



The University of Edinburgh Pathways to the Professions

Opening the doors to Law, Medicine, Veterinary Medicine & Architecture Pathways to the Professions

Annual Report
December 2011

www.ed.ac.uk/student-recruitment/widening-participation/pathways

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Pathways to the Professions Annual Report 2011

Executive Summary

Widening participation (WP) to higher education is a strategic priority for the government, the higher education sector and the University of Edinburgh. Pathways to the Professions, based in Student Recruitment and Admissions (SRA), is a key element of the WP strategy and encourages progression by under-represented school students into professional courses in Law, Medicine, Veterinary Medicine and Architecture; and subsequently into the professions themselves. These are highly selective courses and entry to them is extremely competitive.

The project was initiated and developed from 2001/02 with start up funding from the Sutton Trust; and has since been embedded in, and funded by, the University with contributions from the Brightside Trust and the Henry Drucker Memorial Fund. The project started with Medicine and Law, before expanding into Veterinary Medicine in 2005, and Architecture in 2008. Since inception, the project has received the backing and support of the key professional bodies and they continue to play an important role in the delivery of many of its activities.

Registration Numbers and Support

Uptake by school students has increased to having over 700 school students on the database at any one time from S4 to S6 (ages 15-18), with a total of over 3500 school students engaged with the project since 2001.

Pathways keeps a record of all career exploration activities that students undertake through the project, and provides this information to admissions at the University of Edinburgh to support their applications. Students, parents and advisors are also supported through informal advice and guidance by email and telephone contact. Students who are Pathways Plus / LEAPS eligible are given priority invitation to Pathways events, which includes students who are first generation to go to HE or who attend a low-progression school. The project provides 'Career Exploration Guidelines' for each strand, encouraging students to undertake voluntary and part-time jobs related to their chosen area, as well as 'Subject Information' sheets fully detailing entrance requirements for the courses throughout Scotland (and, in the case of Veterinary Medicine, the whole of the UK).

Progression to Higher Education

Since the first group of Pathways students entered University in 2003, 782 students have entered the University of Edinburgh, of whom 660 fulfil WP eligibility criteria to be Pathways Plus/LEAPS eligible. 463 students were admitted to Edinburgh to study Law, Medicine, Veterinary Medicine or Architecture. The numbers of students applying to these courses at the University continue to be very high, and successful Pathways applicants will normally achieve above the stated minimum entry requirements. Pathways aims to work with every state school student in Edinburgh and the Lothians aspiring to Law, Medicine, Vet Medicine or Architecture, and the numbers of students applying from these schools to these courses show that Pathways is working with the vast majority of applicants. More information on the students admitted to the University of Edinburgh is available in the 2011 Tracking Report which is available on request from the Pathways project team or online here:

www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/student-recruitment/widening-participation/projects/pathways-professions/about/background-information

Pathways to the Professions continues to support students post-application through group mentoring and an 'Ask A Student' email address. Students are provided with information regarding the University of Edinburgh's Access Bursaries, with five bursaries of £1000 per year ring-fenced for Pathways students. Upon starting at the University, the students are offered an undergraduate Mentor through the Peer Mentoring programme, and many continue to support the project throughout their degree. Furthermore, a number of Pathways graduates who have entered the professions have also contributed to Pathways events.

Pathways Partners

The project relies on the engagement of school students, and this is helped by the enthusiasm of Pathways / LEAPS link teachers in the local schools. The project also relies on the support of staff across the University of Edinburgh, including the Admissions Officers for Law, Medicine, Veterinary Medicine and Architecture; and colleagues who provide workshops from the School of Biological Sciences, School of Chemistry, Scottish Initiative for Biotechnology Education, School Of Law and the Edinburgh College of Art. Colleagues in the College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine also support some of the key Pathways events.

Pathways is also very grateful for the support of a number of professional organisations, including the British Medical Association (Scotland), the British Veterinary Association, the Faculty of Advocates, the Law Society of Scotland, NHS Lothian Work Placement Team, the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, Medic Insight and the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland. Pathways is also supported by Careers Scotland, and East Lothian, City of Edinburgh, Midlothian and West Lothian Councils.

Widening Participation at the University of Edinburgh

Widening participation (WP) to higher education is a strategic priority for the government, the higher education sector and the University. WP addresses the large discrepancies in the take-up of higher education opportunities between different social groups. We therefore work to raise aspirations and educational attainment among people from under-represented groups to prepare students for higher education; ensure success at University; improve employment prospects and open possibilities for postgraduate study; and encourage opportunities to return to learning in the future

The University of Edinburgh has been at the forefront of the initiation, design and implementation of WP projects since the early 1990s and is a leader and innovator in this area. WP has the enthusiastic and sustained support of the Principal and the senior management team and is in the specific remit of one of the Vice Principals.

The University's Strategy for Widening Participation aims to increase the proportion of undergraduate students from under-represented groups admitted to and successfully completing a programme of study at the University, consistent with the maintenance of high academic standards for admission and progression. In order to achieve this we will seek to broaden the base of the applicant pool and to identify the students with the best potential to succeed from an increasingly diverse pool of applicants.

The University is a leading, internationally renowned research institution and has a consistently large pool of very well qualified applicants for all courses and in particular for professional courses. The University of Edinburgh is one of the most popular in the UK: the University typically receives over 45,000 for around 3,500 places.

This context means that we have to work harder than many other universities to widen participation. Nevertheless, it is part of our mission to pursue excellence and improving access is part of this.

Pathways to the Professions

Pathways to the Professions, based in Student Recruitment and Admissions (SRA), is a key element of the WP strategy and encourages progression by under-represented school students into professional courses in Law, Medicine, Veterinary Medicine and Architecture; and subsequently into the professions themselves. These are highly selective courses and entry to them is extremely competitive.

The project was initiated and developed from 2001/02 with start up funding from the Sutton Trust; and has since been embedded in, and funded by, the University, with contributions from the Brightside Trust and the Henry Drucker Memorial Fund. The project initially concentrated on Law and Medicine. Veterinary Medicine was added in 2005, and Architecture in 2008.

Since its inception, the project has received the backing and support of the key professional bodies and they continue to play an important role in the delivery of many of its activities.

Pathways has over 700 school students on the database at any one time from S4 to S6 (ages 15-18), with a total of over 3500 school students engaged with the project since 2001.



Eligibility

All students from the 46 state schools in Edinburgh and the Lothians are eligible to register with Pathways, from S4-S6 (ages 15-18). The majority of students register via an on-line registration form; however paper registration forms are sent to schools and are available at Careers Conventions and online.

