



STUDENT DESTINATIONS

2006-2016



“The Sutton Trust makes such a huge difference to the lives of people like me, whose backgrounds don’t necessarily mean that they would aim as high as they could otherwise.

Natasha Holcroft-Emmess
(UK Summer School 2008)
Trainee Barrister, Matrix Chambers

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WELCOME

When I set up the Sutton Trust, I wanted to give more young people from state schools the opportunity to study at the best universities and access the most competitive jobs.

Two decades later we give 5,000 young people each year the opportunity to change their lives. We do this through our university access and professional pathways programmes.

As this report shows, when presented with this opportunity, more often than not, students on our programmes will seize it. Our alumni are four times more likely to go to a Russell Group university than their classmates with similar grades and backgrounds, whilst 8% have gone on to Oxbridge.

The success of our alumni is told not just through facts and figures, but through their individual experiences. Each of our alums has a social mobility story to tell. I hope their journeys inspire young people across the country to apply for our programmes, aim high and change their lives for the better.

Sir Peter Lampl,
Founder of the Sutton Trust



OUR PROGRAMMES

“This experience, all of the people I’ve met, the things I’ve learned, and the misconceptions which I’ve straightened out about university life are all possible thanks to the Sutton Trust.”

*Idnaan Altaf (UK Summer School 2018)
Current Year 13 student*

A young person's future outcomes should not be determined by their background or economic circumstances. This is why we run our programmes.

Working in partnership with top universities and leading employers, we support high achieving young people from less advantaged backgrounds to raise, and then realise, their aspirations.

Our programmes increase access to highly selective universities and careers by developing young peoples' confidence, supporting their decision making and helping them to navigate systems and sectors.

Between 2006 and 2016, just under 16,000 young people took part in one of our three flagship programmes: UK Summer Schools, the US Programme and Pathways to Law.

Using destination data obtained from UCAS, we can demonstrate the impact our programmes have had on their educational journey.

15,928

young people took part in our three flagship programmes between 2006-2016.

14,060

12,580

9,105

Of these Sutton Trust students

88%

APPLIED TO A TOP UNIVERSITY

74%

WERE OFFERED A PLACE

57%

ACCEPTED A PLACE

Compared to a group of similar students

24%

21%

13%

7,000

The estimated number of young people who enrolled at a top university after completing a Sutton Trust programme than otherwise would have.

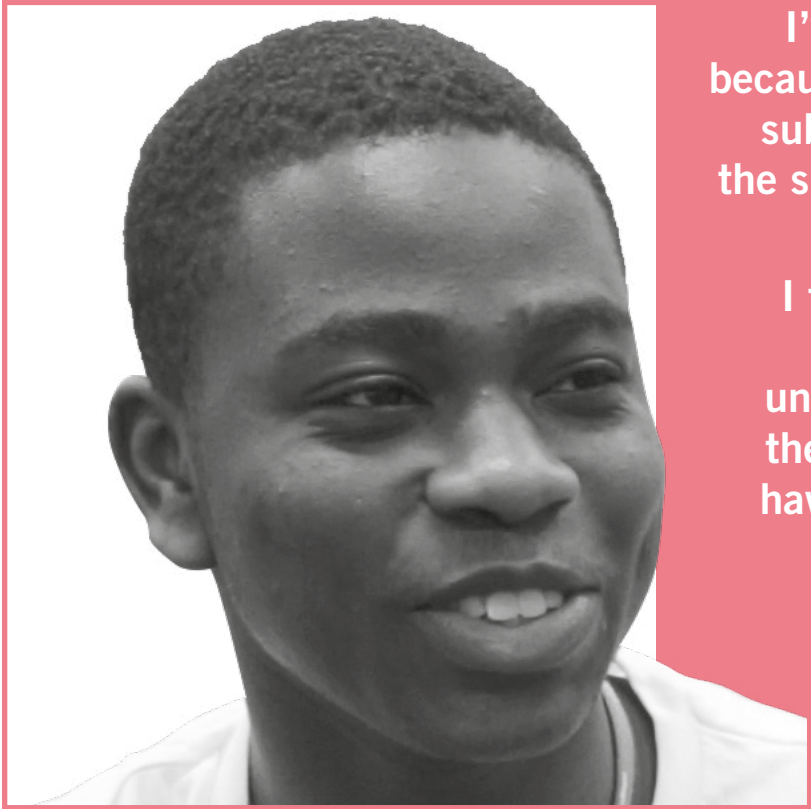
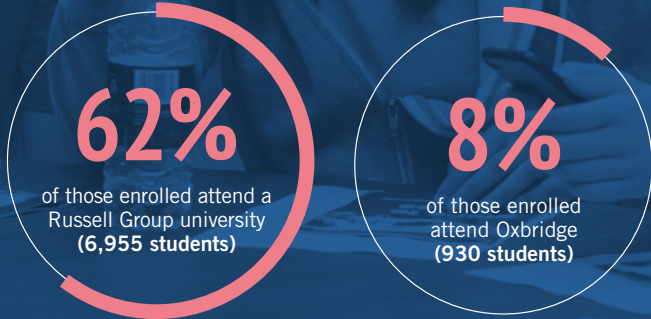
UK SUMMER SCHOOLS



