

Guidance Information for Teachers

Thank you for agreeing to provide an academic reference in support of an application to one of the University of Southampton's widening participation programmes or residential. ¹

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: You will receive a link to a Microsoft Form where you can confirm a students eligibility and suitability. In your comments please provide the following details:

- Verify that the applicant meets the specific eligibility criteria for their chosen event
- 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 study²
- 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

¹ An overview of these can be found below

² For Widening Access to Medicine, candidates must be studying both A level Biology and another science (acceptable science subjects are Chemistry, Physics, Psychology, Sociology, Environmental Studies or Geography), and must hold 5 GCSEs at grade C/4 or above, including English language, mathematics and either biology and chemistry, combined science, or science and additional science.

Overview of programme:

Widening Access to Medicine Taster Course and Virtual Work Experience:

8 – 10 April 2026

The University of Southampton is running a 3-day Virtual Work Experience and Taster Course for 30 Year 12 students, designed to increase the applicant's knowledge of the role of doctors and the training they undergo. The taster course 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 Event includes:

- 1 days of **live** virtual work experience with University Hospital Southampton experiencing ward round, outpatient clinics, talks with a variety of clinicians and medical students and more. This will be delivered through Teams.
- In person Q&A with clinicians
- In person practical workshops with medical students and staff
- Clinical skills and other topical sessions
- Interview techniques and application support
- Sessions on UCAT and completing your application
- Support of a student mentor

This opportunity is for Year 12 students who want to study Medicine at university and intend to apply through a widening access programme. To qualify for this event, you will need to be studying A Level Biology and one additional science, and meet at least **two** of the following eligibility criteria:

- First generation applicant to Higher Education
- Parents, guardian, or self in receipt of a means tested benefit
- Young people looked after by a Local Authority
- Resident in an area with a postcode which falls within the lowest 20% of the IMD⁴ (Index of Multiple Deprivation), or a member of a travelling family.
- In receipt of free school meals at any time during Years 10-13 (normally for a minimum period of at least one school term/2 months.)
- A current young carer

⁴ [Indices of Deprivation 2015 and 2019 \(communities.gov.uk\)](https://communities.gov.uk) The IMD score will be checked and verified by the Faculty of Medicine. Applicants should normally only submit eligibility criteria relating to one postcode/address
