

# Careers Bulletin

## Spring 2020

### OXFORD UNIQ access programme

At the start of what promises to be a very exciting year of outreach for Oxford, I wanted to ask for your support in encouraging your academically-talented students in Year 13 to apply for a place on our 2020 UNIQ programme. **Applications can be made from now until 27 January.** This year we have made the process quicker and easier than ever before. We no longer ask students to include a personal statement, so applying really can take only a few minutes of their time. The enclosed leaflet includes all the details or you can go straight to our UNIQ website at [www.uniq.ox.ac.uk](http://www.uniq.ox.ac.uk) to find out more.

Our free residential UNIQ programme offers up to **1,350 students** the opportunity to come to Oxford, sample their chosen course, meet tutors, stay in a college and learn how to make a strong application to Oxford. A further 1,000 students who apply will be invited to engage with UNIQ Digital, our online platform which provides students with mentoring activities and advice in preparation for making their university applications.

UNIQ is carefully designed to break down the barriers that students from backgrounds under-represented at Oxford tell us can discourage them from applying - such as a lack of confidence or encouragement, absence of role models, outdated perceptions of Oxford and its students, or myths around our interview process. We have strong evidence that UNIQ works. Typically, around one in three UNIQ students go on to make successful applications to Oxford and, in total, some 1,380 have come from UNIQ to study at our University. Many more go on to make successful applications to other brilliant universities.

The UNIQ programmes are academically intensive and challenging, but also a lot of fun! About 99% of the 2019 cohort described their experience as either 'very enjoyable' (85%) or 'fairly enjoyable' (14%). Some report it as life-changing.

Importantly, all UNIQ courses are **free-of-charge**, with the University covering the costs of accommodation, food, travel and all academic and social activities.

We particularly welcome applications from students who:

- . Have the potential to do well academically, attained good GCSE grades but may lack the confidence to apply.
- . Live in areas where young people are less likely to progress to higher education.
- . Live in areas where there is a higher proportion of low socio-economic status households.
- . Live in regions where young people are less likely to apply to Oxford.

**UNIQ applications close at 11pm on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2020.**

If you would like any further information, please visit [www.uniq.ox.ac.uk](http://www.uniq.ox.ac.uk) or contact us at [uniq@admin.ox.ac.uk](mailto:uniq@admin.ox.ac.uk).

## **Stranmillis University College Open Day – Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January**

It gives me great pleasure to invite your students to the Stranmillis University College Open Day and Careers event, which will be held on WEDNESDAY 29TH JANUARY from 10.00am until 1.30pm.

The Open Day is intended primarily for students in Year 13 (or at a similar stage in Regional Colleges) who are giving thought to a career in teaching (Primary or Post-Primary) or in one of the areas in which our two undergraduate degrees specialise, Early Childhood Studies and Health, Physical Activity and Sport.

The Careers Event is designed to give our students and your pupils the opportunity to meet with potential employers and graduate recruiters so that they may find out about employment opportunities, teaching and non-teaching, locally, nationally and internationally.

Although the day will be largely informal and students may visit all the areas of our campus and speak with students and teaching staff, we will continue to hold information seminars for students. On arrival at Central Building all visiting students will be given a programme of the day which will list the various talks, with locations and times and other important aspects of the College

If you wish to attend the Stranmillis University College Open Day on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January then please contact Mr G Patterson.

## **CAO Deadline - Year 14 pupils**

If you are applying for undergraduate courses in Irish Higher Institutions the deadline is 5.15pm on 1<sup>st</sup> February .

Visit [www.cao.ie](http://www.cao.ie) and [www.nidirect.gov.uk](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk)

## **Ballymena Academy Careers Evening** **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February**

Year 10 pupils and parents : 7.15 - 9pm

Years 12 & 13 pupils and parents: 8 - 9 pm

### **Ulster University Higher Level Apprenticeship Event**

We cordially invite you, your students and their parents to the Higher Level Degree Apprenticeship Showcase Event on [6th February 2020 at 6pm-8pm](#) in our Jordanstown Campus.

A link to register for this event was sent to pupils in a previous e mail.

This event is open to pupils and parents.

### **QUB Parents'/Guardians Evening - Whitla Hall** **Years 10, 11 & 12**

#### **Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences**

20<sup>th</sup> February 2020

7.00 pm - 9.00 pm

### **WORK +**

*120 apprenticeships on offer across 28 companies in areas like **civil engineering, quantity surveying, software engineering, accounting, carpentry, building service engineering...**any many more!*

*It's time to take the first step into the rest of your career!*

**Applications close 13:00 on Friday 28 February.**

<https://www.workplus.app/>

*Still not sure? Hear from apprentices, employers and school leaders below and you'll be in no doubt, apprenticeships are the future.*

### **Training Academy 3fivetwo**

- **Interview Skills Course for Students Applying to Medical, Dental and Veterinary School (£174)**
- **Interview Skills Course for Students Applying to Nursing and Midwifery (£84)**

Bookings can be made online by visiting the website [https://3fivetwotraining.com/upcoming\\_events](https://3fivetwotraining.com/upcoming_events) or by calling 028 9073 5273.

We would like to take this opportunity to make you aware of our rebrand. We have recently rebranded from 3fivetwo Training Academy to **Kingsbridge Training Academy**.

We are still based on Boucher Road in Belfast, Northern Ireland and we are still delivering the same high quality training and education across UK and Ireland. We would like to assure our customers that we are still the same company, we have just refreshed our branding to give it a fresh, new look and as part of this we have got a **brand new website**.

