

THE OUTREACH
PROGRAMME/
OUR WORK
WITH SCHOOLS



CONTENTS

The outreach programme for schools	3
The outreach programme: development and delivery	4
Planning an outreach programme for your school	6
Outreach for Years 7 and 8	8
Outreach for Years 9 and 10	11
Outreach for Years 10 and 11	14
Outreach for Years 12 and 13	16
Scholarships and funding	19



THE OUTREACH PROGRAMME FOR SCHOOLS

At the University of Kent, we believe that anyone with the academic ability to study at university should have the opportunity to do so. This is why we are committed to our involvement with local secondary schools, encouraging young people to embrace the value of higher education and helping them to realise the important part it can play in their lives. Every year, as part of our commitment, the University delivers outreach to thousands of students across Kent and Medway.

Our experience over many years has shown that University outreach activities can make a real impact on students in schools and can help them to make informed and effective choices about their future. Kent has some of the best teaching staff in the country, and they challenge young people to reach their full potential. The University has been awarded a gold rating, the highest, in the UK Government's Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF)*, and 97% of Kent's research was deemed to be of international quality in the most recent Research Excellence Framework (REF). Working closely with the University's academics, our specialist outreach team has created a rich and varied programme of school and campus-based events to share our passion for learning and inspire students to go on to higher education.

This brochure outlines our provision for the University of Kent's Partner Schools and members of the Kent and Medway Progression Federation (KMPF). We hope that you find it helpful when planning how best to support and inspire your students.

To find out more about our activities, please visit www.kent.ac.uk/outreach, email outreach@kent.ac.uk or call us on 01227 824149. Contact us to subscribe to our weekly schools bulletin, which keeps you up to date with our new initiatives and developments.



* The University of Kent's Statement of Findings can be found at www.kent.ac.uk/tef-statement

THE OUTREACH PROGRAMME: DEVELOPMENT AND DELIVERY

Our outreach programme targets students who are less likely than their peers to progress to higher education. Among this group, progression to higher education is 10% higher for students who participate in outreach activities than for those who do not.

Our data also shows that, on average, attainment at Key Stage 4 for outreach participants is 16% higher than the school average.

We monitor our work and its outcomes very closely to assess its impact. A total of 35,030 students have been tracked through data reported by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA). The University of Kent leads on a national monitoring and outreach service called the Higher Education Access Tracker (HEAT, www.heat.ac.uk) and the tracking study is part of that service. We analyse data to see which of our activities are most helpful in inspiring students, how well outreach participants do in their school qualifications, whether they enter higher education and how well they perform at the end of their university course.

Based on the data we have collected over ten years, and the insights that this has given us, we have redesigned our outreach curriculum to maximise its impact.

When should my students start engaging with outreach?

Our data indicates that progression to higher education improves when students participate in outreach activities both before and after the age of 16. Our programmes are carefully planned to offer tailored activities for students throughout their education.

What curriculum should I choose?

Our data shows that information talks about higher education are most effective when they form part of a longer programme of activities, so we generally use talks to introduce students to other activities (such as Summer School) rather than in isolation. We recommend that your students engage with the outreach programme at various points throughout their school career. Our Outreach Activities Co-ordinators work with you to create a tailored programme for each cohort to ensure that your students get the maximum benefit.

Visit our campus

Although it can be difficult to arrange for students to leave school for the day, a visit to campus can make a lasting difference, particularly when it forms part of a wider, planned outreach programme. According to HEAT data, students who take part in outreach activities on campus are 7% more likely to progress to higher education than those who only participate in school-based outreach activities.

Delivering the programme

Our team brings a wealth of diverse experience to the delivery of the outreach programme. Our specialist outreach staff have many years of experience working with schools. Across the University, our academic staff are committed to the dissemination of knowledge and are keen to share their excitement for their specialist subject areas with enquiring minds. Some members of the team are recent Kent graduates, who know the value of a university education and use their perspective and knowledge to inform and inspire potential students.

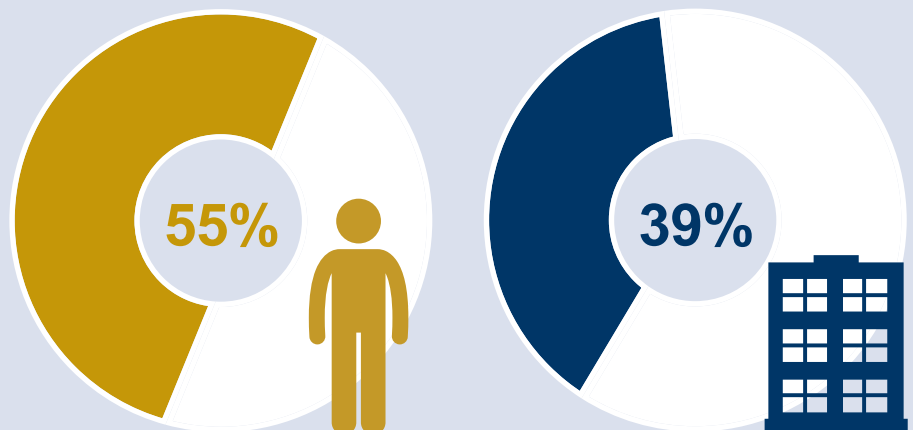
In addition, our student ambassadors are great role models, and their involvement in outreach work gives them an opportunity to put their learning into practice, gain vital skills that will be useful in the workplace and share their passion for learning.