When students register with Pathways, their details are entered onto a database, and they are sent a welcome email with information on Pathways and advice sheets. This information includes entry requirements for the courses across Scotland (the UK for Vet Medicine), and career exploration guidelines. Activities are promoted via email

(although Pathways students can request to receive letters instead, and major events are always promoted by letter as well as email) with the majority of activities being aimed at S5 students. Pathways activities provide insight into careers in Law, Medicine, Vet Medicine or Architecture, as well as access to expert admissions guidance from the Pathways team.

Priority to certain elements of the programme is given to **Pathways Plus** students, whose parents or carers have not previously attended university. Research has shown that children whose parents are graduates are more likely to go to university. Pathways therefore aims

to provide students who will be first in family to go to University with the advice, support and confidence to apply to and succeed in degree level study.

Students are also given priority if they are LEAPS* eligible but not necessarily first generation of their family to go to University. Students are LEAPS eligible if they attend a LEAPS priority school, if they are first generation to go to HE or if they receive Educational Maintenance Allowance (EMA).

* Lothians Equal Access Programme for Schools: see page 14 and www.leapsonline.org for more details

Registrations

Table 1 provides information on the number of students registered for each subject strand of Pathways as of 12 December 2011. Medicine and Law are traditionally the largest strands of Pathways, however a number of students will register for more than one area. Table 2 shows the number of students registered with more than one area.

Table 1: Current strand registration data as at 29 November 2011

Pathways Strand	Pathways	Pathways Plus/LEAPS	Total
Law	110	114	224
Medicine	154	91	245
Veterinary Medicine	18	23	41
Architecture	33	43	76
Total	315	271	586*

* This total takes into account that some students register for more than one subject area. The total number of students registered on Pathways as of 12 December was 567.

Explanation of Apparent Drop in Numbers in 2011

At the time of reporting in 2010, there was a total of 712 pupils registered on Pathways. Although this seems to be a significant drop in numbers, this is due to a more robust system of continued contact with pupils who are not engaging with the project and, therefore, more pupils contacting Pathways to confirm that they want to withdraw from the project, as they are no longer interested in pursuing any of the subject areas. This allows Pathways to ensure that the pupils who are genuinely interested in the project are targeted and those who withdraw are given adequate support in providing them with information about alternative courses. It was felt that reported statistics above should not now include those who had officially withdrawn from Pathways. For the sake of a fair comparison to last year's figures, the total number on the Pathways database - including those who have officially withdrawn since November 2010 - is 750 (as of 12 December 2011).

Table 3: Number of students registered by Local Authority

Local Authority	Pathways	Pathways Plus/LEAPS	Total
East Lothian	52	46	98
Edinburgh	182	130	312
Mid Lothian	21	19	40
West Lothian	57	60	117

Table 2: Number of students registered for a combination of Pathways strands

Combination of Strands	Number of Students
Law & Medicine	8
Medicine & Vet Medicine	3
Law & Architecture	4
Medicine & Architecture	4

Table 3 shows the numbers of students registered from each Local Authority. City of Edinburgh, with 23 of the 46 schools eligible for Pathways, continues to have the majority of students registered.

Further registration data showing trends since 2001, by School and LEAPS School Group can be found in the Appendix.

'So you want to be a Lawyer?' Careers Event

This annual event is organised with the support of the Law Society of Scotland and the Faculty of Advocates and is open to all students registered with Pathways in S5 and S6. It is held at the University of Edinburgh and this year was in the Playfair Library, Old College on 21st October 2011..

Students heard from practitioners (and other legal professionals), explaining how they got to where they are and what their job is day-to-day. The practitioners then discussed a number of legal scenarios with groups of school pupils. Current LLB students also attended this event to give their perspective and interact with the pupils.

Practitioners and other legal professionals involved in the event were from: Capital Defence Lawyers; Semple Fraser; McGrigors; The Faculty of Advocates and The Law Society of Scotland. We also heard from a current LLM student who has completed both his LLB and Diploma in Legal Practice and has a traineeship with a leading law firm lined up.

The final part of the day was a student debate activity led by the Pathways team and current LLB students. The attendees were asked to work in teams to create an argument for or against a specific question. This year, as ever, the arguments were very interesting to watch and will help the pupils hone their public speaking and communication skills.

Work Observation Placements

Twice a year, eight Pathways Plus students take part in a week-long work observation programme. The students attend a briefing session prior to the programme where they are placed into pairs for the week ahead and provided with a detailed briefing, along with expenses to cover travel and lunch costs. Each pair visits a different organisation each day, providing them with an insight into the work that lawyers do

in a diverse range of firms and organisations. Students then meet with the Pathways team at the end of the week to give feedback on their experiences and discuss what they did during the week.

Organisations represented on the most recent programme included: Semple Fraser, Scottish Government, Office of Employment Tribunals, Simpson & Marwick, Scottish Legal Aid Board, Burness, Anderson Strathern, Court of Session and Capital Defence Lawyers.

UCAS Personal Statement Workshop

Forty-five potential Pathways Law applicants attended the UCAS Personal Statement workshop in September, where they listened to a presentation and participated in a series of practical tasks, to guide them in writing an effective personal statement. They also heard from a current Law student who offered insight into the personal and academic qualities required to study Law which proved helpful when it came to writing their statements. Throughout September to December, Pathways has delivered ongoing support and guidance to pupils on their statement and overall UCAS choices.

Lectures and Events

The opportunity for law career exploration through lectures and events, have proved varied this year. Highlights included ten pupils attending the International Womens' Day UoE public lecture delivered by Dr Irene Khan, and former Secretary General of Amnesty International, who spoke on "Gender equality and women's empowerment: the unfinished revolution". Seven pupils attending the Royal Society of Edinburgh's event: Assisted Dying: The Debate, A Mock Trial and ten pupils attending the Scottish Young Lawyers Annual Lecture.

****NEW - Scottish Parliament Morning***

In March, another new event was added to the Pathways Law calendar. Seventeen pupils attended a morning at the Scottish Parliament learning about the inner workings of

the building, what MSPs do, and how Parliamentary business is organised. Pupils were allowed to sit in and observe Question Time; listening to MSPs discuss national issues. This will now be a yearly event with the next visit planned for early 2012.

****NEW - Law Reporting Information Session***

The Scottish Council of Law Reporting (SCLR) recently commissioned a series of five linked short films about law reporting in Scotland and its central place within the Scottish legal practice. Pathways Law developed an afternoon session incorporating these films with activities to highlight the role law reports have as a primary source for solicitors, legal academics and researchers to name but a few. Pupils were invited to reflect on the skills required for this lesser known, yet vital, side of Law; providing them with a more rounded and realistic understanding of the profession.

