Access
St Andrews
2015 - 2016
Access at the University of St Andrews

The University of St Andrews is proud of its diverse and vibrant student community. We continue to strive towards attracting students from non-traditional educational backgrounds who have the talent and potential to succeed.

Access to higher education has always been at the forefront of our agenda. Our wide range of long-established initiatives and pioneering new projects engage with learners at every stage along their educational journey. We work with primary, secondary, college students and those returning to education after a period of time. Our aim is to enable learners from under-represented groups to not only aspire to university but also to have the means to access the university of their choice.

Whether you are a teacher, careers adviser, education authority worker, or work in education in a different setting, we hope that this publication will provide you with a detailed overview of the many access projects and initiatives offered by the University of St Andrews.

Scholarships

St Andrews is committed to attracting the very best students regardless of financial circumstances, which is why we currently offer a large number of bursaries and scholarships to undergraduate students. These are designed to provide assistance to help students support themselves financially during their time at university.

In 2015-2016 scholarships were awarded up to £7,500 per year on a competitive basis. However, the University also offered a guaranteed bursary of £1,500 per year of study for all those domiciled in Scotland for fee purposes and with a household income of less than £34,000.

For current information see: www.st-andrews.ac.uk/study/ug/fees-and-funding
Working with Primary Schools

Working closely with primary schools has enabled us to foster strong links with local communities throughout Fife, offering an exciting range of projects encouraging children to interact with our students.

By taking part in fun projects, children develop an enthusiasm for learning and are introduced to the idea of higher education.

Science Camp
Science Camp offers Primary 6 and 7 pupils an opportunity to gain a real insight into university life. Lasting two days with an overnight stay in University accommodation, pupils undertake a series of scientific activities. These include:

- Creepy crawlies under the microscope
- Building and programming robots
- Chemistry experiments and explosions
- Q & A with NASA astronauts, scientists and engineers
- ‘Night in the Museum’ - exploring the Natural History Museum

Space School
Space School, run in partnership with Fife Education Service, aims to bring science and technology to life from an early age.

The primary schools involved select two Primary 6 pupils to take part in a comprehensive programme of events from January to June. Working in conjunction with the Traveller Education Unit, we also allocate two places for pupils within the travelling community.

Fun, hands-on workshops take place on Saturdays, and are centred on the theme of space which dovetails with the National Curriculum for Excellence. Workshops include subjects such as:

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Geography & Geosciences
- Mathematics & Statistics
- Medicine
- Physics & Astronomy
- Psychology

Culminating in a summer space school, pupils meet with NASA astronauts, leading scientists and engineers.

One of the key successes of this project is our continued engagement with pupils after the programme. All pupils are invited to take part in Space School Returners Days as they progress through their secondary school education.
working with secondary schools

we offer a wide range of activities for secondary school pupils to raise awareness of higher education. through these projects we aim to provide information, advice and guidance on study and career opportunities as well as enrich academic skills and personal development.

first chances project
through a university of st andrews and robertson trust partnership, the first chances project aims to raise the aspirations and attainment of young people throughout fife, helping pupils to aspire to further and higher education. each year 150 pupils from 12 local high schools in fife are offered places on the programme.

during the first year of the programme, s3 pupils undertake research into a health or sustainability topic, and present their findings in the form of a powerpoint and essay. pupils are assessed on their research and presented with certificates at a graduation ceremony in st andrews.

from s4 to s6 all pupils who have successfully passed the initial part of the programme will have the opportunity to attend workshops which will complement and support their school studies and their journey from high school into further or higher education. this will include academic workshops, ucas workshops, revision camps and residential summer schools.

throughout the s3 to s6 programme, student mentors and staff will provide support and guidance through regular schools visits, activities at the university and online mentoring through our dedicated secure discussion forum.

the first chances programme also supports in care pupils across all fife schools throughout their high school journey and into further or higher education. we offer a flexible programme structure to encourage care experienced young people to participate in a variety of workshops to help raise their aspirations and attainment.

living local, thinking global
the living local, thinking global project is aimed at upper primary and lower secondary school pupils with the theme of ‘global citizenship’. the project aims to:

- increase motivation for learning
- raise aspirations to facilitate improved future choices
- foster a culture of enquiring minds in fife schools
- introduce pupils to the vocabulary of higher education

on our cultural exchange day our international students visit primary schools across fife to share various aspects of their culture.

in addition, ‘fife as a global community’ events take place in community venues across fife. interactive displays of the pupils’ work provide parents, families and the community with the opportunity to find out what is happening in their local primary schools. pupils also have the chance to find out what other schools in their area have been involved in.

loan boxes
loan boxes such as our lego mindstorm robotic kits can be provided to schools in fife which would not normally have access to such equipment.

the loan boxes can be used in either school lessons or after-school clubs.

science festivals
science festivals take place in the local communities throughout fife and tayside where visitors of all ages can participate in fun and interactive science activities. our outreach team of student ambassadors offer the public hands-on sessions such as building lego mindstorm robots and launching rockets.

living local, thinking global project
Reach Scotland

Reach Scotland aims to increase and diversify access to high demand university subjects and subsequent high demand professions. We offer support and guidance for S4 to S6 pupils who have an interest in studying subjects such as Economics and Finance, Medicine and Psychology, both before and during the UCAS application process.

