

# SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES OUTREACH GUIDE







# WHAT'S NEXT?

Our Widening Participation and Outreach Team offer a variety of activities and programmes for secondary school, sixth form and college students (including adult learners).

All of our outreach programmes and activities in this guide are designed to help you support your students into higher education or their next steps, helping them with decision-making, applying for a course, and transitioning into independent study and student life.

Our activities and talks are supported by academic staff and student ambassadors and can be held at your school or college or at our campus.

If you'd like to register your interest in one of our programmes or workshops or to discuss bespoke options then please contact our team and we will be in touch.



Complete our activities request form on the website or email [engage@ucleeds.ac.uk](mailto:engage@ucleeds.ac.uk)



# ABOUT UNIVERSITY CENTRE LEEDS

University Centre Leeds is a college-based higher education (HE) provider, part of the [Luminate Education Group](#) based in the centre of Leeds (as well as courses in Keighley and Harrogate)

We are committed to breaking down perceived barriers to higher education, ensuring that our student cohort reflects the diversity in society. We work to inspire, engage and enable those who may not consider higher education to fulfil their potential by raising their awareness, challenging barriers and providing opportunities to explore higher education.

We work with schools and colleges in the West Yorkshire area to provide impartial information, advice and guidance (IAG) about pathways into HE. We are also part of Go Higher West Yorkshire's collaborative network of universities and colleges working as part of the [Uni Connect](#) project.





# WORKSHOPS AND TALKS

## MAKING THE RIGHT CHOICES: INTRODUCTION TO HIGHER EDUCATION

Choosing the right course is an important decision and it can be difficult to know where to start with so many courses in the UK to choose from.

Our introduction to HE talk will provide students with information on the benefits of higher education study, how to choose a course, finance, accommodation and the UCAS process. It aims to equip students with research skills so they can make informed decisions and be confident with their choices.

This presentation is suitable for students considering progressing on to university after their current studies, mature students thinking of returning to education or changing their career, and also for parents/supporters who want to find out more.

**Duration: 60 minutes**  
**Gatsby benchmarks 1 and 7**

## STUDENT FINANCE AND BUDGETING

Our student finance and fees talk encourages students to begin thinking about the costs of student living and how to successfully manage their finances throughout a degree. This is an interactive workshop and includes a brief summary of how the student finance system works. Students also work in groups to take part in a budgeting exercise.

**Duration: 30 – 60 minutes**  
**Gatsby benchmarks 1 and 7**

## UCAS APPLICATIONS AND PERSONAL STATEMENTS

Personal statements are the one chance a student has to show passion for their subject area to universities and colleges. Our hints and tips presentation provides students with good and bad examples along with a step-by-step guide to structuring a Personal Statement that makes an impact, including hints and tips for what to include - and what to avoid!

**Duration: 30 - 60 minutes**  
**Gatsby benchmarks 1 and 7**

## STUDENT LIFE

This session covers the benefits of going to university, what to expect, accommodation, extra-curricular opportunities, student support, and a myth-busting Q&A. This session is co-delivered by our outreach team and Student Ambassadors, so students can get first-hand knowledge from our Ambassadors.

**Duration: 30 – 60 minutes**  
**Gatsby benchmark 7**

## PLAN B WORKSHOP

This session is aimed at college and sixth-form students who may need to reconsider their options, particularly in their final year of study. We will explain the clearing process, applying to alternative pathways, and explain options such as Foundation Degrees and HTQs.

**Duration: 30 - 60 minutes**  
**Gatsby benchmark 7**





# SUBJECT-SPECIFIC TALKS AND TASTER DAYS

**Subject taster sessions help students experience what it's like to study at University Centre Leeds**

Our curriculum teams will deliver engaging and interactive workshops to introduce students to the subject, careers in the sector, and employability options, and will be on hand to answer specific questions about their subjects and career routes. Sessions also offer students an opportunity to experience a lecture or seminar, to get a taste of what studying within higher education is like.

Most of our subject-specific taster days are tailored to your student's needs, so we ask that you get in touch to arrange a chat. All of our Foundation Degrees, Top-up degrees, HNDs and PGCEs can run a taster day and you can see a list of courses on the opposite page, or visit our website: [ucleeds.ac.uk/our-courses/](https://ucleeds.ac.uk/our-courses/).

Taster days usually run for half a day, including a break with complimentary refreshments. We usually ask that you provide transport, however, if you don't have access to a minibus, we may be able to arrange this for you.

