

Team information

The Widening Participation Service at De Montfort University (DMU) is part of a larger team dedicated to providing comprehensive and inspirational HE Advice and Guidance to students, teachers, advisers and parents. Our aim is to raise the aspiration and attainment levels of your WP cohorts by introducing students to Higher Education at an early age and providing follow-up information and support activities to help keep them motivated, engaged and best able to achieve their potential.

Many of our sessions are delivered in collaboration with Aimhigher Leicester City and Leicestershire although we can also offer DMU-specific activity including our Gifted & Talented programme and subject specific work focusing on attracting 'non-traditional' cohorts to particular subject areas eg: females in to Game Art or males in to Textiles.

Your WP Team are:

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Booking information

Bookings will be taken on a first-come-first-served basis whilst ensuring fair and reasonable access for all Leicester city and county schools. If you would like to arrange a meeting to discuss the activity requirements for your school, or for further information and booking enquiries please contact the WP Team directly.

Cancellation policy

Although we understand that the cancellation of bookings is sometimes unavoidable, please ensure that a minimum of seven days notice is provided. This will allow us to offer the booking to other schools and/or help us to limit the amount of wasted resources. If a cancellation is received less than seven days from the event due date we will unfortunately have to pass on the costs of our non-refundable resources to you, this will usually consist of our Student Ambassador wages and catering costs.

Please note that an activity confirmation pack, including; maps, risk assessment and parental consent forms, will be provided, via post or email, for each event involving a visit to the University when a booking is confirmed.

Adviser days

De Montfort University Adviser Day 26 January 2010, 9.15am–3.00pm

With so much information available it is sometimes hard to know what to advise students about Higher Education and to keep up with annual changes to policy and processes. This year our adviser day will focus on post-application topics that can often cause additional worry for students including interviews, support at university and of course applying for financial support.

During the day a number of experts will be on hand to answer all of your questions including faculty-specific admissions tutors, student support officers and representatives from Student Finance England.

For further information and to book your FREE place please contact the Student Advisory Service on (0116) 257 7358 or email studentadviser@dmu.ac.uk

Testimonials

“This event [University experience day] was really useful, I could speak with people who really helped me to feel more confident to go to university.”
Year 10 University Experience Day

“I thought today was really fun and active. I found the mini-workshops really relevant to me. I liked learning about what skills I have, how to set goals and learning more about GCSE options, something I hadn't thought much about before.”
Year 9 Visual CV Day

“The forensic investigation was really good because we got to learn new things about DNA and how maggots can tell us how long a body has been dead.”
Year 8 Forensic Science Taster

“I thought the ways of learning to revise were very useful. This will help me prepare for my exams.”
Year 11 Study Skills Day

“I liked making the tower with spaghetti and marshmallows, it was really fun. Problem solving was useful because I learnt different ways to do them. The robot dog was excellent.”
Year 7 Problem Solving Day

“It was clear on the day, that students had valued it and that it was an excellent life skill experience for them before their actual college interviews.”
Interview Techniques Workshop

Where possible DMU publications can be supplied in alternative media. This includes via email (.pdf), CD-ROM and DVD-ROM. You may request a large font size, audio or Braille version of any publication and where possible, this will be supplied for you. It may not be possible to supply all publications in full, due to size. On these occasions, you will be asked to request specific sections only. DMU will make every effort to find an appropriate alternative format for all requests. For further information on how we can help, please contact The Student Advisory Team at studentadviser@dmu.ac.uk or on (0116) 257 7359.

Primary university experience day (Year 6 – Aspiration raising)

Aimed at Year 6 students from primary schools, the Primary University Experience Day focuses on introducing Higher Education in relation to progression routes from nursery school through to university. Activities such as visits to the library, halls of residence, meeting and working with undergraduate students, taking part in subject activities such as the science of chocolate, and making posters about Higher Education all focus on addressing the basics about what university is, who goes to university, and how university is different to school.

The pre-visit (Year 10 – Aspiration Raising)

Duration: 1 hour

Venue: School

Participants: 30 Year 10 students (Aimhigher Cohort)

Availability: September 2009–June 2010

Activity

WP Co-ordinators, accompanied by current undergraduate students, visit the 30 participants in school prior to the actual experience day. The session focuses on introducing Higher Education to the pupils via an interactive quiz and prepares the students for their visit to the University.

Beyond GCSEs: Supporting post-16 applications (Year 11 – Attainment raising)

NEW FOR 2010

A package made up of three workshops, each individually designed to support Year 11 students through the often confusing time of making their post-16 choices. The workshops focus on post-16 courses and qualifications, learning to write effective personal statements for the Leicestershire Common Application Form (LCAP), and getting advice on managing the college interview process.

Problem solving event (Year 7 – Aspiration raising)

Duration: Half day

Venue: De Montfort University

Participants: Maximum 50 Year 7 students

Availability: June 2010

Activity

This event focuses on the importance of problem solving skills in a variety of contexts. The session comprises a workshop to teach problem solving techniques whilst developing skills through the practice of identifying and solving problems; and a practical team-building activity to utilise problem solving skills alongside communication and initiative. Participants also work with current university students who share their experiences of Higher Education and provide information on student life.

