

WIDENING PARTICIPATION NEWLETTERS

WHAT IS INSIDE

**SUPPORT FOR A1 TO A2
TRANSFER - 2**

**UPDATES FROM PARTNER
UNIVERSITIES & OTHER
NEWS - 3**

**CURRENT
OPPORTUNITIES - 5**

**ADDITIONAL SUPPORT &
REDUCED OFFERS
EXPLAINED - 10**

**GENERAL CAREERS
INFORMATION - 13**



WELCOME BACK TO THE SPRING EDITION

BY LYNNE TROWER

This newsletter is intended to summarise the main activities currently being offered by both local and national universities whilst providing information of other opportunities that may be appropriate. Most events are free of charge, but where there is a cost implication, it has been highlighted.

Students are settling back into their remote learning and are beginning to plan for their next stage. This could be university, apprenticeship or a gap year etc. We have information on all options in this issue.

BHASVIC Futures Fair - Engaging with employers is an important skill for students and historically our students have been good at this. We are now planning our virtual event with the launch in March - details to follow.



Support for A1 to A2 Transfer

Students will soon start the process of completing their A1 – A2 transfer options during tutorial. During this time, they will need to start looking at what their future plans may be. Below are a few useful tools for them to use in their planning.

1) For students who interested in going to university, need help finding a course or need to expand their knowledge of what is available the following resources are helpful:

- SACU A Level Match – click [here](#)
- Uniguide – A Level Explorer – click [here](#)

2) Students wanting to understand where a degree subject might lead them:

- Prospects – what can I do with my degree? It's a useful tool, is not an exhaustive list, but a great starting point. Click [here](#)

3) Students wishing to understand more about apprenticeships:

- Get in Go Far – Fire It Up. Click [here](#)

4) Gap Years

- Plan My Gap Year. Click [here](#)

5) Listed below are a couple of careers resources that may also help students make decisions (but they can also help parents to advise students about their choices).

- Target Careers Choices about University – click [here](#)
- Apprenticeships in Sussex – click [here](#)

UPDATES AT PARTNER UNIVERSITIES



University of Brighton

Advice for Students Thinking About University in 2021

We know your education has been disrupted and we're committed to enabling as many people as possible to come to the University of Brighton and offer a [flexible admission policy](#). We look at students as individuals as well as their grades. Grades matter, but so do creativity, resourcefulness, persistence, and the potential to think big and find new ways of doing things.

Upcoming Online Events

Our online programme of events are a chance for students to get tips and advice on specific topics, and ask any questions about applying to university in general or studying at Brighton in real time with our friendly students and staff.

Interview Presentation and Q&A

16th February 1.00- 2.00 [book here](#)

16th February 5.00-6.00 [book here](#)

Student Finance

21st January 1.00-2.00 [book here](#)

21st January 6.00-7.00 [book here](#)

Interview Preparation 1:1s

Included as part of our offer, we are delighted to be able to support you in one-to-one online interview preparation appointments. This is the chance to have a mock interview and build your confidence if you are having applying for a course which has an interview.

Please click [here](#) to book onto an interview preparation 1:1's

UPDATES AT PARTNER UNIVERSITIES

Continued



University of Brighton

Online University Guide

As part of the Outreach programme you have exclusive access to our [University online guide](#), which offers you a course to work through of key information required when deciding whether and how to apply to University.

This includes guides on:

- How to choose the right course and university for you
- Making a strong application
- How to write a good personal statement
- Interview support
- Student Finance
- Student experience

And much more!

**You can sign up for this free resource
here: <https://uoboutreach.thinkific.com/>**

OTHER NEWS

Virtual Apprenticeship Careers Fair - 27th January 2021

Springpod is holding a Virtual Careers Fair, taking place on the 27th of January, which allows students to learn from companies such as HSBC, Network Rail, EY and Cancer Research UK.

Some of the companies providing talks and interacting with students are also either due to run Virtual Work Experience Programmes in the coming months or are already accepting applications. This means that, not only will students be able to learn about potential apprenticeships at each company, but also find out about current programmes and insight days that they can get involved with from home!

[Book Here](#)

CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES



We are looking for high achieving students from less-advantaged backgrounds at state-funded schools to apply.

The Sutton Trust is a leading social mobility charity and our flagship UK Summer Schools will give your students an insight into university by spending a week with one of 13 leading UK universities and meeting like-minded students from across the UK.

Our new Apprenticeship Summer School will allow students to explore degree-level apprenticeships as an alternative to university by attending interactive skills sessions and networking with top employers.

While the upcoming months seem uncertain, we are confident that with our new digital platform, Sutton Trust Online, we can continue to provide outstanding experiences. Whether the summer schools are delivered in-person or online, we will offer your students ongoing support and high-quality resources at a time they need it most.

Summer school students gain confidence and the skills to navigate the Higher Education system and make informed choices about their future. Over 6,000 young people benefitted from our Summer Schools last summer and we want your students to be next.

Who can apply?

