Discover.

Post-16 outreach opportunities with the University of Sheffield.
Going to university – and what subject you should study – are big choices to make. That’s why, here at the University of Sheffield, we’ve developed a programme of support for Post-16 students and their teachers to help them make the best choices they can.

Through a wide range of initiatives, we aim to demystify the world of Higher Education, breaking down some of the barriers and opening the door to the amazing range of opportunities on offer.
This booklet focuses on outreach opportunities available to Post-16 students. It sets out the ways in which we work with schools and colleges to enable you and your students to find out more about Higher Education and what it means to go to university.

Our Post-16 programme includes:

- Sustained outreach programmes targeting able students from groups currently under-represented in Higher Education
- A series of workshops and presentations for students and parents or carers
- Support for teachers and advisers

You can find out more by visiting our website at www.sheffield.ac.uk/schools by emailing outreach@sheffield.ac.uk or by speaking to the team on 0114 222 1027.
Students who aren’t yet sure of what and where to study may be interested in finding out more about Realising Opportunities. This national outreach programme is a partnership of 14 research intensive universities. Students on the programme get to find out more about all of them and the subjects they offer.

A main objective of all of these sustained programmes is to help improve participants’ opportunities and social mobility, so they are usually targeted at Y12 students who meet specific academic and widening participation criteria.

A whole new opportunity – our extended programmes

As a university, we are passionate about inspiring young people to achieve their potential, particularly those pupils whose families have had little experience of Higher Education.

We know that some young people believe that certain professions or subjects aren’t really an option for them – or they may not even be aware of them. So we’ve developed a number of subject and profession-based schemes aimed at helping participants and their families find out what it’s like to study and work in such disciplines:

- ADOPT (Access to Dental Occupations: Practice and Tutoring)
- Discover Arts and Humanities
- Discover Law
- SOAMS (Sheffield’s Outreach and Access to Medicine Scheme)
- Discover Social Sciences
- Discover STEM
- Realising Opportunities – a national programme covering all subjects

Each of these schemes give participants a really good idea of what studying these subjects at a higher level would involve. Plus they provide practical help with study techniques and support with the university application process.
Widening participation target groups typically include:

- Students from low participation (in HE) neighbourhoods, based on home postcode (POLAR data)
- Students from low socio-economic groups
- Students with parents or carers who have non-professional occupations and/or did not go to university
- Students from the most disadvantaged areas (linked to indices of multiple deprivation or IMD based on home postcode)
- Students with disabilities
- Young people considered as Looked After Children, Care Leavers and Young Carers
- Students from state schools
- Students from under-represented ethnicities and genders
- Students who have claimed/been eligible to claim free school meals at any point during their secondary education

We use these criteria in combination to select participants for the outreach programmes we run at the University of Sheffield. However, please note that meeting some, or all, of these criteria will not guarantee applicants a place on any given outreach programme.

Also, successful completion of any of the programmes above will not in itself guarantee a place to study at the University of Sheffield. The University may make an offer to candidates who have fully and successfully completed an outreach programme but gaining a place to study at the University will ultimately be subject to candidates satisfactorily meeting all offer conditions.
In common with other UK universities, the University of Sheffield charges different tuition fees for undergraduate programmes depending on whether students are classed as ‘Home’ (UK/EU) or ‘Overseas’ for fee purposes. Our outreach schemes are designed for Home students, but we are able to accept Overseas students who meet our widening participation criteria. However, please be aware that if outreach scheme participants subsequently apply to study at the University there will be a formal fee status assessment, as for all applicants. If these applicants do not meet the criteria for Home fee status this would result in them being classed as an Overseas student and being charged the Overseas fee. Participation in our outreach schemes will not influence a future fee status assessment.

More information about the University’s outreach programmes, eligibility to enrol and adjusted offers can be found against each scheme over the next few pages.
ADOPT (Access to Dental Occupations: Practice and Tutoring)

ADOPT is a two-year programme for Y12 students who are interested in a career in the field of Dentistry – as a dentist, hygienist or therapist, for example.

Participants find out what it’s like to work in Dentistry, with the emphasis on hands-on activities and student interaction. They’ll work with staff and students in the Dental School and receive realistic, tailored advice about a career in Dentistry. If they decide to apply to university, we’ll support them through the application process.