Involving our specialist teachers, academic staff and student ambassadors in the delivery of the outreach programme ensures that our work with schools is truly representative of the breadth of expertise and experience that the University has to offer.

Comparing achievement with the school average

These figures show the KS4 achievement of outreach participants compared with the average for their schools.

Percentage of students awarded 5 A*-C (including English and Maths)



Source: HEAT™ (August, 2017)

Outreach participant average

School average

How it will help you and your students

The outreach programme introduces students to the concept of higher education in Year 7 and builds their knowledge as they progress through secondary education. In addition, we offer opportunities for exploring and developing other key skills that are necessary for educational success. We understand that some students may require additional curriculum support in order to fulfil their potential, and for this reason our outreach programme also includes activities delivered by the University's academic schools.

The programme outlined in this brochure indicates pathways through the outreach offer from Year 7 to Year 13. This enables you to:

- identify activities that are appropriate for different groups of students
- build coherent and progressive routes within the outreach curriculum to provide the maximum benefit to each group.

In addition to providing activities tailored to different year groups, we also offer some activities designed to support students with low attainment, while others stretch and challenge high attainers. Our Outreach Activities Co-ordinators can advise and support you as you consider the best routes for your individual students.

STUDENT AMBASSADOR

Haidar Al Taie graduated from the University of Kent in 2018 with a degree in Mathematics and Statistics with a Year in Industry

Why did you become a student ambassador?

I knew that being a student ambassador would provide me with a unique opportunity to balance paid work and studies, so I could fully focus on whichever required more attention at the time. I grew up in a somewhat disadvantaged background where not many people went to university. Having got to university myself despite the challenges, it really encourages me to support those who think university isn't possible for them, and to reassure them that people can make it, if they choose to, no matter where they're from.

What kinds of activity have you been involved in?

I've worked on lots of campus visits, where we show the students around the Canterbury campus – usually tailoring the tour to their year group. Within those full-day campus visits, I've also delivered workshops and supported subject-specific sessions. I visit schools all over Kent to deliver sessions on topics such as university life, student finance and many others. Occasionally, I support students in writing their personal statements for the UCAS applications, too. Recently, I've been involved in a few summer schools, where we run activities and provide support to students over three- or four-night residentials.

What has been the most rewarding thing about being a student ambassador?

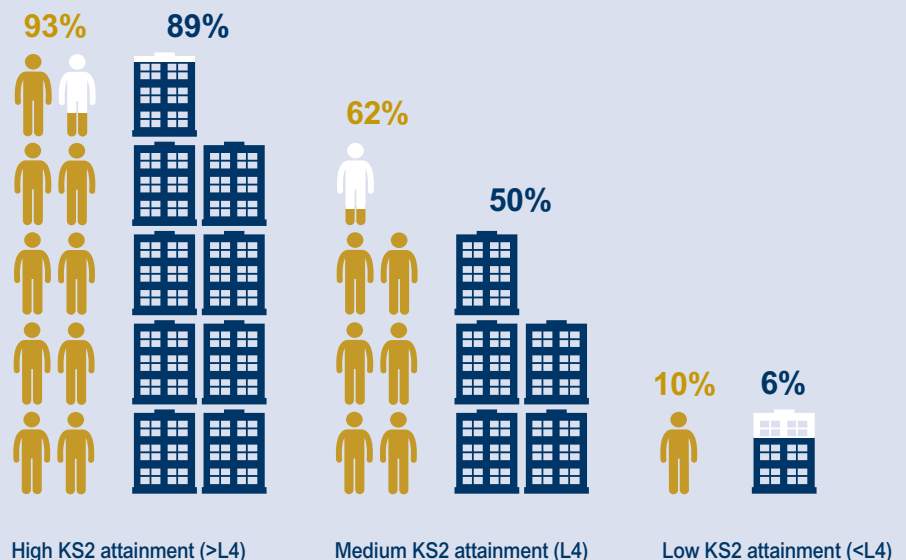
My favourite aspect of this job is how rewarding it is, whether it's seeing a student so happy after discovering a new subject area they can study, guiding a student into making a better personal statement, or watching their amazement as we go around the campus on a tour. The most rewarding part of all is knowing that you have the potential to completely transform a student's future within the matter of a few hours, and seeing how motivated they become. Being a part of that experience is a genuine honour and drives me to make every event an unforgettable experience for the students.

Achievement by prior attainment at Key Stage 2*

By looking at the KS4 performance of participants broken down by their prior attainment at KS2, and comparing this with the school level averages, we can begin to show meaningful relationships between participation in outreach and attainment at school while controlling for prior attainment.



Percentage of students awarded 5 A*-C (including English and Maths)



* Data available from 2010/2011

PLANNING AN OUTREACH PROGRAMME FOR YOUR SCHOOL

Our outreach programme is designed progressively to build and develop your students' understanding of higher education and the range of opportunities it offers them. It is most effective when students participate on a number of occasions during their school career.

The planning grid on these pages provides an example of how you might plan for outreach activities across Years 7 to 13. We recommend that you include the core offer activities in your planning.

Students who follow this programme from Y7 to Y11:

- 1 Are involved in outreach before the age of 16, increasing their chances of progression.
- 2 Participate in two campus visits, which has a positive impact on progression to HE.
- 3 Take part in activities focused on their post-16 options, helping them to make informed decisions about their future.