Our Summer Schools are open to students who:

- are currently studying in Year 12 (England and Wales)
- have always attended a state-funded school or college

We are looking for high achieving (at least 5 A/6s at GCSE or 5 Bs at National 5) students from less-advantaged backgrounds. Students are more likely to gain a place if they meet additional social mobility criteria.

Applications close at midday on Tuesday, 2nd March.

[More information](#)

UNIVERSITY TASTER DAYS SEARCH

Want to know which UK universities are holding free taster days? Use the link to the website below to search when universities are holding their virtual taster days. These will be a great addition to your personal statements.

[Search](#)

CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE

Introduction of a Foundation Year Programme

A free foundation year which starts in October 2022, offers 50 talented students from backgrounds of educational and social disadvantage a new route to undergraduate study has been launched by the University of Cambridge on a full one-year scholarship.

The students will study at one of the 13 Cambridge colleges participating in the pilot scheme, and will benefit from the community, support and academic stimulation this offers, which is intrinsic to the Cambridge experience. They will study an engaging and challenging multi-disciplinary curriculum in the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences that will prepare them for further study in these subjects. It is anticipated that as the Foundation Year programme develops, more subjects could be added, for example STEM subjects.

More information

Current Opportunities for Years 12 & 13



Access UCL: UCL's Contextual Offer Scheme

Access UCL is UCL's contextual 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 of study they have applied for.

Eligibility is based on home postcode and school data. For more information and to check individual eligibility, click [here](#)

CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES

Current Opportunities for Years 12 & 13 continued



Medical School Applicant Webinars

The Medical Schools Council is running webinars on the topic of medical school interviews for students in Year 12 and 13 who aspire to study medicine. The purpose of these webinars is to help applicants to medical school find out more about the interview process for medicine and to learn how best to prepare click [here](#). The sessions will be led by admissions and widening participation leads from across UK medical schools and will allow students in Years 12 and 13 to ask questions using the Zoom Q&A feature.

Below students can find the registration links to sign up for free:

- [Wednesday 20 January 2021, 12 noon to 1pm](#)
- [Thursday 28 January 2021, 12 noon to 1pm](#)

UCL Choices With...

UCL Choices With...is for students in Year 12 in England and Wales, S5 in Scotland and Y13 in Northern Ireland. These sessions will be subject-specific and will give students an insight into the university courses that require the A-level subjects they are studying. Therefore, these events are likely to be particularly useful for students who are undecided about which degree to pursue.

Students will hear from current UCL undergraduates in that subject area and the relevant admissions tutors.

The next UCL Choices With...events will take place online during the half-term in February 2021. Students should visit the Choices With webpage for further information and to apply.

For more information, please click [here](#).

Applications close on Monday 25 January at 9am.

UCL Classics and Ancient World Virtual Taster Day

The UCL Greek and Latin department is holding a Classics and Ancient World Virtual Taster Day on **Wednesday 27 January from 2-4pm.**

What can we learn from a Greek play? How does learning Latin help us to understand the modern languages of Europe and beyond? At the upcoming Classics and Ancient World Virtual Taster Day, our lecturers will closely study these and related questions. They will give students a sense of what it is like to study this subject at the undergraduate level at UCL.

[To register click here](#)

CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES

Current Opportunities for Years 12 & 13 continued



Year 12 Online Summer Schools

The Year 12 Summer Schools will take place between Monday 26 July – Friday 30 July 2021. They are for students in Year 12 in England and Wales.

Hosted on the Sutton Trust online platform, the Summer Schools will provide an insight into studying at university, the opportunity to study a subject in detail, to be taught by UCL academics and PhD students, to meet and ask questions to current UCL students and to meet other participants from around the UK. There will be a blended approach of pre-recorded lectures, learning materials, live sessions and exciting social activities. Subjects include Architecture, Biosciences, English, Fine Art, Law, Maths and Computer Science, Population Health and Psychology with Education.

[The Summer Schools webpage](#) has the full list of subjects, the eligibility and academic criteria and a link to the application forms.

The deadline for applications is Tuesday 2 March at 11.59am.

Envision@UCL for Students of Black Caribbean and Black African Heritage

Envision@UCL is a three-hour online event for young people of Black Caribbean and Black African heritage in years 10–13 who are interested in learning more about university and future career options. It is an opportunity for students to:

- Meet inspirational and successful speakers
- Ask questions to some of UCL's current black students and alumni
- Gain valuable advice to help them plan their future
- Develop practical skills to help them prepare for university life
- Find out more about UCL.

The next Envision@UCL events will take place on Thursday 18 February 2021, 1–4pm for Years 12–13. Registrations will close on Monday 1 February at 9am.

[To register click here](#)

CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES

Virtual Humanities & Social Sciences Taster Days 28 - 29 January 2021



In a globalised and fast-changing world, you have the potential to help shape the lives of the next generation – and we've got the courses to start your journey.

Understand and tackle society's most enduring problems past and present. Explore relevant social, political and ethical questions including campaigns like Black Lives Matter, #MeToo, fake news, green politics and more. Combine perspectives and historic flashpoints. Tackle the issues that matter most to you.