The university experience day

Duration: School day (9.30am–2.30pm)

Venue: De Montfort University

Participants: 30 Year 10 students (Aimhigher Cohort)

Availability: September 2009–June 2010

Activity

The same cohort, accompanied by teachers/learning mentors, spend a day at the University discovering more about the life of a student at university. The students have a campus tour, experience a university lecture, eat lunch in the Campus Centre and take part in a group research and presentation activity on university life. The day focuses on raising awareness and aspirations of students from non-traditional backgrounds by encouraging HE to be considered an option for the future.

Moving on up: Post-16 options and courses

Duration: Two hour workshop

Venue: School

Participants: Maximum 40 Year 11 students (Aimhigher Cohort)

Availability: September 2009–November 2010 (negotiable)

Activity

Through a number of mini-activities students will explore the differences between vocational and academic qualifications; what they mean; and how personal strengths and abilities can be identified and matched to those required by the different courses. This interactive workshop aims to provide a better understanding of the various post-16 options available, thereby helping students make better informed decisions about their future options.

Subject tasters (Year 8 – Aspiration raising)

Duration: Half day

Venue: De Montfort University

Participants: Maximum 30 Year 8 students (WP Cohort) per workshop

Availability: May 2010

Activity

Interactive workshops in a number of different subject areas. Pupils work with university academics, and Student Ambassadors to get a taste of teaching and learning at university. This is done through fun and informative activities, specifically designed to engage and inspire younger students. Details of specific workshops will be sent to school co-ordinators later in the year, and will also be detailed in the Aimhigher Leicester City and Leicestershire Year 8 Taster Brochure. Aimhigher funding may be available to support Leicester and Leicestershire schools with this activity.

Maximise your memory: Effective revision techniques (Year 11 – Attainment raising)

NEW FOR 2010

Duration: School day (9.30am–2.30pm)

Venue: De Montfort University

Participants: Max. 30 Year 11 students (Aimhigher Cohort)

Availability: September 2009–March 2010

Activity

Maximise your memory is a fun learning day that focuses on improving memory retention and recall through an exciting series of interactive exercises and challenges. Each activity, including the learning styles challenge, mind mapping, associated recall and mnemonics amongst others, aims to equip students with a set of practical skills and techniques which can be used to enhance revision. Combined with advice on exam preparation, successful navigation through exams, managing associated stress, and hints and tips from experienced undergraduate Student Ambassadors, this event will encourage students to adopt a more confident approach to their revision.

Selling yourself on paper: Personal statements, the facts

Duration: One hour workshop

Venue: School

Participants: Maximum 40 Year 11 students (Aimhigher Cohort)

Availability: November 2009–January 2010 (negotiable)

Activity

This workshop aims to equip students with the ability to effectively sell themselves on paper, with a particular emphasis on the LCAP form. Students will be encouraged to generate ideas through personal reflection and organise their ideas and thoughts into mind maps which, in turn will help them to structure their own personal statements. Each step is demonstrated through an interactive exercise and will be reinforced with the input of experienced undergraduate students. By the end of this workshop students should have built the confidence to begin writing their personal statements, if not have the beginnings of a well structured statement.

The Visual Curriculum Vitae (Year 9 – Attainment raising)

Duration: School day (9.30am–2.30pm)

Venue: De Montfort University

Participants: Maximum 30 Year 9 students (Aimhigher Cohort)

Availability: September 2009–February 2010

Activity

An opportunity for Year 9 students to spend a day at the University, working with staff and undergraduate students to create a Visual CV. The CV concentrates on four main areas; values and beliefs, team working skills, multiple intelligence skills and goal setting, all specific to each individual pupil. Through a series of interactive activities based on these key areas, pupils will be encouraged to examine their personal skills abilities, and consider their future ambitions as a way of assisting them in making insightful decisions particularly in their upcoming GCSE subject options. The CV is a starting point, or a daily reminder, which can be further developed to incorporate each pupil's growing skill base and future goals.

Parents' evenings/Careers evenings/Year 11 Options evenings

Higher Education presence available in the form of an information stand with advice and guidance from WP Co-ordinators for parents, teachers and students. Events are attended by a representative from one of three universities; De Montfort University, Loughborough University or University of Loughborough. Presentations to parents, such as Student Finance, Student Life and Applying to University, are also available. All queries should be directed to Tim Farthing (Aimhigher Officer) on (0116) 270 7942

You're hired!: Essential interview skills

Duration: Two hour workshop

Venue: School

Participants: Maximum 40 Year 11 students (Aimhigher Cohort)

Availability: January 2010–March 2010 (negotiable)

Activity

You're hired is an interactive workshop that aims to help students take a well organised and more confident approach to interviews – it covers how to prepare for them and how to perform well in one. Students will look at body language, commonly asked interview questions, especially in a college/sixth form interview, and analyse examples of good and bad interviews. There will also be an opportunity to participate in simulated mock interviews with undergraduate Student Ambassadors, and get constructive feedback aimed at improving interview techniques. Mock interview questions can be distributed to students prior to the day.