



UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX SCHOOLS & COLLEGES ACTIVITY GUIDE

2019/20



University of Essex



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WHO WE ARE

Here at the University of Essex we have a wide range of engaging, motivating and inspiring events and opportunities to encourage talented students to consider and apply for Higher Education.

Our diverse Outreach and Student Recruitment teams bring a range of academic and teaching experience to support students and their teachers, as well as providing opportunities that promise to engage and inspire the talented undergraduates of the future.

OUTREACH TEAM

The Outreach team co-ordinate multiple activities and events throughout the year including our STEM-tacular Science fair, Insight Day and Teachers and Advisors CPD Week. Using teacher feedback, we design our events to increase attainment, raise aspirations and help young people make informed decisions about study routes and career progression. We predominantly work with students from underrepresented groups, including those who are the first in their family to enter Higher Education, those from particular socioeconomic backgrounds, and those from certain ethnic and racial minority groups.

CONTACT
outreach@essex.ac.uk

RECRUITMENT TEAM

The University of Essex Student Recruitment team work with schools and colleges across the UK and around the world. The team focus resources to support schools in enabling post-16 students to make informed higher-education decisions. The team coordinate our Essex Open Days, Applicant Days and UCAS exhibition, in addition to bespoke on-campus activity and delivering sessions in schools and colleges.

CONTACT
schools-link@essex.ac.uk



“The best part of the **Insight Day** was learning how different subjects can affect my future in different ways, it seems more realistic now.”



“The enthusiasm and professionalism that you all displayed as part of our **Campus Visit** was brilliant and the learners could not help but be inspired, it is clear to see how you have achieved the accolade of University of the Year.”



SCHOOLS MEMBERSHIP

The Schools Membership scheme was launched in April 2015 to create a network across Essex, Suffolk, East London and Norfolk and has enabled us to transform the way we communicate with schools and colleges.

Over the years Schools Membership has expanded to include several strands:

- Schools Membership Plus
E smpplus@essex.ac.uk
- Schools Membership Pre 16
E smpre16@essex.ac.uk
- EU Schools Membership
E overseas@essex.ac.uk
- International Schools Membership
E overseas@essex.ac.uk
- UKI Schools Membership
E overseas@essex.ac.uk
- Schools Membership Teacher Alumni Network
E smteacheralumninetwork@essex.ac.uk

Each membership level is tailored to suit the needs of their strand but all partners are allocated a key member of staff at the University of Essex, receive newsletters, access to exclusive CPD resources, discounted rates at our extensive facilities on our Colchester and Southend campuses and priority booking on exciting University of Essex events.

One of the key benefits of the scheme is annual bursaries to put toward attending on campus activity. The key below indicates throughout this booklet what partners are able to spend their money on:

- Schools Membership Plus (year 12-13) ○
- Schools Membership Pre-16 (year 9-11) □
- EU, International & UKI Schools Membership (year 11-13) △

Schools and colleges selected for our Schools Membership scheme have already been contacted. However, we are hoping to expand the project in the near future, so watch this space! For more details or to find out if your school/college is a partner please email: smpplus@essex.ac.uk

PRIMARY

INVITE TO OPEN DAYS

Here at Essex, we know that it's great to get involved whatever your age. Research suggests getting a feel for universities at a young age can be really inspiring for children and we would like to welcome children and parents of any age to come along to our Open Days each year. Head to our website for more information, – there's no need to book a place if students are under 16.

FIND OUT MORE
► www.essex.ac.uk/visit-us/open-days

ESSEX CHILDREN'S UNIVERSITY

We are proud to be a validated Learning Destination for Essex Children's University, which celebrates and rewards achievements in learning.

Essex Children's University is one of a growing number of children's universities around the country, each working to provide children aged 7-14 years (and 5-6 year olds with their families) with exciting and innovative learning activities and experiences outside of the normal school day.

FIND OUT MORE
► www.essex.ac.uk/schools-and-colleges/primary

CONTACT
E outreach@essex.ac.uk



SECONDARY

PRE-16 CAMPUS VISITS □

Our campus visits aren't your average campus experience. Our aim is to give students a first-hand experience of what it's like to be an undergraduate student.

