

This document outlines the projects managed or supported by the Widening Participation team at the University of Edinburgh. For the most recent information on what we are developing and delivering, see our website here: www.ed.ac.uk/student-recruitment/widening-participation

Or contact us on:

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Access to Creative Education in Scotland (ACES)

ACES is a project funded by the Scottish Funding Council which provides support and information for pupils from groups traditionally under-represented in higher education, who wish to apply to art and design based courses. Pupils from local priority schools are invited to workshops facilitated by current art students and have access to guidance throughout the UCAS application process.

More information: www.ed.ac.uk/student-recruitment/widening-participation/aces

Access to the Professions (with Reach: Scotland)

This project aims to encourage progression into professional degree courses in Law, Medicine and Veterinary Medicine by groups of school students traditionally underrepresented in these areas, and thus into the professions themselves. The project involves work observation placements, career exploration events, pre-application advice and interviews, information sessions for parents and one-to-one applicant advice. Access to the Professions (AttP) is an amalgamation of two previous, well-established projects (“Pathways to the Professions” and “Reach: Edinburgh”) which relaunched in May 2018. It is partly funded by the Scottish Funding Council’s Reach: Scotland project, which is a partnership with Aberdeen, Dundee, Glasgow and St Andrews Universities. AttP works with a total of 41 priority schools of 35% progression or below to Higher Education, as well as individuals from under-represented geographical areas or with care experience in other schools of higher progression.

More information: www.ed.ac.uk/student-recruitment/widening-participation/reach

Adult Learners

As well as the joint established access course at Edinburgh College and the New Horizons pre-access course, the Centre for Open Learning (COL) has developed a Credit for Entry route for students taking their accredited Open Studies courses, and is developing links with community education providers to attract students from underrepresented groups.

More information: www.ed.ac.uk/lifelong-learning

Careers Events

Taster sessions for some professional courses and careers are run for S5 and S6 pupils across the University, in line with the Access to the Professions (with Reach: Scotland) model. These usually include a talk on admissions to the University, professional guest speakers, information on the course itself and a hands-on element. As well as for the three core Access to the Professions strands

(Law, Medicine and Veterinary Medicine) these events are usually run for the following professions: Nursing (in collaboration with Queen Margaret University); Engineering, Social Work and Biomedical Science, with more being planned.

More Information: www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/student-recruitment/widening-participation/projects/other/careers-events

Care Experienced Students

Prospective students who identify themselves as having a care experience on their UCAS application are contacted and provided with information on the support services available at the University of Edinburgh. They have the opportunity to remain in contact with Widening Participation staff in an on-going manner to ensure they are receiving adequate support.

More information: www.edin.ac/care-experienced

Childhood Practice

The BA Childhood Practice part-time degree programme at the University of Edinburgh is aimed at those wishing to mix study with work. Students carry out three years of part-time/evening study, building on the students' previous work and study experience, to gain the BA in Childhood Practice. Graduates have the opportunity to apply for advanced entry to the MSc in Childhood Studies, to apply for courses in social work or teaching, and the department is looking into the possibility of expanding the programme to include an honours year.

More Information: www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/education/undergraduate/degree-programmes/childhood-practice

College Links

The University works closely with the Edinburgh and the Lothians Regional Articulation Hub (ELRAH) in an on-going manner to forge articulation routes for HN students into degree programmes. The College of Humanities and Social Sciences and the College of Science and Engineering have staff dedicated to working in this area, enhanced by the Widening Participation team's work with SWAP East.

More Information: www.ed.ac.uk/student-recruitment/widening-participation/projects/other/college-links

Coming to the University of Edinburgh (CUE)

CUE is a virtual tool, developed to ease the transition from school / college to university-level study. It can be used to support teaching, by helping students identify challenges for their own learning and offering appropriate support. The tool incorporates class texts from three first year courses and links to other useful resources. Originally intended for those making the transition from further to higher education, this is a tool that can be used by all students.

Originally developed by the Community Education subject area, with support and funding from WP, this project has been rolled out across Social Work, Law and Divinity, with more under development and scope to expand further.

More information: www.ed.ac.uk/student-recruitment/widening-participation/projects/partnership-projects/cue

Department of Higher and Community Education

The University maintains close links with Community Education Services and voluntary organisations working in disadvantaged areas to attract mature students onto the BA in Community Education, who come from geographic areas and groups traditionally underrepresented in higher education. Also available is the newly developed part-time route through the BA, aimed at students working in the field of community education but without professional education.

