



BLOC

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The BLOC Project Guide Book
October 2024



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Version 1.0

Publication year: 2024



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Foreword

Welcome to the BLOC Project Guide Book, offering information about project members the activities they run at their institutions, and how to get in touch to organize a visit.

On behalf of the Landex Team, we are delighted to see the production of this guide book to support the next phase of this important collaboration between Landex institutions and the British Ethnic Riders Forum. The symbiosis between these groups aims to increase diversity in student populations and break down barriers in studying subjects allied to the land-based sector. In the last year the project has promoted a range of outreach engagement activities that have had positive impacts.



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We hope that this catalogue will encourage you to become actively involved in the project and explore the wide range of opportunities that exist for your groups in the land-based sector.



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An introduction to the project

Higher Educational institutions aim to ensure fair access and parity of experience for diverse student populations. Headline figures from data released by the Department for Education in July 2022¹ highlight how progression rates to Higher Education (HE) for those from ethnically diverse backgrounds, female students, and those who received Free School Meals have increased thanks to the work of passionate Outreach teams within HE providers who deliver aspiration and awareness raising activities to students with the potential to achieve in HE.

Historically, outreach activities were organized through schools, however outreach teams who are members of the BLOC Project recognized opportunities to engage with local communities beyond this. The project exists to provide events on campuses utilizing exciting facilities and resources used in teaching and research, for more than just groups of school children.

The project is a collaboration between LANDEX educational institutions and the British Ethnic Riders Federation. The symbiosis between these groups aims to increase diversity in student populations studying subjects allied to the land-based sector. Your community group can find out more about the work of LANDEX here <https://landex.org.uk/>. Your community group can find out more about the way in which the Higher Education sector is committed to fair access here <https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/promoting-equal-opportunities/>

An Introduction to British Ethnic Riders Federation

The Federation (*formerly the BAME Equine and Rural activities Facebook group*) was established in 2020 by Sandra Murphy who recognized an opportunity to unite and support members of the equestrian community from diverse backgrounds.

¹ <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/widening-participation-in-higher-education/2020-21>



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The activity of the Forum is supported by a core committee and includes work with industry organizations such as the British Equestrian Federation, the British Horse Society and the Pony Club.

Your community group can find out more about the group, using the following link to the website <https://berf2020.co.uk/> via Instagram using the following link <https://www.instagram.com/britishethnicriders/> plus you can join the Facebook group using the following link https://www.facebook.com/groups/670714580224754/?locale=en_GB



On behalf of project members, we hope you find this guide a useful resource for your community group.

Dr Linda Greening
BLOC Project Founder and Chair
Education Liaison Officer, BERF/ Head of Inclusivity, Hartpury University



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**A to Z of institutions, activities &
contact details**

Introduction to University Centre Bishop Burton (UCBB)

University Centre Bishop Burton (UCBB) provides specialist, technical education to ensure you succeed in your chosen career.

Turning 70 in 2024, UCBB has expanded significantly from its agricultural education origins. Since then, we have grown our offering to tap into the exclusive resources that our land offers us, to include a wider range of specialist land-based subjects including Animal Sciences and Equine, plus complementary subjects such as Sport and Floristry. A leading land-based institution in the UK, we have campuses at Bishop Burton in East Yorkshire and Riseholme in Lincolnshire offering degree level programmes, enabling students to develop a specialist area of study.

We pride ourselves on our amazing facilities, use of innovative technology, extensive and established industry partnerships and warm and friendly learning environment.

Happy, healthy and motivated students

At UCBB, our students are our number one priority. We are dedicated to preparing them for rewarding and fulfilling careers in their chosen specialism, but recognise that the road to achieving this goal encompasses more than their academic studies alone.

We cultivate a nurturing and inclusive campus environment with award-winning student support services and free life-coaching for all students. This approach is implemented across all aspects of student life including teaching from our academic teams, as demonstrated by feedback in the 2023 National Student Survey. 85% of our students agreed that teaching staff supported their learning well and we received higher than sector average positivity scores for assessment and learning. This included special mention of how often feedback is received enabling students to consistently improve their work.

This holistic approach to the health and wellbeing of our students ensures we have empowered, motivated and highly productive students. Discover more about our award-winning provision for students and financial support

<https://www.bishopburton.ac.uk/university-centre/information/student-support>

Equality, diversity and inclusion

At UCBB we embrace diversity and continually strive to be a community that is free from any form of discrimination. This approach is promoted at every stage of the student journey from initial advice and guidance to supported progression and beyond. We aspire to ensure that all individuals who engage with UCBB, whether student, staff member or visitor are always respected, valued and supported. As a result, 85% of students in the National Student Survey 2023 agreed that they felt free to express their ideas, opinions and beliefs whilst studying at UCBB.

