

# Insight into University 2024/2025

## BACKGROUND

EDT's vision is a society where all young people can develop the STEM skills, knowledge and experience they need to take control of their futures and change the world around them.

EDT have been running the Insight into University programmes since 2022, but the Headstart programme of residentials ran for over 20 years previously across the UK.

The aim of the programme is to introduce Year 12, S6 (Aged 16/17) to STEM at University.

The programme is over four or five days showcasing STEM education and university life. The programme is accredited at Industrial Cadets Silver Level. Industrial Cadets is an industry led accreditation scheme whose patron is His Royal Highness King Charles III.

In 2024/25 we ran 8 courses between June and August 2025:

- **University of Oxford** Materials Science
- **UCL** Mechanical Engineering
- **UCL** Chemical Engineering
- **University of Liverpool** Aerospace Engineering
- **University of Lincoln** Engineering and Physical Sciences
- **University of Southampton** Ocean and Earth Science
- **Lancaster University** Maths
- **Aston University** Chemical Engineering and Biotechnologies

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**269 Students** from 214 different schools fully completed the course and received their Silver Industrial Cadets Award.

46% Female

50% Male

3% Non-Binary

7% Prefer not to say

## Ethnicity:

36% Ethnic Minority Group

59% White

5% Prefer not to say



UCL, Chemical Engineering

- 77% of students were from state schools
- 13% received a funded or bursary place
- 14% would be first in their family to attend higher education
- 15% of participants live in areas with low progression rates of 18 year olds into higher education (Polar Score 1 and 2).
- 9% of students come from the 20% most deprived areas as measured by the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD)
- 13% are receiving free school meals
- 32% declared a disability
- 3% are a student carer
- 1% are care experienced



University of Southampton, Ocean and Earth Sciences

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## STUDENT FEEDBACK

94% of students felt their experience on the course will help them make a better informed decision for their UCAS application.



80% of students think their experience on the Insight into University course will influence their choice of degree and/or university.



96% of students would recommend the course to younger students in their school/ college.



94% of students felt the course inspired them to see a future in STEM



University of Lincoln, Engineering and Physical Sciences

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## SKILLS

**Average score out of 5 the course helped them increase the following skills:**

Communication: ★★★★★

Teamworking: ★★★★★

Confidence: ★★★★★

Resilience: ★★★★★

Presentation: ★★★★★

Problem-Solving: ★★★★★

Other Education or Work Related Skills: ★★★★★



University of Liverpool, Aerospace Engineering

**Average score out of 5 for the following statements:**

It helped me feel more connected to employers or STEM organisations::

★★★★★

It helped me feel more confident about STEM opportunities available to me:

★★★★★

It brought me into contact with people I wouldn't usually meet or spend time with:

★★★★★

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## Student Comments:

"I thoroughly enjoyed all aspects, all talks seemed high quality and highly engaging as well as all activities and trips being well focused and enjoyable. The social aspects were also a highlight as I made a plethora of new friends."

"It was enjoyable and I learned a lot of engineering knowledge as well as social/ soft skills. It included a lot more than I expected, which was positive."

I very much enjoyed this course and it is a fabulous experience. It was much better than I expected, and the enthusiasm of the lecturers and student helpers made the course all the better."

"I enjoyed being with other people who were interested in the subject and that we were exposed to cutting-edge research and the fundamental experiments. The range of activities the team organised were larger than I expected."

"The course was amazing and I really enjoyed it, didn't know what to expect from it and I was pleasantly surprised by how good it was."

"Really enjoyed it great planning, meals and accommodation. The lectures were really interesting and informative and a good length. Especially enjoyed the hands on activities."

"I enjoyed my time on the course, I got to spend time with people who have similar interests to me. Spending time in university style teaching was fun allowing me to experience what it is."

"I really enjoyed this course, I enjoyed living on my own and the course made me more confident with teamwork and problem solving."

"It was amazing, the lectures were really interesting and engaging . I enjoyed the short projects as it strengthened my creativity skills and problem thinking."

"It was really good - loved spending a lot of time in the labs and touring the buildings. The talks were very helpful too."

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## **“Parent/ Guardian Comments:**

“It gave my child confidence about going to university and about making friends in that environment. The course also helped them decide which type of course they want to go for as it helped them realise which aspects they enjoy the most.”

“It helped them solidify their desire to pursue Engineering. And they really enjoyed getting to know other kids serious about the field.”

“My child absolutely thrived in the week living as if they were at university. Their peers and also the teaching staff and current students helped immensely creating a wonderful atmosphere.”

“The course certainly opened their eyes and confirmed their passion for the subject.”

“We felt it was extremely well organised with very detailed information provided in advance really appreciated. The staff and students were really engaging and inspirational.”

“I feel strongly that it has helped their confidence in themselves and their ability to interact with others. The range of topics was useful for choosing what courses to apply for at uni.”

“They found the lectures interesting and the activities fun. It was a great insight into the types of course they could do in future. And how interesting university could be.”

“Thank you for providing such a great opportunity to young people. Our child is now really looking forward to higher education.”



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Aston University, Chemical  
Engineering and Biotechnologies



Lancaster University, Maths



University of Oxford, Material Sciences



UCL, Mechanical Engineering

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## THANK YOU

We would like to thank our funders and supporters for 2024/25 who made the course possible and accessible for so many students

And to our University partners for hosting:



Without your support we wouldn't have been able to inspire so many young people into STEM careers and education