

WIDENING PARTICIPATION NEWSLETTER

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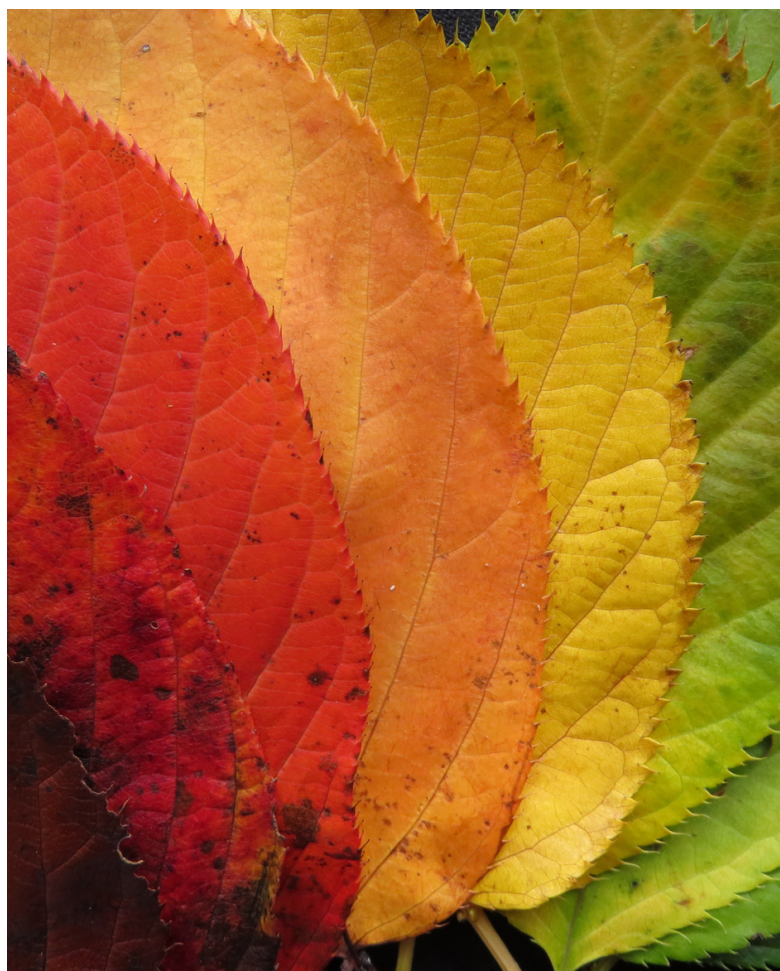
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INTRODUCTION

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.

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 a field. 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).

Our WP programme is 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. This could be something they wish to consider in the future, if not right now.

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.

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. This enables 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 other education providers and organisations who are offering taster days as well as careers information and support.

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

If a student is eligible for the 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](#)

Applications are open now for A1 students and usually close in December (exact date to be confirmed)

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 9,000 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](#)



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



[MORE INFORMATION](#)

Surrey Scholars is the award-winning* sustained programme of extracurricular outreach from the University of Surrey for students in Years 9 to 13.

As a Surrey Scholar, learners receive support with GCSE and Post-16 study in addition to advice and guidance towards progression into higher education and beyond. Scholars will receive priority status to attend our flagship programmes, as well as exclusive access to online and on campus events.

All Surrey Scholars are eligible to receive a reduced entry requirement when applying to study at the University of Surrey



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



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.

Sign up for emails so additions to the website go straight to your inbox.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES CONTINUED



**Northumbria
University
NEWCASTLE**

Destination Northumbria is a programme designed to provide valuable resources, guidance and a strong support network to help develop the skills and knowledge to prepare for undergraduate study.

A structured scheme to support students with the transition to studying at university.

- Get involved in social events
- Connect with other Destination Northumbria students
- Opportunities for mentoring with current students
- Attend on campus events to familiarise yourself with the university
- Meet our student support teams
- Attend webinars providing information and guidance
- Gain 8 Destination Northumbria points (Points equivalent to UCAS tariff points when applying to Northumbria University. Cannot be used in conjunction with Contextual Offers or extenuating circumstances)

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

THE SUTTON TRUST US PROGRAMME

The Sutton Trust US Programme is designed to support students from state schools across the UK to explore US study and access leading universities.

It includes two UK residentials before all students spend a week in the US staying on campus at a leading US university and visiting a variety of other American universities.

The programme is free for students. All costs are covered by the programme – including travel, food, accommodation, admissions test preparation and more.

An optional second year of the programme supports students to apply to US universities alongside their UCAS options.

Students must submit their application **by 14 January 2024**.