Contact name: Jane Chapman (Director of Marketing)

Email: marketing@bishopburton.ac.uk

Telephone: 01964 553074

For more information please visit our website

<https://www.bishopburton.ac.uk/university-centre>

Activity	Participants
<p>Discovery Days Interactive activities for students aged 16-18. The days showcase the UCBB experience with specific focus on Agriculture, Equine and Animal Sciences.</p> <p>These days are aimed to raise aspirations of young people from deprived backgrounds.</p>	<p>By invitation only.</p> <p>Please contact Megan Firmstone Marketing & Outreach Coordinator for more details megan.firmstone@riseholme.ac.uk</p>
<p>Sustainable Futures Aimed at Year 10 this event is an opportunity for students to explore the campus and sample FE courses through hands-on activities which are delivered by our expert tutors, enabling them to gain first-hand experience of college life.</p> <p>The event is intended to inspire students to make informed decisions about their future and to ensure that they are aware of all the different routes, careers, and opportunities available to them.</p>	<p>By invitation only.</p> <p>Please contact Megan Firmstone Marketing & Outreach Coordinator for more details megan.firmstone@riseholme.ac.uk</p>
<p>British Eventing Youth Championships We are regular hosts of this highlight of the British Eventing youth calendar. The Youth Championships is a prestigious competition designed to provide young riders with the experience of competing in a large championship, representing their local regions.</p>	<p>Entrants via British Eventing https://www.britisheventing.com/junior</p> <p>Take a look at the Equestrian Competitions and Events page for other events https://www.bishopburton.ac.uk/campus-and-facilities/equine-centre/competitions-and-events</p>

Spring Live

An annual community event celebrating farming in the Springtime. Open to all ages UCBB' Bishop Burton campus us host to a range of interactive family orientated activities including animal handling, bricklaying, archery, assault course, equine riding demonstrations and access to live lambing in the lambing sheds.

Open to the general public (admission fee applies).

Please contact Rachel Nield Marketing and Events Coordinator for further details.

Rachel.nield@bishopburton.ac.uk

UCBB degree level Open Events

An opportunity to discover what it's like to study at UCBB

What to expect

- Join us for a welcome talk
- Explore our range of subject areas, enjoy subject-specific talks and demonstrations
- Take a full campus tour
- Tour our on-campus accommodation
- Chat to our student support team, including our life coaches and study skills team
- Learn more about finance and the support available
- Receive UCAS application advice and support

Booking available online

Bishop Burton campus

<https://www.bishopburton.ac.uk/university-centre/ucbb/open-events>

Riseholme campus

<https://www.riseholme.ac.uk/degree-level/degree-level-at-riseholme/degree-level-open-events>

College level Open Events

Designed specifically for those interested in post GCSE study, all of our Open Events start with registration and a chat with our tutors.

What to expect

- Explore our range of subject areas, enjoy subject-specific talks and demonstrations
- Take a full campus tour
- Tour our on-campus accommodation
- Chat to our student support team, including study support, additional learning needs and financial bursaries
- Receive application advice and support

Booking available online

Bishop Burton campus

<https://www.bishopburton.ac.uk/college/the-college/open-events>

Riseholme campus

<https://www.riseholme.ac.uk/college/the-college/open-events>

Offer holders' days

Once you have an offer with us you'll be invited to

By invitation only.

For more information please contact Rachel

come along to experience UCBB for the day! Take part in subject related sessions, meet our staff and get to know those you'll be studying alongside. Even if you've been to an Open Event, coming to our Offer Holders' Day is a great idea.

- Delve deeper into your chosen degree programme
- Experience our amazing facilities
- Meet other people who have applied to join us
- Take a look at our accommodation
- Discover more about Students support
- Talk to Admissions and Finance

Parents and/or supporters are welcome to attend.

Nield, Marketing and Events Coordinator.

Rachel.nield@bishopburton.ac.uk

College and schools outreach

Throughout the academic year our dedicated Outreach and Schools Liaison team visits schools, sixth forms and colleges in our local communities to inform students from all backgrounds about our land-based provision.

