The events and activities are funded by UCL's Access and Participation Plan and Widening Participation funds. As such, there are eligibility criteria that all applicants should consider before applying.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES CONTINUED



Contextual offers take social and economic factors that may have prevented you from reaching your true academic potential into account.

We know that some students face significant barriers during their journey to university. Contextual offers promote fairness and diversity in our community of talented students.

With a contextual offer, UK students can receive a reduced offer of up to three grades below our typical entry requirements. You'll apply to York via UCAS and our admissions team will review your application.

York has a widening participation programme, if you've taken part in that tell us in your UCAS application as it's one of the criteria we use to make decisions on contextual offers.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

LONDON TASTER DAYS



University of London Taster Courses are short courses at participating universities in and around London. They are designed for school students, usually in year 12, to get an insight into studying a particular subject or subject area at university.

Keep checking this website as more taster days will be added all the time.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES CONTINUED

The Sutton Trust Programmes



We support young people from less advantaged backgrounds to access leading universities and careers. In partnership with universities and employers, we run engaging programmes that give students practical advice and leave them feeling inspired and more confident about their future. Our programmes are completely free to attend. All costs – including travel, accommodation, food and activities – are paid for by the Trust and our partners.

Click on '**More Information**' below for further details on the upcoming programmes.

- **Pathway to Law**
- **Pathway to Consulting**
- **Pathway to Engineering**
- **Pathway to Medicine**
- **Pathway to Banking and Finance**

MORE INFORMATION



EPS Futures is a funded foundation year that leads directly on to our highly regarded Engineering and Physical Sciences degrees. A foundation year is an extra year at university, before the normal first year, to ensure you have the knowledge to succeed in your studies. EPS Futures is a special version of our foundation year which is designed especially for students who may have been disadvantaged in their education so far. If you have potential to succeed in our courses, but your specific circumstances mean you are not yet ready to enter the first year, this course is designed for you.

Please make sure you check the entry requirements to see if your personal circumstances make you eligible for this course. If you are not eligible for this course, you can explore our other foundation year courses or search our undergraduate courses.

MORE INFORMATION

CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES CONTINUED



ACCESS TO LEEDS SCHEME

Access to Leeds is the University of Leeds' contextual admissions scheme which guarantees special consideration for applicants whose personal circumstances may have affected their ability to demonstrate their talent and potential through grades alone.

It could offer you the chance to study an undergraduate degree with lower entry requirements than listed on our course pages.

Around 900 eligible Access to Leeds students register on an undergraduate course at the University of Leeds every year.

We recommend that you apply directly because it allows you to provide more information which could support your application and we cannot guarantee that all eligible students will be picked up at the UCAS application stage.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

Health Sciences Outreach

The Health Sciences Outreach Team deliver outreach and widening participation activities on behalf of the Faculty of Medicine and Health, at the University of Leeds. Representing a wide range of undergraduate programmes, the team works alongside current students and academics to provide an extensive range of talks, workshops and subject taster sessions, aimed at raising the aspirations of students, inspiring them to pursue a career in healthcare through university education.

Our activities raise awareness of the various healthcare professions available and support students at every stage of applying to higher education, with events taking place both at the University of Leeds and in schools and colleges nationwide.

Latest activities include:

- **Medicine and Dentistry Healthcare Futures Programme**
- **Taster Days in Psychology, Healthcare, Health & Social Care and Medicine & Dentistry**

For more information and to sign up for updates click on the box below

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES CONTINUED

STAART Initiative



At the University of Greenwich, we are very fortunate to have the STAART initiative which supports disabled (including specific learning difficulties and mental health conditions) students from outreach through to employment and postgraduate study. The scheme is unique in the UK and students do not require any medical and/or psychological evidence to join us.

This initiative supports prospective and current students who have a disability; long-term health condition; specific learning difficulty; and/or mental health condition. Our support mechanisms prepare students for the reality of university for disabled students.

The STAART Team is a disability and diversity focused initiative at the University of Greenwich that was developed in partnership with Aimhigher. They provide information and guidance to disabled and diverse students who may not feel university is for them, or who have concerns about going to university. The team started in 2007 and continues to develop to meet the requirements of disabled and diverse students.

What do we mean by 'disability and diversity'? Disability and diversity includes the following:

- A mental-health condition such as anxiety or depression
- A specific learning difficulty such as dyslexia or dyspraxia
- A developmental disorder such as autism or ADHD/ADD
- A progressive medical condition such as Multiple Sclerosis, Cancer or HIV
- A sensory impairment which could affect the ability to see or hear

Want to know more? Click on 'More information' button below to find out.

