

**Guidance Information for Teachers.**

Thank you for agreeing to provide an academic reference in support of an application one of the University of Southampton's widening participations programmes or residential\*.

This form should be completed by a teacher, school guidance counsellor, principal/head teacher, head of year/sixth-form or careers advisor at the applicant's current FE institution.

Competition for places is extremely high, so this reference will be used by the University in order to shortlist suitable applicants for their chosen programme.

**Please note: The reference should be completed on official letterhead, signed and dated.**

Please provide details on the following:

- Verify that the applicant meets the specific eligibility criteria for their chosen event, and how these factors impact upon their studies
- If there are specific GCSE or A level subjects/ grades required, please verify that these have either been achieved, or form part of the applicant's programme of study\*\*
- Please provide predicted grades wherever possible. If you are unable to give predicted grades, please comment upon the applicant's general academic potential
- Summarise the applicant's general attitude and motivation towards their studies
- Any other relevant information

\* An overview of these can be found below.

\*\* For 'Widening Access to Medicine', candidates must be studying both A level Biology and Chemistry, and possess 5 A\*-C GCSE grades.

For 'Design Triathlon', candidates must possess 5 A\*-A GCSE grades and be studying relevant subjects in relation to engineering (Maths, Physics and other science subjects).

**Overview of programmes/residentials:**

**Widening Access to Medicine (BM6)**

**10-12 April 2017**

The University of Southampton is running a 3-day residential for thirty Year 12 students, designed to increase the applicant's knowledge of the role of doctors and the training they undergo. The residential will provide opportunities to develop interpersonal skills, increase awareness of the undergraduate medical student experience and support students in their applications to study Medicine.

The Widening Access to Medicine Residential (BM6) includes the following:

- Two nights in student accommodation
- A day of activities at Southampton General Hospital
- Clinical skills and other topical sessions
- Sessions on UKCAT, student finance and completing your application
- Support of a student mentor
- Evening activities

This opportunity is aimed at students in Year 12 who want to study Medicine at university, but will need to apply through a widening access programme. In order to qualify for the BM6 residential, applicants will need to be studying both A Level Biology and Chemistry and meet at least three of the following eligibility criteria:

- First generation to pursue Higher Education (not including siblings)
- Young people looked after by a Local Authority
- In receipt of a 16-19 bursary or similar grant
- Parents, guardian or self in receipt of a means-tested benefit
- In receipt of free school meals at any point in Years 10-12
- Living in an area with a postcode which falls within the lowest 20 per cent of the Index of Multiple Deprivation (please check [here](#)), or a member of a travelling family

**Design Triathlon**

**16-20 July 2017**

The Design Triathlon is a residential course for Year 12 students interested in studying engineering at university. The Summer School will introduce students to the three areas of Ship Science, Aeronautics and Astronautics and Mechanical Engineering.

Over four days, students will design and build a glider, a Greenpower car and a fastcraft for water as part of a team. Talks, workshops and seminars from staff and students in the Faculty of Engineering

and the Environment provide insight into the wealth of careers and opportunities that an engineering degree can provide.

Participants live in university halls of residence for the week, and are mentored by current undergraduate and postgraduate students, giving a unique opportunity to find out what life is like at university. The summer school is a great opportunity to get a taste for engineering ahead of university applications. This is a free course for Year 12 students. To be eligible participants must be under the age of 18 at the time of the summer school, meet the following academic criteria:

- Have achieved at least five A/A\*s at GCSE
- Are taking relevant subjects in relation to engineering (e.g. Maths, Physics and other Science subjects) and meet at least two of the following Widening Participation criteria:
- In the first generation of your immediate family to apply to Higher Education
- Current home postcode shows that you live in an area with low levels of progression to Higher Education. (Postcodes within the lowest two POLAR3 quintiles)
- Attended a school/college whose performance places it into the lowest two quintiles for average QCA points per A level student (or equivalent) (in England, Wales or Northern Ireland) as identified by the Department for Education dataset
- In receipt of a 16-19 bursary or similar grant OR received Free School Meals at any point during your school education
- Living or grew up in Local Authority care
- Are a Young or Young Adult Carer.

The Course is open to students (home UK only) currently studying in Year 12 or S5 in Scotland (or equivalent) at maintained schools or colleges in the UK.

### **Access to Southampton (A2S) scheme**

A2S provides additional consideration and support to students from backgrounds under represented in higher education.

The Summer School will provide an opportunity to see what life is like as University of Southampton student. Students will attend lectures and/or seminars organised by academic tutors in their chosen discipline or broader subject area, as well as spend time with current University of Southampton students. They will be given information and guidance about studying at University level, the UCAS application process and writing the UCAS personal statement. Students will also take part in evening activities to give an insight into the social side of University life.

Students will also be set a subject-specific assignment which will need to be completed at home. The assignment is designed to assess a student's potential, as well as to give them an understanding of undergraduate style work.

Those who successfully pass the assignment could then be eligible to receive mentoring from a current University of Southampton student, support with the transition to University, a £1000 scholarship and additional consideration in the admissions process.

Access to Southampton (A2S) is open nationally to students living permanently in the UK. Students must apply to A2S when they are in Year 12 or the first year of A-Level (or equivalent) study. To be eligible for the A2S scheme, applicants should have the potential to study at the University of Southampton and meet two or more of the following criteria:

- In the first generation of immediate family to apply to Higher Education, excluding brothers or sisters
- In receipt of a 16-19 Bursary or similar grant OR received Free School Meals at any point during your secondary school education
- Attended a secondary school which achieved less than the national average Attainment 8 score (in England) OR below that national average of 5 A\*-C passes including English and Maths at GCSE (in Wales and Northern Ireland) in 2016
- Studies affected or disrupted by circumstances in your personal, social or domestic life
- Are a Young or Young Adult Carer
- Living or grew up in Local Authority care
- Current home post code shows that you live in an area with low levels of progression to Higher Education. (Postcodes within the lowest 2 POLAR3 quintiles)