University Open Day: Law at Edinburgh Event

At the June Open Day, Pathways pupils were invited to come along to a session to find out more about studying Law at Edinburgh. We looked at the various courses that make up the LLB as well as the support available and activities students can get involved in. Student were also given a quick tour of the law library and a handout with lots of useful links for them to look at when researching their potential career. This event represents a great chance for pupils to come on-campus and find out more about law whilst also finding out about the university more generally at Open Day.

LAWPALS

The Law Peer Assisted Learning Scheme (LawPALS) supports first year LLB students in their transition into studying law and into university. Students work in groups with trained third and fourth year facilitators, LawPALS Leaders, who cover topics including note-taking, writing legal essays and mooting. Sessions are structured around the content of the academic year and

are designed to support social as well as academic integration.

Attendance at LawPALS is not compulsory but the sessions are contained within students' course timetables and are scheduled at a time when no other classes run. Attendance has increased year on year since the programme began in 2006 and the best attended sessions remain Mooting, Writing Legal Essays and Note-taking.

This year, we piloted an add-on to LawPALS - LawPALS³ - designed to support transition from Ordinary to Honours level study.

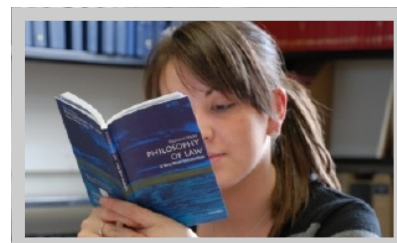
LawPALS is one of the Law School's best exports with schools and departments across the university looking at our model and developing their own initiatives.

LawPREP

The School of Law has a website to support all students embarking on an LLB degree. The website provides information on the degree, individual courses, the Law School, resources for study and has an FAQ section. The website is: www.law.ed.ac.uk/LawPrep

Widening Participation Officer in the School of Law

The School of Law is committed to equality of opportunity for students from all backgrounds with the ability and potential to benefit from a legal education at the University of Edinburgh. As such, it employs a Widening Participation Officer in the form of Lindsay Kelly. Lindsay has been at the School of Law for four and a half years and brings experience in both widening participation and legal education. She works closely with colleagues in the School of Law, the Pathways team and the legal profession to organise and deliver the activities listed above. Lindsay's hours have increased to full-time this year from four days per week. This increase reflects the work Lindsay is involved with in the Law School in offering study skills support, among other activities, and highlights again the emphasis the Law School places on such a role.



'So you want to be a Doctor?' Careers Event

This annual event is hosted by the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh and involves a number of short presentations from a range of doctors. The event was held on Monday 24 October 2011 and featured speakers from the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, British Medical Association Junior Doctors Committee, the Royal College of Physicians and the Medicine Admissions team at the University of Edinburgh.

63 students attended and participated in practical workshops including communication skills, intubation and laparoscopy, and knotting and tying. Pathways Medicine undergraduates were involved in running the workshops.

In the afternoon, participants were given further information about how to gain career exploration and entrance requirements. They also participated in a fun quiz and were given certificates to confirm their attendance.

UCAS Personal Statement Workshop

38 potential Pathways Medicine applicants attended a UCAS Personal Statement workshop on 12 Aug 2011, where they listened to a presentation and participated in a series of practical tasks, to prepare them for the writing of an effective personal statement.

S6 Medicine Careers Event

This year, we extended the previous S6 Medicine Careers Event to include more students than ever before. The event was held on 16 Sept at the Royal Medical Society and was attended by 43 S6 potential Medicine applicants. Students initially heard from a Psychiatrist, GP and Paediatrician before moving into clinical skills workshops. Clinical skills included medical ethics, urinalysis, blood pressure, auscultation and hand-washing.

Medic Insight

In June 2011, 45 S5 students took part in the fourth Medic Insight week at the Western General Hospital and NHS Lothian hospitals. Although this was a drop in numbers from last year, this was due to the Medic Insight programme running for two weeks, rather than for three weeks as it did in 2010. Each student attended for one full week.

Medic Insight was coordinated by a consultant within the Departments of Urology and Radiology at the Western General Hospital with current medical undergraduates; and provided students with a comprehensive work observation programme which included: Theatre / Anaesthesia, Elderly Medicine, Rheumatology, General Practice, Radiology, Neurology, Diabetic Clinic, Patient Services and Urology. The students also participated in plenary sessions on clinical skills and applying to University.

Higher Revision Classes

Each Easter, Pathways offers revision classes in Higher Biology and Higher Chemistry, with up to 25 students attending each. Pathways students also attend Advanced Higher Maths sessions. We also offered places to Medicine Pathways students on our Higher English revision session.

Lecture Programme

Pathways students continue to attend inaugural medical lectures in the University's College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine. They have also been attending a series of lectures given by the Centre for Reproductive Biology, as well as the new *Our Changing World* lecture series. An average of 25 students attend each lecture, with lectures happening once every 2-3 weeks. Students are also given the opportunity to meet with current undergraduate Medicine student ambassadors at these

lectures, giving them an opportunity to ask questions about studying Medicine, the application process, work experience and career exploration.

Medical Detectives Lecture Series

Approximately 30 students attended each of the four Medical Detectives lectures in October / November 2011. Topics included Paget's Disease, Pesticide Deaths in Asia and Fragile X Syndrome.

NHS Lothian Work Observation Opportunities

Pathways students are provided with contact details of the Work Placement Team for NHS Lothian Trust, and many students are therefore successful in getting a one week work placement in NHS Lothian hospitals.

Surgeon's Hall Museum

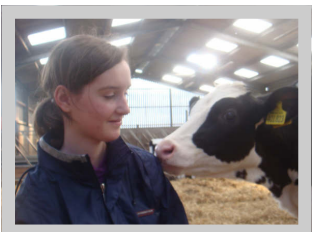
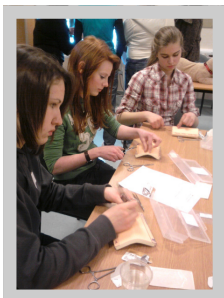
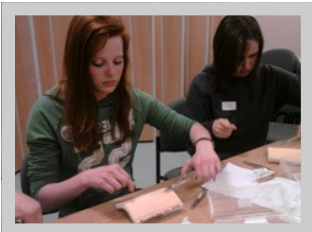
As part of the "So You Want to be a Doctor?" S5 event, students attended a workshop in the Surgeon's Hall museum. Students were able to handle historical surgical instruments and view exhibits of surgical interest from over 200 years ago.

