

Student Guidance

This guidance is here to help you complete our application form. Please read through this guidance carefully before you apply for our programmes. If you have any questions, please email app@socialmobility.org.uk or call 0207 183 1189.

School Type

Current School

Please select the school/college which you **currently attend** from the drop down list provided (see diagram below). If your school does not appear on the list, please get in contact with us.

The school where you completed your GCSEs (if different)

Please select the school which you attended to **take your GCSEs/National 5s** from the drop down list provided. If this is the same school as the one you currently attend, select 'Same as Above'. If your school does not appear on the list, please get in contact with us.

School Type

There are **four types of school** listed on the application form. Please select the correct type using the key below.

- ✿ **State-selective/Grammar School:** A school where you had to sit an exam to attend. If you attended from Year 7, you would have sat the 11-plus exam at the end of primary school to get a place.
- ✿ **State (non-selective):** A school where you did not have to sit an exam or pay fees to attend. Also known as 'comprehensive schools'.
- ✿ **Private/Fee-paying:** A school where you must pay fees to attend. Also known as 'independent schools'.
- ✿ **College:** A college is where you go to study for advanced school-level qualifications, such as A-levels, the International Baccalaureate or Highers. It is not attached to a school. Also known as a 'further education college' or 'sixth form college'.

Your Schools

Current School

16-19 Abingdon, Oxfordshire

School type

State-selective/Grammar School

The School where you completed your GCSE (if different)

Same as Above

School type

State-selective/Grammar School

Assessment Questions

You will be asked to complete 10 assessment questions. We use your answers to find out:

- What your interests are.
- Which events you might like to attend.
- Which opportunities would be of benefit to you.
- Which mentor would be the best match for you.

There are no right or wrong answers. However, it is important to answer the questions carefully and in detail. We send your answers to an employer if you are offered an internship.

General Advice

Do:	Don't:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Read the questions carefully.✓ Write in full sentences.✓ Check spelling, punctuation and grammar.✓ Check how many points the question is worth.✓ Plan your answer before you start writing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">× Don't plagiarise or copy directly from the internet.× Don't miss out any questions.

Assessment Questions

Questions 1-7 have a word limit of 250 words. You do not have to reach this word limit but you should write a paragraph using detailed and full sentences.

- 1. Please explain why you have chosen your SMF career sector or, if you are applying for a residential programme or the City Talent Initiative, why you are interested in this profession. Your answer MUST include any research, study, work experience undertaken, contact with professionals (i.e. through family members) and any other relevant details.***

250 words

Tell us what you love about the sector you have chosen. Be specific about what you find interesting. You could include:

- Reading you have done to find out more about the sector
- Work experience or contact with professionals
- Visits or summer schools
- Inspirational people, places or events

Do not worry if you have not had work experience or met any professionals yet – that is what we are here for! Instead, tell us about what you would like to find out or learn.

- 2. If you have particular career aspirations, university courses, or specific areas of interest within this sector, please tell us about them here.**

This question is not awarded points. It is for our general information.

Tell us about your career ambitions and the course you would like to study at university. We use this information to help us offer you opportunities that develop your interests and match you to a suitable mentor.

- 3. Please tell us about any university or careers guidance programmes that you have been a part of, or have applied to. E.g. summer schools, university workshops, etc. This will not affect the outcome of your application.**

This question is not awarded points. It is for our general information.

We use this information to understand which universities, courses or careers you are interested in.

- 4. Please detail how you spend the majority of your time outside lessons, including any positions of responsibility, paid employment, volunteering, hobbies, etc. Please reflect on what you have gained from these experiences and how they will help you should you be accepted on our programme.**

250 words

Tell us about what you like to do in your spare time. You do not need to be on every school team or have lots of experience in work or volunteering. We would like to know what your hobbies and interests are. You can talk about family and community commitments here. We understand that you may not have lots of spare time because of your studies.

- 5. Tell us about a time where your communication skills have made a difference to a situation.**

250 words

Choose a situation where you have had to use your communication skills effectively. This can include verbal and non-verbal communication. Tell us about what the situation was, how you used your skills and what the outcome was.

- 6. Please give an example of when you have worked successfully in a team, explaining clearly what your role within the team was.**

250 words

Tell us specifically what the team was, what your role was within the team and what the team needed to achieve. Explain exactly what you did to contribute to the team being successful and the skills you used or developed. Think about what you would do to improve next time.

7. What skill or characteristic would you like to develop, and how do you plan to do this through our support?

250 words

Tell us about a skill or characteristic that you think is important and that you need to develop to be successful in the future. This should not be an academic skill like essay writing, but a skill that will help you later in life. You should explain exactly what you will do to develop this skill and think about the challenges that you will have to overcome.

Questions 8, 9 and 10 are essay-style questions. Your word limit is 500 words. Plan and structure your answer before writing. You should write in paragraphs and use evidence to support your argument.

8. What do you think is the biggest problem facing the world today?

500 words

Explain in detail what the problem is and why it is important. Use evidence (facts and examples) to back up your argument. Think about possible solutions to the problem and how you would respond to people who argue that there are more important problems facing the world.

9. 'You are a product of your environment'. Please explain why you either agree or disagree with this statement.

500 words

Explain what you think the statement means in your own words and tell us whether you agree or disagree. Use evidence (facts and examples) to back up your argument. Think about both sides of the argument and how you would respond to people who disagree with you.

10. If you could have dinner with anyone alive or dead, who would it be and why?

500 words

Try to be original in your choice. Make sure that you choose someone who has genuinely influenced your life or is important to you. This might be a well-known inspirational figure or someone who is important in your career sector. Tell us what you know about this person and why they are interesting. Explain what you would like to learn from the dinner.

Please remember the deadline for your application:

-  **Deadline for student application: 9am, Monday 19th December 2016**
-  **Deadline for receipt of eligibility form: 9am, Friday 6th January 2017**
-  **Deadline for teacher reference: Friday 20th January 2017**

Good luck with your application!