Please contact Megan Firmstone Marketing & Outreach Coordinator for more details
megan.firmstone@riseholme.ac.uk

Bespoke visits and events

We are able to accommodate bespoke sessions for groups.

Please contact Megan Firmstone Marketing & Outreach Coordinator for more details
megan.firmstone@riseholme.ac.uk

Short courses and community workshops

We offer a variety of short courses and community workshops across a number of disciplines including animal sciences, equine, agriculture and floristry.

Take a look at the website for more details.

<https://www.bishopburton.ac.uk/whats-on>

Please visit www.bishopburton.ac.uk/whats-on for details on upcoming activities and to find out how to book your place.



Introduction to Derby College

History

In 2003, Broomfield Hall became part of Derby College Group (DCG), and is now known as Broomfield Hall College. Broomfield Hall offers a range of Land based courses in Equine Management, Animal Management, Zoo and Wildlife, Horticulture, Agriculture, Arboriculture, Countryside Management and Floristry. Our 2025 vision to create world class, accessible education opportunities that enrich lives and to make bright futures a reality for all. Our mission is clear: to predict and serve the needs of our business and civic communities by forecasting workforce requirements and co-creating, with employers, education and skills programmes that prepare our students for the next phase of their lives.

Diversity

We are extremely fortunate to work in an area rich in cultural diversity, what we can gain from this is immeasurable. We must create a culture where our employees, students, and wider stakeholders feel they are an integral part of the DCG community. We are proud to create an environment where everyone can embrace other cultures, customs and challenges, where we treat each other with professionalism, respect and kindness and where everyone can contribute to college life, grow and thrive. An inclusive and equitable culture that embraces a true sense of belonging.

We offer bespoke tutorial sessions, mental health support and guidance, support plans, EHCP support and guidance, practical enhancement, personal and academic skill developments, practical and theory application, employer engagement and work experience opportunities alongside many more opportunities. We offer bursary on a case-by-case basis to support students financially on their programmes.

Sustainability

Derby College Group (DCG) recognises that climate change, now being referred to as The Climate & Nature Crisis or The Climate Emergency, is one of the most significant global challenges of the century. As one of the largest further education colleges in England, with nearly 14,000 students, DCG stands shoulder to shoulder with other



organisations willing to take the urgent action required of us to cut the use of carbon and carbon embedded products and resources.

Courses

Courses in Land based are offered as follows:

- School Leavers (Further Education – Level Entry 3 – Level 3)
- Higher Education (degree – Level 4 (FdSc) through to Level 6 BSc (hons))
- Apprenticeships (Level 2 and Level 3)
- Short Courses (Weekend, Evening and Holiday Clubs)

Contact: Stacey Higgs – Stacey.Higgs@Derby-college.ac.uk / 01332

You can apply directly via www.derby-college.ac.uk

Activity	Participants
Equine Taster Day	Open to prospectus students
Conservation Animal Unit Open Day	Warm weather clothing Open to the general public
Broomfield Hall Open Evening – Land based	Open to the general public – no booking required. Last entry 6.45pm
Broomfield Hall Open Day – Land based	Open to the general public – no booking required. Last entry 6.45pm



Introduction to Harper Adams University

Harper Adams University was founded in 1901 as Harper Adams College, gaining university college status in 1998 and university status in 2012. Harper Adams is a specialist provider of Higher Education and is established as the University for food production and technology, animal health and wellbeing, and recognized for its contribution to sustainable living environments for our plant's inhabitants supported by our departments curricula and research specialisms in science, technology, agriculture, business, economics, land management, engineering, entomology, plant science, veterinary science and zoology, digital and data science, and policy.

Please contact Rachel Brookes (Widening Participation Lead) for more information rbrookes@harper-adams.ac.uk or for more information check our website at www.harper-adams.ac.uk/events

Activity	Transport	Participants
Visit to campus for outreach sessions, taster days and campus tours	No transport available	Ideally groups of 30 students is a nice number but we can work up to 90 with enough notice
On Campus Event days for specific groups or subject areas	No transport available	Dependent on event, will vary.
Open Days	Transport may be available for Irish visitors from Liverpool airport and for visitors arriving at Stafford & Telford train stations	No maximum, but registration advised on the website



HARTPURY

Introduction to Hartpury University & Hartpury College

The history of Hartpury is quite unique! Hartpury was established in 1948 after World War II as an agricultural education centre with only 50 students. The first higher education degree in Equine Studies was introduced in 1992, followed by the first degree programme in Equine Science in 1994. In 1999, the first Masters degree programme opened with the first PhD student coming in 2004. Throughout this time Hartpury was supported by a degree awarding partner, the University of the West of England. In 2017, Hartpury gained 'Taught Degree Awarding Powers' and University status in 2018. Today, we have more than 4,500 students studying at both the university and the college. Hartpury College awards BTEC Diplomas, T-Level and A-Level qualifications.

