Advice about Higher Education:
How we support schools
Royal Holloway Schools Liaison talks and workshops

Our talks help you to guide students through their journey to Higher Education and can be delivered at your school by a member of our Schools Liaison team. We have suggested the most appropriate age group for each talk. As every school introduces the option of university to its students at different times, we can work with you to find a schedule that works for you.

We continuously review and evaluate our talks to ensure they reflect the changing landscape within higher education.

All of the following can be delivered as a talk or workshop. To book, contact schools@royalholloway.ac.uk and one of our team will be in touch to arrange a visit.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Core content</th>
<th>Audience</th>
<th>Stage in application process</th>
<th>Optional extras</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Making the most of Year 12 | • An introduction to what is important to a university Admissions Tutor  
• Students will understand what Admissions Tutors are looking for in an application and how students can make the most of the opportunities available to them during Year 12 and the summer before applying to UCAS. | Year 12 | Pre-application |  
• Making the most of an Open Day  
• Navigating league tables  
• How to use prospectuses  
• Using social media appropriately to inform your university choices. |
| Kickstart your university journey: what, where and why? | • An introduction to Higher Education  
• Students will understand the value of studying for a university degree  
• Students will know how to research different universities and courses and how to choose the right ones for them. | Year 12 |  |
| An introduction to... | • Introduction to any of the subject areas available at Royal Holloway  
• Students will understand broadly what is studied as part of a degree and how it differs from Level 3 study  
• Students will understand the extra-curricular opportunities and career prospects associated with the degree. | Year 12 |  |
| You can UCAS!: a step-by-step guide to the UCAS process | • A step-by-step guide to the UCAS process, clearly explaining what needs to be done and by when  
• Students will understand the importance of the personal statement and how to write one  
• Students will understand how to decide on firm/insurance choices. | Year 12/13 | Application |  
• How to make the most of your academic studies, work experience and volunteering in your application  
• Making the most of your Applicant Visit Day(s). |
| Personal statement surgeries | • Personalised one-to-one or small group advice and guidance for students who already have a draft personal statement and want to perfect it  
• Can also be used for students who are struggling to get started on their personal statement.  
• Students will understand whether or not their personal statement is ready for submission. | Year 13 |  |
| Hired, not fired: Interview techniques | • Why universities interview and what they’re looking for  
• Students will understand the purpose of an interview and how to prepare for and excel at an interview. | Year 13 |  |
| Student life | • Overview of student life, including living away from home, university accommodation, the Students’ Union, sports and societies  
• Students will understand the social life aspects of attending university and the range of opportunities available beyond their studies. | Year 13 | Post-application |  
• “My Experience” talk from a current Royal Holloway student, to give a personal perspective on the information delivered in the main talk. |
| Student Finance: Master your money | • Overview of the costs of university  
• Overview of the Student Finance system, including how to apply for loans and how they are paid and repaid  
• Overview of other financial support available – bursaries, scholarships, and part-time jobs  
• Students will understand the actual costs associated with university and how to live on a budget. | Year 13 |  |  
• Myth-busting on the news headlines and rumours about Student Finance  
• Financing yourself through university. |
| Study skills | • Overview of different learning styles and an opportunity for students to see what works for them  
• Students will know the different study skills required by a degree and understand how they can acquire and improve those skills. | Year 13 |  |  
• Specific study skills for Arts subjects  
• Specific study skills for Science subjects. |
We understand that every school has different requirements for its careers programme, and different amounts of time available to deliver it. We can work with you to design your own talk using any of the topics mentioned in this guide. Just let us know what you’d like us to cover, and how long we’ve got to deliver it.