The programme of activities includes day visits to the University for taster activities such as ‘drilling and filling’, outdoor activity days to build teamwork skills and confidence, a short work placement in a relevant setting, access to online and face-to-face study skills and revision opportunities, a residential summer school and the chance to link up with an e-mentor – one of our current Dentistry students.

◆ If students complete the programme successfully and apply to Sheffield, they will be eligible for an alternative offer of up to one A Level grade (or equivalent) below our standard offer, assuming they meet all the other admissions criteria.
“I believe I have really improved my skills as a result of doing ADOPT and have enjoyed all the learning, from revision strategies to amazing facts – thank you!”

---

**ADOPT**

**Post-16 entry requirements**

- **Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) route** – should be studying a minimum of 3 A Levels in Year 12 including both Biology and Chemistry.

- **Dental Hygiene/Dental Therapy (H&T) route** – should be studying a minimum of 2 A Levels in Year 12 including at least one Science A Level subject (preferably Biology). (If other qualifications are being studied please refer to the outreach programme contact below to discuss).

**GCSE entry requirements**

- Minimum of 8 A*-C, 5 of which must be A* to B, including a minimum of C in English, Maths and Science subjects. Further information on numerical GCSE grade requirements will be issued for subsequent recruitment cycles.

**Contact**

- adopt@sheffield.ac.uk or phone 0114 222 1027
Discover Arts and Humanities

This scheme gives participants the chance to sample activities across a wide range of Arts and Humanities disciplines. It links to the full range of subjects represented in our Arts and Humanities Faculty: Archaeology, English, History, Languages, Music and Philosophy. Over two years, participants are supported to develop study and research skills; they receive one-to-one guidance from a specially selected mentor and experience an Arts and Humanities summer school on campus. Arts and Humanities graduates are valued for their creativity and communication skills and the programme will help them develop these too. Overall, it gives participants real insight into what it’s like to study Arts and Humanities subjects at degree level, as well as finding out more about the career opportunities available in this field.

◆

If students complete the programme successfully and apply to Sheffield, they will be eligible for an alternative offer of up to two A Level grades (or equivalent) below our standard offer, assuming all the other admissions criteria are met.

“The Discover Arts and Humanities Programme has increased my motivation for applying to university and getting the required grades. It’s also great to get a taste of different subjects and get a feel for uni.”
# Discover Arts and Humanities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Post-16 entry requirements</th>
<th>No specific subject requirements but should be studying a minimum of 3 A Levels or relevant equivalent and at least 2 should be on the University's acceptable subject list. For further information, visit <a href="http://www.shef.ac.uk/undergraduate/policies/alevel">www.shef.ac.uk/undergraduate/policies/alevel</a></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GCSE entry requirements</td>
<td>Minimum of 8 A*-C, 5 of which must be A* to B, including a minimum of C in English and Maths. Further information on numerical GCSE grade requirements will be issued for subsequent recruitment cycles.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact</td>
<td><a href="mailto:discoverartsandhumanities@sheffield.ac.uk">discoverartsandhumanities@sheffield.ac.uk</a> or phone 0114 222 1027</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Discover Law

Discover Law is a two-year programme which gives pupils the chance to explore what studying Law at university might be like by providing opportunities to work with current Law students, academics and working professionals. They get the chance to experience real life cases in the Sheffield Law Courts and talk to a judge, visit a local prison and the Supreme Court. They experience a guided tour of the University with one of our Law students and receive support with academic and study skills, as well as guidance on the UCAS process. Pupils will also develop skills such as teamwork and communication by attending taster sessions, the annual Discovering Law Conference and a residential summer school.

“Before starting the programme I didn’t understand what becoming a solicitor or a barrister involved, or how long it would take. I also learned how much reading I would have to do while studying for a law degree. It was a great eye opener!”

◆ If students complete the programme successfully and apply to Sheffield, they will be eligible for an alternative offer of up to 2 A level grades (or equivalent) below our standard offer, assuming all the other admissions criteria are met.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Discover Law</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Post-16 entry requirements</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GCSE entry requirements</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Contact</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**SOAMS (Sheffield’s Outreach & Access to Medicine Scheme)**

SOAMS is a sustained outreach programme working with students from Y12 for two years. It gives participants an insight into the medical profession, showing them the opportunities available both in Medicine and a range of allied health professions.

