

Student Guidance Notes 2020

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.

You do not need to complete the form in one go. After you have passed the first page a 'Save and continue later' option will appear in the bottom right corner of the screen. If you enter your email you will be sent a unique link you can use to return and continue your application at a later date. Please check your junk folder for this email. If you do not do this your answers may not save. We also recommend saving your written answers offline.

Beginning an application means that SMF will keep the data you give for your application and may send reminders for you to complete before the deadline. You can change your mind at any time by emailing privacy@socialmobility.org.uk. Our [Privacy Policy](#) gives further information about how your data is used and stored.

Application Screening

Please indicate how you meet the eligibility criteria using the options in this section.

Personal Details

Please complete this section with your contact information and two emergency contacts.

Your Education

Current School

Please select the school/college which you currently attend from the drop down list provided. 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.

Your Teacher Reference

Please also indicate a teacher at your **current school** who can give you a reference, and when you submit your application, check they have received an email asking them to complete this.

Your current and previous subjects

Please use this section to tell us about your subjects and grades. If you have any extenuating circumstances you can outline them here.

Your City

This section allows you to select either APP City and/or one APP Residential, or APP Reach depending on where you live and your career interests.

Grades

(English students only)

With the new GCSE grading system, we will take an A grade as a 7, and Maths and English will not be double weighted.

Assessment Questions

You will be asked to complete 5 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:
✓ Read the questions carefully.	× Don't plagiarise or copy directly from the internet.
✓ Write in full sentences.	× Don't miss out any questions.
✓ Check spelling, punctuation and grammar.	
✓ Check how many points the question is worth.	
✓ Plan your answer before you start writing.	

Questions 1-3 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, 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. Tell us about a time where either your communication or teamwork skills have made a difference to a situation. This can cover any positions of responsibility including paid employment, volunteering, hobbies you hold outside of school or responsibilities you have at home (ie helping care for a younger sibling or parent).**

250 words

Choose a situation where you have demonstrated your communication skills or your ability to work in a team effectively. Tell us specifically what the situation was, what role you played and what you did to ensure you communicated well or what the team needed to achieve. Explain the skills you developed and think about what you would do to improve next time.

Questions 4 and 5 are essay-style questions. Your word limit for each questions is 500 words. Plan and structure your answer before writing. You should write in paragraphs and use evidence to support your argument.

- 4. 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.

5. 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.

The deadline for submitting your receiving your application is **12pm (midday), Wednesday 18th December 2019.**

The deadline for all student eligibility forms and teacher references is **5pm, Friday 17th January 2020.**

We must receive all items by the deadlines above to consider an application.