



Volunteering with The Access Project

Frequently asked questions

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

Find out more and apply today at theaccessproject.org.uk/volunteer



Frequently asked questions (continues to next page)

Why does The Access Project exist?

Disadvantaged young people are five times less likely to go to university in comparison to more advantaged students, according to the Department for Education.

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. We have a network of over 2,000 volunteer tutors and work with more than 1,800 students in 35 schools in London and in the Midlands.

How do 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 be most helpful for them.

Where and when will I meet my student?

In 2021/22 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 6:30pm.



What qualifications do I need?

All volunteers need to be either a graduate or studying at university to tutor.

You can tutor at GCSE if you have an A level (grade B or higher) in the subject.

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 (for example, you can tutor English if you studied Law).

Can I apply if I don't have a degree?

As so much of our programme is focussed on university entry, we feel that having this experience is really important for our tutors. We won't be able to accept your application if you are currently on a gap-year, but we'd love to hear from you once you start your university course!

Ready to get started? Apply at theaccessproject.org.uk/apply

Frequently asked questions (continues to next page)



How does online tutoring work?

You'll use our dedicated online platform so that your sessions can be engaging and interactive whilst keeping you and your student safe.

You'll be able to talk with and see your student using your webcam, share documents and work collaboratively using a virtual whiteboard.

We offer training to ensure that you and your student are both comfortable using the platform. We also provide students with any hardware they need to make the most of online sessions.

Do I need specific equipment to tutor online?

Our dedicated online tutoring platform can be accessed via your internet browser and we will provide you with complete user guides, access to webinars and more information at your training session.

We recommend you have the following to be able to tutor online:

- Access to a PC, laptop or tablet
- A stable internet connection
- Be familiar with using video chat or online conferencing platforms, and how to share documents online
- A quiet space without distractions (you may wish to use headphones)
- For optimal experience, we recommend using Google Chrome as your browser when tutoring.

Our dedicated team will be there to support you with any questions or issues you have when tutoring.

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.

Will I get any training?

We'll make sure that you've got all the information you need to feel confident when you start tutoring.

You'll need to complete a Safeguarding Children course and we will also invite you to attend our online 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. You'll also have guidance from the student's teacher.

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What subjects can I tutor in?

We are looking for volunteer tutors in the following subjects, to coincide with the subjects that our students have requested:

GCSE and A level: Biology, Chemistry, English, French, Geography, History, Maths, Physics, Spanish

A Level only: Economics, Politics, Psychology

We currently have a high demand for English, Maths and Science tutors at both GCSE and A level.

How much time does it take?

You'll need to be able to tutor for an hour a week during a school year. We also recommend that you prepare for at least 30 minutes ahead of each tutorial. Obviously, holidays and illness mean sometimes you will have to postpone a session, but the aim is for one a week.

When can I apply?

You can apply at any point during the year, but tutoring takes place between September and July. We train the majority of our volunteers in summer and autumn.

Can I volunteer if I don't live in the UK?

At this time, we can't accept applications from volunteers who live outside the UK. We need all our tutors to have a DBS certificate, for which you need to have lived in the UK for at least three months. We would love to hear from you again if you move to the UK in the future.

Can I volunteer 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, one 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.

How do I get started?



It's really easy to get started. All you need to do is:

- Fill in our sign-up form online and tell us a bit about your education and your reasons for volunteering
- Supply two character references
- Complete our online safeguarding course
- You will receive a CPD accredited certificate upon completion
- Attend a 2.5-hour online training session
- Complete a DBS check, which is organised for you by us.

Apply today at theaccessproject.org.uk/apply.