

Advancing Access Conference 2025

Luton Sixth Form College

9:30-10:00	Registration and refreshments		
10:00-10:45	Welcome Address , delivered by Advancing Access and Luton Sixth Form College Keynote Address: New Personal Statements , delivered by Queen Mary University of London and University of Sheffield		
10:45-11:00	Break		
<u>Workshop one</u> 11:00-11:45	Pathways to Medicine	Supporting students with Degree Apprenticeships	Preparing students for admissions tests & interviews
<u>Workshop two</u> 11:45-12:30	Breaking barriers to the Russell Group	Your Guide to TMUA, ESAT and TARA	Pathways to Medicine
12:30-13:00	Group A: Lunch		Group B: Exhibition Hall Featuring stalls and university representatives from the Russell Group Universities.
13:00-13:30	Group B: Lunch		Group A: Exhibition Hall Featuring stalls and university representatives from the Russell Group Universities.
<u>Workshop three</u> 13:30-14:15	Your Guide to TMUA, ESAT and TARA	Supporting Supercurricular Learning	Breaking barriers to the Russell Group
14:15-14:30	Break		
14:30-15:15	Closing plenary: Updates from UCAS , delivered by UCAS Closing remarks: Thank you from Advancing Access		

Workshop	Blurb	Presenters
Pathways to Medicine	This session will cover key stages of the medicine application process, from subject choices, entry requirements to work experience, the application process, and interviews. We'll also explore how teachers and advisers can best support students and discuss ways to overcome common barriers.	University of Birmingham and University of Edinburgh
Breaking barriers to the Russell Group	This session explores the role schools play in supporting students to overcome barriers to higher education. We'll discuss widening participation, the students it impacts, and the relevance for schools, while also examining common barriers faced by underrepresented groups. Additionally, we'll cover available support to help close the gap in progression to higher education.	London School of Economics and University of York
Supporting Supercurricular Learning	This session explores research on the impact of supercurricular learning on attainment, particularly for socio-economically disadvantaged students in secondary school. We'll discuss how supercurricular activities can boost academic self-concept and success beliefs, and provide an overview of free resources from the University of Oxford to support this learning.	University of Oxford
Supporting students with Degree Apprenticeships	This session covers the basics of degree apprenticeships, including available qualifications, subjects, and how they're taught. We'll compare apprenticeships with traditional degrees, explore their pros and cons, and discuss how students can research opportunities and apply.	University of Nottingham and University of Exeter
Preparing students for admissions tests and interviews	This session covers key admissions tests including the LNAT, SAQ, and other alternatives. We'll explore what each test involves, how they are run, and practical steps for supporting students. We'll also discuss how to prepare students for interviews.	University of Bristol and Durham University
Your Guide to TMUA, ESAT and TARA	This session explores the role of TMUA (Test of Mathematics for University Admission), ESAT (Engineering and Science Admissions Test), and new for 2026 entry, TARA (Thinking and Reasoning Assessment) in university admissions. We'll cover what each test assesses, how to register, access arrangements, bursaries, and preparation tips.	Imperial College London and University of Cambridge