We offer the following degree subjects: Agriculture, Animal, Business, Equine, Sport, Veterinary Nursing.

For more information about the specific course we provide, please visit our website: <https://www.hartpury.ac.uk/>

You can find our equality, diversity and inclusivity statement here: <https://www.hartpury.ac.uk/media/zkifv14z/equality-diversity-and-inclusivity-policy-2022.pdf>

To read a summary of our access and participation plan click here: <https://www.hartpury.ac.uk/media/dxjnwlus/hartpury-university-summary-of-2020-21-to-2024-25-access-and-participation-plan.pdf>

To find out about the financial support we offer, click here: <https://www.hartpury.ac.uk/university/student-life/fees-finance/bursaries-scholarships-studentships-and-more/>

You can find more information about Wellbeing support at Hartpury here: <https://www.hartpury.ac.uk/university/student-life/support-wellbeing/>



HARTPURY

Please contact Emma Bartlett, Outreach and Student Recruitment Manager, to organize any of the activities listed below

Emma.bartlett@hartpury.ac.uk (+44 (0) 1452 702 303)

Outreach webpage: <https://www.hartpury.ac.uk/working-with-schools/>

Transport: Please ask about options for group activities.

Refreshments: Refreshments available to purchase in our on-campus restaurant.

Activity	Participants
<p>Subject Taster Day; talks, workshops, campus tour, student life Q&A etc. Full or half day. Offered on campus.</p>	<p>30 students for all subjects apart from agriculture where it is 15. Students will need to wear a coat, hat, comfortable clothing and walking boots. Wellington boots can be provided for up to 30 students. Staff to child ratio is 1:10 Refreshments available to purchase in our on-campus restaurant.</p>
<p>Campus tour of university facilities. 1.5 hours Virtual or on campus.</p>	<p>15 students per student ambassador who will deliver the campus tour. Can book multiple ambassadors to cater for a large group. Staff to child ratio is 1:10 Refreshments available to purchase in our on-campus restaurant.</p>
<p>Subject Career Pathway workshop 1 hour. Virtual or on campus.</p>	<p>Up to 50 students. Staff to child ratio is 1:10 Refreshments available to purchase in our on-campus restaurant.</p>
<p>Open days Find your perfect course, see where you could live in our student accommodation and get to know about student life.</p>	<p>Visit our website to book onto a university open day https://www.hartpury.ac.uk/university/open-days/ Or a college open day https://www.hartpury.ac.uk/college/open-days/</p>
<p>Equine events While away a day watching the athleticism of the horse and harmony with the rider</p>	<p>NAF 5* Festival of Dressage NAF 5* Summer Showjumping Spectacular NAF 5* International Horse Trials For more information https://www.hartpury.ac.uk/equine/</p>



Introduction to Kingston Maurward College

University Centre Kingston Maurward (UCKM) is based at Kingston Maurward College, a specialist land-based college set in 750 acres of farmland, parkland, gardens, and a conservation area. KMC is located two miles from Dorchester in Dorset. The new £3.5m University Centre is a state-of-the-art building opened in 2022 funded through the Local Enterprise Partnership to support increased progression into Higher Education in Dorset. The College has also been successful in gaining funding to partner with the Open University to develop new degrees, as well as funding to offer Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQ).

At the University Centre, you can study land based programmes in:

- Animal Behaviour, Welfare & Conservation
- Marine Ecology and Conservation.
- Dairy Herd Management
- Rural Business Management
- Horticulture
- Public Services Management
- Outdoor Adventure Management

For more information visit the website https://www.kmc.ac.uk/college/degree_level_courses/

For information about open days and events click here

<https://www.kmc.ac.uk/college/open-events/>



Introduction to Myerscough College & University Centre

Founded in 1894 as the Lancashire County Institute of Agriculture, Myerscough College is one of the oldest further education colleges in Lancashire. You can find out more about the story of how we turned from a cheesemaking school to become one of the UK's largest land-based and sports colleges here:

<https://www.myerscough.ac.uk/about/college-history/>

The main campus boasts an impressive set of facilities, including an International Equine Arena, a golf course and Simulated Golf Training Centre, the National Arboricultural Centre, an off-road driving track, a dedicated Animal Studies Centre, a Plant Centre with tropical and temperate greenhouses, Myerscough Gardens and Arboreta, sports fields and two multi-million-pound sports centres, including a full size 3G pitch, as well as woods, fields, ponds and a river on the site. In addition, Myerscough College houses the Rural Business Centre, which provides support for rural business in the form of courses, advice, links and the Rural Business Incubator for startup businesses.

