A guide to our education liaison activities for schools, colleges and students
Welcome to the University of Southampton

Consistently ranked as a top 20 UK university and as a founding member of the Russell Group, we offer a comprehensive programme of education liaison activities for schools and colleges from access schemes and taster days to summer schools and workshops.

As a university, we recognise the value of building strong relationships with schools, colleges, teachers and career guidance professionals. Our wide ranging programmes and resources are designed to raise awareness, widen participation and inspire ambition in the students of the future.

Through world-leading research and enterprise activities, the University of Southampton connects with businesses to create real-world solutions to global issues. Through our educational offering, we work with partners around the world to offer relevant, flexible courses, which train students for their future careers. This connectivity is what makes Southampton so special; we create connections and change the world.

We hope you find the opportunities detailed in this guide interesting and they encourage you and your school or college to connect with the University of Southampton.

Richard Kennett
Director of Recruitment and Outreach
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### Contact us

A guide to our education liaison activities for schools, colleges and students
Education Liaison Activities for Schools, Colleges and Students
We recognise that A-Level grades alone cannot tell us everything about an applicant’s abilities or personal circumstances. We want to encourage applications from talented students who have the potential to succeed at the University regardless of their educational or social background. Our Access to Southampton (A2S) widening participation scheme provides special consideration and financial support to encourage progression on to higher education.

Students must complete and submit an application to A2S by May of their Year 12 studies and will be invited to attend a free Summer School and complete an academic assignment.

The A2S Summer School aims to give students the opportunity to see what life is like as a University of Southampton student. They will attend lectures, seminars or workshops based in their chosen subject, as well as spend time with current undergraduate students.

The academic assignment is designed to provide an insight into the expectations of studying at a Russell Group university, and will also assess the potential of those applying through the scheme. Students who successfully pass the academic assignment will be eligible for:

- An alternative offer, which is normally up to two grades lower than our standard offer
- Support, advice and guidance through attendance at our ‘Transition and Skills’ event on campus
- Online support from current University of Southampton students
- A £1,000 bursary when enrolling for the first year of study

To participate in our A2S scheme, students will need to meet two or more of our widening participation criteria. Please visit our website www.southampton.ac.uk/a2s for more information.
‘Ask the Expert’ Taster Lectures

Years 11 – 13
email: outreach@southampton.ac.uk
tel: 02380 595470

‘Ask the Expert’ is our way of getting your students in touch with our world-class researchers and academics. We have a range of free lectures and workshops available, across a wide variety of subject areas.

The content of many of the sessions is directly related to the research being carried out by our academic staff. ‘Ask the Expert’ combines our researchers’ passion for sharing their subjects and the commitment of the University to engage the public with our research.

We can run sessions on campus or in your school or college. Our academics are normally able to travel up to an hour away from the University of Southampton.

See our website for the full range of talks available and to book a session: www.southampton.ac.uk/schoolsandcolleges/ask_the_expert

Campus Visits to the University

Years 11 – 13
email: liaison@southampton.ac.uk
tel: 02380 59 3623

We regularly host visits from schools and colleges throughout the year. Campus visits provide a fantastic opportunity to view some of our world-class facilities and find out what it’s like to live and study at a Russell Group University.

A typical programme normally includes:

– An introduction to the University of Southampton
– A guide to writing persuasive Personal Statements or choosing university courses
– A campus tour with our Student Ambassadors
– Lunch with our Student Ambassadors
– A taster lecture – based on an interdisciplinary topic from our Learn with US Transition Team, or from our Ask the Expert lecture series

We can also provide more tailored visits to suit your group’s needs if required. Please note each school and college visit is limited to a maximum of 50 students. To find out more or to book a visit please contact us.
Learn with US (Outreach)

Years 6 - 12  
email: outreach@southampton.ac.uk  
tel: 02380 59 4803

The University of Southampton’s Learn with US (Outreach) programme is designed to support students, teachers, parents and community groups in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, expanding to Dorset, Wiltshire and London. Our programme of outreach activities provide gifted and talented students with an opportunity to take part in subject specific workshops, mentoring and group projects. The programme is designed to extend and challenge students and is delivered by outreach staff, university academics and student ambassadors.

