



Volunteering with The Access Project Frequently asked questions

We support students from disadvantaged backgrounds to access top universities, through a unique combination of tuition and in-school mentoring. We work with them to make good applications, get the grades and transition to university.

We support our volunteers to make an incredible impact. That's why 99% of our tutors reported they felt they were making a positive impact with their tutees.

**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 are now working in 41 schools across London, West Midlands, East Midlands, West Yorkshire and the North West to help achieve this mission.

How do I help?

As a volunteer tutor, you'll be tutoring a 14 to 16-year-old student. You will support them to achieve their potential in one of their GCSE subjects. In a weekly tutorial session, you will address the topics that they and their teacher think would be most helpful for them.

Where and when will I meet my student?

All tutoring will be delivered online through our dedicated online platform. This way our tutors and students can continue working together despite disruptions or restrictions due to COVID.

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 in a chosen subject if you have an A level in the subject or studied it at an Undergraduate or Post-Graduate level.

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.

Will I get any training?

We'll make sure that you've got all the training, resources and support you need to feel confident before starting tutoring.

You'll complete a (CPD accredited) Safeguarding Children course and we will also invite you to attend our online training.

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 benefit from guidance from the student's teacher.

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 access to 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
- For optimal experience, we recommend using Google Chrome as your browser 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.

What's in it for me?

This programme is a unique opportunity to pay forward your experiences and inspire the next generation of young people. You will benefit from an opportunity to be a positive role model, gain transferable skills, reconnect with a subject of your choice, gain accredited safeguarding qualification and receive recognition for your volunteering hours (for use in awards etc.)

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Frequently asked questions



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:

Biology, Chemistry, English, French, Geography, History, Maths, Physics, Spanish

We currently have a high demand for English, Maths and Science tutors in particular!

How much time does it take?

You'll need to be able to tutor for an hour a week during the school academic year. We also recommend that you plan for at least 30 minutes of preparation time ahead of each tutorial. We recognise holidays and illness mean sometimes you will have to postpone a session.

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