More information: www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/education/undergraduate/degree-programmes/community-ed

Early Years Initiative – Engagement with Higher Education

Work with pupils in the earlier years of their education is crucial to the project of widening participation to higher education, so a pilot project was launched in 2002/03 to engage with young pupils to normalise the structure and experiences of Higher Education. This project is run with P6 and P7 pupils from the feeder primary schools of Liberton High School, Wester Hailes Education Centre and Leith Academy. Pupils take classes in both school and university environments, following a course workbook through which they explore the university environment.

Once these pupils are in the first year of their secondary education, they take part in a 10 week outreach programme, working with academic schools in the University of Edinburgh and with other institutions throughout the city. This allows them to contextualise their school-based learning and to begin to understand its connectivity to the employment world. The programme concludes with an event – planned, budgeted, organised and delivered by the pupils – capturing their experiences.

More Information: www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/student-recruitment/widening-participation/projects/other/primary-secondary

Early Years Initiative – Language classes

Noting the decline of modern language provision due to funding cuts and changes in curriculum priorities, work was undertaken with the University's School of Linguistics to put together a French language course to be delivered to P6 pupils in a selection of partner primary schools. Role model language students deliver 15 1-hour long interactive classes that focus on speaking and listening over reading and writing. The project aims to expand pupils' horizons and to combat inequalities in language provision for young pupils.

More information: www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/student-recruitment/widening-participation/projects/other/primary-secondary

Educated Pass

Educated Pass, funded by the Sutton Trust, aims to address the academic under achievement of 13-16 year old males in Edinburgh and the Lothians. By delivering the widening participation message through football and sporting metaphors to local boys' football teams, the project harnesses the boys' commitment to their athleticism. The same skills and dedication they apply on the pitch are explored as crucial to the classroom, throughout a series of workshops involving the boys, their parents and their coaches both at the local clubs and on the University campus, concluding in an event to recognise the boys' achievement, with a football tournament and high profile guest

speakers. Current students and members of the University football team are used as role models, and are active in the delivery of the project.

More information: www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/student-recruitment/widening-participation/projects/educated-pass

High Flyers

High Flyers is an exciting residential programme run by LEAPS, in partnerships with Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh Napier University, Heriot Watt University and the University of Edinburgh. High Flyers collaborates with targeted schools with low progression to higher education. Providing 40 students, in the summer before their S5, with a realistic experience of university life over 3 days and 2 nights. Students take part in subject taster workshops and campus visits to all partner universities, as well as an exciting social programme in the evenings. This is an excellent opportunity for students to connect with like-minded peers, try out multiple universities, meet current students and lecturers, and stay in real halls of residence.

More Information: www.ed.ac.uk/student-recruitment/widening-participation/projects/partnership-projects/high-flyers

International Exchange

Students who meet one or more of our WP criteria are less likely to apply to study abroad in the third year of their degree. The Widening Participation team and the International Office have collaborated to secure funding from the Scottish Government Outward Mobility Fund to set up a two-week exchange programme for WP students at the University of Edinburgh and the University of West Virginia (UVa). First year students here will be given the opportunity to travel to UVa in spring 2013, and the US students to return to Edinburgh in autumn. This project aims to address the inequality in uptake of study abroad opportunities, and to offer the chance for WP students to expand their horizons.

For more information contact Neil Speirs neil.speirs@ed.ac.uk

Lift Off

Lift Off is the Fife and Tayside Widening Access Forum focussing on priority schools in Angus, Dundee and Tayside, Fife, Perth and Kinross. Lift Off is part of SHEP (Schools for Higher Education Programme) and runs an annual residential summer school for their core pupils. The five-day programme includes visits to various colleges and universities within travel distance of St Andrews University, where they reside for the week. Edinburgh hosts LO2S for a day on our central campus where they meet with staff and students and try varied subject taster workshops. We liaise with our Lift Off partners regularly to support our shared goal of widening access to Higher Education.

More Information: www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/student-recruitment/widening-participation/projects/partnership-projects/lift-off

Lothians Equal Access Programme for Schools (LEAPS)

Developed from the University of Edinburgh Special Entrance Initiative (USE) in 1995, this project developed to become a collaborative funding partnership with the other Higher Education Institutions in Edinburgh and the four local authorities in 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 programme aimed at raising awareness of opportunities in higher education, with high priority schools identified by a ranking system of level of progression to university, and a multi-exit pre-entry summer school.

The University's Widening Participation team contribute to school workshops, shadowing, interviews and committees as well as organising on campus activities on behalf of LEAPS. During S6, Access to the Professions (with Reach: Scotland) delivers the pre-application support for pupils applying to Law, Medicine or Veterinary Medicine.