We offer tailored campus visits for students in KS3-4 throughout the academic year.

☞ Our students were keen to participate and ask questions.☞

☞ It was a joy to listen to the conversations between the students and the ambassadors and hear how their views changed.☞

STEM-TACULAR 31 MARCH 2020

(Formerly known as The Big Bang @ Essex) □

Our STEM-tacular programme is a celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) for young people in the UK.

We have delivered an annual STEM event since 2013, hosting schools from across Essex, Suffolk and East London. To add

your school to our waiting list for our STEM-tacular event, please complete our online form and a member of our team will be in touch if additional places become available.

THE SHAKESPEARE PROJECT – 3 APRIL 2020 □

Our Shakespeare Project is a celebration of all things Shakespeare to help students get to grips with the Bard and his works.

Bring your year 10 students to our Colchester campus to experience practical workshops and performances, all linked to their National Curriculum study and future careers.

HOW TO BOOK

► www.essex.ac.uk/schools-and-colleges/secondary

CONTACT
E outreach@essex.ac.uk
or email your Schools Membership Pre 16 contact

SIXTH FORM/COLLEGE

INSIGHT DAY – 26 MARCH 2020 ○△

Back by popular demand, the University of Essex's Insight Day is designed to give your students a taste of what it's like to study at undergraduate level.

Students will also visit our interactive fair where they can find out how to access university, the next steps after a degree and the different career opportunities out there. Booking is available online now.

SUMMER SCHOOL – 5-9 JULY 2020

Our summer residential experience offers students the chance to live, study and socialise like university students for FREE! A dynamic programme of academic and social activities allows students to develop a university mind-set, increase their confidence and enhance their university applications. Students will pick up the knowledge and skills they need for university life by living and learning like an undergraduate student.

“The experience was incredible, a great use of time to help me prepare for university, while also giving me essential skills and confidence.”

“It has gone really fast, but has been really good fun! It looks great on your CV. You learn a lot, so I say go for it!”

“It has made me feel more likely that I can actually go to university and do well.”

2019 Summer School students

ESSEX UCAS HIGHER EDUCATION EXHIBITION – 18 JUNE 2020 ○

UCAS exhibitions are a unique opportunity for students – and anyone supporting them – to explore the wide range of opportunities available after school or college, all in one setting. Whether they're interested in applying to university or are looking at alternatives such as apprenticeships, they're sure to find something that appeals to them!

FIND OUT MORE

► www.ucas.com/events/essex-higher-education-exhibition-2020-353021

Schools Membership bursaries available

Schools Membership Plus (year 12-13) ○
Schools Membership Pre-16 (year 9-11) □
EU, International & UKI Schools Membership △

OPEN DAYS

You don't know open days until you've experienced an Essex Open Day. Think unconventional. Think meeting world-class academics and like-minded students. Think family. Think home. Think taster lectures. Think art. Think tea and cake. Think all of this plus lots of free goodies, plenty of entertainment and much more! Think you know open days? Think again.

Colchester Open Days

26 October 2019
20 June 2020

Southend Open Day

2020 date to be confirmed

FIND OUT MORE

► www.essex.ac.uk/visit-us/open-days

TASTER WEEK – 1-3 JULY 2020 △

Each summer we host an exciting taster week for students in year 11, 12 and 13. Throughout the week, we offer a range of interactive and enlightening subject-specific sessions to provide students an insight into studying a particular course at university.

Attending taster days is a great way for students to explore their chosen subject in more detail and experience a day in the life of an undergraduate student.

We are delighted to offer a taster week travel bursary up to £250 for attending school groups (terms and conditions available online).

Faculty of Social Sciences

Wednesday 1 July

Faculty of Humanities

Thursday 2 July

Faculty of Science and Health

Friday 3 July

POST-16 CAMPUS VISITS ○△

Our campus visits aim to give students a first-hand experience of what university life is like.

Our tailored programmes for post-16 campus visit days offer students the chance to experience taster sessions or learn study skills at HE level.