However, we strongly advise you get started earlier, as the application form requires some thinking!

MORE INFORMATION

CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES CONTINUED



ACCESS TO LEEDS SCHEME

Access 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.

Applications open the final week in September and you should apply as soon as possible after your UCAS application, particularly if your course requires an interview.

The Access to Leeds application deadlines are:

- Medicine (A100) and Dental Surgery (A200): 1 November 2023. Due to the tight turnaround for interview selection for Medicine and Dentistry, you **MUST** submit your application by this deadline
- All other courses: 14 February 2024.

[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



STAART (Support Through *AccessAbility - Retention and Transition) was created to prepare disabled and dyslexic students coming to the University of Greenwich for university study. Disability in higher education includes physical disabilities; long term health conditions; mental health difficulties; and/or the dyslexia and autism spectrums.

You are eligible to join our initiative if you are intending to attend the University of Greenwich from 2021; have applied to the University of Greenwich; are a current disabled student at the University of Greenwich and/or a disabled or dyslexic student in a local school or college (Kent, Medway and SE London). You also need to be over 16 to join STAART.

If you are a disabled or dyslexic student who does not fit either category, you are welcome to join us on Facebook (University of Greenwich - STAART) or Twitter (@GRE_STAART).

Disability in UK universities include 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.

We use the term disability and diversity as a number of our prospective and current disabled students are not always aware that their medical and/or psychological status is classified as a disability.

We believe in a **transformative** model of widening access which views disabled and diverse students as positive assets to the university, with an emphasis on the **student lifecycle**.

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. Applications are now open until Sunday 3rd December 2023, the programme events will begin in January 2024.

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.

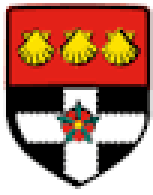
You must be studying in the first term of your level 3 qualifications. These may be A-levels, BTECs, International Baccalaureate or equivalent that would allow progression onto university.

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 until Sunday 3rd December 2023.

MORE INFORMATION

CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES CONTINUED



University of Reading

The Reading Scholars programme aims to give Year 12 students a taste of life as a university undergraduate, and provides practical support as participants begin their higher education application process. The 2024 programme is planned to consist of three on-campus events (two one day events in February and March, and a residential in July) as well as a series of online-drop in events during May.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

Unite

Foundation

THE UNITE FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

Having somewhere of your own to call home matters. With the Unite Foundation scholarship, you'll have accommodation and bills covered for up to 3 years of study. That includes all through the holidays too, so you don't have to wonder where to go during Christmas or summer. You can even stay the summer after you graduate to plan your next move. The Unite Foundation team will help you settle in, keep in touch and offer opportunities for employment and enjoyment.

Applications are now closed for 2023/24 but open again on 1st January 2024.

You can apply for the scholarship if you're:

1. 25 or under
2. **A statutory care leaver, care experienced (Scotland), or estranged from your family**
3. Starting or studying your first undergraduate degree
4. Eligible for UK home fee status
5. Applying to one of the Unite Foundation's partner universities (see 'Where you can study')

[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.

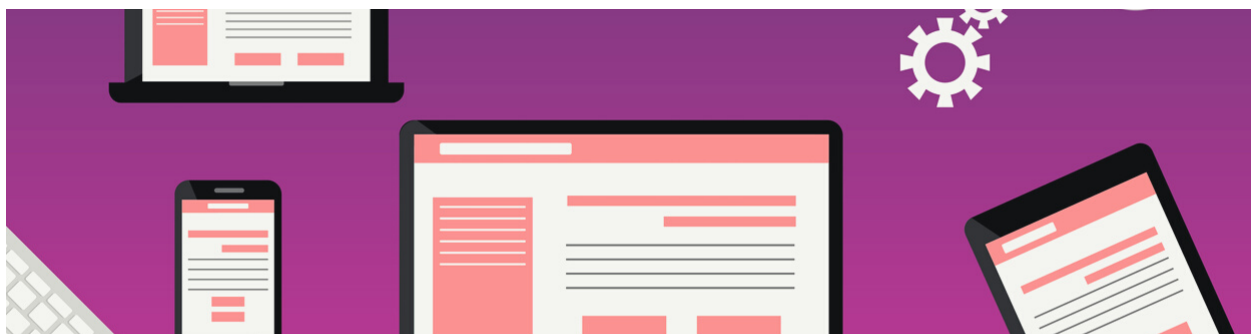
Upcoming events include:

Looking ahead to your career options: Apprenticeships.

Discover Technology at PwC.

Looking ahead to your career options: Degree programmes

[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.

