



The University of Edinburgh Pathways to the Professions

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

Annual Report
November 2010

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

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Pathways to the Professions Annual Report 2010

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 registered 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..

Progression to Higher Education

Since the first group of Pathways students entered University in 2003, 693 students have entered the University of Edinburgh, of whom 596 fulfil WP eligibility criteria to be Pathways Plus/LEAPS eligible. 514 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. 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 2010 Tracking Report which is available on request from the Pathways project team.

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 M-Power 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 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 Biology, School of Chemistry, Scottish Initiative for Biotechnology Education, School Of Law and School of Arts, Culture & Environment. 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.

***NEW* autumn 2010** : Pathways is working closely with the new SFC funded national **Reach Scotland** project for access to high demand professional courses. The University of Edinburgh will work with schools in Scottish Borders and Forth Valley.

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: only two other institutions received more applications in 2009. The University typically receives over 45,000 for around 3,000 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 registered 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 15 November 2010. 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 15 November 2010

Pathways Strand	Pathways	Pathways Plus/LEAPS	Total
Law	113	121	234
Medicine	181	191	372
Veterinary Medicine	30	40	70
Architecture	30	40	70
Total	354	392	746*

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

Combination of Strands	Number of Students
Law & Medicine	24
Medicine & Vet Medicine	14
Law & Architecture	5
Medicine & Architecture	1
Vet Medicine & Architecture	1
Law, Medicine & Vet Medicine	2
Law & Vet Medicine	4

* 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 15 November 2010 was 712.

All Local Authorities have seen an increase of registrations from 2009 to 2010. 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.

Table 3: Number of students registered by Local Authority

Local Authority	Pathways	Pathways Plus/LEAPS	Total
East Lothian	56	68	124
Edinburgh	173	168	341
Mid Lothian	17	45	62
West Lothian	78	107	185

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

This annual event is organised in collaboration with 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 at Old College.

At the event on Monday 18 October 2010, students heard from practitioners (and other legal professionals) in the section entitled 'A Day in the Life'. These 5-minute presentations included how the practitioners got to where they are and what their job is like day-to-day. The practitioners then discussed a number of legal scenarios with groups of school pupils. The areas included Delict (Personal Injury and Negligence), Criminal Procedure, Criminal Law, Property Law, Human Rights Law and Employment Law.

Practitioners and other legal professionals involved in the event were from firms and organisations including: Capital Defence Lawyers, MBM Commercial, The Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service, The Faculty of Advocates, The Law Society of Scotland and Anderson Strathern. We also had The Hon. Lady Stacey speaking at the event which was the first time a Judge had attended.

The final part of the day was a student debate activity led by the Pathways team and current undergraduate law students. The students were asked to work in teams to create an argument for or against a specified debate 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 on 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, Office of Employment Tribunals, Simpson & Marwick, Scottish Legal Aid Board, Burness, Anderson Strathern, McLay Murray & Spens, Court of Session, Capital Defence Lawyers and the Scottish Government.

***NEW* Tour of the Faculty of Advocates**

On 19th November 2010, 10 pupils were given an in-depth tour of the Faculty of Advocates. This included the history of the building, viewing intimate court spaces, hearing from "devils" and gaining insight into the ongoing Faculty traditions and training.

***NEW* UCAS Personal Statement Workshop**

34 potential Pathways Law applicants attended a UCAS Personal Statement workshop on 8 October 2010, 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.

Hamlyn Lecture Series

Pathways pupils were invited to attend the Edinburgh based lecture from the annual Hamlyn Trust public series, taking place in December 2010. The session is called Professionalism Reassessed: What Now for Lawyers? and is being delivered by Professor Alan Paterson OBE.

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 who cover topics including referencing, using the library and note-taking. Sessions are structured around the content of the academic year and are informal to support social integration but also to allow the students to raise other topics that they want help with.

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 and it has further increased this year as the programme became more embedded within the LLB. This year, for the second year running, we ran separate groups for the Graduate LLB (2-year LLB) students as their study skills needs differ having already studied at degree level albeit not law. We plan to continue with these separate groups.

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 at 0.8 FTE in the form of Lindsay Kelly. Lindsay has been at the School of Law for three and a half years and brings experience in both widening participation and legal education. She works closely with colleagues in the School of

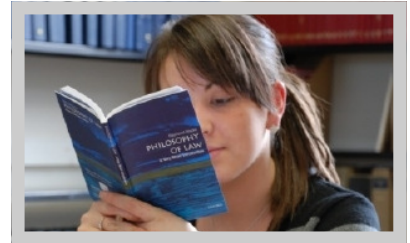
Law and the Pathways team to organise and deliver the activities listed above.