HOW TO BOOK

► www.essex.ac.uk/schools-and-colleges/sixth-form

CONTACT

E schools-link@essex.ac.uk
or email your Schools Membership contact





SCHOOL AND COLLEGE TALKS

We are pleased to offer a wide range of Higher Education talks and workshops for students, parents/guardians and teachers/advisors. These can be delivered in school or during a campus visit.

APPLYING TO UNIVERSITY AND THE UCAS PROCESS

We can provide a step-by-step guide to the UCAS process including applying through UCAS, applicant days and what students should do when they receive offers from universities. We also take students through using the search functions on UCAS and what to include in a personal statement.

CHOOSING A UNIVERSITY AND A COURSE

This presentation aims to let students know what to consider when thinking of which course and university to apply to, such as location, reputation, accommodation and entry requirements. We also explain university terminology so students can make the most informed choice.

PERSONAL STATEMENTS

This interactive presentation will talk students through what to do and what not to do when writing a personal statement, and the type of content and structure to include. We also give students plenty of time to ask questions and can provide the opportunity for students to start brainstorming their ideas.

STUDENT FINANCE

Find out about the student loan system including tuition fees, maintenance loans and repayments. We also explain the difference between bursaries and scholarships and how to find more information about them and give examples of the University of Essex scholarships and bursaries.

WHY GO TO UNIVERSITY?

In this presentation we talk students through the opportunities that are open to them going into Higher Education, including employment, study abroad and placements options. We also look into the benefits of studying a subject they enjoy, student life and the Students' Union.

STUDENT LIFE

Find out about day-to-day student life, the opportunities available and hints and tips on making the most of your time in higher education. This session may be delivered by a student ambassador, so they can share their experiences first-hand.

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS △

Essex works with schools and colleges all around the world to support students in making informed decisions regarding higher education in the UK.

We welcome students to join our exciting on-campus events, or are happy to organise bespoke campus visits. Schools Membership partners can access a travel bursary to contribute to the cost of travelling to our campus.

Our Essex team also attend various events across the world every year and would be delighted to see you there, or take the opportunity to visit your school or college whilst we are in-country, to deliver any of the workshops detailed above or a more informal session.

FIND OUT MORE

► www.essex.ac.uk/schools-and-colleges/international

CONTACT

E overseas@essex.ac.uk

HOW TO BOOK

To request a higher education talk, please complete the booking form on our website, or email your key contact at Essex. Please include as much information as possible, including date and time, year group, number of attending students and session length.

► www.essex.ac.uk/schools-and-colleges/talks-and-visits

CONTACT

E schools-link@essex.ac.uk
or email your Schools Membership contact

EPQ AND STUDY SKILLS SESSIONS

We are delighted to offer workshop sessions to support the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) and the wider study skills needed to succeed in Higher Education, for key stage 4 & 5 students. These sessions can be delivered on campus, or in school/college for our Schools Membership Plus partners.

ACADEMIC WRITING & REFERENCING

In this session, students will complete a number of interactive tasks to highlight the importance of writing their ideas clearly and explicitly. They will also discuss academic style, how to form a coherent essay, and a brief introduction to referencing will be given.

CRITICAL THINKING AND DEVELOPING AN ARGUMENT

This session will introduce the idea of critical thinking through a series of fun and interactive brain teasers, riddles and tasks. Students will make links between critical thinking and the importance of developing an academic argument.

DEVELOPING YOUR TITLE/RESEARCH QUESTION

In this session, a method for transforming research ideas into research questions will be introduced. Students will apply the transformative process to their own research interests, leaving the session with a question that will lead them into good research. Exam board responses to research questions and EPQ titles will also be discussed.

REFERENCING

In this session, students will discuss the importance of referencing, when referencing is appropriate and also how to source a valid and reliable reference. Through a series of engaging and interactive tasks, students will receive a thorough introduction to referencing, with particular focus on the Harvard Referencing system.

RESEARCH SKILLS

This session will equip students with a thorough understanding of what it means to conduct research. Methods for conducting research, including a literature review, will be introduced and the skills needed to be an effective researcher will be discussed. Students will put their knowledge to the test by critically evaluating a given text.

REVISION & EXAM TECHNIQUES

This session will encourage students to consider why revision is important and how to identify revision techniques that are best suited to their individual learning styles. Top tips for getting the most out of exams will also be discussed.