LEAPS also receives South East Forum funding to deliver and manage the SFC funded Schools for Higher Education Programme (SHEP) for 19 low progression schools in Edinburgh, the Lothians, the Scottish Borders and Forth Valley.

More information at: www.leapsonline.org

Moving On

A week-long course prior to Welcome Week, this programme is designed as a bridging course between pre-university and undergraduate study, developed in 2003 by the Centre for Open Learning (COL) in collaboration with Student Recruitment and Admissions (SRA). It is targeted at LEAPS applicants who have not attended the LEAPS Summer School, college students entering from a HN background and mature students who have not entered via one of the supported routes. SRA supports the project by providing targeted applicant data, helping explore mechanisms for expansion into specific subject areas and contributing to the delivery of the Moving On workshops.

More information: www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/student-recruitment/widening-participation/projects/other/moving-on

Peer-Assisted Learning

A student-to-student support scheme for academic and personal development, Peer-Assisted Learning was piloted in the School of Law to support first year law students. Trained student facilitators meet regularly with small groups of students from lower year groups to assist with integration into higher education, development of study and learning skills, and subject understanding. Funded by the Widening Participation department originally in 06/07, this project has been embedded in the School of Law for some time, and the template has been rolled out across many other schools and subject areas in the University.

More information: www.law.ed.ac.uk/communities/mainview.aspx?ref=6

Peer Mentoring

First year Widening Participation students are invited to take part in a mentoring scheme with senior students in their subject area. Mentors take part in a structured training programme, and meet with their mentees regularly throughout the first two semesters of university, providing the benefit of their experience of academic, financial and social issues in university life. Feedback from both mentors and mentees has been overwhelmingly positive, and the scheme continues to be expanded. Pathways to the Professions have ring-fenced places on the scheme.

More information: www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/student-recruitment/widening-participation/projects/peer-mentoring/about

Schools Partnership Scheme

Your Ed: A Learning Partnership is currently in its pilot phase (began March 2018) involving state Secondary Schools in 10 local authorities from Fife to the Borders, and from North Lanarkshire to East Lothian. Designed to drive progress in pupil aspiration and attainment for the pupils from SIMD 10-40 backgrounds, and specifically for the pilot, in non-SHEP* schools. Your ED partners with these schools in an ongoing dialogue, responding directly to their specific needs, and offering collaborative opportunities. With this tailored approach, we work with Your Ed pupils within their local community, supporting their schools and staff and engaging with their families / guardians. The project works with S1 up to S6 providing holistic activities in curriculum, HE advice and guidance, and extra-curricular opportunities, including bespoke campus visits. The response from schools thus far has been hugely positive with plans to roll-out the project to wider Scotland in 2019.

* <http://www.sfc.ac.uk/access-inclusion/access-priorities/low-progression-schools/low-progression-schools.aspx> with the exception of Schools in the LEAPS catchment area who follow a different SHEP model

More information: www.ed.ac.uk/student-recruitment/widening-participation/projects/youred

Scottish Wider Access Programme (SWAP)

SWAP East brings together colleges and universities to work collaboratively on the development of access courses, facilitating transition from further to higher education and targeting mature students from groups traditionally underrepresented in university. The University of Edinburgh was a founding member of SWAP and the long standing joint University of Edinburgh and Stevenson College part-time access course is one of SWAP's most successful.

More information: www.lifelong.ed.ac.uk/

Sutton Trust Summer School

The University of Edinburgh Sutton Trust Summer School provides students with a complete, realistic and rewarding experience of student life. Co-funded by the Sutton Trust and the University of Edinburgh, this week-long summer school is open to any student in S5 (Scotland), Year 12 (England/Wales) and Year 13 (Northern Ireland) who attends a state-funded school or college and meets specific academic and WP criteria. Students select two academic subjects to explore during the week (undertaking a project in one); work with our current students and lecturer; and gain insight and support into applying and studying at university. Students also take part in an exciting programme of social activities and stay in our Pollock Halls of Residence. The summer school is completely free to attend and designed to be a transformative week for attendees who leave feeling confident and prepared for their HE journey ahead.

More info: www.ed.ac.uk/student-recruitment/widening-participation/projects/stss

Support for Mature Applicants

Focus groups with current undergraduate students and local college students were used to inform the development of an online resource for mature applicants. This website aims to provide clear information on different routes into degree study with the University of Edinburgh, and give advice

on finance, university life, academics and more – specifically targeted to address the issues that adult returners to education may face.

More information: www.ed.ac.uk/studying/mature

If you require this document in an alternative format, such as larger font or coloured paper, please contact the Widening Participation team on wpteam@ed.ac.uk or 0131 651 1755