

“ Young applicants in schools scheme (YASS) in Scotland ”

A Higher Education success story



YASS – What is it?



- A partnership between The Open University and schools
- A high quality, genuine HE experience
- Courses at first year university level (SCQF7)
- For students in S6
- An opportunity to stretch motivated and able students
- Study alongside Highers and/or Advanced Highers in S6

Learning Benefits



- Adding breadth and depth to school curriculum
- Enriching academic profile
- Developing learning skills
- Supporting academic and career choices
- Encouraging independent learning
- Building confidence
- Assisting the transition from school to university

Student Comments



- The module has given me an insight into the subject area and I think I will look like a more enthusiastic applicant when it comes to university admission applications as I have taken time to study a relevant subject on top of school work
- YASS seemed more interesting and relevant than the other column options available to me; it is more apt for my choice of university studies
- I now have the ability to study outwith school and study a subject which cannot be offered in school, at university level

**quotes from case studies with YASS students studying in 11/12*

Teacher Comments



- It's getting them to work in a different way and to be more responsible for their own learning. It's also enabling them to tackle a piece of work that crosses boundaries. That's something they will come up against later on.
- It's important in S6 that you keep the pupils engaged – there is a danger that they don't do enough.
- It's an excellent opportunity for progression for young people with good study skills to go beyond Higher courses.
- It allows us to support the subject choices of pupils who can't get their subject of study in school.

Who are YASS students?



- Students who are:
 - Able
 - Motivated
 - Committed
 - Interested
 - Able to meet deadlines
 - Mature
 - Not just the top 5%

Examples of modules: Mintlaw Academy Session 16 -17.



- An introduction to law in contemporary Scotland (W150)
- Volcanoes, Earthquakes and Tsunamis (S186)
- Understanding the Autism Spectrum (SK124)
- Introduction to Bookkeeping and Accounting (B190)
- Understanding the Frozen Planet. (S175)

Supported 'Open Learning'



- Individual support from tutor or study adviser
- Multi-media/blended learning
- Choice of when and where to study
- Structured calendar (with deadlines!)
- Continuous assessment
- End of module assessment (EMA) or exam

Structure of modules and average hours of study

Points at SCQF Level 7	Duration	Weekly workload
10	8 - 20 weeks (dependent on course)	6 – 8 hours
15	15 weeks	8 - 10 hours

Demands



- Time management:
 - 6-10 hours study per week
- Workload:
 - Alongside S6 study
- Students will:
 - Have responsibility for own learning
 - Develop critical thinking and research skills
 - Tackle challenging new topics
 - Broaden knowledge of existing topic
 - Work alongside adults

Getting Started



- Go to the YASS website to find out more about the modules: www.openuniversity.co.uk/yass
- Read the course descriptions carefully – don't choose a course by its title!
- Look at the start dates and number of credit points involved
- Talk to the YASS school co-ordinator if you are interested in taking a module