In addition to Pathways activities, the School of Law and the WP Officer contribute to the delivery of the SRA Primary School and Early Years Initiative. This is for over 350 primary 6 and 7 pupils in the feeder primaries for Liberton High School and Wester Hailes Education Centre (WHEC), followed up by a series of activities for the same students when they progress into S1 & S2. The School of Law provides interactive workshops designed to give the pupils an insight into the study of law. More generally, the law workshops seek to dispel some of the myths surrounding law and show the pupils that law is accessible to them on many levels.

Other Workshops

The School of Law has contributed to the LEAPS Summer School since 2005 by offering sessions on Criminology as part of the Sociology and Criminology course. In addition, the Widening Participation Officer offers workshops in support of many other University of Edinburgh/SRA initiatives, including High Flyers, Kickstart, Beath and Newbattle Summer School and Lift Off.

The WP Officer in the Law School has also been involved in a University transition week (Moving On) and acted as a Study Skills tutor in the Kickstart Summer Programme. Lindsay is also a marker for the LEAPS Summer School Learning Skills blog exercise. In June 2010, Lindsay's days at the Law School were increased from 3 per week to 3.5 per week to take account of additional study skills work and other work being undertaken.



'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 25 October 2010 and featured speakers from the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, British Medical Association Junior Doctors Committee, and the Royal College of Paediatricians and Child Health.

49 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.

***NEW* UCAS Personal Statement Workshop**

38 potential Pathways Medicine applicants attended a UCAS Personal Statement workshop on 10 Sept 2010, 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 17 Sept at the Royal Medical Society and was attended by 36 S6 potential Medicine applicants. Students initially heard from a Psychiatrist, GP, Paediatrician and Physician before moving into clinical skills workshops. Clinical skills included communication, urinalysis, blood pressure, auscultation and hand-washing.

Medic Insight

In June 2010, 87 S5 students took part in the fourth Medic Insight week at the Western General Hospital and NHS Lothian hospitals—the most students we have ever had on the programme. The programme ran over three weeks, with each student attending 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.

***NEW* Physics Workshop**

Early in each academic year, Pathways runs science workshops that compliment the school curriculum and/or give students an interesting experience. In 2010, students took part in brand new Physics workshop, run by postgraduate students from the University of Edinburgh.

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. This year, we also offered places to Medicine Pathways students on our new 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 25 students attended each of the four Medical Detectives lectures in October / November 2010. Topics included prions, heart valves and "the mysteries of birth".

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

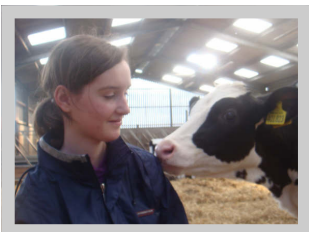
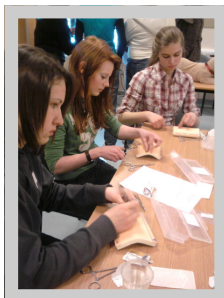
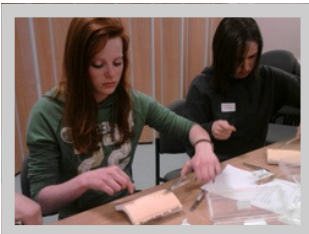
In early 2010, LEAPS eligible Medicine applicants took part in mentoring sessions. They attended a series of three sessions, initially looking at

interview skills and academic integration, before moving on to clinical skills and social integration. The final session introduced them to research at University. 20 students attended each session and worked with current Medicine undergraduate students.



Pathways Medicine Activity

Pathways Veterinary Medicine Activity



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

The annual careers event was held on 17 February 2010 at the University's Easter Bush Veterinary Centre. 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.

***NEW* Animal Testing Workshop**

As part of the "So You Want to be a Vet?" careers event, students were invited to take part in an interactive discussion workshop on the subject of animal testing and research, run by postgraduate research students. The workshop involved discussing issues surrounding this controversial subjects and looked at how the students views altered as information was given.

University Farm Work Observation Opportunity

In June 2010, 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 the Farm Manager, 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.

