

REACH FOR EXCELLENCE



THE
CONTEXTUAL
OUTREACH
TEAM




UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

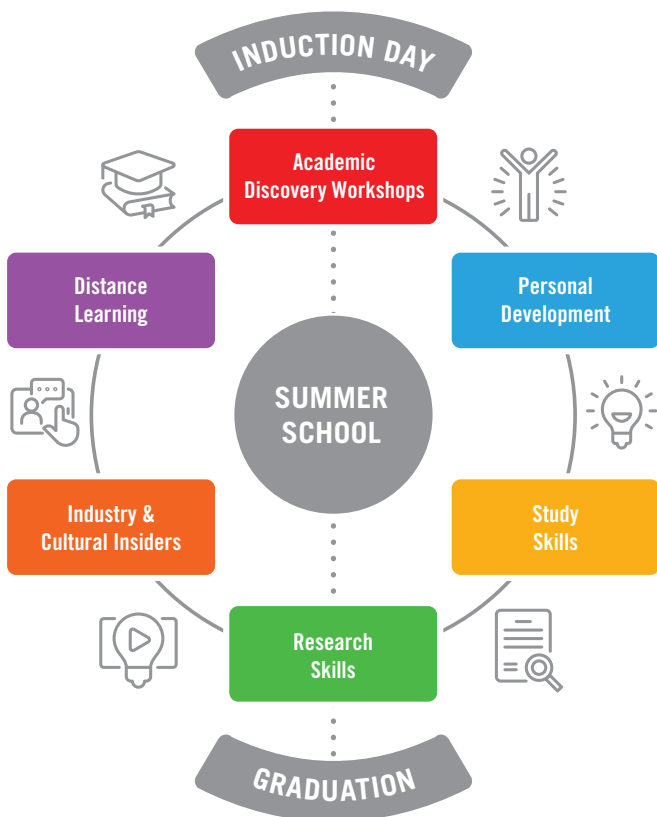


What is Reach for Excellence?

Since its inception in 2007, Reach for Excellence has built a successful track record in supporting and motivating young people who demonstrate academic potential, but who may experience barriers towards entering higher education and choosing what to do after school/college. Students on the programme will get a taste of university life and gain the necessary skills and experience needed for a successful transition into Higher Education.



All of our events are free of charge, with travel expenses (bus and/or train fare) reimbursed at each event you attend. As a Reach for Excellence student, you'll be invited to attend a vast range of sessions, which each fall in to one of the six categories on our colour wheel.





Academic Discovery Workshops are focussed taster sessions from across our various University faculties, which allow you to explore different subjects, university facilities and undergraduate level teaching.



Personal Development sessions offer a comprehensive range of practical advice and guidance, from choosing a course and university, to the UCAS application process and Personal Statement writing, to managing a budget and applying for student finance and scholarships.



Study Skills events are designed to build up your skills and confidence for tackling academic work and assessments, allowing you to both improve your A Level attainment and hit the ground running when you start university.



Research Skills sessions come in the form of our four part Get Research Ready series, which examines the research skills required to take an idea from the moment of its inception through to submitting and defending the final piece of work.



Industry & Cultural Insiders are off-campus visits to our local partner organisations. They give you the chance to meet people working in your field of interest, and offer a unique insight into the reality of working in these highly competitive sectors.



Distance Learning activities enable you to engage with the programme from the comfort of your own home, either by participating in our regular themed webchats or evaluating your RfE Journey in our Reflective Learning Log.

Eligibility

To be eligible for Reach for Excellence, you must:

- ✓ Be a current Year 12 student.
- ✓ Have gained 5 or more GCSEs at grades 9-4, including Mathematics and English Language.
- ✓ Have the potential to achieve at least 3 A Levels at grade B or above (or equivalent qualifications), and to progress to further study at a research-intensive university.
- ✓ Live within a reasonable distance to the University of Leeds and be able to attend regular events on campus during the school holidays.

You will also need to meet at least two of the following criteria to be eligible for the scheme:

- ✓ Be in the first generation of your immediate family to apply to Higher Education.
- ✓ Be from a household with a gross annual income of £25,000 or below.*
- ✓ Attend, or have attended, a school which achieved below the national average Attainment 8 score at GCSE.
- ✓ Live in a geographical area with low levels of progression onto higher education.
- ✓ Currently live in or grew up in public care.
- ✓ Have had your studies disrupted or adversely affected by circumstances in your personal, social or domestic life.

*** You can demonstrate this criteria in one of three ways:**

- If you receive the 16-19 Bursary Fund, or Learner Support, with an income threshold of £25,000 or below
- If you received free school meals during your GCSE studies
- If your parent or carer completes and submits a Declaration of Household Income Form, which can be found on our website.

What our students have to say...



Charlotte, Reach for Excellence Cohort 11, now studying Theology and Religious Studies (BA) at the University of Leeds.

“Reach for Excellence definitely influenced my choice of university. The events helped me become familiar with the campus, which gave me more confidence, and the specific course sessions helped me decide what style of religious studies degree I was most interested in. Even if you’re not sure about whether or not you would like to attend University, give it a go, meet new people and get some experience of what being involved with higher education is like. If it’s not for you then that’s okay – everyone is different and if you don’t want to come to Leeds, it makes you aware of what sort of things to look for when considering other universities.”

Ihtishaam, Reach for Excellence Cohort 8, recent graduate in Medicine and Surgery (MBChB) at the University of Leeds.

“The RfE programme is great at providing students with an enjoyable, interesting, and, most importantly, a realistic experience of university life. By meeting like – minded students from a diverse range of backgrounds I was able to appreciate the difficulties others face in order to come to university. Furthermore, as the programme continues throughout the year, there is ample opportunity to speak to current students from a wide range of different courses to further understand what university will be like.”



What our students have to say...

Freshta, Reach for Excellence Cohort 11, now studying Psychology (BSc) at the University of Leeds.



“What I got out of taking part in the Reach for Excellence programme was that I learnt about university life, and that

was important to me, because my parents hadn’t been to university. I knew I wanted to go to university, but I didn’t know what I wanted to study. Reach for Excellence enabled me to attend academic workshops in Psychology, Philosophy and Law and I learnt about what it’s like to study at a Russell Group university and the range of courses available. I’m really glad I was able to take part in Reach for Excellence because it gave me that extra push, and empowered me to do what I love, regardless of my background.”



Kieren, Reach for Excellence Cohort 12, now studying Geography (BA) at the University of Leeds.

“The scheme introduced me to the fundamentals of university study, such as essay writing and referencing which were concepts I have not come across before. Even outside the sessions, I remember meeting new people and

academic staff, which broadened my own horizons. I have struggled with anxiety before but RfE allowed me to open up to new concepts and new people and I was proud to be part of the programme.”



How do I find out more?

The Reach for Excellence scheme is coordinated by the Contextual Outreach Team at the University of Leeds. To make an application or for more information please visit our website: <https://contextualoutreach.leeds.ac.uk/>

Email us: reachforexcellence@leeds.ac.uk

Call us: 0113 343 8471