Myerscough completed a £30 million campus enhancement programme in 2020, including an Engineering Centre, Rural Skills Centre and a state-of-the-art Veterinary Nursing Centre, a Foundation Learning Centre and extended Animal Studies complex. In addition, Myerscough's Lodge Farm boasts a sector leading, state-of-the-art Food and Farming Innovation and Technology Centre.

Advice Sessions and Events

Come along and meet the staff, tour the campus and find out more about the College and University Centre and our courses. The Advice Mornings are ideal for students looking to undertake one of our Higher Education (Degree), Further Education (School Leaver), 14-16, Work Based Learning or Short Courses. Saturday Course Advice Mornings events run from 10am till 1pm. Please check our "What's on" section of our website for more detailed information about each individual event and to book onto these events.

Applicant days

Our Applicant Days are for those who hold an offer to study at Myerscough College and University Centre. A formal invite to all applicants will be emailed.



What will I experience on an Applicant Day?

- Experience Myerscough's superb facilities and campus.
- Enjoy a taste of some practical activities.
- Find out about the range of careers and opportunities available to you.
- Meet and chat with the Course Tutors.

How much will it cost?

Our Applicant Days are FREE.

Where can I buy lunch?

A FREE lunch will be provided, to give you a flavour of what our amazing Catering Team have to offer.

What are the timings?

Applicant Days last from 9.30am until 4pm. Between 3.30pm and 4.30pm there will be an optional campus tour and staff from support services (Finance, Admissions, Inclusive Learning, Accommodation, Careers, Work Experience, Sports Centre) will be available for parents to speak to.

Open Farm Sunday – June

This day will provide the public with a fantastic opportunity to explore our working farms onsite at Myerscough. More details about this event (including timings) will follow in due course at www.myerscough.ac.uk



Introduction to Reaseheath College & University Centre

One of the UK's leading specialist land-based further and higher education colleges based in Nantwich, Cheshire, we offer a range of full-time diplomas, apprenticeships and degrees, ideal for those looking for an exciting career in the land-based industries.

Reaseheath College began as the Cheshire School of Agriculture and opened its doors in 1921, specialising in agriculture, "dairying", poultry husbandry and horticulture. In 2021, Reaseheath College celebrated 100 years of providing land-based further and higher education.

Reaseheath has some of the best specialist facilities and resources in the country, thanks to a continuing £80 million investment across campus. This includes our £8 million Advanced Engineering and Agri-Tech Centre, £6 million Sports Sciences and Performance Academy, £8 million National Centre for Horticulture, the Environment and Sustainable Technology, £7 million Food Centre and our £13 million halls of residence.

Our world class facilities and industry focused technical courses help support continued student success. Our further education courses help students to become career ready and last year 97% of students gained a job or progressed onto an apprenticeship or a degree in their chosen industry. More information about Reaseheath College can be found on our website [here](#)

University Centre Reaseheath, or UCR (our Higher Education provision) provides a diverse range of industry focused Higher Education qualifications, that equip students with the skills they need to grow, progress and become the next leaders in vital land-based industries.

University Centre Reaseheath is committed to improving access and participation in higher education for under-represented groups. Read a summary of our approved Access and Participation Plan 2020-25 (APP) [here](#).



Going to college or university can be an expensive time for you and your family but there is support available to help you experience one of the most rewarding and enjoyable times of your life! As a Higher Education student you will have two main costs to meet, your tuition fees and living costs. Financial support is available to help with these costs in the form of student loans and bursaries. The amount you will be eligible for depends on your income and that of your household. You can apply for your student loans from the February prior to the start of your course. You will need your UCAS registration number in order to do so. You will also need to re-apply each year. You do not have to wait until you have a confirmed place on a course before applying – simply quote the course that you think you are most likely to attend.