***NEW* UCAS Personal Statement Workshop**

9 potential Pathways Medicine applicants attended a UCAS Personal Statement workshop on 3 Sept 2010, 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 2010 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. This year, Pathways students also attended the public lecture on preventative medicine for dogs, held at the University's William Robertson Building.

Mentoring

Pathways Vet Medicine applicants were invited to take part in our mentoring programme in 2010. 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.

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

This year the event was held at the Edinburgh College of Art (ECA). Tutors from both the Edinburgh School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture (ESALA – a partnership between ECA and University of Edinburgh) and the University of Edinburgh (UoE) discussed what being an architect meant alongside information on the UoE course programme. Pupils worked in groups discussing case studies and presented their findings. A discussion panel with both undergraduate and postgraduate students proved popular where students could ask their questions and listen to the realities of being an architecture student. A tour of the ECA allowed students to see the space they would study in as 1st year undergraduates at UoE. Similarly a tour at Minto House allowed pupils to explore studio environment and current work on exhibition.

NEW Mentoring

As part of the Pathways mentoring programme, a current undergraduate worked closely with Dr Neil Speirs to create and deliver three workshop sessions which will form the basis of future mentoring work. A brief entitled ‘Conception to Completion’ ran through the three sessions taking pupils on the creative journey an architect undertakes on a project. Highlights included model making, group presentation and critiques. The third session included viewing and discussing 2nd year final projects at Minto House and ended at Inspace Gallery, attending the exhibition opening of ‘Paperless City’ which showcased 4th year dissertation work.

NEW UCAS Personal Statement Workshop

9 potential Pathways Architecture applicants attended a UCAS Personal Statement workshop on 22 October 2010, 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.

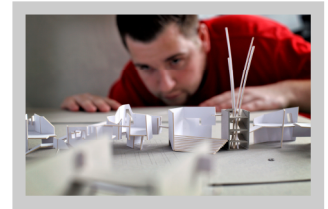
Kickstart Workshop

Two PhD students undertook the delivery of the Architecture workshop this year. It is hoped to utilise this session specifically for Pathways students early in 2011. An Architectural History workshop also featured again this year.

Architecture Work Observation

In February 2010, one student attended a 1-day work observation, and two students attended 2-day work observations. The firms involved were Smith Scott Mullen Associates and Comprehensive Design Architects, who participated last year, as well as EMA Architecture+Design. In October 2010, three students had 2-day placements. One pupil attended Helen Lucas Architects whilst two others went to Keppie Design Architects, both new practices to offer work experience through Pathways.

All students involved in the work observation placements were Pathways Plus/LEAPS eligible.



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 2010 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, we were able to offer a study support session on Higher English for the first time. This was aimed firstly at those planning to apply for Law, but spaces were also made available to those students from the other Pathways strands.

Research Communication in Action (RCiA)

The Pathways project has been working with RCiA, a Transkills project, to support postgraduate students and researchers in developing workshop for non-specialist audiences. Many of these workshops have been particularly suitable for Pathways students, but have also been delivered in local schools.

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, the Architecture and Law Schools, Medical School, and Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, participate in discussion groups, along with 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 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

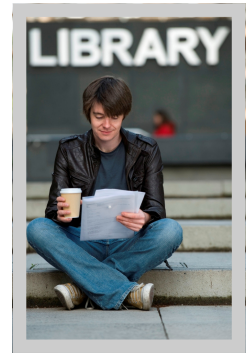
Pathways, who then liaise with the Scholarships Office in identifying eligible students.

Moving On

Pathways Plus and 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.





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, 10 students from Leith Academy 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 2010, the University of Edinburgh continued to work with Queen Margaret University to offer this event to pupils, including those from Scottish Borders and Central 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, 693 Pathways students (including 596 Pathways Plus students) have commenced study at the University of Edinburgh. Of those, 514 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, 237 students registered with Pathways have begun their Law studies at Edinburgh (including 164 Pathways Plus students). 15 Pathways students began their Architecture degree at Edinburgh University in 2009 and 2010, the first two years of tracking, including 13 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 1665 home fee applications to LLB law programmes for 2010 Entry, making 355 offers for 149 places. 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. 1169 home fees applications were received for Architecture's 62 places. The University made 169 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 2010 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, 2010 Entry

	Applications	Offers	Entrants
Pathways Students	25	7	3
Pathways Plus/LEAPS Students	41	39	29
Total	66	46	32

