

Higher Education Advisers Conference 2010

For professionals in schools, colleges and Careers/Connexions Services working with prospective applicants to Higher Education across the West Midlands

Wednesday 21 April 2010 9.15am – 3.30pm
University of Birmingham

The event is funded by Aimhigher Birmingham and Solihull and attendance is free of charge. Lunch will be provided. There are a maximum of 180 places, allocated on a 'first come, first served' basis.

Please return the enclosed booking form by **Friday 19 March** to the freepost address at the bottom of the form. For further details or additional booking forms, please contact:

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Conference Programme

TIME ACTIVITY

- 09.15 Registration & refreshments.
- 09.45 Welcome and introduction – Mike Thompson, Aimhigher Birmingham and Solihull Area Coordinator.
- 10.00 News from UCAS – Michael Smith, UCAS Professional Development Officer.
- 10.45 Refreshment break: View display stands and meet representatives from Birmingham and Solihull Higher Education Institutions.
- 11.15 **OPTIONAL WORKSHOP 1 (choose 1 to attend):**
Workshops have been coded to suggest the level of experience/background delegates might need to gain the most benefit from attending. However these are only suggested, not definitive, levels.
 - 1.1 **Aimhigher Associates and the learner journey (of interest to all)**
 Josie Hurd, Project Manager for the Birmingham and Solihull Aimhigher Associate Scheme
 Update on the Associate Scheme where undergraduate students support school/college learners on their journey into Higher Education. Materials and techniques which could be used in similar types of engagements will also be demonstrated.
 - 1.2 **Applying to Higher Education – the basics (of interest to practitioners new to advising HE applicants)**
 Ruth Walton, Higher Education Schools Liaison Officer, University College Birmingham
 General advice for applying to Higher Education (HE), including advice and details of resources to use when choosing HE courses and institutions, plus advice on A Level choices, entry requirements and personal statements.

Continues overleaf...

- 1.3 **Student finance (of interest to all)**
Jill Wilson, Welfare Manager, Aston University Guild of Students
An overview of funding for full time students starting HE in 2010, including tuition fees and loans, student living costs, grants, bursaries, other sources of income, family income and its impact on student finance and the application process.
- 1.4 **Supporting looked-after children and care leavers into Higher Education (of interest to all)**
Tina Wilkinson, Aimhigher Manager, Newman University College
A summary of Aimhigher activities for looked-after children in Birmingham and Solihull. It will also include an overview of specific financial support available to care leavers, the support offered by universities to care leavers and what the Frank Buttle Trust Quality Mark entails. There will be input from the Birmingham Looked After Children Education Service (LACES).
- 1.5 **Vocational qualifications and the UCAS tariff (of interest to practitioners working with non-A Level applicants)**
Michael Smith, UCAS Professional Development Officer
An update on vocational qualifications and how they fit into the UCAS tariff, plus how they are viewed for progression to Higher Education.

12.00 **Widening participation in Higher Education: Why it mattered and still matters.**
David Eastwood, Vice Chancellor and Principal, University of Birmingham

12.45 **Lunch**

13.45 **OPTIONAL WORKSHOP 2 (choose 1 to attend):**

- 2.1 **Applying to Higher Education – the basics (of interest to practitioners new to advising HE applicants)**
As 1.2 above.
- 2.2 **Student finance (of interest to all)**
As 1.3 above.
- 2.3 **Student panel – ‘things I wish I had known before going to university’ (of interest to all)**
Students from each of the 5 Birmingham Higher Education Institutions will answer your questions about student life.
- 2.4 **Supporting students in a successful transition to Higher Education study (of interest to all)**
Gail Rothnie, Head of Outreach and Gale Dawson, Progression and Retention Project Manager, University of Birmingham
View an interactive on-line resource which supports sixth form extended essays and projects, and introduces the skills needed for success in Higher Education. Also get examples of activities and support for students as they make the transition to HE study during the first crucial weeks and months at university.
- 2.5 **What is Aimhigher and what can it offer you, your learners and their parents? (of interest to practitioners developing programmes of experiential IAG and transition support in schools/colleges)**
Representatives from the Birmingham and Solihull Aimhigher partnership
An overview of Aimhigher and the Learner Progression Framework.

14.30 **HE Advice in a Cold Climate**
Professor Kate Purcell, University of Warwick Institute for Employment Research
An insight into the latest evidence about the career benefits of HE-level study, to help IAG staff work with young people and parents anxious about the impact of the economic downturn on graduate career prospects.

15.15 **Feedback and evaluation**

15.30 **Depart**