Mentoring

In late 2010 and into early 2011, LEAPS eligible Medicine applicants took part in mentoring sessions. They attended a series of three sessions, initially looking at interview skills and academic integration, before moving on to clinical skills and social integration. The final session introduced them to research at University. More than 30 students attended each session and worked with current Medicine undergraduate students.



Pathways Medicine Activity



'So you want to be a Vet?' Careers Event

This annual careers event is normally held in February at the University's Easter Bush Veterinary Centre. and took place on 16 February 2011. However, our colleagues in the Vet School asked for the time of year to be reconsidered and it was deemed most sensible to run the event during the schools' October holiday, to be in line with the other Pathways career exploration events. Therefore, 2011 saw 'So You Want to be a Vet?' taking place again on 19th October 2011. After an initial ice-breaker session and lunch with current students, the time spent at Easter Bush is split into two. The first part of the event provides an opportunity for current veterinary staff to talk about becoming a vet in a variety of areas. The second part provides students with a range of practical workshops. Workshops included Surgical Skills, Echocardiology and Interactive tours of the Equine and Small Animal Hospitals.

University Farm Work Observation Opportunity

In June 2011, 4 Pathways Plus students had the opportunity to take part in a week's Farm Work Experience at the University's Langhill Dairy Farm. The week was organised by staff at the farm, with the group supervised at all times by an undergraduate vet student and farm staff. The week included: observing a working dairy farm; visits to the R(D)SVS small and large animal hospitals, milking every afternoon and handling of calves and sheep.

Students also discover more about the life of a vet student and an overview of the structure of the BVM&S course and how it is taught. They also gain an insight into Veterinary career prospects the role of the farm vet, and an appreciation of how Health & Safety, Biosecurity and Disease Control measures work at farm level.

UCAS Personal Statement Workshop

13 Pathways Veterinary Medicine applicants attended a UCAS Personal Statement workshop on 26 Aug 2011, where they listened to a presentation and participated in a series of practical tasks, to prepare them for the writing of an effective personal statement.

Lectures

In 2011 the Vet Medicine-related inaugural lectures were well-attended by Pathways Vet students. Events are normally held at the Easter Bush Veterinary Centre which can have implications for transport. However, Pathways offers taxi transport from the central campus, with the students being accompanied by a current undergraduate Vet student. This also gives the Pathways students the opportunity to talk to the current students about studying Vet Medicine, the application process, work experience and career exploration.

Mentoring

Pathways Vet Medicine applicants were invited to take part in our mentoring programme in 2011. This covered interviews and academic integration, social integration, and University researching techniques. Pathways Plus applicants were also invited to meet with a current undergraduate student prior to their admissions interview.

NEW - Interview Preparation Workshop

After feedback from admissions that some applicants were not performing confidently at interview, it was decided that a workshop looking at communication and confidence-raising - as well as what to expect at the interview - was needed. This session was held on 11 November and was attended by all Pathways Veterinary Medicine applicants. Pathways staff delivered the session with valuable input from a current Veterinary Medicine undergraduate student.

NEW - Roslin Institute Doors Open Day Event

12 Pathways Vet students attended the Doors Open event at the Roslin Institute where they listened to talks about animals in research, biotechnology and farming issues, as well as touring the Institute and taking part in hands-on activities.

“So you want to Work in Architecture?” Careers Event

The event was held at the Edinburgh College of Art (ECA) in the Crit room, where students actually present their work during their studies; attendees were able to observe recent coursework which were on display. Tutors discussed what being an architect meant alongside information on the University of Edinburgh (UoE) course programme, whilst insights into the profession were provided by working academics. A discussion panel with both undergraduate & postgraduate students, academics and architects proved popular where students could ask their questions and listen to the realities of being an architecture student and professional. Information from Admissions was a vital addition to the day where pupils could develop a better understanding of the application process. A tour of the ECA allowed students to see the space they would study in as first year undergraduates at UoE. Similarly a tour at Minto House allowed pupils to explore studio environment and current work on exhibition.

UCAS Personal Statement Workshop

Eleven potential Pathways Architecture applicants attended a UCAS Personal Statement workshop in September, where they were offered advice and examples of good practice for writing personal statements for Architecture. This on-campus event allowed students to meet fellow applicants in a tutorial setting encouraging their individual input as well as group collaboration. Throughout September to December, Pathways has delivered ongoing support and guidance to pupils on their statement and overall UCAS choices.

Lectures

Five places were given to Pathways Architecture pupils for the David Skinner Memorial Lecture given by the landscape architect March Stig L. Andersson at the ECA. He is the founder and creative director of interdisciplinary organisation SLA and talked about the influence of Japanese Architecture in his work within landscape, urban spaces, analysis and urban planning.

Architecture Work Observation

In February 2011, two pupils had placements between one to two days. In October 2011 this increased to seven different placements ranging from one

day to full week placements. The majority of pupils involved in the work observation placements were Pathways Plus/LEAPS eligible. Practices involved were Bennetts Associated Architects, Burnett Pollock Associates Architects, ema architecture + design limited, Helen Lucas Architects, Keppie Design Architects and Smith Scott Mullan Associates. These firms have all offered placements before demonstrating their continued interest and support in Pathways.

NEW - Roslin Institute Doors Open Day Event

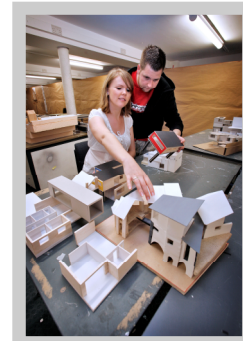
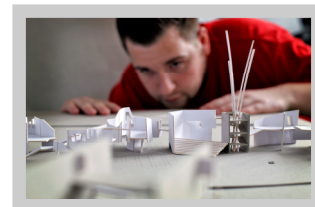
Along with Pathways Vet students, 3 Architecture students attended the Doors Open event at the Roslin Institute where they listened to talks about the design and development of the new state-of-the-art building and had a chance to tour the building and talk to one of its architects.

NEW - Art and Architecture tour of the Scottish Parliament

In March, another new event was added to the Pathways Architecture calendar. Eight pupils attended an Art and Architecture tour of the Scottish Parliament exploring both the exterior and interior design and furnishing of the landmark building. Pupils learned how Scotland's heritage and culture was a central inspiration, how construction materials were nationally sourced and the histories behind the varied artworks it houses. Due to the positive feedback we received from pupils, a tour has been scheduled and booked for another group in January 2012.

