

Teacher Guidance Notes 2021/22

Please read before informing students about our programmes.

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Our Programmes

The Social Mobility Foundation (SMF) offers three programmes across 11 career sectors (see diagram below). Students whose interests do not directly fall into one of these sectors, or who are unsure of what they want to do can choose the No Preference sector.

Accountancy	Business	Media & Communications
Architecture	Digital	Medicine
Banking & Finance	Engineering & Physics	Politics
Biology & Chemistry	Law	No Preference

- **APP City:** For students who live within **one hour's** commutable distance from Birmingham, Leeds, Liverpool or Manchester; **one and a half hour's** commutable distance from Cardiff, Glasgow or Newcastle; or in London **inside the M25**
- **APP Employer Insight Programmes:** Open to students living anywhere outside London interested in Accountancy, Banking & Finance, Business, Digital, Engineering, Law, Medicine (England only), Politics or our No Preference sector.
- **APP Reach:** For students living outside London who would strongly benefit from our support, but don't quite meet our criteria. We are very keen to work with schools, colleges and parts of the country that do not usually have young people on our programmes. Therefore, if your top achievers fall short of our criteria, you should encourage them to apply as they may be eligible to receive support. APP Reach offers as many aspects of our programme as we can to people who could benefit from our activities and resources. To find out more about APP Reach, please contact us.

Students on our programme will also get the opportunity to learn about how employers in different industries are helping to deliver the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals** and secure internships in sustainability. This new aspect of the programme has been designed to inspire students to be agents for change and understand the breadth of roles in sustainability.

Through our campaigning work with the Department for Opportunities, we also work with students to create a society with less elitism and more equality. Students will have opportunities to engage with this work through participating in research, national media interviews, and meeting politicians.

How students receive the support from the programme will depend on their home city and the career sector that they are interested in.

	APP City	APP BP Employer Insight Programme	APP J.P. MORGAN Employer Insight Programme	APP KPMG Employer Insight Programme	APP LAW Employer Insight Programme	APP MEDICINE Employer Insight Programme	APP NEIL STEVENS Employer Insight Programme	APP SPRINGBOARD Employer Insight Programme
	<i>All sectors</i>	<i>Engineering</i>	<i>Banking & Finance, Digital</i>	<i>Accountancy</i>	<i>Law</i>	<i>Medicine</i>	<i>Digital</i>	<i>Business, No Preference</i>
Birmingham	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
Cardiff	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓
Glasgow	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓
Leeds	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Liverpool	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
London	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Manchester	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Newcastle	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Other City (England)	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Other City (Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales)	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓

All students living in **Birmingham, Cardiff, Glasgow, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester or Newcastle** can apply for APP City **and** one APP Employer Insight Programme, providing they meet the subject criteria and are genuinely interested in the particular placement. Students living in London **cannot** apply for a residential programme but **may be** offered a place on a residential programme.

SMF's Response to COVID-19

This year, we pivoted our Aspiring Professionals Programme to provide students with a full online programme of support. We delivered 68 online events with many more to come, and delivered over 20 online internship programmes across 10 professional sectors with employers including J.P. Morgan, The Foreign Office, KPMG, Freshfields, BP, Linklaters, HS2, Aviva and Akin Gump.

Eligibility Criteria

Our programme is specifically aimed at motivated students from less privileged backgrounds. To ensure we target those students who would benefit most from the programme, we urge you to consider if students will:

- Realistically achieve at least ABB at A-Level or ABBB in their Highers (or IB equivalent).
- Thrive on an academically driven programme and in professional situations (with support from us).
- Positively represent the SMF and your school/college to prestigious employers.
- Engage fully in all aspects of the programme, including e-mentoring and attending workshops/visits.

To apply for APP City or APP Employer Insight Programmes, students must meet the following **academic and background criteria**.

Finding out eligibility criteria for your students

Specific criteria for individual schools can be found on the **SMF Schools Lists** at socialmobility.org.uk/criteria-programmes, or by clicking on the region required here:

[East Midlands](#), [East of England](#), [London](#), [North East England](#), [North West England](#), [South East England](#), [South West England](#), [West Midlands](#), [Yorkshire and the Humber](#), [Northern Ireland](#), [Scotland](#), [Wales](#)

The eligibility criteria is explained in detail in this table.

