Contents
3 Welcome
7 General activities
7 Access to higher education
12 Students who will be starting a course with us
15 How to book / contact us
Welcome from the Widening Participation Team

Every year the University of Leicester welcomes thousands of children, young people, mature students, parents, carers and teachers onto campus for activities designed to promote higher education and its potential benefits. We proactively visit local schools and colleges in areas of disadvantage to help teachers raise aspirations of young children and prepare older pupils for applying to universities in the near future.

Much of this work is led by our Widening Participation Team, which provides an extensive programme of outreach activities. These activities range from general aspiration and attainment events to specialised activities focused on themes such as employability, applying for law/medicine and access to cultural amenities.

What is Widening Participation?

Widening Participation involves enhancing the educational aspirations and opportunities of people from disadvantaged backgrounds. This is in recognition that someone’s background can have a significant impact on the likelihood that they will successfully enter higher education.

For most of our pre-16 activities we give priority to schools with high numbers of pupils from low-income households or deprived neighbourhood. We measure the first by the proportion of pupils of receiving free school meals, and the second by Government classifications of which neighbourhoods have high levels of socio-economic deprivation or from which very few young people progress into higher education. We do however run several activities that are targeted at individuals who meet these criteria, so allowing young people from other schools to participate. We also provide specialised activities designed to meet the particular needs of groups such as looked after children, young carers, refugees, and mature students.

We have a broad range of enrichment activities and information sessions available for mature students, both on campus and in colleges. This guide sets out the range of activities currently on offer. This booklet provides details of the workshops and events we can offer to mature students at college.
A full overview of all activities and further details about each activity can be found throughout the rest of the guide. We have grouped each of our activities into the following categories, and you will find these icons against each activity.

Key

- General outreach activities aimed at raising the aspirations of students in attendance. Some activities may have some academic subject specific content
- Activities focused on the academic subject of Law and career/education pathways related to this
- Activities focused on the academic subject of Medicine and career/education pathways related to this

If you would like your students to take part in any of the activities listed, or if you would like to discuss the specific needs of your students more in depth please contact the WP team directly using the details on page 15.
We look forward to working with your students in the future.
General Activities

University Information Stand

Type
University information stand – in college

Duration
Dependant on the event

We are happy to attend any events in college such as careers fairs, options events, or transition events. We will bring relevant literature including prospectuses and information on progression programmes, providing further information and advice to attendees. We are also happy to deliver talks at such events.

Learning outcomes
• Be aware of the opportunities available at the University of Leicester
• Be aware of routes through education and links to careers

Access to Higher Education

Mature Student E-Mentoring - Study Buddies

Type
E-mentoring programme

Duration
November - July each year

This programme will give the students an opportunity to communicate with a current mature University of Leicester student who can answer questions on student life, studying and help with those non-academic related questions about coming to university.

Learning outcomes
• To provide support in the transition between further education and higher education.
• To provide a point of contact at the University for familiarity
• To provide information on social life at the University
Access to Higher Education Advice Day

This event usually takes place on the third Wednesday in September.

The day is designed to provide an overview of the UCAS process, some brief information on student finance, information on student support services and an opportunity to take part in taster sessions in a range of subjects available at the University of Leicester.

Students will also meet with current mature students and be able to ask them about their experiences at the University of Leicester.

The event is also suitable for Access to Medicine, Access to Healthcare or Access to Nursing and Midwifery students, with taster sessions in subjects suitable for entry with these qualifications available on the day.

**Learning outcomes**

- An understanding of the UCAS process and some basic student finance information.
- An experience of a taster lecture in subject of interest.
- An awareness of support services available at university.

Setting Your Goals for Success

This workshop is for Access to HE students who are just beginning their course. It is designed to help them look at their end goals and understand how to create a plan to achieve that goal.

**Learning outcomes**

- An understanding of what a goal is and the importance of forward planning in higher education.
- Recognition of where the learner is now and what they need to get to their end goal.
- Recognition of their strengths and weaknesses including how to access support.
Personal Statement Workshop

This workshop is for Access to HE students who are about to complete their UCAS applications. It is designed to provide guidance of what admissions tutors are looking for in a personal statement and give practical advice on how to create a plan ready to write a personal statement.

**Learning outcomes**
- An understanding of the role of the personal statement in the UCAS process.
- An understanding of the format and content of a personal statement.
- To leave with a framework/plan for completing a personal statement.

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Study Skills for Access to HE

This event usually takes place in November or December.

This workshop is for Access to HE students who will be beginning their first assignments (or will have had some feedback from recent assignments). It is designed to provide an introduction to using online resources, referencing and using the David Wilson Library.