Participants typically attend a number of events on campus, including a medical careers conference, lectures, Medical School laboratory sessions, study skills workshops, chemistry and biology revision sessions and a residential summer school. Participants can also benefit from an e-mentor – one of our current Medical students.

---

**Participants who meet a number of milestones throughout the programme are offered a guaranteed interview at the University’s Medical School and, if successful, will be eligible for an alternative offer of up to two A Level grades (or equivalent) below our standard offer, assuming they meet all the other admissions criteria. Please see the SOAMS programme web pages for further details www.sheffield.ac.uk/schools/outreach-programmes/soams**

“SOAMS has allowed me to gain valuable skills and has really given me an insight into what life is like as a medic. SOAMS is the best thing I have ever done and it was a great opportunity being on the course.”

---

![Image of participants in a medical setting]
Minimum of 3 A Levels in Year 12 including Chemistry and a second Science (preferably Biology, but Maths, Physics and Psychology are also acceptable Science subjects). Please note that the EPQ and General Studies A Level are not acceptable as stand-alone qualifications. Also, Further Maths (with Maths A Level) and Critical Thinking will not be counted by the Medical School as stand-alone A levels.

Minimum of 8 A*-C, 6 of which must be A* to B, including a minimum of C in English, Maths & Chemistry (double award accepted). Further information on numerical GCSE grade requirements will be issued for subsequent recruitment cycles.

soams@sheffield.ac.uk or phone 0114 222 1027
Discover Social Sciences

Participants on our two-year Discover Social Sciences programme will get a taste of all the subjects within our Social Sciences Faculty, exploring the kinds of problems and issues social scientists engage with on a daily basis. Sessions based on and off campus, including a residential summer school, will give them a feel for what university is really like and which Social Science degree courses could be for them. They will work closely with our current undergraduate students, finding out about their journeys into Higher Education and what their lives are like studying at the University of Sheffield.

There are 13 different departments to explore within our Faculty “family”, which cover subjects such as Architecture, Landscape, Urban Studies and Planning, Sociological Studies, Education, Politics and Geography.

The programme aims to raise awareness of the study options available at degree level, showcase how Social Sciences degrees can lead to a wide range of exciting and professional careers, and demonstrate how social scientists can really shape the world we live in.

◆

If students complete the programme successfully and apply to Sheffield, they will be eligible for an alternative offer of up to 2 A Level grades (or equivalent) below our standard offer, assuming all the other admissions criteria are met.

“I feel like the scheme is preparing me for university. I have spoken to current university students and feel like I have already got to know the different Social Sciences departments.”
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Discover Social Sciences</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Post-16 entry requirements</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GCSE entry requirements</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Contact</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Discover STEM

Discover STEM was launched to offer students working towards Maths and Science A Levels an insight into the variety of degree subjects and subsequent careers which could be open to them within Maths, Science and Engineering.

Students attend a series of events over two years, including a number of hands-on Maths, Science and Engineering events, revision sessions, tailored advice about applying to university and a residential summer school.

◆ If students complete the programme successfully and apply to Sheffield, they will be eligible for an alternative offer of 1 A Level grade (or equivalent) below our standard offer, assuming all the other admissions criteria are met.
“Discover STEM has allowed me to see all of the options available to me. It has helped me to make the decision between Science and Engineering and I have improved my skills in these areas thanks to the course.”

Discover STEM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Post-16 entry requirements</th>
<th>Should be studying a minimum 3 A Levels including Maths and a Science subject or two Science subjects.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GCSE entry requirements</td>
<td>Minimum of 8 A*-C 5of which must be A* to B, with a minimum of C in GCSE English Language, B in Maths, BB in Dual Science or B in two separate Sciences. Further information on numerical GCSE grade requirements will be issued for subsequent recruitment cycles. Please note that at the University of Sheffield, Psychology and Computer Science sit within the Science and Engineering Faculties respectively.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact</td>
<td><a href="mailto:discoverstem@sheffield.ac.uk">discoverstem@sheffield.ac.uk</a> or phone 0114 222 1027</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Realising Opportunities Programme

Realising Opportunities (RO) is a collaborative initiative between fourteen research-intensive universities in England. Participants will have access to a number of subject-specific taster days here at the University of Sheffield or at one of the other RO partner universities, attend an annual conference with other RO participants, complete an online study skills module and undertake an academic assignment.

