Insight: Explore

What is the Insight: Explore Programme?

Insight: Explore is a multidisciplinary programme which aims to develop and broaden students’ academic interests and to tackle the barriers that many students face when applying to university. It is a progressive programme that intends to help students experience what it is like to study at university and to develop the skills and knowledge to make informed choices about their futures. We do this through a combination of Core and Subject Taster Days which participants attend when they are in Year 9, 10 and 11.

What will my students get out of the programme?

Students on Insight: Explore receive academically enriching opportunities and the chance to explore the reality of university life. They will work with current university students and staff to explore their interest and will receive our support when thinking about their futures. As part of the programme, participants:

Attend Core Days
On these events we work with the participants to develop key skills that will be helpful in later life, as well as providing information about student life.

We cover topics such as post-16 subject choices, critical thinking and presentation skills.

Attend Subject Taster Days
Participants explore new topics and subject areas on these days, whilst also practising the skills they are developing on the Core Days. Recent days have included a Medicine and Veterinary Medicine, Archaeology and Polar Exploration Days.

Complete academic work
Participants will be asked to complete academic work to practice using their new skills after each event they attend. This will predominantly be during the school holidays. We will ensure that participants always have lots of time to complete their tasks so that it will not interfere with their schoolwork.

Receive post-16 support
We will keep in touch with the participants after the programme has finished with details of opportunities that may be of interest.
How will the programme work?

Participants will come to Cambridge several times a year to attend the Core and Subject Taster days at the weekends and in the school holidays. We will organise coaches to pick up students from locations across Peterborough to bring them to Cambridge. They will be supervised by University of Cambridge staff for the journey and throughout the day itself. The University will communicate directly with the participants and their families to organise all of the events.

Please note that this is the first year that we are running this particular programme in Peterborough. There may be slightly changes to the programme in the future.

Eligibility Criteria

Participants must all be academically able (on track to achieve 5 6-9s at GCSE) and currently attending a state school in Peterborough. Priority will be given to students who meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Receive Pupil Premium funding
- Have been in the care of a Local Authority
- Come from an area where few people go to university
- Have completed the Insight Peterborough programme

Please note that students do not need to have been on the Insight Peterborough programme to be involved with Insight: Explore.

What would the school need to do?

The support of schools is invaluable when we are getting students on to the programme. We would be grateful if you could encourage students who would benefit from the programme to apply to be involved. Students need to be willing to try new things and to be committed because the programme happens during their free time.

After the application deadline has passed, we will contact the school to ask them to endorse the applications that we have received.

Once students are on the programme, the school would not need to do anything else.

What is the application process?

Students need to apply for a place on the programme at www.cam.ac.uk/insight. On the website, they will find a short online application form which should take no more than around 15 minutes to complete. This form must be completed in one sitting.

As part of the application, students will be asked to explain why they would like to be part of the Insight Programme in no more than 300 words. We would advise them to think about this before they start their application. The deadline for applications is listed on our website.

After the application deadline, we will contact the school to ask them to endorse the applications of the students from their school. They will be asked to confirm that their students meet the eligibility criteria for the programme and may be asked to provide a ranking within the school.

The University of Cambridge will communicate directly with all of the students who have applied to be a part of the programme to let them know if we can offer them a place. We will also communicate with them directly about all of the events that are running as part of the programme.
Questions?

If you have any questions about the programme or would like any additional information, please get in touch with the Insight: Explore team using the contact details below.

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