**Learning outcomes**
- An understanding of the resources available online from the University of Leicester Library.
- An ability to search for and locate resources within the David Wilson Library.
- A better understanding of research and essay writing.
Student Finance Talk

This workshop is for Access to HE students who have applied to university and are about to embark on the student finance process. This session builds on information provided at the Access to HE Advice Day (see page 8 for further information) and will take them through the application process for student finance. This session also highlights the additional financial support that may be available to mature students with additional responsibilities.

Learning outcomes

• An understanding of the student finance process.

• An awareness of the additional finance that may be available to mature students with additional responsibilities.

“The Next Steps” – Decision Making

This workshop is for Access to HE students who have applied to university and are receiving offers from institutions. It highlights the benefits of choosing firm and insurance choices and what happens at the next stages – all the way up to and including confirmation and clearing. This workshop includes a prioritisation activity designed to help with making the most of the offers received from universities.

Learning outcomes

• An understanding of the importance of firm and insurance choices on UCAS applications.

• An understanding of how to make choices between university offers and prioritise important factors.

• An understanding of the next stages of the UCAS process and what to do next.
How to Improve Your Application to Medical School

Type
Talk in college

Group size
30-200

Duration
1 hour

This session provides mature students with the opportunity to learn about Medical School applications, providing advice on the UKCAT test and personal statement writing. It also covers advice on work experience and alternative routes into Medicine. This talk will complement careers information, advice and guidance provision.

Learning outcomes
• Identify how to improve your application for Medicine and compete in the UKCAT test
• Consider different options for work experience and how to reflect on it
• Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of your own personal statement
• Compare alternatives routes into Medicine

Applying for Law

Type
Talk in college

Group size
30-200

Duration
1 hour

This session provides mature students with the opportunity to learn about Law School applications, providing advice on the LNAT test and personal statement writing. It also covers advice on work experience and alternative routes into Law. This will complement careers information, advice and guidance provision.

Learning outcomes
• Find out how to apply for Law as an access student
• Identify how to improve your application for Law
• Consider how to get work experience and reflect on it
Students who will be starting a course with us

Mature student welcome event

This event is for mature students who are about to begin a course at the University of Leicester. Any mature students who are about to register with us will have the opportunity to meet other mature students before term starts and familiarise themselves with the campus. This event includes social activities, study skills refreshers and library based activities.

Learning outcomes

• To provide an opportunity to meet other mature students.
• To provide a refresher for study and library skills.
• To give new student the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the campus.

Current students

In recognition that the transition from home, work or college to university can be a difficult time, we aim to provide further support throughout any mature students first degree. Following the welcome event, current students are welcome to join us for coffee mornings, family activities and other tailored events for mature students.
Looked after children/Care Leavers

The University of Leicester is committed to students from care backgrounds entering and achieving success in Higher Education. The three local universities (Leicester, De Montfort University and Loughborough) work in partnership to offer activities, advice and guidance for young people in care and their supporters. This includes a Primary University Experience Day, Secondary University Experience Day, University Experience Summer School and a training event for foster carers, support staff and Designated Teachers.

Our annual two-day non-residential University Experience summer school in early July aims to give students in care aged 16-25 an inspiring and enjoyable taste of university life. For further information please contact us.

Pre-16 and Post-16 Activities

We have a separate guide which details all activities on offer for pre-16 and post-16 students. If you would like a copy of these guides please contact us.
How to book / contact us

The activities for Access to HE students can be booked as a full programme throughout the academic year or as individual sessions. The on campus events are at set times of the year and are booked by the students themselves through an online booking system.

Contact the Widening Participation team by email wpteam@le.ac.uk, or by telephone 0116 252 3931, stating your enquiry / the activities you wish to book and any dates you have in mind.

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This brochure was published in September 2016. The University of Leicester endeavours to ensure that the content of its prospectus, programme specification, website content and all other materials are complete and accurate. On occasion it may be necessary to make some alterations to particular aspects of a course or module, and where these are minor, for example altering the lecture timetable or location, then we will ensure that you have as much notice as possible of the change to ensure that the disruption to your studies is minimised.

However, in exceptional circumstances it may be necessary for the University to cancel or change a programme or part of the specification more substantially. For example, due to the unavailability of key teaching staff, changes or developments in knowledge or teaching methods, the way in which assessment is carried out, or where a course or part of it is over-subscribed to the extent that the quality of teaching would be affected to the detriment of students. In these circumstances, we will contact you as soon as possible and in any event will give you [30 days] written notice before the relevant change is due to take place. Where this occurs, we will also and in consultation with you, offer you an alternative course or programme (as appropriate) or the opportunity to cancel your contract with the University and obtain a refund of any advance payments that you have made.