

Guidance Information for Teachers

Thank you for agreeing to provide an academic reference in support of an application to Experience UoS Residential, widening participation programme.

This reference should be completed by a teacher, school guidance counsellor, principal/head teacher, head of year/sixth-form or careers advisor at the applicant's current FE institution.

Competition for places is extremely high, so this reference will be used by the University in order to shortlist suitable applicants for this residential.

Please provide details on the following:

- Verify that the applicant meets the specific Academic and Widening participation eligibility criteria
- If there are specific GCSE or A level subjects/ grades required, please verify that these have either been achieved, or form part of the applicant's programme of study
- Please provide predicted grades wherever possible. If you are unable to give predicted grades, please comment upon the applicant's general academic potential
- Summarise the applicant's general attitude and motivation towards their studies
- Any other relevant information

Overview of programmes/residentials:

Experience UoS is a residential course for Year 12 students. Our 4-day, 3-night on-campus programmes, give students the opportunity to experience studying a subject at university. They will learn in an academic environment and work with students from other schools and colleges through a timetable of lectures, practical activities and a variety of fun social activities in the evenings. They will get to meet our enthusiastic team of Student Ambassadors studying the courses you are aspiring to, as well as academics, researchers and alumni.

Participants live in university halls of residence for the duration of their stay, and are mentored by current undergraduate and postgraduate students, giving a unique opportunity to find out what life is like at university. This is a free course for those who meet the eligibility criteria.

To be eligible applicants must meet the **Universities academic criteria**, so be taking relevant subjects in relation to the chosen subject taster and meet at least one of the following **Widening Participation criteria**:

- Current home post code shows that you live in an area with low levels of progression to Higher Education. (Postcodes within the lowest 2 POLAR4 or TUNDRA (MSOA) quintiles: Q1 or Q2). Postcodes can be checked for eligibility on our [Postcode Checker](#) .
- or current home postcode falls within the lowest 20 per cent of the Index of Multiple Deprivation ([Check postcode](#)), or a member of a travelling family.
- In receipt of a 16-19 bursary or similar grant OR received Free School Meals after the age of 14
- Living or grew up in Local Authority care
- Are a Young Carer
- Are an Estranged student

The Course is open to students (**home UK only**) currently studying in Year 12 (or equivalent) at maintained schools or colleges in the UK.

Please note: The reference should be completed with school/ college logo, signed and dated. A copy should then be given to the applicant to upload onto their application form or emailed directly to c.e.bolton@soton.ac.uk . If sending by email, please include the students name and the name of the residential that they are applying to (e.g. Abigail Taylor: Experience UoS)