

Information, Advice and Guidance Sessions for Schools and Colleges



The Schools and Colleges team at St Mary's University offers a range of information, advice and guidance sessions for post-16 learners considering university level study. Our sessions can be hosted at your school or college, or here on our campus.

Below is an outline of the main sessions within our activity offering. We also consider bespoke requests and can tailor most talks to a parent or carer audience.

Activity	Suitable for	Time of year best delivered
Student Life Presentations and Q&A This presentation is delivered by St Mary's students, who talk about their journey to university and their current student life experiences. As part of this, they facilitate a Q&A on student life topics, combined with running a quiz to introduce learners to terms associated with teaching methods and support available at university.	All post-16 learners	Throughout
'How to write a great personal statement' Workshop This workshop outlines the UCAS application process; the dos and don'ts of writing an application; structure overview; a task to get students thinking about their experiences; and an activity which asks students to critique example personal statements.	All post-16 learners	Year 12 June and July Year 13 September and October
Personal Statement 1-1s Our 1-1 support and guidance is delivered to students who have a draft of their personal statement which needs reviewing. These usually take place face-to-face at your school or college but can be delivered virtually if preferable on the platform of your choice. We can also read personal statements emailed to our general schools and colleges address by teachers and advisers and send back written feedback.	Year 13, Level 3 final year	October, November, December and January
'Why go to university?' Workshop A workshop that outlines the academic, employability and social benefits of attending university, to get students thinking about why this may be a pathway they wish to consider.	Year 12, Level 3 first year	September, October, November, December
Study Skills Workshop This workshop introduces the key skills needed for university level study, including independent learning, time management, effective notetaking, and academic reading & writing. It's designed to support students as they prepare for the transition from sixth form or college to university life.	All post-16 learners	All year

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Activity	Suitable for	Time of year best delivered
'Factors to consider when picking a university' Workshop A workshop which outlines the different factors to consider when picking a university. It is designed to get students to pinpoint their top priorities when making this important decision. Is location their biggest factor? Campus or city university? Are league tables important, how should they be researched? Accommodation or commuting? Do the courses they are applying to include the modules they wish to study? And more.	All post-16 learners	Year 12 June, July, as they begin to consider which universities, they will be writing personal statements for. Year 13 after January, to help them choose their firm choice.
Student Finance and budgeting workshop An overview of how to apply for student finance, additional financial support and how the repayments system works. This session also includes a budgeting activity and the type of expenses students should expect as a university student.	Year 13, Level 3 final year	February, March, April
Studying in London For schools and colleges based outside of London or the UK, we offer a session which outlines student life with a specific focus on the opportunities which studying in England's capital has to offer.	All post-16 learners	All Year
Academic information talks An overview of a St Mary's degree programme, outlining entry requirements, modules, graduate destinations, and other opportunities.	All post-16 learners	All year
Academic taster sessions On a specific subject matched to a school or college's curriculum, or on the lecturer's specialism, to promote university level study.	All post-16 learners	All year
Attendance at your Higher Education Fair Our Student Ambassadors attend higher education and careers fairs at schools and colleges throughout the year, speaking to students about St Mary's degree programmes, entry requirements and student life.	All age groups, with additional talks offered to post-16 learners as part of the event if requested	All year
Parental support sessions, or attendance at parents' evenings Many of the talks outlined here can be tailored for a parent or carer audience, helping them understand how they can support their learner(s) considering higher education.	All parents	All year
Campus visits to St Mary's St Mary's on-campus Experience Day, which can include any of the activities mentioned above, including a campus tour of the University.	All post-16 learners	All year