Students who follow this programme in sixth form:

- 1 Take part in activities focused on their post-18 options, helping them to make informed decisions once they finish sixth form.
- 2 Visit a university campus, which increases likelihood of progression.
- 3 Receive help with their applications and making realistic choices.
- 4 Are given an overview of what to expect at university, making the prospect of their next step less daunting.
- 5 Have an opportunity to find out about the support available at university and to ask questions, which increases the chances of continuing to higher education.

Contact us at outreach@kent.ac.uk to be added to our email list or keep up to date with our activities via our weekly schools bulletin at: www.kent.ac.uk/outreach/schools-bulletin

Outreach activities planning grid

Outreach strands and aims			Year group
Please speak to your Outreach Activities Co-ordinator who can advise and support you in considering the best routes for your individual students. You can also check our website for a full list of outreach activities.			
Academic support (Learning and innovation skills)	Academic support (Curriculum)	HE awareness	
KS3 Foundations	Literacy and numeracy support	Raising awareness of HE	Y7
			Y8
Level 2 learning and innovation skills	Level 2 curriculum support	Increasing familiarity with HE	Y9
			Y10
		Making informed post-16 choices	Y11
Level 3 learning and innovation skills	Level 3 curriculum support	Exploring self and post-18 options	Y12
		Exploring higher education	
		Supporting applications and the transition to HE	Y13

Core offer for outreach groups The core offer is designed progressively to build and develop your students' understanding of higher education and the range of opportunities it offers them.	Examples of optional activities for outreach groups The optional activities build and complement the core offer. These activities provide additional opportunities to support students in academic study, develop new skills and further improve their understanding of HE.	Examples of targeted activities for smaller outreach groups Due to the intensive nature of these activities, they can only be delivered to targeted groups of outreach students. The examples detailed below represent the types of activity that may be available.
Workshop: Build a university	Transitions activity day	Greenfoot programming – <i>to stretch and challenge high-achieving students by introducing them to programming concepts to create their own digital games</i>
Year 7/8 visit day		Quest narrative literacy project – <i>for students working below their expected literacy level</i>
Workshop: Build a student	Homework club	Transitions project: reflect, research and respond – <i>for high-achieving students to help improve public speaking and research skills</i>
	World Languages Day	
Year 9 visit day	Maths: What's the point?	
Workshop: University life	Year 10 visit day	Year 10 Summer School – <i>for students who have the academic potential to progress to university but currently lack confidence or motivation</i>
	After-school debating club	Mediation – <i>for students who would benefit in developing the skills of listening, forming arguments and objectivity</i>
	Workshop: GCSE time management	
	Your future, your choice	GCSE History Support – <i>for students who would benefit from additional support to reinforce curriculum topics through the concept of source analysis</i>
	Workshop: GCSE Revision Techniques	
Year 12 visit day	Post-16 Foundations	Year 12 Summer School – <i>for students who are interested in HE but require additional support researching the options available to them</i>
		Library research day (including Templeman Library membership) – <i>for students who are required to undertake a research task and would benefit from an introduction to research sources and referencing</i>
Stepping Up 1		
Stepping Up 2	Year 13 Transitions day	Stand Up for Shakespeare – <i>for students who would benefit from undertaking a close reading of a chosen Shakespeare text and exploring performance techniques</i>
	Debating: How to argue and win	
	Stepping Up 3	

OUTREACH FOR YEARS 7 AND 8

The outreach programme begins by introducing your students to the idea of higher education and supporting the transition from primary to secondary school.

We have indicated a maximum group size for workshops although, where staffing and school facilities permit, we are happy to run multiple workshops simultaneously to allow for a larger group overall. If you are interested in a campus-based event such as a visit day, please contact your Outreach Activities Co-ordinator for further information.

Raising awareness of higher education

How much do your Year 7 and 8 students know about universities and what 'going to university' involves? Our aim at this early stage is to raise awareness, engage their interest and challenge any preconceptions or stereotypes they may have about higher education and university students.

Core offer activities

• Workshop: Build a university

This one-hour workshop provides an introduction to higher education and prepares your students for a visit to the University. Students learn about the differences between campus and city universities and explore the types of facility available by creating their own university.

Maximum group size: 20

• Workshop: Build a student

Who goes to university? This one-hour workshop introduces the idea that there is no such thing as a 'typical university student'. Participants invent their own student to show that university students have different skills and qualities and come from a wide range of backgrounds. This session can be used to follow up a visit to the campus or as a stand-alone activity.

Maximum group size: 20

"I liked the workshop because it told us what it was like at university. Also, the activities were fun and new and I understand the difference between campus and city universities."

Year 8 student



• Year 7/8 visit day

A visit to the University of Kent introduces your students to a university environment as they explore the Canterbury or Medway campus with our student ambassadors. Alongside participants from other partner schools, they take part in a campus challenge and other fun activities designed to encourage them to reflect on what a university environment feels like.

You can book for the scheduled events in term 6 or request an individual school visit at another time.

Assembly talk

This 25-minute talk introduces students to higher education and student life.

It is designed to form part of a longer series of events and activities and can be delivered to any pre-16 year group. Participants should only attend the talk once.



KS3 Foundations

Some students find the move from primary to secondary school daunting. The following activities are designed to develop your students' confidence and, in particular, to provide support with the key numeracy and literacy skills that underpin their learning.

World Languages Day

Designed for Year 8 students and held at both our Medway and our Canterbury campuses, World Languages Day includes a wide range of workshops that show learning languages can be fun. Cultural and linguistic sessions encourage students to use the languages they are learning at school or to try something new. Workshops may include dance and drama activities, creative writing, music and sport. Languages offered include French, German and Spanish, along with introductions to Mandarin, Japanese, Arabic, Russian, Ancient Greek, Italian and many others.