Find out more about fees and financial support at UCR [here](#)

At UCR, you will find a truly nurturing and supportive environment from the day you start. Whatever you need, from support with physical or learning difficulties, help with homesickness, illness or mental health challenges, we will do everything we can to help. To find out more about our Inclusive Learning Team, including the support we offer for those with additional needs, please click [here](#)

To find out more about our health, wellbeing and chaplaincy services, please click [here](#)

More information about Higher Education at UCR can be found [here](#)

Events at Reaseheath College and University Centre Reaseheath

Activity	Information	Book
Family Festival	A full day of family entertainment, activities and displays at our campus in Nantwich, Cheshire. All welcome – Low cost tickets	Tickets on sale nearer to the event
Reaseheath College Open event	An excellent opportunity for you to discover the many courses we offer. You will also have the chance to speak to our specialist course staff and get information about finance, transport, accommodation & learner support.	Experience Reaseheath Reaseheath College
University Centre Reaseheath Open event	Whether you already know what you want to do in the future, or you are looking for some inspiration, we would love to welcome you to UCR to try some amazing taster sessions at our next Open Day.	Open Days University Centre Reaseheath Cheshire Degrees (ucreaseheath.ac.uk)



University Centre Reaseheath Offer Holder day	<p>It can be nerve-wracking trying to make your decision based on just one Open Day, which is why we also hold Offer Holder Days. You will be able to attend a sample practical session for the subject you're interested in, meet your future course mates and lecturers, take a tour of the departments, facilities and accommodation and meet the Student Services team to find out about accommodation, transport and student life.</p>	<p>Offer holders will receive an invite</p>
Reaseheath mini zoo	<p>Our mini zoo contains species from around the world such as civets, wallabies, lemurs, meerkats, birds, otters and more. All welcome – Low cost admission</p>	<p>Reaseheath Mini Zoo - Reaseheath Zoo</p>
Zoo schools outreach	<p>Education lies at the heart of all that we do, and a trip to Reaseheath Mini Zoo offers an unmissable opportunity to take learning outside of the classroom. From EYFS to KS4, our unforgettable group visits create and deliver unique experiences to help inspire your pupils to take an interest in animals and the natural world.</p>	<p>schooltrips@reaseheath.ac.uk</p>
Zoo home education	<p>These unique practical learning opportunities in the zoo are aimed at families who home educate. Our sessions are a mixture of practical hands-on sessions in the zoo and learning through fun in our outdoor classroom.</p>	<p>Wild home school - Reaseheath Zoo</p>
Zoo school & Zoo academy	<p>Zoo School is the ultimate holiday activity club for your curious and animal-loving kids! From 10am to 2:30pm, your children aged 8-14 will embark on a wild journey through the zoo, experiencing hands-on activities like never before.</p> <p>Zoo Academy is designed for 14-17-year-olds who are interested in working as a Keeper, Vet, or in research and conservation.</p>	<p>Zoo School and Zoo Academy - Reaseheath Zoo</p>
Forest College	<p>The Forest College programme is designed to re-engage young people with learning. It supports young people to feel positive about themselves and their abilities through a bespoke alternative provision. Graduates of the course have increased confidence and self-esteem as well as reduced anxiety and improved resilience.</p>	<p>Reaseheath Forest College - Reaseheath College</p>



Access & Participation outreach	As part of our access and participation work, UCR work with eligible groups and schools through our partnership with Higher Horizons + (part of the UniConnect programme)	For more information, and eligibility, see Teachers - Higher Horizons
School liaison	Our School Liaison Team works to develop and maintain the relationship between secondary schools and the College. Our aim is to make your transition from school or employment to a course at Reaseheath as smooth and easy as possible.	For more information and contact details, see School Liaison - Reaseheath College
Adult learning	If you want to learn new skills or gain additional qualifications, studying one of our many adult courses at Reaseheath College would be the perfect choice for you. Whether you want to progress in your current role, change your career path or simply take up a new hobby, we have over 100 adult courses to choose from.	For more information, see Adult Courses at Reaseheath - Reaseheath College