We offer a series of events to engage and motivate learners who have the potential to enter higher education comprising of:

- University taster visits, master classes and workshops
- Mentoring
- Information, advice and guidance
- In school and on campus aspiration raising workshops
- Aspiration raising workshops on the university campus
- Support for parents/carers
- Parents talks and student finance session
- Support for care leavers

To find out more about the Learn with US (Outreach) programme please contact us.

Please note: this programme is currently only open to specific schools and colleges in Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, Dorset, Wiltshire and London.
Learn with US (Transition)

Years 12 - 13
email: learnwithus@southampton.ac.uk
tel: 02380 59 7804

Learn with US Transition is an innovative programme designed to support students in their preparation for study at a research intensive university. We offer taster lectures, seminars and project days based upon the current academic research of our Transition Team.

We also aid this transition by providing support for the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) and offer talks on or off campus which are designed to assist with every step of the EPQ research process. Furthermore we regularly host visits to our library so students may make use of our numerous books and journals to enhance their EPQs.

There are also our free study guides to help with the entire process of the EPQ including referencing, writing essays and giving presentations.

Please contact us to find out more and book an activity or to download our free study guides, please visit our website: www.southampton.ac.uk/learnwithustransition

LifeLab
email: k.woods-townsend@southampton.ac.uk
tel: 02381 20 8979

LifeLab actively engages with young people, teachers and researchers. Our aim is to introduce science that explains how lifestyle choices at an early age can drastically affect young people's health and the health of their future children.

LifeLab’s aim is to help achieve reduction in the likelihood of developing chronic health problems such as heart disease, stroke, diabetes, obesity, osteoporosis, asthma and some cancers by raising young people’s awareness of health through an exciting educational experience using modern technology at a hospital based laboratory classroom.

Teaching Programme

Through hands-on learning, we hope to empower young people to make healthier choices and reduce their risk of developing chronic diseases later in life. This hands-on approach to learning breaks down boundaries, makes science accessible, and brings it to life; inspiring children to consider careers in healthcare, science, and medicine.

Since we launched the pilot scheme of LifeLab in 2008, thousands of children have taken part from schools across Hampshire. They have seen their DNA, taken a “snapshot” of their health, studied how genetics can affect cholesterol levels, and learned how diet can affect DNA, used ultrasound to look at their own arteries, examined skeletons and studied how nutrients cross the placenta.
Meet the Scientist

Meet the Scientist is a component activity of LifeLab, an innovative educational intervention being piloted in Southampton, aiming to improve young people’s health and inspire an interest in science. The Meet the Scientist initiative attempts to bridge the gap between students carrying out their secondary education at institutions in the UK and (often early stage) researchers at higher education institutions (HEIs).

A Meet the Scientist session provides secondary-level students with opportunities to talk with research scientists on an informal basis and explore or challenge their views of science. This session takes place during a LifeLab day, which also includes hands-on practical activities to embed messages about maternal and childhood nutritional influences and provides opportunities for students to experience modern science and to inspire and excite them about research and future career possibilities. Importantly, this visit is not an isolated event, but is undertaken in conjunction with stimulating curriculum-linked, school-based lessons, both pre and post the activity day.

If you would like to find out more about how LifeLab can help your school, please email our Project Manager, Dr Kathryn Woods-Townsend.
Open Days and Campus Tours

email: visit@southampton.ac.uk
tel: 02380 59 5900

Open Days

Attending one of our Open Days enables prospective students, their parents, teachers and careers advisors to get a feel for life at the University of Southampton. See some of our cutting-edge facilities and resources, from major historical archives to the very latest research technology, and find out how we can help students prepare for a successful future through initiatives such as The Excel Southampton Programme, offering over 400 paid placements in industry.

