



The Sutton Trust – Post-18 Activity

An overview

A central part of our mission at The Sutton Trust is to level the playing field for young people from low and middle income backgrounds, so that they have a fair chance of accessing leading universities, apprenticeships and jobs. Historically the support for students on our programmes has ended when they became alumni, transitioning them to an offering of events and communications. We recognise that this support now needs to continue, to ensure that they have as much support as possible to overcome barriers at the point of starting out in their career.

From autumn 2021, The Sutton Trust will be launching a new programme of activity specifically designed to equip the 'post-18' group with valuable employability skills and insight. Initially this will be targeted at alumni at university, and will be designed to fit in with traditional timings of graduate schemes recruitment activity. Also new for the 2021 academic year will be the Employability Bursary, [funded by JP Morgan Chase](#). The Trust's own research into life skills and [the importance of extra-curricular activity](#) highlights the disadvantage that students from a lower socio-economic background experience face. This new bursary will be awarded to approx. 30-35 students each year, with a view to enabling recipients to benefit from employability or extra-curricular activity, which they otherwise wouldn't have been able to access.

Employability activity

The core activities of this new post 18 provision will focus on developing the skills, knowledge and experience university age alumni need to access the workplace. Initially there will be a range of live online sessions providing insights into different sectors and routes into them; skills workshops focusing on key employability skills like application writing, presenting and interviewing; as well as the opportunity to network with a range of industry professionals at different points in their careers.

In addition to the core employability activities there will be additional opportunities targeted at students looking to enter the most highly competitive professions, where the access gap persists (e.g. Law and Finance). This will largely take the form of work placements in the first year.

The Trust team will lead on the design and delivery of these activities and will work with partners across industry and the 3rd sector to ensure the activities and content meet the needs of the students taking part.

Employability Bursary – with JP Morgan Chase

Applications for the first bursaries will open in Summer 2021 to be awarded to recipients for the start of the 2021/22 academic year. Each bursary will be between £3000-5000 and likely to be awarded in instalments throughout the year. The criteria for use of the bursary money will be deliberately kept fairly open, to encourage students to think creatively about how it would be most useful for them.

We hope to foster a sense of community among the bursary recipients, so there will be a few touchpoints during the year, giving them the chance to meet each other as well as the opportunity to network with staff from JP Morgan Chase. Once the year is complete, they will be expected to share a short report of what they have done with the funds and any impact it had on them.