	England, Wales and Northern Ireland		Scotland	
Year	Currently in Year 12 in England & Wales	Currently in Year 13 in Northern Ireland	Currently in S5.	
Academic History	Have at least 5 GCSEs at Grade A/7* OR Have at least 4 A/7 grades at GCSE but took these at a school with a 50% or lower GCSE pass rate.		Have at least 5 A/B grades in National 5 OR Have at least 4 A/B grades at National 5 but took these at a school with a 50% or lower pass rate.	
Predicted Grades	Predicted at least ABB at A-Level or IB equivalent.		Predicted at least ABBB in Highers or IB equivalent.	
Background Criteria	Be currently or previously eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) since Year 7. This has to be confirmed by a teacher. It doesn't matter if they don't claim this, as long as their household is below the £16,190 threshold. OR Students living in a SMF city: Be the first generation of their family to attend university and attend or previously attended a school with an above average of students known to be eligible for FSM in their city. Please use the schools lists to find out which of these apply.		Be currently or previously eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) since S1. This has to be confirmed by a teacher. It doesn't matter if they don't claim this, as long as their household is below the £16,105 threshold. OR Students living 90 minutes from Glasgow: Be the first generation in their family to attend university and attend or previously attended a school with 18.4% or more students known to be eligible for FSM.	
	Students living elsewhere in the UK: Be the first generation of their family to attend university and attend or previously attended a school with an above average of students known to be eligible for FSM (12.9% England, 30.3% Northern Ireland and 13.4% Wales).		Students living elsewhere in Scotland: Be the first generation in their family to attend university and attend or previously attended a school with 12.3% or more students known to be eligible for FSM.	
APP Reach Criteria	To be considered for APP Reach, the requirements for students in Year 12/S5 are: Have at least 5 GCSEs at 9-4 or National 5s at A-C Predicted BBC at A Level or BBCC at Higher FSM or FG regardless of school			

Care Experienced	<p>Care-experienced students are required to have: 5 GCSEs at grades 9-4 or 5 National 5 grades at A-C</p> <p>They are exempt from meeting our social background criteria on the basis that they are care-experienced.</p> <p>Please see http://www.socialmobility.org.uk/looked-young-people-care-leavers/ or contact us to find out more.</p>
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Students who have studied at a Grammar School in England since Year 12 will be taken on a case by case basis. We will not accept applications from students who have studied at a Grammar School in England since Year 7, or from students who currently study or have studied at an Independent School **at any point**.

The typical academic profile of our students is above. However, exceptions to these criteria can be made for **care-experienced children**, those with **extenuating circumstances** or from your **highest achieving students**. We will also consider applications from students who have the potential to fit the academic profile but who narrowly miss out due to **centre assessed grades (CAGs)** being awarded.

*Progress 8 and Attainment 8: England Only

Our academic eligibility criteria will remain the same as previous years for English schools. There will be no double-weighting for Maths and English. We will consider 7 as an A grade and 8-9 as an A* in these subjects. There will be no 'bucket' system, meaning we're happy to include A grades in all subjects, including Distinction in BTECs when students apply. We will use prior 5 A*-C grade % data to decide whether a school meets our target school eligibility criteria, i.e. a pass rate of 50% or less requires a student to have 4 A grades at GCSE, 51% or more requires a student to have 5 A grades or more.

Our GCSE/National 5 and FSM data is based on the most recent government figures available at the point of request. Please check the lists of eligible schools on our website <https://www.socialmobility.org.uk/criteria-programmes/>. If a school is not listed and you feel it should be, please contact us.

Students who obtained their results overseas or have studied a mixture of GCSEs, National 5s or BTECs are welcome to apply.

Some sectors have additional grade and subject requirements which students must meet. These requirements can also be found at <http://www.socialmobility.org.uk/criteria-programmes>.

Sector	GCSE/A-Level/Higher Requirements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accountancy • APP KPMG Residential 	Achieved at least a B/6 in Maths GCSE/National 5.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Architecture 	Studying at least one of the following subjects: Maths, Art and Design or Physics.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biology & Chemistry 	Studying Biology or Chemistry and one further science from the following subjects: Biology, Chemistry, Geology, Maths or Further Maths.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engineering & Physics • APP BP Residential 	Studying Maths or Further Maths, and Physics. Scottish students should intend to take Higher Physics by the end of S6.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APP J.P. Morgan Residential (Banking & Finance) 	Studying Maths and predicted at least AAB at A-Level/AABB at Highers.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medicine • APP Medicine Residential 	<p>England, Wales and Northern Ireland: Studying Chemistry and at least one of Biology, Maths, Further Maths or Physics AND achieved at least 6 A/7 grades at GCSE, including A/7 grades in all Science subjects and Maths or have at least 5 A/7 grades, including A/7 grades in all Science subjects and Maths, taken at a school with a 50% or lower GCSE pass rate.</p>
	<p>Scotland: Studying Chemistry and at least one of Biology, Maths, Further Maths or Physics AND achieved at least 6 A/B grades in National 5s, including A/B grades in all Science subjects and Maths or achieved at least 5 A/B grades, including A/B grades in all Science subjects and Maths, taken at a school with a 50% or lower pass rate.</p>

The Application Process

Students apply by completing the application on our website at <https://www.socialmobility.org.uk/apply>. There are Student Guidance Notes available for students, but we also encourage you to look through the form with your students, or briefly check it afterwards to ensure students have the best chance of being accepted.