NEW – Schop Architecture Insight Session

A new event was custom built for Pathways Architecture in collaboration with Schop (the educational branch of local practice - Oliver Chapman Architects Limited). During the session eight pupils gained an understanding of what motivates architects and the attributes and skills they must possess to work successfully. They explored the range of career paths within the profession and guidance on how to gain further knowledge of architecture ahead of applying. Pupils were also taken on site visits to the Informatics Forum and The Tun, with tours led by the architecture office and architect who designed them respectively.



Pathways Activities: All Subjects



Lectures & Symposiums

In conjunction with colleagues from the Medical School; the Centre for Reproductive Biology; the Royal Society Edinburgh; the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies; Communications & Marketing and other areas of the University, Pathways students receive priority invitations to relevant events. A list of 2011 lectures attended is available by request from the Pathways team.

Study Support Activities

A comprehensive Study Support programme is provided annually in Biology, Chemistry, and Maths. These activities are aimed at Pathways Plus/LEAPS eligible students in Medicine and Veterinary Medicine; and Law and Architecture students when space is available. Workshops and revision sessions rely on input and staffing from the Schools of Chemistry, Maths, the Scottish Initiative for Biotechnology Education and the Postgraduate Science Communication team. This year, for the second time, we offered a study support session on Higher English. This was open to pupils from any of the Pathways strands and 54 attended.

Parents' Information Sessions

The annual Parents' Information Sessions are aimed at parents/guardians of students moving into S5 or S6. Held over two evenings, the first is aimed at parents of Pathways Plus/LEAPS eligible students, whilst the parents of all other students are invited to the second session.

The evenings provide parents with information about Pathways to the Professions, Student Finance, and specific course and admissions information about Law, Medicine, Veterinary Medicine and Architecture. Link teachers and careers advisers are also invited to attend.

Representatives from Admissions, ECA, the Law School, Medical School, and Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, participate in discussion groups, along with ex-Pathways undergraduates.

Individual Pre-Application Support

Pathways students are encouraged to make contact with the Pathways team with any questions regarding making a successful application to study Law, Medicine, Veterinary Medicine or Architecture, particularly at the key stages prior to making subject choices in S4 & S5 and after the release of the SQA examination results.

Pathways works closely with the Lothians Equal Access Programme for Schools (LEAPS) to deliver specific pre-application guidance to students. Early in S6, LEAPS Eligible students are entitled to receive a Pre-UCAS Application Interview - Pathways students have this with a member of the Pathways team in August/September. The interviews explore Higher Education options whilst identifying any adverse social or economic circumstances that may have affected academic performance or might inhibit chances of gaining entry to university or college.

The interviewer provides detailed guidance and advice on applying to University and recommends courses of action, one of which might be for LEAPS to make a pre-application enquiry to an admissions tutor, highlighting any circumstances that have affected an applicant's ability to fulfil their potential in school. The admissions tutor would then indicate the academic conditions required for a particular course. In many cases, admissions tutors will be sympathetic to the particular circumstances of a LEAPS student.

This outcome of the pre-application enquiry is then fed back to the student who will then be able to make an informed decision about the courses and institutions they wish to apply to.

Pathways staff provide detailed student profiles for Medicine and Vet Medicine Admissions staff to assist in their offer making. Pathways retains a record of all events that students attend, and this is usually requested by Admissions staff in Law to assist with offer-making, particularly if a student applies from S5.

Mentoring and Post-Application Support

Pathways Plus / LEAPS students are invited to take part in post-application mentoring, working with undergraduate students and their peers. These sessions cover issues such as interviews (Medicine & Vet), academic and social integration and University research. These sessions take place from November-March.

Veterinary Medicine students are given the opportunity to meet with a student mentor prior to their admissions interview at the University of Edinburgh.

Financial Support

In conjunction with the University of Edinburgh Scholarship Office, a minimum of 5 Access bursaries of £1000 per year are available to eligible Pathways students holding offers of places for entry on courses in Law, Medicine, Veterinary Medicine or Architecture. The Bursaries are actively promoted to students by Pathways, who then liaise with the Scholarships Office in identifying eligible students.

Moving On

Pathways Plus / LEAPS students (who have not attended the LEAPS Summer School) who have accepted an offer of a place at the University of Edinburgh are invited to participate on the Moving On transition to degree study course, organised by the University Office of Lifelong Learning (OLL). The course is designed as a week-long bridging course linking pre-university study with undergraduate work. It takes place in the week immediately prior to Freshers' week.

Undergraduate Mentoring

A mentoring programme is offered to undergraduate students in their first year of study at the University of Edinburgh. The project has up to 60 mentoring pairs taking part at a time, and provides support for mentors as well as mentees through a structured programme via professional training events, up to five mentoring sessions per term and an e-mentoring system.

****NEW - Redesign of Pathways Information sheets****

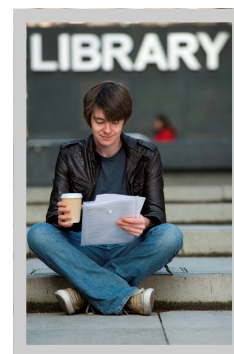
In spring / summer 2011, all of the information sheets sent to those who register for Pathways were updated and redesigned, with a professional designer graphic producing the final versions. Materials were produced to complement the existing ones, outlining the UCAS process and giving fuller advice on gaining work experience. Admissions advice sheets were also rewritten to add clarity. For the Law and Architecture strands, materials were produced to give a clearer picture of the progression of the postgraduate training for these careers.

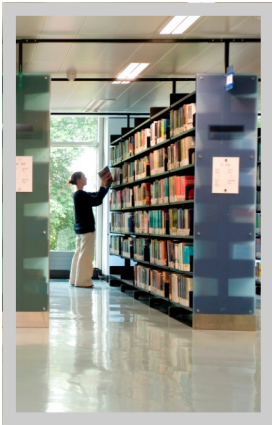
****NEW - Welcome to Pathways Letter for Parents****

Pathways has always recognised the importance of giving support to parents of pupils engaged in the project. In summer 2011, a welcome letter was produced for parents, which is now included in the welcome email sent to those who register, with the pupils being asked to pass this on. It includes important information on how to contact Pathways to get support, advice and guidance.

****NEW - S4 Course Choice Event****

In conjunction with Reach, a S4 Course Choice was held in February 2011. This was aimed at ensuring S4 pupils had full information about the relevant Higher subjects needed prior to making their final choices. Pupils were given presentations about the subject requirements for each subject area, then had the opportunity to ask current undergraduate students questions about their courses and get advice about applications. The group was then split up into subject areas and pupils took part in hands-on workshops.





