

Heading Higher Passport Plus:

University of the West of England Bristol

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Hello, my name is Joyce Birnie, and this is a presentation about Heading Higher Passport Plus by the Recruitment and Outreach Team at UWE Bristol.

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I would like to introduce you to The UWE Bristol Heading Higher Passport Plus scheme, or HHP Plus for short. The scheme is designed to support students, who are typically under-represented in higher education, to progress to degree level study if they wish to.

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HHP is designed to work with you and your school or college. Your 'journey' into the future is made up of many small choices, decisions and experiences. HHP Plus encourages you to reflect on your experiences to help you decide what's next.

In this way, your HHP Plus experiences will help you to shape your own progression journey.

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A successful journey involves three main steps:

Belief- If you believe you can, you will

Discovery

Do you know enough about yourself, your strengths and interests?

Do you know enough about the different opportunities available?

Success

Have you the skills in place you need to succeed?

It's about having confidence in your decisions and choices.

Each of us is ultimately responsible for shaping our own journey, the direction is influenced by how we choose to respond to different opportunities or situations. Successful progression doesn't just happen by accident. We need to be proactive. We need to make things happen.

We learn about ourselves through practice, reflection and action. People are mostly successful when they know what they want and are confident about what they have to offer and importantly, they take action.

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Think about a transition you've made in the recent past, perhaps going from school to college or Sixth Form. What did you do to make that happen?

Thinking about your future, do you have the qualifications, skills and qualities you need to get where you want to be? How do you cope with setbacks along the way? How curious are you about the different or new opportunities open to you?

When all of this comes together... that's progression.

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Why does UWE Bristol invest in Heading Higher Passport Plus?

Which image is more interesting to you, the left-hand picture or the right-hand picture? Why?

From a university's point of view the right-hand picture is much more interesting, because of its diversity.

A diverse community is what we look to create at university. We want people from a diverse range of backgrounds, especially those we know are currently under-represented in higher education, to apply to UWE Bristol. Students with different perspectives enhance the learning experience of us all, including our academics. Different perspectives will challenge the status quo and that's a key part of a learning experience at university.

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What does HHP Plus involve?

You have to complete seven activities, or experiences, in total. It is very likely your school or college enrichment programme will cover the three 'must do' activities. I'll describe these in more detail here.

Because we know students who are unhappy in their surroundings tend to drop out, we expect you to visit a higher education provider/ university so that you can experience in person what it's like, ideally before you apply. We also know that talking to a current student will help you to get a better idea of what uni is really like. You may be able to do this in person or online.

Reflecting on your HHP Plus activities will help you to understand what's important to you. Being reflective is a skill you'll need whatever you decide to do in the future. So, we encourage you to reflect on what you personally learned from an experience. Was it positive? Was it negative? And how does it affect your decision now? You'll learn more about yourself and about what's going to be right for you and maybe, what's not going to suit you so well.

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Optional experiences are really what are going to help you feel more confident, so for example, do you any concerns about:

- Studying a new subject?
- Living independently?
- Managing your money?
- Making friends?
- Living with people you don't know?

These concerns could make you feel a little nervous and that's totally normal., So, have a think about the kinds of activities you could plan in now to help you feel less nervous. To help you feel more confident about these potential changes?

You can use our HHP Plus activities to practice and get used to new experiences before you make the transition into higher education.

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Is university for everyone? Possibly not, but we don't want you to exclude it as an option before you have had the chance to explore it in more detail.

Does the career you want require a degree level qualification? Many do, and university may be the only route into your preferred career. Apart from the degree, there are many other benefits to higher education too:

- Over a lifetime graduates have higher earnings than non-graduates. Especially women.
- Graduates may be at less risk of unemployment, but if it does happen, they tend to be unemployed for shorter periods of time.
- On balance, life chances tend to be better for graduates.

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HHP benefits both the learner and UWE Bristol as we want to encourage you to explore what higher education has to offer you, before you decide against a what is often an enjoyable, life-enhancing experience.