Transitions activity day

This one-day activity is designed to help Year 7 students with their transition to secondary school by encouraging them to identify the positive skills and experiences they can use as they move forward into secondary school life. Students have the opportunity

to contribute to discussions and activities, helping them to approach learning in a new environment with confidence.

Maximum group size: 20

Homework club

The homework club allows your students to focus on their work in a relaxed, friendly and encouraging environment, with our student ambassadors available to support and help as required.

Mobile planetarium

This 60-minute session offers students the opportunity to experience an inflatable planetarium, tour the visible night sky using Stellarium software and view short films produced by the National Science Centre Creative around the themes of the Sun, the solar system and artificial satellites.

Maximum group size: 35

Quest narrative literacy project

This six-week project is designed to increase students' confidence in using a wider vocabulary, with a particular focus on descriptive language and inference. Aimed at students who are working below their expected literacy levels, the project encourages participants from Years 7 and 8 to

Stretch and challenge

Transitions project: reflect, research, respond

The transitions project is designed to stretch and challenge high achievers in Year 7. It develops public speaking skills, research skills and confidence.

Made up of three two-hour school-based sessions and a visit to one of the University's campuses, this project encourages students to reflect on their experience of moving from primary to secondary school and culminates in a presentation to school staff about their thoughts and recommendations.

Maximum group size: 30

build literacy skills through creative storytelling games, discussion, reading and writing. They discover the key elements of a quest narrative, as well as analysing how stories work; they apply their knowledge to stories they know and their own creative ideas. To complete the project, they develop and write a story of their own.

Maximum group size: 30

In-class numeracy support

Over a period of six weeks, under the direction of classroom teachers, our trained maths student ambassadors work with your students in small groups, providing additional support in order to bridge any identified numeracy skills gap.

Maximum group size: 30

Availability of sessions

The curriculum support we offer is resource-intensive, and so we can only accommodate a limited number of students and schools. We want to ensure that support is available for the students whom you believe would benefit from it most, so please speak to your Outreach Activities Co-ordinator if you think some of your students would benefit from the opportunities we offer.



OUTREACH FOR YEARS 9 AND 10

Having introduced students in Years 7 and 8 to the concept of higher education, this stage of the outreach programme encourages your students to reflect on the different subjects they could study at university and the importance of independent learning.

We also offer sessions focusing on key skills and support for GCSE study to enhance the curriculum.

We have indicated a maximum group size for workshops although, where staffing and school facilities permit, we are happy to run multiple workshops simultaneously to allow for a larger group overall. If you are interested in a campus-based event such as a visit day, please contact your Outreach Activities Co-ordinator for further information.

Increasing familiarity with higher education

The activities in this strand build upon those offered in Years 7 and 8; their aim is to increase students' knowledge and awareness of higher education and its potential benefits. They also provide opportunities to broaden students' horizons and to reflect on how GCSE study relates to higher education and future career options.

Core offer activities

• Workshop: University life

This one-hour workshop is designed to answer the 'Who? What? When? Where? How?' questions about university. Participants are encouraged to reflect on possible reasons for going to university, what they could study there, where they might live, and how studying at university differs from being at school.

Maximum group size: 20

• Year 9 visit day

Your students have the opportunity to explore what it is like to study at university during this visit to the University of Kent's Canterbury campus. Interactive taster sessions in humanities, sciences and social sciences introduce participants to different approaches to learning.

To get the most from this visit, participants should have some prior knowledge about university life (through either an introductory workshop or a campus visit in Year 7 or 8). You can book for the scheduled events in term 4 or request an individual school visit at another time.



Year 10 visit day

Building on the Year 9 visit day, this visit to the University of Kent's Canterbury or Medway campus is designed to increase students' understanding of academic life at university. They explore a particular theme or subject area, participating in a lively lecture followed by a related seminar delivered by academic staff or postgraduate students.

If your students have not already participated in the Year 9 visit, we recommend arranging an introductory workshop for them before attending. You can book for the scheduled events in term 3 or request an individual school visit at another time.

Workshops: Subject-specific sessions

These stimulating sessions are delivered in school and on campus by academic specialists or postgraduate students in a range of subject areas, providing an insight into the breadth and depth of academic subjects available. Exploring issues in new ways and introducing ideas from the cutting edge of university research to fire your students' imagination, they are designed to excite and inspire.

To find details of sessions appropriate for your students, visit www.kent.ac.uk/outreach

Maximum group size: variable, depending on workshop

Year 10 Summer School

Do you have students who are unsure about whether higher education would be the right option for them? Would they benefit from meeting learners from other schools?

Our four-day residential Summer School for students from partner and KMPF schools will give your Year 10s a taste of university life. They will live in campus accommodation, attend lectures and seminars, and enjoy exciting social activities.

Places are limited to 60 students. If you have students who would benefit from attending Summer School, please ask your Outreach Activities Co-ordinator how to apply.

OUTREACH FOR YEARS 9 AND 10 (CONT)

Curriculum support

The activities in this strand are designed to support students in key areas of the national curriculum, as well as helping them to develop skills they need to succeed in their GCSEs. Since these activities are resource-intensive and availability is limited, we work to ensure that they are offered to those who will benefit most.

If you think that some of your students could make more of their learning with the help of curriculum support, please speak to your Outreach Activities Co-ordinator.