◆ Those who successfully complete the programme are eligible to apply to any RO partner university and they may receive a dual offer comprising a standard offer and an alternative offer of up to two A Level grades (or equivalent) below the standard offer, subject to meeting all the other admissions criteria for the chosen university and course.

For more detailed information on individual university requirements go to the RO web pages: www.realisingopportunities.ac.uk where these are detailed within the Recognition Guide published and updated annually on the Student Resources section. Please check that you are viewing the correct information for the relevant year of entry.
"It has helped develop my academic profile, as it has encouraged me to work harder to achieve the grades I want so I can get into a research intensive university. It has also helped me to decide which universities I want to apply to."

**Realising Opportunities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Post-16 entry requirements</th>
<th>This programme is for home or EU students only. Full eligibility criteria, including school and college eligibility, can be found at <a href="http://www.realisingopportunities.ac.uk">www.realisingopportunities.ac.uk</a></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GCSE entry requirements</td>
<td>Minimum of eight A*-C grades (or equivalent, e.g. GNVQ, BTEC Certificate), including English Language and Maths, with a minimum of five GCSEs or equivalent at grades A*/A or B. Further information on numerical GCSE grade requirements will be issued for subsequent recruitment cycles.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rosheffield@sheffield.ac.uk">rosheffield@sheffield.ac.uk</a> or phone 0114 222 1027</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A flexible programme

Not every school or college has the same needs, so we’ve developed a flexible programme which can be tailored to suit your requirements.

Our workshops and presentations – for students, parents or carers, teachers and other advisers – can be delivered on a stand-alone basis or as part of a more in-depth programme.

If it’s difficult for you to come to us, we’re happy to discuss visiting you!

We can also support you with your own events, for example parents’ evenings, HE information events and careers sessions.

The themes we cover in our presentations and workshops include:

- An introduction to Higher Education – the benefits of studying for a degree, student fees and finance, student life
- Making the most of Post-16 studies
- Choosing what and where to study at university
- Applying through UCAS, including your personal statement
- Academic skills development, support for the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) and preparation for studying at university
- What’s life like at university?

We know time can be tight, so we can deliver events lasting anything from thirty minutes to a full day. Depending on the subject matter, your event will be delivered by one of our staff or trained student advocates. For learners at schools and colleges who prefer more independence we have a suite of online study skills and subject-based materials which are easily accessible and free to use. We can also offer web chats, focusing on key topics such as student life, where to live and how to get financial support, giving your students the chance to get answers to their questions without having to travel.

More information about booking visits and about our online outreach provision can be found at: www.sheffield.ac.uk/schools
Working in partnership

Working with schools, colleges and other universities to support progression of students in the region into Higher Education is at the heart of everything we do. We value the opportunity to work with a range of partners to achieve this.

Higher Education Progression Partnership

In addition to our general series of workshops and presentations, schools and colleges within the Sheffield City Region have access to a range of activities delivered by the Higher Education Progression Partnership.

HEPP is jointly funded by the University of Sheffield and Sheffield Hallam University and works with partners to provide impartial information and advice on Higher Education and higher level skills across the Sheffield City Region.

A key focus of HEPP, working alongside the universities and other stakeholders, is to provide information about student fees and financial support to students, their parents or carers and other advisers. HEPP also works directly with groups under-represented in Higher Education, such as care leavers, and co-ordinates aspiration and attainment-boosting initiatives with a range of stakeholders across the region.

To find out more about HEPP activities, visit the website at: www.hepp.ac.uk
**Excellence Hub**

The Excellence Hub is a collaborative initiative between the University of Sheffield and the Universities of Leeds and York. This regional partnership offers subject-specific taster events to high-achieving students from key widening participation target groups.

All three partner universities offer learning activities throughout the year. Students are encouraged to book on individually, but there is also the chance for schools and colleges to make bookings for small groups.

◆

For more information visit: [www.york.ac.uk/excellencehub/events](http://www.york.ac.uk/excellencehub/events)

For further information on University of Sheffield Excellence Hub activities phone 0114 222 1027.

