

**Guidance Information for Teachers**

Thank you for agreeing to provide an academic reference in support of an application to one of the University of Southampton’s widening participation programmes or residentials.

This form should be completed by a teacher, school guidance counsellor, principal/head teacher, head of year/sixth-form or careers advisor at the applicant’s current FE institution.

Competition for places is extremely high, so this reference will be used by the University in order to shortlist suitable applicants for their chosen programme.

**Please note: The reference should be completed on official letterhead, signed and dated. A copy should then be given to the applicant to upload onto their application form or emailed directly to** **outreach@soton.ac.uk****. If sending by email, please include the students name as the subject and the name of the scheme that they are applying to (e.g. John Smith: Experience Engineering)**

Please provide details on the following:

* Verify that the applicant meets the specific eligibility criteria for their chosen event, and how these factors impact upon their studies
* If there are specific GCSE or A level subjects/ grades required, please verify that these have either been achieved, or form part of the applicant’s programme of study
* Please provide predicted grades wherever possible. If you are unable to give predicted grades, please comment upon the applicant’s general academic potential
* Summarise the applicant’s general attitude and motivation towards their studies
* Any other relevant information

**Overview of programmes/residentials:**

Experience Engineering is a residential course for Year 12 students interested in studying engineering at university. The residential will introduce students to Ship Science and Mechanical Engineering.

Over three days, students will design, build and test a Greenpower car and a fastcraft for water as part of a team. Talks, workshops and seminars from staff and students in the Faculty of Engineering

and Physical Sciences, and provide insight into the wealth of careers and opportunities that an engineering degree can provide.

Participants live in university halls of residence for the duration of their stay, and are mentored by current undergraduate and postgraduate students, giving a unique opportunity to find out what life is like at university. The residential is a great opportunity to get a taste for engineering ahead of

university applications. This is a free course for Year 12 students. To be eligible participants must be

under the age of 18 at the time of the summer school, meet the following academic criteria:

* Have achieved at least five A/A\*s at GCSE
* Are taking relevant subjects in relation to engineering (e.g. Maths, Physics and other Science subjects) and meet at least two of the following Widening Participation criteria:
* In the first generation of your immediate family to apply to Higher Education
* Current home postcode shows that you live in an area with low levels of progression to Higher Education. (Postcodes within the lowest two (1&2) [POLAR4](https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/data-and-analysis/young-participation-by-area/young-participation-by-postcode/) young participation quintile) or postcode which falls within the lowest 20 per cent of the Index of Multiple Deprivation (please check [here](https://tools.npeu.ox.ac.uk/imd/)), or a member of a travelling family
* Attended a school/college whose performance places it into the lowest two quintiles for average QCA points per A level student (or equivalent) (in England, Wales or Northern Ireland) as identified by the Department for Education dataset
* In receipt of a 16-19 bursary or similar grant OR received Free School Meals at any point during your school education
* Living or grew up in Local Authority care
* Are a Young or Young Adult Carer.

The Course is open to students (home UK only) currently studying in Year 12 or S5 in Scotland (or equivalent) at maintained schools or colleges in the UK.