FIRST® LEGO® League

FIRST® LEGO® League (FLL) is a global science and technology challenge for teams of students that aims to encourage an interest in real-world issues and to develop key skills for future careers. The students work together to explore a given topic and to design, build and programme an autonomous LEGO® robot to solve a series of missions. FLL is for young people aged 9 to 16 years, working in teams of up to ten students with a supporting adult coach.

For schools that wish to participate, in-school support is available from the University, as well as free equipment loan of the MINDSTORMS® kit.

Forensic anthropology

Forensic anthropology is the application of the science of anthropology in a legal setting. In this one-hour interactive session, students explore some of the methods and theory of this fascinating field, such as biological profiling and field excavation and recovery.

Maximum group size: 20

History Day

At our History Day on campus, students explore aspects of history that they might not encounter within the school curriculum. Focusing on a specific theme, the sessions are run by specialist academics and postgraduate students and concentrate on the skills of particular importance to the student of history, especially source analysis. Students survey various critical approaches, develop an informed opinion, obtain new subject skills, and have the opportunity to put questions to an expert.

Languages à la carte

This campus event gives participants the opportunity to try new languages and find out more about studying languages at university. Sessions include introductions to a number of languages that are not widely taught in school, such as Mandarin and Japanese. Student ambassadors also share their experiences of living and studying abroad as part of their university degree.

Maths: What's the point?

This one-day campus event invites enthusiastic students from different schools to take part in a range of workshops such as Code Breaking, Jengastatic!, Towers of Hanoi, Modelling, Origami and Fibonacci Numbers, all run by students from the Kent School of Mathematics and Actuarial Science. Sessions are designed to be fun, as well as educational, and to demonstrate that maths can have interesting applications in the real world.

Science extravaganza

Providing a fascinating insight into the worlds of science and technology, this day-long event on the Canterbury campus includes hands-on practical activities in professional-standard laboratories. Your students can take part in activities that include practical demonstrations of forensic techniques related to real-life criminal cases; writing computer programs to make LEGO® models follow 'orders'; microelectronics; and how to solve mind-boggling puzzles.

GCSE English Language and Literature support

These activities (which include classroom sessions and longer workshops) are designed to deepen your students' knowledge of specific texts or approaches to texts. They draw on the research and expertise of the Kent School of English, and your students are supported by student ambassadors who have a knowledge and understanding of English language and literature.

Maximum group size: 30

GCSE History support

This in-classroom support programme explores the concept of source analysis using specially created resource packs from the University of Kent's extensive catalogue.

Consisting of five or six hour-long sessions, the programme is delivered by postgraduate history students, supported by undergraduate students, either weekly or fortnightly. Sessions can be tailored to focus on the particular historical periods or themes within your GCSE syllabus.

Maximum group size: 30

GCSE Modern Foreign Languages support

Your students can benefit from in-school classroom support to practise speaking and listening skills in preparation for their GCSE exams. Our trained ambassadors are either native speakers or current language students. They work with small groups using a range of techniques to help them develop confidence, familiarity and understanding of French, Spanish or German (subject to availability).

Maximum group size: 6

Stretch and challenge

Practical science day

At this campus event, keen scientists are encouraged to use the science they learn at school to understand how this can be applied to the real world. Through experiments and workshops, students learn how scientific knowledge is applied in the pursuit of greater understanding and innovation.

PASS mentoring

The PASS Programme is designed as a series of small-group tutorials, facilitated in your school by our trained student ambassadors in a collaborative learning style. The tutorials are designed to reinforce learning originally delivered in the classroom.

Participants decide the focus of the sessions within subject content provided by the school. With the support of the ambassadors, they identify gaps in their knowledge and review what they have learnt.

Maximum group size: 10

"I feel passionately about promoting the benefits of higher education, particularly to those who haven't considered going to university before. I feel it is really important to show people how accessible university is, and each individual can discover new and exciting opportunities when they are at university."

Ellie Carswell

Former student ambassador and recent graduate in French and Italian



Level 2 learning skills

The activities in this strand are designed to help students to develop the skills they need to help them to succeed in their GCSEs and other level 2 qualifications.

Workshop: Presentation skills masterclass

This four-hour workshop can be delivered over the course of a day or in four separate sessions, either in school or on campus. The workshop develops students' confidence, public speaking and presentation skills through a range of activities. Students work in groups to develop, practise and deliver a presentation.

Maximum group size: 20

Public speaking competition

Taking place in late November, this competition is held at our Medway campus, in conjunction with the English Speaking Union. It challenges students to engage with wide-ranging cross-curricular topics while helping them to meet National Curriculum speaking and listening targets.

Debating support: How to get your point across

Offered in school or on campus, our range of exciting debating activities allows your students to develop, question and present their own opinions in a friendly and supportive environment.

This can be offered as a one-day on-campus event, or a six-week module (one hour per week). The initial three sessions are designed to improve speaking, listening and critical thinking. The three subsequent sessions are dedicated to debates on different topics.

Maximum group size: 20

"I have enjoyed the debating session very much. I have gained skills in researching and choosing points to prove my side of the argument."

Year 9 student

OUTREACH FOR YEARS 10 AND 11



As students move into Years 10 and 11, the programme encourages them to focus on the future and the exciting range of opportunities available. We continue to offer support for GCSE courses and introduce sessions to help students to prepare for their exams.

We have indicated a maximum group size for each workshop but, where staffing and school facilities permit, we are happy to run multiple workshops simultaneously to allow for a larger group overall.