[**MORE INFORMATION**](#)

CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES CONTINUED



University of
Nottingham

AMBITION: 16-18

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**

Is it for you?

This programme is designed to provide you with more information about university and help you make the decision on the right course and university for you.

You must be studying in the first term of your level 3 qualifications. These may be A-levels, BTECs, International Baccalaureate or equivalent that would allow progression onto university.

The programme is open to students who are wishing to study a range of different subjects. We will aim to provide a range of arts, social sciences, health care and science information however, we will not be able to cover all subject areas through our events.

Applications are now open, the deadline is Sunday 27th November.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

VIRTUAL OPPORTUNITIES



PwC Virtual Classroom

At PwC, we're focused on helping you to achieve your full potential. Whether you already have an application in progress with us, or just want to learn more about PwC, there's something for everyone in our Virtual Classroom programme.

Focussed on a particular topic, the Virtual Classroom sessions run as a series of events providing students, parents and teachers alike a true insight into PwC. Targeted at students in Years 10-13 (Years 11-14 in Northern Ireland, S3-S6 in Scotland), you'll have the opportunity to learn about who PwC are, what we do, and our opportunities as well as ask questions of our recent Flying Start and School and College Leaver joiners.

We also have a wide range of other resources, such as our [Employability Hub](#), a wide range of YouTube videos and our Back to Schools recordings to access at a time that suits you.

DATES OF LIVE SESSIONS

- **NOVEMBER 8TH- SUPPORTING PARENTS TO UNDERSTAND PROFESSIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WITH PWC**
- **NOVEMBER 15TH- INSIGHT INTO DEGREES IN ACCOUNTING WITH PWC**
- **NOVEMBER 24TH- UNLOCKING THE POWER OF DATA INSIGHTS WITH A DEGREE APPRENTICESHIP**
- **DECEMBER 1ST- BUILDING CONFIDENCE IN THE SELECTION PROCESS**

[MORE INFORMATION](#)



USEFUL WEBSITES



allabout™
schoolleavers.co.uk

If you are considering doing an apprenticeship, school leaver programme or sponsored degree, you will also need to start thinking about which industry you'd like to work in.

In the UK, there are apprenticeships available in all kinds of industries, from accounting and digital media to construction, engineering and IT. You are spoilt for choice. That's why it's important to start finding out about all of the different industries you can enter.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

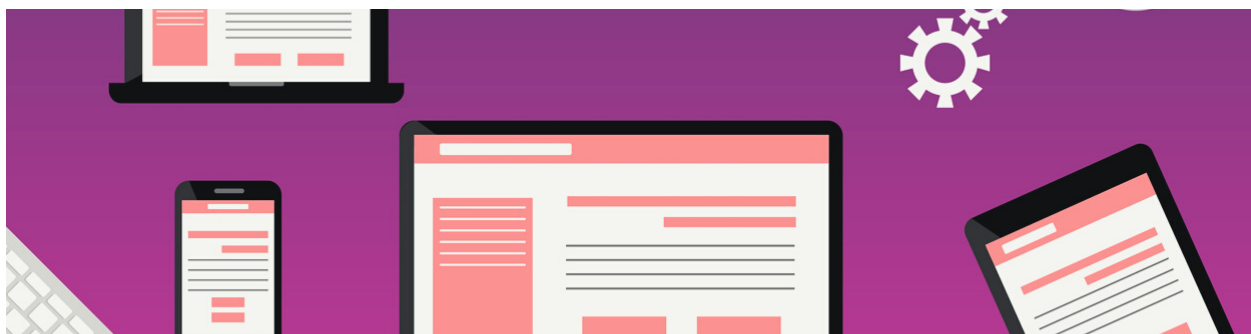
Access Accountancy is a movement for change across the accountancy profession. Working towards everyone having an equal chance of accessing the profession.

Accountancy firms and professional bodies have committed to measurable outcomes, which aim to deliver real change and welcome talented and ambitious young people to the profession from all backgrounds to support social mobility.

Access Accountancy exists to ensure that everyone has an equal chance of accessing the accountancy profession based on merit, not background.



[MORE INFORMATION](#)



USEFUL WEBSITES CONTINUED



PARENTS GUIDE TO UNIVERSITY

Welcome to the first parents' guide dedicated to exploring how university could help your child take their first steps into the world of work.

It couldn't come at a more important time. Over the last two and half years, both university and the labour market have changed dramatically as COVID-19 has forced us to adapt to new ways of living and working.



The world of work is changing and there are now more options than ever for students, such as going to university, starting an apprenticeship or combining both through high apprenticeship or sponsored degrees. TARGET careers helps school leavers make decisions about their future and offers information guides to parents.

MORE INFORMATION