The Reach programme aims to raise aspirations and achievements among pupils who meet at least some of the following criteria:

- Attend schools that traditionally send few pupils to university
- Reside in areas that traditionally send few young people to university
- Are in receipt of EMA
- Are the first in their family to study at university

- Have spent time in care
- Show the ability and commitment, as well as the right profile of subject choice, to progress to competitive areas of study

Reach St Andrews offers a range of activities, information sessions and events, both at the University and in the community. Through these sessions the project aims to provide pupils with the tools, knowledge and confidence to stretch themselves and succeed in higher education.

Reach also offers advice and support to parents to enable them to guide their children through the university application process.

Access for Rural Communities (ARC)

Access for Rural Communities is a pioneering project aimed at expanding the University’s outreach within Scotland.

Funded by the University of St Andrews, the Scottish Funding Council and the Scottish Government, this programme focuses on secondary pupils between S4 to S6. The project provides a platform for pupils to explore opportunities in higher education in the local areas of Argyll and Bute, Highlands, Eilean Siar (Western Isles), Shetland and Orkney.

Working in partnership across the University, secondary schools and local communities, ARC aims to provide schools with a comprehensive list of resources which can be used to enhance the learning of pupils during the senior phase.

Tailored information sessions and events also provide pupils with the necessary support to enable them to succeed on their journey to university.

Pupils are actively encouraged to get involved in student shadowing and summer schools whilst involved in the project.

Access to Higher Education: An exploratory analysis

The ARC project is supported by exploratory research which examines some of the unique issues pupils living in rural communities in Scotland face in accessing higher education.

For more information about this research please visit: www.st-andrews.ac.uk/study/access/school-college-projects/arc
Sutton Trust Summer School
The Sutton Trust at St Andrews is a week-long summer school aimed at pupils who have the academic potential to do well at university, but who may not have family experience of higher education, or who have attended a state school with low progression to university.

Co-founded by the Sutton Trust, this summer school offers approximately 130 places for S5 and Y12 pupils. Pupils stay in a hall of residence for the week and take part in an intensive academic learning programme similar to that undertaken by first year students, attending lectures, laboratories and tutorials in two subject areas of their choice. Sessions are also held on the UCAS application process, student finance and teamwork.

Throughout the week, there will be many opportunities to form lasting friendships with pupils from schools all over the UK as well as take part in fun recreational activities such as ceilidhs, film nights and talent shows.

The Summer School not only offers a taster of academic and social life at the University of St Andrews but also seeks to raise aspirations and support pupils on their journey to highly selective university courses.

Previous Sutton Trust Student views:

- “I have had a fantastic week and learned so much about the social and academic aspect of university.”
- “I enjoyed attending lectures and other activities as it gave me the opportunity to talk to so many people.”
- “I feel more comfortable and confident now going to university.”
- “It’s been an amazing experience which has given me an insight into student life and lots of helpful information on applying to university.”
- “The student ambassadors encouraged us to ask lots of questions.”
- “The summer school has really helped me to feel more confident about the future. The week was full of great activities and it is an experience I won’t forget.”

Student Shadowing & Mentoring
Student Shadowing Days aim to demystify what is involved in studying at university, from the academics to the social life. Open to those from non-traditional backgrounds, students are able to experience a ‘day in the life’ of an existing undergraduate student, with an opportunity to ask questions in an informal setting.

Paired with a current student who studies a subject (or subjects) of interest, pupils and college students attend lectures, tutorials and seminars. They also have the opportunity to meet other students and find out more about sports clubs and societies.

While the purpose of a Student Shadowing Day is to discover the student experience first-hand, visitors also have the opportunity to speak to a member of Admissions staff about the application process.

Following a Student Shadowing Day, all visitors are invited to take part in our e-mentoring scheme where they continue to receive advice and support from current students via a dedicated secure online discussion forum.

Guided Access Programme
The University of St Andrews, in partnership with local schools, has developed a blended learning opportunity that meets the needs of pupils who would benefit from an enhanced learning experience designed specifically to prepare them for university. The programme allows pupils to study two modules at the University, equivalent to a third of a full undergraduate year, alongside school qualifications and extra-curricular activities thus preparing them for higher education. This programme is open to students who have missed out on obtaining the required minimum grades for entry to St Andrews. On successful completion of the programme the pupils will be offered a place at the University of St Andrews.
Care Leavers

The University of St Andrews can offer additional support to care leavers, both during the application process and as a student at St Andrews. This includes financial support and guidance, help finding 365 day a year accommodation and a dedicated care leaver support coordinator.