SKIM READING & SCANNING

In this session, students will complete a series of fun and interactive tasks designed to help improve skim reading, scanning and note taking skills. A discussion of why these are important academic skills will also be held.

STUDY SKILLS & LEARNING STYLES

This session is targeted at introducing and improving independent study skills by highlighting the importance of individual learning styles. Students will be supported in identifying their own learning style and then use this to their advantage in a group setting whilst developing and presenting on a given topic.

HOW TO BOOK

► www.essex.ac.uk/schools-and-colleges/talks-and-visits

CONTACT

E outreach@essex.ac.uk
or email your Schools Membership contact



TASTER SESSIONS

Delivered by our enthusiastic academics and PhD students our taster sessions are designed to give students a flavour of what a subject is like at undergraduate level. These sessions are aimed at key stage 4 and 5 learners and can be delivered on campus or for our Schools Membership Plus partners in school/college.

HISTORY: APARTHEID, RACIAL SEGREGATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS

This session aims to increase students' awareness of racial segregation and its historic significance. We will highlight an important case study of Apartheid in South Africa from 1948-1994 and encourage students to recognise the importance of activism and the struggle for human rights during the second part of the 20th century. We will also discuss how the study of history can be thematic, as well as chronological, and will identify relevant entry requirements for studying history at the University of Essex.

HISTORY: BRITAIN AND BRITISHNESS

This session explores the theoretical approach to history known as 'identity' and applies this to a context of British decolonisation between 1945 and 1970, pointing to the idea that decolonisation affected people's sense of 'Britishness' and thus encouraged changes in the social and political world. Trump, Brexit, and the rise of nationalism have all captured an identity with the past. The session is also designed to teach students about history at a university level, showing students how professional historians construct and use history.

HISTORY: SOCIAL REFORM IN 1890-1920 UNITED STATES

This session aims to introduce students to the key events that shaped social reform in the period 1890-1920 in the United States, including labour and educational reforms. Students will identify links between these reforms and the rights-based movements in the ensuing decades and discuss the contributions that grassroots campaigners have made throughout this period of history.

LANGUAGES: GET A TASTE FOR STUDYING A LANGUAGE

In this session, students will experience a very practical and interactive introduction to learning a new language. Students will have the opportunity to try out the sounds of a new language, such as Chinese or Arabic, getting an overview of the tonal system and how the different characters work. Students will leave the session with a first insight into studying a language at university and be able to speak a few new words!

LAW: PROSPECTS OF A LAW DEGREE

This session aims to expose students to the diverse career paths obtainable after gaining a Law degree. Students will consider the importance of law within society and understand the impact they can make as law graduates. Using the United Kingdom as a case in point, we will look at the arms of government involved in the law-making process and will discuss existing statutes as well as the underpinning case law surrounding them. By the end of the session, students should understand how law helps society function.

LINGUISTICS: AN INTRODUCTION

This taster session aims to tackle the common misconception that a linguist is simply someone that knows many languages. In this session, students will be introduced to the various linguistic fields, and through a mixture of activities and group work they will gain a better understanding of what studying linguistics entails. This session will also briefly focus on a case study of forensic linguistics, a subfield of linguistics. The University of Essex entry requirements will also be discussed.

LINGUISTICS: GET A TASTE FOR STUDYING LINGUISTICS

In this session, students will get an insight into some of the ways in which we study Linguistics at Essex, whether that is exploring how meaning is made through words and sounds, how we learn (and possibly lose) our first and additional languages, or how to Teach English as a Foreign Language in different international contexts. Students will participate in practical and interactive workshops and will leave with an understanding of the range of possibilities for studying within the Department of Language and Linguistics at Essex.

LINGUISTICS: MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

This taster session will focus on the introduction of three skills or processes: interpreting, translating and subtitling. Students will translate and interpret some sentences from English into one or more Modern Foreign Languages. By the end of the session, students will be able to understand and explain the differences among interpreting, translating and subtitling. They will also be able to identify different types of translation processes and interpreting modes.

