

Lancaster  
University



# Opportunities for Schools and Colleges

Our programme of activities for schools, colleges, teachers and advisors



# A Warm Welcome from Lancaster University

Welcome to Lancaster University and our programme of activities for schools, colleges, teachers and advisors. Lancaster University is amongst the very best in the UK, ranked in the top 15 by The Times and Sunday Times, The Guardian, and The Complete University Guide.

Here at Lancaster, we run a comprehensive programme of activities to support students make informed choices and progress successfully into higher education.

Our dedicated team of specialist school and college liaison officers visit schools and colleges weekly, in every region of the UK, delivering engaging workshops, talks and subject taster sessions using Gatsby Benchmarking.

We also welcome schools and colleges to visit our outstanding campus all year round. Our bespoke group visits provide students with a great opportunity to experience what university life is really like at Lancaster; a world-class research and teaching university.

We hope you find the activities detailed in this guide interesting and they encourage you and your school or college to engage with us.

We look forward to welcoming you to Lancaster.



**Professor Andy Schofield**  
Vice-Chancellor

# We can visit you

## Careers fairs

We can visit you! If you organise an annual higher education event or run a series of university progression activities and would like a representative from Lancaster to support them, please do get in touch.

## Drop-In sessions and personal statements

During the academic year, we can visit your school or college and deliver an informal talk, perhaps in a lunch break or tutor group session, to any of your current students, who may be interested in studying in the future at Lancaster. We also can provide students with personalised support and advice when drafting their personal statements.



## Teacher meetings and CPD

We provide a range of CPD sessions for school and college staff working with post-16 students on areas such as references, personal statement support, UCAS, student finance or updates on changes within the HE sector.

We also welcome groups of teachers and advisors onto campus to our regular programme of teacher forums and conferences. Please see our website for the next event.

## Talks and presentations

We offer a wide variety of sessions and presentations for students. A selection are detailed on pages 5 - 6 and many can be tailored to your needs and students. Our team have specialist staff designated to support schools and colleges in each region of the UK. They can help to identify how these sessions may best work for you and your students, including group sizes, age ranges, and even the Gatsby Benchmarks they meet.



## Session

## Gatsby Benchmark

### Choosing a Course and University (Presentation or Workshop)

Choosing where to go and what to study is an important decision for students. We'll help them understand how to research and explore their options, what key factors to consider along the decision making process, and ultimately to have confidence in identifying what's right for them.

*This session can also be delivered as a 'Studying In the North' presentation.*

2, 5, 7

### Personal Statement Writing (Presentation or Workshop)

In this workshop we'll advise how to develop a personal statement for competitive universities. We discuss how to create the ideal personal statement, looking at real examples and examining how to collate and structure ideas.

5, 7

### Why Lancaster? (Presentation)

Students will explore what makes Lancaster University a unique and vibrant place to spend the next years of their lives. From our collegiate system and experiences with 175 sports and societies, to courses among which are some of the country's highest ranked, to our thousand-year-old city and rich local history – we give more than just an insight into the true Lancastrian experience.

2, 5, 7

### Applying to Competitive Universities (Presentation)

We cover what makes certain universities and courses competitive and share our top tips for making an application stand out from the crowd. With insights from our admissions team we'll guide students through the UCAS process and highlight the key aspects of an application Lancaster looks for.

2, 3, 4, 7

### Student Finance and Budgeting (Presentation or Workshop)

We look at what financial support is available, how to apply for finance and repayments. We also offer advice on budgeting and encourage students to consider money saving techniques whilst at university.

2, 5, 7

### Making the Most of University Life (Presentation)

Through feedback from our students, as well as key hints and tips, this session gives your students an idea of what to expect in the first weeks and how to make the most of societies and sport, careers support, study abroad opportunities and work placement years. We also highlight key tips for staying well, budgeting and living independently.

5, 7

### Interview Skills (Presentation)

Students will learn about different interview types for university and employment and what both will be looking for. We also offer practical advice for attending in-person and virtual interviews.

5, 7

### Enhancing Employability (Presentation)

If your students are worried about standing out in the graduate job market, they aren't alone. We will discuss both virtual and physical activities to help your students build a CV of which they can be proud.

2, 3, 5, 7

## Session

### Study Skills (Presentation or Workshop)

We can offer sessions on study, revision, presentation and EPQ Skills to help students develop key skills and expertise that will be of use to them in sixth form/college or at university.