In addition to the activities organised by Pathways to the Professions, Pathways students also benefit from and can have priority places on a number of other collaborative projects, including:

Kickstart Summer School

Kickstart is a week long summer school for students between S5 and S6 covering several subject strands including health and the sciences, and humanities and social science. Kickstart is a collaborative project with the University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh Napier University, Queen Margaret University and the Scottish Agricultural College and is presently funded by 3 local authorities (East Lothian, Midlothian and West Lothian). Students have also been attending from Dumfries and Galloway since 2006, funded by a private donor. This year, 13 students from Leith Academy and Drummond Community High School also attended, funded by a private donor. Pathways students receive mailings about these programmes, and are asked to encourage friends in their school to also attend.

Lothians Equal Access Programme for Schools (LEAPS)

Developed from the University of Edinburgh University Special Entrance Initiative (USE) in 1995 to become a collaborative partnership with the other HEIs in Edinburgh and the local authorities of Edinburgh and the Lothians, LEAPS promotes higher education amongst young people whose school careers have been affected by adverse economic or social circumstances or who come from communities with little or no experience of higher education.

LEAPS comprises an outreach schools programme from S2 onwards, aimed at raising awareness of opportunities in HE. Different elements of the programme are offered to schools according to their designation as

group 1 (lowest HE participation) to group 2 (highest HE participation); and a pre-entry summer school. The summer school is genuinely multi-exit and students progress not only to partner HEIs but to HEIs all over Scotland and beyond.

LEAPS eligible students can meet individual criteria (ie. first generation to go to HE, low income family) or be attending a LEAPS Group 1 School (regardless of individual circumstances). LEAPS expanded to cover schools in the Scottish Borders in 2008, with two schools allocated as Group 1. In 2010, LEAPS also expanded to cover target schools in Forth Valley.

Widening participation and Pathways staff at Edinburgh University recruit student volunteers, and contribute to school workshops, shadowing, pre-application interviews and committees, as well as organising on campus activities on behalf of LEAPS. At LEAPS and Pathways work closely together for S6 students as part of the pre-application guidance and admissions liaison.

So You Want to be a Nurse?

In 2011, the University of Edinburgh continued to work with Queen Margaret University to offer this event to pupils, including those from Scottish Borders and Forth Valley regions. This event includes interactive workshops, discussion activities and gives pupils full information about entry routes to nursing.

Admissions is a key strand of Pathways to the Professions, and therefore the project aims not only to raise aspirations; but also to admit students with the potential to succeed.

Since the first full cohort of students have progressed through the project in 2002/3, 782 Pathways students (including 660 Pathways Plus students) have commenced study at the University of Edinburgh. Of those, 463 are studying Law, Medicine Veterinary Medicine or Architecture. Many other Pathways students are at other Universities.

Admissions to Law and Architecture

Since the project’s inception, 261 students registered with Pathways have begun their Law studies at Edinburgh (including 190 Pathways Plus students). 19 Pathways students began their Architecture degree at Edinburgh University in 2009, 2010 and 2011, the first three years of tracking, including 15 Pathways Plus.

The project links with the University admissions policy which takes into account the context of achievement (the performance of the school attended, whether first in family to attend higher education etc) in its offer making. Project staff work closely with the admissions

officers for Law and Architecture at all stages of application. The project provides information about events applicants have attended as part of the Pathways, along with any relevant contextual information.

Typically, offers can be made to Pathways Plus & LEAPS eligible students who achieve BBBB at one sitting or ABBB/BBBBB over two sittings (the majority of Pathways Plus students achieve in excess of these minimum requirements).

In terms of the wider applicant pool, the University received 1493 home fee applications to LLB law programmes for 2011 Entry, making 341 offers. The typical entry profile of all other applicants is AAAB to AAAAA achieved in one sitting with most offers made to students who had achieved AAAAB or above. For Architecture, 970 home fees applications were received and the University made 341 offers.

Tables 3 and 4 below shows the Applications, Offers and Entrants to Law and Architecture at the University of Edinburgh for Pathways registered students for 2011 entry. Further admissions data showing trends and comparisons to all Lothian State School applicants can be found in the Appendix.

Table 3: Admissions to Law, 2011 Entry

	Applications	Offers	Entrants
Pathways Students	21	6	2
Pathways Plus/LEAPS Students	41	34	26
Total	62	40	28

Table 4: Admissions to Architecture, 2011 Entry

	Applications	Offers	Entrants
Pathways Students	8	4	1
Pathways Plus/LEAPS Students	9	7	1
Total	17	11	2



Pathways Admissions to Law & Architecture

Pathways Admissions to Medicine

Admissions to Medicine

Since the project's inception, 145 students registered with Pathways have begun their Medicine studies at Edinburgh (including 85 Pathways Plus students).

Pathways staff provide Admissions staff at the Medical School with a profile of all LEAPS eligible applicants, including details of Pathways events they have attended, career exploration undertaken, relevant academic information, and confirmation of the LEAPS School Grouping, parental educational background and entitlement to Education Maintenance Allowance. The project works closely with the Director of Admissions in Medicine to review and update processes.

Pathways Plus/LEAPS eligible applicants, will normally be expected to have achieved minimum academic criteria of AAABB at SQA Higher in S5 at one sitting, to enter the selection process. Students meeting this will be in competition with other medicine applicants and whilst special consideration will be made for Pathways Plus/LEAPS eligible students, this does not guarantee an offer.

All applications are considered at a meeting of the MBChB Admissions Executive, which the SRA Widening Participation Manager attends. The members of the MBChB Admissions Executive score the applications in a standard manner for grades achieved and predicted, UKCAT performance and non-academic score.

Applicants may be awarded additional selection points to the academic grade score (up to but not beyond the academic grade maximum of 7 points for each selector) on the basis of the student:

- attending a LEAPS group 1 school
- being first in family to study in Higher Education
- being in receipt of Educational Maintenance Allowance (all levels)

In 2008 the Admissions Committee amended the minimum academic qualification to AAABB (from AAAB in 2007) and undertook to base S5 scoring on best 4 (rather than best 5) Highers thereby optimising the opportunity of eligible applicants whilst restricting applications from those who stood no reasonable chance of receiving an offer.

The dedicated admissions route for Pathways Plus/LEAPS Eligible applicants detailed above remains despite fierce competition. Offer chances for home-funded applicants is approximately one offer for every six applicants (for 2011 entry, 15.6% of applicants were made an offer).

Table 5 below shows the Applications, Offers and Entrants to Medicine at the University of Edinburgh by Pathways registered students for 2011 entry. Further admissions data showing trends and comparisons to all Lothian State School applicants can be found in the Appendix.

