

Volunteering with The Access Project

How it Works

theaccessproject.org.uk/volunteer



Bright young minds on a mission

We work with bright students from disadvantaged backgrounds, providing in-school support and personalised tuition, to help them gain access to top universities



Why do we exist?

Just 4 in 100 young people from the most disadvantaged backgrounds make it to a top university, compared to 1 in 4 from the most advantaged. This access gap prevents talented and ambitious young people from being able to achieve their potential. We want each of the students on our programme to have a better chance of accessing a top university and thriving in a career of their choice in the future.

How can I help?

As a volunteer tutor you'll be paired with a 14- to 18-year-old student to support them to achieve their potential in one of their GCSE or A-Level subjects. In a weekly tutorial session, you will address the topics that their teacher thinks would most benefit them.

How do I get involved?

You will need to :

- **Fill in our sign-up form** at www.theaccessproject.org.uk/apply. You'll need to tell us a bit about your education and employment and your reasons for volunteering.
- **Supply 2 character references**. Your referees can't be family members and should know you in a professional capacity, but don't need to have line-managed you.
- **Complete our online safeguarding course**. You will receive a CPD accredited certificate upon completion.
- **Attend a 2.5 hour online training session**. This will introduce you to the programme, good tuition practices and the practical aspects of volunteering.
- **Complete a DBS check** organised by The Access Project. You'll need to fill out an online form and provide 3 forms of ID for verification at the online training session.

Where can I find out more?

Email volunteering@theaccessproject.org.uk

Read about the experiences of our students and tutors and learn more about the programme on [our blog](#).

Follow us on



Where & when will I meet my student?

In 2020/21 all tutoring will be delivered online. We hope to be able to resume face-to-face tutorials alongside online provision in the future. However, due to COVID-19, this academic year all sessions will happen remotely, using a dedicated online platform.

Tutorials take place after school. We advise tutors to hold sessions on weekdays, starting no later than 18.30.

How much time does this involve?

You will spend an hour tutoring your student each week during term-time. We also recommend at least 30 minutes preparation time ahead of each tutorial.

What happens if I miss a session?

We understand that you may need to skip or postpone a session due to holidays, work trips or illness. Where possible, we ask that you communicate this in advance so that the session can be rearranged if possible or skipped as needed.

How does online tutoring work?

You will use our dedicated online platform. You'll be able to interact with your student using your webcam share documents and work collaboratively using a virtual whiteboard.

We offer training on this to ensure that you and your student can both use the platform effectively. We provide students with the equipment needed to make the most of online sessions.

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What qualifications do I need?

We ask that our tutors are either graduates or studying at university.

If you want to tutor at A-level, you'll need an undergraduate degree or equivalent qualification in the subject. You can also tutor a subject if your degree is in a related field (e.g. you can tutor English if you studied Law).

If you want to tutor at GCSE, you'll need to have an A-level in the subject you'll tutor.

Can I tutor if I my degree isn't from the UK?

If you gained your degree outside of the UK and it is comparable to a UK undergraduate degree, we would very much welcome you as a tutor. Indeed, 1 in 10 of our tutors gained their degree outside the UK. Please note that we also ask that volunteer tutors are able to clearly communicate with their students in spoken and written English.

Do I need any prior teaching experience?

No, you do not need any prior teaching experience. The majority of our volunteers will not have tutored before. We provide an in-depth training session, on-going support and subject resources to ensure that you have everything you need to deliver a high-quality tutorial. Additionally, you'll have guidance from your student's teacher to identify areas, topics and skills that your student needs help with.

What subjects do young people need support with?

The majority of our students ask for support with Maths, English, Biology, Chemistry, and Physics. A smaller number of students also ask for support with Geography, History, French and Spanish, as well as A-level support for Economics, Psychology, and Politics.

How will I be supported as a tutor?

Before you start tutoring, we will invite you to attend our training session. We'll guide you through lesson planning, show you where you can find resources and share tips to make your sessions fun, engaging and effective. We'll also help you apply for a DBS certificate.

When you start tutoring, you'll be supported by one of our University Access Officers, who will be based in your student's school. They work closely with your student and will be on hand to answer any questions and pass on any feedback and advice they receive from teachers.

Here's what our students tell us...

"I get to learn a subject in which I'm struggling, in a one on one lesson which is much less stressful than normal school classes, and improve on that subject. It also makes that subject feel more fun and interesting!"

"My tutor Oscar has been absolutely phenomenal, one of the best tutors I ever had if not one of the best people I ever met."

This is what Tutors say...

"I've loved my time tutoring with The Access Project - it's one of the most rewarding parts of my week."

"It's an easy way to make an important impact in a young person's life, early on enough that it matters to their future."

"I find the skills learned extremely beneficial; it's a great break from work and studies to be able to tutor others in a subject that you love."

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