You will be able to see the labs, lecture theatres and our libraries where students study. Our academics will also be on-hand to talk about our flexible degree programmes.

Equally, our student accommodation and sports facilities will be on show to give a clear idea of what everyday life at Southampton is really like. You can also speak with members of the Students’ Union, who will tell you about their own experiences of studying at Southampton.

Booking online is essential at: www.southampton.ac.uk/visitus

Please note that our Winchester School of Art campus has its own Open Days and details can be found online: www.southampton.ac.uk/wsa
Pathways to Law

Years 12 – 13
email: pathway@southampton.ac.uk
tel: 02380 59 3662

The Pathways to Law programme was set up in 2006 by The Sutton Trust and The Legal Education Foundation (formerly The College of Law), with support from major law firms. Its aim is to inspire and support academically-able students in Years 12 and 13 interested in a career in law.

The University of Southampton is proud to be a higher education partner of the programme. We specifically target students from the state sector who will be the first in their family to attend university, and whose parents are in non-professional occupations. We offer a series of free practical events designed to support prospective law students. These include:

- Work placements
- Mock trials
- Careers advice
- UCAS application workshops
- Visits to law firms and chambers
- A national three-day conference at the University of Warwick with Pathways to Law students from other universities across the UK
- Parents’ information meetings

For further information please contact us or visit the Pathways to Law website: www.southampton.ac.uk/law/outreach/pathways-to-law

Please note: this programme is currently only open to students, living in Hampshire, The Isle of Wight, Wiltshire and Dorset.
Summer Schools and Residents

Years 9 - 12
email: outreach@southampton.ac.uk
tel: 02380 59 4803

We offer a range of summer schools designed to give students a true experience of life as a university undergraduate.

**Design Triathlon**

The Design Triathlon is a residential course for Year 12 students interested in studying engineering at university.

This broad-based engineering course will introduce participants to the three areas of Ship Science, Aeronautics and Astronautics and Mechanical Engineering.

Over the course of four days, teams are tasked with three design, build and test challenges including building a glider, a Greenpower car and a fastcraft for water.

Talks, workshops and seminars from staff and students in the Faculty of Engineering and the Environment provide insight into the wealth of careers and opportunities that an engineering degree can provide.

Participants live in university halls of residence for the week and are mentored by current undergraduate and postgraduate students, giving them a unique opportunity to find out what life is like at university.

The course is a great opportunity to get a taste for engineering ahead of submitting a university application. This course is free to attend and is aimed at Year 12 students matching some (or all) of the following criteria:

- Will be the first generation in their family to attend university
- Have achieved at least 5 A/A*s at GCSE, 5 credit passes at Standard Grade or equivalent
- Are taking relevant subjects in relation to Engineering (e.g. Maths, Physics and other science subjects)
– Attend schools or colleges with a low overall A-level, Higher/Advanced Higher (or equivalent) point score and/or schools or colleges with low progression to higher education
– Come from neighbourhoods with low overall progression rates to higher education or high levels of socio-economic deprivation
– Are under the age of 18 at the time of the summer school

Please visit our website to view the range of summer schools available: www.southampton.ac.uk/schoolsandcolleges/residentials

**Headstart and Smallpeice Trust Summer Schools**

Our Headstart and Smallpeice summer school courses, held annually in July, provide the opportunity for Year 12 students to experience what life is like studying Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) at university. During the week long residential courses students live in halls and take part in a number of lectures, visits, experiments and design and build projects.

Please visit our website to view the range of summer schools available: www.southampton.ac.uk/schoolsandcolleges/residentials

**The Widening Access to Medicine Residential**

This residential event, taking place on 4 - 6 April 2016, aims to increase students’ knowledge of the role of doctors and the training they undergo. It will also provide opportunities for the students to develop their interpersonal skills, increase awareness of the undergraduate medical experience and support them in their applications to medicine.