Please feel free to check out our new website, [www.kingsbridgetrainingacademy.com](http://www.kingsbridgetrainingacademy.com) - It will include all the same courses that we previously offered, but we believe our new website is more up to date and is more user friendly.

## **Harvard University Presentations**

There are still places available for the **HARVARD UNIVERSITY** presentations next month in Belfast, Derry/Londonderry and Enniskillen.

Any student, parent or teacher from N. Ireland schools or colleges can attend for free.

If any members of your school community might be interested in attending this unique opportunity, please direct them to [nisca.org.uk/harvard](http://nisca.org.uk/harvard) in order to book places online.

## **PwC Northern Ireland - School Leaver Programmes & Events**

We currently have a Spring 2020 School Leaver role available for those who have already achieved their A-levels or equivalent. This role is for those who would like to join us as a trainee accountant in our Operate: Compliance Operations team in Belfast this March 2020. This role offers applicants the opportunity to join us on a permanent full time basis whilst studying part time for a nationally recognised qualification in Accountancy. Applications are open now on our website with a closing date of Friday 10th January at 11pm - [http://www.careersschools.pwc.co.uk/page/show/job\\_search](http://www.careersschools.pwc.co.uk/page/show/job_search)

Our Year 13 paid summer work experience programmes - Business Insight Week and Digital Insight Week - are also now live on our

website for applications. The application deadline is Friday 14th February at 5pm. Students can only apply to one of these programmes and will do so directly on our website: [http://www.careersschools.pwc.co.uk/page/show/job\\_search](http://www.careersschools.pwc.co.uk/page/show/job_search)

- Business Insight week - The students rotate between various teams in the firm and get involved in real client work alongside PwC staff. After the week, students will be given the exclusive opportunity to come forward to secure a school and college leaver role with us once they have completed their A-levels. More information is available via this link - <https://www.pwc.co.uk/careers/school-jobs/jobs/work-experience/business-insight-week.html>

- Digital Insight Week - A programme designed to provide students with the knowledge and experience required to prepare them for work in the Technology sector. They will learn theoretical and technical techniques used, work on real client challenges, case studies and simulations, and gain a deep insight into the work we do. After the week, students will be given the exclusive opportunity to fast track through part of the application process on to our Queen's Technology Degree Apprenticeship programme. More information is available via this link - <https://www.pwc.co.uk/careers/school-jobs/jobs/work-experience/big-data-summer-camp.html>

We also have a School Career Open Day taking place on Friday 14 Feb in our PwC Belfast office from 10am - 4pm, which is open to Year 13 & 14 students interested in spending a day in the office, finding out who we are and what we do, meet our recent recruits and prepare for our recruitment process. Students can register on our website if they wish to attend - [http://www.careersschools.pwc.co.uk/page/show/event\\_search](http://www.careersschools.pwc.co.uk/page/show/event_search)

We have just launched the 2019/20 National Schools Employability Challenge (NSEC). This online employability challenge is open to Year 13 and Year 14 students and the monthly winners will be invited to an exclusive employability skills event at one of our UK offices. Some schools enter their students as part of careers class or students can apply in their own time. The link to apply is here - <https://www.nsechallenge.co.uk/>

Other upcoming events ... we will be at Skills NI at the Titanic Exhibition Centre next Wednesday and Thursday (20th and 21st November) and we are also attending the NISCA conference on 28th November at La Mon Hotel - so we hope to speak to many of you at these events.

We have just launched our new Employability Hub which is packed with useful information, resources and e-learns for students to support the development of key employability skills. This is particularly useful for those who are applying to one of our programmes! You can access the hub here: <https://www.pwc.co.uk/careers/ni-jobs/schools/employability.html>

### **Belfast Bible College Discovery Days**

11<sup>th</sup> February 2020

10am - 12pm

[www.belfastbiblecollege.com](http://www.belfastbiblecollege.com)

### **NRC Open Days 2020**

Coleraine – 3<sup>rd</sup> February

Magherafelt – 4<sup>th</sup> February

Ballymena – 5<sup>th</sup> February

Newtownabbey – 5<sup>th</sup> February

Ballymoney – 6<sup>th</sup> February

All campuses – 8<sup>th</sup> February 10am to 1pm

[www.nrc.ac.uk](http://www.nrc.ac.uk)

### **Student Finance in Higher Education 2020/21 Academic Year**

The online application process will be available from March 2020.

Both students and parents can access the SFNI website , sign in and create an account at [www.studentfinanceneni.co.uk](http://www.studentfinanceneni.co.uk)

If students have a UK passport they can input their passport number and details on the online or paper application. For these students there is no need to forward original identity documentation.

## **Student Conference: University of Oxford and University of Cambridge.**

**Lisburn, NI - Thursday 19 March 2020**

This full-day conference is available to students from all UK schools and colleges currently in **Lower Sixth or Year 13** studying A Levels or comparable qualifications. The conference includes:

- Course information sessions with taster lectures delivered by current Oxford and Cambridge teaching staff
- Up-to-date information on applying to Oxford and Cambridge (including Student Life)
- Student finance and graduate prospects
- Information for teachers and HE advisors

Admissions Tutors and other staff from both universities will be on hand to answer questions and there will be the opportunity to talk informally to current undergraduates.

### **NIE Networks**

For information about career opportunities visit [www.nienetworks.co.uk/Careers](http://www.nienetworks.co.uk/Careers)