Table 4: Admissions to Architecture, 2010 Entry

	Applications	Offers	Entrants
Pathways Students	2	1	0
Pathways Plus/LEAPS Students	8	7	3
Total	10	8	3



Pathways Admissions to Law & Architecture

Pathways Admissions to Medicine

Admissions to Medicine

Since the project's inception, 127 students registered with Pathways have begun their Medicine studies at Edinburgh (including 73 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 (16% of applicants are made an offer). For 2010 entry, 30% of all Pathways applicants were made an offer, and 44% of Pathways Plus 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 2010 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, 2010 Entry

	Applications	Offers	Entrants
Pathways Students	23	7	5
Pathways Plus/LEAPS Students	27	12	11
Total	50	19	16

Admissions to Veterinary Medicine

Since 2005, 34 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 960 applications to Veterinary Medicine at the University of Edinburgh for 2010 entry, with the university making 217 offers for its 96 places.

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.

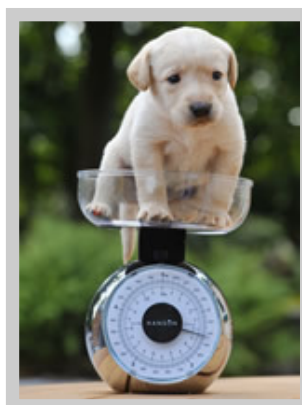
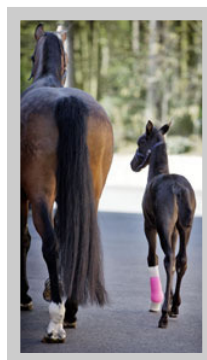
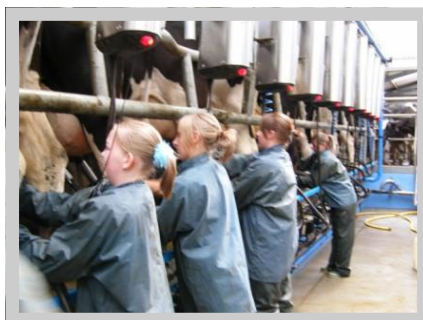


Table 6: Admissions to Veterinary Medicine, 2010 Entry

	Applications	Offers	Entrants
Pathways Students	7	5	4
Pathways Plus/LEAPS Students	2	1	0
Total	9	6	4

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).

New Partnerships & Developments

Architecture

December 2010 will see a new addition to the programme with an Art & Architecture tour of the Scottish Parliament for Pathways pupils. Links continue to be made locally with a recent planning meeting with Schop (an initiative bringing architecture to a broader audience) and new links with architecture practices supportive of our work observation programmes. Nationally, Pathways is in contact with National Museum Scotland and Architecture+Design Scotland with collaborative events currently in the planning stages and coming into fruition in 2011.

Clarified Email Contact

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.

Website and Publicity Materials

In 2010, the Pathways website was completely redesigned. 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.

In summer 2010, Pathways commissioned North Isle Productions to produce a short promotional film. This included contributions from current Pathways students, undergraduate students who were previously involved with Pathways whilst at school and professionals who are involved in the delivery of Pathways activities. The film can be viewed on the Pathways website.

Pathways now has a Facebook page which is regularly updated with news and events. When pupils register for Pathways, they are sent the url for the Facebook page.

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)	18	Balerno CHS (2)	9
Knox Academy (2)	20	Boroughmuir High School (2)	62
Musselburgh Grammar School (1)	12	Broughton High School (1)	10
North Berwick High School (2)	32	Castlebrae CHS (1)	1
Preston Lodge High School (2)	27	Craigmount High School (2)	21
Ross High School (1)	12	Craigroyston CHS (1)	1
Midlothian	Number	Currie High School (2)	16
Beeslack CHS (2)	13	Drummond High School (1)	4
Dalkeith High School (2)	4	Firrhill High School (2)	37
Lasswade High School Centre (2)	20	Forrester High School (1)	6
Newbattle High School (1)	11	Gracemount High School (1)	9
Penicuik High School (2)	3	Holyrood High School (1)	7
St David's RC High School (2)	10	James Gillespie's HS (2)	37
West Lothian	Number	Leith Academy (1)	6
Armadale Academy (1)	3	Liberton High School (1)	4
Bathgate Academy (2)	12	Portobello High School (2)	17
Broxburn Academy (2)	8	Queensferry High School (2)	17
Deans CHS (1)	6	St. Augustines High School (2)	16
Inveralmond CHS (1)	15	St Thomas of Aquins HS (2)	16
James Young High School (2)	18	The Royal High School (2)	32
Linlithgow Academy (2)	72	Trinity Academy (2)	10
St Kentigern's RC Academy (2)	4	Tynecastle High School (1)	4
St Margaret's RC Academy (2)	30	WHEC (1)	0
West Calder High School (2)	10		
Whitburn Academy (1)	8		