Table 5: Admissions to Medicine, 2011 Entry

	Applications	Offers	Entrants
Pathways Students	25	13	8
Pathways Plus/LEAPS Students	21	13	12
Total	46	26	20

Admissions to Veterinary Medicine

Since 2005, 38 students registered with Pathways have begun their Vet Medicine studies at Edinburgh (including 17 Pathways Plus students).

The Pathways team works closely with colleagues in Veterinary Medicine, and in particular the Admissions and Recruitment Manager to provide background information on the Pathways Plus/LEAPS Eligible applicants to Veterinary Medicine.

The Vet School takes into account the context of achievement (the performance of the school attended, whether first in family to attend higher education, level of career exploration and commitment shown etc) in determining whether a student who is slightly below the minimum published entry requirements can enter the selection process.

Students who are successful at the interview stage are normally set conditions of BB at Advanced Higher (Chemistry and normally Biology), although where a student has grades below the published minimum in S5, further conditions may be set. In addition, the Vet School may make a recommendation for students to attend LEAPS Summer School.

There were 942 applications to Veterinary Medicine at the University of Edinburgh for 2011 entry, with the university making 169 offers (offer chance of 17.9%).

Table 6 below shows the Applications, Offers and Entrants to Veterinary Medicine at the University of Edinburgh by Pathways registered students for 2010 entry. Further admissions data showing trends and comparisons to all Lothian State School applicants can be found in the Appendix.

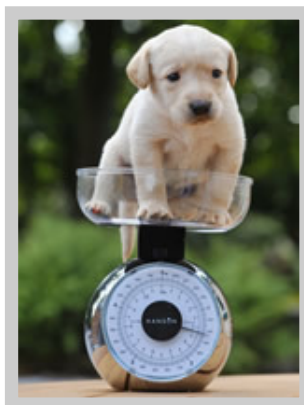
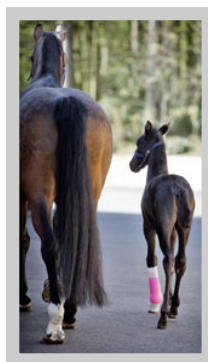
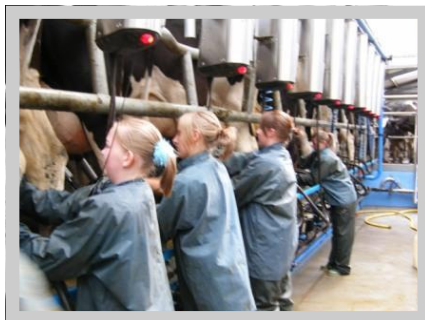


Table 6: Admissions to Veterinary Medicine, 2011 Entry

	Applications	Offers	Entrants
Pathways Students	4	3	1
Pathways Plus/LEAPS Students	5	1	0
Total	9	4	1

Evaluation & Tracking

The Pathways project has, since the outset, put in place thorough and robust evaluation, monitoring and tracking mechanisms which produce data that inform the future development both of the project and WP Policy within the University itself.

All individual activities are evaluated, reports created and recommendations made for future development. These are available from the project team on request.

A comprehensive password-protected database keeps a record of the events a student has attended, their examination results, applications made to the University (and the resultant outcomes) and correspondence made with individual members of the project by the student or their family members.

Post-entry, the performance and attendance of students at the University of Edinburgh (both in the four Pathways subject areas and other areas of the University that Pathways students have been admitted to), along with destination information for students who are studying elsewhere is monitored, and an annual tracking report produced (available on request or online here: www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/student-recruitment/widening-participation/projects/pathways-professions/about/background-information)

Clarified Email Contact and Follow-up Letters

Pupils on all strands of Pathways are now contacted on the general Pathways email address and they use this for all correspondence. This allows all members of the Pathways team to access the separate email account to deal with queries more quickly. It also prevents any confusion that may have arisen in the past with pupils being contacted from different email addresses. Newly registered pupils are asked to email back to

confirm that they have received their welcome email and, if Pathways has not heard from them within a week, a follow-up letter is sent to their home address. This is to ensure that all pupils registered for Pathways do not miss any important information or invitations to events.

Website and Publicity Materials

The Pathways website is regularly updated and in 2011, a "News" page was added. Pathways continues to develop materials to provide more information for parents and advisors, and to include case studies using Pathways graduates. Pathways has also developed career exploration guidelines for all areas of the project, and useful templates for students to use to write about their work experience for use in personal statements and interviews.

Pathways continues to make use of its Facebook page which is regularly updated with news and events. To date, Pathways has over 200 "likes". In 2011, Pathways joined Twitter and events are also promoted via that medium.

SRA Widening Participation Activity

Pathways staff also work to develop initiatives across the University. The Pathways Careers Event model has proved successful in a number of other subject areas eg. Engineering, Social Work and Nursing.

Appendix: Pathways Project Statistics

Project Registrations*

Table A1: Registrations by Local Authority and School (LEAPS School Group in Brackets)

East Lothian	Number	City of Edinburgh	Number
Dunbar Grammar School (2)	13	Balerno CHS (2)	6
Knox Academy (2)	17	Boroughmuir High School (2)	61
Musselburgh Grammar School (2)	15	Broughton High School (2)	7
North Berwick High School (2)	31	Castlebrae CHS (1)	0
Preston Lodge High School (2)	15	Craigmount High School (2)	36
Ross High School (1)	8	Craigroyston CHS (1)	1
Midlothian	Number	Currie High School (2)	7
Beeslack CHS (2)	10	Drummond High School (1)	4
Dalkeith High School (2)	6	Firrhill High School (2)	29
Lasswade High School Centre (2)	9	Forrester High School (1)	5
Newbattle High School (1)	3	Gracemount High School (2)	5
Penicuik High School (2)	4	Holy Rood High School (2)	9
St David's RC High School (2)	7	James Gillespie's HS (2)	29
West Lothian	Number	Leith Academy (1)	8
Armadale Academy (1)	1	Liberton High School (1)	3
Bathgate Academy (2)	15	Portobello High School (2)	11
Broxburn Academy (2)	5	Queensferry High School (2)	9
Deans CHS (1)	6	St. Augustines High School (2)	13
Inverlmond CHS (1)	3	St Thomas of Aquins HS (2)	25
James Young High School (2)	13	The Royal High School (2)	31
Linlithgow Academy (2)	36	Trinity Academy (2)	6
St Kentigern's RC Academy (2)	18	Tynecastle High School (1)	6
St Margaret's RC Academy (2)	12	WHEC (1)	0
West Calder High School (2)	5		
Whitburn Academy (1)	2		

