

Progression to Russell Group Universities: workshop details

Academic references This workshop will explain how academic references influence admissions decisions. It will advise on writing about issues which can affect individual applicants, such as re-sits, special educational needs or their personal circumstances. The workshop will consider some of the facts relating to application rates and discuss arrangements to support early application deadlines for certain courses and universities, and provide some examples of good practice.

Additional admissions requirements Why do some universities and courses interview applicants? The first part of this session will look at how we use interviews and submitted written work – not just examination results – to assess the overall potential of our applicants. It will offer practical advice on how applicants can prepare for this stage of the application process. The second part of this session will focus on the tests used by some courses at Russell Group universities. We will consider what part test scores play in admissions decisions. Attendees will have the opportunity to tackle some of the questions from previous tests.

Applying to Medicine Medicine is one of the most popular course choices – and as a consequence, one of the hardest to get a place on. This workshop will advise on what students need to be considered for a place: academic subjects and grades, additional admissions tests, interviews, work experience and volunteering. We will summarise the opportunities available to students from less advantaged backgrounds, designed to facilitate their entry. We will also suggest alternative courses for students who do not gain a place, or would be unlikely to do so.

Careers and employability Russell Group graduates have some of the highest employment levels amongst their peers, even when they study subjects without an obvious career route. They also enjoy higher graduate premiums. What do students need to know, when deciding what to study at university? How should they interpret the new key information sets on employability? What do students need to do to enhance their employability, once at university, and how can university careers services help?

Money matters This session will provide an overview of student finance for 2015 entry and advise on where your students can find reliable information. We will present current figures and eligibility criteria for Government financial support and give an indication of the range of generous bursaries offered by Russell Group universities. We will also cover financial arrangements in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

Personal statements What are the qualities of an effective personal statement? This session will provide an overview of what Russell Group admissions tutors and staff are looking for. We will offer advice on how to support your students in raising their statements from the ordinary to the extraordinary, and on how best to pitch their statements for highly competitive courses. The session will include information from current admissions tutors in a variety of disciplines.

Student panel What's it like making the transition from school/college to university? With fees of £9,000 per year and a larger pool of students graduating each year, what is student life like today? This session gives you the chance to put your questions to current undergraduate students and find out what your students can expect in the coming years.