As an HHP Plus applicant to us, you'll be well prepared and confident that UWE Bristol is right for you, and your degree course matches your interests.

Happy students are much more likely to be successful. Uni is a big investment both of your time and of money so it's important to make sure you're applying at the right time, to the right course, at the right university. If you're not yet ready for the move into higher education, that's fine as HHP Plus eligibility lasts for up to two years after you complete your current studies.

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HHP Plus eligibility criteria

Just a couple of things for you to check out first. Do your teachers think you've got the potential to succeed in higher education? Do you attend a Heading Higher Passport Plus approved partner school, Academy or college? If you're listening to this presentation the chances are the answers are yes but be sure to ask.

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HHP Plus supports those who are under-represented in higher education to gain access to uni. Look at the list below and if you meet one, or more, of these criteria you will be eligible for the extra benefits of Heading Higher Passport Plus.

If you're not sure you live at an address in a low participation neighborhood, your school or college can check that for you based on your post code. So, to clarify:

- BAME includes all ethnicities except white British.
- 'First in family' applies if neither parent has had a full time, traditional university experience. For example, if you have a parent who has done Open University you still count as 'first in family'. If your brothers or sisters have been to uni, you still count as 'first in family'.
- Need to study locally? Perhaps you're a young carer, or it's just not practical for you to live away from home.
- Anyone with a parent or carer who has ever been a member of the Armed Services in any branch, either as a permanent job or as a reservist, is also eligible for HHP Plus registration.

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Want to take part? / Want to get involved?

Talk to your tutor or advisor to help you work out what's the best next step for you. Review where your knowledge or experience gaps are and talk about any concerns or anxieties about higher education.

Perhaps HHP Plus can help you make a more confident and informed decision about higher education.

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UWE Bristol has lots on online and real-life outreach activities you can do as part of HHP Plus. Take a look at the links on the back of the HHP Plus e-reflective logbook.

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So, we've touched on what you need to do, but what do you get back?

If you apply to UWE Bristol, and we make you an offer, you can earn up to 16 UCAS tariff points to put toward your UWE Bristol degree offer. That's equivalent to two A-Level grades.

Please note some courses have additional subject specific entry requirements or particular selection criteria, for example; some courses require a particular A-Level subject or a particular grade, some have GCSE requirements, others include interview, audition, or a portfolio. Your offer will include any conditions that you need to meet as well as the UCAS tariff needed to progress to UWE Bristol.

Being registered as an HHP Plus applicant to UWE Bristol doesn't guarantee you an offer of a place. But, if you're offered a conditional place, the additional HHP Plus UCAS tariff points will help towards achieving your offer.

Only school or college staff can register you as an HHP Plus applicant to UWE Bristol, and you need to be registered by the January UCAS application deadline, or before you've been made an offer by UWE Bristol.

It's your responsibility to show your school, or college, the evidence that you've completed the seven HHP Plus activities by the time you submit your UCAS application. There's an HHP Plus e-logbook you can download to help you do this.

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What do you need to do next to apply? Where are the gaps?

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Here are some examples:

- You're worried about the cost of higher education? Attend an 'Higher Education Finance' talk and find out all about student finance for your circumstances.
- You're wondering if you will you like the subject? Talk to a current UWE Bristol student about their experience via Unibuddy. Access this on the UWE Bristol website or UCAS.
- You're wondering how the subject is going to be taught? How study might vary between universities? Learn more about this at 'discoveruni'.
- You need work experience? Remember you can develop many relevant skills and qualities through part-time work.

There are links to all of these on the downloadable logbook.

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And finally, I'd like to wish you well planning your future steps. it's an exciting time!

Thank you for watching this presentation about HHP Plus. If you'd like further help, please ask the HHP Plus coordinator in your school or college.

And don't forget, if you have any questions about UWE Bristol or HHP Plus go online or contact us via the email on the slide. Once again thanks from the Recruitment and Outreach team at UWE Bristol for taking the time to watch this presentation.