**Study Skills Plus**

These sessions are ideal for students studying the EPQ, or to develop study skills that will be useful for Higher Education.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Audience</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Core content</th>
<th>Learning outcomes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 12/13</td>
<td>Research Skills</td>
<td>• An overview of different research methods students can use within their work.</td>
<td>• Students will understand the importance of research skills, what count as research skills and how they can use these in their work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 12/13</td>
<td>Referencing and understanding Plagiarism</td>
<td>• This session will cover how to cite other people’s work and will explain how to create a reference list or bibliography.</td>
<td>• Students will understand the importance of referencing and will recognise how to avoid plagiarism.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 12/13</td>
<td>Being a critical thinker</td>
<td>• Students will understand the importance of identifying relevant information in order to evaluate text.</td>
<td>• Students will develop and enhance their ability to critically assess information and develop reasoned arguments.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 12/13</td>
<td>Where’s your argument?</td>
<td>• Students will understand the art of argumentative writing by practising the relationship between claims, reasons, and evidence; and analysing an author’s use of argument in a text.</td>
<td>• Students will be able to recognise argumentative techniques in a variety of text. Teachers will be able to formulate an argument with a claim and counter-claim.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 12/13</td>
<td>Reflective Writing</td>
<td>• This interactive workshop looks at what reflective writing is and why it is important as well as looking at different models of reflective writing and structure students can use in their work.</td>
<td>• Students will be able to identify the characteristics of reflective writing. Teachers will understand what universities look for in personal statements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 12/13</td>
<td>Introduction to university</td>
<td>• An overview of university, the application process, student finance and student life.</td>
<td>• Parents will understand how they can support their son or daughter through each step of the UCAS process.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 12/13</td>
<td>UCAS and writing references</td>
<td>• Advice on writing references for UCAS, as well as guiding students through the process and writing their personal statements.</td>
<td>• Teachers/Advisers will understand what universities look for in personal statements. Teachers will understand the content admissions tutors are looking for in a UCAS reference.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Design your own**

We understand that every school has different requirements for its careers programme, and different amounts of time available to deliver it. We can work with you to design your own talk using any of the topics mentioned in this guide. Just let us know what you’d like us to cover, and how long we’ve got to deliver it.

For example, if you had just one hour set aside for a university talk in your careers programme, you might want to do a ‘university basics’ overview talk which could be expanded on later by tutors. Check our website to find out when we are in your area.
Year 12

Royal Holloway Open Days in September and October

Start researching courses and universities
This is a great time for students to start thinking about their future career, and what and where they might want to study.

Inform
Royal Holloway can help make sure your students are well-informed by talking to them about choosing the right course and university and what being a university student is like.

 Equip
We can equip your students with knowledge about the UCAS process, what they’ll need to do at each step, and get them thinking about how to write their personal statements and what to include in them.

Refine
Now your students are working on their UCAS applications, we can offer support on refining their personal statements to make them as strong as possible.

Year 13

Royal Holloway Applicant Visit Days
An opportunity for applicants to return to the campus and experience a day in the life of a student, to help decide if the university is right for them.

Final steps
We can help your students with making those final steps in their university journey: applying for student finance and preparing for the transition from school to university.

Most university offers will be made by the end of March if the student met the UCAS deadline

Most students will need to choose their firm and insurance university if they received their offers by March

UCAS applications open

UCAS application deadline in early January

Students apply for Student Finance after sending UCAS application

Royal Holloway Open Days in September and October

Royal Holloway Open Days in June

Royal Holloway Open Days in June

First steps
Start getting your students thinking about university. Royal Holloway can deliver an introduction to university which will discuss the benefits of going and help students decide if it’s the right option for them.

Spring

Summer

Autumn

Spring

Summer

Autumn

Spring

Summer
Key events on campus

Taster days
Taster days provide students with a unique insight into what degree-level study is like before applying to university. Our subject taster sessions are in the style of mock lectures, practical workshops and group work sessions designed to introduce students to a variety of academic disciplines.

The subject taster days will allow students to:
• experience first-hand the excellent and diverse teaching methods offered by our departments
• meet our academic staff
• meet our current students
• explore our campus.

Year 12 summer university
We host a variety of residentials for Year 12 students interested in experiencing university life.

Our residentials offer a general overview of what it is like to be a university student, with a range of subject taster sessions along with a varied social schedule, whilst staying in our university halls.

Annual Teachers and Advisers’ Conference
This one-day conference equips you with the key information and advice you need to prepare students for entry to higher education. The conference is free to attend and includes a variety of seminars and workshops. There will also be the opportunity to network with professional and academic university staff.

For more information and further details on our events please contact the Schools Liaison Team.
schools@royalholloway.ac.uk
01784 414364
@RHULSchools