



EXPLORE



Insight Explore
Year 9 Guide



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE



Hello,

Welcome to the Insight Explore guide. We are pleased that you are interested in finding out more about the Insight Explore programme, and we hope that you will find this guide useful. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with us if you need any further information, you will find our contact details on the final page of this guide.

Please remember that the deadline for submitting Year 9 applications is Sunday 27 February 2022.

We look forward to hearing from you!

The Insight Explore team



What is Insight Explore?

Insight Explore is a free programme for young people in Years 9 to 11, run by the University of Cambridge. It is open to students who attend selected schools in Cambridgeshire and Norfolk.

Over the course of the two-year programme, students visit the University of Cambridge to participate in sessions designed to help them make informed decisions about their future. They have the opportunity to explore academic subjects that are not taught in school, and find out about the study and work options that are available to them after school.

Students are supported to develop important transferable skills to help with their GCSEs and beyond. They work with university staff, academic tutors and students as part of the programme.

Insight Explore events take place outside school time, on Saturdays and during school holidays. Transport to the University is provided for students who live outside Cambridge.



“I’m not one of the most academic students but Insight Explore has definitely given me the confidence to apply to one of the Russell Group universities. Everyone on the team has been amazing and I have made some incredible friends.”

Umar



What do students do on Insight Explore?

Insight Explore participants visit the University of Cambridge several times each year to take part in events. They attend a combination of compulsory core sessions and academic taster days. Sessions may also be delivered online.

Core days

On core days we work on useful academic skills such as learning techniques. We also cover topics such as choosing A Levels, life as a university student, careers and work experience. We expect students to attend all core days (usually two to three each year).

Academic taster days

These sessions are a chance for students to experience university-style learning, through lectures, seminars and hands-on sessions. Participants have the opportunity to explore new topics and develop academic interests beyond the school curriculum. Students are expected to attend at least one of the two taster days that we run each year.

GCSE tutoring

In preparation for GCSE exams, in Year 11 students are offered ten hours of tuition in either Maths, English or Science. These one-to-one sessions are delivered online and are an optional part of the Insight Explore programme.

Independent work

Following certain events, students might be set a short task to complete at home and submit to the Insight Explore team for feedback. Completing this work gives students the chance to develop and practise the skills that they are learning on the programme. Students may also be offered the chance to participate in optional projects during the school holidays.



“Insight Explore was a fantastic experience. I truly learned so much about university and that I can actually aim for Cambridge!”

Aleksandra



Who can apply for Insight Explore?

To apply for a place on the programme, students must be in Year 9 and attending one of the eligible schools listed on our website. In addition, all applicants should be on track to achieve five 9-5 grades at GCSE (we will ask your school to verify this).

We will assess applications in line with our widening participation criteria, which can be found overleaf.

When assessing applicants for Insight Explore, we will prioritise in the following order:

1. Students who have completed the Insight Discover programme
 2. Students who are in care or care-experienced
 3. Students who have been eligible for free school meals in the last six years
 4. Students who belong to an under-represented ethnic group (as defined on our website)
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5. Students who have experienced disruption to their education (as defined on our website)

6. Students who are resident in areas with low participation in higher education (verified using our postcode checker)

Further information about these criteria can be found at cam.ac.uk/insightexplore.



“Insight Explore has been an amazing experience, one which has inspired me to take a leap and go to university in the future! I have lost the worries I faced before as they have explained to me in great detail about how I can solve these issues. Getting to see what university life is like was fun and educational. I would strongly recommend Insight Explore to anyone considering university or even to people who want to meet others, as I’ve met people from all over!”

Amy

What are we looking for?

Applicants to Insight Explore should have an interest in finding out about university and be able to commit to spending time taking part. The students who benefit the most from Insight Explore are those who embrace the opportunity and make the most of it.

We are looking for students who will be enthusiastic and dedicated during their time on the programme. Some of the subjects covered will be completely new to participants; we are looking for students who are curious and willing to try out new things. The programme is designed to challenge participants and it is a rewarding experience that we are sure you will enjoy.

“Insight Explore was an incredible programme that gave me long-lasting friendships, invaluable skills and an insight into a great university.”

Alec

“You’ll never forget this experience, it’s awesome!”

Chris



How do I apply?

Please apply by filling in the application form at tinyurl.com/insightexplore. The deadline to submit your application is Sunday 27 February 2022.

If your application is successful, you will receive an invitation to attend the online welcome event on the evening of Thursday 10 March 2022. The first visit to Cambridge will take place on Saturday 26 March 2022.



If you have any questions about the Insight Explore programme, please contact the team at insightexplore@admin.cam.ac.uk.

Please let us know if you would like a copy of this guide in an alternative format.



Scan the code below to find out more about the Insight team's work with young people aged 11 to 18.



DISCOVER



EXPLORE





cam.ac.uk/insightexplore