LINGUISTICS: SOCIOLINGUISTICS 'LANGUAGE IN SOCIETY'

In this session, students will be introduced to language contact and its consequences. Using interactive learning materials, group work and audio-visuals, students will apply a critical perspective on language change, dispelling their misconceptions about languages around the world and value linguistic diversity. By the end, they will develop a better understanding of how language and society affect each other in a never-ceasing process.

LINGUISTICS: WORDS AND SENTENCES

In this session, students will learn about linguistics in general, and more about theoretical linguistics, in particular. Students will solve some syntactic puzzles to get an idea of what syntax is, covering one of the core modules offered on the BA Programme here at Essex. By the end of the session, students should be able to define linguistics, know more about syntax in general and they should be able to solve linguistics puzzles.



LITERATURE TASTER

This session consolidates knowledge on specific GCSE/A-level set texts. Using close textual analysis the students will practise using inference and evidence to construct ideas about synopses. The students will share ideas and develop their discussion and creative writing skills to create their own synopses for books. Students will also get the chance to practice their public speaking and presentation skills with peer review feedback.

LITERATURE/ DRAMA TASTER

We will look at developing students' ability to read, understand and explore personal responses to specific GCSE/A-level Shakespearean texts. Analysing rhythm and language form and structure to explore meanings and effects from the texts. Students will rewrite a Shakespearean extract in a modern context. The session can be adapted for either a literature or drama context, with more focus on performing the re-written piece in a drama context.

SOCIOLOGY: THE ROLE OF MASS MEDIA TO SOCIOLOGY

This taster session introduces students to the core meaning of sociology, why the study of sociology is important and the different components that form sociology. The session further examines the Mass Media as an important component of sociology and how the media influences the study of sociology and society as a whole. Finally, students will be informed on the entry requirements for studying sociology at the University of Essex.

SOCIOLOGY: INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY

What is sociology and what do sociologists actually do? In this session students will discuss key concepts in sociology such as race, class and gender and how they have changed over time.

SPORT AND EXERCISE SCIENCE: WE'LL VISIT YOU IN SCHOOL

Our Sports and Exercise Science team have three practical workshops on offer that cover exercise physiology and metabolism, training at altitude – the acute response, and performance testing and sports nutrition. These workshops therefore aim to deliver material in line with your education curriculum such as: cardiovascular demands of exercise, optimising physiological performance, as well as technology in sport and measuring energy expenditure. In all workshops: students will get hands-on experience with cutting edge sport science and sport performance equipment by collecting, analysing and understanding performance data. They will learn the theoretical principles underpinning the practical activities taught by sports scientists.

HOW TO BOOK

To book a taster session, please complete the booking form on our website, or email your key contact at Essex. Please include as much information as possible, including the desired session, date and time, year group, number of attending students and session length.

► www.essex.ac.uk/schools-and-colleges/talks-and-visits

CONTACT

E outreach@essex.ac.uk
or email your Schools Membership contact





TEACHERS/ADVISORS

TEACHERS AND ADVISORS CPD WEEK

30 MARCH - 3 APRIL 2020

We recognise that teachers/advisors play an important role in preparing students for undergraduate study, which is why we're committed to investing in continuing professional development wherever we can.

As part of this, we run a free annual CPD Week, where we host a variety of external and internal guest speakers to run exciting and thought-provoking workshop opportunities.

Further details of this year's event will feature on our website, so check in throughout the year to stay updated.

HOW TO BOOK

► www.essex.ac.uk/schools-and-colleges/events/cpd-week

CONTACT

E outreach@essex.ac.uk
or email your Schools Membership contact

ANNUAL TEACHERS' CONFERENCE FRIDAY 19 JUNE 2020 ○□△

Save the date for our Annual Teachers' and Advisors' Conference in June 2020. We are delighted to invite teachers, advisors and counsellors from across the UK and around the world to join us on our Colchester Campus to attend interactive sessions and workshops, and receive updates on higher education and the wider education environment.

The day offers sessions to support CPD, unique networking opportunities and is free-of-charge. Schools Membership partners will also have the opportunity to provide feedback on the scheme and contribute to the programme for the next academic year. Please contact us to register your interest.