13,119 young people took part in our UK Summer Schools between 2006 and 2016. Compared to their classmates with similar grades and from similar backgrounds, these students were...



Launched in 1997, UK Summer Schools is the Trust's flagship programme to increase access to highly selective universities. Each year, over 2,000 young people attend a week-long residential at a leading UK university. Students experience life as an undergraduate through academic taster sessions and a programme of social events, whilst receiving practical support and advice on applying to university.



“It’s one of the best weeks I’ve had in my whole life because you get to study the subject that you love, and the subject that you hope to study in the future.

I think this experience is going to be *better* than university life, because of the close interactions you have with your professors, and the new people that you meet.”

Ope Adagunodo
(UK Summer School 2018)
Current Year 13 student

PATHWAYS TO LAW



2,228

young people took part in Pathways to Law between 2006 and 2016. Compared to their classmates with similar grades and from similar backgrounds, these students were...

3.5x

more likely to **apply** to a top university



3.5x

more likely to **receive an offer** from a top university



4x

more likely to **accept an offer** from a top university

66%

at university study, or have studied, law

52%

of those enrolled attend a Russell Group university (930 students)

Launched in 2006 following the release of the Trust's *Leading People* research, Pathways to Law aims to widen access to the legal profession. It is the Trust's flagship access to the professions programme and combines university taster sessions, a work experience placement in the legal sector and a residential national conference. Students explore different legal career paths and benefit from the opportunity to network with professionals across the sector.

"Pathways to Law was an amazing opportunity to experience what being a lawyer was really like. The work experience opened my eyes to the working world."

Hannah-Mai Flynn
(Pathways to Law 2014)
Business Administration
Apprentice, Government
Equalities Office



US PROGRAMME

673 young people took part in our US Programme between 2010 and 2016.

40%

won places at top US universities
(267 students)

30%

accepted a place at a Russell Group university
(205 students)

5%

accepted a place at Oxbridge
(35 students)

Each year the Sutton Trust's US Programme helps 150 state school students to apply and win funding to study at top US universities. Following a trip to visit different universities in the US, participants who decide to apply to an American university receive support with their applications and entrance exams, as well as advice on scholarships and college choices.

Compared to their classmates with similar grades and from similar backgrounds, these students were...

6x

more likely to **apply** to a top university



4.5x

more likely to **receive an offer** from a top university

"The connections I made, both professional and personal, only happened because I was able to explore a world beyond my school in Newcastle. Without physically breaking out of your bubble it can be hard to imagine a life beyond what you know."

Andrea Simmons
(US Programme 2012)
Senior Audit Assistant, KPMG





Ella Mae Lewis
(UK Summer School 2009)
Director of Product
Apolitical

Tell us about your personal background...

I grew up in a small town in West Sussex, where I was one of seven children. The school I attended was always under pressure and it didn't have the best reputation. Ofsted eventually put it in special measures, and after my GCSEs I went to a sixth form in another county so I could do all the A levels I wanted.

The difference was stark. There I was one of few who had come from a less privileged background and I think this was what led one amazing teacher to recognise my ambition – and my background – and they suggested I apply for the Sutton Trust's Summer School.

What was your experience as a Sutton Trust student?

I had never been to Oxford before, nor anywhere particularly like it. When I arrived in the city it was a little overwhelming and so beautiful. It was like something out of a storybook. The way Oxford approached learning was completely new to me and transformed my attitude to education.

After the programme, how did your career develop?

I attended Oxford the next year to study history, which was a brilliant, eye-opening experience, but when I graduated my path was not at all clear! I moved to Barcelona and started working for the United Nations volunteering service. After writing forty letters seeking paid work in non-profits, I was offered a position at the Walk Free Foundation as a research assistant. I was hungry and I wanted to prove myself, which meant I got promoted quickly.