**Russell Group initiatives**

As a member of the Russell Group – 24 leading research-intensive universities from across the UK – we contribute to a range of initiatives to help students understand what it’s like to study in a research-intensive environment and to make appropriate choices about HE.

In recent years, we’ve contributed to the Informed Choices publication, delivered taster events to schools and colleges, and contributed to national conferences for teachers and advisers.

◆

For more information about Informed Choices, visit the Russell Group website at: [www.russellgroup.ac.uk/informedchoices](http://www.russellgroup.ac.uk/informedchoices)
Support for teachers and advisers

As well as supporting your students, we have a range of initiatives on offer for teachers and advisers:

Web-based information
You can keep up to date with what’s on offer to schools and colleges via our website – simply visit: www.sheffield.ac.uk/schools

Within these pages we have a Resources section, with links to our online prospectus, campus maps and downloadable leaflets on outreach programmes. www.sheffield.ac.uk/schools/resources

You’ll also find teaching and learning resources to support your work with students. Why not check out our amazing catalogue of online material on the University of Sheffield iTunesU channel? There are filmed lectures, experiments and presentations – all free to access.

Your students could benefit from Discover Study Skills Online, targeted at Post-16 learners thinking about university and developed in conjunction with sixth form tutors and college lecturers. For more information visit: www.sheffield.ac.uk/schools/discoverstudy-skills/course/home or search for the course on iTunesU.

The University of Sheffield is a partner in Futurelearn, an international online learning platform co-ordinated by the Open University. University of Sheffield online programmes can be accessed here free of charge and are a good way of introducing students to new subjects and types of learning.

www.futurelearn.com/partners/theuniversity-of-sheffield

Our Admissions Service provides timely updates and advice on admissions-related policies and procedures. To find out more, visit:

www.sheffield.ac.uk/aid

Our e-newsletter for schools and colleges
A great way to regularly keep abreast of what we’re doing with schools and colleges is to sign up for our free e-newsletter for teachers. This showcases the partnership work done with teachers and learners by the outreach team and by faculty colleagues. It also provides information about forthcoming events. To view the latest issue and to subscribe, visit:

www.sheffield.ac.uk/schools/reach

Use of the University of Sheffield Library as an external reader
The University Library welcomes those outside the University who have a genuine need to use materials and services not available in other local libraries. To find out more about how to gain permission to use Western Bank Library, the Health Sciences Library and libraries at the Hallamshire and Northern General Hospitals, visit:

www.sheffield.ac.uk/library/services/extread
Annual University of Sheffield conference for teachers and advisers

Each year we organise a conference for colleagues in local schools and colleges. This gives you the chance to find out more about developments in the University and the wider HE sector, as well as providing a networking opportunity and the chance to discuss any issues from your perspective.

The conference is aimed at staff in schools and colleges with responsibility for advising young people on HE options and those who are involved in managing Post-16 provision.

For more information go to: www.sheffield.ac.uk/schools/conference
Come and see for yourself!

We welcome visits from schools and colleges and offer a range of different opportunities for you to come onto campus, view our award-winning facilities and find out more about us.

Open Days

Our University Open Days are a great way for students, parents, teachers and advisers to find out much more about all aspects of studying at Sheffield.

You’ll be able to find out more about financial support, accommodation, academic study, support for students, the Students’ Union and much more. You’ll also have the opportunity to see the campus, our student accommodation and even the wider city.

Staff and students are on hand throughout the day to answer your questions.

To find out when the next open day is taking place, visit: www.sheffield.ac.uk/opendays
Campus Tours
Guided by our student ambassadors who are currently studying with us, our campus tours offer visitors the chance to really get to know the University of Sheffield and all it has to offer.

❖
To book your place, visit: www.sheffield.ac.uk/opendays

Self-Guided Tours
You’re also welcome to take an independent tour at a time that suits you, using our downloadable self-guided campus tour, and self-guided city tour. You can download both tour guides from www.sheffield.ac.uk/opendays or we can post copies out to you – just email us at ukrec@sheffield.ac.uk
Find out more

If you have a more general query or want to discuss any of the information in this booklet, please get in touch with us:

outreach@sheffield.ac.uk

0114 222 1027

The University of Sheffield
Outreach and Widening Participation
Level 3, The Arts Tower
Western Bank
Sheffield S10 2TN