**Gatsby benchmarks 4 and 7**

## OUR COURSES

### CREATIVE ARTS

Acting  
Animation  
Art  
Beauty Communication and Promotion  
Concept Art  
Photography  
Dance  
Fashion and Textiles  
Media Hair & Make-Up  
Film and Screen Media  
Graphic Design and Illustration  
Production Arts

### STEM

Animal Management and Behaviour  
Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Sciences  
Computer Science  
Cyber Security  
Manufacturing Engineering  
Electronic & Electrical Engineering  
Software Development  
Game Art  
Game Development  
Game Programming  
Esports Coaching and Management

### TEACHER TRAINING, LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Children and Young People's Care and Education  
Early Years Care and Education  
Learning and Teaching (Primary or Secondary Education)  
Certificate in Education  
Supporting Teaching and Learning  
PGCE (Professional Certificate in Education)

### SPORT AND HEALTH

Health and Wellbeing  
Health and Social Care  
Healthcare Play Specialism  
Healthcare Assistant Practitioner  
Physical Education and Sports Coaching  
Sports Performance and Exercise

### LAW, LEADERSHIP, BUSINESS AND TRAVEL

Business, Enterprise and Management  
Leadership and Management  
Events Management  
Travel and Tourism Management  
Law  
Access to HE Law  
Policing  
Access to HE Policing



# WIDENING PARTICIPATION PROGRAMMES

**We deliver a wide range of activities and initiatives targeted from primary school age to post-16 as well as bespoke activities for care experienced students, students with caring responsibilities, estranged students, ethnic minority students, disabled young people, Gypsy, Roma, Traveller students and others.**

## STEP AHEAD

The Step Ahead programme aims to develop students' skills, knowledge and behaviours in relation to careers and employability. Interactive sessions allow students to explore areas such as identifying and expressing their strengths, building resilience and planning and preparing a CV. Programme participants also have the opportunity to develop their interview skills by participating in mock interview sessions. The programme is run over six one hour sessions.

## CHEMISTRY ACADEMY

The UC Leeds Chemistry Academy aims to provide students with the opportunity to engage with the practical elements of STEM in the context of real-world issues, with particular emphasis on chemistry. For students in Key Stage 2 and 3, this involves participating in 4 weeks' worth of practical and careers-based sessions, allowing them to explore their interests and future options. Students at Key Stage 4 and beyond also have the opportunity to engage with the UC Leeds Chemistry academy, through careers and employability-based sessions and biology and chemistry-based taster sessions in university laboratories.

## NEW SCHOLARS PROGRAMME (RESEARCH, ACADEMIC WRITING, REFERENCING)

This programme develops skills in critical thinking, research, evaluation, interview skills and presentations.

New Scholars encourages students to take increased responsibility for skills development in relation to academic, personal and professional development. It can be delivered using a range of teaching and learning methods including lectures, student-led seminars, 1-to-1 tutorials, demonstrations, case study reviews, and peer assessment. The programme is aimed at post-16 students and is run over four one hour sessions.

## ONE-TO-ONE MENTORING AND SUPPORT

We understand that the transition from school or college to higher education can be more challenging for some students, and this challenge can act as a barrier. We offer one-to-one support to help students from underrepresented groups within higher education. We can offer:

- Personalised tours;
- Taster Days;
- 1:1 Application support;
- Student finance support
- Mentoring and academic preparation

Note: support can be tailored and students do not need to apply to University Centre Leeds to receive support from our team. We can act impartially when providing information, advice and guidance.



**Complete our activities request form on the website or email [engage@ucleeds.ac.uk](mailto:engage@ucleeds.ac.uk)**





# SUPPORT FOR UNIVERSITY CENTRE LEEDS APPLICANTS

For students who have applied to University Centre Leeds and have accepted us as their conditional firm or insurance choice, we provide a dedicated service to support them on their journey to us. This includes:

- Transition advice and support
- Study skills support such as exam preparation and revision skills
- One-to-one support and guidance on a range of topics such as student finance, moving away from home, Clearing and Level 3 results day support
- Mentoring opportunities with our current students
- Keeping warm activities for their chosen subject area
- Plan B and Clearing information, advice, and guidance
- Parents' and carers events, support, and guidance
- Personal tours of our campus, meeting academics and current students

If you have students in your school or college who have an offer from University Centre Leeds, please get in touch to find out more about how we can support applicants.



# ADAPTING TO YOUR NEEDS

All of the activities in this guide have been tried and tested, but we know that one size doesn't fit all. We'd like to work with you and your students, to ensure you get the best experience. All of our activities can be adapted as follows:

**Duration** - we generally need a minimum of 30 minutes per workshop but can extend this to suit your needs

**Group size** - a minimum of 10 students is required for most activities, but we can accommodate all group sizes

**Format** - Workshops and presentations can be extended and adapted to include interactive elements

**Equipment** - AV equipment is required for most activities, however, we can deliver sessions without it

## GET IN TOUCH

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