Table A2: Total Registrations 2001/2 to 2010/11 as of 15 November 2010

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

Admissions to Law

Table A3: Applicants to Law by Year of Entry

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
All Lothian State Schools	121	126	125	143	136
....Of whom Pathways Registered	62	67	65	84	66
...of whom Pathways Plus/LEAPS	46	43	38	50	41

Table A4: Offers to Law by Year of Entry

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
All Lothian State Schools	72	75	67	82	70
....Of whom Pathways Registered	42	51	51	65	46
...of whom Pathways Plus/LEAPS	37	37	30	43	39

Table A5: Entrants to Law by Year of Entry

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
All Lothian State Schools	40	41	40	52	39
....Of whom Pathways Registered	27	32	31	39	32
...of whom Pathways Plus/LEAPS	26	24	19	23	29

Admissions to Medicine

Table A6: Applicants to Medicine by Year of Entry

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
All Lothian State Schools	56	63	62	51	65
....Of whom Pathways Registered	49	49	46	46	50
....of whom Pathways Plus/LEAPS	16	32	21	17	27

Table A7: Offers to Medicine by Year of Entry

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
All Lothian State Schools	33	26	20	27	20
....Of whom Pathways Registered	28	21	16	26	19
....of whom Pathways Plus/LEAPS	16	18	7	11	12

Table A8: Entrants to Medicine by Year of Entry

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
All Lothian State Schools	22	20	16	16	17
....Of whom Pathways Registered	21	17	14	16	16
....of whom Pathways Plus/LEAPS	16	15	7	10	11

Admissions to Veterinary Medicine

Table A9: Applicants to Veterinary Medicine by Year of Entry

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
All Lothian State Schools	12	17	17	12	10
....Of whom Pathways Registered	11	15	14	11	9
.....of whom Pathways Plus/LEAPS	4	5	8	7	2

Table A10: Offers to Veterinary Medicine by Year of Entry

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
All Lothian State Schools	10	13	9	7	7
....Of whom Pathways Registered	10	12	9	7	6
.....of whom Pathways Plus/LEAPS	4	6	6	4	1

Table A11 Entrants to Veterinary Medicine by Year of Entry

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
All Lothian State Schools	7	10	8	5	5
....Of whom Pathways Registered	7	9	8	5	4
.....of whom Pathways Plus/LEAPS	2	4	5	4	0

Admissions to Architecture

Table A12: Applicants to Architecture by Year of Entry

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

Table A13: Offers to Architecture by Year of Entry

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

Table A14: Entrants to Architecture

	2009	2010
All Lothian State Schools	21	9
....Of whom Pathways Registered	12	3
.....of whom Pathways Plus/LEAPS	10	3

Student Participation

Table A15: Student Attendance at Events 2010

Event Name	Number of Students	Event Name	Number of Students
So You Want to be a Lawyer?	48	Higher English Revision	29
So You Want to be a Doctor?	49	Higher Chemistry Revision	21
So You Want to be a Vet?	14	Higher Biology Revision	18
So You Want to Work in Architecture?	15	Physics Workshop	19
S6 Medicine Careers Event	36	Animal Testing Workshop	14
Law UCAS Personal Statement Workshop	34	Medicine UCAS Personal Statement Workshop	38
Architecture UCAS Personal Statement Workshop	9	Veterinary Medicine UCAS Personal Statement Workshop	9
Surgeon's Hall Museum Visit	49	LEAPS Pre-Application Interviews	53
Medic Insight	87	Pre-Entry Mentoring	41
Parents' Information Sessions	149	Faculty of Advocates Tour	10
Legal Work Observation	16	Kickstart Summer Programme	47
Farm Work Experience	4	Scottish Parliament Tour	18
Lectures & Symposiums	533	Total Number of Student Contacts	1360

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, School of Arts, Culture & Environment, ESALA and the Edinburgh College of Art.

This report is available in large print format - email pathways@ed.ac.uk to request this.

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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