I then moved to Washington DC where I worked for the Global Fund to End Modern Slavery and was put on field investigations in sub-Saharan Africa, investigating cases of child labour, sex trafficking and indentured servitude.

It was then that I offered to join and help set up the company – Apolitical – which would connect governments around the world to the best ideas, people and partners in order to solve the most difficult policy. In my role now as Director of Product, I manage around half the people in the London office, covering engineering, design, data and community.



Tahmid Chowdhury
(US Programme 2012)
Senior Account Executive
M&C Saatchi
Co-founder
Here for Good

Tell us about your personal background...

I grew up on a council estate in Dalston together with my parents, who emigrated from Bangladesh in the 1970s. I have four older siblings – all of whom went to state school, too.

What was your experience as a Sutton Trust student?

The US Programme was incredible. It wasn't just about visiting Yale. It was an inclusive and varied experience that opened my eyes to a world beyond East London. Although I didn't end up studying in the US, I felt strongly affiliated to the programme and passionate about its impact on young peoples' lives. I later interned at the Fulbright Commission, was a team leader for two future cohorts and supported an initiative called 'Fulbright 1:1' that offered UCAS and careers support to UK-based students.

It's so important that initiatives like the Sutton Trust exist – young people need to be able to make informed decisions about their future.

Do you have any advice for the next generation of Sutton Trust students?

One thing I have learnt is that being proactive is key. You have got to put yourself out there and I promise that people prefer this attitude – making the initial move will encourage people to invest in you!



Anu Damale
(UK Summer School 2012)
Masters student
Science Research Policy Unit

Tell us about your background

My parents emigrated from India just before I was born and moved to Southall, West London. I attended a local state school, which looking back, could have been a really negative experience. We were in a rough area and the school was underfunded. But I have fantastic memories of school and I think this comes a lot down to my parents' positive attitudes.

What was your experience as a Sutton Trust student?

I remember arriving on campus and thinking 'yo, physics is amazing!' I couldn't have envisaged anything better than five days drowning in physics. The main things I took away were interpersonal skills and confidence. We were treated as adults and this made a huge difference.

How has your career developed after the programme?

During university I was heavily involved in outreach programmes and spent a lot of my time in County Durham encouraging kids, especially girls, to study science. Since university my love for science has only grown, but my work in outreach also sparked my interest in issues beyond the lab. I currently study at the Science Policy Research Unit and my specialism is science technology and security.

DATA EXPLAINER

Where did you get the data from?

We used the UCAS STROBE and EXACT data services to track university destinations of our Sutton Trust programme participants. <https://www.ucas.com/data-and-analysis/analytical-data-services/strobe>.

What is benchmarking?

UCAS compared the destinations of Sutton Trust programme participants to over 500 control groups with similar characteristics. This helps to show the behaviour patterns of similar students who did not take part in a Sutton Trust programme and is called benchmarking.

Applications to university were measured against the UCAS “potential applicant database” and were matched to control groups based on a combination of age, social demographics of the home address, and the proportion of students at their nearest school being eligible for free school meals.

Offers and acceptances were measured against “the UCAS applications database” and were matched to control groups based on a combination of age, ethnicity, gender, social demographics of home address, and proportion of students at their school being eligible for free school meals, as well as a score that represents the achievement of that student at GCSE level (or Scottish equivalent).

Disclosure controls

UCAS data is subject to a measure called disclosure control. This means that every number reported is rounded to the nearest 0 or 5. For example, if there were 2 students studying French and 8 students studying maths, this would be rounded to 0 for French and 10 for maths. Therefore we do not have records of each individual destination but an overall view for the entire

cohort. Disclosure controls are used by UCAS to ensure that no personally identifiable information about an individual student is made public.

What is a Russell Group institution and what is a top university?

The Russell Group represents 24 leading universities across the UK, which are often research-led institutions.

Research has shown that a good degree from a Russell Group university is the best way of increasing lifetime earnings, which is a key factor in increasing social mobility. These institutions often also have the largest gaps in access.

Top university refers to a high tariff university. High tariff is a classification of university independently defined by UCAS when reporting on university destinations. In these circumstances, high tariff represents the highest performing and most competitive institutions.

The Trust are interested in measuring access to both Russell Group and high tariff institutions to give an overall view of university destinations for our young people.

Rounding

Percentages in the report have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

WITH THANKS TO

Partners



Funders



“The Sutton Trust really has helped me become the person I am today and pursue every opportunity that comes my way.”

Banu Hammad (Pathways to Law 2016)
Law Student, London School of Economics

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