Introduction to the Royal Agricultural University

The Royal Agricultural University (RAU) has been at the forefront of agricultural education and a key contributor to the land-based sector for 175 years. Today, we have more than 1,100 students studying agriculture, business, environment, equine science, farm management, food, real estate and rural land management. We are based in Cirencester, Gloucestershire and pride ourselves on our links with industry and all courses are designed to meet the demands of the employment market for land-based expertise, both in the UK and worldwide.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Our purpose is to cultivate care for the land and all who depend on it and our mission is to equip a new generation to thrive through change. We recognise that the achievement of these aims requires equality in participation and progression, and that success means that promoting equality, diversity and inclusion must be shared by everyone in our community. The Royal Agricultural University (RAU) Equality Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Strategy sets out our approach to equality, diversity and inclusion for the next four years. It is a public declaration of our commitment to seek to develop a community that is fully inclusive, recruiting and retaining staff and students from all sectors of society. You can find out more by following this link: <https://www.rau.ac.uk/about-rau/equality-diversity-inclusion-strategy>

Widening Participation in Higher Education

The RAU is in a unique position to be able to address access for underrepresented groups within rural communities. Widening participation is a strategic goal for the University and our aim is to grow and diversify our student community. We aim to increase participation and social mobility, particularly from students from low participation areas, students from state schools, students from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) backgrounds, and students who have been in local authority care.

We are committed to implementing a programme of change, enabling the RAU to recruit students from a wide and diverse range of backgrounds; to ensure that they flourish and succeed academically, that they are well equipped to progress to employment, start their own business, or engage in further study. To find out more about our widening participation strategy and Access and Participation Plan, please follow this link: <https://www.rau.ac.uk/access-agreements-and-access-and-participation-plans>



Please contact outreach@rau.ac.uk for more information about/to book onto these events.

Activity	Participants
<p>Undergraduate open days Our undergraduate open days and undergraduate open afternoons give you the opportunity to hear about our courses first hand from teaching staff and look around our beautiful campus. The events will begin with welcome and course talks, and then you can join campus tours and an informal Q&A session. During the Q&A you can meet teaching staff and representatives from our accommodation, finance, admissions and student support services teams. There will also be an optional visit to a nearby farm used by our students or RAU Equestrian Centre.</p>	<p>Advance booking is recommended for larger groups</p> <p>Please wear appropriate footwear and clothing if you wish to visit one of the farms or the Equestrian Centre</p> <p>Morning refreshments are provided free of charge</p> <p>Travel bursary to cover transport costs of getting to and from the event. Please contact us to find out more</p>
<p>Campus tours We regularly run campus tours where you will have the opportunity to see our beautiful campus and find out more about the University. The tours, led by a student ambassador, will visit University buildings and facilities including the library and student hub.</p>	<p>Advance booking is recommended for larger groups</p> <p>Light refreshments provided</p> <p>Travel bursary to cover transport costs of getting to and from the event. Please contact us to find out more</p>
<p>University Experience Days for Y9 to Y13 During the visit students will get a tour of the campus from current students and participate in academic taster sessions or any of our presentations and workshops on university. A visit to one of our farms or equestrian centre for a session can also be part of the day.</p>	<p>No maximum number of attendees</p> <p>Lunch provided free of charge</p> <p>Travel bursary to cover transport costs of getting to and from the event. Please contact us to find out more</p>
<p>Discover RAU Residential Summer School (for students in Y10 to 12) Discover RAU is for students in year 10-12 who are interested in applying to study at the RAU. Students get the chance to live in accommodation and attend taster sessions split into their areas of interest. It provides the opportunity for students to meet and make friends with others who may become their classmates in the future. For further information and eligibility please visit our website: www.rau.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/open-days/discover-rau</p>	<p>Event is limited to 100 attendees</p> <p>Accommodation, all meals and all sessions are provided free of charge</p> <p>Travel bursary to cover transport costs of getting to and from the event. Please contact us to find out more</p>

Introduction to Sparsholt College & University Centre

Sparsholt College has been offering Higher Education since the late 1970s and has worked with the University of Portsmouth, its validating University, since the early 1980s. Becoming a University Centre has allowed Sparsholt to convey more clearly the quality and standards associated with these courses and differentiates them as university level programmes.

Since then, University Centre Sparsholt has continued to flourish offering a range of undergraduate courses in Agriculture, Animal and Zoo Science, Equine Science and Equestrian Performance Management, Fishery Science, Aquaculture and Marine Science, Veterinary Nursing Science and Wildlife Ecology and Conservation. Postgraduate degree courses are also available in Equine Behaviour, Performance and Training and Applied Zoo Biology. University Centre Sparsholt has now introduced a new Higher Apprenticeship in Countryside Ranger and the opportunity for students to study up to PhD level.