Table A2: Total Registrations 2001/2 to 2011/12 as of 12 December 2011 (note some are registered for more than one subject area)

	2001/2	2002/3	2003/4	2004/5	2005/6	2006/7	2007/8	2008/9	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Law	97	180	226	253	230	180	189	215	235	234	223*
Medicine	87	184	191	239	272	277	245	246	296	372	245*
Vet Medicine	-	-	-	52	74	58	60	77	77	70	40*
Architecture	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	40	75	70	76*
Total	184	364	417	544	576	515	494	578	683	746	630*

*Explanation of Apparent Drop in Numbers in 2011

At the time of reporting in 2010, there was a total of 712 pupils registered on Pathways. Although this seems to be a significant drop in numbers, this is due to a more robust system of continued contact with pupils who are not engaging with the project and, therefore, more pupils contacting Pathways to confirm that they want to withdraw from the project, as they are no longer interested in pursuing any of the subject areas. This allows Pathways to ensure that the pupils who are genuinely interested in the project are targeted and those who withdraw are given adequate support in providing them with information about alternative courses. It was felt that reported statistics above should not now include those who had officially withdrawn from Pathways. For the sake of a fair comparison to last year's figures, the total number on the Pathways database - including those who have officially withdrawn since November 2010 - is 750 (as of 12 December 2011).

Admissions to Law

Table A3: Applicants to Law by Year of Entry

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
All Lothian State Schools	126	125	143	136	110
....Of whom Pathways Registered	67	65	84	66	62
...of whom Pathways Plus/LEAPS	43	38	50	41	41

Table A4: Offers to Law by Year of Entry

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
All Lothian State Schools	75	67	82	70	57
....Of whom Pathways Registered	51	51	65	46	40
...of whom Pathways Plus/LEAPS	37	30	43	39	34

Table A5: Entrants to Law by Year of Entry

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
All Lothian State Schools	41	40	52	39	36
....Of whom Pathways Registered	32	31	39	32	28
...of whom Pathways Plus/LEAPS	24	19	23	29	26

Admissions to Medicine

Table A6: Applicants to Medicine by Year of Entry

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
All Lothian State Schools	63	62	51	65	53
....Of whom Pathways Registered	49	46	46	50	46
....of whom Pathways Plus/LEAPS	32	21	17	27	21

Table A7: Offers to Medicine by Year of Entry

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
All Lothian State Schools	26	20	27	20	27
....Of whom Pathways Registered	21	16	26	19	26
....of whom Pathways Plus/LEAPS	18	7	11	12	13

Table A8: Entrants to Medicine by Year of Entry

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
All Lothian State Schools	20	16	16	17	20
....Of whom Pathways Registered	17	14	16	16	20
....of whom Pathways Plus/LEAPS	15	7	10	11	12

Admissions to Veterinary Medicine

Table A9: Applicants to Veterinary Medicine by Year of Entry

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
All Lothian State Schools	17	17	12	10	10
....Of whom Pathways Registered	15	14	11	9	9
.....of whom Pathways Plus/LEAPS	5	8	7	<5	5

Table A10: Offers to Veterinary Medicine by Year of Entry

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
All Lothian State Schools	13	9	7	7	5
....Of whom Pathways Registered	12	9	7	6	5
.....of whom Pathways Plus/LEAPS	6	6	<5	<5	<5

Table A11 Entrants to Veterinary Medicine by Year of Entry

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
All Lothian State Schools	10	8	5	5	<5
....Of whom Pathways Registered	9	8	5	<5	<5
.....of whom Pathways Plus/LEAPS	<5	5	<5	<5	<5

Admissions to Architecture

Table A12: Applicants to Architecture by Year of Entry

	2009	2010	2011
All Lothian State Schools	48	38	32
....Of whom Pathways Registered	18	10	17
.....of whom Pathways Plus/LEAPS	13	8	9

Table A13: Offers to Architecture by Year of Entry

	2009	2010	2011
All Lothian State Schools	29	24	18
....Of whom Pathways Registered	15	8	11
.....of whom Pathways Plus/LEAPS	11	7	7

Table A14: Entrants to Architecture

	2009	2010	2011
All Lothian State Schools	21	9	6
....Of whom Pathways Registered	12	<5	<5
.....of whom Pathways Plus/LEAPS	10	<5	<5

Student Participation

Table A15: Student Attendance at Events 2011

Event Name	Number of Students Attending	Event Name	Number of Students
Architecture UCAS Personal Statement Workshop	11	Parents' Information Sessions	153
Architecture Work Observation Placements	10	Pre-entry Mentoring	37
Art & Architecture Tour	8	Roslin Institute Doors Open Day	15
Farm Work Experience	<5	S4 Course Choice Event	28
Higher Biology Revision Session	19	S6 Medicine Careers Event	43
Higher Chemistry Revision Session	23	Schop Architecture Workshop	7
Higher English Revision Session	54	Scottish Parliament Tour	17
Kickstart Summer Programme	22	So You Want to Work in Architecture?	20
Law Reporting Workshop	12	So You Want to be a Doctor?	63
Law UCAS Personal Statement Workshop	52	So You Want to be a Lawyer?	82
LEAPS Pre-application Interviews	76	So You Want to be a Vet? (Feb 2011)	16
Lectures & Symposiums	600+	So You Want to be a Vet (Oct 2011)	21
Legal Work Experience	16	Surgeons' Hall Museum Visit	63
Medicine UCAS Personal Statement Workshop	37	Vet Interview Skills Workshop	12
Medic Insight	36	Vet UCAS Personal Statement Workshop	12
Total number of student contacts via events:	1569+		

Support and Thanks

Pathways to the Professions is grateful for the support of the many members of the professions, colleagues within the University and school, local authority and careers staff who contribute to the success of the programme.

Pathways works closely with:

The British Medical Association (Scotland)

The British Veterinary Association

Careers Scotland

East Lothian, City of Edinburgh, Midlothian and West Lothian Councils

The Faculty of Advocates

The Law Society of Scotland

Local School staff

Medic Insight

NHS Lothian, Work Placement Team

The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh

The Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh

The Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland

and staff and students from the University of Edinburgh's College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine, College of Science & Engineering, College of Humanities and Social Science, School of Law and the Edinburgh College of Art.

If you require this report in alternative formats
email pathways@ed.ac.uk or call 0131 651 1755

It can also be found online at:
www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/student-recruitment/widening-participation/projects/pathways-professions/about/background-information

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