Making informed post-16 choices

The activities in this strand are designed to get students to think beyond their GCSEs. Some provide opportunities to reflect on the choices that they will need to make regarding their post-16 study options and the impact that their decisions may have on their future careers. Other activities allow students to explore the range of subjects available and the different career paths that they might follow.

Your future, your choice

These sessions encourage your students to explore their future through dynamic activities and discussions. Working with student ambassadors, participants have the opportunity to research, debate and question what they want from their future. They start to look at the steps they can take now to achieve their goals.

Maximum group size: 20

Beyond GCSEs (subject half-days)

Many exciting subjects that are available to study at university are not part of the school curriculum. These half-day events, which can be offered in school or on campus, introduce students to subjects that may be new to them, such as architecture, anthropology, music production or pharmacy. They are designed to encourage students to think more broadly about the range of courses available.

Maximum group size: 30

Explore University visit day

Do you know any students who are unsure what to do after GCSEs? Would they benefit from spending a day at a university campus and meeting learners from other schools?

The Explore University day is designed for students and parents to explore what university life would be like. It includes a session specifically for parents, where they can ask questions about university and student life.

Your students should register for this event independently. Please ask your Outreach Activities Co-ordinator for further details.

Curriculum support

The activities in this strand are designed to support students in key areas of the national curriculum, as well as developing skills to help students to succeed in their GCSEs. Since these activities are resource-intensive and availability is limited, we work to ensure that they are offered to those who will benefit most.

If you think that some of your students could make more of their learning with the help of curriculum support, please speak to your Outreach Activities Co-ordinator.

GCSE English Language and Literature support

Please see p12 for details.

GCSE History support

Please see p12 for details.

GCSE Modern Foreign Languages support

Please see p12 for details.

Stretch and challenge: PASS mentoring

Please see p12 for details.

Psychology laboratory tours

This activity is ideal for students currently studying a Psychology GCSE and provides an opportunity to explore some of the fascinating equipment used by students and researchers at the University, for example to carry out experiments involving eye-tracking and electroencephalograms (EEG).

Maximum group size: 30

Workshop: Philosophy of science

This workshop introduces students to the key ideas and tools that researchers at the University of Kent use to think about science and its philosophical problems. Designed to introduce students who do not study philosophy to the art of philosophical thinking, this session stretches students and stimulates debate.

Maximum group size: 20

Level 2 learning skills

GCSE revision skills (part 1): Time management

This one-hour workshop is designed for those who need to develop better time management to help them in their studies. It helps your students to reflect on their practices in order to improve their study skills.

The workshop is aimed at students whose attainment is lower than expected. Students who are high attainers should take GCSE revision skills (part 2) as a stand-alone activity.

Maximum group size: 20

GCSE revision skills (part 2): Revision techniques

This one-hour workshop introduces your students to a range of revision techniques, such as mind-maps and flash cards. They have the opportunity to create revision material and practise their skills ahead of their GCSE examinations.

This can be a stand-alone workshop or it can follow on from GCSE revision skills (part 1).

Maximum group size: 20

After-school debating club

This programme of 12 sessions supports your students to establish and run an after-school debating club. The sessions are designed to introduce students to the UK parliamentary debating style, and help them to build strong arguments and run their debate.

Mediation

Developed by Kent Law School, this series of three or four sessions helps GCSE students to explore the methods used by experts in resolving disputes. With the focus on how they might apply these skills in their own lives, students are introduced to the purpose and benefits of mediation through supportive interactive sessions. Activities help to enhance their skills in listening and formulating arguments and to develop objectivity by focusing on the 'bigger picture'.

Maximum group size: 20



OUTREACH FOR YEARS 12 AND 13

As your students start sixth form, this stage of the outreach programme gives them an insight into what it is like to study at university and what subjects they could study, as well as helping them to make important decisions about their next steps.

We have indicated a maximum group size for workshops although, where staffing and school facilities permit, we are happy to run multiple workshops simultaneously to allow for a larger group overall. If you are interested in a campus visit, please contact your Outreach Activities Co-ordinator for further information.

Exploring self and higher education options

The activities in this strand are designed to give your students the opportunity to explore what it would be like to study at university. For students who participated in outreach in previous years, the activities build on their knowledge and help them to focus on the decisions they will need to make in the near future. For students who are new to the school, the activities introduce them to higher education and provide an opportunity to talk to current undergraduates.

Core offer activities

• Stepping Up 1

Delivered in six one-hour weekly sessions during Year 12, this module helps students to make decisions about their next steps after school. During the sessions students discuss the benefits of university and why it may be of value to them in the future. The module is suited to all students who have the potential to go to university.

Maximum group size: 20

• Year 12 visit days

Our visit days for Year 12 students are designed to provide an insight into the range of subjects available and how these are studied at university level. Some of the sessions are in subject areas that your students are likely to be familiar with already, whereas others introduce them to new areas of study. All sessions follow a common theme to help students understand how a topic can be approached from different disciplines.

The day includes a taster lecture and seminars, as well as an introduction to the library and other subject-specific facilities such as laboratories.

The following visit days are available:

- Humanities – including English language and literature, history, classical studies, philosophy, drama and theatre studies
- Sciences – including physical and biological sciences, pharmacy, computing, engineering and maths
- Social sciences – psychology, law, business, health and social care, sociology, economics and anthropology.

