

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?

BY LYNNE TROWER

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 - EVENTS



University of Brighton

Outreach Brighton - Events

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**](#)

[**SUBJECT TASTERS**](#)

University of Sussex

Found out more about the university's widening participation scheme by visiting the more information link below.

[**MORE INFORMATION**](#)

US
**UNIVERSITY
OF SUSSEX**

CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES CONTINUED



INTERESTED IN THE ARTS OR HUMANITIES BUT DON'T KNOW WHERE TO START?

*****DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS EXTENDED - 13TH OCTOBER
2021*****

STUDENTS MUST BE AVAILABLE IN THE BRIGHTON AREA FOR A
YEAR FROM JAN 2022

Who are we?

Arts Emergency provides young people with free mentoring, advice, guidance and opportunities to help them embark on higher education and careers in the creative sector.

We're looking for young people aged 16-25 who are passionate about the arts, humanities or creative industries and who would benefit from having a mentor in these areas. We match you and your mentor based on your individual interests, passions and goals.

How we can help you

We can set you up with a mentor who shares your interests. They will support you in monthly meetings for 12 months by helping you set goals, giving you advice and providing you with opportunities to explore your passions. This could look like UCAS guidance, CV writing, exhibition/studio visits and much more!

We will continue to support you until your 26th birthday. This can be through work experience, paid opportunities, access to creative professionals, free tickets or advice and guidance.

How to get a mentor

Apply for the programme! To apply to our programme you will need to first check the eligibility criteria to make sure we can accept your application. Then fill in our online form, which can be found on our website. Use the url below or scan the QR code on the other side of this flyer. When you apply, select that you are applying through a partner school. Applications close on October 6th 2021.



MORE INFORMATION

CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES CONTINUED



ASPIRING PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMME

****Presentation to BHASVIC students on 18th October - please use the VLE to sign up - ALWAYS CHECK ELIGIBILITY****

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.

Closing date for applications is 12 noon Friday 10th December 2021.

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

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

[SIGN UP ON VLE FOR VIRTUAL PRESENTATION](#)

CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES

GOLDSMITHS PROGRESSION SCHEME



The Goldsmiths Progression Scheme is a fantastic way for students to gain skills, meet new people, discover more about their subject interests and enhance their application to university. The scheme will open shortly to students in Year 12 or first year of college, with events and activities running from January through to November.

The scheme will have lots of exciting and engaging content for students to participate in. During their time on the scheme, students will acquire a wealth of new skills that will help them at university and beyond, including:

- critical thinking skills
- increased subject knowledge
- support throughout the UCAS application process
- careers advice
- confidence in making their next step

Applications for Goldsmiths Progression Scheme 2022 will open soon

[SIGN UP HERE FOR 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



ROYAL HOLLOWAY RESIDENTIALS

Get a glimpse of life at Royal Holloway, on one of our free university residentials for students in Year 12.

Applications for the 2022 university residentials open winter 2021.

*****We currently plan to deliver these residentials on campus, an online alternative will be offered if this is not possible*****

If you are unsure of your university choices, then attending a summer school can help you decide what is important to you.

To apply, please check your eligibility. Then complete the relevant student application form. Next, ask a teacher and parent/carer to complete the other forms listed.

[CHECK ELIGIBILITY, COMPLETE FORMS AND FIND OUT MORE HERE](#)



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 - closing date 15/11/2021**
- **Pathway to Engineering**
- **Pathway to Medicine**
- **Pathway to Banking and Finance**
- **US Programme - opening November 2021**
- **UK Summer Schools - January 2022**

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES CONTINUED



Medicine and Health 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, Dentistry and Healthcare Futures**
- **Webinar Series for Years 11, 12 and 13**
- **Online Mentoring for Aspiring Dental Professionals**
- **Access to Leeds - applications open soon**

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

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES CONTINUED



READING SCHOLARS 2022

APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN!

(DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS 5TH NOVEMBER 2021)

Applications from Year 12 students to the Reading Scholars 2022 programme is now open. Consisting of four events (currently planned to be on-campus but may be delivered virtually depending on requirements at the time), the Reading Scholars programme will give students an insight into the Higher Education environment, experience of a range of academic sessions within their chosen strand (15 strands in total), and the opportunity to receive mentoring support from one of the current students studying a subject related to their strand.

Activities should be held on-campus, all costs for your students are covered including travel, food and refreshments, and accommodation during the residential. The Reading Scholars programme is particularly beneficial to those considering applying to the University of Reading due to the following benefits for those completing the programme:

- **Guaranteed conditional offer or invite to interview if applying to University of Reading**
- **Two grade drop on most courses where made an offer from the University of Reading**
- **If University of Reading offer is firm choice, can apply for £1000 Reading Scholars bursary in first year**

[BROCHURE](#)

[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 Friday 26th 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.

Join us over three technology focused student sessions (taking place on 7 October) where you'll gain insights into the work we do with emerging tech, cyber security and digital data and analytics here at PwC. You'll also hear about our opportunities and have the chance to engage with a range of PwC ambassadors.

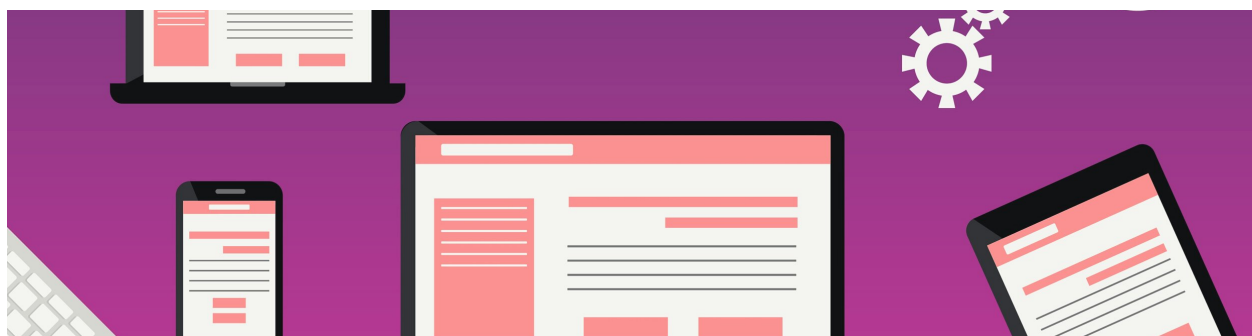
We'll finish with a session for parents, carers and teachers (taking place on 14 October) to share some key insights and more information about our opportunities.

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

- **CYBER SECURITY, 7 OCTOBER 4.30 - 5.30PM**
- **PARENT & TEACHER SESSION, 14 OCTOBER 4.30 - 5.30PM**

[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, 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



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