Widening Access offer 2020/21
Introduction

The Widening Access team at Royal Holloway offers a wide range of in-school, on campus and online activities for students in Years 7 — 13. We also have content for parents/carers and teachers/advisors.

As a new team, we will be adding more content as soon as we can. Look out for updates via our newsletters, our website and updated versions of this leaflet.

Over the next few pages you’ll find details of our multi-intervention programme which is split into the following categories:

- **Information**
- **Aspiration**
- **Skills**
- **Residential**
- **Parent/carer**
- **Teacher/advisor**

Coming soon: **attainment**, **subjects** and **long term**

We are keen to hear from you and find ways of working together to support your students. Email us via **schools@rhul.ac.uk**

Thank you, Widening Access team

Visit our **website**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Available services</th>
<th>Year group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Why university?</td>
<td>Year 10, Year 11, Year 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussing the value of a university degree, you’ll talk to current university students and also get tips on choosing a university and course.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Post-16 pathways</td>
<td>Year 9, Year 10, Year 11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Students explore the range of options available to them after school and beyond to possible futures at university.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Post-18 pathways</td>
<td>Year 12, Year 13</td>
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<tr>
<td>What are the routes that students can take after sixth-form or college? Here we will explore options related to Higher Education including apprenticeships and university.</td>
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<tr>
<td>University vs. apprenticeships</td>
<td>Year 10, Year 11, Year 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Students will have the opportunity to examine the differences between these two popular Higher Education destinations. What are the benefits? How and when to apply?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Is university worth it?</td>
<td>Year 10, Year 11</td>
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<tr>
<td>An introduction to student finance for younger students with a focus on affordability.</td>
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<tr>
<td>How to choose a course &amp; university</td>
<td>Year 11, Year 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>How to select the right university &amp; course for the student, including using league tables, websites and open days.</td>
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<tr>
<td>UCAS uncovered</td>
<td>Year 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>A presentation covering the ins and outs of the UCAS admissions process as well as top tips for writing a personal statement.</td>
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Key: Webinar/virtual, Face to face, Recorded PowerPoint

Please email us via schools@rhul.ac.uk

Adding “WA” in the title of your message
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Personal statement support</th>
<th>Talk — an overview of how to write a good personal statement</th>
<th>Workshop — an interactive set of self-reflection activities which get students thinking about the structure &amp; content of their personal statements.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personal statement surgery</td>
<td>One-to-one advice for students who have already started their statement or need help getting going.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Personal statement online review</td>
<td>Students can submit their statements through our online service and receive personalised feedback and comments to help enhance their work (subject to availability).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student finance</td>
<td>A factual no-nonsense talk about student loans including repayments, bursaries and scholarships.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student life</td>
<td>A guide to the differences between school and university and what to expect from university life.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Support at university</td>
<td>Discover the range of academic, personal, career and financial support available at university.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contextual offers, access schemes and financial support</td>
<td>Explore the various programmes and financial awards that universities offer to support students from Widening Access backgrounds.</td>
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Year 12
Year 13
## Skills

### Mock interviews
We can support in school mock interviews or offer safe and secure online calls to give students the opportunity to practice their interview skills and receive feedback.

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### Study skills
An introduction to research skills, referencing & plagiarism, argumentative writing, reflective writing, critical thinking, independent learning styles and revision techniques.

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### Career skills
With this workshop we will help students to identify their skills and strengths and achievements to date. What skills are employers looking for? What does labour market information tell us about future employment?

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### Revision for students by students
A revision skills session with a difference. Current undergraduates share how they revised for GCSEs and A-Levels and help your students explore different revision techniques to suit various learning styles.

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### Resilience and wellbeing
The importance of knowing how to be kind to ourselves and find ways of coping with periods of stress and anxiety drive this exploration of practical techniques. Suitable for any year group as well as those preparing for exams.

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**Key**
- Webinar/virtual
- Face to face
- Recorded PowerPoint
### What is university?
Find out what makes university different from school, meet current university students and discover the wide range of fascinating courses available to study.

### The university experience
Living by yourself, making your own food, setting your own timetable: university students are very independent. Follow a day in the life of a current university student and find out what the university experience is really like.

### Subject stereotypes
Girls can't be engineers and boys can't be nurses, right? Together we’ll explore the notion of stereotypes within career pathways and offer unique experiences that help to challenge preconceptions.

### Campus visits
We can organise visits to campus that include meeting current students, exploring the campus facilities and taking part in engaging information and subject taster activities. Due to current circumstances please contact us to discuss options.