Our activities include:
• Summer Schools
• Guidance through the application process
• Scholarships advice
• Post-entry support

Lifelong & Flexible Learning

We recognise that an increasingly large number of students are now studying part-time, either during the day or in the evening, in combination with employment or caring responsibilities. We offer a number of part-time routes for students to gain a degree such as the General Degree and the Evening Degree programme.

The General Degree is available as an MA (Master of Arts) or a BSc (Bachelor of Science) which typically extend over three years of full-time study or up to six years of part-time study. This option allows students to study a number of different subjects without having to specialise in any particular one. The General Degree is only open to applicants coming through alternative routes such as access courses or returning to study after a sustained period of time out of education.

Partnerships with Local Colleges

We are committed to working with local colleges and education authorities to create and enhance flexible learner journeys which maximise students’ chances of success.

We work closely with the local colleges in Fife, Angus and Perthshire offering tailored advice and guidance to students coming through this route. Activities include:
• Talks and presentations to local college students
• Attendance at college careers events
• Guidance sessions on applying to university
• Student Shadowing invitations

Access to Medicine

The Pathway to Medicine programme has been developed in partnership with Perth College UHI and the University’s School of Medicine. This unique course combines academic study with practical experience to provide the skills and knowledge needed to apply for a place at medical school.

Successful completion of the HNC Applied Sciences Pathway to Medicine course offered by Perth College UHI can allow progression to the Medicine programme offered by the University of St Andrews.

For further information please visit Perth College UHI: www.perth.uhi.ac.uk

The Buttle Quality Mark has been awarded to the University of St Andrews for our commitment to young people in, and leaving, care.

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Teachers Together Conference

The University of St Andrews has long recognised the importance of fostering partnerships between schools and Local Education Authorities to ensure that relevant, accurate and timely guidance is given to all pupils when preparing to study at university.

One of the ways in which this has been achieved is through our long established Teachers Together conference.

Our Teachers Together conference aims to:
• bring together teachers from all sectors of education
• provide an opportunity for University staff to hear first-hand about subject developments in schools which may influence attainment and achievement levels.

The conference is designed to suit a variety of needs, whether delegates are looking for subject-specific knowledge, guidance on how to prepare pupils applying to university or experience what it is like to attend summer schools like the Sutton Trust Summer School.

Departmental sessions are offered in a range of subjects across the Faculties of Arts and Science and relevant resources provided to enhance the availability of learning materials to schools. In previous years our conferences have addressed key topics relating to fair admissions to higher education including Sustainability, Curriculum for Excellence and Outreach.

Through joint funding from the Sutton Trust and the University of St Andrews all aspects of the conference, including accommodation costs and meals, are provided free of charge.

To ensure that finance is not seen to be a barrier for participation, travel expenses to and from the conference are also provided and one full day of teacher cover is allocated to each school that sends a representative to attend the full programme.

Sample Conference Timetable

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day 1</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11.00 - 12.00</td>
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<td>Registration</td>
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<td>Lunch</td>
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<td>Key note speaker</td>
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<tr>
<td>13.45 - 16.30</td>
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<td>Presentation on topics relating to higher education</td>
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<td>18.00 - 21.00</td>
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<td>Dinner and networking with staff</td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
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<td>10.30 - 11.00</td>
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<td>Study Abroad</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.00 - 11.30</td>
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<td>The Mentoring Project, Supporting Transition and Retention</td>
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Advice and Guidance

The University of St Andrews regularly attends UCAS Careers Conventions as well as school careers fairs. Pupils and parents receive informative and relevant advice on how to apply to university as well as details about attending Visiting Days and Summer Schools. S2 to S3 pupils and their parents will find these events useful when choosing subjects for National 4 and 5 examinations while S4 to S5 pupils will gain expert advice on taking the right Higher or Advanced Higher combinations to apply to university.

A range of school talks are also provided on topics such as:
• Choosing a University
• Writing a UCAS Personal Statement
• Applying to the University of St Andrews

Table of Access Activities

Primary Schools
Secondary Schools
Primary/Secondary Schools & Colleges

Contact Details
Admissions
St Katharine’s West
16 The Scores
St Andrews
Fife
KY16 9AX
Scotland (UK)

T: +44 (0)1334 462346
F: +44 (0)1334 463330
E: schools.access@st-andrews.ac.uk
W: www.st-andrews.ac.uk/study/access

Teachers Together

Sutton Trust

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Curriculum Development
As a research intensive institution, the University ensures that its teaching references the research interests of its staff, which may change from time to time. As a result, programmes are regularly reviewed with the aim of enhancing students’ learning experience. Our approach to course revision is described at:
www.st-andrews.ac.uk/media/teaching-and-learning/policies/course-revision-protocol.pdf

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