That's what a Humanities and Social Sciences degree looks like.

See what you could study at our virtual taster day on the 28-29 January 2021 and start building a solid foundation for your future studies and career.

[More information](#)

Into University - Updates and Newsletter

A reminder to check your emails for the list of upcoming opportunities offered by Into University. *Students will have already been informed if they accepted into the Into University programme and can register to take part on these opportunities via the email sent from the WP mailbox.*



Removal of Mathematics Requirements for Economics Major

After review by admissions tutors, the entry requirements for our Economics major no longer include A-level Mathematics. This will help students who are genuinely interested in studying Economics but did not choose Mathematics as one of their A-level subjects.

Additional Support & Reduced Offers for Year 12 Students Explained



UCAS works in partnership with charities and other sector organisations, to provide practical and inspiring information, advice and resources for under-represented groups, as well as producing reports to inform public debate.

They've produced a range of materials to provide you with information to support widening access and participation including:

- Barriers and motivations associated with progression to higher education
- Non-A level progression routes
- Alternative pathways through higher education
- Insight into application trends and behaviours
- Contextualised admissions
- Entry requirements in Scotland
- Toolkits available to support your students' individual needs
- Our work with other organisations

Website

Below are a few examples of the approach being taken by some universities to the current situation. Please check directly with any universities that you are interested in.



The university recognise that ability isn't always demonstrated through a standard set of A Level or equivalent qualifications. Their Access Sheffield policies help ensure that everyone who has the potential to succeed on our courses has the opportunity to do so.

Depending on your circumstances, they may be able to give your application additional consideration when it's received and when exam results are released. If you are offered a place, the university may also be able to make you an alternative offer lower than their standard entry requirements for your course.

More information

Additional Support & Reduced Offers for Year 12 Students Explained Continued



What are contextual admissions?

Contextualised admissions refers to the use of information and data to assess circumstances and understand context of achievements when an individual makes a university application. Contextual information considers circumstances such as individual being a young carer, whilst contextual data considers socio-economic background such as the area where someone live or the school they attended.

Solent will be using the additional information gained through contextual data to support our admissions process where we will identify disadvantaged students, their achievement and potential to succeed in the context of their background and experience, encourage application and make lower offers to support access.

Eligibility criteria - Students who are:

- From areas where few people study at university level
- From areas of low participation
- Care leavers/children looked after
- Disabled
- Have attended a low performing secondary school
- Young carers.
- Refugees.
- From gypsy, Roma and traveller communities.
- From military families.
- Estranged from families.
- Current/former participants in Step into Success activities: specifically Head Start mentoring and residential visit.

[More information](#)

Additional Support & Reduced Offers for Year 12 Students Explained Continued

Universities offering WP support for dentistry applications

These schemes have been established to provide individuals from less represented backgrounds, access to higher education opportunities. Eligibility is often specific to ensure these schemes benefits those who are most in need. These factors may include the performance of the school or college you study at, your household income, progression of your geographical area and other factors related to your environment. **As such, it is extremely important to read through the exact criteria and contact the relevant university admission team for questions.**

- Newcastle University - 'Partner's Scheme'
- University of Birmingham - Access to Birmingham (A2B) programme
- University of Manchester - pre-dental course in Dentistry (contextual offer)
- University of Leeds - Alternative Admissions
- University Of Central Lancashire
- Queens Belfast
- Bristol Gateway To Dentistry
- Peninsula Pathways to the Healthcare Professions
- Cardiff -Contextual admissions
- Kings College London Enhances Support Dentistry programme
- Dundee -Reach
- University of Liverpool - Destination Dentistry
- University of Sheffield - Discover Dental Professions
- Glasgow
- QMUL- Widening participation
- Aberdeen

More information

General Careers Information

TARGETcareers

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 higher apprenticeship/sponsored degrees.

TARGETcareers has created a new publication to help parents to support their children in their future career decisions. In the guide, you will find information on:

- The world of apprenticeships,
- Which routes are best financially,
- Where your child will flourish,
- Researching employer programmes,
- Helping your child transition to university.

In addition, there are guides on how to get into different sectors such as finance, business, engineering and IT.

The publication is completely free to access and you can find a copy by clicking the link below.



More information

Examples of Bursaries Available to Widening Access to Higher Education

See the links below for examples of a range of scholarships and bursaries available to support talented students from every background. Please check any university you are applying to in order to find out if they offer bursaries. Don't miss out on free money.

- [University of Liverpool](#)
- [Aber](#)
- [Mo University Assistant](#)
- [Scholarship Hub](#)



All About School Leavers

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 is why it's important to start finding out about all of the different industries you can enter.

[More information](#)

Paths to Professional Careers – a Parent's Guide

Get advice aimed at parents on careers, university and school leaver programmes such as higher apprenticeships and sponsored degrees. The guide is for you whatever your young person wants to do after their A levels.

Click below to download your copy (please note that the website is still to be updated with the 2021 version)

[More information](#)