



Nº1

The UK's Number One
Summer School

COURSE OVERVIEW

University Preparation

16-17yrs

📍 Earlscliffe Summer School



At a glance

Introduction to University Preparation

University Preparation at Earlscliffe is designed to equip you with the skills, knowledge, and confidence needed to succeed in higher education. The programme focuses on academic research, critical writing, and presentation, while also providing practical guidance on applying to UK universities. With tailored support and practice in communication, you'll be ready to take your next step into university life.

Academic Content

20 hours of subject-specific academic content per week with an experienced subject tutor, delivered through interactive seminars and hands-on practical workshops

English Language Level

Students require a minimum English level of B2+ to enrol onto this programme.





About the programme

The University Preparation pathway at Earlscliffe is designed for students aiming to continue their studies in the UK. Over two weeks you'll develop the academic skills, subject focus and application knowledge needed to take the next step into higher education.

The course covers research, essay writing and presentation skills, giving you the tools to study effectively at university level. You'll also work on interdisciplinary projects that encourage you to connect ideas across different fields.

A distinctive part of this pathway is its focus on the UK system. You'll receive guidance on how university applications work, including advice on UCAS, personal statements

and subject choices. Workshops also introduce you to the expectations of UK academic life, from lectures to tutorials.

You'll collaborate with peers on group projects and presentations, building confidence in communication and teamwork. Experienced tutors provide individual feedback and advice, helping you to understand your strengths and refine your goals.

Studying University Preparation at Earlscliffe equips you with both the academic and practical knowledge to succeed in future applications. It gives you a clear insight into studying in the UK and supports you in taking the next step towards higher education.





Key Learning Outcomes

1.

Gain insight into the UK higher education system

Learn about the structure of UK universities, degree options and the application process, including UCAS.

2.

Strengthen academic skills for university study

Practise research, essay writing, presentation and critical thinking, building the skills expected at undergraduate level.

3.

Develop confidence in personal presentation

Work on interview techniques, academic discussions and personal statements to communicate your strengths effectively.

4.

Explore pathways and subject choices

Receive tailored guidance to help identify suitable courses and universities that align with your interests and ambitions.





Subject Theme

Shaping Tomorrow

Shaping Tomorrow transforms the school into a global conference where every student has a voice. Across the week, you'll take on the role of a future thought-leader, preparing to share ideas that could influence the world ahead. Subjects provide different platforms: you might premiere a documentary, deliver a keynote-style business pitch, showcase a sustainability model, or give a personal academic talk. The focus is on vision and conviction – how to frame ideas, communicate them clearly, and stand by them under questioning. The conference culminates in a live event where projects are unveiled to the audience in the style of an international gathering, complete with screenings, speeches, and demonstrations. It's an opportunity to practise public speaking, sharpen your message, and present yourself as someone ready to help shape the future.





Fundamental concepts

University Preparation focuses on academic expression and personal voice. Students explore how to take an idea that matters to them – an area of study, a question they've pursued, or a subject that inspires curiosity – and shape it into a talk that is both clear and compelling. The emphasis is on building confidence as a speaker while learning how to communicate with structure and purpose.

University Preparation Frameworks

The subject follows the process of preparing a professional spotlight talk. Students choose a topic, research and refine their ideas, and plan a structure that works within a short timeframe. They practise delivery, experiment with tone and emphasis, and make adjustments based on feedback. The final stage is presenting live on stage, with the audience gathered as if at an academic conference.

Foundational Vocabulary

Presentation, keynote, research, structure, delivery, emphasis, audience, rehearsal, clarity, expression, confidence, performance, communication.





Time to Shine

Time to Shine gives every student the chance to practise public speaking in a structured setting. By researching, preparing and delivering a project to an audience, you build confidence in expressing ideas clearly and develop the ability to present with authority. It's an opportunity to refine communication skills that are valuable for academic study, professional life and beyond.

The week culminates in a live spotlight session where students present their talks on stage. Each speaker has the floor to share their chosen subject with clarity and conviction, as if addressing a lecture hall or academic conference. The talks are short but carefully structured, requiring students to combine personal voice with researched content. The audience is invited to see each student not just as a learner but as a presenter with ideas worth hearing.





Time to Shine Project: Week One

Prepare and deliver a talk centred on an academic subject that sparks curiosity. This could be a scientific question, a historical theme, or a literary analysis. Students research their chosen topic and craft a talk that explains it in a way that connects with a general audience.

Time to Shine Project: Week Two

Create a talk that reflects a personal academic journey or ambition. Students might explain why a subject matters to them, describe a project they have pursued, or share a question they want to study further. The focus is on clarity of expression and showing how personal interest connects to broader ideas.





Case Study

Bridging Theory and Real World Application

The ability to condense ideas into a short, confident talk is central in many professional settings. In academia, researchers use brief presentations to share new findings at conferences. In business, executives rely on concise talks to launch products or explain strategies. Non-profit organisations prepare clear, persuasive speeches when addressing donors or communities. Even in media, the skill of delivering a focused message is crucial for interviews and public appearances. By preparing their own spotlight talks, students experience how communication theory translates into practice wherever complex ideas need to be shared quickly and effectively.





Fieldwork Research

Each student engages in research relevant to their chosen topic, drawing on reading, case studies, or personal experience. This investigation ensures that the talk is grounded in substance, with evidence to support the argument as well as personal perspective. Students practise their talks in different settings around campus, experimenting with how their voice carries in a lecture hall, a smaller classroom, or outdoors. This rehearsal helps them adapt to the acoustics and atmosphere of varied venues.





Academic Difficulty

No prior experience is needed to take part in this subject. Every student is welcome, whether or not they've studied the subject before. Key ideas and terms are introduced step by step, and all materials are provided during the course. The emphasis is on participation, teamwork, and curiosity, so students can contribute fully and grow in confidence as they prepare for the final showcase.





In-Person Programme Benefits

Academic Coaching

Throughout the course, you will receive personalised academic coaching to support your intellectual growth. Our experienced tutors will offer feedback on your projects, help you refine your critical thinking, and guide you in developing a deeper understanding of the subject area.

Certificate of Achievement & Reference Letter

At the end of your programme, you will be awarded a Certificate of Achievement from Earlscliffe, confirming your successful completion of the course. You may also request a personalised Letter of Reference, outlining your academic strengths and contributions. These documents can support university applications and future opportunities.





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