Please visit our website to view the range of summer schools available: www.southampton.ac.uk/schoolsandcolleges/residentials
Talks, Workshops and HE Presentations

Years 10 - 13, parents, carers, teachers and careers advisors
email: liaison@southampton.ac.uk
tel: 02380 59 3463

Our Schools and Colleges Liaison Team offer a range of engaging, tailored lectures, talks and workshops on a variety of higher education topics suitable for schools and colleges.

Why University?
This talk looks to dispel some of the beliefs and attitudes towards higher education and academia. We talk about what university is actually like and its benefits and impact on students’ lives and futures. We also bring clarity to the misunderstandings around costs and fees.

Higher Education: The National Picture
This 40 minute lecture is for parents and students covering the marketization of higher education and how universities and admissions have changed over the last five years. It investigates applications and acceptance rates, choosing a course, league tables, the Russell Group and employability. It gives a good overview into how government policy affects university admissions and how students can secure a place at a top Russell Group institution.
An Introduction to Higher Education: Choosing University Courses and Places
This talk is designed for students and aims to provide an honest and open view of the many factors to consider when choosing university courses and places to study. We discuss the Russell Group, reputation, employability, types of course and a range of other factors.

Standing Out From the Crowd: Writing Successful Personal Statements
Presented as either a talk or a workshop, this session provides guidance on how to structure the personal statement and advice on what Admissions Tutors are looking for from applicants. We also talk about ways to enhance a student’s understanding of their subject and offer other tips for writing a persuasive statement.

Student Life
Delivered by our current Student Ambassadors, this talk gives an open and honest feel about what it is like to study at the University, covering social life, finances, and getting involved in clubs and societies. Our Student Ambassadors will also talk about making the transition from school and college to university and give advice on how to get the most out of the university experience.

Preparing for Interviews
For those university courses that formally interview, and even for those that do it informally as part of a visit day, this talk gives an overview of what to expect from an interview, how to prepare and what to do on the day.

Student Finance and Cash Course Workshop
Delivered by our dedicated Student Finance Specialist, we can offer a talk that clearly explains about tuition fees and loans, but more importantly, how the process works and how they are paid back. We also offer an interactive workshop called ‘Cash Course’ which highlights the various financial decisions students may encounter and encourages students to consider how to budget for university.

Study Abroad
More and more students are seeking an opportunity to study abroad as part of their degree. Our talk explains the ways in which studying abroad, placements or an exchange can broaden horizons, enhance personal development and add an international dimension to graduates’ CVs. We talk through all the different schemes available, whether it be exchanges in Hong Kong, summer schools in America, work in Mexico or study placements in Vienna!
‘Explore with US’ Conferences

Year 12
email: outreach@southampton.ac.uk
tel: 02380 595 470

Students are given the opportunity to explore one particular theme from a variety of perspectives by attending a series of interdisciplinary workshops.

This conference is free to attend for partner schools and colleges in Hampshire, Wiltshire, Dorset and the Isle of Wight

There will be three conferences taking place throughout the academic year. The first of which will be in October:

October 2015 – ‘Exploring Shipwrecks’

Academics from the fields of Law, History and Maritime Engineering (Ship Science) will be leading students through a journey of exploration. Each workshop will examine the world of shipwrecks from its own unique perspective – highlighting the interdisciplinary nature of teaching and research at the University of Southampton.

During the conference (10.00 - 15.00) participants attend three workshops whilst also getting the opportunity to meet current students and to learn more about undergraduate courses, finance and careers.

Transport and refreshments will be provided by the University of Southampton.

For more information please email us at outreach@southampton.ac.uk
UCAS Conventions, School and College Higher Education Fairs

Years 10 - 13
email: liaison@southampton.ac.uk
tel: 02380 593 623

Whilst a campus visit or attending an Open Day is definitely the best way to find out about our courses, we know it is sometimes difficult for students to get time away from school or college during their studies. If your school or college is organising its own HE fair, please contact us so we can arrange for a representative from the University to attend.

Alternatively, we attend a vast array of UCAS events, school and college higher education fairs and conventions across the UK connecting with over 150,000 prospective students. These events are a great way for students, parents, teachers and advisors to chat with us informally and collect up to date information on our courses. It’s also a good opportunity to come and meet our Student Ambassadors and ask questions about what it’s like to study and live at the University.