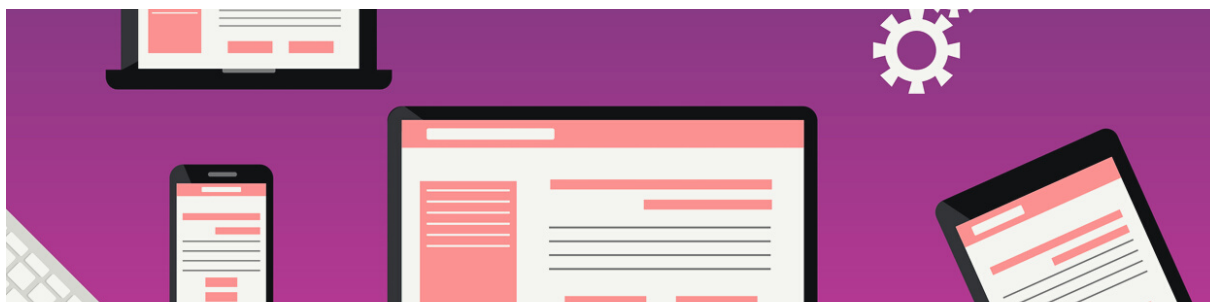
MORE INFORMATION

Access Accountancy is a movement for change across the accountancy profession. Accountancy firms, organisations and professional bodies in the sector have committed to delivering real change by welcoming talented and ambitious young people to the profession from all backgrounds.

They recognise that **work experience placements** are a great opportunity to learn more about the accountancy profession. A number of employers have signed up and committed to offering work experience placements where you'll get to explore what the day-to-day life of an accountant is like, while also gaining new skills and enjoying new experiences.



MORE INFORMATION



USEFUL WEBSITES CONTINUED



PARENTS GUIDE TO UNIVERSITY

Success at School's University Guide 2023/24 is a free digital guide, **sponsored by Liverpool John Moores University**. It will help parents and carers support their children to make informed decisions about their next steps after school and is designed to provide them with all the information they need to make a successful application to university.

Get expert advice from a wide range of universities and hear from top employers about career opportunities including **ACCA** and **IBM**.



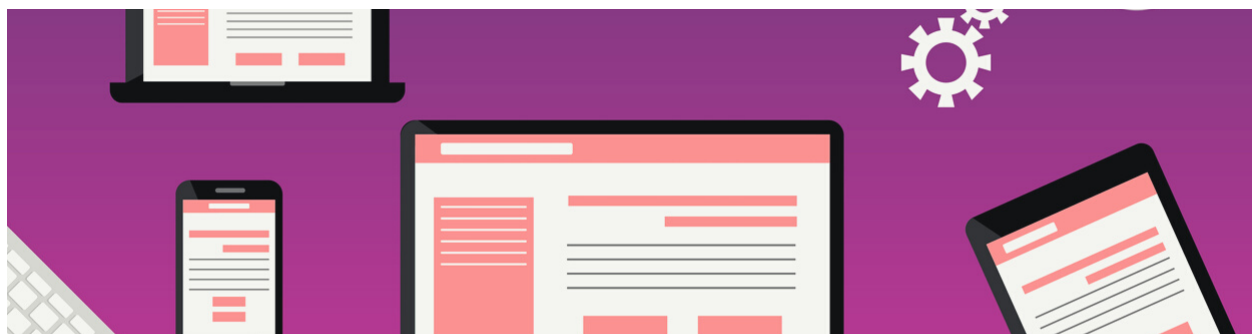
targetapprenticeships

Helping you on your apprenticeship journey

Looking for an apprenticeship? This is the place.

Start here to explore your options, develop skills and apply successfully. Learn what to expect from apprenticeships and school leaver programmes, browse apprenticeship vacancies and connect with employers who want to hear from you.

MORE INFORMATION



PERSONAL STATEMENT HUBS



University of Brighton

The University of Brighton is delighted to be able to offer one-to-one personal statement support for students of our partner colleges.

Please note you will need to be able to access Microsoft Teams to be able to attend the meeting. This can be accessed through a browser or by downloading the Microsoft Teams app.

[BOOK HERE](#)



**UNIVERSITY OF
PORTSMOUTH**

Ready to show your chosen university why you're the perfect candidate for the course? We've got you covered.

Your UCAS personal statement is uniquely yours. It's the story you tell when you apply to uni. But writing it can be tricky. There are things it needs to include and common mistakes to avoid.

Watch videos, get top tips and download our help sheets – that's what our personal statement hub is for. It's for you to write your story, so you can show your strengths, ideas and passion to your chosen universities.

You'll also be able send us your draft, so you can get feedback and feel confident about what you've written.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)