Students will be asked to confirm that they meet the academic and background criteria, as detailed above.

Sector Choices

Students should think carefully about which career sector they are interested in as a large amount of the support, including their mentor, tailored workshops and internships will be based on this. Please encourage students to research our career sectors on our website and other websites such as <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/> before deciding.

- **First and second preferences:** Students applying to the APP can choose a first and second preference sector. If successful, they will be accepted onto their first preference but will also be invited to events related to their second preference.
- **No Preference:** Students whose interests do not fall directly into a sector, or who are unsure of what they want to do can choose the 'No Preference' sector. If accepted to the programme, they will be invited to events across our sectors or to events related to their specific interests where possible.
- **Medicine:** We encourage you to ask students considering Medicine to be realistic regarding their grades and suitability, as Medicine is our most competitive sector. You may wish to encourage students to also consider our Biology & Chemistry or Engineering & Physics sectors as a way to explore career options in other sciences.
- **Psychology:** We do not have internships and a very, very small pool of mentors in this area, but, in the past, students have either joined our No Preference sector or chosen another sector to broaden their horizons and receive general advice.

- **Dentistry, Veterinary Science and Physiotherapy:** We do **not** offer opportunities in these areas. Due to the specific requirements of these courses, we would advise you to research other suitable university and work experience programmes for students interested in pursuing these careers instead.
- **Please note we do not support students who wish to pursue teaching.**

Assessment Questions

We use these questions to get to know students so that they can be offered opportunities relevant to their future aspirations and can be matched to a suitable mentor. We also send their answers to employers if they are offered an internship. Although students need to answer the questions carefully and in detail, there are no right or wrong answers. **We are looking for their potential.** We do not expect them to be a member of every school club or have completed lots of work experience. Rather, we want to see how they spend their time outside of school and how their interest in their chosen sector has developed and that they would benefit from our programme.

Please advise students to read the student guidance notes before they apply. These can be found at <https://www.socialmobility.org.uk/application/>

Teacher Reference

Students will be asked to fill in the name and email address of a teacher in the teacher reference section of the application form. We will then email their referee to ask them to complete the teacher reference form and confirm the student's eligibility for the programme. Please click on the link provided in the email to access the form.

The teacher reference provides us with a real insight into the **character, potential** and **circumstances** of each individual student and school. This is why it is so important that we receive a comprehensive reference from you which, amongst other things, might explain **extenuating circumstances** that mean a student did not achieve the GCSE/National 5 grades they should have or explain any factors which might make their participation in certain aspects of the programme difficult. We especially need to know if a student has **been in care** or only **recently entered the British education system**, so we can mark them fairly given their disrupted education experience.

The reference form will ask you to confirm the eligibility of the student, either by confirming that they have been eligible for Free School Meals at any point in their secondary education (even if not claimed), or are the first generation in their family to go to university. If parents have studied abroad or if siblings attend university, we still count the student to be within the first generation.

An example reference can be found on our website at <https://www.socialmobility.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Example-Teacher-Reference.pdf>

Grade Predictions

We understand it is early in the year for teachers to make grade predictions, but please use students' prior attainment and their demonstrated achievement so far to make a realistic prediction.

Dates and Deadlines

The deadline for all online applications is **12 noon, Friday 10th December 2021**.

The deadline for all teacher references and confirmation of eligibility is **Friday 21st January 2022**.

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

If you have any additional questions, please check our FAQs link under the programme headings on our website at <http://www.socialmobility.org.uk/faq/>. If you cannot find the answer you're looking for, please feel free to contact our regional teams:

- **Birmingham:** 0121 573 0044 or birmingham@socialmobility.org.uk
- **Cardiff:** 0292 0099383 or cardiff@socialmobility.org.uk
- **Glasgow:** 0141 280 2240 or glasgow@socialmobility.org.uk
- **Leeds, Manchester:** 0161 850 2809 or manchesterandleeds@socialmobility.org.uk
- **Liverpool:** 0151 953 0022 or liverpool@socialmobility.org.uk
- **Newcastle:** 0191 580 4770 or newcastle@socialmobility.org.uk
- **London:** 0207 183 1189 or london@socialmobility.org.uk
- **All other locations:** 0207 183 1189 (England), 0141 280 2240 (Northern Ireland and Scotland), 07541 748 224 (Wales) or residential@socialmobility.org.uk

We look forward to receiving applications from your students.