To find out where we will be exhibiting next, please visit the UCAS HE conventions website: www.ucasevents.com/conventions
Online Tutorials, Teaching Resources, and Useful Links
EPQ - ‘Developing Your Research Project’ MOOC
email: learnwithus@southampton.ac.uk
tel: 02380 597 804

This free online course is intended for anyone who is currently undertaking or planning to undertake a piece of academic research, be that the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), International Baccalaureate Extended Essay, coursework, undergraduate, or a piece of independent research.

Developed and delivered by research-active academics, this course supports students with every step of the research process, from developing a hypothesis and finding sources to writing-up and presenting the findings.

The massive open online course (MOOC), lasts eight weeks with one hour of content per week. Practical, hands-on lessons will give students the opportunity to share ideas with fellow participants from all over the world, receive peer feedback on research proposals and enable them to review and comment on the work of other researchers, building a supportive community of like-minded curious learners.

For more information visit: www.southampton.ac.uk/moocs

Online Academic Study Guides
To help assist students with the transition to university and enable them to make the most of their university experience, we have produced a series of free guides. The guides have been created to give an accessible introduction to the essential academic skills students need in higher education covering:

- Engaging your mind: an academic guide to lectures and seminars
- Getting your point across: an academic guide to giving presentations
- Hammering the prose: an academic guide to writing essays
- Making the case: an academic guide to research
- Navigating the page: an academic guide to effective reading
- Picking your profile: an academic guide to learning styles
- Posing the question: an academic guide to planning essays

Download free copies via the website at: www.southampton.ac.uk/learnwithustransition
Online HE Information, Advice and Guidance

Our free, online resources help students make informed university choices. These include four short online guides:

- The appliance of science: alternatives to medicine
- Plot a course: a guide to comparing universities
- More than bricks and mortar: a guide to the Russell Group
- Top Tips for your Personal Statement

Download free copies via our website at: www.southampton.ac.uk/schoolsandcolleges

Online Course Choice Selector

If students are having trouble choosing the right course for them – we might just have the answer! Our online Course Choice Selector enables students to choose the subjects they have been studying and find out which degree courses would make a good fit for their interests. We hope it creates some real opportunities for students to think outside the box and discover suitable courses they may not have known existed.

The Course Choice Selector can be accessed at: www.coursefinder.soton.ac.uk

Virtual Open Day

Unable to attend our Open Days? With our Virtual Open Day you can explore all our campuses at your convenience and discover what it would be like to be a student at the University.

www.virtualopenday.southampton.ac.uk
Information, Advice and Guidance for Teachers and Careers Advisors
Continuing Professional Development

Delivered by world-class academics, Southampton’s CPD courses can help teachers and other related professionals to keep abreast of the constantly changing field, enabling you to provide the best quality teaching provision utilising the latest knowledge and skills.

We have wide ranging education professional development opportunities and courses running throughout the following departments:

- Centre for Languages, Linguistics and Area Studies
- Languages South East
- Lifelong Learning
- Postgraduate Education
- Science Learning Centres
- Southampton Education School

Please visit our website to find an opportunity of interest for you at: www.southampton.ac.uk/lifelonglearning/cpd

CONNECT with US e-Newsletter

Sign-up online to receive our regular online newsletter containing updates on events and activities for schools, colleges and students.

Please register for the CONNECT e-newsletter at: www.southampton.ac.uk/schoolsandcolleges

Develop Professionally in Teaching STEM

Our Mathematics and Science Learning Centre offer a range of professional learning opportunities for teachers, across all phases and career stages. These include the suite of Science Learning Network programmes, as well as our own independently developed offer, which covers a range of subjects. This includes non-STEM areas in collaboration with Southampton Education School.

All provision is designed to be delivered through a range of models including in-school delivery with groups of teachers or departments, support for clusters, or scheduled courses. Bespoke professional development which is tailored to specific needs can be requested.

