

**Russell Group Teachers' and Advisers' Conferences 2022**  
**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2022 – University of York**

- 9.45am** Registration, refreshments and university exhibition stalls
- 10.15am** Welcome and introduction to the event
- 10.30am** Keynote speaker
- 10.50am** Advancing Access update
- 11.15am** Coffee break
- 11.30am** CPD workshops, choice of:
- The benefits of studying arts, humanities and social sciences
  - Student finance, bursaries and scholarships
  - Supporting your students to apply to Oxford or Cambridge
  - Supporting disadvantaged students through contextual admissions and foundation years
- 12.15pm** CPD workshops, choice of:
- Writing effective UCAS references
  - Supporting students with their study skills as they transition to HE
  - Supporting your students to apply to Oxford or Cambridge
  - The benefits of studying arts, humanities and social sciences
- 1.00pm** Lunch and university exhibition stalls
- 1.50pm** CPD workshops, choice of:
- Writing effective UCAS references
  - Supporting students with their study skills as they transition to HE
  - Supporting disadvantaged students through contextual admissions and foundation years
  - Student finance, bursaries and scholarships
- 2.35pm** Coffee break
- 2.50pm** Interactive workshop/focus group
- 3.30pm** Event close – staff and students from interactive workshop will remain available for a further 15 minutes of networking

**Please see overleaf for workshop session descriptions**

**Breakout CPD workshop sessions**

<b>Title and presenters</b>	<b>Session description</b>
<p><b>Writing effective UCAS references</b> Presented by Jen Barton, Student Recruitment Manager at Durham University and Kirstin Henry, Widening Participation Officer at the University of Edinburgh</p>	<p>For many universities, the UCAS reference is an important tool in the admissions process. The reference may not only provide information about an applicant's suitability for university study, but is also a valuable opportunity to put an applicant's academic achievement in context. What exactly do competitive universities want to see in UCAS references though, and what are some of the common errors that they see – and how can they be avoided? This session will answer these questions, using examples to facilitate discussion and feedback.</p>
<p><b>The benefits of studying arts, humanities and social sciences</b> Presented by Chiara Amoretti, Faculty Engagement Officer at the University of Bristol and Alice Stonehouse, Student Recruitment and Widening Participation Senior Officer at Queen Mary University of London</p>	<p>This session outlines the value of studying arts, humanities and social sciences at university and how to advise students pursuing these. We will discuss employability, transferrable skills and why Arts graduates are sought after by employers to challenge the myth that studying these subjects does not lead to good/profitable careers.</p>
<p><b>Student finance, bursaries and scholarships</b> Presented by Samar Tantush, Student Recruitment Outreach Officer at the University of Nottingham and Stephanie Coles, Education Outreach Lead Officer at the University of Leeds</p>	<p>This topic at times can feel overwhelming or confusing for students, and many are unaware of what bursaries or scholarships they are eligible for. This session will give an overview of the Student Finance system, including the repayment changes coming into place in 2023 and what this means for students when they graduate. It will also look at the various bursaries students can apply for and what a scholarship means. During the session there will be interactive activities as well as a chance for group discussions for teachers and advisors to share their thoughts and ideas.</p>
<p><b>Supporting disadvantaged students through contextual admissions and foundation years</b> Presented by Claire O'Driscoll, Outreach Officer at the University of Birmingham and Alex Tansell, Widening Participation</p>	<p>This session will give you some practical tips for how to support students to find, apply for and make the most of contextual admissions schemes and foundation years at universities. You will come away knowing what to look out for as well as how to help students understand what is on offer to them and how to access it. We will give some real</p>

<p>Lifecycle Officer at the University of Warwick</p>	<p>examples of the types of schemes and foundation years out there, and have a go at identifying student characteristics that would be good to include in admission schemes. You will have the chance to view a sample application form and give it a go yourself, making sure you're ready to find the most suitable and beneficial opportunities for your students.</p>
<p><b>Supporting your students to apply to Oxford or Cambridge</b> Presented by Helen Brooks, Registrar and Director of Admissions at Mansfield College, Oxford and Rachel Cox, Deputy Head of Student Recruitment (UK) at the University of Cambridge</p>	<p>This session will explore what admissions tutors are looking for within the application process and offer advice about how students can best prepare for admissions tests and interviews. We will give an insight into how applications are processed within the two universities and what student life is like at Oxford and Cambridge. Advice will also be provided on personal statements, references and supporting students with 'super-curricular' activities.</p>
<p><b>Supporting students with their study skills as they transition to HE</b> Presented by Dr Jessica Kong, Student Adviser at the London School of Economics and Political Science and David Metcalfe, Student Recruitment Co-ordinator at Newcastle University</p>	<p>This session will help identify key skills that students will need when studying at university and how to aid them in this transition. The difference in mindset from further education to higher education around studying will be addressed and examined. The session will also look at the key aspects of studying at university and what will be expected of students in regards to assignments.</p>