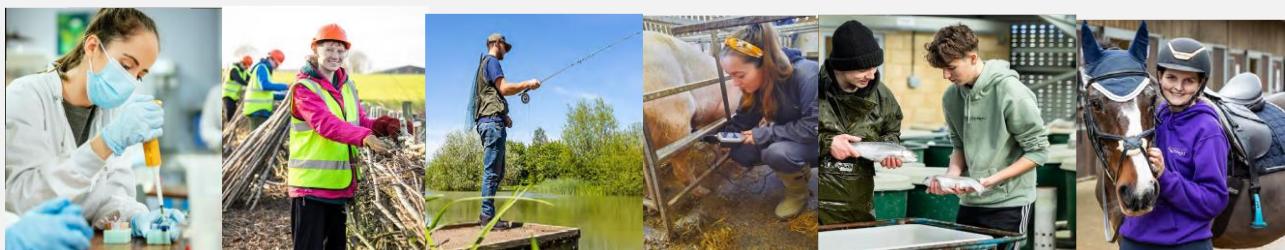
Set in 183 hectares of rolling Hampshire countryside Sparsholt could not be prouder of our outstanding facilities which include a working farm with new robot milking technology, industry designed Veterinary Nursing Centre, Animal Health and Welfare Research Centre opened by HRH The Princess Royal, newly renovated Aquatic Centre, Equine Centre with four arenas and a Racewood simulator. University Centre Sparsholt only employ staff who have wide ranging industry experience and who are very passionate about their subject area. Our supportive Higher Education team take the time to get to know all students on first name terms and make themselves available for queries and support when they are not teaching. Add to that the support available from Sparsholt's Wellbeing, Library and Residential teams our University Centre Sparsholt experience is personal and fulfilling.



UNIVERSITY CENTRE SPARSHOLT

Please contact Abigail.heaman@sparsholt.ac.uk (Senior Curriculum Lead)

Activity	Participants
<p>University Experience afternoons For Year 10 to 13 students During the afternoon students will get a tour of campus, opportunity to chat to our student ambassadors and select a taster practical session of their choice to attend. A variety of practical taster sessions are available, some of which include a demonstration on our mechanical horse, review of animal enclosures and diet, analytical laboratory sessions, activity tour on sustainability in agriculture, and exploring aquatic animal transport.</p>	<p>15 students in each taster practical workshop. If you are attending one of our equine taster sessions please bring your riding equipment, other sessions appropriate footwear and clothing for outdoor activities.</p> <p>Please email Abigail.heaman@sparsholt.ac.uk to book and find out about our full range of practical taster sessions available.</p>
<p>University Centre Open days Join us for one of our open days, have a tour of our campus and explore our excellent subject area facilities. The open day will include a welcome talk, accommodation presentation and tour, opportunity to meet with current students and a review of the course content.</p>	<p>Please book online for the event.</p> <p>For more details see: www.sparsholt.ac.uk/ucs-opendays</p>
<p>Short courses Book on to one of our many short courses available on campus, from equine and pet first aid, aquarium husbandry for small zoo collections, bumblebee and solitary bee identification, equine rider biomechanics, and pet in-hand showing clinic.</p>	<p>Please email Abigail.heaman@sparsholt.ac.uk to book and find out our full range of short courses available.</p>





BLOC project

BLOC Project Member Locations

Circles with green indicate other LANDEX further and higher education providers.





BLOC

project

Glossary

Campus = the grounds and buildings of a university or college.

College = usually post 16 education provision including A-Levels, T-Levels, and BTec/City & Guild qualifications.

Land-based = in the context of this guide, the term relates to subjects of education that typically involve the outdoors e.g. agriculture, horticulture, equine and animal science, veterinary (nurse) courses.

LANDEX = an umbrella organization supporting land-based educational institutions in the UK.

Offer holder = an individual who has applied to and been offered a place at a Higher Education provider.

Open days = bookable events which provide an opportunity to meet academic staff, current students, and find out more about what an educational provider has to offer.

Outreach = activity with young people in schools and the community that aims to raise aspirations and awareness around Higher Education.

Residential = usually an in-person overnight activity hosted by a College or University on their campus, enabling you to physically experience what life could be like for a student.

Taster session = usually an in-person activity hosted by a College or University on their campus, enabling you to physically experience what study could be like for a particular subject / in a subject area.

University = where you can study an undergraduate degree. These institutions have their own degree awarding powers and appear on the register of Higher Education providers, held by the Office for Students.

University Centre = a registered higher education provider delivering higher education course including some provision being awarded through partnership with a university or universities.