### Campus experiences
We are offering a series of online and on-campus experiences throughout the year. Due to the current circumstances places are limited and booking is essential. Click [here](#) to find out more.

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Please email us via schools@rhul.ac.uk

Adding "WA" in the title of your message
Residents*

Free*
3 day, 2 night residential
Experience life at university

Stay in student accommodation
All meals included
Meet current university students
Tour the campus

Take part in subject taster workshops
Discover the range of subjects & experiences available at university
Evening entertainment

Year 10 & 11
13th—15th April 2021

Year 12
Arts & Social Sciences
29th June — 1st July 2021

Year 12
Science
6th — 8th July 2021

* Students must meet 2 or more Widening Access criteria, for full details see our website

Online applications open October 2020
Full details on our website
Please email any questions to schools@rhul.ac.uk
Parents/carers

Introduction to university & student finance
In this talk, we will explore the benefits of university, the timeline of applying, how to help a student choose a course and university and talk openly about student finance.

Support at university
What support is available before a student applies and whilst they are at university? We will break down the personal, financial, academic and career support available to students generally across the UK and specifically at Royal Holloway.

UCAS process, contextual offers & financial support
See the application process from the viewpoint of a university as we take you through each stage of application. Discover contextual offers where universities lower the grades on offers made to students meeting certain criteria. Finally, we’ll explore the variety of bursaries and scholarships offered by universities.

Parent/carer evenings & options events
The Widening Access team is available to attend parent/carer evenings or other events throughout the academic year to speak to parents/carers. We might talk about student finance, residential summer schools, support at university or any area related to university that you would want us to cover.

Jargon buster resources
We are working on a number of jargon buster resources to help parents/carers navigate the world of Higher Education with more confidence. Available soon on our website.

Available services

| Webinar/virtual | Face to face | Recorded PowerPoint |

Key

1. Webinar/virtual
2. Face to face
3. Recorded PowerPoint
### Writing a UCAS reference
Advice on the structure and content of the reference needed for a student’s UCAS application.

### HE Fairs
Staff and student ambassadors representing Royal Holloway are happy to attend your school HE fairs to talk to students and parents. We are prepared to support these face to face and online.

### Coming soon
We are hard at work adding more content for teachers and advisors and will release the following as soon as possible:

- Online resources
- Embedding careers into subject sessions
- Literacy and numeracy projects

We are also looking at launching an online teacher advisory group to help steer our future programme of activities.

Please email us via schools@rhul.ac.uk

Adding “WA” in the title of your message
Year 12 – what your students should be thinking about

**Autumn**
- Visiting
  - Royal Holloway Open Days in September and October
- Thinking
  - Consider whether university is the right option
- Actioning
  - Final preparation of personal statements
- Deadline
  - 15 October
  - Medicine and veterinary applications
- UCAS applications
  - Open in September

**Spring**
- Preparing
  - What and where to study
- Deadline
  - 15 January
  - for most UG programmes
- Visiting
  - Royal Holloway Open Days in June
- Finalising
  - Apply for student finance
- Visiting
  - Applicant visit days
  - Dec to Mar
  - For students who have received an offer from Royal Holloway

**Summer**
- Actioning
  - Gain expert knowledge about the admissions process and personal statements
- Results released
  - Good luck!

Year 13 – getting ready for university
Contextual offers

Our contextual offer is a reduction of up to 2 grades lower* compared to the original entry requirements advertised on our website and undergraduate prospectus.
*Subject specific grades and GCSEs are not part of the contextual offer

Who is eligible?
Students must meet 2 Widening Access criteria, which are:
- Attend an aspiring school (available on our website)
- Have a disability or health condition that impacts daily life
- Been in local authority care for more than 3 months
- Mature student (21 or over at time of course start)
- Parents/carers have not attended a UK university
- Home postcode is in a POLAR 4 Q1 area (you can search on our website)

How do students apply?
They do nothing extra.
1. Just make Royal Holloway one of their 5 choices on UCAS when they apply
2. Ensure their application is as complete and accurate as possible: we look at specific pieces of data
3. If they meet the course entry requirements and the Widening Access criteria, we will do the rest
4. The offer they receive will be a contextual one

Discover more
For full details about contextual offers visit our website [here](#) or search “Royal Holloway contextual offer”
You can also email us via schools@rhul.ac.uk
To book or discuss any of our talks or activities, please email schools@rhul.ac.uk

For more information about Royal Holloway’s events and activities please see our website royalholloway.ac.uk

Open Days information can be found at royalholloway.ac.uk/opendays

The Widening Access pages can be found here