Our offer is priced competitively, with funding available through Science Learning Network impact awards and funding for partner schools in ITE.

For further information please contact the Centre on 023 8059 8810 or email: mslc@soton.ac.uk.
Distinguished Speaker Series

Our distinguished speaker series aims to inform and stimulate intellectual debate across a broad range of subjects. Come and listen to some of the finest speakers as they share their thoughts and ideas. Lectures in this series run throughout the year and please visit our website to find the current programme of speakers:
www.southampton.ac.uk/aboutus/distinguished_speakers

Higher Education Advisors’ Day

Our annual event, held in May, is a great networking opportunity for teachers and career advisors to find out more about the University, our courses and visit our world-class facilities. The day includes key-note speakers, a chance to tour departments and an opportunity to meet Admissions Officers and the Schools and Colleges Liaison Team. For details of our next event visit: www.southampton.ac.uk/schoolsandcolleges

Talk to US!

Talk to US! is a new initiative, funded by the RCUK, which aims to inspire students and their teachers at a wide range of secondary schools in the Solent region, including ‘hard to reach’ schools, and engage them in a dialogue with researchers at the University of Southampton. There are three main aims to the scheme:
– To jointly design stimulating activities which engage and inspire a wider range of students and teachers, and enhance their experience of contemporary research being undertaken at their local university
– To develop a research-oriented culture whereby the students carry out small-scale research projects at school and the teachers engage in school-based action research
– To carry out coherent and structured evaluations to establish an evidence base for the approach
For further information, please email, Lindsay Wager RCUK ‘Talk to US’ Project Manager:
L.J.Wager@southampton.ac.uk
Student Support, Advice and Guidance
International Students
Studying in the UK

e-mail: global@southampton.ac.uk
tel: +44 (0) 23 8059 2772

Our International Office team offers an array of support, advice and guidance for international students studying in the UK. Visiting international students in schools and colleges throughout the UK, they share their expertise regarding qualifications and funding opportunities, and help students with applications, offering advice on the different study programmes and pre-travel arrangements.

Please contact our International Office to arrange a visit or find out more.

Support for Looked After
Children and Care Leavers

e-mail: outreach@soton.ac.uk
tel: 02380 59 8737

The University of Southampton is committed to supporting students who have been in local authority care or who need extra support. We work in partnership with local councils, schools, colleges and other universities in the region to offer:

– Individual pre-application visits, providing the opportunity to speak to staff and students
– Potential entrance through the University’s Access to Southampton scheme (A2S), which provides alternative entry criteria
– Personal advice and guidance about finance and our range of bursaries

For further information please contact us.

Supporting Students with
Disabilities, Mental Health
Issues or Specific Learning
Difficulties

e-mail: enable@soton.ac.uk
tel: 023 8059 7726

Our Enabling Services team encompasses a wide variety of support for students who have disabilities, mental health issues or specific learning difficulties. Our expert team can provide advice and support for students preparing for their time at university.

We offer appointments, consultations and transition days to students across a variety of sites; our main base is at the Student Services Centre, Highfield Campus, University Road.

Students can contact us by email or phone with appointments available upon request.

For further information see our website: www.southampton.ac.uk/edusupport

Mature Students

email: outreach@southampton.ac.uk
tel: 02380 59 8737

The University encourages applications from mature students and is keen to provide additional support with the application process and the transition to studying at university.

We offer the following advice, opportunities and activities:

– Tailored UCAS application workshops for mature students
– Finance talks for Access or Mature Students
– Library visits to develop research techniques

For further information please contact us.
Contact us

UK Student Recruitment and Outreach
Student Recruitment and International Relations
Room 4113, Building 37
George Thomas Building
University of Southampton
Highfield
Southampton
Hampshire
SO17 1BJ

email: liaison@southampton.ac.uk
web: www.southampton.ac.uk/schoolsandcolleges

tel: 02380 59 3623
The recently opened Boldrewood Innovation campus