



## LEAPS Student Volunteers – working with schools and pupils

### What is LEAPS ?

LEAPS supports young people in 59 schools in South East Scotland. We provide them with information and encouragement to apply to Higher Education, targeting young people who have little or no parental experience of Higher Education or those who have experienced adverse social and/or economic circumstances.

### Why get involved ?

Previous volunteers have quoted the following reasons for getting involved as a LEAPS volunteer;

- Great experience to add to your CV
- Especially useful if thinking of teaching or a career working with young people
- Opportunity to give something back to the local community
- Provides a welcome break from academic work at university
- It's flexible – you can fit volunteering around your studies and other commitments
- It's a fun and sociable thing to do. You meet other student volunteers from local universities

### What role do Student Volunteers play ?

We believe the most effective way of making young people aware of the benefits and challenges of Higher Education is by providing them with the opportunity to meet university students and to visit local universities. Most of our activities target pupils from S3-S6 (13-17 year olds) at 20 local high schools around Edinburgh and the Lothians, the Scottish Borders and Stirling. As a student volunteer you would work with small groups of between 5 and 8 pupils. Workshops in schools and events on campus are led by LEAPS staff, are well structured and based on topics on university and student life.

### School Workshops

School workshops take place in school for a single school period (about an hour) and are delivered from November to March each year. Transport to and from the school is provided by LEAPS. For 2017-2018 we will be focusing on delivering our S5 workshop on 'Typical Student Week'. We expect to deliver around 20 of these workshops this year. Student volunteers work with small groups of pupils in this workshop, complete short activities and are encouraged to talk with enthusiasm and honesty about the realities of life as a student.

## Campus Reporter Events

Our Campus Reporter events are half day campus based activities and run from November to March. As part of this event S3 pupils (13-14 year olds) are given the task of creating a short news programme. As volunteers go round campus with their group they would explain what takes place at university and respond to questions on their own experiences. In 2017/2018 we will deliver around 20 of these events. Although this event lasts a morning the volunteer time commitment is around 2 hours. Campus Reporter events take place at the University of Edinburgh and Heriot Watt University but volunteers from any university are encouraged to take part. No knowledge of the host university is required as each group of pupils is shadowed by a LEAPS member of staff.

## S5 Conference

In March around 150-200 S5 pupils (15-16 year olds) will take part in our S5 Conference which provides early information about choosing the right college or university course. This year's event will take place at a university in Edinburgh (date and venue tbc) but is open to all volunteers. Your input would involve acting as a positive role model, talking about life on campus and assisting with a student panel and workshop sessions.

## Digital Volunteering

As well as physically attending workshops in schools on campus student volunteers also have the opportunity to make a digital contribution as a volunteer. This could involve recording a short film clip, using your own phone or a LEAPS camera, which we may then use on our S5 or S6 blogs to provide additional online information and support to the students we work with.

## Interested ?

In order to participate in any of our activities you need to be **2<sup>nd</sup> year or above at a university in Edinburgh or Stirling** and also have attended one of our '**LEAPS Volunteer Information and Training sessions**'. Find out more and book your place at a session at [www.leapsonline.org/join-us](http://www.leapsonline.org/join-us)

Following training interested students complete an online volunteer registration form, providing us with the contact details of two referees, one of which must be from your place of study. All of our events take place in a staff-supervised environment so the completion of a PVG (Protecting Vulnerable Groups) form if not normally required.

You can check out [www.leapsonline.org/volunteernoticeboard](http://www.leapsonline.org/volunteernoticeboard) for a list of forthcoming school workshops and events. To sign up for workshops and events registered volunteers - who have already attended a 'LEAPS Volunteer Information and Training session' - just need to email basic details of the event they want to take part in to [leapsvolunteers@ed.ac.uk](mailto:leapsvolunteers@ed.ac.uk).

There is no pressure to commit to a set number of events per semester. You can take part in as many or as few events as you choose to suit your timetable and other commitments.

### For further information on LEAPS:

Tel: 0131 650 4676, Email: [leapsvolunteers@ed.ac.uk](mailto:leapsvolunteers@ed.ac.uk), Web: [www.leapsonline.org/volunteers](http://www.leapsonline.org/volunteers)