Introduction to university (campus visit)

This visit day is for Year 12 students who have little prior knowledge of higher education and are unsure whether it is the right choice for them. It provides an opportunity to visit the University of Kent's Canterbury campus, view the facilities, and talk to staff and current students about the application process and the value of higher education more generally. The day can be adapted to include a subject taster to provide an insight into the breadth of subjects that can be studied at university.

Workshop: The student experience

This one-hour workshop focuses on the realities and challenges of student life, such as living on campus or at home, managing financially and making friends. The session provides a short introduction to student life, and should be part of a longer series of activities, such as Stepping Up modules or a visit to campus.

Maximum group size: 20

Workshop: Student finance

This one-hour workshop covers the four main questions students ask when considering higher education:

- How much does it cost?
- How do I pay for it?
- How do I manage my money?
- What do I get for my money?

There is also an opportunity for students to ask questions. Please note: this session is included within Stepping Up 1 and should only be delivered to students who are not participating in that module.

Maximum group size: 20

What's next? Beyond L3 qualifications

Our one-hour tasters are designed to introduce students to subjects that may not be familiar to them. Delivered by our PhD ambassadors, these interactive sessions offer insights into different routes to and through higher education.

Maximum group size: 20

Stepping Up 2: Summer starters

Delivered at the end of Year 12, this module provides students with the guidance they need to start thinking about their course and university choices over the summer holidays. The programme consists of four one-hour sessions and includes a short introduction to writing UCAS personal statements, so that students can begin preparing them over the summer.

We recommend that this module is followed by the Stepping Up 2 module, delivered in Terms 1 and 2 of Year 13.

Maximum group size: 20

Preparing for a university open day

University open days are inspiring and exciting, but they can also be overwhelming. This one-hour workshop explains what to expect and how to prepare. It helps students to decide what information they need to find out at the open day, so that they can get the best out of the experience.

This workshop is aimed at all students who are considering university as an option.

Maximum group size: 20

Thematic visit days

Thematic visit days are delivered by our academic staff. Examples include:

- sixth-form conferences in religion, ethics and philosophy, modern foreign languages and history
- a day-long event run by lecturers in Psychology and Sociology during which students develop their own research proposal and receive feedback from academic staff.

“We had experiences of real life at university and got to experience things such as lectures to get a feel for what they are like.”

Year 12 visit day participant

Year 12 Summer School

The Year 12 Summer School is designed for students who are considering higher education, to encourage them to explore the options available to them and to help them make informed decisions about the courses and institutions for which they want to apply. It is an exciting opportunity to spend two days at the University's Canterbury campus and stay overnight in university accommodation. During this time, your students experience university life, attend sample lectures and take part in workshops specifically designed to help them consider their options effectively.

Your students should register for this event independently. Please ask your Outreach Activities Co-ordinator for further details.

SUMMER SCHOOL EXPERIENCE

Elizabeth Cheesman attended Summer School at the University of Kent. She went on to study for a degree in Film at the University.

'The best way to describe the Summer School is as a small crash course on university life to help you prepare for attending university.

'We were given options to choose what we wanted to do and this allowed us to take part in activities that appealed to our interests. Also, some activities were arranged for us to take part in as a big group, such as a night out in Canterbury and another night out on campus. All the activities were enjoyable because they offered experiences that were new to me; staying in a hall of residence with strangers was daunting at first but, as I got to know the people better, it became a great experience.

'Taking part in the Summer School helped me to shape a more truthful idea about university. I came away with all my questions about university life and education answered. Before attending the Summer School, I thought that university was an extremely tough academic place where even the slightest mistake would cause you some serious repercussions; however, the experiences I had in the Summer School reassured me that this was not the case. University may seem like a scary place, but once you get settled it is like a second home.'

Supporting applications and the transition to higher education

Core offer activity

• Stepping Up 2

Delivered in six one-hour weekly sessions at the beginning of Year 13, this module helps students to choose courses and universities that suit them, through practical workshop sessions based on the UCAS application process.

The module is designed for students who want to go to university, or who are still considering their options. Ideally, students should have participated in Stepping Up 1 or Stepping Up 2: Summer starters before taking this module.

Maximum group size: 20

Stepping Up 3

This four-hour module delivered over two sessions supports students with the transition to university. Delivered after the UCAS deadline (15 January) for students who have made an application to university, these sessions encourage discussion and enable them to ask questions about how to prepare for university. Student ambassadors share their experiences and help students with the choices they are making about university, such as living at home or away, budgeting their student finance, navigating freshers' week and much more.

Maximum group size: 20

Year 13 Transitions day

This event gives students the opportunity to explore the campus, with the focus on how they will make the move from school to university. Based on the theme of 'What I wish I'd known before I started', ambassadors guide students around the day's activities, which include how to find and use student support services, how to use a university library, and accommodation tours.

Curriculum support

Throughout the year, academic departments across the University offer innovative and exciting in-school workshops and campus-based events for local students, designed to support their understanding of curriculum subjects and stimulate their interest to find out more. These activities are advertised in our weekly email bulletin (contact us via outreach@kent.ac.uk if you would like to receive these).

Library research day

Developed for students in post-16 education who are required to undertake a research task, the programme includes an introductory session on research sources and referencing and a Q&A session with an academic. It also provides an introduction to the extensive facilities, including digital material and history collections, at the Templeman Library or Drill Hall Library.