### Academic Taster Session (Presentation or Workshop)

Our academic departments can offer a wide range of sessions from subject tasters and interactive problem-solving, to research-in-a-box explorative lessons and Q&As.

## Sessions for parents and supporters

### An Introduction to HE for Parents and Supporters

Many parents and supporters are unsure of how the university application process works. In this talk we guide them an introduction to the UCAS process so that they can be supportive of their child throughout their journey onto university.

### Student Finance for Parents

Student finance applications can be universally daunting to parents, supporters and students alike. This talk aims to give all those supporting a student through the university application process a clear and streamlined guide to applying for student finance, what information and documents you need to hand, and key dates along the process.

## Gatsby Benchmark

2, 4, 5, 7

2, 3, 4, 5, 7



# You can visit us



**We welcome schools and colleges to our beautiful campus all year round. Our bespoke group visits provide students with a great opportunity to experience what university life is really like at Lancaster – a world-class research and teaching university.**

## What to expect

We offer a comprehensive university experience for all schools and colleges who visit us. We know that these trips are a rare opportunity for students, so we make sure they experience all aspects of university life to give them a real insight into whether university is the place for them.

## Campus tours

We love to give students an introductory tour of our campus. Our student ambassadors will show visitors around, highlighting the key parts of the university and giving them some tips on what to look out for when exploring their university options.



## Presentations

Our experienced admissions and recruitment staff can offer a variety of presentations as part of your visit, including personal statements, choosing a course and university, enhancing employability, and many more!

## Student Q&A panels

We offer unparalleled access to the life of a student at Lancaster. We start these sessions with our student ambassadors providing a brief insight into their own experience, before giving your students the opportunity to ask whatever they wish about Lancaster, university life, or anything else.

## Subject taster sessions

As a world-class research and teaching university, we offer school and college groups the chance to experience one or more of our subjects through the form of a taster lecture or seminar. Please see our website for details.





# Widening Participation

We support schools, colleges, teachers and students to ensure that higher education is an open and inclusive environment, representative of the society we live in. Alongside a contextual admissions process to help us to improve social mobility and widen access for all, we have a programme of award-winning outreach projects and activities.

## Lancaster Access Programme

An exciting opportunity for your students in Years 12 and 13 to engage in a range of events and activities with a clear progression pathway to Lancaster University.

Students will develop key study skills, receive support with their university applications, and work towards a lowered offer to study at Lancaster. The programme includes campus residentials, workshops, masterclasses and online sessions to complete at a time to suit your students. Utilising our dedicated online portal, students can access dedicated resources and receive tailored contact with Lancaster staff and current students to support their progression to university.

For more information: [www.lancaster.ac.uk/lap](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/lap).



## Contextual offers

Our contextual offer scheme aims to identify the potential of applicants whose personal circumstances may have impacted their achievement in education.

Students who are applying to start a degree at Lancaster University could be eligible to receive our contextual offer instead of our typical offer. A contextual offer will be lower than the typical offer shown on our website pages and prospectus. There is no additional application process, once we receive applications through UCAS we automatically make an adjusted offer to all qualifying students.

Further information and current eligibility can be found at: [www.lancaster.ac.uk/contextual-offers](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/contextual-offers).

## Contact us

For more information about our Widening Participation activities, please contact us at on: [outreach@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:outreach@lancaster.ac.uk).

"We just want to say a massive thank you for our lovely day visiting Lancaster University. Our time at the University was extremely useful in aiding many students. We gained a great insight into student life and the level of support on offer during the helpful talk from the enthusiastic ambassadors."

***St Edwards College, Liverpool***

"Excellent presentations, well structured, interactive and informative. We were very impressed with the quality of the session and with the way in which you engaged with our students."

***Newham Sixth Form College, London***

"The session on making university decisions was outstanding and was presented in an engaging, reassuring and personalised way. Thank you so much for the high-quality support provided."

***Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, Ashbourne, Derbyshire***

"Your presentation was excellent...very informative and engaging. Your staff member was on hand to talk to students, parents and carers before and after the main presentations. A superb ambassador..."

***Furness College, Barrow-in-Furness***

## Contact us



**Contact us to discuss activities available for your school or college, or sign up for our regular teacher and advisors newsletter.**

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01524 524 449

[www.lancaster.ac.uk/schools-and-colleges](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/schools-and-colleges)



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