

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 residentials*.

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. A copy should then be given to the applicant to upload onto their application form or emailed directly to outreach@soton.ac.uk. If sending by email, please include the students name as the subject and the name of the scheme that they are applying to (e.g. John Smith: Widening Access to Medicine Virtual Residential)

Please provide details on the following:

- 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 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 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 mathematics with biology and chemistry, or mathematics with additional science and science or mathematics with combined science. English language (or GCSE English) is required at a minimum of grade C/4

Overview of programme:

Widening Access to Medicine Virtual Residential (BM6)

12-14 April 2021

The University of Southampton is running a 3-day virtual residential for fifty 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 Virtual Residential (BM6) includes the following:

- Q&A with clinicians
- Clinical skills and other topical sessions
- Interview techniques, and application support
- A trauma scenario
- Sessions on UCAT, student finance 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. In order to qualify for the BM6 virtual event you will need to be studying A Level Biology and one additional science, be under 18, and meet at least **three** 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
- In receipt of a 16-19 bursary or similar grant*
- 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 (see helpful links below), or be a member of a travelling family http://dclgapps.communities.gov.uk/imd/iod_index.html <https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/data-and-analysis/young-participation-by-area/youngparticipation-by-postcode/>

*Where an applicant chooses the Free School Meals criteria and the 16-19 bursary criteria, the 16-19 bursary must be awarded for something other than Free School Meals. Eg. Transport costs between home and college, text books/ stationery/printing. Applicants should normally only submit eligibility criteria relating to one postcode/address. The IMD score will be checked and verified by a member of the Access team.