HOW TO BOOK

► www.essex.ac.uk/schools-and-colleges/events/annual-teachers-conference

CONTACT

E outreach@essex.ac.uk
or email your Schools Membership contact

RESOURCES

To help guide you and your students through the university application process, we have created a number of resources that might be handy:

Reference writing

Fees and funding

Personal statement writing guide

Decision making guide

Revision guide

Clearing day survival guide

You'll find all these resources on the [Teachers and Advisors](#) section of our website:

www.essex.ac.uk/schools-and-colleges/sixth-form/resources

www.essex.ac.uk/outreach/documents/transgender-guidance.pdf

TOURS

We understand that choosing a university is a new experience, so why not get to grips with our campus and accommodation by taking a tour with a current student? Campus Tours are included at our **Open Days**, but if you can't make it then you could book onto a campus tours which we run every weekday at 12.30pm.

FIND OUT MORE

► www.essex.ac.uk/visit-us/campus-tours

ANYTHING ELSE?

Let us know if there's anything else you think we could do to support your school or college that's not listed in this guide by dropping us an email.

CONTACT

E schools-link@essex.ac.uk
or email your Schools Membership contact



THINGS TO SHOUT ABOUT



WE ARE TEF
GOLD

(Teaching Excellence Framework, 2017)

**TOP 15 FOR THE SEVENTH
YEAR RUNNING FOR OVERALL
SATISFACTION
IN THE NATIONAL STUDENT SURVEY**

(NSS 2019, English Mainstream Universities*)

THE AWARDS
2018

*Non-specialist higher education institutions with a survey population of at least 500

WE ARE ESSEX.

WE'RE ON THE SIDE OF **PEOPLE WITH GUTS** – REBELS WITH A CAUSE. WE'RE ABOUT PEOPLE WHO **LOVE TO LEARN HOW**, BUT **WANT TO CHALLENGE WHY**. BUT WHY DO WE HAVE TO STOP HERE? WHY CAN'T WE TAKE IT FURTHER, TO THE BIT WHERE IT REALLY GETS INTERESTING? WE'RE ABOUT THE PEOPLE WHO HUDDLE OUTSIDE A CLASS LONG AFTER IT'S FINISHED BECAUSE THERE'S MUCH **MORE TO BE SAID**, MORE ARGUMENTS TO BE HAD. WE'RE ABOUT PEOPLE WHO ARE BOLD ENOUGH TO **CHALLENGE INEQUALITY** AND THE STATUS QUO. PEOPLE WHO DON'T EXPECT THE WORLD TO CHANGE SIMPLY BECAUSE THEY LIKED A FACEBOOK STATUS OR NODDED WHEN SOMEONE ELSE SPOKE. AT ESSEX YOU'RE NOT JUST A STUDENT, **YOU'RE A MEMBER**, SOMEONE WITH GENUINE LICENCE TO SHAPE WHAT GOES ON AROUND YOU. TO US IT DOESN'T MATTER WHERE YOU'VE COME FROM. WE'RE INTERESTED IN HOW YOU WANT TO GROW AND **WHAT YOU WANT TO CHANGE**. WE'RE AFTER PEOPLE WHO WILL HELP US PUSH THE FRONTIERS OF KNOWLEDGE. **CHALLENGING CONVENTION** IS IN OUR DNA. ALL OF WHICH LEAVES YOU WITH A DECISION: ARE YOU GOING TO SIT AND WATCH THE WORLD GO BY? OR DO YOU HAVE THE **COURAGE AND ENERGY** TO SHAPE IT? WE'LL HELP YOU EXPLORE, QUESTION AND CREATE **POWERFUL IDEAS**. WE'LL INTRODUCE YOU TO PEOPLE FROM EVERY CORNER OF THE PLANET, A **GENUINELY GLOBAL COMMUNITY** THAT LIVES, WORKS AND PLAYS TOGETHER. IF YOU GIVE UP AT THE FIRST HURDLE, ESSEX ISN'T FOR YOU. IF YOU WANT TO BE SPOON-FED A DEGREE, ESSEX ISN'T FOR YOU. IF YOU ARE BRAVE ENOUGH TO HAVE IDEAS AND GENEROUS ENOUGH TO SHARE THEM,

WELCOME HOME.