Maximum group size: 20

Stand Up for Shakespeare

Available as a single workshop or as a longer project, Stand Up for Shakespeare uses performance techniques to develop a close reading of a Shakespeare text chosen by the students' teacher. This approach encourages them to see their Shakespeare text in the round, as a piece of work for performance, and to understand the nuances of language and theme through the mechanisms of performance.

Maximum group size: 20

Students as researchers

This activity supports A level Psychology or Sociology students as they work in teams to create a research proposal around a chosen question. Each team then presents their proposal for feedback. The short version of this can be delivered as a one-day event on campus; alternatively it can be provided across two or three sessions in school.

Maximum group size: 30

OUTREACH FOR YEARS 12 AND 13 (CONT)

Citizens' Jury

This activity provides the opportunity for students to participate in a Citizens' Jury: a structured discussion activity based on an ethical dilemma. The activity can be extended with a follow-up session in which teams of students are supported to run their own Citizens' Jury event with their peers, based around an ethical dilemma of their choosing. This is particularly useful for students taking the IBCP as it will help them to explore their topic and collect qualitative data.

Maximum group size: 30

Workshop: Photolithography

During this practical workshop, lasting 60–90 minutes, participants create semiconductors using inorganic nanotechnology techniques routinely used in the manufacture of computer chips. Students use photolithography – the process of using light to transfer a pattern onto a surface – to create their own printed circuit board or design. Following this, they apply some simple analytical processes to their product.

Maximum group size: 30

Level 3 learning skills

Post-16 foundations

This course introduces students to the skills and attributes needed to succeed in post-16 education. Over a series of four one-hour workshops, students consider their goals, study habits and attitudes to study. They are encouraged to develop their skills so that they feel equipped to do their best in sixth form.

Maximum group size: 20

Research project preparation

Taking place over five taught sessions, this course is designed to support students who would benefit from developing their research skills. During the course, students explore how to:

- develop a good research question
- conduct a literature review
- develop a clear research method
- analyse sources of information
- form conclusions.

Maximum group size: 20

IB research skills

This module has been designed to help students develop the skills they need to complete their IB reflective project. It consists of an essay-writing workshop, a referencing and plagiarism workshop, and a library visit. The visit allows students to conduct research for their project and access printed materials that would not be available in a school library.

Maximum group size: 20

Debating: How to argue and win

This six-week module introduces students to competitive debating and equips them with the skills of advocacy and analysis necessary to enter our school debating competitions. We can also provide ongoing support for students and staff setting up their own debating society.

Maximum group size: 20



“I felt more confident about my university application after being involved in outreach. It helped me to decide what I wanted to do and how to get there, as well as explaining the different aspects of applying to university. Activities such as the help with writing my personal statement allowed me to put together the information I needed to improve my application.”

Romulo da Costa Oliveira Reis
Student ambassador, studying Mathematics (MMAths)

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FUNDING

In addition to the University's generous income-related financial support package, a number of scholarships are available specifically for students attending Partner Schools and those that are members of the Kent and Medway Progression Federation (KMPF).

Partner Scholarships

Partner Scholarships extend our support for students from local schools and colleges. The scholarship is worth £1,000 for each year of study and is awarded to two students from each Partner School.

Students can apply for the scholarship if they are a UK or EU student at one of the University's Partner Schools and have applied to the University of Kent for an undergraduate programme that requires the payment of full fees.

Please visit our website for further details of the application process: www.kent.ac.uk/outreach/scholarships-and-funding

Student Ambassador Stipend

Student Ambassador Stipends have been created for those who have an interest in becoming involved in outreach work during their undergraduate studies.

The scheme offers successful applicants an award of £1,000 for each year, alongside an exclusive programme of training and work experience specifically designed to enhance their employability skills.

In addition to their financial award, holders of Student Ambassador Stipends receive regular training to develop the skills necessary to support and, eventually, deliver a range of activities in schools and colleges. They gain valuable experience through their outreach work, which becomes increasingly varied and challenging as their skills progress.

Students can apply for a stipend if they are a UK or EU student at one of the University's Partner Schools or a school that is a member of the Kent and Medway Progression Federation. Please note that the number of stipends available is limited and awards are made on the basis of applications and interview.

For further details, please see www.kent.ac.uk/outreach/scholarships-and-funding



“Having delayed moving on to higher education myself, it made me realise the importance of seizing every opportunity that presents itself. In my work as a student ambassador, I try to impress on the potential undergraduate students I talk to that they should rise to every challenge before them and ‘seize the day’.”

James Cavalier

Student ambassador, studying for an MA in Medieval and Early Modern Studies

Events for parents and carers

We realise that, for many school students, making decisions about their educational future can be daunting. Staff and students from the University can help by working with your students and their parents or carers.

University information evenings

The University of Kent hosts a series of information evenings for parents, carers and students at a range of Partner Schools in the area. During the evening, attendees have the chance to hear about the benefits of higher education from a current student's perspective, learn how to support students in selecting an appropriate university and understand the facts about student finance and student life.

Student finance

This one-hour talk for parents and carers covers the four main questions asked when students are considering higher education:

- How much does it cost?
- How will they pay for it?
- What counts as household income?
- What other help is available?

The value of higher education

This one-hour talk for parents and carers explores the benefits of studying at university, including career prospects, financial benefits, and social and academic opportunities.

Parents' and carers' meetings

University staff and student ambassadors can attend to talk informally to parents, carers and students at the majority of school events.

FIND OUT MORE

Contact us for more information
about the outreach programme:

T: +44 (0)1227 824149

E: outreach@kent.ac.uk

www.kent.ac.uk/outreach